

EPNB / FOEN

Annexes to the Guidance Document Review of Annex 4 «Forest and semi- natural vegetation»

Lisbon, 30 April 2015



Agenda

Task

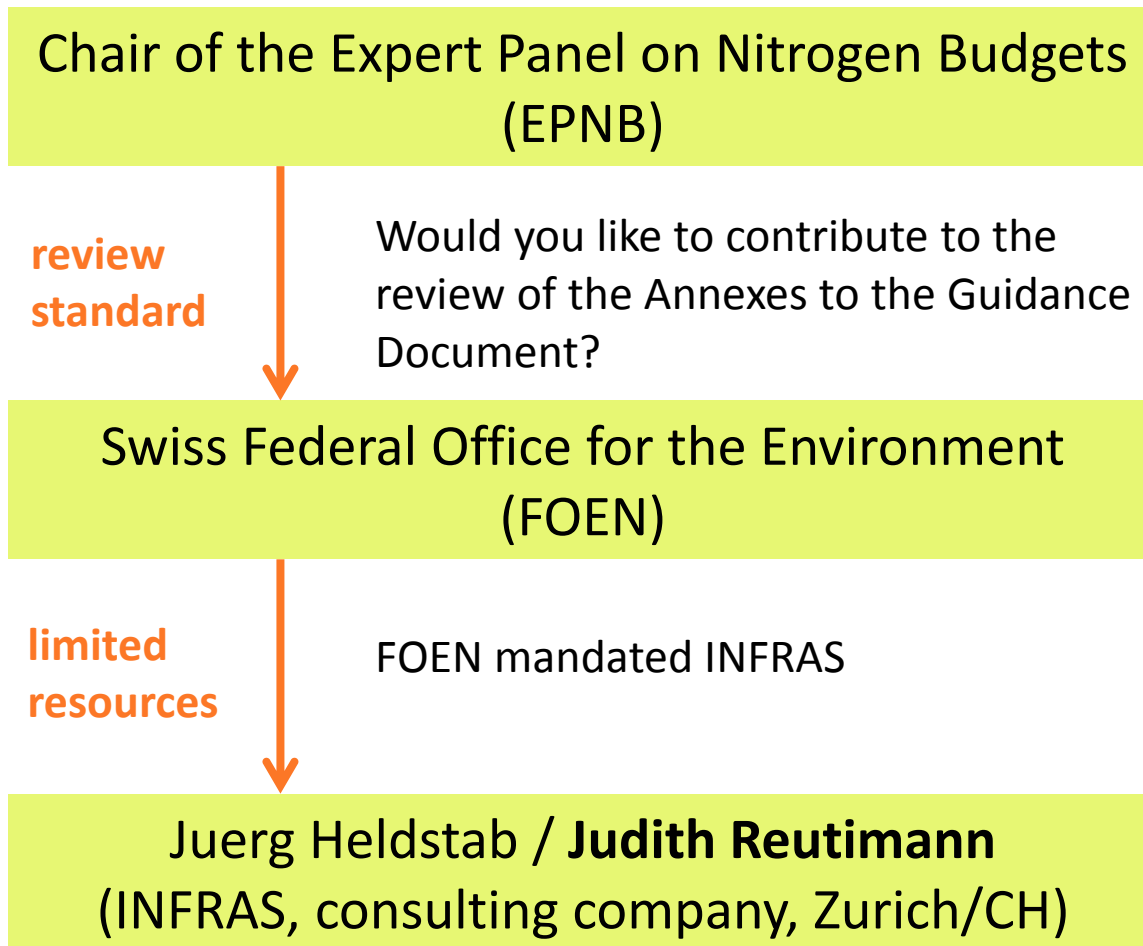
Review criteria

Findings for Annex 4

Recommendations for Annex 4

Further requirements for all Annexes

How INFRAS became a reviewer



Review criteria

Content

- Definitions and principles in line with Annex 0
- „Usability beyond the top-experts“
(usable = applicable + practicable + adequate)
- (Scientific review already passed)

Formal aspects

- Transparent structure
- Adequate language
- Adequate length
- Good quality of figures and tables

General finding - holds for all Annexes too

Authors are scientists ...

...they apply sophisticated requirements to their own work:
It shall be **correct and complete**

- Portugal, Sweden, Greece, Usbekistan,...
- preference of **general** description
 - => examples are of restricted validity
 - => simplifications risk to mismatch

Authors tend to write in an elaborated, detailed, complex manner

⇒ **Problem for countries with low and restricted availability of data, resources, budgets**

Trade-off

“Usability beyond the top-experts” ↔ “correctness/completeness”!

Findings for Annex 4

Content

- Mainly in line with Annex 0
- Assumes high-level availability of input data and high-level expertise to perform + calculate N flows: Can applicability and adequateness be extended to countries with low-level data availability?
- Practicability is met (users are guided well through the document)
- Refers to (the) important literature
- Fulfils scientific standards (e.g. complete N processes/flows in pool and sub-pools) - as far as we can estimate
- Uncertainties?

Formal aspects

- Clear language
- Adequate length of paragraphs (*Problem: might increase with ex.*)
- Quality of figures and tables well - but needs further improvement

Recommendations for Annex 4

Improve applicability and adequateness to situations where availability of data and resources are low (not an easy job!)

To reach the target group with low data availability:

- Point out to the relevant flows incl. uncertainties
- Give hints to “low hanging fruit”



- Give (even) more and applicable instructions for Tier 1 approach
- Provide examples

Detailed recommendations in the Annex 4

Annex 4 – Forest and semi-natural vegetation

1 → I jr, 16.04.2015 12:39:00 eingefügt:
1.1 Purpose of this Annex

1.1 → Purpose of this Annex

This document defines the pool “forest and semi-natural vegetation” to the annex of the “Guidance document on national nitrogen budgets” (UN-ECE 2013). It describes the relevant nitrogen sub-pools of the compartment forest and semi-natural vegetation, encompassing vegetation and soil, as well as the relevant nitrogen transformation processes. In addition, it provides guidance on how to calculate the relevant internal flows as well as the flows across given system boundaries but also stock changes by presenting calculation methods and possible data sources.

This guidance document relates to existing national nitrogen budgets (NNB) such as the Swiss N-budget (Heldstab 2010) and the German N-budget (Umweltbundesamt 2009), and the European N-budget (Leip et al., 2011). The Guidance document is taking advantage of the IPCC guideline for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (2006) in order to using existing structure and appropriate information.

2 → Overview over the FS-pool

Kommentar [JR70]: Remark about the comments:
The following comments are directed from the reviewers (referred to as “we” or “I”) to the authors (referred to as “you”).
In general, comments are suggestions of how to foster the applicability of the Annex 4 as a guidance to generate national nitrogen flows in the FS-pool.

Kommentar [JR71]: General comment on this chapter (1):
Suggestion to use simple sentences to say what this Annex describes (FS-pool with sub-pools and relevant N-transformation processes) and for what it gives guidance for (to calculate flows and stock changes).
You may insert the respective chapter numbers in brackets.

Kommentar [JR72]: Is document here the right term? Maybe chapter or Annex would be more appropriate.

Gelöscht: provides

Gelöscht: guidance on how to calculate relevant

Kommentar [JR73]: Vegetation and soil are not the sub-pools of the FS-pool, so I would not put it in brackets there in order not to confuse the reader.

Gelöscht: (vegetation and soil)

Gelöscht: and soil

Further requirements for all Annexes

Consistency with Annex 0

- Nomenclature with codes for pools and flows can be more stringent

Some more requirements for all Annexes

- Define some more standards for most important elements of Annexes: graphical representations of pools/sub-pools, table with list of flows
- Layout, hierarchy/titles, tables, captions, formatting
- (Supplementary document for layout requirement?)

Add a Glossary

Applicability, practicability, adequateness

- Applicability is basically met if the guidelines in the Annex can be applied to calculate the N-flows and stock changes.
- Practicability is met if the users of the Annex are guided properly through the document and supported to quickly find the relevant information.
- Adequateness is met if the derivations and calculations for N-flows are sufficient and appropriate for the users and their respective data availability and levels of knowledge and understanding.