

DF 61: How to assess impacts of land use on biodiversity and soil quality in LCA?

March 15, 2016, Zürich (Tuesday, in English)

Assessments of land use related impacts on ecosystem resources covering biodiversity and soil production potential are still a difficult issue in LCA. Major challenges are that biodiversity and soil degradation need to be assessed within a specific bio-geographic context and that land use intensities need to be considered. While the real dynamics and complexity of ecosystem processes above and below ground require complex and data demanding models, LCA practitioners call for simple and easy to use assessment routines that are, however, prone to oversimplification. Impacts of land use on biodiversity and soil quality as are a key issue for the food, feed, apparel, paper and bioenergy industries that are all based on agricultural and forestry-based products. Therefore, upcoming approaches like Natural Capital Valuation aim for a simplified assessment of overall ecosystem impacts.

Finding balanced solutions that adequately represent ecosystem complexity and that are still relatively easily applicable will be key to improve informed decision making on the sustainability of agricultural and forestry-based products. On the discussion forum, among others, recent results from the UNEP-SETAC Life Cycle Initiative will be presented on the assessment of biodiversity impacts of land use. The goal of this discussion forum is to present and discuss the state-of-the-art of methods for assessing land-use related impacts on ecosystems, the possibilities and limits of those approaches and the needs of the industry to integrate such methods.

DF 62: LCA and decision making: when and how to use consequential LCA?

September 9, 2016, Zürich (Friday, in English)

What are the environmental implications of the European Union's goal that 10 % of transport fuel should come from renewable sources by 2020? Is it sufficient to switch the energy supply of the existing building stock of a city to renewable energy to reach carbon footprint targets? Does an autarchy policy in the agricultural sector reduce the pressure on the environment (locally and/or globally)? Policies and decision situations like these call for advanced LCA models. Different concepts of Consequential LCA have been introduced for that purpose. This forum will provide the opportunity to learn about the motivation and reasoning of public and private decision makers who commissioned consequential LCAs. Results from consequential LCA case studies as well as from ongoing research in the field of consequential LCA will be presented. Consequences on background data needs and potential consequences on life cycle impact assessment methods are discussed. There will be room for discussing key areas of application and related important methodological issues with the opportunity to draft a joint statement on areas of consensus and disagreement.

DF 63: How can LCA support the Circular Economy?

November 30, 2016, Zürich (Wednesday, in English)

The concept of Circular Economy is gaining popularity in Europe and elsewhere. Both the recycling of waste and a (recycling friendly) eco-design are components of a Circular Economy. How can LCA support the creation of a Circular Economy and ensure a positive balance of efforts and benefits? How shall substituted materials and products be accounted for, who can claim the benefit, and how is resource quality taken into consideration? How can waste and resources be managed to minimize environmental impacts? How can products be designed in an eco-friendly manner to close material cycles?

The 3rd forum will give the floor to representatives from industry, authorities, academics, and organisations to present new applications and approaches of LCA in combination with various other environmental assessment tools (e.g. MFA, LCA and/or mathematical optimization) to manage wastes and resources sustainably and to support decision-making towards a circular economy. A focus will be laid on factors relevant for the benefits of the circular economy, such as waste and resource quality aspects and their influence on the recycling system, as well as product quality. Finally, examples of LCA applications for eco-design, waste management and systemic analyses across sectors will be shown.

Fees

(lunch included, videos documentation included)

For the whole year (3 fora)

Standard fee: 700 CHF

For a single Forum

Standard fee: 300 CHF

Reduced fee: 90 CHF for PhD students and students

Online access: 150 CHF

Registration

To register for the whole year or a single LCA Discussion Forum, please use the following link:

www.registration.ethz.ch/eventolight/

At the first instance you visit this website you will be asked to create an account. Afterwards, please login with the information that is sent to you by e-mail. Please click on "published events", then select "Discussion forum on life cycle assessment 2016" (events sorted in alphabetical order) and then click "Anmelden". Afterwards, please follow the instructions.

In case you are not able to pay by credit card, please send an e-mail to the following address:

lcaforum@ethz.ch

with a short notice that you want to receive an invoice instead. Please provide the full invoice address as well as the chosen fee type.

Call for short presentations

You work on a topic relevant to one of the Discussion Fora in 2016 and wish to present your findings?

"Open floor" sessions for short presentations will be available in each forum. Please contact the LCA Discussion Forum secretariat – the sooner the better.

Contact

For more information and to receive news on the LCA Discussion Forum, please contact:

lcaforum@ethz.ch

Website

To download the full program and presentations and/or papers of past and future forums:

<http://www.LCAforum.ch>

Mission and organization

Mission

The LCA Discussion Forum is a platform for an exchange between LCA practitioners working in industry, consulting companies, administrations and LCA scientists. Each LCA forum is dedicated to a specific topic of immediate interest related to

- experiences and challenges with LCA application in industry and administration
- scientific questions in life cycle inventory and life cycle impact assessment methodology development
- dissemination of new scientific findings and results of relevant LCA studies

Internationally renowned speakers are invited according to the topic to present their work. Each forum offers an "open floor" session for short presentations. The LCA forum is dedicated to people interested in the field of LCA, working in Switzerland and abroad. Its content is defined by its board. Proposals are always welcome.

Board of the Association

- Stefanie Hellweg, ETHZ/IFU (president)
- Arthur Braunschweig, E2 Management Consulting Ltd.
- Norbert Egli, Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)
- Rolf Frischknecht, treeze Ltd.
- Roland Hischier, EMPA
- Gérard Gaillard, Agroscope Reckenholz-Tänikon (ART)
- Rainer Zah, Quantis



2016

How to assess impacts of land use on biodiversity and soil quality in LCA?

DF 61, March 15, 2016, Zürich
in English

LCA and decision making: when and how to use consequential LCA?

DF 62, September 9, 2016, Zürich
in English

How can LCA support the Circular Economy?

DF 63, November 30, 2016, Zürich
in English

Sponsors 2016

