

## **Contribution to the Brazilian Database: Off-set paper LCA**

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Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) must acquire still more space in the corporative world after the edition of the international standard ISO 14025 related to eco-labels type III.

In view of this fact and aware of the necessity to construct a Brazilian Database for support studies typically national LCA, the Group of Prevention of the Pollution (GP2) from University of Sao Paulo has been undertaking efforts in diverse fronts in order to collaborate with such initiative. One of these contributions, that consists of the Life Cycle Inventory of offset paper, is presented in this article.

With about 220 companies spread for 16 of its states, Brazil reached in 2002 a production of 5.2 million paper tons – distributed as cardboard, packaging and to paper print; this amount relieved it 11<sup>o</sup> position in the world-wide market of the sector. Paper print is the second category of paper produced in the country, participating with about 28% of the total national production.

One of the main reasons for the Brazilian success in this sector is due to the features of fibrous raw material used in the production of paper. Extracted from planted forests of eucalyptus these fibres, with short dimensions originally called hardwood, are able to confer sufficiently adequate properties to paper print.

Brazil is prominence in terms of pulp eucalytus extration, supplying the world-wide market of hardwood with widely recognized comparative advantages. This condition relieved it to the 7<sup>o</sup> rank in the international market of cellulose with about 6 million ton produced.

Such performance can be explained by combination of factors: growth cycle of eucalytus of about 7 years; know how in handling the land; favorable climatic condition ; and a vast extension to plantation.

The scope of the study embraces eucalyptus production, hardwood pulp extraction and to paper print production.

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