



Water Footprinting and Life Cycle Management Training

Organized by UNEP, SETAC
in collaboration with the NCPC-SA

(supported with ENRTP funds from the European Commission for the
Water Footprinting training)

WESTERN CAPE		KWAZULU NATAL
12 – 14 March 2014	DATE	17 – 19 March 2014
08:30 – 18:00 *	TIME	08:30 – 18:00*
Belmont Square Conference Centre Belmont Road, Rondebosch	VENUE	The Gateway Hotel Centenary Boulevard, Umhlanga

*Times may vary on individual days. Please check the schedule for your region.

Background

Over recent decades, the world market and trade have led to the growing movement of goods and services across international borders. Especially, the trade with emerging economies has considerably increased bringing to the prominence their roles in the global supply chains. This has implications for all economies.

Success stories in the private and public sectors confirm that a good understanding on environmental footprint tools allow a continuous improvement to create more value with less resources and less environmental impact for a given product-service chain with the overall objective of establishing more sustainable production and consumption patterns. Environmental footprinting has been identified as a valuable approach to assist the use of life cycle based tools in business and governments and life cycle data as essential to improve the quality of the results. The life cycle approach comprises the stages of a product chain from the extraction through the transformation, transportation, use and end-of-life.

The main limiting factor in developing countries and emerging economies is the lack of necessary capacity to develop and use environmental footprint tools for strategic decision making purposes. Thus, capacity building activities for the implementation of recommended policies and tools by the public and private sectors are fundamental.

The project ***'Integrating resource efficiency in international supply chains - enabling companies and consumers to benefit from information on life cycle environmental performance of products choices'*** is a 3-year project funded by the European Commission and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme. The objective of the project is to support the quantification, assessment and communication stages of product global chains through the promotion of life cycle assessment (LCA) database management and coordination, quantification methods on life cycle environmental impacts and life cycle management (LCM) systems¹ as well as through the facilitation of a collaborative process towards internationally agreed principles for communication on product sustainability in a harmonized way.

The project is structured around two phases, an initial phase in year 1 and the scale up in years 2 and 3. The project will be implemented in developing countries and emerging economies from Latin America, Africa and Asia² through the following activities:

- a) Capacity building for the development of life-cycle data related to their main export commodities and products.
- b) Capacity building for application of LCA tools and LCM systems aiming at environmental performance evaluation of products and companies.
- c) Capacity building on eco-design and eco-innovation.
- d) Pilot cases on LCA in business and governments in three countries.
- e) Identification, consensus building and dissemination of internationally recognized principles, methods and best practices for communication of life-cycle environmental performance of products to business partners and consumers.

- Activities “a” and “b” will be implemented in years 1, 2 and 3.
- Activities “c”, “d” and “e” will be implemented in years 2 and 3.

The target groups include:

- Standard-setters to participate in international negotiations and standard setting processes for a given region to adjust the system to local differences,
- Government officials at different levels to create the relevant enabling policy framework,
- Business and industry organizations to implement such tools in their company practices, and
- Academics and other training institutions to continue building capacity (beyond the project's implementation period).

Objective

The Water Footprinting and Life Cycle Management Training aims to prepare and articulate a network of experts, industry stakeholders and other relevant stakeholders who could further promote the implementation of this approach in South Africa.

Participants will learn key steps in developing a Water Footprint inventory, focusing on hands-on calculation exercises on water use, practice training skills, and learn how to facilitate training of relevant groups (industries, institutions, etc) in their country. Participants will also be exposed to Life Cycle Management methodologies, and skills transfer is anticipated to support and sustain continuous improvement and integration into business strategies.

The workshops will be led by UNEP and the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative experts with support of practitioners trained by UNEP in 2012 during the first Train-the-Trainers Workshop (Paris, November 2012).

Recommended reading but not limited to:

- UNEP (2012) Measuring water use in a green economy, A Report of the Working Group on Water Efficiency to the International Resource Panel. McGlade, J., Werner, B., Young, M., Matlock, M., Jefferies, D., Sonnemann, G., Aldaya, M., Pfister, S., Berger, M., Farrell, C., Hyde, K., Wackernagel, M., Hoekstra, A., Mathews, R., Liu, J., Ercin, E., Weber, J.L., Alfieri, A., Martinez-Lagunes, R., Edens, B., Schulte, P., von Wirén-Lehr, S., Gee, D
<http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/Publications/MeasuringWater/tabid/102126/Default.aspx>
(Focus on chapter 3 and 4)
- Jean-Baptiste Bayart, Cécile Bulle, Louise Deschênes, Manuele Margni, Stephan Pfister, Francois Vince and Annette Koehler. A framework for assessing off-stream freshwater use in LCA. Int J Life Cycle Assess (2010) 15:439–453 DOI 10.1007/s11367-010-0172-7
- Kounina A, Margni M, Bayart J-B, Boulay A-M, Berger M, Bulle C, Frischknecht R, Koehler A, Milà i Canals L, Motoshita M, Núñez M, Peters G, Pfister S, Ridoutt B, van Zelm R, Verones F, and Humbert S (2013). Review of methods addressing freshwater use in life cycle inventory and impact



assessment. Int J Life Cycle Assess 18, 707–721. DOI 10.1007/s11367-012-0519-3.

- Ridoutt, B. G.; Pfister, S. 2010 A revised approach to water footprinting to make transparent the impacts of consumption and production on global freshwater scarcity
Global Environmental Change-Human and Policy Dimensions 2010, 20, 113-120
- Hoekstra, A.Y., Chapagain, A.K., Aldaya, M.M. and Mekonnen, M.M. (2011) The water footprint assessment manual: Setting the global standard, Earthscan, London, UK.
<http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=files/WaterFootprintAssessmentManual>

The programmes for the **Water Footprinting and Life Cycle Management Training** for Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal is separately available. Please consult the programme for your preferred region, as there may be differences in the schedule.

ENQUIRIES

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