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Rede ACV's LCA Maturity Assessment

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1. Background and Objectives

The United Nations launched in 2002, exactly 20 years ago, the Life Cycle Initiative (LCI), aiming to reinforce the importance of thinking about the impacts of any activity, of any decision, in an integrated way, considering all the chain, and all categories together. In addition to identifying process improvements, avoiding the (mere) transfer of problems between actors. Rio+20, in 2012, corroborated this orientation, with several international manifestos, including the document "The Future We Want", the WBCSD's Vision 2050, a position of the Global Compact Network Brazil, among others. Another ten years later, there is acknowledgement that Life Cycle Management (LCM) requires continuous actions.

Rede ACV decided to develop an LCA Maturity Assessment to support organizations in this journey. As an LCA association, with members from diverse segments, sizes, and business models, having discussed LCA and LCT implications in public policies (RenovaBio) and procurement, questionnaires, such as ISO14001, B Corp and ISE/B3 (the Brazilian equivalent to the DJSI), Rede ACV constitutes an ideal environment for this development and, more importantly, **practice**.

The objective of the Assessment is to offer a strategic Diagnosis of Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) orientation, by means of an automated questionnaire, which positions the organization's maturity in relation to the challenges. The Diagnosis serves as a starting point (= picture), for the Action Plan (= movie).

Launched in 2013 with the mission to mobilize companies, articulate governments and educate the consumer aiming to incorporate life cycle thinking, in general, and Life Cycle Assessment as tools to guide decision making as they help determine the sustainability of products, Rede ACV aims to create an environment of cooperation for the use of LCA in Brazil; educate and train society about this concept, its application, and benefits; make available and disseminate information about LCA in Brazil to various audiences and collaborate and support the Brazilian government in the consolidation of the National Life Cycle Inventory Database.

MAINTAINING ASSOCIATES

INSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATES

2. Process

An extensive research by Eco+ Foundation, considering sources that guide Life Cycle Thinking, guided the construction of the assessment methodology, in order to have questions and answers that direct the maturity of organizations in the theme.

The definitions of maturities (results) are aligned with the methodology proposed by the Life Cycle Initiative, of the United Nations Environment Program, adapted to the concrete reality of companies.



- Validation with group of experts
- Workshop with representatives of associated companies
- Continuous updates in bimonthly meetings
- Joint article in prestigious magazine: Revista Meio Ambiente Industrial (RMAI)
- Alignment with Rede ACV's main Sustainable Development Goals (12 and 17)



The questions were divided into three chapters: Management, Product and Life Cycle Assessment.

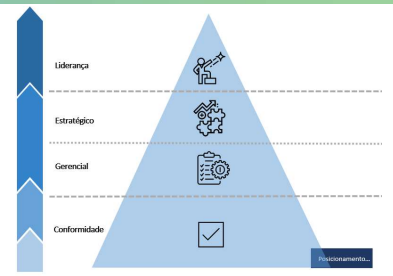
- **Management** has questions related to the sustainability performance of the organization in its operations, including management of strategic issues and their respective targets.
- In **Product**, the questionnaire addresses questions related to the sustainability strategy of the organization's products, from the development to the possible impacts.
- In **Life Cycle Assessment**, the adoption of LCT, the usability of LCA studies in products, and the commitment to LCM are analyzed.

In all, the respondent has multiple choice graduations, to set the one that most corresponds to the performance of the organization it represents.

3. Results

Four graduations were considered:

- Profile A integrates LCM in the organization's goals, considering stakeholders' expectations and market need, presenting an integrated and adaptive management to market need and change.
- Profile B uses LCA as a tool to measure environmental impact, integrating the value chain, and as a reference to improve operational and product performance, establishing goals and objectives.
- Profile C uses LCA to understand the inputs and outputs of the productive system and as a basis to establish a strategy to better use resources and reach company goals, considering environmental and economic criteria.
- Profile D uses LCA to analyze specific projects, visible to those responsible for the implementation.



4. Conclusions and next steps



- The Diagnosis tool has been launched and is available to everyone in Rede ACV's website since Dec '22. The answers are anonymous.
- The respondents consider introducing it as an internal management tool.
- The extensive research of a broad spectrum of sources shows alignment with other initiatives, such as ABNT's PR2030 around SDGs.
- The Diagnosis serves as a continuous improvement tool, attraction of new associates for Rede ACV and retention/satisfaction of present associates.
- The Action Plan derived from the Diagnosis represents an alignment of expectations and serves as a basis for internal approval of continuity.

