

Stakeholder engagement for Social Life Cycle Assessment of clean solid biofuel from encroached bush in Southern Africa



Alexandre Souza^{1*}; Paulus Shigwedha²; Joseph Pechsiri¹; Cecilia Sundberg¹; Niclas Ericsson¹

¹ Department of Energy and Technology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden

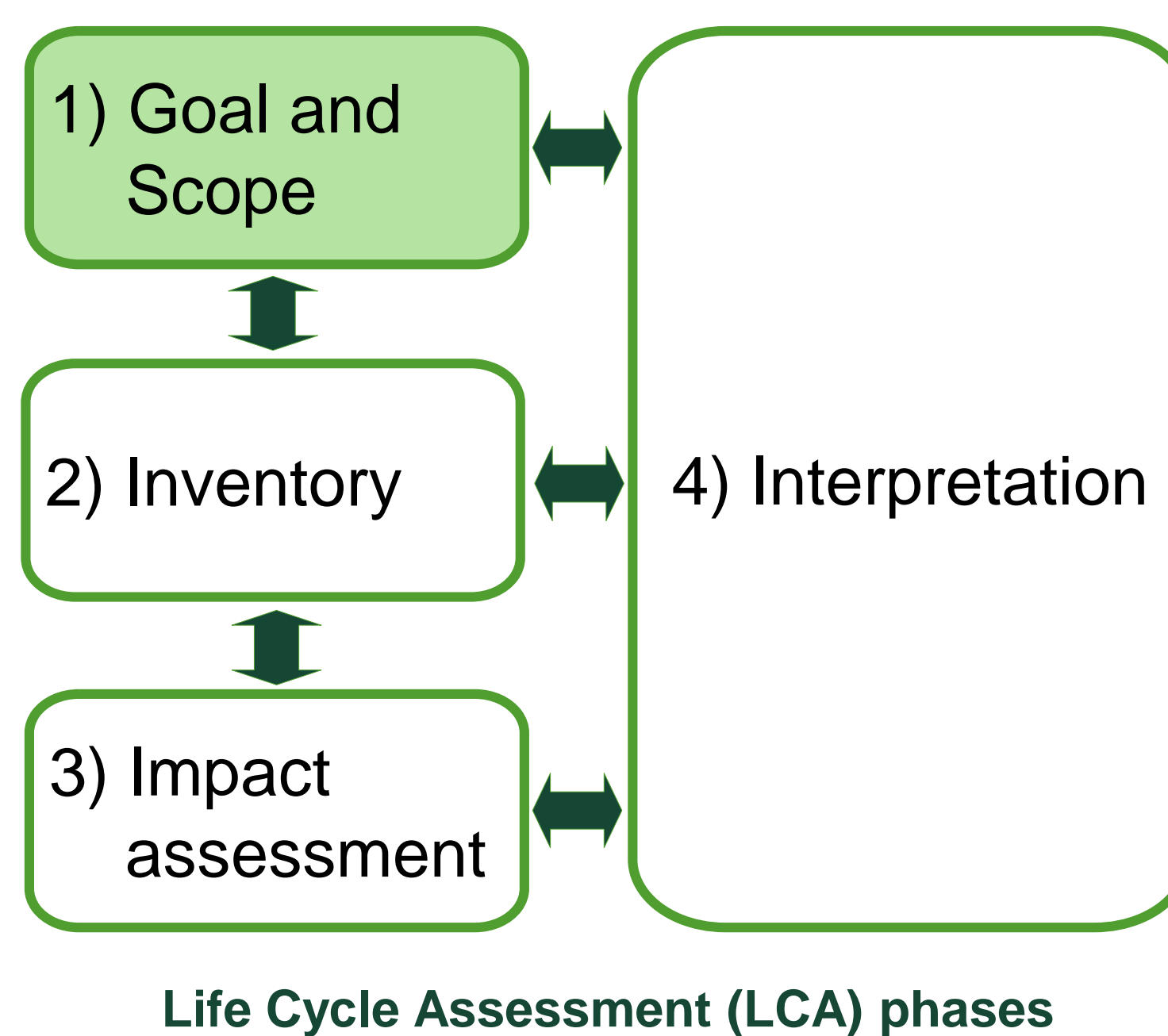
² Department of Civil, Mining and Process Engineering, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Namibia

* alexandre.monteiro.souza@slu.se

CONTEXT



The SteamBioAfrica project seeks to produce clean solid biofuel from encroached bush in Southern Africa and thereby stimulate its harvesting and clearance.



Social LCA is a core component of the project's life cycle studies to evaluate the life cycle sustainability of the solid biofuel.

The Social LCA aims to estimate the potential social impacts of SBA solid biofuel production.

Defining the impact subcategories to be considered is crucial in the goal and scope phase, as it will influence the next steps in the assessment

AIM AND APPROACH

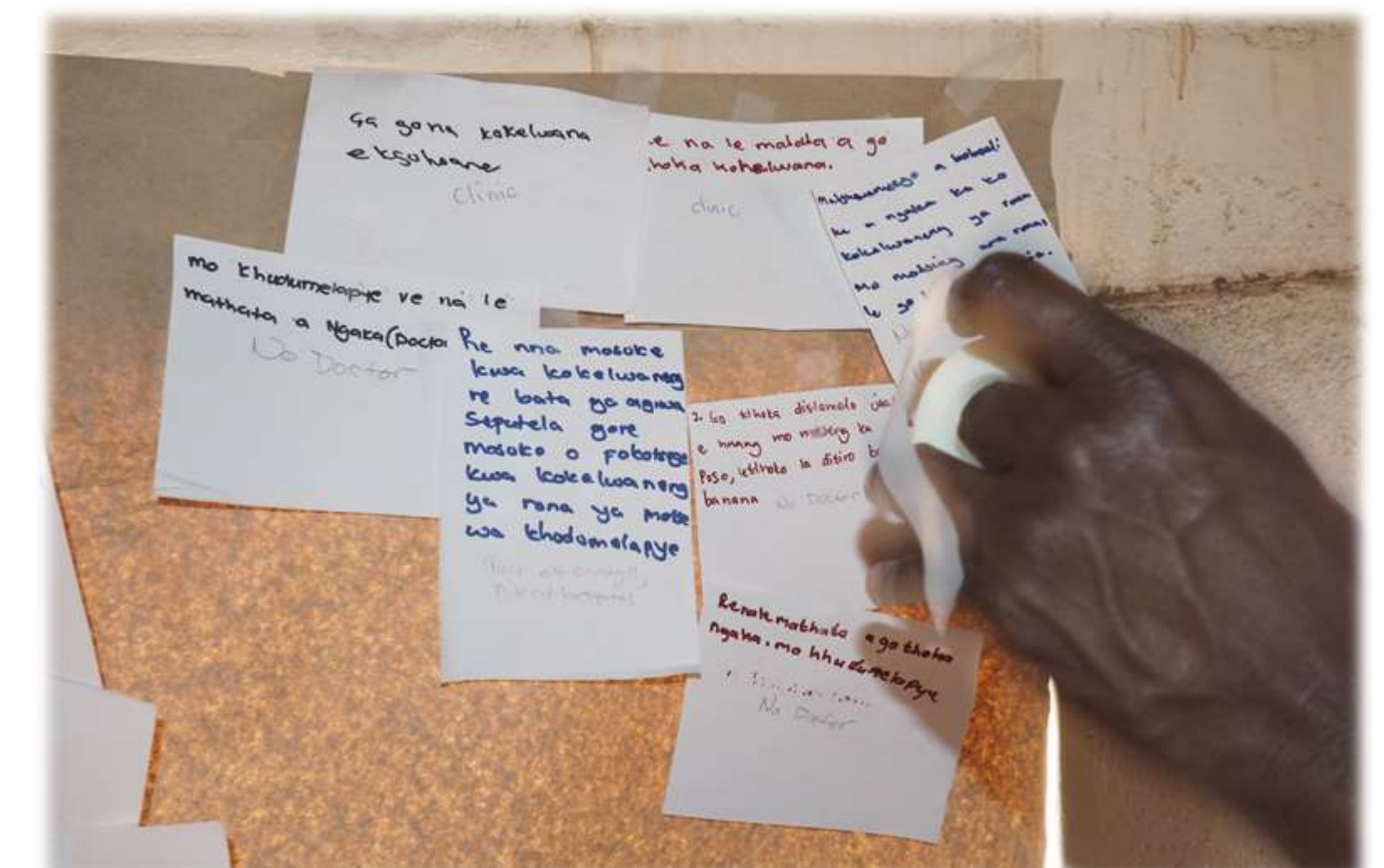
This investigation sought to identify the stakeholders' key concerns and define impact subcategories to be included in the Social LCA using participative methodologies.

Participatory methods

- Semi-structured interviews
- Brainstorming
- Participatory ranking
- Questionnaires

Engaged stakeholders

- Communities in Botswana and Namibia
- Unions, and NGOs in Namibia



PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Stakeholder	Stakeholder group	Impact Subcategories
Commercial farmers' unions	Value chain actors/ local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supplier relationships ▪ Fair competition
Communal and emerging farmers' unions	Smallholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Livelihood and wellbeing ▪ Productivity
Communal farmers and rural communities	Smallholders/ local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Livelihood and wellbeing ▪ Productivity
Workers' unions	Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fair Salary ▪ Social benefits/ social security ▪ Working hours ▪ Freedom of association and collective bargaining
NGOs	Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribution to economic development ▪ Poverty alleviation

CONCLUSION

The participatory approach not only strengthens the impact of subcategories prioritisation by adding the stakeholders' perspective. It also fosters the development of customised systems at the local level.

It enhances the understanding of the current state and future prospects

A current lack of employment opportunities emerged as a primary concern shared by most stakeholders. The lack of infrastructure was also often mentioned as a concern.

