



Stress sub-working group meeting
June 16th, 2014

Present: Alessandro, Cecile, Jane, Anne-Marie, Lorenzo, Manuele, Anders, Markus, Masaharu, Mike, Montse, Sebastien W., Stephan

Ongoing projects outside WULCA, by WULCA members:

Outside Projects

- Jane: Stress indicators, currently not fixed yet, will let us know as it becomes more fixed
- Brad / Stephan: Suggested endpoint based generic indicator - not ongoing (idea is to wait for agreed endpoint methods)
- Stephan / Laura: Hydrological model development, so far not LCA related, but in second part of her PhD
- Mike: Green water project (land use change); using data over 20-30 years of a change of land use within one watershed

Within WULCA

- Pseudo mid-point deliverable, lead by Anne-Marie
 - Timeline and deliverable to be discussed:
 - Pellston workshop September 2015
 - One White paper to be ready before Pellston, to be submitted right after, based on Workshop's input
 - Line-up with JRC (initiative). Deadline is Spring 2015 -> Avoid suggesting different indicators by JRC and UNEP-SETAC. Also, testing of methods need to be done
 - Anne-Marie would go for 2-3 months to JRC in Winter in order to test
 - Model needs to be finalized before that...!
 - Commitment to be made officially (and discussed with Lorenzo), from the Life Cycle Initiative to foresee this process and explain phases, plan, process...
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- Who contributes to paper as a co-author (not just as a participating member?)
 - All in the call want to co-author, follow up to be done with other sub-group members

Expert Workshop on September 10 is set, and to be organized

- Who has people to suggest please let us know
- One specific meeting to be organized just to plan the workshop
- ◦ San Francisco workshop is the same topic but different people (and different discussions)

Work progress:

Summary of discussions from previous meetings (different demand definitions)

What is neutrality? Should it be weighting? It is not intended to be weighting but following but it may include some value choice. New wording suggested? Is it e.g. balanced or relative balance? -> Consistency

EWR slides from Inga:

comparison of work by pastor et al on fair conditions (definition to be checked) -> Variable Monthly Flow Method was good

Anders from DTU, currently at CIRAIG, working on the concept of Carrying capacity (different work but same results) is also looking into using VMF. We will keep each other updated.

-> EWR concerns only aquatic ecosystem, the question on whether we include green water/terrestrial ecosystems is still open

-> Anne-Marie sends paper around

Stephan's proposal based on the discussion in Basel:

Separating human water demand into basic needs and "luxury" water consumption: Luxury water would not count fully for demand. This proposes an equivalent of "fair condition" equivalent for human, such as ecosystems only needs EWR for "fair" conditions.

Jane: there is value choices in how much

Cecile: Already stressed regions might become less stressed than they currently are, not pressure on demand.

Anne-Marie: Stephan's proposal gets closer to the idea of including some parameters related to endpoint damages. This is different from a resource-oriented perspective where we only look at pressure on the resource.

Stephan: If we account for all "luxury" water, we need also to account for all ecosystem water demand

Anne-Marie: Right, so we have the choice to either model with total/actual consumption, or to model with "fair" condition needs. The meaning is different.

Montse: We do not follow cause effect chain but is kind of a risk / pressure indicator

Montse: If all water consumption and environmental needs would almost always be larger than availability (or we include also green water). In pristine situation there would be no people, so there is kind of double counting of hypothetical uses.

Anne-Marie this is not necessarily a problem if we want an indicator of total "ideal demand"; question is rather if we include green water or not.

Water consumption and water requirements are different types of water use - they have the same unit but not the same meaning. Both exist for humans, and for ecosystems as well.

Manuele: this should be discussed at higher level, with the Flagship Project, to ensure that the reference state used is the same, or consistent across different indicators.

Next steps

Anne-Marie to start producing results with both options, according to available data as well. Montse to help.