BONSAI network meeting   14/02/2018

Agenda:

- Collaboration between BONSAI and the 3DLCI initiative launched by Pré
- Drafting the agenda for the upcoming online meeting on the topic "Data Integration"

Minutes

Present: Michele De Rosa, Mark Goedkoop, Bo Weidema, Chris Mutel, Konstantin Stadler, Romain Sacchi, Massimo Pizzol, Jannick Schmidt, Stefano Merciai and Marie de Saxcé.

Absent but received the minutes: Andreas Ciroth, Ben Zhu, Blane Grann, Brandon Kuczenski, Chris Davis, Cyril Francois, Guillaume Majeau-Bettez, Joke Dufourmont, Manuel Klarmann, Pascal Lesage, Radek Lonka, Stefan Pauliuk, Tair Bilyalov, Tom Gloria, Tomas Navarrete, Joao Rodrigues, and Richard Wood.

The meeting starts at 10:05.

On the 19th and 20th Feb. Michele is joining on behalf of BONSAI an in-person meeting in the Netherlands organized by 3DLCI where an agreement with potential funding members of the initiative should be formalized.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- inform the BONSAI community about recent ongoing discussion on collaboration between the 3DLCI Initiative and the BONSAI;
- give network members the opportunity to ask questions to Mark about the initiative and inputs to Michele about what role BONSAI should have in 3DLCI.

Mark Goedkoop provided a short introduction about the 3DLCI initiative. The slides are attached. There is a strong overlap between the focus of the BONSAI initiative and the "crowd sourced" data in slide 4. There is not a clear decision yet on the licensing of the data in 3DLCI. But the idea is that the outer layer of the data (slide 5) will be free but if one wants to connect a database to the data and make a business out of it then 3DLCI asks for a fee. The initiative invites companies that can share data to the board and give the opportunity to vote. Vote is based on consent, not consensus, which means that who can reasonably argue against a decision, can block it.

Chirs Mutel: what is the interest of "competitors", as ecoinvent, to join the initiative? Mark explained that the idea is that they would obtain a better (updated and more complete) "core" datasets and we get part of their system model. The system processes will be recalculated according to the updated core so that they are consistent, although one won't see the links. Currently, it seems that ecoinvent will rather stay with 3DLCI than against.

Romain: what is the incentive for BONSAI members to help with this project? Mark answered that the idea is that partners of the initiative will provide funds and/or in-kind contribution. Those will be "accounted for" based on a token system. According to the number of accumulated tokens, revenues will be distributed in the future. However, no revenue is expected for the first three years. Probably BONSAI will not be formally a funding member. Members providing working hours to 3DLCI may receive free access to the

dataset. Michele added that a major advantage for the BONSAI community is that 3DLCI is willing to sponsor BONSAI events aiming at releasing a specific deliverable of interest for both 3DLCI and BONSAI.

Bo underlined that an important aspect for BONSAI is that any outcome developed with BONSAI must be open source. Bo is sceptical about BONSAI being a founding member as of any other formal collaboration with a for-profit initiative. Michele already expressed this concern to Mark before. Nevertheless, Mark believes that the presence of BONSAI at the meeting next week is relevant, as well as establishing a collaboration with the network.

Chris M. asked whether is possible to have a standardized interface for accessing the different models. Mark informed that Pré has invested in this and that soon there will be an online version of SimaPró and that will include a number of APIs (to link companies' specific needs to an LCA software) that will use EXIOBASE or ecoinvent depending on the SimaPro licence the users have. A collaboration platform of 3DLCI is also foreseen to allow users to upload their own single data or data points. These crowd-sourced data will be freely accessible and downloadable and input on how to organize this from BONSAI are welcome since this is the area of major overlap with BONSAI.

Massimo asked clarification on the meaning of the "core database" and to provide examples e.g. transport is a core but transport needs fuel so how can these be separated in different cores? Mark explained that data in the cores are data identified as data that will be systematically and periodically updated because of their relevance and because they change often and therefore it is better to have them organized in archetypes that make easier to update them; while other more stable data can be linked to existing datasets. Members or subscribers will have access to the unallocated data. The regionalization and the allocation layer will be gathered as follows: 3DLCI will ask for tenders for archetypes at a reasonable price; but will also use the SimaPro partners' network in 24 countries for accessing regional data.

Michele welcomes question or points to be brought at the meeting next week also after the meeting (please email him). BONSAI network members are also welcome to contact Mark directly but please cc Michele to keep track of communications.

Michele asked to the members what kind of formal agreement the community would encourage, compromising between maintaining the independence of BONSAI from a for-profit initiative and yet having a voice in 3DLCI. Bo proposed that the community may have an advisory role in the initiative and if this can be done as a board member that is fine. This is to be decided next week at the in-person meeting and it will also depend on the opinion of the other 3DLCI members. Jannick suggests that BONSAI may receive sponsorships for particular tools rather than get a share of the revenue distribution from the initiative.

Massimo commented that there is a lot of overlap between BONSAI and 3DLCI and recommend not duplicating the work. He would therefore encourage collaboration. Mark shared the same concerns and this is why he pushes for inclusion of as many partners as possible in the 3DLCI initiative.

Michele asked inputs about the agenda for the first BONSAI on-line meeting on a specific topic. The topic identified through a survey was "Data Integrations" and the draft agenda sent was developed in collaboration with Romain, Massimo and Tomas that expressed interest in an in-person meeting. Romain pointed out that there are a lot of data over the internet that could be integrated and made useful for LCA purposes. A good start of the "Data Integration" group could be surveying what projects have already been done in this direction and why they failed, what is their experience and positive story. Mark also pointed out that archetypes will be developed looking outside the LCA community looking also at independent LCA-data community.

A doodle for the first on-line meeting about "data integration" will be sent next week together with the agenda.

The meeting ended at 10:03.

Michele De Rosa