

## **Minutes EPNB-12 (Lissabon, April 30, 2015)**

Participants:

26 participants from 12 countries and from international organizations (see participant list)

Chair Wilfried Winiwarter, Minutes Albert Bleeker

### **Welcome and introduction by Wilfried**

Wilfried welcomes the attending participants (as well as Bruna Grizzetti, who is linked on-line) and introduces the agenda for this morning, most prominently these three important issues:

- 1) Annexes to the guidance document
- 2) Country reports
- 3) Workplan 2015-2016

#### **1) Annexes to guidance document:**

This section consists of the following items:

- Status of the different annexes
- Consistency (presentation by Bruna Grizzetti)
- Uncertainty (presentation by Lidiya Moklyachuk)
- Review report for annex “Forest and semi-natural vegetation including soils” (presentation by Jürg Heldstab)
- Further procedure

### ***Status of the respective annexes***

#### ***General annex (Wilfried)***

This annex is mainly prepared by Wilfried and Adrian and is now ready for review. Suggestion is to have the reviewers who do a Pool Annex review, also do this General Annex. This then gives a picture of the wider context, which might help for their review of the thematic annexes.

#### ***Energy and fuels (Albert)***

At the moment this annex is still in draft form. In the coming weeks (until summer break) a new version of the annex will be delivered. A call for volunteers in the audience to help with this chapter didn't have any result. Suggestion was made to use existing documentation that already exists for other guidance documents (e.g emission inventory, etc.)

#### ***Materials and products in industry (Lidiya)***

ready for review

#### ***Agriculture (Adrian)***

Agriculture Annex is not completely ready for review yet. Some specific parts need further attention. However, the expectation from Adrian is that it will be ready for review in June.

*Forest, semi-natural vegetation and soils (Ika)*

This annex is completed and reviewed by Jürg (presentation to be given later).

*Waste (Clare)*

This annex is available in draft. The material for the annex is there, but not ready for review yet. Possible moment for finalizing the annex could be shortly before summer. However, there is a challenge with respect to the interference with finalizing the INMS proposal.

*Humans and Settlements (Magdalena)*

Annex ready for review

*Atmosphere (Alessandra)*

Annex ready for review. Addo van Pul (RIVM, The Netherlands) volunteered to review.

*Hydrosphere (Bruna)*

Annex ready for review

***Consistency (presentation remotely via WebEx by Bruna Grizzetti)***

In addition to reviewing the individual annexes, there is a need to get consistency across the document. Inconsistencies are evident in two dimensions: (i) format of presentation, e.g. regarding the common set of initial graphs, and the common nomenclature; and (ii), even more importantly, consistency of the actual flows covered between any two pools (annexes), and the respective levels of detail employed.

General remark: when there is just one annex, there is no real problem. However, for the total document this subject of inconsistencies between the Annexes is becoming more and more important. Reviewers need also need to be aware of this.

In the context of the template suggested by Bruna, Magdalena asks if there is need for such a template for the subpools. Reaction from Wilfried on this: there is not such a big problem as compared to the interaction between the main pools, since there is no inter-connection between the different annexes with respect to the subpools

Wilfried suggests to disseminate the material from Bruna to reviewers for further guidance.

***Lidya Moklyachuk – presentation on Uncertainty***

This presentation reports on standard methods to deal with uncertainties related to measurement data in general, and with the assessment of overall system uncertainty by way of error propagation or Monte-Carlo simulation. All information is based on proposals by the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM), published as ISO / IEC Guide 98-3: 2008, but finds application also on the IPCC 2006 national greenhouse gas inventory guidelines.

All the material that Lydia presented will become available through the EPNB website.

In general: it will be likely impossible to include uncertainty estimates in the nitrogen budgets in the way it was mentioned by Lydia. However, the issue will be addressed in the General Annex and, where possible, in a more aggregated way in the thematic Annexes.

### ***Jürg Heldstab with review report of the Forest Annex***

Annex 4 (forest and semi-natural vegetation) is the first that has been submitted to a review, which therefore is a showcase for the guidelines as a whole.

A review of this annex has been performed by INFRAS (Jürg Heldstab, Judith Reutimann). The reviewers specifically had to consider two aspects, one on the science (which in the specific case had already been performed elsewhere) and one on the usability, especially beyond top experts. This is obviously also a matter of trade-off. Here some specific recommendations point towards raising attractiveness to the target group with low data availability: it will be most important, if guidance documents are to be used, to have a strong focus on the Tier 1 (simple) approach, refer to “low hanging fruits”, i.e. results that can be obtained fairly easily, and to provide examples. Also adding a glossary is suggested.

Reaction on the review: there has been a remark about the delivery/availability of e.g. default values for (all) the annexes. There will be challenge to provide the values for the different processes in the various pools/sub-pools. Attention needs to be paid also to the spatial representativity of these values.

Following another remark in the review, Wilfried states that there is clearly a need for standardisation of the different documents (layout, graphs, tables, etc.), but probably not through a document with layout requirements.

### ***Further procedure on Annexes:***

- 1: Annexes ready for review will be reviewed in the coming 6 weeks.
- 2: Over summer – revised versions of most of the Annexes available (September)
- 3: After September – distribution of the available complete Annexes to the TFRN

Discussion:

With respect to uncertainties: general instructions/information about uncertainties need to be addressed in the general annex. Specific annexes: should contain only information for the respective annexes (not general information, since that is supposed to go into the general annex)

Remark from Markus Geupel: currently there seems to be different levels of detail of the data for the different Annexes – there is a need for having the possibility of going into a tiered approach. This is necessary not only because of data availability, but also for time/money reasons. Overall, too complex items might hamper the progress of finalizing these Annexes.

Sometimes the Tier 1 approach is already rather complicated, that's why there is the suggestion from Adrian to go for something like a Tier 0. This consists of already existing information from other initiatives. However, should be aware that this then might be Tier 1-2-3 according the respective programme guidances.

The ‘further communication of the results’ still needs to be established: Adrian's suggests to not include that in the Annexes, but include it in the guidance document (or even another, separate document). ‘Reporting and Communication’ should be pursued further after the annexes are ready, connecting to reporting. For now: flag is as an issue.

Final remarks:

- Consistency is an important item to flag to the reviewers,
- Another item is for them to look carefully into the detail levels of the processes/information

## **2) Work programme (2015 -2016)**

After a short discussion, the following items were listed for the 2015/16 EPNB work programme:

- Finalize annexes to guidance document
- Scientific paper(s) on approach
- Reporting and communication: indicators
- Continued interaction with OECD etc. on budget work
- User workshop (if funded)
- Farm nitrogen budgets
  - Still needs to be flagged, but lower in priority
- Dynamic tool on N budgets
  - Adrian/Jürg have been working on that – however, less priority due to the annexes

## **3) Report on Country Activities**

Three presentations were provided that are accessible on the EPNB web site

- Italian Nitrogen Network presentation (Alessandra De Marco)
- Consumer-related nitrogen flows – Austrian case study (Magdalena Pierer)
- N fluxes, balances & use efficiencies in Australia (Cameron Gourley)

List of participants:

<b>Name</b>	<b>e-mail address</b>
Albert Bleeker	a.bleeker@ecn.nl
Gérard Bonnis	gerard.bonnis@oecd.org
Will Brownlie	wilown@ceh.ac.uk
Alessandra De Marco	alessandra.demarco@enea.it
Ika Djukic	Ika.Djukic@umweltbundesamt.at
Markus Geupel	markus.geupel@uba.de
Cameron Gourley	cameron.gourley@ecodev.vic.gov.au
Bruna Grizzetti	bruna.grizzetti@jrc.ec.europa.eu
Baojing Gu	bjgu@zju.edu.cn
Juerg Heldstab	juerg.heldstab@infras.ch
Clare Howard	cbritt@ceh.ac.uk
Xiaotang Ju	juxt@cau.edu.cn
Sergey Kakareka	sk00@yandex.ru
Adrian Leip	adrian.leip@jrc.ec.europa.eu
Sergei Lukin	vnion@vtsnet.ru
Cargele Masso	C.Masso@cgiar.org
Lidiya Moklyachuk	moklyachuk@ukr.net
Irina Morozova	sriatm@yandex.ru
John Muldowney	john.muldowney@agriculture.gov.ie
Magdalena Pierer	magdalena.pierer@edu.uni-graz.at
Isaura Rabago	isaura.rabago@ciemat.es
Gaston Theis	gaston.theis@bafu.admin.ch
Henk Westhoek	Henk.Westhoek@pbl.nl
Wilfried Winiwarter	winiwarter@iiasa.ac.at
Qian Ye	qianye@yahoo.com
Ying Zhang	zhangying0928@hotmail.com