

# International seminar in social LCA

## Presentation of the programme

Recent developments in  
assessing the social impacts of  
the products life cycles



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Social LCA seminar 5th 6th May 2011- Montpellier

# What is social LCA?

From UNEP-SETAC guidelines, 2009, page 37

« A social and socio-economic Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA) is a social impact (and potential impact) assessment **technique** that aims to assess the social and socio-economic **aspects of products** and **their** potential positive and negative **impacts** along their life cycle encompassing extraction and processing of raw materials; manufacturing; distribution; use; re-use; maintenance; recycling; and final disposal. »

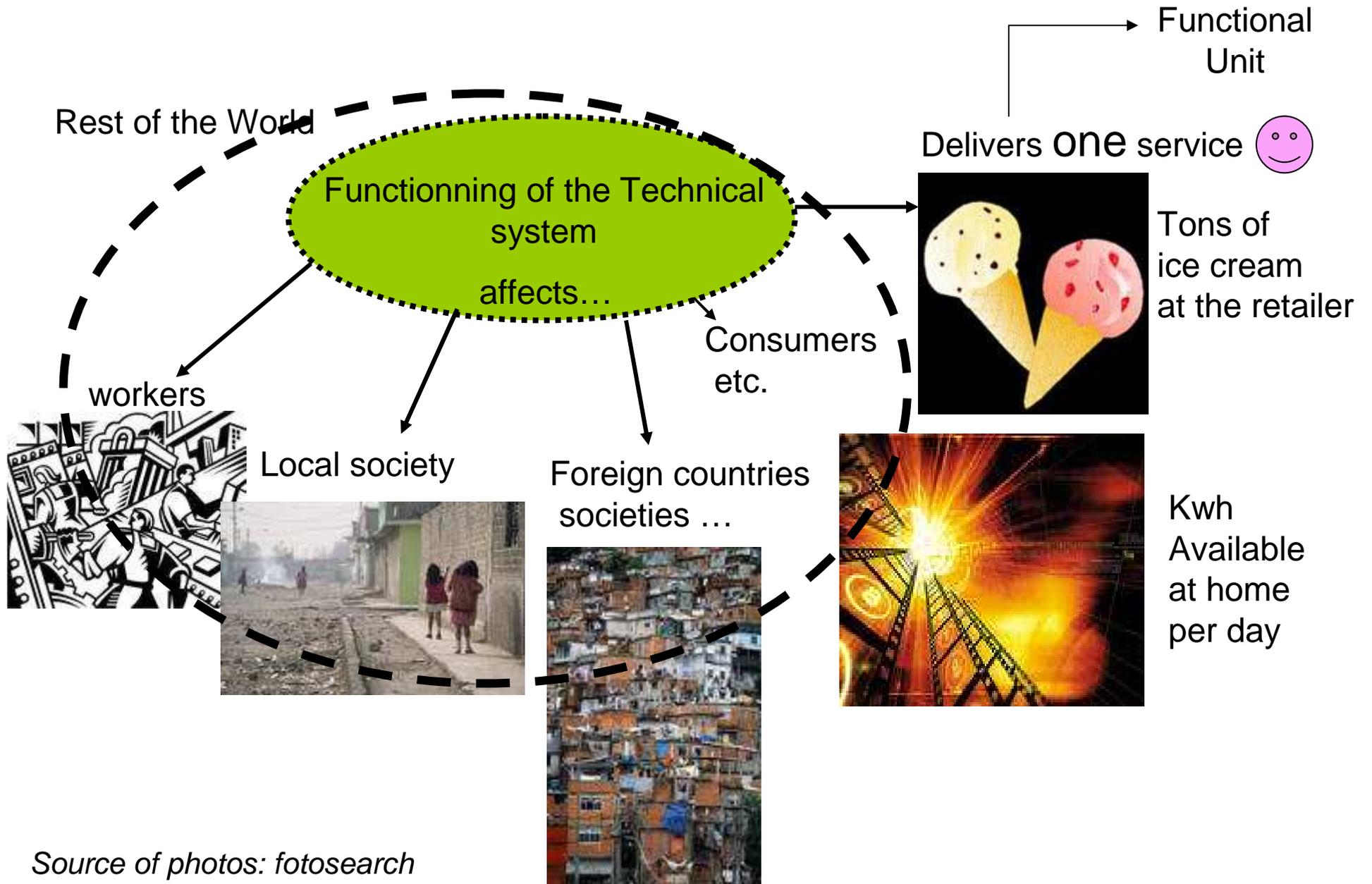
Seminar definition:

A social LCA is an assessment **method** that aims to assess:

- 1) the social impacts **caused** by the **functioning** of chains of products, along their life-cycle,
- 2) Or the social impacts caused by a **change** in the **functioning** of one chain of Products, along their life-cycle
- 3) Or the social impacts caused by the **change** between two chains of products delivering the **same service**, along their life-cycle



# Why social LCA?



Source of photos: fotosearch

# When studying the issue, we need (1)...

-Choosing the functional unit



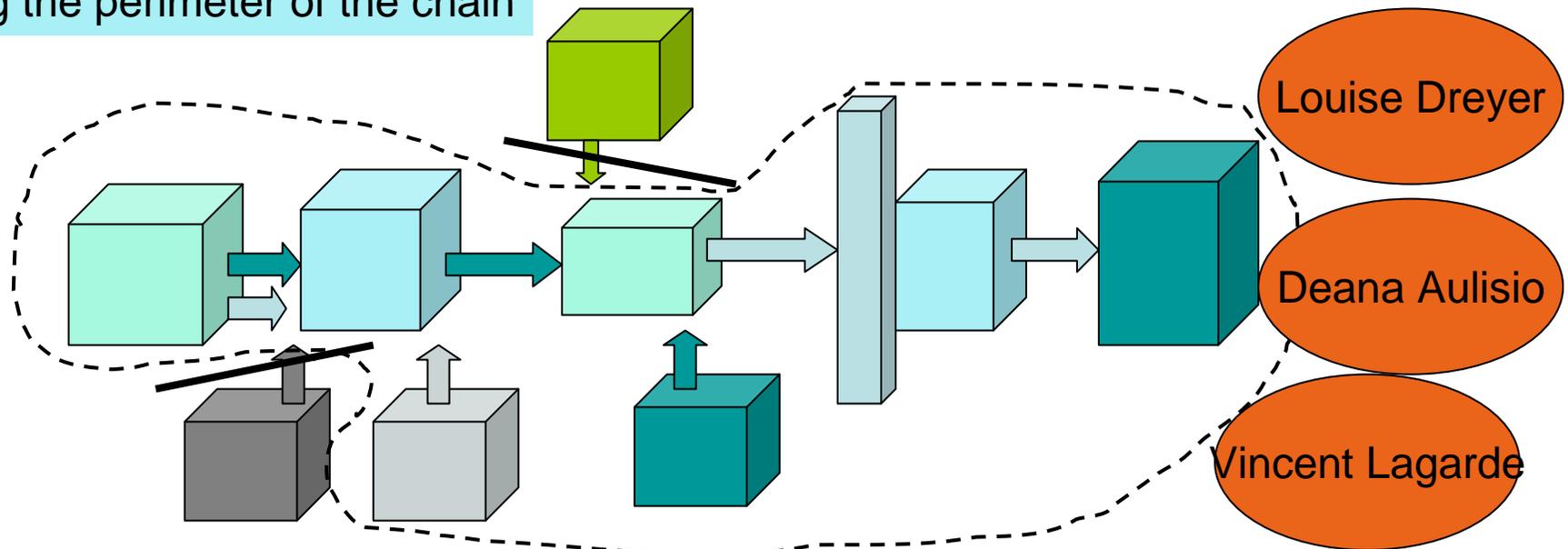
*What Functional Unit ?*

Syndhia Mathé

-Choosing the categories of stakeholders

-Describing the chain of organisations

-Setting the perimeter of the chain



# When studying the issue, we need (2)...

Deciding what are the impact categories worthy to be assessed

- Exemples of social impacts (Vanclay, 2002):
- death in the community;
  - changes in an individual's independance or self-reliance etc.

Area of protection: Human well-being

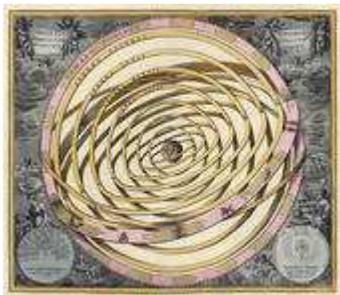


## WHAT IMPACT CATEGORIES ?

Two sources of scientific arguments (Aristotle)

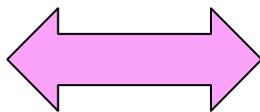
logos

ethos



Claudia Reitinger

Normative theory



What the experts/  
the stakeholders think

Katja Lähtinen

# When studying the issue, we need (3)...

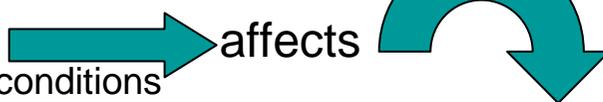
Deciding if we understand « impact » like a state or like a change (Defining the baseline)



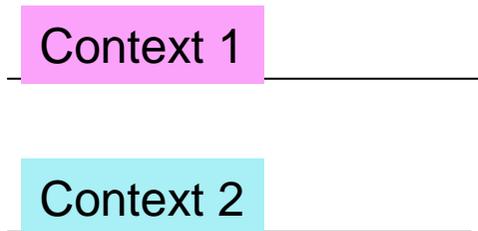
Functioning of the chain (constructions activities)



Change process (change in ecological conditions Increase traffic in the neighborhood)



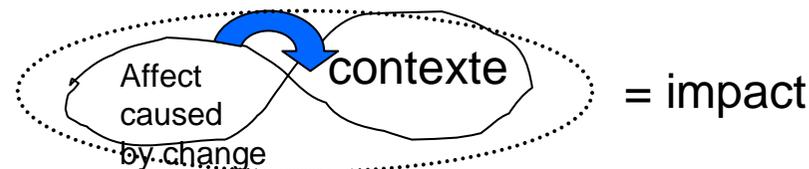
A= number of vectored diseases  
B= injuries by traffic accident



Impact A is high  
Impact B is low

Impact A is low  
No impact B

*From Vanclay, 2002 from project-based Thinking adapted to chain of products*



# Several positions on hand about how to assess « impacts »

-A general state indicator (respect of labour rights) whatever the context, accounts for the impact

Classical  
CSR

-Impact assessment must take the context into account.

Deana Aulisio

*Baseline is « no chain »*

We must be cautious with some « social hot spots »

Catherine  
Brodeur

We must take into account the risk of infringement of the labour rights by the manager

Louise  
Dreyer

The local stakeholders define the impacts

Syndhia Mathé

-Impact calculation is driven by the context.

Katja Lähtinen

*Baseline is another plausible situation.*

Pauline  
Feschet

Vincent  
Lagarde

# Several positions on hand about WHO will use the social LCA outputs

-A general state indicator

-Impact must take the context into account.

*Baseline is « no chain »*



-Impact calculation depends fully on the context.

*Baseline is another plausible situation.*

- Classical CSR
- Deana Aulisio
- Catherine Brodeur
- Louise Dreyer
- Syndhia Mathé
- Katja Lähtinen
- Pauline Feschet
- Vincent Lagarde

...So different methods and uses for  
social LCA,

Exploring the effect of three different  
SLCA methodologies



Andreas  
Jorgensen

Analysing tradeoffs between social and  
Other dimensions of sustainability in LCA

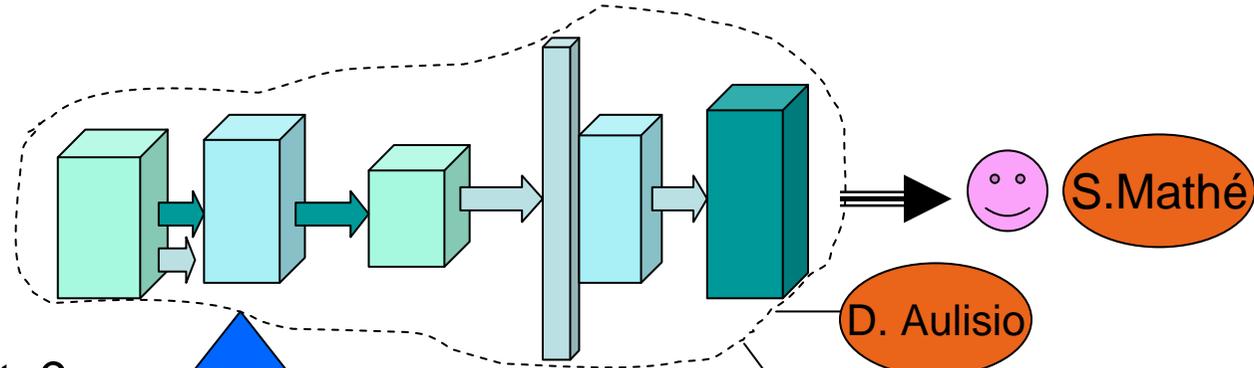


Pekka Leskinen

# To sum up

Nature of impacts? C.Reitinger K.Lähtinen

S.Mathé



Calculation of impacts?

D.Aulisio

C.Brodeur

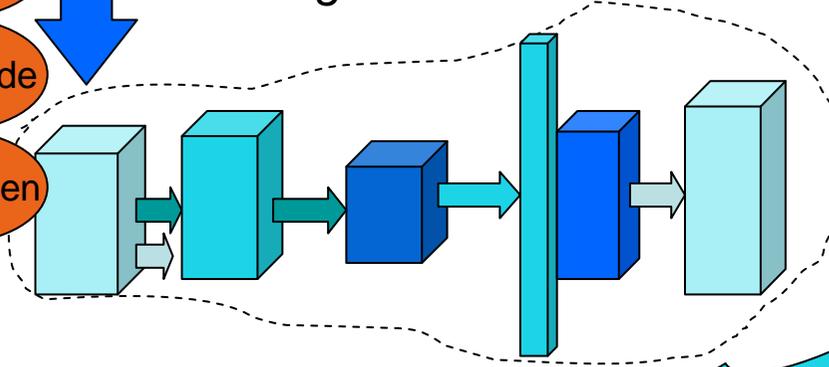
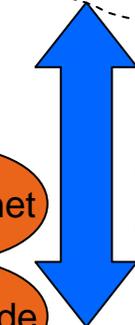
L.Dreyer

P.Feschet

V.Lagarde

K.Lähtinen

*Impacts of the change...*



P.Leskinen

A.Joergensen



Thank you for your attention

Enjoy the seminar !  
Bon séminaire!

# The different usages for Social LCA

The norm ISO 14044 (2006) (environmental assessment) is suggesting 4 usages for ELCA. If translated to SLCA, we may suggest:

LCA may contribute to:

- 1) Identification of improvement of social performances of products at different stages of their life-cycle.
- 2) Information towards decision-makers from business and from governmental organisations and NGOs, for choosing between different products.
- 3) Choice of relevant performance indicators, included technics for measurement,
- 4) Marketing