Contribution of the Life Cycle Initiative to sustainable business & policy

Llorenç Milà i Canals
UN Environment
Life Cycle Initiative

A multi-stakeholder partnership, hosted by UN Environment, enabling the global use of credible life cycle knowledge by private and public decision makers.
Agenda for Sustainable Development

Life Cycle Knowledge is relevant to many Sustainable Development Goals and other global agendas (Resource Efficiency, Pollution, Climate Change…)

- 12 Responsible Consumption and Production
- 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
- 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 13 Climate Action
- 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 15 Life on Land
- 7 Affordable and Clean Energy
Life Cycle Thinking provides **robust science-based insights** to circular economy options:

→ When are different business model options more adequate? Material recovery vs. product life extension vs. service-based systems…

Identification of **potential trade-offs** and insights into ways to address them:

→ i.e. Build-up of toxic substances in materials’ cycles; benefits of recycling cancelled by extra energy used.
We’ve come a long way…
News 1: Our first e-learning module

http://www.learnlifecycle.com/
http://www.aprendeciclodevida.com/

Introduction to Life Cycle Thinking

Drive Change in Public Policies
Drive Change in Business
Drive Change in Lifestyles

Special thanks to project developer Culturambiente.
Co-financed by the European Commission
News 2: Organizational-LCA Road testing Report

The Life Cycle Initiative successfully launched the Guidance on Organizational LCA in 2015 (> 10,000 downloads)

Road testing report: http://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/download/6060
Our new strategy

Vision

→ to bring Life Cycle Thinking to the **mindsets of decision makers** with the **practical knowledge and tools** to enhance the sustainability of their decisions

Mission

→ (1) advance the **understanding of life cycle thinking** between experts and users;

→ (2) build **consensus** on and facilitate **access** to economic, social and environmental **life cycle knowledge**.
Life Cycle Initiative: Pathways to Impact

**Relevant SDGs are reached faster and more efficiently**

**Life cycle based decisions are made for public policies and businesses** (hotspots are prioritized for actions, and unintended problem-shifting is avoided)

**Technical and Policy Advice and Stewardship: Guidance and support for decision makers to implement life cycle approaches**

**Capacity development for use of life cycle knowledge for targeted decision makers**

**Science-based life cycle knowledge** (methods, indicators and data)

**Impacts**

**Deliverables**
Key work areas and targets

Technical and policy advice

→ By 2022, mainstream the use of LCT into 4 global areas of decision and policy making, in at least 15 countries and 30 companies.

Capacity

→ By 2022, train at least 2,500 policy makers, business decision makers and LCA practitioners, and share at least 20 Life Cycle Thinking success stories.

Knowledge

→ By 2022, offer a solution to access all interoperable LCA databases globally, with a library of recommended impact assessment factors linked through a nomenclature system.
Contribute to sustainable business

→ Common ground / level playing field to foster innovation
→ Enhance alliances and partnerships among stakeholders

Company level
Organizational Life Cycle Assessment (O-LCA)
- informing materiality (reporting, 14001) and sustainable business models
- Social appraisal across company’s value chain

Sector level
Value Chain mapping
- e.g. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), or other sectors such as tourism, textiles, food, plastics, mining etc.

Certification
Life-cycle based evidence for performance monitoring
- Evidence of performance for e.g. Forest Stewardship Council, UTZ Certification, RSPO, RTRS and Better Cotton Initiative (to name a few)
- Exploring potential links to trade and fiscal mechanisms.
Contribute to sustainable policy

**Global agenda**

Science – Policy interface

- Convening actors to identify actions to make the best solutions work
- (market conditions, policy framework, perverse incentives / fiscal instruments)
- Influencing relevant actors

**National level**

Hotspot analysis for priority setting

- can be applied in 10YFP National Action Plans, SWITCH Programmes, Partnership for Action on Green Economy, and national environmental planning for priority setting.

**Procurement**

Life Cycle Costing to monetarize environmental costs

- Support efficient decision-making by procurers in public (and private) institutions through the 10YFP Sustainable Public Procurement Programme
- Natural Capital and externalities quantification and valuation
Our growing active members

Members’ evolution since launch of new strategy (June 2017)

- 7→15 Govern. members
- 6→28 Academia & civil society members
- 8→25 Business members
- 100+→200+ Individual members

- 21 Sep. 2017
  1st General Assembly

- 3 Oct. 2017
  1st Steering Committee meeting
Growing sponsorship

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Life Cycle Initiative
Thank you!

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