

Task Force 1

LCIA Information System

Work plan (review from 22.04.2004)

The work plan was reviewed by the TF members present. This task force will provide the necessary tools and guidance for users to capitalize from the three task forces on recommended practice. The task force is charged with two tasks:

1. Information System – to provide LCA users easy and up-to-date access to recommended practice and new LCIA developments.
2. General Framework – to provide a modular and transparent structure for researchers with specific expertise to develop appropriate models.

Information System

Information System work will be based on the work carried out in TF 2 to 4; this will include the creation of a worldwide accessible information system including:

- LCIA guidelines, as described under the framework development.
- Downloadable recommended factors in midpoint and damage categories (in an easily worldwide accessible format, e.g. excel spreadsheet), for a wide range of LCI results.
- Downloadable models to calculate new characterization factors.
- An adequate description of key aspects of the impact pathway (different types of information covered and assumptions made), and proper documentation of the applied models.

Until recommended factors and models are defined, the website will provide links to currently used LCIA methods and characterization factors at midpoint and damage levels,

In addition, the three programs (TF 2, 3 & 4) together should provide a library of case studies illustrating good/successful and bad/unsuccessful uses of LC methodologies in practice, including LCIA. More generally, this task force will take care of specific interactions with the LCI (e.g. waste, definition of elementary flows, etc.) and LCM programs.

Specific tasks related for the information system that were presented include:

- Prototype for the web information system
- Collection of latest/most widely used LCIA methods, including hyperlinks to respective websites providing characterization factors
- Comparative analysis of impact categories covered by the different methods, including basic hypotheses, based on inputs from TF2 to 4
- Elaboration of the initial LCIA information system
- Based on recommendations of TF2 to TF4, elaboration of the recommended web information system

The deliverables include:

For 2004:

1. Functional description of web information system
2. Identification of latest/most widely used LCIA methods, including hyperlinks to respective websites providing characterization factors
3. Comparative analysis of impact categories covered by the different methods, including **basic** hypotheses.

For 2005:

2. LCIA guidelines, as described under the framework development.
3. Downloadable recommended factors in midpoint and damage categories (in an easily worldwide accessible format, e.g. excel spreadsheet), for a wide range of LCI results.
4. Downloadable models to calculate new characterization factors
5. Continued additions to the case study library

General Framework

- The general framework, consisting of the main elements of the impact pathway, has been mostly developed in the SETAC working Group and during the LCIA definition study of the Life Cycle Initiative.
- TF1 has the responsibility to finalize this initial framework and to revise it if necessary, according to latest knowledge and eventual inputs of the other TFs.
- TF1 will also develop selection criteria for recommended models and factors valid for all other Task Forces and ensure a consistent treatment of links between LCI data, midpoint and damage categories

General Tasks include:

- Incorporation of results of the Hamburg workshop in the framework proposal of the LCIA definition study: writing of a scientific paper (ET&C or Int. J. of LCA)
- Development of selection criteria for recommended indicators, models and practice
- Selection of common test cases to test LCIA

Deliverables include:**For 2004:**

- Scientific paper on the UNEP-SETAC LCIA framework (Nearly Complete)
- Commented list of selection criteria recommended indicators, models and practice

For 2005:

- Selection of Standard Test Cases to verify and validate LCIA methods.