



## Call for Proposals

### Pilot projects for implementing life cycle thinking in Asia and the Pacific

Desired final outcome:	The desired final outcome is the selection, support and delivery of a pilot project that successfully demonstrates application and benefit of lifecycle thinking and tools in a developing or transitioning country located in Asia or the Pacific.
Project proposals sought:	Applicants should submit proposals to deliver pilot projects that apply life cycle thinking and tools, with technical assistance of UN Environment, for the benefit government or business.
Who can apply:	Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Not-for-Profit Organisations (NPOs), National Centres for Cleaner Production (NCPCs) and similar organisations (such as research institutes, associations) located in Asia and Pacific developing and transitioning nations.
Project budget and duration:	The maximum budget provided per project is \$20,000, with project implementation period up to a maximum of 18 months.
How to apply:	Please send your project proposal using the template attached, addressed to Walter Reinhardt, Project Coordinator for SCP, the UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific To: <a href="mailto:walter.reinhardt@unep.org">walter.reinhardt@unep.org</a> Cc: <a href="mailto:feng.wang@unep.org">feng.wang@unep.org</a>
Timeline for application:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission deadline 17 March 2017</li> <li>• Notification of selection 18 April 2017</li> </ul>

#### Background: UN Environment’s work on life cycle thinking and the REAL project

A Green Economy<sup>1</sup> requires measuring and managing environmental impacts throughout the life cycle of products. Following this framework, Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) provides a conceptual approach to reducing environmental impacts in a holistic manner. Such approaches integrate resource efficiency considerations into global value chains. This is particularly important given the complexities of increasingly globalized products’ value chains, which stretch beyond national boundaries and connect fragmented markets, different production systems, regulatory frameworks, and consumers. As a quantitative technique, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) provides quantifiable information needed to measure and manage impacts.

In emerging economies and developing countries, supply chains often have greater environmental and social impacts and stakeholders have limited capacity to meaningfully contribute to and use product information

<sup>1</sup> “Green economy is one that results in **improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities**. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is **low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive**.” See UN Environment’s Green Economy Initiative (GEI) in <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/>

The UN Environment REAL project is implemented with the financial support of the European Commission



tools for their strategic purposes. LCT assists development of efficient production and consumption systems. However the supply chain approach based on LCA results may fail if trading partners are not able to understand and apply a holistic (or life cycle based) approach across different geographical areas and if there are data gaps that cannot sustain the product information system along the supply chains.

The Resource Efficiency through Application of Life cycle thinking (REAL) project is a new global project in UN Environment's Economy Division, which is financially supported by the European Commission. The overall goal of the REAL project is to integrate resource efficiency in global value chains by using life cycle data on environmental impacts. The REAL project aims to develop global capacities for LCT while demonstrating value from the approach. The desired outcome of the REAL project is private and public organisations utilizing LCT approaches and LCA results to make informed choices towards sustainable consumption and production patterns (SCP).

The REAL project has two streams of work:

- (i) Develop capacity to undertake LCA, through training and support for demonstration projects; and
- (ii) Develop life cycle data accessibility and interoperability through support of LCA database networking and national LCA databases improvement.

The first stream includes training and demonstration projects for LCT in government and private sector enterprises, particularly SMEs. This call for pilot project proposals is part of the first stream. Prior to this call the REAL project has supported training on life cycle based solutions for sustainable value chain management, which was held at FICCI, New Delhi, in October 2016.

### What sort of pilot projects?

Pilot projects are sought which meet the following criteria:

- Projects with a clear goal, objectives and project plan,
- Projects where UN Environment can provide technical support to partners to develop and demonstrate LCA tools and approaches,
- Projects which contribute to existing UN Environment activities, and other global life cycle projects and initiatives, and
- Projects which have organisational co-sponsorship and additional support so they can demonstrate their sustainability beyond the pilot funding.

Without precluding the types of pilot projects which can be submitted, projects likely to meet the criteria above are contributions to policy or business decision making processes, contributions to existing programmes, new consumer information for the impact or footprint of products or services, and assistance with government or corporate environment or social responsibility activities (for instance on policies, environmental labels, standards, reporting guidance etc.). Pilot projects that leverage existing activities must be additional to the existing scope of activities.

Pilot projects should demonstrate application of life cycle thinking and tools for government, industry or consumers to generate value. Examples of such tools and approaches include hotspot analysis, LCA, Product Environmental Footprint (PEF), Organisation Environmental Footprint (OEF), Life Cycle Management Capability Maturity Model (LCM-CMM), or eco-innovation strategy building. A number of tools and approaches are available free through UN Environment and the Life Cycle Initiative. The pilot projects should identify the change in practices by government, industry or consumer as a result of applying the LCA tools and approaches.

Pilot projects should have a high potential value. Potential value includes economic, social and environmental benefits that are likely to accrue to society as a result of the successful change that the projects will demonstrate. The benefits need to be described and estimated: how many people affected, how much

resources saved, what economic benefits gained. Direct potential benefits are preferable, that is, benefits that are received by those parties directly affected by the change.

UN Environment will contribute technical assistance with pilot projects. Technical assistance may include training in lifecycle thinking and tools, guidance in the use of life cycle tools and techniques, advocacy, networking, communication and expert advisory on data gathering, modelling, calculation and interpretation.

Pilot projects can include such things as working within a sector or within a region to identify life cycle hotspots and address these through business innovation. Pilot projects may include developing a community of practice in LCA or tools within a particular sector, geographic area, or department. Pilot projects may fund extensions to existing work programs if they can be shown to be additional activities. Relevant initiatives with complementary work plans include the [Eco-innovation](#) project, [SWITCH Asia](#) programme, the [Sustainable Rice Platform](#), [10YFP](#) programmes and other relevant projects and programmes funded by UN Environment and the European Commission.

### Who can apply?

Applications are sought from Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Not-for-Profit Organisations (NPOs), National Centres for Cleaner Production (NCPC) and similar organisations located in Asia and Pacific developing and transitioning nations. The intended beneficiaries of the projects are governments and government agencies, businesses and corporations, however the implementing partner for UN Environment shall be not-for-profit enterprises.

### How to apply?

Applicants should submit an application in the attached template to program coordinators Walter Reinhardt ([walter.reinhardt@unep.org](mailto:walter.reinhardt@unep.org)) and Feng Wang ([feng.wang@unep.org](mailto:feng.wang@unep.org)).

### How will proposals be evaluated?

The criteria for assessment of proposals include:

- Clear and relevant goal, objectives and project plan for the proposed pilot project,
- Clear use of UN Environment technical assistance,
- Potential contributions to UN Environment programmes,
- Project team and past performance, and
- Co-sponsorship and additional external support for pilot project.

### What can successful applications expect?

A successful proposal will form the basis of a partnership agreement between the implementing partner and UN Environment. UN Environment may provide technical assistance to implement the project. There may be more than one pilot project selected.

Projects may benefit from additional coaching and materials available through UN Environment and the Life Cycle Initiative.

### For any further information, please contact:

#### **Dr Walter Reinhardt**

Project Coordinator for SCP

UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Email: [walter.reinhardt@unep.org](mailto:walter.reinhardt@unep.org)