LC Net Focus

The Life Cycle Initiative’s role in the multi-stakeholder agenda of the International Negotiating Committee process following UNEA 5.2’s resolution
Two months have already passed since UNEA 5.2 created momentum in the global environmental agenda! Its historic resolution ‘End Plastic Pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument’ has already sparked reactions amongst a plethora of stakeholders.

The agreed timeline is extremely ambitious (the work should be completed by the end of 2024) and the clock is ticking! The first step will be the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), taking place in Dakar (Senegal) between May 30th and June 1st.

A key element of the resolution relates to the engagement of all relevant stakeholders across the “full life cycle of plastics”. The Life Cycle Initiative is thus in a perfect position to co-convene a series of events during the OEWG, along with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML).

On Sunday May 29th, before the start of the OEWG, the Life Cycle Initiative and the GPML will organise a four-hour discussion encouraging all actors to participate and bring their perspectives. After setting the context with the science behind the key types of actions needed along the plastics life cycle, three panels will focus on the upstream, midstream and downstream parts of the plastics value chain.

In addition, lunchtime sessions will also be co-convened during the three days of the OEWG. These panel events will focus on cross-cutting topics, such as the participation of youth and consumers, finance and the socially just transition.

The Life Cycle Initiative looks forward to seeing a strong participation from the life cycle community in this process!
Welcome to our New team Member Mona Mohammed!

Mona Mohammed joins the Life Cycle Initiative team as a Programme Management Officer!

Before joining UNEP, she has worked in both research and the humanitarian sector, in the USA, Middle East and North Africa.

Her background is in environmental engineering, more specifically in life cycle assessment research in the field of wastewater. She has a particular interest for the intersection of gender, water and energy.

Welcome to the team Mona!

Call for Funding Partners: a new project to develop consistent guidelines to consider Biogenic Carbon in LCA

The Life Cycle Initiative is looking for funding partners to develop its new project on Biogenic Carbon in LCA!

This three-year project answers the demand for global consistent guidelines to consider biogenic carbon in LCA. Please check this leaflet with more information on the project.

If you are interested, please send an email to info@lifecycleinitiative.org.

The Life Cycle Initiative is turning 20: Celebrate with us!

The Life Cycle Initiative is turning 20 and we are planning a celebration on June 23rd!

The Life Cycle Initiative was launched in 2002 by UNEP and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) to enable the global use of credible life cycle knowledge. Our 20 years of existence is a perfect moment to take stock of our achievements. We look forward to discussing how the Initiative and the wider life cycle community could improve the application of the knowledge and tools to speed up the transition to sustainable consumption and
Your support was key to the Initiative’s accomplishments, which is why we would like you to be a part of our celebratory activities! **Here are 2 ways to get involved:**

1) Join our webinar: "Speeding up the transition to sustainable consumption and production with Life Cycle Approaches"
   23rd June • 13-30—15.30
   This webinar welcomes scientists and decision-makers at businesses and governments worldwide and everyone interested in how life cycle knowledge can speed up the sustainable transition. We will have two exciting panel discussions; we will look backwards to the achievements of the life cycle community, and we will look forward to improving the application of the knowledge and tools to speed up the sustainable transition. **Find more information on the agenda and register on the event page:** [Life Cycle Initiative 2002-2022: Speeding up the transition to Sustainable consumption and production with Life Cycle Approaches](unep.org)

2) Share your photo and keywords about the Initiative for our video
   During our webinar, we will show a video featuring interesting conversations about the benefits of life cycle approaches for governments, businesses and scientists, also mentioning some of our achievements in the last 20 years. We would like to start this video (or even produce a second video) showing that our Initiative is part of a larger community of active and engaged stakeholders.
   If you are as proud as we are about what the Initiative has achieved and want to show your support, please send us a picture of yourself holding a sign with one or two words that capture **why the Initiative is important to you or what you consider to be its added value.**
   Kindly indicate your name and organization/sector with which you are affiliated when sending your image to marine.hautsch@un.org.

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**New Partnership Launch Event: Reducing Plastic Pollution through Extended Producer Responsibility**
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Norwegian Retailers’ Environment Fund (NREF) are pleased to invite you for the official launch of this partnership. The event will bring together policy makers and experts to explore how the partnership can improve the operationalization of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes at the global and national scale. The main goals are to increase the collection and recycling rate of plastic waste, encourage more sustainable product design, and promote circularity.

The launch will take place over the Webex platform, on 10 May 2022, from 15:00 to 16:30 (CEST). To attend, kindly register on the Webex platform.

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### Project & Activity Updates

#### Social LCA: Release of New Pilots

We are very happy to announce that the final report on the nine Pilot projects has been published in May 2022, only a few months after the translation of the UNEP 2020 Guidelines of Social Life Cycle Assessment of Products and Organizations into French, Dutch and Italian, and the publication of the UNEP 2021 Methodological Sheets. This journey started with the call for interest on road testing the Guidelines in April 2019, whereas the pilots started in November 2019. Despite the pandemic, all nine pilots were successfully concluded and reviewed by December 2021. The latter applies Social LCA to products, services, and
very diverse: the UNEP Guidelines were applied to different sectors (automotive, metal, food, Cosmetic, plastics packaging), in different companies ranging from multinationals to sector associations, and across 5 continents (Germany, Italy, Indonesia, India, US, Ghana, Ecuador).

A launch event will be announced soon that will guide you through the report and the experiences of each pilot.

SCP HAT: Launch of Science Partners for SCP

The Regional Science Partners for SCP in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America, is a commitment to enabling science-driven approaches for effective and impactful sustainable consumption and production interventions. Through this Partnership, leading scientific institutions will support national governments and other stakeholders in their regions with contextual and targeted scientific evidence for decision- and policymaking. This effort is led by the One Planet network, Life Cycle Initiative and Go4SDGs, in collaboration with UNEP Regional Offices, and the UN Economic Commissions (UNECA, UNESCAP, UNECLAC), and supported by the International Resource Panel, Vienna University and CSIRO. The first year of the Science Partners will focus on the use of the SCP Hotspot Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT) for the identification of impactful hotspots for SCP interventions. Already confirmed as Science Partners for SCP in their regions are:

- **Asia-Pacific:**
  - The Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment (JGSEE), King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi
  - The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- **Africa:**
  - National Cleaner Production Centre of South Africa (NCPC-SA)
- **Latin America:** *selection process is in its final stages*

Two new publications on Microplastics in the context of the MarILCA project

The MarILCA project continues delivering important scientific papers advancing on the consideration. One uses a case study on the Life Cycle Assessment of food containers to develop simplified characterisation factors for their assessment and one on the transport mechanisms of microplastics in estuarine compartments:
A survey to weigh environmental impacts is coming ->
You should participate!

Part of the work of the GLAM project involves assigning different importance to the various environmental impacts that the GLAM methodology has developed over the last 2.5 years. The weighting subtask group has chosen a survey method to achieve this. In the coming months, the opinions of the global population will be gathered to weight these environmental impacts.

If you/your organization would like to take part in this survey, express your interest to participate and you will be added to a mailing list with the link to the survey.

News from the Life Cycle Community

New Video showcasing how the InTEX project supports SMEs
As part of a three-year InTEX project to develop **Innovative Business Practices And Economic Models In The Textile Value Chain**, UNEP is working with SMEs in Kenya, South Africa and Tunisia to help reduce environmental impacts and increase their knowledge on resource efficiency, life cycle thinking, circularity and eco-innovation. UNEP has released a **new video** to showcase how the project is concretely supporting SMEs. It highlights the work of Africa Collect Textiles (ACT), one of the first Kenyan start-ups to participate in the InTex project. You will learn more about how ACT is working to integrate circularity and eco-innovation into their business model, how they are determining their product environmental footprint and implement life cycle thinking to up-cycle textile waste into quality rugs, carpets and toys.

**New video released on marine plastics by PUCP in Peru**

The video shows the current reality as an overview of inland and marine waste in the coasts of Peru. (In Spanish)

**Life Cycle Community Calendar**

**SETAC Europe 32nd Annual Meeting**

15-19 May 2022

The meeting will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark and Online.

[More information and registration](#)
Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity  
2-3 June 2022  
In Stockholm and online.

More information.

80th Discussion Forum on LCA: Biogenic carbon and climate change mitigation: silver bullet or flash in the pan?  
9 June 2022
This LCA forum will provide a synopsis of the modelling of biogenic carbon and biogenic CO2 in the building and construction.

More information.

SETAC 8th World Congress  
4-8 September 2022
The SETAC 8th World Congress will be held in Singapore at the Marina Bay Sands. Please save the date, and stay tuned for updates as we get closer to the meeting.

More information.

8th International conference of Social Life Cycle Assessment  
5-8 September 2022
The 8th International conference of Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA) will take place in a hybrid format in Aachen, Germany.

More information.

7th International Marine Debris Conference (7IMDC)
For more information on the 7IMDC, please visit its website and subscribe to the mailing list at www.7imdc.org/signUp/mailing.

LCA Foods 2022 Conference in Lima, Peru
12-14 October 2022

Find more information on the event website.

EcoBalance 2022
30 October - 2 November 2022

The EcoBalance conference has one of the longest histories among international conferences related to life cycle thinking. EcoBalance serves as a platform to discuss the findings and thoughts from science, practice and policy and build up the international network.

EcoBalance 2022 will be held in Fukuoka, Japan. Please save these dates!

We anticipate a face-to-face conference if the pandemic abates. We will announce updates on our website and look forward to your participation in EcoBalance 2022.

More information.

Life Cycle Job Announcements

Sustainability LCA Manager at Stora Enso
Deadline: 9 May 2022

Are you passionate about life cycle assessments and have data-driven experience in the field? Stora Enso is looking for a Sustainability LCA Manager to join their Packaging Materials Division Center of Excellence for Packaging Sustainability (CEPS) team! Ideally, the position would be in Finland, Sweden or Germany but hybrid working at any Stora Enso office can be considered.

More information and to apply.

Become a Funding Partner
only gain access to unparalleled expertise in how to align their activities with their United Nations Environmental and Social Development commitments, but they also play a role in transforming their activities, as models of Life Cycle Thinking. If you are interested in becoming a funding partner, please contact the Initiative.

Yes, I’m interested to contribute as a Funding Partner

Ongoing call for LC Net contributions

Members of the Life Cycle Initiative, please feel free to submit your event, job vacancy, news, capacity development opportunities, topics and stories related to life cycle thinking and LCA, to be shared with the global life cycle community. We are always looking for featured coverage on the experience how life cycle thinking contributes to different policy agendas, sustainable business and decision making, in various countries and regions.

Note that we cannot accept contributions of a commercial nature. LCNet is released bimonthly in the beginning of January, March, May, July, September and November; please send us your piece approximately two weeks before the release date. We look forward to your contributions in disseminating life cycle knowledge from global policy and business agendas!

Yes, I have content for the LC Net!

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