

Life Cycle Approaches

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1. Understanding Life Cycle approaches
2. Application of Life Cycle approaches in examples within UN Environment
3. Recommendations / Discussion

Life Cycle Thinking in the agenda for Sustainable Development

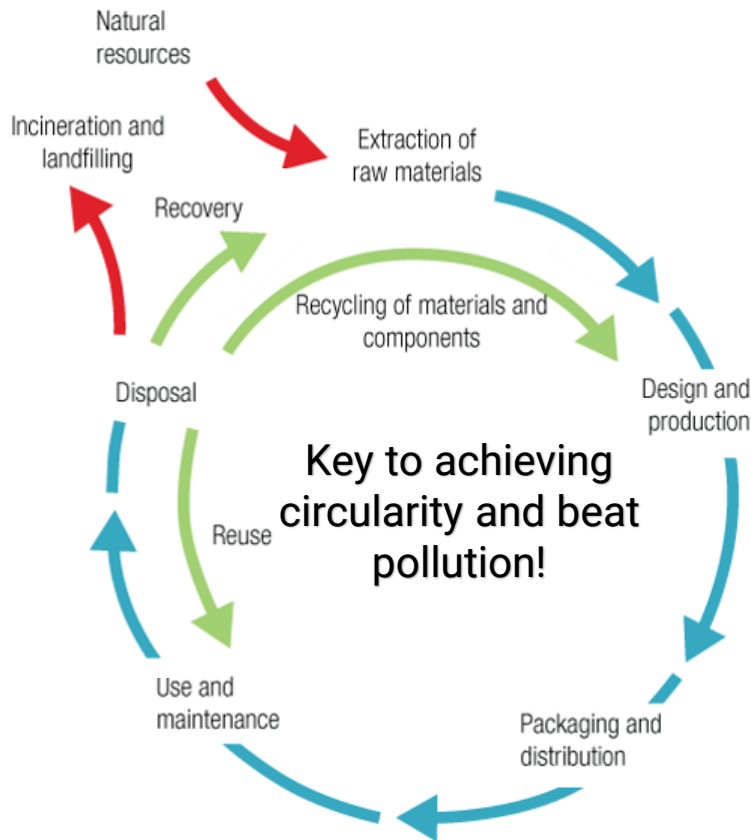
Life Cycle Thinking is relevant to many Sustainable Development Goals and other global priorities (resource efficiency, pollution, climate change...)



United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/8 on sustainable consumption and production, encourages “*all Member States to promote life-cycle approaches...*”, May 2016

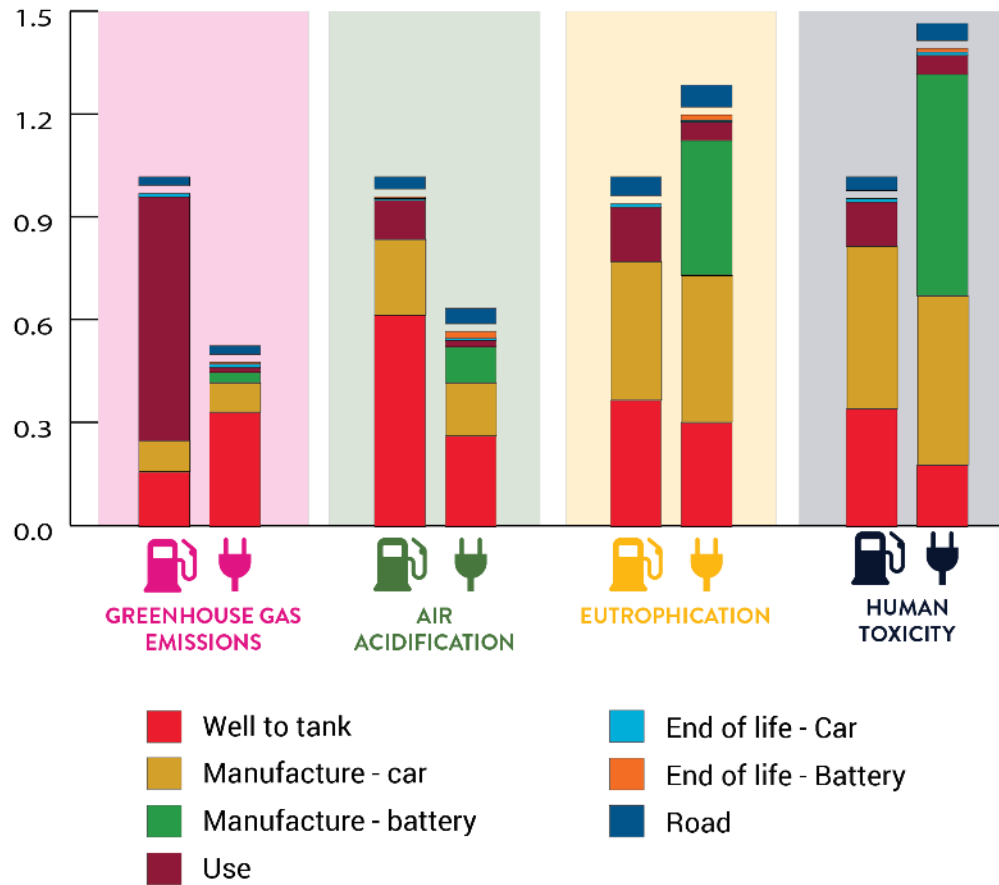
SDG 12.4: *By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle...*

What is Life Cycle Thinking?



Looking at the **resource use and emissions / impacts** of a product or service **from extraction**, to distribution and use, to recovery, reuse and recycling, **to disposal**.

Life Cycle Assessment of conventional and electric vehicles (multiple impacts, Italy)



Examples of projects supported by UN Environment Programme
From Global to country level to sectors to small enterprises

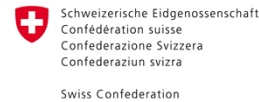
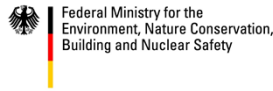
LIFE CYCLE SUPPORT THROUGH UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Life Cycle Initiative

A multi-stakeholder partnership, hosted by **UN Environment**, enabling the global use of credible life cycle knowledge by private and public decision makers.

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Life Cycle Knowledge Platform Hotspots Analysis Tool

Supporting the **enabling conditions** for the application of life cycle approaches:
Life Cycle Knowledge Platform



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation



globalcadataaccess.org

“Hotspot areas” of unsustainable consumption and production → setting priorities in national sustainable consumption and production and climate policies.



A joint project of the Secretariats of:



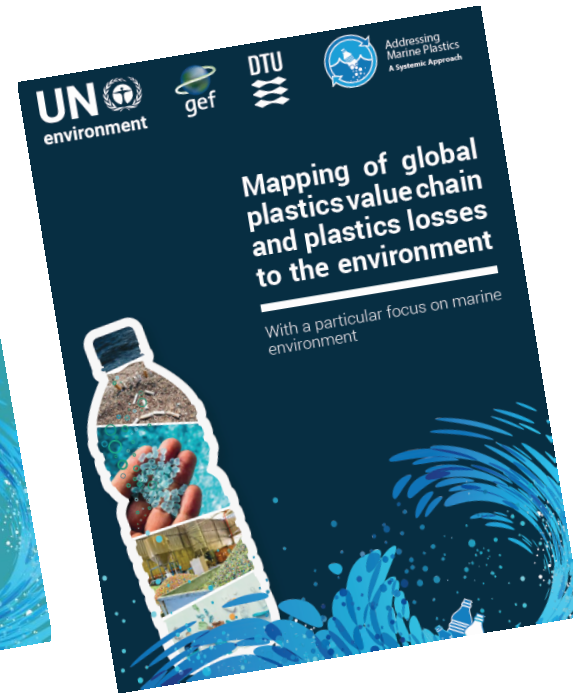
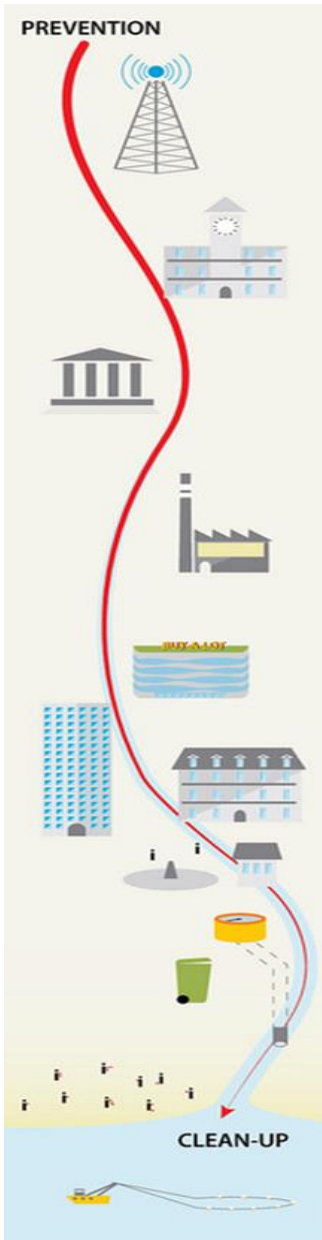
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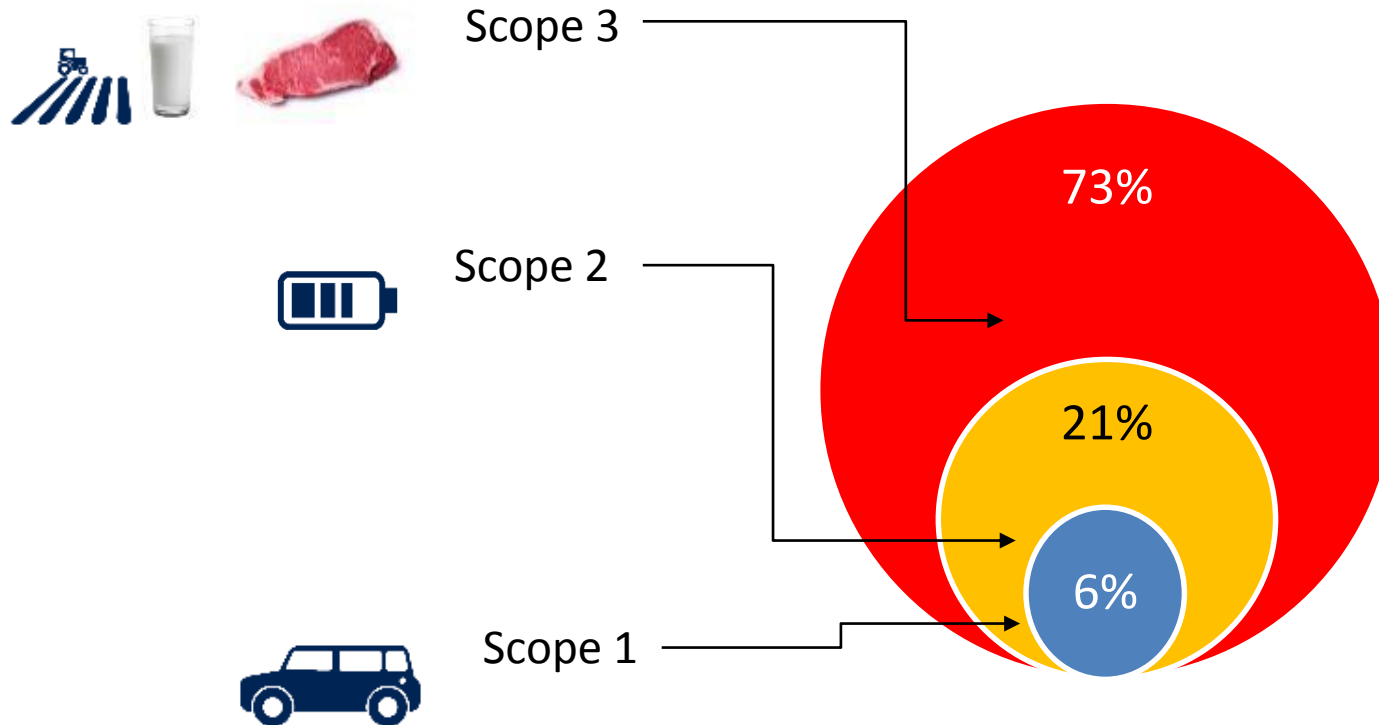


Science-based strategies for the Plastics Value Chain



Global
Commitment

Dominican Republic Hotels: GHG Emissions



This project focuses on supporting countries in advancing towards their NDCs

Eco-innovation in action

www.ecoinnovation.org

Supported by:



An Ecological Catalyst for Vietnam's Guava Farms

On the banks of the Red River in northern Vietnam... >> [read more](#).

— Success story from Vietnam



- sustainable **value chains**;
- **systemic innovation** throughout the company's operations
- **Improved profitability, secured jobs**
- **Food security and energy efficiency**

RUCID of Uganda – Savouring The Taste of Life Cycle Thinking

Focusing on energy and waste management to create new business opportunities through enhanced efficiency, while reducing pollution through organic farming



Life Cycle Thinking in the agenda for Sustainable Development: HOW?

- By supporting **decisions and roadmaps with environmental (and economic) intelligence:**
 - Identifying **hotspots** and areas where emissions can be reduced most efficiently
 - Highlighting **trade-offs between alternatives** to deliver a service



Life Cycle approaches to resource efficiency, energy, chemicals
and waste management

RECOMMENDATIONS / OPEN QUESTIONS

Recommendations / questions to enhance Life Cycle Approaches

- Promote and apply **life cycle approaches in policies.**
HOW?
- Collaborate internationally on access to **harmonised approaches, capacity and data world-wide.** *FORUM?*
- UN Environment to:
 - **support international cooperation** on the enabling conditions for life cycle approaches. *NEEDS?*
FORMAT?
 - **integrate life cycle approaches systematically** in sustainable consumption and production.



Thank you



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Resources

- Introduction to Life Cycle Thinking e-learning:
English: <http://www.learnlifecycle.com/courses/lct>
Spanish:
<http://www.aprendecicludevida.com/courses/introduccion-al-pensamiento-de-ciclo-de-vida>
- Plastics Value Chain reports:
<http://gefmarineplastics.org/publications>
- Success stories of eco-innovation / life cycle thinking in business: www.ecoinnovation.org ;
<https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/resources/lccases/>

