

## On the relation between the work plans on LCIA of BONSAI and UNEP/SETAC

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This document outlines the complementarity of the work plans of the “UNEP/SETAC Task Force on LCIA framework and cross-cutting issues” (hereafter UNEP/SETAC TF) and the “BONSAI WG for Global Impact Assessment” (hereafter BONSAI WG).

Area	UNEP/SETAC TF	BONSAI WG
Time horizon	Short-term project preparing for Pellston Workshop in 2016.	Permanent working group without time limit, but defining short-term deliverables for one year at a time.
Main focus	Provide recommendations to the scientific community on harmonisation and further developments.	Methodological harmonisation and database building.
Work in the area of taxonomy	Review of the existing LCIA methodologies with a focus on the latest developed methods that were not covered in the most recent review (Hauschild et al. 2013) and with a focus on consistencies and dissimilarities with respect to midpoints and endpoints and their connections, and in the handling of reference states, uncertainties, temporal aspects, cumulative impacts and spatial resolution.	Establish a conceptually complete taxonomy for all known causes for loss of natural and manmade resources, loss of ecosystem health, and loss of human well-being with starting point in the UNEP/SETAC LCIA framework from Jolliet et al. (2003), aligning with the current developments in the context of the UN process of harmonising the statistics on sustainable development indicators (UNECE 2014), see also Weidema (2014).
Work in the area of new impact categories	Suggestions or recommendations for new impact categories.	Identify how the existing LCIA methods and data fit within the developed taxonomy, and what issues (categories, pathway descriptions, data) are currently missing.
Work in the area of consistency.	Ensure consistency between UNEP/SETAC task forces on different impact categories, with focus on midpoints and endpoints and their connections, and the handling of reference states, uncertainties, temporal aspects, cumulative impacts and spatial resolution.	Ensure consistency in impact pathway modelling with a basis in the UNEP/SETAC criteria for desirable properties of impact pathway descriptions (table 4.2 in Jolliet et al. 2003). Harmonisation of the nomenclature between LCI data and LCIA impact pathways. Identify the most meaningful level of spatial resolution for each specific impact pathway.

Work on data	No work on new data.	Ensure that all pathways are covered in the form of impact assessment datasets, even when these have to be based on very rough cause-effect relationships, in accordance with the precautionary principle. Including missing LCI data for known contributions that cannot currently be assigned to any specific human activities. All raw and calculated data as well as all relations between data provided with uncertainty and data quality indicators. Include time lags between the different steps in each specific impact pathway. In the longer term continuously refining the pathway modelling and data, involving domain experts for the different impact pathways.
Work on linking biophysical and social LCA	Area for investigation.	Included in an integrated way in the above work.
Work on normalization/weighting	Area for investigation.	Work on impact pathways includes models for damage assessment (willingness-to-pay), considering global and inter-generational equity and competing interests, values and worldviews.

## References

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