



# 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  
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UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative



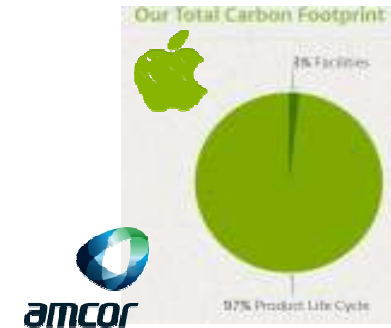
Technische Universität Berlin  
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- The flagship project
  - Motivation and goal
  - Outline
  - Cooperating members
  
- The Guidance Document (WD2)
  - Scope of the guidance
  - What is O-LCA?
  - Implementation pathways and goals
  - Some ongoing discussions
  
- Main facts

## The flagship project – Motivation and goal



- 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).
- The benefits and the potential of the life cycle approach are not limited to the application on products (90% of requirements are transferable).
- Multi-impact assessment is needed to avoid trade-offs.
- ISO/NP TS 14072 “Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Requirements and guidelines to apply life cycle thinking to



=> 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 O-LCA, providing assistance on methodological challenges.

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**Task 1: Draft Guidance Document (commissioned WG) due by beginning 2014**

- WD1: Bullet Draft 4th September 2013
- WD2: Preliminary draft 25th October 2013 (60 pages)
- First meeting: 22-23th November (Japan)

**Future steps:**

**Task 2: Consolidated Guidance Document due by 12/2014**

**Task 3: Road-tested Guidance due by 12/2015**

## 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
- Ms. Ana Quiros, ECO GLOBAL & ALCALA, Costa Rica

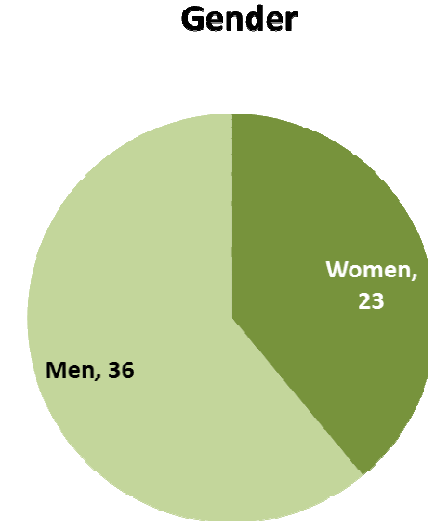
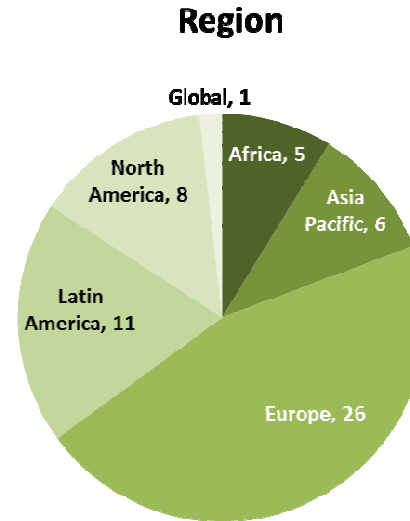
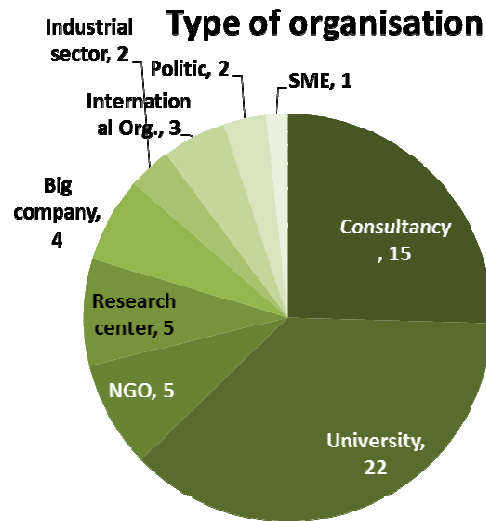
## Total number of members that collaborate in the flagship project:

Type of collaboration	Members
Co-drafters (WG)	20
Feedback stakeholders	38
Example providers	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>

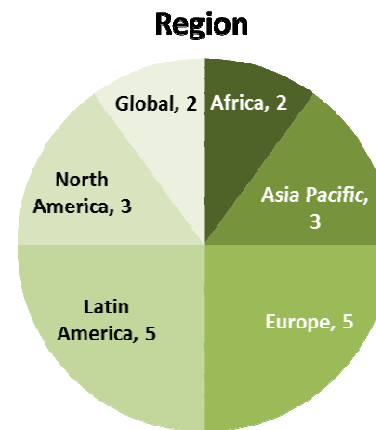
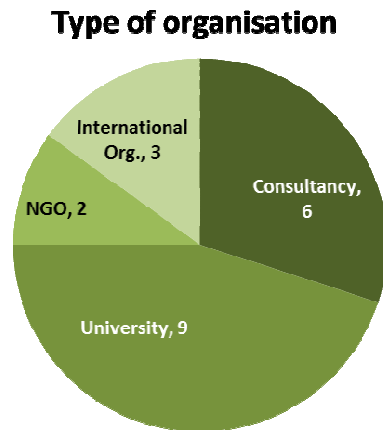
# The flagship project – Cooperating members



## Flagship project



## Working group



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- 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.
- Intended for organizations of all sizes, both public and private, and in all economic or institutional sectors/levels  
=> 4 pathways to the implementation of O-LCA.
- Not intended for comparison of different organizations  
=> performance tracking (promote continuous improvement).

O-LCA considers...

- object of study: organization
- scope: the entire life cycle
- categories considered: multi-criteria assessment

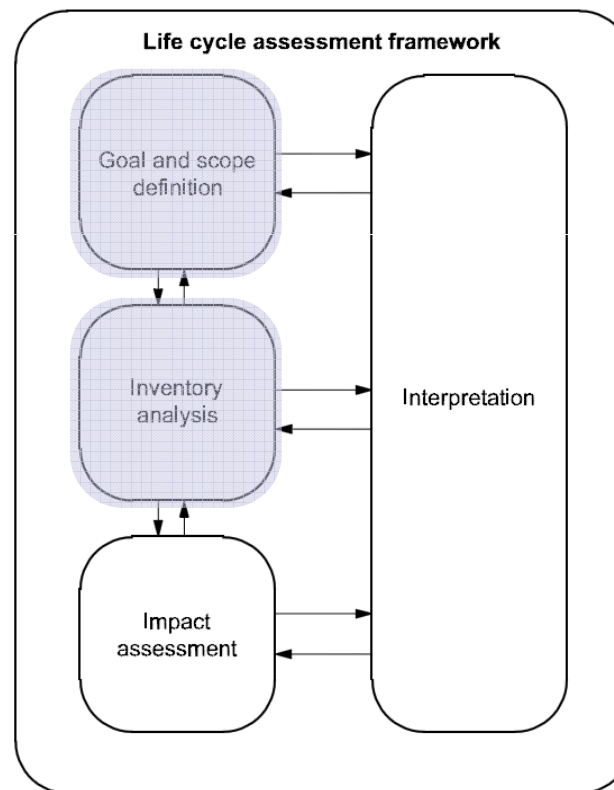
O-LCA approach can be applied by organizations with very different characteristics (sector, size and structure) and in a very wide range of situations. For example in organizations that...

- Not previously implemented any environmental management tool (or limited).
- Already applied several EMS (env. perf. gate-to-gate).
- Already applied LCA to several products/services within their portfolio.
- Previously applied Scope 3 Standard for GHG emissions.

### Ex. organization goals served by O-LCA

- Identify hotspots.
- Understand risks and impact reduction opportunities.
- Support strategic decisions.
- Identify shifting burdens.
- Complement EMS.
- Promote environmental management among suppliers.
- ...

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.



- 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).
- Where to set the organization system boundaries? (gate-to-gate? one tier...).
- Implementation pathways (specific recommendations for scope definition, data collection...). There is not a “one-size-fits-all” approach to O-LCA.
- How to deal with the interface between supplier data in O-LCA (purchased share) and product-level data.

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- 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).
- Nearly 60 people are involved in the flagship project that will outcome with a new Guidance and include road-testing in the next 2.5 years.
- The Guidance aims to point out the potential of O-LCA approach, to show situations were it might be useful and to address challenging methodological issues.
- Several ongoing discussions (mainly methodological).

**Thank you for your attention!**

<http://www.lifecycleinitiative.org>

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