Outline of the Flagship Project “LCA of Organizations” by the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

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International Workshop of Scope 3 and LCA for Organization 21\textsuperscript{st} November 2013 - Tokyo, Japan

UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

Technische Universität Berlin
Department of Environmental Technology
Chair of Sustainable Engineering
Content

• The flagship project
  – Motivation and goal
  – Outline
  – Cooperating members

• The Guidance Document (WD2)
The organization-level decision making has an influential role in shaping environmental outcomes.

High % of impacts in the supply chain:

Life cycle thinking has neglected the organizational approach until recently (although other methods has not, e.g. GHG Protocol).
Main goal:

The primary goal of the project is to demonstrate that the benefits and the potential of the life cycle approach are not limited to the application on products and that the use on organizations is relevant, meaningful and already possible. Moreover, the project aims to ease the application of ONLCA, providing assistance on methodological challenges.
The flagship project – Outline

Project approved in: April 2013. Expected duration: 3 years.

3 participation groups:

- Call for expressions of interest: June 2013
- Set up (July 2013): co-drafters (WG), feedback stakeholders and example providers.

Current status:

Task 1: Draft Guidance Document (commissioned WG) due by beginning 2014

Future steps:

Task 2: Consolidated Guidance Document due by 12/2014
Task 3: Roadtested Guidance due by 12/2015
The flagship project – Cooperating members

Promoting group:

- Prof. Atsushi Inaba, Kogakuin University, Japan (co-leader)
- Prof. Dr. Matthias Finkbeiner, TU Berlin, Germany (co-leader)
- Dr. Julia Martínez-Blanco, TU Berlin, Germany (secretariat)
- Ms. Sonia Valdivia, UNEP, Global
- Dr. Llorenç Milà i Canals, UNEP, Global

Total number of members that collaborate in the flagship project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of collaboration</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co Ndrafters (WG)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feedback stakeholders</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example providers</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The flagship project – Cooperating members

Flagship project

**Type of organisation**
- Consultancy, 15
- University, 22
- NGO, 5
- Research center, 5
- Big company, 4
- Int. Organisation, 3
- SME, 1
- Industrial section, 2
- Political, 2

**Region**
- Global, 1
- Europe, 26
- Latin America, 11
- North America, 6
- Asia Pacific, 6
- Africa, 5

**Gender**
- Men, 36
- Women, 23

“LCA of organizations“ by UNEP-SETAC

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- The Guidance Document (WD2)
• Highlighting potential of organizational perspective within LCT.
• Environmental performance (potentiality for S-LCA).
• Recommendations about challenging methodological issues.
• It builds on existing internationally-agreed guides, methods and standards => it particularly aligns with upcoming ISO/NP TS 14072.
O-LCA considers...

- object of study: organization
- scope: the entire life cycle
- categories considered: multi-criteria assessment
O-LCA approach can be applied by organizations with very different characteristics (sector, size and structure) and in a very wide range of situations. For example in organizations that...

- Not previously implemented any environmental management tool (or limited).
The O-LCA Guidance (WD2) draws largely on the upcoming ISO/NP TS 14072 (currently WD4) and also relies on the principles and requirements of product LCA standards and other organization standards.
The Guidance Document – Some ongoing discussions

- Scope stage structure and requirements.
- Terminology (O-LCA, reporting/reference unit, system boundaries...).
- Alternatives to express the reporting flow (units, currency, portfolio...).
- Defining reporting unit and reporting flow in the service sector.
- Assessing a subset of an organization (recommendations).
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Main facts

- The organization-level has an influential role in shaping environmental outcomes. The burdens are often larger in upstream stages (suppliers).
- Product-LCA requirements might be adapted for organization assessment.
- Major differences with product-LCA are in the scope definition (comparability).
Thank you for your attention!

http://www.lifecycleinitiative.org

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