Minutes of the 13th EPNB Meeting
Paris, May 11, 2016

Participants:

Myriam Linster (LM, OECD), Clare Howard (CH, UK), Jan Klir (JK, CZ), Alessandra de Marco (AdM, IT), Penny Jones (PJ, UK), Jürg Heldstab (JH, CH), Ika Djukic (ID, AT), Lidiya Moklyachuk (LM, UA), Markus Geupel (MG, DE), Tommy Dalgaard (TD, DK), Nick Hutchings (NH, DK), Adrian Leip (AL, JRC), Benjamin Bodirsky (BB, DE).

Chair: Wilfried Winiwarter (WW, IIASA), notes: Maximilian Hofmeier (MH, DE: morning session) and Filip Moldan (FM, SE: afternoon session)
ML, CH, PJ, LM, TD and MH participate in the morning only, AL, NH and BB only in the afternoon

1. Introduction and agenda

- WW welcomes all participants
- MG is introduced as new Co-Chair of the EPNB by WW. WW expresses gratitude to Albert Bleeker for service as co-chair over many years
- Short introduction round
- Presentation of Meeting Agenda

2. Review of workplan 2015/16

- Priority to annexes – much has been achieved
- "Reporting": open topic
- Topics: "Users workshop", "Tool for dynamic N Budgets": to be moved to next year.

3. Annexes to Guidance Document on National Nitrogen Budgets:

- 6 out of 8 annexes are complete, in addition general annex is available
- Feedback from / discussion with authors:
    - GD needs to be seen as "guidance", i.e. allowing for some country specific interpretation rather than a prescribed procedure
    - Separation of difficulty levels ("Tiers") sometimes not easy
    - N_2 (molecular N) is only compound that clearly can be omitted from assessed flows. All other N (N_{ox}, N_{red}, organic N), to some extent, needs to be considered reactive (and thus also needs to be reported)
    - Numerical codes ("numbering" of pools) still need to be made consistent across all annexes, and also consistent with IPCC/UNFCCC reporting (e.g., agriculture now is sector "3")
    - Aim for a consistent set of N contents, possibly from recognized international sources (in order to avoid national peculiarities). Ideally, that could be made available as part of the "General Annex" or in an electronic (sortable) format. This will require some resources to

be organized, currently needs to be noted as a desired improvement. Possible sources: feedepedia http://www.feedipedia.org/ or Foodcomp http://frida.fooddata.dk/AlpList.php.
    - For some sectors (specifically: agriculture) problem is wealth of information which needs to be consolidated. Annex addresses issues connected with the different reporting obligations (UNFCCC, UNECE, Eurostat) and their harmonization
    - Imports/exports may pose a specific problem that still needs to be sorted out, especially when imports are immediately transferred to another pool (e.g., is feedstuff imported by industry or by agriculture?)
- GD & annexes now need to find users: candidate countries are Germany, Sweden, Austria
- Scientific publications in relation to GD and Annexes are welcome – especially those integrating this updated information (example: Pierer et al., http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2015.05.024 - based on "Humans and Settlements" annex; or contribution by WW to N2016 conference, Melbourne).
- Missing Annexes: CH will continue to work on "Waste", but a new reviewer will be needed. Nick Hutchings will propose a colleague from Aarhus University, ID will check with colleagues from the Environment Agency Austria. More difficult is the situation on "Energy", which Albert Bleeker will not continue on. MG and WW will explore possibilities, volunteers are most welcome.
- Agreed next steps to be suggested to TFRN (expecting the TF to endorse):
    - Following very slight modifications (table-of-contents to be added by MG; Annex 7 / Fig. 1 adjusted to consistent numerical codes by AdM), existing annexes will be made available on the EPNB web page (http://www.clrtap-tfrn.org/epnb) as a pdf file. The underlying .docx file will be made accessible to authors and reviewers only.
    - TFRN experts will be invited to provide comments by August 31, preferably using a reporting template (to be provided by WW). Comments will be posted along with the annexes on the EPNB web site in order to provide additional guidance to users, unless they can be easily incorporated in the text.
    - Annexes to guidance document will then be translated to become available as official documents for WGSR in December.
    - Further reports of users will be invited beyond August 31, for which a similar procedure will apply: feedback will be made available alongside the annexes, as they may prove helpful to other users.

4. Reporting

- JH provides a presentation that includes suggestions on
    - Characterization of data
    - Reporting documents
    - Procedure
- "General Annex" would be a good place to define reporting issue
- Mandate from TFRN (and the convention as a whole) is needed to proceed. This mandate will however need to be based on EPNB suggestions
- Proposal to TFRN for a "Test call for N budgets", to be issued at the 2017 TFRN meeting. This call could reflect the calls on critical loads that have been useful in other parts of the convention (Task Force on Modelling and Mapping)

5. Collaboration with OECD

- Work and interests of OECD were presented by ML; focus on indicators, simple ("Tier 1") approaches, internationally harmonized. N as part of agro-environmental indicator sets.

- Current work (with Albert Bleeker) based on spreadsheet approach developed by AL:
    - Simplified reporting templated with automatically calculated indicators
    - Switzerland as an example
    - Short guidance paper about indicators
- Austria and Sweden expressed interest to apply the simple approach
- At least 4 to 6 countries needed (not only EU and not only agricultural countries). Could include Korea and Japan, but also associated OECD member countries are of interest (China, Brazil)
- WW will explore country interests with partners in the International Nitrogen Initiative
- It may be useful to bring together countries (and their respective experts) interested in OECD approach and those who intend to work along the more elaborate GD

6. User workshop

- Funding-dependent
- Needs to bring together users (see above: candidates are DE, SE, AT; past budgets also available from CH, DK, with some reservations also FR, UK).
- Interest of DE to bring together an "international steering board" may trigger a user workshop meeting
- OECD may be interested in expanding a user workshop to a broader audience (possibly this is not in line with the above)

7. Other topics: Dynamic B-budget tool, Farm N budgets

- Funding-dependent
- Dynamic tool
    - Concepts exist, very valuable for countries that are able to provide trends (N budget for more than a single year)
    - Programming work is needed
- Farm N budget
    - Many approaches in different countries require harmonization
    - NH to liaise with Cameron Gourley (AU)

8. Work Plan 2016-17

- Waste & energy annexes
- Scientific paper(s): N2016/Melbourne
- Reporting: Proposal for "test call for N budgets"
- Continued interaction with OECD etc. on budget work
- Funding – dependent items:
    - User workshop
    - Dynamic tool on N budgets
    - Farm nitrogen budgets