

International Nitrogen Initiative (INI)

Opening: INI Africa Centre Director

In Brief

With the term-of-office of the current Africa Centre Director (Cargele Masso) completed, INI is now seeking an exceptional scientist with an interest in networking and science application to lead its Africa activities over the next 3 years. As a member of the INI Steering Committee (INI SC), you will foster engagement of the Africa nitrogen science community in the global activities of INI, including the next International Nitrogen Conference, in Berlin, Germany 2020.

For more information on the INI please see our website at: <http://www.initrogen.org/>

Overview of INI

Mission: INI is an international network of nitrogen scientists that has as its mission to address the problems of too much nitrogen or too little nitrogen in the environment as these threaten a wide range of global concerns, including water, air, climate, ecosystems, food security and human health.

Authorization: INI was established as a joint project of the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP) (a body established by ICSU, the International Council for Science) and of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE). Now that IGBP has completed its program in 2015, INI is in transition to become a part of ICSU's new 'Future Earth' programme.

Organization: INI conducts its activities at global and regional scales through a Steering Committee consisting of Chair, Past Chair and Regional Centre Directors for East Asia, South Asia, North America, Latin America, Africa and Europe. Together with representatives of SCOPE and IGBP, the SC operates with support from the INI Directors of Operations. While modalities currently differ between regions, the goal is that INI Centre Directors operate with the support of a Regional Executive of ~5 collaborating scientists from across their region, representing a range of INI science relevant to that region, also appointing a deputy to allow their centre to be represented when the Director is unavailable. The INI also has a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) that represents a wide range of stakeholders, which it draws upon as needs arise.

Projects: As a leading nitrogen scientist, each INI Centre Director is anticipated to be engaged in their own research projects, but also to show an active interest in developing regional and global nitrogen science coordination and application. Currently, INI receives support in Africa through a wide range of projects, including development of the Africa Contribution to the 'Towards INMS' project (discussed below). Although Cargele Masso will remain engaged with this activity, the new INI Africa Director will be invited to engage in this network and to develop new regional funding initiatives. As with Africa, each of the other INI regional centres is engaged in developing and running funded projects. The INI network can aid in supporting such proposal and project developments, but the INI does not have its own funding to support the regional centers.

Recent achievements: INI has a long-term interest in developing science-based syntheses and assessments related to the nitrogen cycle. The US Technical Report on Climate-Nitrogen Interactions and the European Nitrogen Assessment are recent examples, while assessment activities in other

regions are in progress. INI also led the development of the Global Overview on Nutrient Management, “Our Nutrient World”, commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Among many other journals, key outputs from INI have featured regularly in the pages of *Science* (e.g. Galloway et al., 2008; Austin et al., 2013) and *Nature* (Sutton et al., 2011; Lui et al., 2013; Sutton and Bleeker, 2013). One of the major tasks of INI is to organize the International Nitrogen Conference series (Netherlands - Noordwijkerhout 1998, USA - Washington N2001, China - Nanjing N2004, Brazil - Costa de Sauipe N2007, India - New Delhi N2010, Uganda - Kampala N2013, Melbourne – Australia N2016), which is the leading global forum for discussion of nitrogen science. The conference series has led to key publication volumes as well as high-profile global messages (e.g., Nanjing Declaration, Delhi Declaration, Kampala Statement for Action).

Future look: Key INI global challenges for the next 3 years include closer working between the science community and international policy processes. Central to these activities is the ‘*Targeted Research for improving understanding of the global nitrogen cycle towards the establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System (INMS)*’ project or – ‘*Towards INMS*’. ‘*Towards INMS*’ is a 6M USD project, implemented by the UN Environment with funding through the GEF. ‘*Towards INMS*’ is being executed through the UK’s Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), and its’ Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), on behalf of the INI. There are over 70 global project partners, supporting the work through co-finance alongside five funded regional demonstrations, which will link with the ongoing work of INI regional centres. These and other INI activities will feed into the development of the 8th International Nitrogen Conference, in Berlin, where the INI Steering Committee supports the Local Organizing Committee by establishing the International Advisory Committee.

Further to this the INI will continue to develop partnerships with UNCBD and OECD (on regional nitrogen indicators), and develop the next phase of cooperation with the UN Environment. A key emerging venue is the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), which now has nutrients as a lead focus, especially through its Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM).

Role of the INI Africa Centre Director

The Africa Centre Director of INI has the following roles:

- To stimulate nitrogen science networking across Africa.
- To scan widely for opportunities to apply the results of African nitrogen science into the public arena at regional and global scales (this may include policy processes, rolling out improved practices, public understanding of science and press engagement).
- To contribute regularly to the INI SC (‘Skype’) teleconferences (approximately every 3 months).
- To identify, in discussion with the INI SC, some actions where the Africa Center Director would take a lead, including representing INI at key national/international meetings where feasible.
- To appoint an Africa INI Regional Executive of around 5 scientists, covering a suitable geographic range and scientific scope, to be active in supporting the work of the INI Africa Centre, and to appoint a deputy (to represent them when needed).
- To contribute as an active member of the SC to the International Advisory Committee of N2020.

Each INI SC member is appointed for a three year term. The past Africa Centre Director is willing to provide advice to the new Director. As an option requested by the new NA Center Director, the past director may support the transition as a co-director for up to one year.

How to Express Interest and Nomination

Expressing Interest

If you are considering to be nominated, we suggest you register your interest with Will Brownlie, INI Director of Operations (wilown@ceh.ac.uk). If you would like to nominate someone else, please encourage them and send a letter of nomination. To discuss the role further, feel free to contact Will Brownlie, Mark Sutton (INI Chair, ms@ceh.ac.uk), or any of the INI SC members. Further details on INI and its SC members are available at www.initrogen.org

Nomination

If you are willing to be nominated, you should email to Will Brownlie **at latest by 4th June 2018**, with the following:

- a) A copy of your *curriculum vitae*, including publication list, grants list and other key outputs,
- b) A covering letter where you: **outline your vision** for the next three years for the INI Africa Centre, **identify any areas of special interest** that you would like to develop through the INI network, and **quantify the extent of your time availability** to contribute as the Africa Regional Centre Director.
- c) A note indicating the names, contact and affiliation of 1 or 2 referees who **nominate** you.

By the same date you should ensure that:

- d) Those nominating you send by email a **letter of nomination** to Will Brownlie. This should clearly set out their recommendation of your suitability as Centre Director and confirm their understanding of your time availability.

Note on remuneration

As a global networking activity, members of the SC are not paid by INI for their contribution. Experience shows, however, that involvement in INI offers many opportunities for international engagement and for development of funded research actions to support the mission of INI.

Eligibility, Criteria and Process

The only limitation on eligibility is that the Director of the INI Africa Centre be based primarily in Africa. Evaluation of the candidates will be conducted by the INI Steering Committee. Evaluation will be based on the submitted nomination paperwork in relation to the Role Description given above. Where necessary, shortlisted nominees may be interviewed by Skype.

Circulation

This is a public document and may be shared across websites.