

## RESEARCH PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

Name of Research Programme	<b>MethaneNet</b>
Programme Administrator / Manager	<b>Vincent Gauci</b>
Science Coordinator (if applicable)	
Programme Management Team Leader or Lead PI for Externally Managed Programmes (if applicable)	<b>n/ a</b>
Date:	<b>March 2012</b>

Indicate the percentage of total programme activities in 2011/12 in each of Science themes of the NERC Strategy			
Biodiversity		Natural Hazard	10
Climate System	30	Sustainable Use of Natural Resources	10
Earth System	30	Technologies	10
Environment, Pollution and Human Health	10		

### 1. Scientific Achievements for 2011/12

As a network designed to develop UK capacity in this area, scientific achievements in the broader community of MethaneNet members are difficult to quantify or directly attribute to MethaneNet

### 2. Science activities during 2011/12

Methane Hack 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011. A meeting on methane mitigation organised by MethaneNet at the Geological Society, London attracted internationally renowned speakers from across the spectrum of mitigation activities and delegates from the UK, France, Norway, Sweden, the USA and the Philippines. A meeting report and abstracts of the talks are now available at: <http://www.methanenet.org/news/methane-hack-meeting-report>

Early Career Workshop 29-30 March 2011. This successful meeting, held at the Open University's Milton Keynes campus, brought together 20 young researchers from all over the UK. Feedback from the meeting was very positive, with participants all recognising the value of the opportunity to network with fellow methane researchers from an unusually broad range of disciplines.

Seawater deoxygenation meeting, 11-12 April, 2011. MethaneNet participated in the organisation of this Royal Society workshop at the Kavli Centre, and contributed to its funding. The impact of seawater deoxygenation on the methane cycle was noted as a key area of concern by the 20 participants, and this will be recognised in future outputs from this group.

Planet Under Pressure conference 26-29 March 2012. MethaneNet is co-convening a session on 'Methane in the Climate System: the basic science of reduction, adaptation and mitigation strategies'. MethaneNet is providing financial support to early career researchers to attend the London conference.

### **3. Knowledge Exchange and User Liaison activities**

In addition to the meetings mentioned in (1) the main project vehicles for knowledge exchange with users are the MethaneNet website [www.methanenet.org](http://www.methanenet.org) and the linked Twitter feed (<http://twitter.com/#!/MethaneNet>).

The interactive website has 158 registered users and features news items and blog posts from a wide range of methane researchers. It also features conference announcements and adverts for methane-related jobs. We regularly solicit contributions from those who have produced newsworthy research of interest to the methane community, to further promote dialogue. A competition for 'Best MethaneNet Contribution' was held for early career researchers, and this increased active participation in the website. The Twitter feed had become a vibrant forum for exchange of up to the minute information on all things methane amongst researchers, policy makers and the scientific media (old and new). As of 6 March, we had tweeted 255 times, and had 157 followers.

Those involved in the project are not limited to academic researchers – active participation in MethaneNet meetings, the website, Twitter etc. includes many from government bodies (e.g. DECC, Defra), agriculture, and the waste and energy industries.

### **4. International Dimensions**

All the activities detailed in (2) and (3) have a strong international dimension. Approximately 1/3 of the registered MethaneNet users are non-UK based.

MethaneNet has gained significant recognition in the international community. The PI (Gauci) has been invited to an ESF exploratory workshop in Germany, "Towards a global synthesis of methane fluxes from land ecosystems", as the sole UK representative and to share information gained from the 'MethaneNet' experience for a broader international network. Further, MethaneNet was explicitly mentioned in a call for a European Workshop in Finland on "The importance of land-atmosphere fluxes of methane and nitrous oxide for the global greenhouse gas balance – The need for a FLUXNET-GHG" and the PI will attend to represent MethaneNet interests. We envisage that MethaneNet can play a significant role in helping coordination of these activities.

### **5. Data Management**

Plans are ongoing to migrate the website from its current external hosts to Open University servers.

### **6. Public Engagement with Research**

The MethaneNet website and Twitter feed are the project's main public engagement tools - see also (3).

### **7. Science Coordination**

As a network activity there is only one project to manage and coordinate. Conference attendance has included EGU 2011 and guest lectures and seminars given by the PI have included a public guest lecture for Royal Society of Chemistry in Plymouth and seminars at the Universities of Manchester and Exeter. In the final year of the Network – International interest is growing with invitations to attend international workshops as the MethaneNet PI.

## **8. Problems**

From November 2011 to January 2012, the web hosting service moved the project website to a new server and email alerts stopped working. This has now been resolved and communication with the registered MethaneNet users is fully operational again.

## **9. Plans for 2012/13**

Before the end of the project (31 December 2012) plans include one further major meeting, inviting participation from the international community, plus several smaller scale workshops (likely topics to include novel tropical methane sources, Holocene methane emissions, and methane hydrates). The interactive website will continue to be developed, and moved from its current external hosting service to the Open University servers, so that the MethaneNet community can be maintained beyond the end 2012 as a lasting legacy of the project. A competition for the best 'New Media Contribution' to [www.methanenet.org](http://www.methanenet.org) is ongoing.

**If you have any questions regarding the completion of this form, please contact the appropriate Programme Administrator**