



UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

LC Net April 2010

Dear Friends of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative,

This is an update on the latest news and events from the 1st quarter of 2010.

Provided is information on the launch of three Life Cycle Initiative Projects: the USEtox™ in Seville, the SRM in Panama, and the Methodological Sheets for Social LCA, an overview of the events and meetings held in Seville during the 20th SETAC Europe Annual Meeting, the Swiss Forum call for proposals, as well as information on upcoming events in 2010 and 2011. Please read on!

USEtox™: International Launch in Seville on 25 May, 2010

Throughout its life cycle, each product causes emissions of different potential impact on the environment. USEtox™ is a model that characterises the human and ecotoxic impacts in Life Cycle Impact Assessment and ranks chemicals according to their inherent hazard characteristics. It was developed by a team of researchers from the Task Force on Toxic Impacts under the UNEP-SETAC Life Cycle Initiative.

An emission inventory for the life cycle of a product often contains hundreds of substances. Many of these substances have the potential to damage humans or ecosystems when released to the environment and should thus have characterization factors for the human and ecotoxicity categories of impact.

A number of different models have been developed for this purpose varying in their scope and applied modelling principles. However they all only cover a limited number of substances that may vary substantially in different models. On top of that there are in fact many substances for which no characterization factor is available. This has led to the situation that chemical-related impacts are excluded from the LCIA. Therefore the current situation for an LCA practitioner who wishes to include the chemical-related impacts is suboptimal.

This unsatisfactory situation was the background on which the USEtox™ model was established. The objective was to develop a scientific consensus about good modelling practice based on the identified influential differences. Thus USEtox™ incorporates the learnings from the comparison of the former characterization models.

The USEtox™ will be launched at the 20th Annual SETAC Meeting in Seville by Micheal Hauschild and Guido Sonnemann on Tuesday, May 25th from 13.15-14.45.

Additionally the training course: "Modelling comparative risk of toxics on humans and ecosystems: the USEtox model" will be held on Sunday, May 23rd. Further details can be found on:

http://seville.setac.eu/short_courses/?contentid=203&pr_id=180

Launch of the Sustainable Resource Management Project in Latin

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is a major source of renewable and non-renewable resources for the world market. As such, improving resource management in the region is expected to bring along not only important benefits for the population of the region but also for the world at large. However, until the date, insufficient investment in human capital has led to very limited expertise and implementation capacity in the scientific community, the private sector and the Governments of the region.

The project "Strengthening National Capacities for Sustainable Resource Management" (GESRE – from its Spanish abbreviation) aims at identifying the needs of the region, increasing coordination and understanding on sustainable resource management among key stakeholders and affected parties in the Governments, private sector and scientific community and developing good practices for their replication.

"The focus of the sustainable resource management project includes actions and organizations within a system that guarantee the use and continuous provision of resources (including material ones and landscape) in order to cover the needs of the present without compromising the capacity of the future generations of covering its own needs. Therefore, sustainable resource management avoids the transfer of impacts of a productive chain to another, of a category of impact to another, and from one region to another. Sustainable resource management takes into account the economic, social, and environmental impacts along the cycle of life of material resources. Material resources are those that have a real or potential value for the society."

The "Launch Event of the GESRE project" is being organized in Panama on 13 April, which will include the first public consultation of the "Report of Evaluation of Critical Resources in LAC". This event is being organized by the United Nations Environment Programme through the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean with support of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economy (DTIE). The event will address the following objectives:

- Present the project and its implications for the region;
- Discuss with the participants the priorities and needs of the respective countries with specific reference to policies for sustainable resource management;
- Share the progress results of the "Report of Evaluation of Critical Resources in LAC" and obtain feedbacks from the participants;
- Identify strategic partners at technical and political level in LAC countries with the purpose of developing 2 to 3 pilot projects on the "sustainable resource management" in the region.

For more information contact sonia.valdivia@unep.org



The screenshot shows the website for the "Red de Información en Consumo y Producción Sustentables para América Latina y el Caribe" (Sustainable Consumption and Production Information Network for Latin America and the Caribbean). The header includes the PNUMA logo and the text "Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente". The main navigation menu includes "The Net", "Nodes", "Partners", and "Thematic Centers". The central content area features a "Call for papers" section for "GESRE" with the title "Strengthening Capabilities for Sustainable Resource Management". Below this, the "The Project" section describes the GESRE project, implemented by UNEP, UN DESA, and ECLAC, aimed at identifying needs and improving coordination in Latin America and the Caribbean. The right sidebar contains a search bar and various service links like "Virtual Library", "Events", "Virtual Forums", "E-learning", "Contacts", and "Call for papers". At the bottom right, there is a login section with fields for "User (Mail)" and "Password", a "Login" button, and links for "Create Account" and "Forgot my Password".

UNEP/SETAC Guidelines for Social LCA of Products: Launch of the "Methodological Sheets for 31 Sub-Categories of Impact"

The UNEP/SETAC "Guidelines for Social Life Cycle Assessment of Products (S-LCA)" was launched on 18 May 2009 in Quebec, Canada, in conjunction with the ISO 26000 meeting. It is a technique available to account for stories and inform systematically on impacts that otherwise would be lost in the vast and fast moving sea of our modern world. It may help stakeholders to effectively and efficiently engage to improve social and socioeconomic conditions.

Interest from Governments, international organizations, International Agencies for Cooperation, Companies and UN programmes have expressed interest in this tool and first studies based on the UNEP/SETAC Guidelines for Social LCA are already available. See below a couple of examples, one coming from South Africa and the second one from China.



UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

P.L NTSHINGILA Presenter, Prof C Mbohwa
Faculty of Management

Department of Quality and Operations Management

Social Impact on the Life Cycle Assessment of Freight Transportation in South Africa

November 2009 THE CLCM 2009 CONFERENCE, CHINA

Social Impact on the Life Cycle Assessment of Freight Transportation in South Africa

P.L Ntshingila, Dr C Mbohwa,

Department of Quality and Operations Management, University of Johannesburg

<http://www.iscp.org.cn/conference/2009Papers/>

Integrated Life Cycle Assessment of Obsolete PC Recycling System,

Bin Lu, Jianxin Yang, Xinhua Lu,

Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences

<http://www.iscp.org.cn/conference/2009Papers/>

Integrated LCA of Obsolete PC Recycling System

Bin Lu, Jianxin Yang

Research Center For Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences
(中国科学院生态环境研究中心)

Relevant findings in first studies is the need of further guidance on how to move towards the impact assessment of results inventoried in Social LCAs for the sub-categories of impact identified as relevant ones. This is possible with support of the foreseen "methodological sheets", one for each sub-category of impact.



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The capability framework enables companies and suppliers to select tools and improvement processes/projects appropriate to their current understanding of sustainability and level of organizational effectiveness. The approach provides a logical sequence of actions to quickly move the company and suppliers to higher levels of performance. Companies and suppliers will be given the responsibility and tools to develop their own capability for sustainable competitive advantage in global markets.

The goals are achieved in two phases. Phase 1 of the project is to refine the framework and developing a detailed plan for a Phase 2 pilot. Eight companies have joined the Project coming from China, Brazil, India, Thailand, USA, France and Australia.

Phase one is almost completed and the framework will be available for consultation and discussion on 26 May, in conjunction with the SETAC Europe 20th Annual Meeting to be held in the Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones - FIBES in Seville, Spain from 23-27 May 2010.

Companies interested in testing the framework are being solicited for Phase 2 involving their suppliers. Please contact t.swarr@fivewinds.com

More information can be found in the website of the Project:
http://unep_cmm.airset.com/

UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative in Seville

In May UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative's sessions will take place back to back to the 20th SETAC Europe Annual Meeting in Seville, Spain. Following events are planned

- Life Cycle Impact Assessment (LCIA) from Water Use
Annette Koehler and Emmanuelle Austin, Monday May 24th, 10.00-13:00, Room Marismas
- Social Life Cycle Assessment – News on Methodological Sheets
Andreas Ciroth and Sonia Valdivia, Monday May 24th, 17.15-18.15, Room Ronda
- Launch of USEtox™
Michael Hauschild and Guido Sonnemann, Tuesday May 25th, 13.15-14.45, Room Cazorla
- UNEP/SETAC Database Registry
Andreas Ciroth, Tuesday May 25th, 17.15 – 18.45, Room Italice
- Capability Maturity Framework for Business
Tom Swarr and Bruce Vigon, Wednesday May 26th, 8.00-10.30, Room Marismas
- Integrated Framework for Life Cycle Impact Assessment – a UNEP Proposal
Guido Sonnemann and Sonia Valdivia, Wednesday May 26th, 13.15-14.15, Room Marismas
- 6th International Consultation on the 'Global Guidance Process for LCA Databases'
Guido Sonnemann and Bruce Vigon, Wednesday May 26th, 17.15 – 19.15, Room Ronda
- ILCB Meeting, Thursday May 27th, 8.00-17.00, Room Marismas

Please refer to http://seville.setac.eu/embed/Seville/Overview_meeting_rooms.pdf for more details. Please refer to http://seville.setac.eu/embed/Seville/Overview_meeting_rooms.pdf for more details. In case you are interested in hearing on the developments our meeting but are not able to attend, please send an email to ilci@unep.org. Your query will be forwarded to corresponding project leader.

Next Events in the Swiss Discussion Forum and Call For Proposals

The Swiss Discussion Forum has three events planned for 2010:

- **Developments in LC Impacts Assessment inclusive a focus on abiotic resources**

April 20th 2010, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

The forum will in its first part examine latest developments in LCIA, addressing full LCIA methodologies and single characterization methods from a methodological point of view as well as about the implications for practical applications. In its second part, it will concentrate on the impact assessment of abiotic resource use. UNEP will present the learnings of the Resource Panel regarding the way to assess abiotic resource efficiency following a life cycle perspective.

- **Environmental product information and LCA**

June 22nd 2010, Ittingen, Switzerland

In the recent past, environmental labelling and information based on life cycle thinking got high attention. Special interest exists in elaborating carbon footprint labels of products. But, recent discussion forums showed that the carbon footprint alone is not sufficient for a true view on the environmental impacts. This discussion forum will present successful examples of environmental product information covering more than carbon footprints. It will be discussed, which environmental indicators are sufficiently comprehensive and accepted internationally. Finally the reaction of consumers on such information and the best ways of providing complicated interrelations in a simplified way will be evaluated.

- **Integrating biodiversity in LCA**

November 19th 2010, Lausanne, Switzerland

The importance and complexity of biodiversity require relevant and representative indicators that reflect changes in biodiversity at multiple levels (e.g. species, communities and ecosystems) and at multiple spatial scales (e.g. local, regional, national). Although it may be unrealistic to expect LCA to cover all of these aspects, current methods of integrating biodiversity into LCA lack a comprehensive approach. Until now, they have focused primarily on a change at the community level (species richness and density) at the European scale. New developments in LCA methodology need to reflect this inherent complexity and spatial variability. A discussion of possible approaches for the future will serve to guide research efforts toward achieving this goal.

The Swiss LCA Forum is calling for short presentations for people working on a topic relevant to one the above discussion fora. Please contact the LCA Discussion Forum Secretariat under lcaforum@quantis-intl.com.

For further information about their activities, visit www.lcainfo.ch/df.

Upcoming Events

- Swiss Discussion Forum on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) 2010 in Switzerland: Zurich on 20 April, in Ittingen on 22 June and in Lausanne on 19 November 2010 <http://www.lcainfo.ch/df>
- SAM 4 International Seminar, Ecole des Mines de Nancy, Nancy, France, 28th – 29th April 2010 <http://www.sovamat.org/sam-conferences/SAM4FlyerFinal.pdf?PHPSESSID=1978fcfdb71a99b8fe048903ac14ca0>

- CYCLE 2010 – 4th Canadian Forum on the Life Cycle Management of Products and Services, Montréal, Canada, 4 – 5 May 2010 <http://www.cycle2010.org/eng/index.html>
- The 17th CIRP Conference on Life Cycle Engineering: LCE 2010, Anhui, China, 19-21 May
<http://lce2010.hfut.edu.cn>
- 20th SETAC Europe Annual Meeting, Seville, Spain, 23 - 27 May, 2010
http://seville.setac.eu/home/?contentid=181&pr_id=180
Sovereign events of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative will take place in conjunction with the 20th SETAC Europe Annual Meeting. For details see above description.
- II Latin-American Seminar on Life Cycle Analysis, Santa Clara, Cuba, 1 – 4 June 2010 <http://www.life-cycle.org/?p=459>
- SETAC Asia/Pacific 2010 Conference, Guangzhou, China, 4 – 7 June 2010
<http://www.conferencenet.org/conference/setacap.htm>
- 3rd International Conference on Eco-Efficiency and Eco-Innovation Modelling, Evaluation and Drivers for Sustainable Development , Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands, 9 - 11 June, 2010
<http://www.eco-efficiency-conf.org/>
- World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden, 5 – 11 September 2010 <http://www.worldwaterweek.org>
- 7th International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment in the Agri-Food Sector, Università degli Studi di Bari, Italy, 22nd – 24th September 2010
<http://www.lcafood2010.uniba.it>
- Brazilian LCM Conference 2010, Florianopolis, SC, Brazil, 13-15 October 2010
- OECD Global Forum on Environment, Mechelen, Belgium, 25th – 27th October 2010
http://www.oecd.org/document/51/0,3343,en_2649_33713_42110515_1_1_1_1,00.html
- LCA X Conference: "Bridging Science, Policy and the Public," Portland, Oregon, U.S.A., 1st – 4th November 2010.
- Going Green – CARE INNOVATION 2010, Schönbrunn Palace Conference Centre, Vienna, Austria, 8 – 11 November, 2010
<http://www.re-use.net/CARE/CI2010>
- EcoBalance 2010, National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, Tokyo, Japan, 9 - 12 November 2010 (contact: ecobalance2010@sntt.or.jp) <http://www.sntt.or.jp/EcoBalance2010/top.php>
- The 7th Australian Life Cycle Assessment Conference, Melbourne, Australia, tentatively on 15 - 19 November
<http://www.conference.alcas.asn.au>
- The 18th CIRP Conference on Life Cycle Engineering: LCE 2011, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany, 2- 4 May 2011
<http://www.lce2011.de>

Kind regards

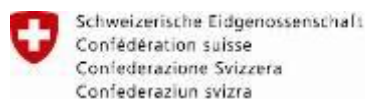
Secretariat of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

For more information, please visit our website: <http://lcinitiative.unep.fr/>

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