

LC Net • Newsletter of the Life Cycle Initiative

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LC Net Focus

Release of the report: "Hotspots Analysis: mapping of existing methodologies, tools and guidance and initial recommendations for the development of global guidance"

The UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative, Flagship Project 3a, report on "Hotspots Analysis: mapping of existing methodologies, tools and guidance and initial recommendations for the development of global guidance" was released in December 2014.

This research project forms the first phase of the Life Cycle Initiative's Flagship Project 3a, in which global hotspots analysis methodologies will be mapped and analysed to identify and understand their commonalities and differences. Ultimately the outcome of this study will be used to produce: a common methodological framework and global guidance for sustainability hotspots analysis; a protocol for the appropriate use and communication of sustainability information derived from hotspots analysis; and to evaluate and, if possible, implement a range of options to bring together the findings from existing hotspots studies to provide a richer, global picture of sustainability hotspots in the economy and society.

The report can be downloaded [from the Initiative website](#).

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1) Publication of “Life Cycle Thinking in Latin America”

A [new report by the Life Cycle Initiative](#)

delivers short summaries about the status of implementation of life cycle approaches of 12 companies in the Latin American region. These twelve case studies were chosen from an initial 24 cases, using exclusion and selection criteria related to their reported action. Information for the drafting of these summaries was extracted from publicly available information.

The private sector in Latin America is incorporating new elements to the sustainability palette, namely by including more indicators related to environmental performance. Experience, drive for excellence and public pressure have fuelled more holistic approaches to environmental sustainability, which are leading to life cycle thinking. This report shows a small sample of what Latin American companies are doing. We look forward to receiving your feedback on this report!



2) Catalonia Ecodesign Award 2015: submit your application!

The Government of Catalonia is pleased to announce the first Catalonia Ecodesign Award, which is addressed to designers (both professionals and students), manufacturers or promoters based in Mediterranean neighbouring countries who have an innovative product, product in development or strategy designed to have an improved environmental performance throughout its life cycle. The winner will receive 5,000 € and the winning entries will be included in the award exhibition, award catalogue and other dissemination activities including diffusion through [the SWITCH-Med Platform](#).

Online Submissions will be opened from 15th January to 28th February 2015. Learn more at [the award website](#).

If you have any queries regarding this award, you can contact: ecodesignaward@scprac.org, phone +34935553877 / +34935673300.

3) Supporting Decision Makers with Life Cycle Assessment (LCA): A roadmap draft - Feedback Request!

A draft document summarizing a roadmapping effort carried out by an ad hoc group under the auspices of the SETAC North American LCA Advisory Group is provided for stakeholder comments. The activity started with a one-day workshop last year and has been continuing since. The group would like to receive input from the Initiative network in order to improve and finalize the document for launch early next year.

The work is of interest to members of the LCA community who are involved in transferring the information in an LCA study to decision makers in a way they can understand and

better utilize the information. The effort also is related to the UNEP/SETAC Flagship Project on LCIA Indicators and Methods Guidance. Some portion of the scope of the roadmap deals with integrative or cross-cutting issues that are included in the remit of one of the project task forces and which should be part of the planned Pellston workshop in 2016.

The roadmapping group would like to receive comments has been extended to the end of January 2015. [Learn more and submit your feedback.](#)

Call for abstracts for upcoming conferences

- 1) 9th edition of the Society and Materials Conference SAM-9. 11-12 May 2015. Luxembourg.** Please send your abstract by the 17th of January, 2015 to Florent Querini (florent.querini@tudor.lu) with copy to Sébastien Remy (sebastien.remy@irt-m2p.fr). The template for the abstract is already available on [the Sovamat website](#).
- 2) LCM 2015, the 7th International Conference on Life Cycle Management. 30 August – 2 September 2015. Bordeaux, France.** Participants from business, government and local authorities, NGOs, research as well academia are invited to share their best practice, knowledge, experience and approaches for the implementation of life cycle into strategic and operational decision-making. Do not miss the chance – online abstract submission until the 16th of January, 2015. More information on LCM 2015 can be found at [the Conference website](#).
- 3) 5th International Conference on Green and Sustainable Innovation (ICGSI 2015). 8-10 November 2015. Pattaya, Thailand.** Online abstract submission by the 30th of June, 2015. Learn more at [the Conference website](#).

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Our Calendar: Where we and our partners will be in the coming months

For a full calendar of life cycle events, see our *Events page* on our website.

1) Workshop on “database improvement and upgrading to international standards” • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia • 15-17 January 2015

The 3-day workshop, organized by SIRIM, will gather 30 Malaysian and Thai participants and will focus on Malaysian and Thai national LCA database expansion, improvement and interoperability. It will be followed up with a practical implementation of upgrading /creation/ format conversion of datasets in each country. Such activity would also have as a main goal to set the pace and procedures to scale up database expansion (generation, documentation and publication of new datasets) in order to mature national databases in the countries involved.

2) Workshop on “Populating national Brazilian LCA database” • Brasilia, Brazil • 21-23 January 2015

The 3-day workshop on "Populating national LCA database", jointly organized by IBICT and CEBDS, will gather 20 Brazilian participants and will focus on populating Brazilian national LCA database and on improving the quality and interoperability of existing datasets. It will be followed up with a practical session on upgrading /creating/adapting datasets for the Brazilian context. A selection of the produced datasets will be reviewed and made publicly available through the national LCA datasets platform.

3) Training workshop on the Global Guidance Principles for LCA Databases • Cape Town, South Africa • 3-4 February 2015

The flagship 2a chairs, Bruce Vigon, SETAC, and Guido Sonnemann, University of Bordeaux, will lead the training event.

4) Training workshop on the Global Guidance Principles for LCA Databases • Istanbul, Turkey • 23-24 February 2015

The 2-day workshop on "Global Guidance Principles on LCA database development", organized by the Bogazici University, will gather around 20 Turkish participants, including government representatives and industry representatives. The second day will be focused on developing the roadmap for national database development in Turkey. The flagship 2a chairs, Bruce Vigon, SETAC, and Guido Sonnemann, University of Bordeaux, will lead the training event.

5) Workshop on LCA in Policy • Bangkok, Thailand • 9 March 2015

The half-day workshop on use of LCA in Policy will convene experts from government and research bodies in Thailand, as well as international government representatives. They will discuss success stories of LCA-based policies and options to improve the uptake of LCA in Thai policies for Sustainable Consumption and Production.

6) 4th Meeting of the International Forum on LCA Cooperation • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia • 10-12 March 2015

This 3-day event will combine a one-day meeting of government representatives from around the world to discuss the use of LCA in public policy, with a two-day technical workshop to progress international LCA database interoperability.

7) Workshop on LCA in Policy • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia • 13 March 2015

The half-day workshop on use of LCA in Policy will convene experts from the government's

Economic Planning Unit and research bodies in Malaysia, as well as international government representatives. They will discuss success stories of LCA-based policies and options to improve the uptake of LCA in Malaysian policies for Sustainable Consumption and Production.

8) Mainstreaming Life Cycle Thinking • Jakarta, Indonesia • 16-17 March 2015

The 2-day workshop to Mainstreaming Life Cycle Thinking in Indonesia will convene 75 participants from government, academia, and business sectors. The sessions will cover introduction to LCA, applying LCA in industry and applying LCA in policy making. A last session would be dedicated to identifying further needs for Indonesian LCA stakeholders.

9) Company LCA. LCA Discussion Forum • Zürich, Switzerland • 31 March 2015

For more information and to receive news on the LCA Discussion Forum, please contact: lcaforum@ethz.ch. Learn more at [the official website](#).

10) LCA mainstreaming Workshops • Bhutan & Sri Lanka • Dates tbc

The India LCA Alliance is pleased to announce first time regional LCA/M workshops in Sri Lanka and Bhutan in first quarter of 2015. The purpose of the workshops is to raise awareness and promote understanding of Life Cycle Assessment/Management among local industry for sustenance amid challenges of natural resource scarcity. The workshop will also collate inputs on integrating LCT in current Sustainable Development work at national level in these two countries while upgrading local knowhow and developing local trainers on LCA/M.

For more information on workshops, you may get in touch with India LCA Alliance at ilcm@ficci.com or s.bajaj@ficci.com

11) SETAC Europe 25th Annual Meeting • Barcelona, Spain • 3-7 May 2015

The SETAC Europe 25th Annual Meeting gives you an opportunity to contribute to scientific and professional debate on “Environmental protection in a multi-stressed world: challenges for science, industry and regulators”. The 27th Meeting of the International Life Cycle Board as well as several presentations and side-events by the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative will take place around this conference. [Learn more](#).

12) 9th edition of the Society and Materials Conference SAM-9 • Luxembourg • 11-12 May 2015

As part of the Social Value of Materials (SOVAMAT) initiative, SAM conferences address

the issues of sustainability assessment of processes and products in order to foster interaction of soft and hard sciences, by bringing together an interdisciplinary research community to discuss new metrics developments extending beyond common LCA and strategies of sustainable development. [Learn more.](#)

13) Event on Sustainable Construction • San Jose, Costa Rica • May 2015

The Americas Regional Network of the World Green Building Council (WGBC) is organizing an event focused on sustainable construction at all levels and available tools. ALCALA will be co-organizing the event. More to come later.

14) National Environmental Footprints and Planetary Boundaries. LCA Discussion Forum • Zürich, Switzerland • 12 June 2015

For more information and to receive news on the LCA Discussion Forum, please contact: lcaforum@ethz.ch. Learn more at [the official website](#).

15) ISIE conference 2015. Taking Stock of Industrial Ecology • Guildford, UK • 7-10 July 2015

Learn more at [the conference website](#).

16) VI International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment in Latin America: CILCA 2015 • Lima, Peru • 13-16 July 2015

CILCA provides a venue for sharing ideas and experiences regarding the application and dissemination of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and life cycle thinking-based tools in Latin America. CILCA 2015 aims to gather practitioners and users of life cycle thinking-based tools, government, companies, NGO's, industrial sectors and universities and research institutes of the Latin American region. [Learn more.](#)

17) LCM 2015, the 7th International Conference on Life Cycle Management • Bordeaux, France • 30 August - 2 September 2015

ISM-CyVi, CIRAIG and avniR have joined forces to provide a Life Cycle Management platform where industry, institutes, academy and government join forces in the ambition to reduce the environmental impact of current and future production and consumption systems. Learn more at [the Conference website](#).

18) SETAC Latin America 11th Biennial Meeting • Buenos

Aires, Argentina • 7-9 September 2015

More information can be found at [the following website](#).

19) 7th SETAC Africa Conference • Western Cape, South Africa • 5-8 October 2015

Learn more at [the Conference website](#).

20) 5th International Conference on Green and Sustainable Innovation (ICGSI 2015) • Pattaya, Thailand • 8-10 November 2015

Learn more at [the Conference website](#).

21) Environmental Use of Wood Resources. LCA Discussion Forum • Zürich, Switzerland • 4 December 2015

For more information and to receive news on the LCA Discussion Forum, please contact: lcaforum@ethz.ch. Learn more at [the official website](#).

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A Look Inside: Profiling our Sponsors and Members

Brazilian Institute for Information in Science and Technology (IBICT)



The Brazilian Institute for Information in Science and Technology (IBICT) became the latest sponsor of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative in 2014. IBICT is a national centre for information in science, technology, and innovation. It is directly linked to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), and its main mission is to promote the competence, the development of resources and the infrastructure of information on science, technology and innovation.

In the field of information for sustainable production and consumption, IBICT coordinates the Brazilian Life Cycle Assessment Programme (PBACV). The Institute offers an institutional repository which allows users to access a number of theses, dissertations, and articles on the subject. There is also a life cycle inventories database, where Brazilian enterprises can share their product's Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) results. IBICT also promotes the dissemination of the life cycle thinking philosophy and offers, with the support of the Brazilian Association of Life Cycle Assessment, a LCA training course for professionals.

IBICT has recently launched a website for information on international cooperation in Science and Technology. The website displays opportunities for bilateral and multilateral

cooperation in research, development and innovation. Users can also sign up for a monthly newsletter, which is currently delivered to more than 30 thousand subscribers.

For more information, please [visit our website](#) or contact us at +55 61 32176102.

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Flagship Activity Feedback - A selection

Global Principles and Practices for Hotspots Analysis • Co-chairs Jim Fava and Mark Barthel

As we approach the final few weeks of 2014, we are truly pleased to announce the release of [Hotspots Analysis: mapping of existing methodologies, tools and guidance and initial recommendations for the development of global guidance](#).

This officially marks the completion of Phase 1 of the multi-year UNEP/SETAC's Life Cycle Initiative Flagship Project 3a – Hotspots Analysis, which began in May 2014.

The second phase of this project will commence in early 2015 with a number of regional rapid-prototyping workshops to solicit feedback from key stakeholders. Additional details will be revealed soon. More news in the upcoming months!

Data and Database Management • Co-chairs Bruce Vigon and Guido Sonnemann

After the successful 2014 training workshops on the Global Guidance Principles for LCA Databases in Beijing, China, in March 2014, in New Delhi, India, in September 2014 and in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in November 2014, the flagship 2a chairs Bruce Vigon, SETAC, and Guido Sonnemann, University of Bordeaux, will lead two additional training events in Cape Town, South Africa, on 3-4 February 2015 and in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23-24 February 2015 (see above for details). The numerous events show the interest of emerging economies in this training.

The workshops usually include a round table to discuss elements of roadmap towards a national LCA database. Based upon feedback from participants, the events in 2015 will be enhanced by some hands-on exercises. Moreover, it is planned to finalise the training material and to put it online in a modularised way in 2015.

Finally, the survey for a global assessment on opportunities for life cycle networks creation and expansion around the world with a special focus on LCA database development has been closed with a response rate of 10% for the target countries and is currently being evaluated to be included in an upcoming UNEP publication.

Environmental Life Cycle Impact Assessment Indicators • Co-chairs Rolf Frischknecht and Olivier Jolliet

The Task Forces are currently analysing existing approaches in view of identifying the potential for harmonisation. The Pellston workshop outline has been approved by the Global Scientific Committee of SETAC and the ILCB. The flagship chairs are now working on further detailing and sharpening the outline.

The project organisation of the flagship project on Global guidance on environmental life

cycle impact assessment indicators was adjusted. Francesca Verones took the lead of the Task Force on Crosscutting issues and the overall framework. Furthermore it was decided to continue the discussions on footprint indicators but not within the framework of a Pellston workshop. This frees capacities for the topical subjects.

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Flashback: Recent Life Cycle Initiative Events & Activity



1) Workshop on Life Cycle Thinking • Casablanca, Morocco • 11-12 of November 2014

This two day workshop around Life Cycle Thinking was co-organized by the "Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection" and the Moroccan National Cleaner Production Centre with the participation of the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME). It was led by Pr. Pere Fullana I Palmer, from UNESCO Life Cycle Chair in Barcelona, and by Anne Asselin, from UNEP.

It gathered 24 participants from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, representing governments, public bodies, academia and businesses (among them OCP first world producer of phosphates and fertilizer, and Managem, active in metal mining). Participants agreed that further LCA studies needed to be developed and that regional cooperation would be beneficial, especially around carbon footprint, water stress and water scarcity.

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Life Cycle Jobs

Full time position in the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative Secretariat

UNEP is looking for a Programme Management Officer supporting the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative Secretariat in Paris. This application period is open until 19th January

2015. Login to the [Inspira website](#) to access [detailed information](#).

5 PhD positions available at Radboud University and Unilever

Radboud University Nijmegen and Unilever are seeking 5 motivated and highly skilled PhD students to join the multidisciplinary and intersectoral European Industrial Doctorate (EID) project called RELIEF (“RELIability of product Environmental Footprints”). The aim of the RELIEF project is to improve the reliability of the environmental footprinting of products. The students will be employed and graduate in Nijmegen, but part of the project will be performed at Unilever in the UK. The call for application is available on the [Radboud University website](#). Application deadline: 15th February 2015.

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Secretariat of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

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