

Presentation of the BONSAI Board 2016



Prof. Bo Weidema, Chair

Founder of the BONSAI initiative. Professor at Aalborg University, committed to trans-disciplinary research that bridges economic, social, engineering and environmental sciences. With a background in the fair trade and sustainable agriculture movements, I have now 25 years of academic and consulting experience with environmental life cycle assessments. I developed the original SPOLD LCI dataformat in the 1990'ies, and worked from 2008 to 2014 as Executive Manager and Chief Scientist of the ecoinvent database.

My motivation for working with BONSAI is a realisation that an open community and crowd-sourcing approach, relying on the latest developments in data science and technology, is the only way we can ever obtain and maintain the amount and quality of data necessary for serious sustainability assessments of products.



Dr. Richard Wood, Vice-chair

I am a researcher at the Industrial Ecology Program at NTNU. My focus has been on modelling global systems of consumption and production with a focus on environmental and socio-economic outcomes, with particular consideration of the role of consumption and trade. I have experience in input-output (IO) analysis and associated techniques, and have played a role in the development of the EXIOBASE multi-regional input-output model. I am also currently working on hybrid life-cycle assessment, resource efficiency, and the possibilities for implementation of policy related to consumption based carbon accounting.

I'm interested in seeing greater leverage of the work done in IO modelling, and would like to see open research environments developed for his field so that higher quality and more relevant analysis can be used to help move to a more sustainable society. There has recently been strong interest in further development of global and regional IO models, and I believe there are strong synergies and opportunities in bringing this closer to life-cycle and product footprint analysis. There is a current lack of community approaches in this area, and I hope that we can make BONSAI into a leading open, user driven environment in which to push forward the empirical basis of environmental footprint and associated modelling over the next decades.



Dr. Jannick H Schmidt, treasurer

Managing Director of 2.-0 LCA consultants and Associate Professor at Aalborg University. I have worked professionally with life cycle assessment and databases since 2002. My main areas of expertise and experience are related to the development of hybrid input-output databases (Exiobase and FORWAST), methods for modelling in life cycle inventory (consequential and attributional), modelling of agri-food systems, modelling of indirect land use changes. The combination of research and consultancy gives a valuable insight in advanced methodologies as well as the needs from the end-users of LCA (user-interface and communication).

My motivation for contributing to Bonsai is to bring together the best from different database approaches (top-down and bottom-up) and available data, and then make broader use of it to enhance sustainable development.



Dr.-Ing. Andreas Ciroth

I am founder and director of GreenDelta, and work since almost 20 years in sustainability life cycle approaches in research and consultancy, including environmental LCA and social LCA. At GreenDelta we develop the free and open source LCA software openLCA which is becoming increasingly used and which fits nicely to the idea of BONSAI to increase data availability. We have also created, with very little funds, a format converter to convert between LCA data formats to help overcome the sometimes heated debate about data formats.

I am personally very interested in increasing data interoperability and data availability for life cycle approaches and think the current ways of collecting, sharing and using information relevant for life cycle based decision support is really underdeveloped, and even embarrassing, seeing developments in other areas – so that the current practices can be done a lot better, for the benefit of all. I am happy to be able via BONSAI to contribute to these improvements and to shifting data availability and usage in life cycle approaches to more up to date practices.



Dr. Pascal Lesage

I have been working as both consultant and researcher in the field of LCA for 15 years and am presently a research officer at the CIRAIG. My three core motivations in my LCA work align well with BONSAI's mission: (1) democratization of life cycle data and tools, allowing a greater use of life cycle information in decision-making; (2) more transparent consideration of uncertainty (and their specific sources) in life cycle models; and (3) development of data, tools and modelling approaches that allow a strategic and efficient increase of the robustness of life cycle information.

The combination of a top-down approach (using an IO framework to ensure completeness) and bottom-up approach (e.g. crowd-sourcing data collection, data harvesting), the focus on social involvement in data creation and review and, of course, the condition that the resulting data and approaches be free and open source, make BONSAI a unique and important initiative.



Dr. Llorenç Milà i Canals

Active in the LCA area for over 20 years, initially in Academia and later in industry, I currently lead the Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) area in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), working as Programme Officer and Science Focal Point for Sustainable Consumption and Production within the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE). This includes coordination of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative and the Global LCA Data Access (GLAD) Network among others. Life Cycle Thinking is essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development, and thus the vision that drives my work in UNEP is that relevant decisions for such Agenda are supported by LCT. To achieve so, we work on enabling the global use of credible life cycle knowledge by 1)- making knowledge accessible (including data and methods); and 2) - developing capacity to use the knowledge.

In addition to the institutional work with governments, academia, industry, consumer organizations, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders, I believe that joint efforts of motivated individuals can make a difference. In this sense, I am inspired to collaborate with BONSAI and seek areas of synergy with other relevant initiatives, the GLAD network in particular.