**Nutrient Network: some initial results and getting involved**

C. J. STEVENS 1

*1 LancasterEnvironment Centre, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YQ, UK*

Contact: [c.stevens@](mailto:c.stevens@)lancaster.ac.uk

Nutrient Network (NutNet: <http://www.nutnet.umn.edu/>) is a global research co-operative with scientists from all over the globe working on the interactions between nutrient addition and grazing in herbaceous systems. This co-ordinated research network consists of the same experiment run in over 40 sites worldwide and collecting a range of data on plants and soils.

The aims of the Nutrient Network are as follow:

1. To collect data from a broad range of sites in a consistent manner to allow direct comparisons of environment-productivity-diversity relationships among systems around the world. This is currently occurring at each site in the network and, when these data are compiled, will allow us to provide new insights into several important, unanswered questions in ecology.

2. To implement a cross-site experiment requiring only nominal investment of time and resources by each investigator, but quantifying community and ecosystem responses in a wide range of herbaceous-dominated ecosystems (i.e., desert grasslands to arctic tundra).

The Nutrient Network is keen to expand and get more sites in the Mediterranean region. I will describe the network and how to get involved.

Scientists within the network are addressing a wide range of ecological questions and recent work has included a focus on the relationship between atmospheric nitrogen deposition and vegetation productivity. I will present results from this investigation which show that globally nitrogen deposition is an important driver of vegetation productivity, explaining as much variation in productivity in herbaceous systems as climate does.