



# The UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative and its position among the harmonisation initiatives



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UNEP and TU Berlin



# Overview

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- The UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative
- Current Focus Areas
- Focus on Implementation in the short term
- Conclusions



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# THE LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE



# UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative a public private partnership

## Vision:

A world where life cycle approaches are mainstreamed

## Mission:

Enable the global use of credible life cycle knowledge for more sustainable societies.

### Objective 1:

Enhance the global consensus and relevance of existing and emerging life cycle methodologies and data management

Building the SCIENCE

### Objective 2:

Expand capability worldwide to apply and to improve life cycle approaches; making them operational for organisations

Building the CAPACITY

### Objective 3:

Communicate current life cycle knowledge and be the global voice of the Life Cycle community to influence and partner with stakeholders

Supporting the DEMAND



# Faces in the Life Cycle Initiative

→ Secretariat (UNEP)



→ Co-chairs (UNEP + SETAC)



→ Flagship project chairs



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- THE LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE
- CURRENT FOCUS OF THE INITIATIVE**
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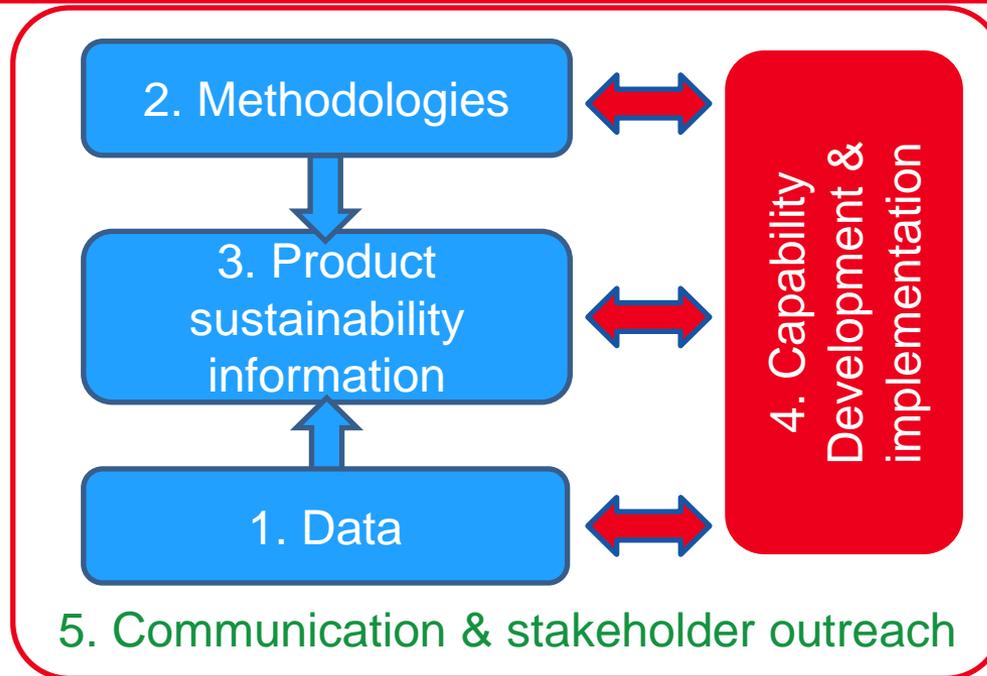


# Phase 3: Mission, Vision, Objectives and Programmes

**Vision:** A world where life cycle approaches are mainstreamed

**Mission:** Enable the global use of credible life cycle knowledge for more sustainable societies.

**Objective 1:**  
Enhance the global consensus and relevance of existing and emerging life cycle methodologies and data management



**Objective 2:**  
Expand capability worldwide to apply and to improve life cycle approaches; making them operational for organisations

**Objective 3:**  
Be the global voice of the Life Cycle community to influence and partner with stakeholders through broad communication of current life cycle knowledge

# Phase 3 Flagship Projects: Urgency & Relevance

## 1. Methodologies

- b. Global Guidance on environmental LCIA indicators
- c. LCA in organizations

## 2. Data

- a. Global database management network & training

## 3. Product sustainability information

- a. Product sustainability information meta guidance

## 4. Capability Development & implementation

- a. Global capability development

## 5. Communication & stakeholder outreach

- a. Communication strategy



# Phase 3 Flagship Projects: Key outcomes on DATA and METHODS

- Global Guidance on environmental LCIA indicators
  - 2014: thematic taskforces active; Reaching out for domain experts
  - Funding opportunity: Pellston-style workshop in 2015, global consensus
  - 2016: **publication** (global guidance LCIA) with impact assessment factors
- Organisational LCA (O-LCA)
  - 2013: Starts in April; Workshop in Tokyo (November);
  - 2014: Online meetings of the working group; collection of early success stories
  - 2015: Publication (guidance O-LCA); road-testing, ca. 10 companies
- Data and Database Management
  - **Training** on Global Guidance Principles for LCA database management in Beijing, March 2014; Further training events planned (India, Brazil...)
  - information repository on database conformance to the GGP

# O-LCA flagship project — Goal and tasks

Organizational LCA is a compilation and evaluation of the inputs, outputs and potential environmental impacts of the activities associated with the organization adopting a life cycle perspective (ISO/TS 14072).

It contributes to demonstrate that the **benefits and the potential of the life cycle approach** are not restricted to product assessment. It shows that its application to organizations is **relevant, meaningful and feasible** within the framework of product LCA standards.

**Started in:** April 2013. **Expected duration:** 3 years.

Task 1: Draft Guidance Document (commissioned WG)

Task 2: Consolidated Guidance Document (feedback stakeholders)

Task 3: Road-tested Guidance (2015)



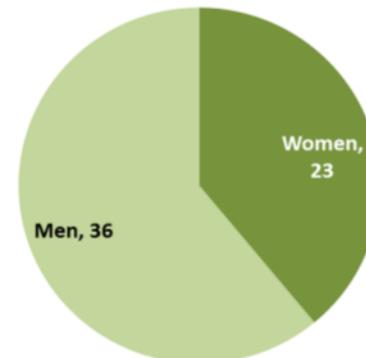
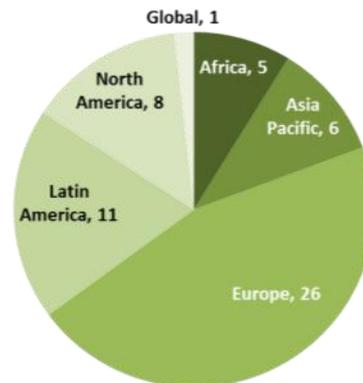
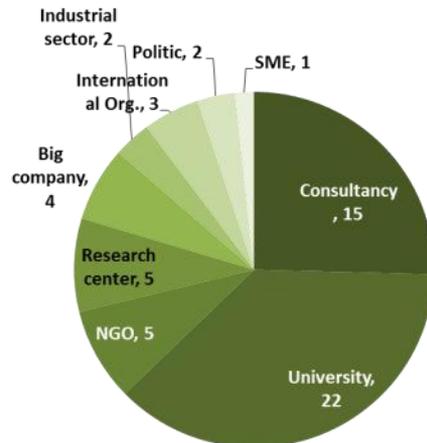
# O-LCA flagship project — Participants

## 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 (coordinator)
- Ms. Sonia Valdivia, World Resources Forum, Global
- Dr. Llorenç Milà i Canals, UNEP, Global
- Ms. Ana Quirós, ECO GLOBAL & ALCALA, Costa Rica



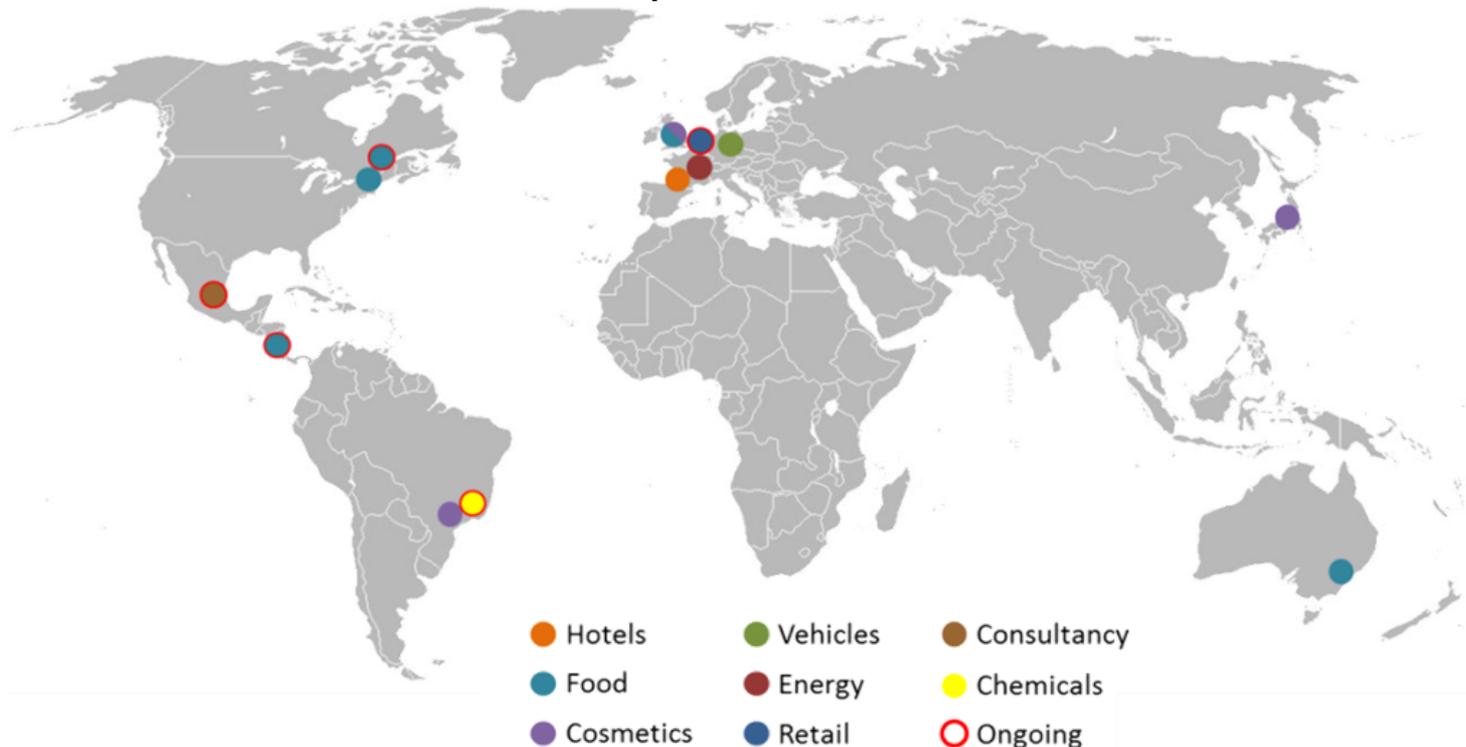
## Members involved in Guidance drafting and consolidation ≈ 70



+ case studies providers + road testers (2015)

# O-LCA Guidance — Early success stories

Although real applications of O-LCA do not exist yet, this Guidance aims to share the experience acquired by some early success stories on the use of approaches that may lead or be encompassed by the more comprehensive O-LCA.



# O-LCA: How to collaborate

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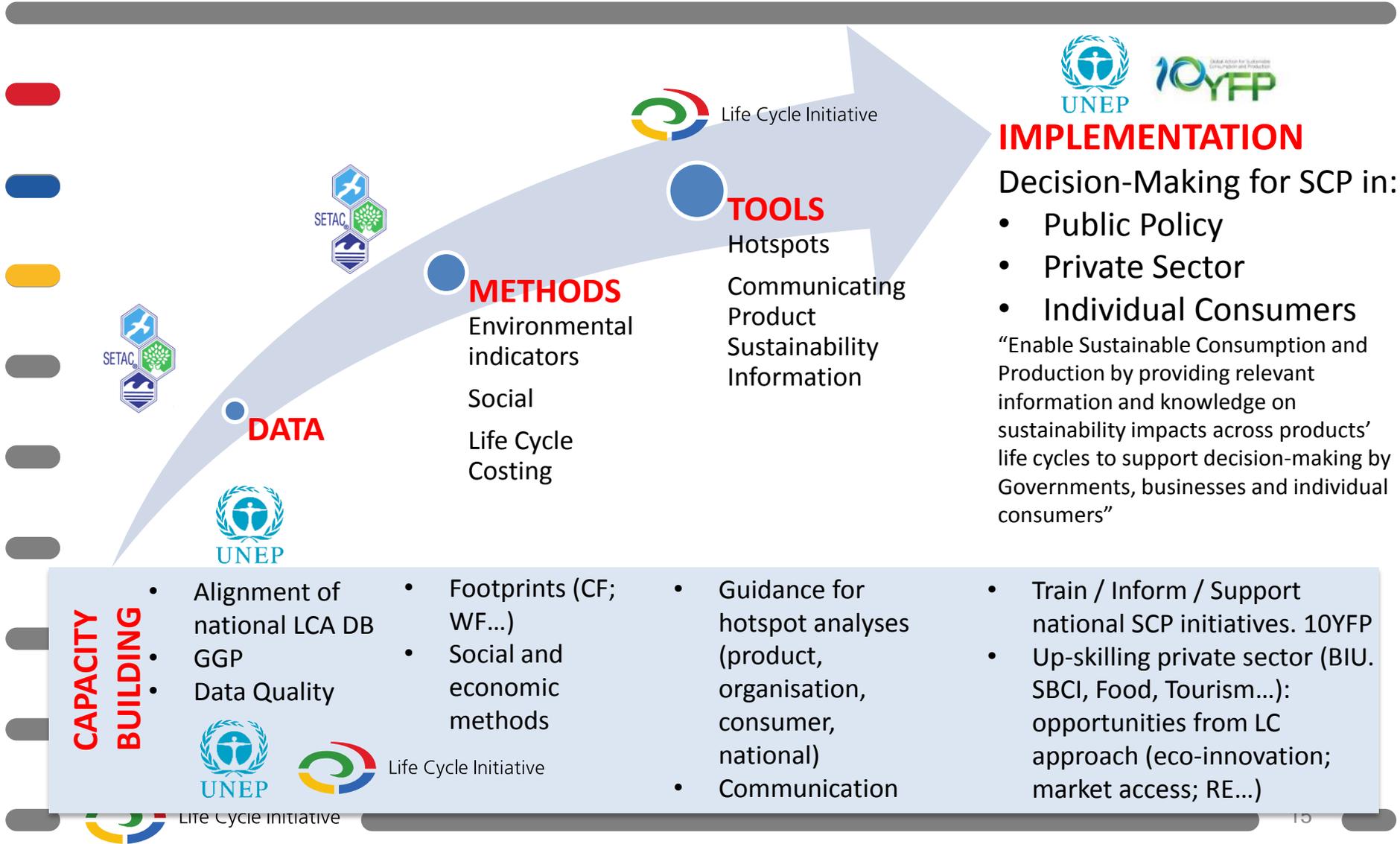
- Collaborate during the **public consultation** of the Guidance. End this year. It will be sent to the LCI distribution list.
- Be one of the first organizations applying O-LCA during the **road-testing** and help on the adjustment of the methodology.
- Help us with the **spreading** of the methodology



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  - CURRENT FOCUS
  - IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SHORT TERM
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# Key work areas moving forward



Life Cycle Initiative



Life Cycle Initiative

Life Cycle Initiative

# Some current areas of implementation

## → DATA:

- UNEP coordinating Technical Support to National LCA DB initiatives (India; Malaysia; Thailand; Brazil; Turkey? Mexico?...)
- UNEP Co-Chairing deliverable of international governmental Forum on LCA Cooperation: Global Network of Interoperable LCA Databases

## → CAPACITY BUILDING:

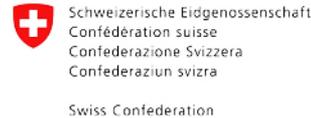
- Trainings around data collection; LCA Database management
- Capacity through practical application in pilots: LCM-CMM

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- THE LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE
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  - FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION
  - CONCLUSIONS



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# Conclusions

→ INTEROPERABILITY of databases and tools,  
recognition of standards

→ It is all about Partnership

→ No one can achieve this alone

→ The Life Cycle Initiative brings many approaches and views  
together, and puts them in action (focus on D&E)

→ UNEP's convening capacity

→ SETAC's roots on Science and network of LCA experts

→ Neutrality, Global Reach and impact through the implementation in  
many programmes, including 10YFP

→ Representation of Developing countries & Emerging economies



# Thank you for your attention

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