# LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE PROGRESS REPORT 2020

Life Cycle Initiative

hosted by UN environment

# WHAT IS THE LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE?

The Life Cycle Initiative is a public-private, multi-stakeholder partnership. It provides the space for science-based, consensus-building processes where a community of experts works together to develop methodologies, tools and learning opportunities around Life Cycle Thinking. The Initiative is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Initiative works to show how life cycle thinking – through practical knowledge and tools – can enhance the sustainability of decisions. All its activities support private and public decision-makers in using life cycle thinking to achieve global sustainable development goals faster and more efficiently. Its work evolves to reflect new challenges and opportunities in meeting both climate and sustainable development objectives.

The visibility of the life cycle agenda and approaches continues to grow, both internally within UNEP and externally. Over the course of 2021 the Initiative will develop its new five-year strategy (2022–2027) to meet this growing awareness and to set the direction of the Initiative for the upcoming years.

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# FOREWORD

With COVID-19 dominating the global landscape and lives and livelihoods around world, 2020 will remain an unforgettable year of challenges and disruption. Through it all, the Life Cycle community continued its work, helping to drive the uptake of life cycle thinking around the world and its contribution to a more sustainable world. Especially in a time when governments are planning economy recovery packages in response to the pandemic, this momentum is even more critical: now, more than ever, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and leaving no one behind must be central parts of our thinking and efforts to build better and greener economies.

Life cycle approaches are the backbone of designing a sustainable economy. Results from applying life cycle tools allow decision makers— policy makers, producers and consumers— to make informed choices about where and how action is needed. The Life Cycle Initiative provides technical advice, policy direction and a community of practice for standardizing life cycle methodologies and indicators. The Initiative is well-positioned to support global sustainable decision making, whether it be in the private or public sector.

A big focus in 2020 was developing practical advice on key environmental issues. On plastics pollution, work focused on life cycle impacts of single-use plastic products and their alternatives, to inform how to best manage this growing threat to health and welfare of the planet and its people. The Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspots Analysis Tool, SCP-HAT, provided guidance to decision makers, helping them understand which sector(s) need to be looked at in order to reduce unsustainable consumption and production. The Initiative released new methodologies to strengthen life cycle thinking of strategies towards the sustainable development goals and the assessments of social impacts. A multi-year project, GLAM, is establishing international consensus on a life cycle impact assessment method. A scoping document now maps out a clear path towards a global LCIA method, bringing us one step closer to our goal of building consensus around life cycle knowledge. And the launch of the Global LCA Data Access network (GLAD) contributes to starting to reduce the costs and hurdles of accessing LCA data.

The pandemic has taught us what matters most, and the significant recovery packages being pumped into the economy open the opportunity to "Build Forward Better". The Initiative is striving to provide countries with the tools and information they need to develop economic recovery plans that can be the seeds of a sustainable new economy.

But the Initiative does not work alone; its work would not be possible without the larger life cycle community. On behalf of the Initiative, I would like to personally thank all the Steering Committee members for their collective work in guiding the Initiative's activities and their dedication to making life cycle thinking a cornerstone of decision-making processes. Their commitment and that of the Initiative's members and life cycle community are central in sharing the outcomes of our collective work. I also want to acknowledge the on-going support to the Initiative's activities provided by our funding partners, without which much of this work could not happen.

Together with our partners, funders and life cycle community, the visibility of the life cycle agenda and approaches continues to grow as the following pages attest. Please join us on this journey!

**Steven Stone**
Head, Resources and Markets Branch
UN Environment Programme

# WHO WE ARE

Drawn by the common goal of bringing life cycle thinking to decision-makers, the Life Cycle Initiative team works with governments, businesses, academia and civil society to generate consensus on life cycle assessment methodologies and provide technical and policy support to help achieve sustainable development goals. It is supported by a Steering Committee and a diverse membership base.

## Steering Committee

The Life Cycle Initiative Steering Committee provides overall guidance and technical advice. It is composed of ten members from the life cycle community. Each year, members elect three new representatives to the Steering Committee at the annual General Assembly. The General Assembly is also an opportunity to showcase the initiative's activities over the past to year to all its members and discuss collectively future activities and cooperation.

There was significant engagement with this year's elections both in terms of candidates and interest. Held in September, the 4th General Assembly voted in the new Steering Committee members as shown in Table 1.

## Members

The Life Cycle Initiative membership is made of governments, businesses, civil society organizations and individuals from diverse backgrounds and regions.

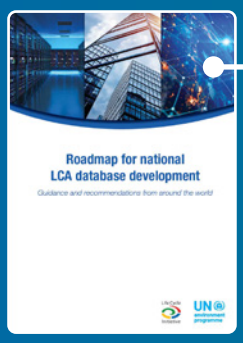
In 2020, overall membership grew, particularly in Europe and South America. Six new government members joined, as well as eleven new businesses, nine civil society organizations and 30 individual members.

Individual members
270

# 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the year, we worked to increase use of the diagnostic tool **SCP-HAT** to help national decision makers identify hotspots where action could enhance a country's actions towards mitigating climate change.

SCP HOTSPOT ANALYSIS




LCA Database Roadmap published

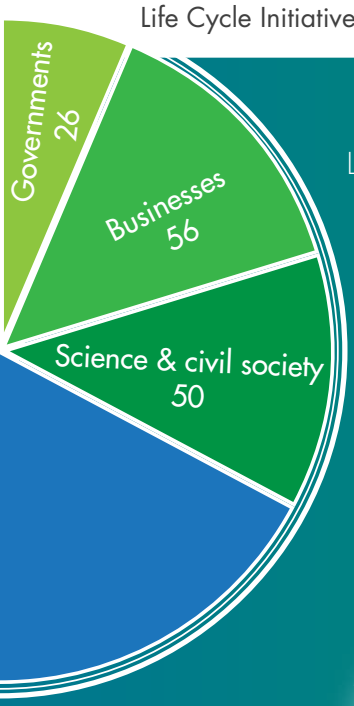
**Plastics** were a high priority for the Initiative during 2020. Outputs include a variety of reports on single use plastic products (SUPP) as well as guidance and methodological framework to help countries prioritise solutions for marine plastic pollution.

| Government | Business | Science/Civil Society/ Individuals |
|---|---|---|
| Brazil - IBICT [LAC] [mandate until 2021] | The HUB EPD of Latin America [LAC] [mandate until 2021] | Bárbara M. Civit [LAC] [mandate until 2021] |
| United States – Department of Agriculture (USDA-ARS-NAL) [NA] [mandate until 2022] | FICCI [AP] [mandate until 2022] | CIRAIG [NA] [mandate until 2022] |
| European Commission – DG Environment [EU] [mandate until 2023] | EcoInnovazione [EU] [mandate until 2023] | World Resources Forum [EU] [mandate until 2023] |

Composition of the Life Cycle Initiative Steering Committee

[LAC] Latin America & Caribbean, [NA] North America, [AP] Asia & Pacific, [EU] Europe

Life Cycle Initiative membership statistics, 2020



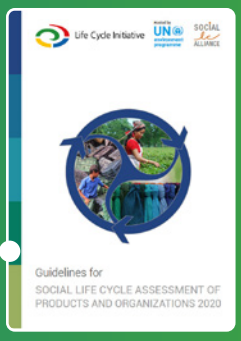

## A year with COVID-19

Like elsewhere in the world, our work in 2020 was affected by COVID-19. With growing restrictions, we entered a virtual world. Thanks to our robust and dedicated network, most of our activities continued as planned. And while we missed the opportunity to meet in person, the move to a virtual space allowed more people from around the world to engage – whether through online consultations, webinars or e-learning opportunities. The need to build back better meant increased scrutiny of economy recovery plans and effects on climate and sustainability. There was also increased demand to look at broader socio-economic issues. The collective and collaborative space of the Initiative allowed us to respond to these demands. The products and activities of 2020 attest to this.

Launch of GLAD, with the number of connected databases surpassing 80,000 by year-end

GLOBAL LCA data access

Release of two important Guidelines: one on how to collect data necessary for life-cycle SDG screening and another on social life cycle assessment of products and organizations




Launch of a sister website (with UNEP and IUCN) to shape national action on plastics pollution, providing tools and country reports where the guidance document has already been applied.

Launch of newly revised HelpDesk on how to develop a national LCA database.

Global consultations to develop a Global Life Cycle Life Cycle Impact Assessment indicators and Methodology (GLAM) methodology.

# JOIN US!

**Enjoy the benefits of being part of the Life Cycle Initiative.** The Initiative welcomes the participation of government, business and civil society with each group bringing a different perspective. Active in-kind contribution is all that is required to be a member.

Become a member

The Life Cycle Initiative also relies on funding partners and projects to provide core funding and additional programmatic funding. Core funding is needed to run the structure of the Initiative as well as to have available budget to provide seed funding to get projects off the ground. Direct project funding represents the largest share of the Initiative budget.

Become a funding partner

Join the Initiative as a funding partner and:

- **Gain VISIBILITY** as a supporter – through conferences, reports, our website and newsletters.
- **Exert INFLUENCE** – maintain close links to the debate, the discussion spaces and assembly.
- **Access ADVICE and EXPERTISE** – through a global forum of experts and practitioners.

# COMMUNICATIONS

A small silver lining from the dramatic change of work- and life-styles of 2020 was the clear rise in uptake of information and project outputs. As 2020 moved increasingly online, so did the focus of the Initiative's communications. We leveraged our website, LC Net newsletter and social media networks to share the important news, webinars and new publications coming out of our projects.

## LC Net newsletter

The LC Net newsletter has for years been a core outreach platform for the Initiative; it was increasingly successful in 2020. Open and click rates more than doubled (+170%) as the lockdowns took hold and subscriptions increased over 40% by year's end.

Our efforts to do more outreach through **social media** led to increases in website traffic and social profile activity:

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS | 700 | → 2000 |
| MONTHLY LINKEDIN PAGE VIEWS | 50 | → 500 |

In 2020, our **website** saw healthy increases in several key performance indicators:

**PAGES VIEWED +83%**

**PAGES VIEWED PER VISIT +43%**

**USERS +21%**

**MOST VISITED AREA OF THE WEBSITE: "INTRODUCTION TO LIFE CYCLE THINKING" WITH OVER 185,000 VIEWS**

## Publications and reports

One of the key outputs of the Life Cycle Initiative is its publications. The most successful publication of the year, "Guidelines for Social Life Cycle Assessment of Products and Organisations (2020)" was launched in December and, in one month, was downloaded nearly 1100 times. New LCA meta-studies of plastics products (plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic take-away food packaging) – outputs published in 2020 from the Single Use Plastic Products (SUPP) project – have, together, been downloaded nearly 2000 times.

# 2020 ACTIVITIES

Understanding the impact of a product or process is central to achieving sustainable development. The Life Cycle Initiative contributes to meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through three activity areas:

### 1. Technical and Policy Advice

A community of practice supports the decision-making processes of experts and key stakeholders. Experts from the life cycle community also help users identify and apply appropriate life cycle approaches.

### 2. Capacity Development

For life cycle approaches to be applied globally, skills and capacity development are needed. The initiative provides a variety of platforms and materials, for policymakers, business decision-makers and practitioners.

### 3. Knowledge and Consensus Building

The Initiative works on global consensus building to develop and enhance the access to the basic knowledge needed to apply life cycle approaches.

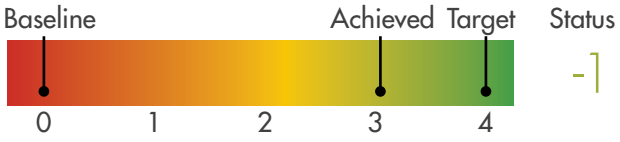
The following section outlines progress in each area.

## 1. Technical and Policy Advice

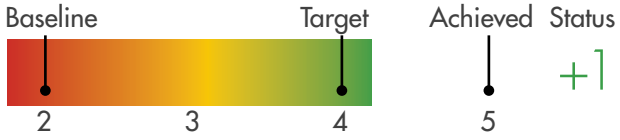
**Progress on goals to be achieved by end-2021**

Life cycle knowledge-based technical and policy support delivered through dialogue platforms in joint projects with the LC Initiative.

**Dialogue platforms**




**Global guidelines and tools**




**Sectoral/policy hotspots analysis**

A big part of the Initiative's technical and policy advice in 2020 focused on the growing global concern around plastics pollution. Several resolutions adopted at the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) in January 2020 requested UNEP to deliver specific studies, knowledge and support to member states. Other work focused on developing various knowledge-based products.

### Single Use Plastic Products (SUPP)

Over the course of the year, UNEP partnered with the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute to produce a series of meta-analyses of LCA studies on single-use plastic products and their alternatives including bags, bottles and take-away food packaging. In addition, meta-analyses on LCA studies of single-use plastic cutlery and crockery (tableware), beverage cups, baby diapers, menstrual products,

**Did you know?**

Single-use plastic products (SUPP) pollution is a serious issue that needs urgent and sustained attention by everyone. If we don't change our current consumption patterns and waste management practices, we will be faced with over 12 billion metric tonnes of plastic litter in landfills and the environment by 2050.

and face masks were developed in partnership with The Green House (TGH) Think Space. All these studies were curated by the Initiative, which ensured adequate dissemination and engagement of multiple stakeholders in their review.

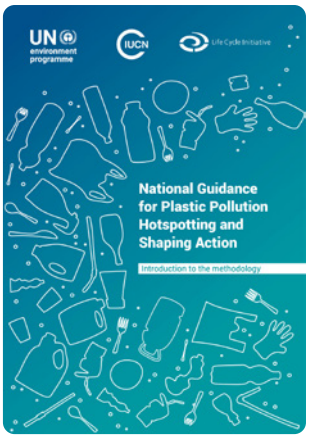
Webinars complemented this work. Held in October, four sessions presented the results from the meta studies. To reflect regional challenges, policy makers from various governments talked about their policy approaches to tackling single use plastics pollution. Over 1,000 people participated, and the lively debates illustrated the high interest in this topic. All the reports and webinar recordings are available in our website.

Collectively this work directly supported UNEA4/9 Resolution on Single Use Plastic Products. A high-level summary report for policy makers integrating the findings in studies was also published as an information document for the upcoming fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (February 2021). This connection to the international environmental policy agenda is making the work of the Initiative increasingly policy relevant. In the latter part of the year, the Secretariat presented the learnings from the life cycle approach at the joint commission of Mexico's Senate and Congress Houses' as part of their work in revising legislation on single-use plastic products.

UNEP partnered with the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute to produce a series of meta-analyses of LCA studies on single-use plastic products and their alternatives

## Plastic Pollution Hotspotting

In collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Initiative released the "National Guidance for Plastic Pollution Hotspotting and Shaping Action". This report equips governments with a framework for measuring plastic pollution impacts in their own environments, establishing a baseline for benchmarking and tracking the progress of interventions. It also provides a methodological framework for identifying plastic leakage "hotspots" and their impacts along the entire plastic value chain. The work not only contributes to the implementation of UNEA-4 Resolution 9, but also supports countries in meeting their objectives under SDG 12 on ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns and SDG 14 on reducing marine pollution. This report (currently published in English and Spanish) will soon be available also in French and Portuguese. The accompanying website also provides six technical modules and two strategic modules, as well as country reports where the Guidance has been piloted.



### Previous plastics publications

- Addressing Marine Plastics. A Roadmap to a Circular Economy
- Addressing Marine Plastics: A Systemic Approach – Stocktaking Report
- Mapping of Global Plastics Value Chain and Recommendations for Action

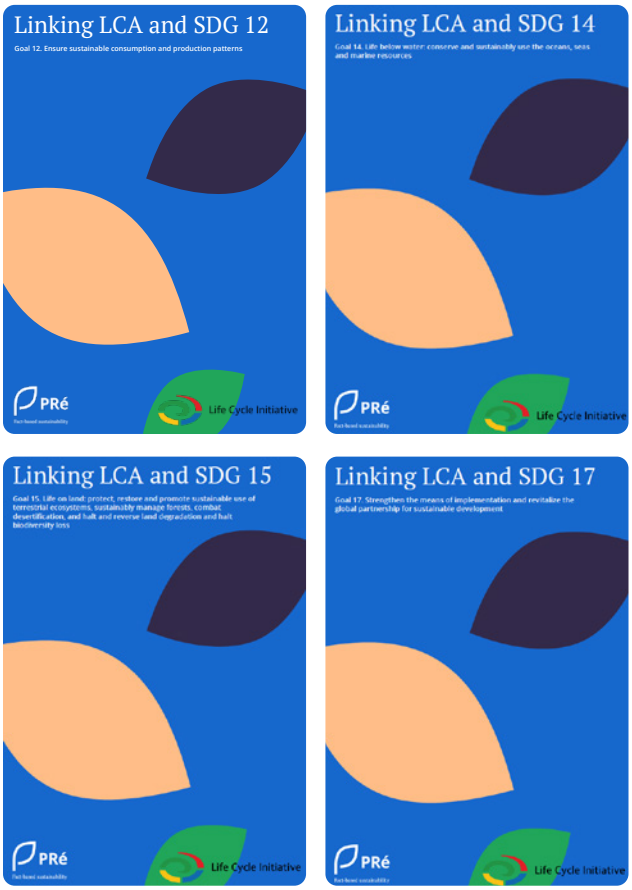
The Guidance provides a methodological framework for identifying plastic leakage "hotspots" and their impacts along the entire plastic value chain.

## SDG-LCA

To reach the SDGs, the world also needs an assessment methodology that allows businesses to take the SDGs into account in their sustainability decisions.

This project links the top-down process of the SDGs and all the bottom-up knowledge, data and methodology of Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment. The objective is to support businesses and governments to integrate the SDGs into decision making and monitoring processes.

Four working documents were produced in 2020 covering SDGs 12 (Responsible Sustainable Consumption and Production), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Each report classified the link between the SDG target and the LCA impact categories. The integrative working document "LCA-based Assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals" was released in 2020. Guidelines for data collection for life-cycle SDG screening methodology will be released in early 2021.

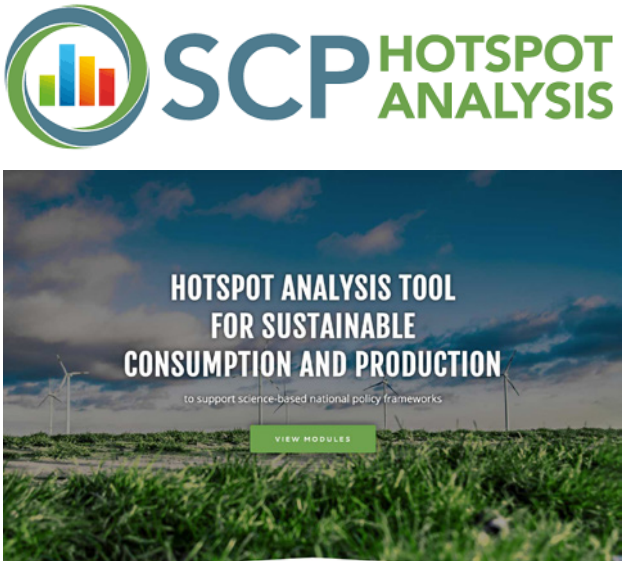



Four working documents were produced in 2020.

## SCP-HAT

Sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency are essential if we are to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNEP's Sustainable Consumption and production Hotspot and Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT) helps countries identify "hotspots" or high-impact intervention areas in a few clicks. Providing data for 171 countries, for the past 25 years, this online tool allows policymakers to develop evidence-based strategies for tackling "hotspots" of unsustainable consumption and production. While these types of studies have been realised in a few industrialised countries, the SCP-HAT delivers the results in a few minutes, for free, for most countries.

Work in 2020 focused on improving the underlying data and user interface as well as producing national factsheets. 2020 saw an increasing number of governments using SCP-HAT in a variety of contexts, notably for enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions to Greenhouse Gas emissions reductions in the context of the Paris Agreement. 2021 will focus on building up capacity in regions to apply the tool and interpret results.



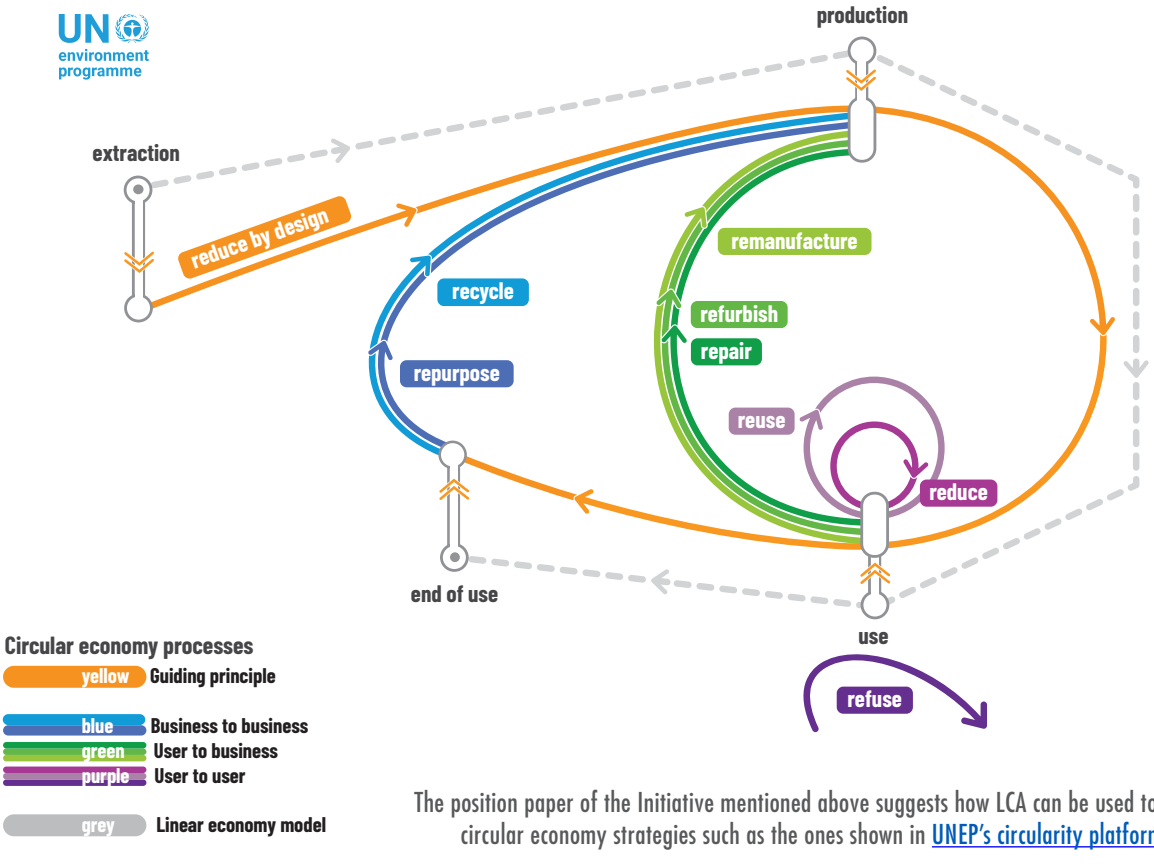

An increasing number of governments are using SCP-HAT in a variety of contexts.

## SAICM-USEtox

Key deliverables of the work in 2020 within the USEtox support to SAICM (the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) include two papers on the toxicity assessment of chemicals used in products. "Chemicals of Concern in Plastic Toys" provided prioritization criteria and screen risks of chemicals in plastic toys including presenting a screening method to quantify acceptable chemical content in toy materials. A second paper, "Life Cycle-based Alternatives Assessment (LCAA) for Chemical Substitution" proposed a life cycle-based alternative assessment (LCAA) framework for consistently integrating quantitative exposure and life cycle impact performance in the substitution process. Work in this important area of chemicals' toxicity will continue in 2021.

## Circular Economy and Life Cycle Thinking

A position paper, published in July 2020, looks at the interface between a circular economy (CE) and life cycle thinking. "Using Life Cycle Assessment to Achieve a Circular Economy" provides an LCA perspective on the development, adoption, and implementation of a circular economy, while pointing out strengths and challenges in LCA as an assessment methodology for CE strategies. An extended version of the position paper has been accepted and will soon be published in the International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment. In parallel with this work, the Life Cycle Initiative is now a knowledge partner of PACE, the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy. PACE convenes a global community of leaders who work together to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. The Initiative is part of three Circular Economy Working Groups: electronics, food and plastic. In 2020, we worked with colleagues to link the CE vision objectives in these sectors with life cycle impact categories related to the environmental, economic and social dimensions. The results of this work will be detailed in "Circular Economy Action Agenda" that will be released at a global launch, planned for early 2021.



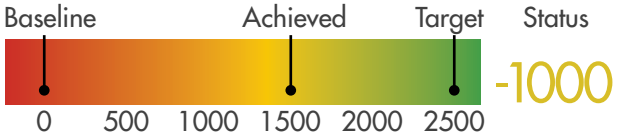

The position paper of the Initiative mentioned above suggests how LCA can be used to assess circular economy strategies such as the ones shown in UNEP's circularity platform.

# 2. Developing Capacity

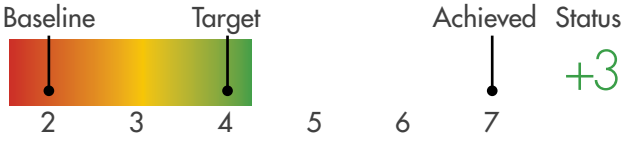
## Progress on goals to be achieved by end-2021

Life cycle capacity development products and delivery of capacity for policy makers, business decision makers and life cycle practitioners.

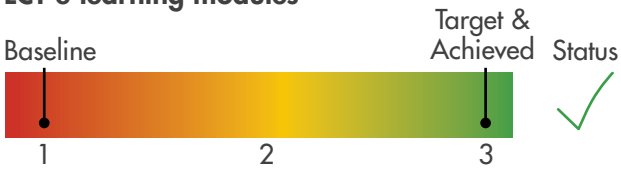
### Trained individuals



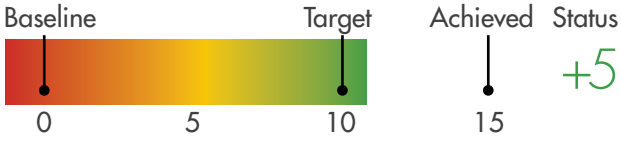

### Governments/countries supported through technical helpdesk



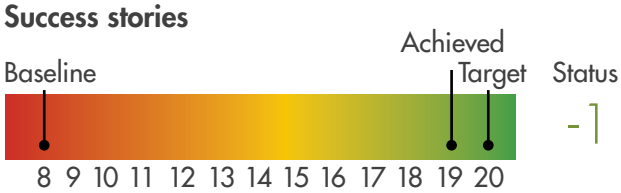

### LCT e-learning modules




### Pilot projects on LCT




### Success stories




## E-learning

The Initiative offers free e-learning courses on life cycle thinking to help both novices and experts understand how to apply life cycle thinking to policy and business decision making.

### Multi-lingual talents

Introduction to LCT e-learning courses are available in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

LCT for Business Decision-making and LCT in Policy Making are available in English and Spanish.

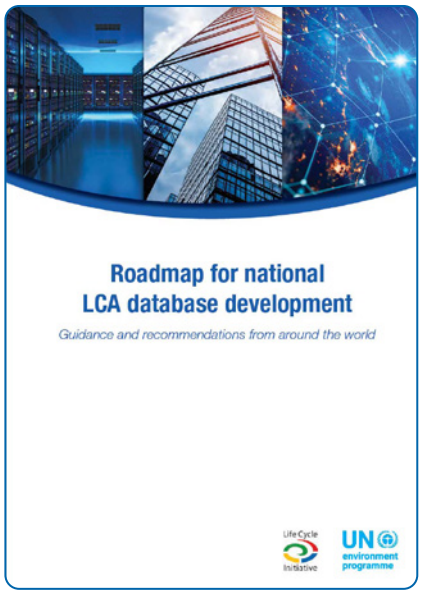
Upon completion of any of the e-learning courses, learners receive a certificate.

In 2020, we focused on raising people's awareness of these courses. Key targeted audiences are universities, training centres and companies. By year's end, over 1,440 people had completed one or more of the courses. Participation from Latin America was particularly high and benefited from the Portuguese version of "Introduction to Life Cycle Thinking". Several universities expressed their interest in incorporating these courses into their curricula offering for undergraduate and master's students. One university in Brazil has already done this, using the certificate of completion for the e-course as a pre-requirement for enrolling in its course offering, ensuring that all students start with the same basic understanding of Life Cycle Thinking.

## LCA Database Helpdesk

Good decisions need good information; but a lack of regional data makes using life cycle thinking in policy- and environmental decision-making difficult. Having a national database, that is financially viable, can help increased use of life cycle assessment in a country.

To better support the development of national- and sector-based LCA databases, the Helpdesk was completely revamped in 2020. This new LCA Database Helpdesk takes the user step-by-step through the development of a national database. It mirrors the same approach that is used to develop sector specific LCA databases. The Helpdesk draws extensively on the guidelines set in the 2020 UNEP's "Roadmap for national LCA database development" and on the experiences of six developing countries that, with UNEP, are developing LCA database roadmaps. Linked with the Helpdesk is a dedicated Life Cycle Linkedin community page. This platform allows people to ask questions and engage with the wider LCA community of experts.




# SUCCESS STORIES

## Applying life cycle thinking around the world

The initiative has helped various stakeholders in different industries to use LCA to improve the sustainability of operations where it is most needed. From large-scale palm oil production in Guatemala, to a free mobile app in Thailand, providing users with information on the environmental impacts of food packaging and disposal choices, LCA has been used to identify a wide variety of opportunities to reduce environmental impacts while increasing productivity and even the income of workers.

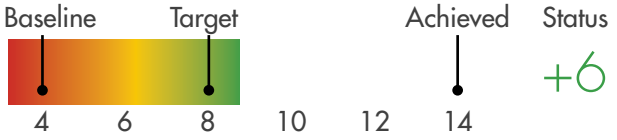
These success stories have been shared through videos which can be found on the Initiative website, as well as its YouTube channel under the playlist "Sector Hotspots".

# 3. Knowledge and Consensus Building

## Progress on goals to be achieved by end-2021

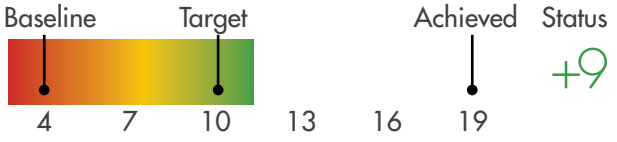
LC knowledge products (data, impact assessment factors) available and interoperable on a knowledge sharing platform.

### Databases interoperable through Global LCA Data Access network (GLAD)




### LCA datasets accessible

### LCIA indicators available through e-platform linked through global nomenclature system



GLAD was launched June 2020 via a dynamic event featuring live demos, interactive discussions and panels.

The Initiative's work on knowledge and consensus building focuses on developing processes and guidelines to ensure that LCA data are interoperable with other data sources and can be used to support sustainable consumption and production processes, and also on providing global recommendations on Life Cycle Impact Assessment indicators.

## GLAD

The Initiative is increasing access to data through its Global LCA Data Access Network, also known as GLAD. This work helps countries align multi-stakeholder efforts to generate, structure and disseminate LCA data so that is can be used in conjunction with other data sources.

The platform is comprised of independently operated LCA databases (Nodes), which provides a one-stop shop for life-cycle inventory datasets from different providers, different regions and different sectors.

GLAD was launched June 2020 via a dynamic event featuring live demos, interactive discussions and panels. Over 330 attendees and 25 speakers participated and represented a wide variety of interests; governments, consulting companies, data providers, LCA experts and universities enjoyed the launch live. Interest in this work is high: the number of data sets connected to GLAD in 2020 jumped from 4,000 to over 80,000.

Thanks to this ever-growing, vibrant community, the Initiative is confident that GLAD will revolutionize the way in which LCA studies can be delivered, making it faster and cheaper than ever before.

## GLAM

The Global Guidance for Life Cycle Impact Assessment Indicators and Methods (GLAM) project is establishing international consensus on impact assessment indicators and method. These indicators and methodology are crucial for product labelling, corporate reporting, environmental policies and LCAs.

After two phases focusing on specific impact categories, GLAM phase three is focusing on establishing a comprehensive, consistent and global Environmental Life Cycle Impact Assessment (LCIA) method, covering classification, midpoint and damage characterisation, normalisation and weighting to assess the life cycle impacts of products and services on human health, ecosystem and natural resources.

Over 130 scientists from 28 countries have been involved in the development of the GLAM LCIA method, including defining the method itself and how to operationalize it. More than 250 people from around the world participated in two stakeholder consultations in 2020, providing important feedback. Building on these comments, the final scoping document maps out a clear path towards a global LCIA method, bringing us one step closer to our goal of building consensus around life cycle knowledge.

## MariLCA

The Marine Impacts in Life Cycle Assessment (MariLCA) works at integrating the environmental impacts of marine litter, especially plastic, into life cycle impact assessment. In 2020 activities under MariLCA included a framework paper on the impacts of marine litter in Life Cycle Impact Assessment and a second paper detailing the effect factor for the quantification of marine micro- and nano-plastics on aquatic biota.

The framework paper was presented in collaboration with Norwegian University of Science and Technology to over 90 people. A final draft of the paper on nano-plastics has been submitted to the Journal of Ecological Indicators.

## S-LCA

Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA) is a methodology to assess the social impacts of products, making social sustainability a significantly more measurable target. Common S-LCA impact categories are working conditions, governance and socio-economic repercussions.

In 2020, the Initiative published an updated version of the 2009 Guidelines for Social Life Cycle Assessment. This new edition provides updated information and guidelines, incorporating the evolution of S-LCA over the past decade. It also looks at how to link the social impacts of a product's production and consumption to the larger impacts associated with an organization's influence across the life cycle of a product; social organizational LCA (also known as SO-LCA).

In parallel, eight companies from the metals, food, automotive and cosmetic industries pilot tested the new guidelines, and provided feedback about the different challenges and benefits of S-LCA, while learning how to integrate S-LCA into product development. A compendium summarizing the various companies' experience in using the Guidelines will be available in 2021.

### S-LCA and the SDGs

Categories and subcategories of social life cycle assessment can be linked to all the sustainable development goals but notably to SDG1: poverty alleviation, SDG 8: decent work and SDG 12: responsible consumption and production.

# 2021 OUTLOOK

2021 marks the last full year under the current Life Cycle Initiative Strategy (2017-2022). A large part of the Initiative's work will be on completing current projects and ensuring that decision makers, both in the public and private sectors, are aware of available resources.

In parallel the Initiative will be developing its next five-year strategy. Key questions we will be asking include whether the current vision and mission of the Initiative is relevant; does the initiative still bring value and (if yes) how the Initiative should position itself in relation to other relevant activities.

This new strategy will be developed collaboratively with the Initiative's Steering Committee and will draw on inputs from the life-cycle community.

# WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE IN 2021:

- An even more powerful and easier-to-use SCP-HAT tool
- Methodology on how to link SDG to LCA impact categories
- New scientific papers on assessing plastics in the marine environment, and the assessment of toxicity from chemicals in products through their life cycle
- Various case studies documenting results from companies applying key life cycle thinking approaches including social life cycle assessment and linking SDGs to life-cycle approaches.
- Stronger uptake of LCA in the international environmental policy agenda

# THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS!

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# THE LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE HOSTED BY UNEP:

brings life cycle knowledge to policy-relevant debates, demonstrating the value of life cycle assessment (LCA) studies for policy-makers, e.g. on single-use plastic products (UNEP/EA.5/INF/7).

is a science-based platform that builds global consensus and recommendations on life cycle impact assessment indicators for environmental and social impacts, levelling the playing field for a coherent application of LCA globally.

provides resources, builds capacity and supports countries to develop their own life cycle knowledge and data, especially in developing countries and emerging economies.

improves access to LCA data worldwide through its Global LCA Data Access network (GLAD). The result: the global application of LCA and other life cycle approaches towards sustainable production and consumption.

helps governments identify areas where urgent policy action is needed to support sustainable economic recovery plans and the 2030 Agenda. It does this with its Hotspots Analysis tool (SCP HAT) among others.

guides the application of LCA and related approaches into emerging fields such as the circular economy.

supports implementation of UNEP's Mid-Term Strategy by identifying key hotspots in the areas of CLIMATE, NATURE and POLLUTION.

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