

Minutes of the General Assembly of BONSAI 2015-06-17 via GoToMeeting

1) Opening

The General Assembly was opened by Bo Weidema on behalf of the founding Board. He noted that the General Assembly had been called via LinkedIn and direct mail to the members on 27th of May 2015, and that the General Assembly therefore is validly constituted.

2) Activity report from the Founding Board

Bo Weidema gave the following report on the activities of the founding Board:

“The BONSAI logo, website and presentation folder had been sponsored directly by 2.-0 LCA consultants and we thank the sponsor for the continued support.

A LinkedIn group has been established (at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=6808595>) for discussing and reviewing deliverables. It is an open, moderated group and it currently has 299 members. No formal membership of BONSAI is required to be member of the LinkedIn group. So far, all posts in the group have been made by myself, and only few comments have been provided by other members. Probably, we need to show more concrete deliverables before we can expect a lot of community activity. I have only used the announcement option (where a mail is forced through to the group members) in one occasion.

BONSAI has been presented as part of the scientific programme at the SETAC conference in Barcelona, May 2015, and we have accepted presentations also at the Conference of the International Society for Industrial Ecology in Guildford, July 2015, and at the LCM 2015 conference in Bordeaux in September.

Out of the 10 planned Working Groups, the first priority has been to start the activities of the two groups that are concerned with database completeness, namely the Global Impact Assessment WG and the Input-Output Framework WG.

The Global Impact Assessment WG applies a top-down approach to impact assessment to cover all known biophysical, economic and social impacts. It builds on existing work of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative. The current members of the group are: Oliver Jolliet, Peter Fantke, Andrew Henderson, Anne-Marie Boulay, Sala Serenella, Massimo Pizzol, Tom Gloria, Catherine Benoit, Ricardo Teixeira, and Bo Weidema. The GIA WG has had two meetings so far. The minutes are publicly available on the BONSAI web-site, in line with our openness policy. The GIA WG is working on an early deliverable in the form of a taxonomy for impact pathway modelling, to ensure completeness in coverage. The work is coordinated with UNEP/SETAC Task Force and the UN process on sustainability statistics. In the longer term the group will also work on ensuring that all impact pathways are covered in a consistent way by impact assessment datasets with uncertainty and data quality indicators; on harmonisation of the nomenclature and data between LCI and LCIA impact pathways; on defining the most meaningful level of spatial resolution; and on inclusion of time lags.



The Input-Output Framework WG has the task to ensure completeness of data on economic activities by embedding the data in a global multi-regional input-output framework. This work is based on existing work in building Multi-Regional Input-Output databases (GTAP, EORA, EXIOBASE, WIOD, etc.). The IOF WG is currently being formed, with invitations to participate to all the mentioned existing consortia and the International Input-Output Association. A planned early deliverable is a global open source IO database with procedures for hybridisation (addition of geographical and sector detail). It may be necessary to base a beta-version on the rather aggregated data available in open sources, since most of the existing, more detailed databases are not open source. It is planned to build up a network of country contact persons to be responsible for promoting open source access to national IO data at the most detailed level possible. In the longer term, the IOF WG will develop tools for automated updating and validation and new formats for presentation of data.

Other options for early deliverables are open source algorithms for product system modelling (by the Working Group on Product System Algorithms) and uncertainty propagation (by the Working Group on Uncertainty), both of which can rely on a lot of existing work. Another planned early deliverable is a wiki-based access to the database (by the Working Group on Data Access). The work on this will begin with a workshop planned for September 14th-18th in Amsterdam, with invitations going out mainly to the EXIOBASE consortium.

Other Working Groups that have not yet started are the Big Data Harvesting WG (ontology development; flexible database design; design of scrapers etc.), the Data Provider Interface WG and the Review WG (Wiki-interface; social media and game-based interfaces), and the Validation WG (implementing validation rules; machine-assisted data exploration and learning; and presentation formats for validation results).

For funding, we rely in the initiation phase on the sponsorship from 2.-0 LCA consultants. Membership fees are not yet a major source of income and a number of inquiries to large foundations (selected among those that finance other open source initiatives) have not so far been successful. Also a research application for the EU research infrastructure call was not successful, and we have to consider other options.”

The activity report was discussed and approved.

3) Election of up to 5 board members

The election took place electronically via Electionbuddy and resulted in the election of:

- Dr. Pascal Lesage
- Prof. Bo Weidema
- Dr. Thomas Gloria
- Dr. Richard Wood
- Dr.-Ing. Andreas Ciroth

4) Membership fees for 2016

It was decided to maintain the same membership fee level for 2016 as in 2014/15, namely 150 Euro.

5) Discussion and adoption of recommendations for the Board on priorities on member communications, funding, and working groups

All members are asked to be more active in starting discussions and sharing information in the LinkedIn group. **Tom Gloria** volunteered to do a special effort in raising discussions.

A crowd-funding option is already available on the web-site (<https://bonsai.uno/contribute/>) which is open for contributions down to 1 \$. We ask all members to make this known in their networks.

In terms of priorities for short-term financing, the following three options were proposed:

- To develop a 1-page flyer for use at conferences and meetings, e.g. the LCA XV in Vancouver. The existing 8-page introduction flyer available on the web-site was thought to be too big. **Pascal Lesage** offered to draft a text for this, based on the 8-page flyer and the slides that are used for the conference presentations. Lay-out and printing costs will be paid by BONSAI.
- To work towards a beta-version of the database that could demonstrate its planned features and usability for lay-people, showing both the current state of data availability and what would be the potential with more (or better) data are available, this stimulating interest in contributing to the development.
- To make a short awareness-raising paper for a major high-level international scientific journal outlining the perspectives of our work. **Peter Fantke** offered to send around examples of similar papers and to push this work.

The Board will budget and follow-up on these proposals.

6) Any other business

None