



Overview of the Life Cycle Inventory Program of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

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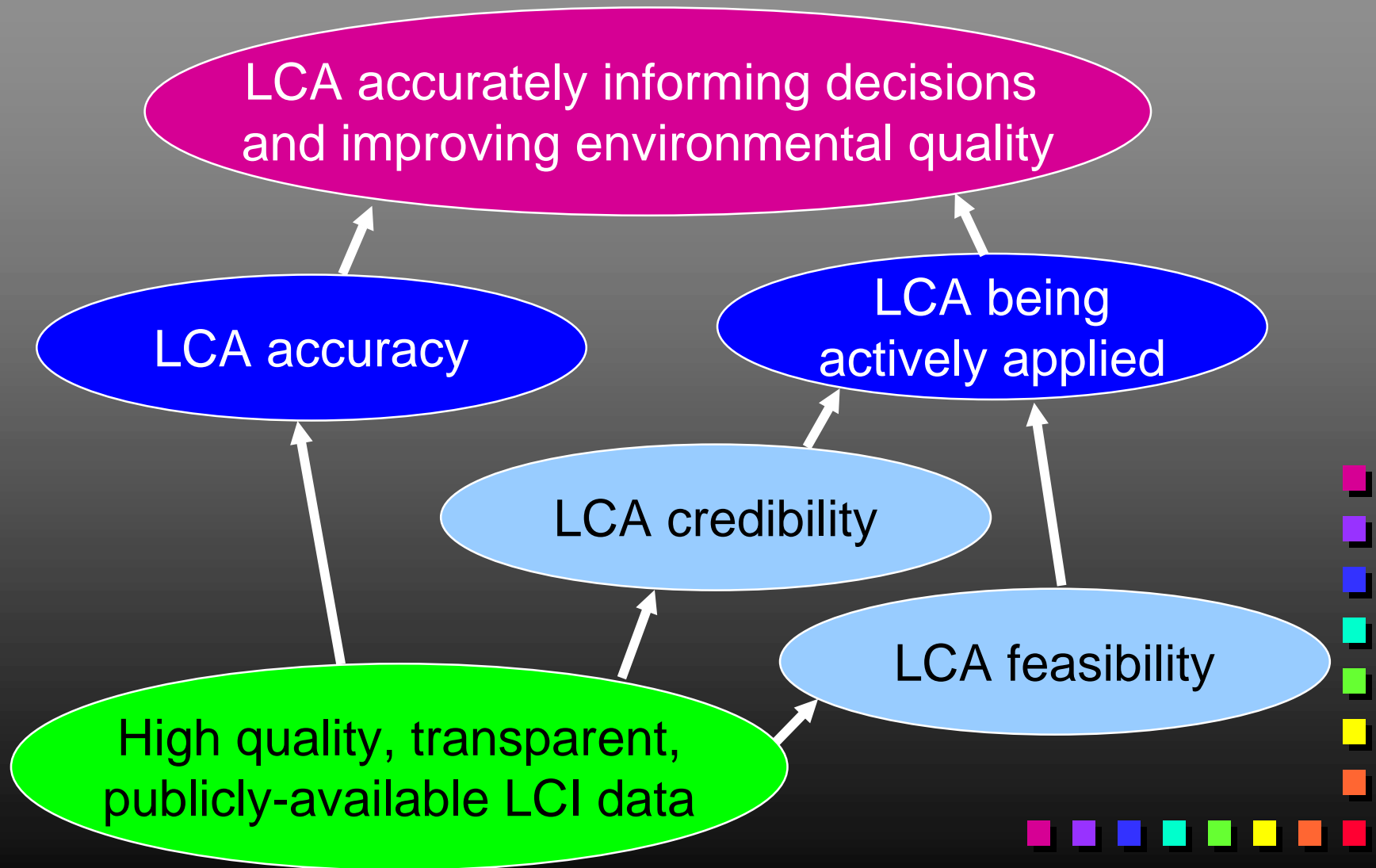


Outline

- Review of initial, motivating needs
- Context
- Process overview
- Definition Study Objectives
- Definition Study Methods
- Definition Study Work Program
- Input, questions, discussion



The importance of LCI data



Review LCI database needs

- Expanded geographic coverage
- Expanded technological coverage
- Comparability / consistency
- Transparency
- Exchange

Data

Methods

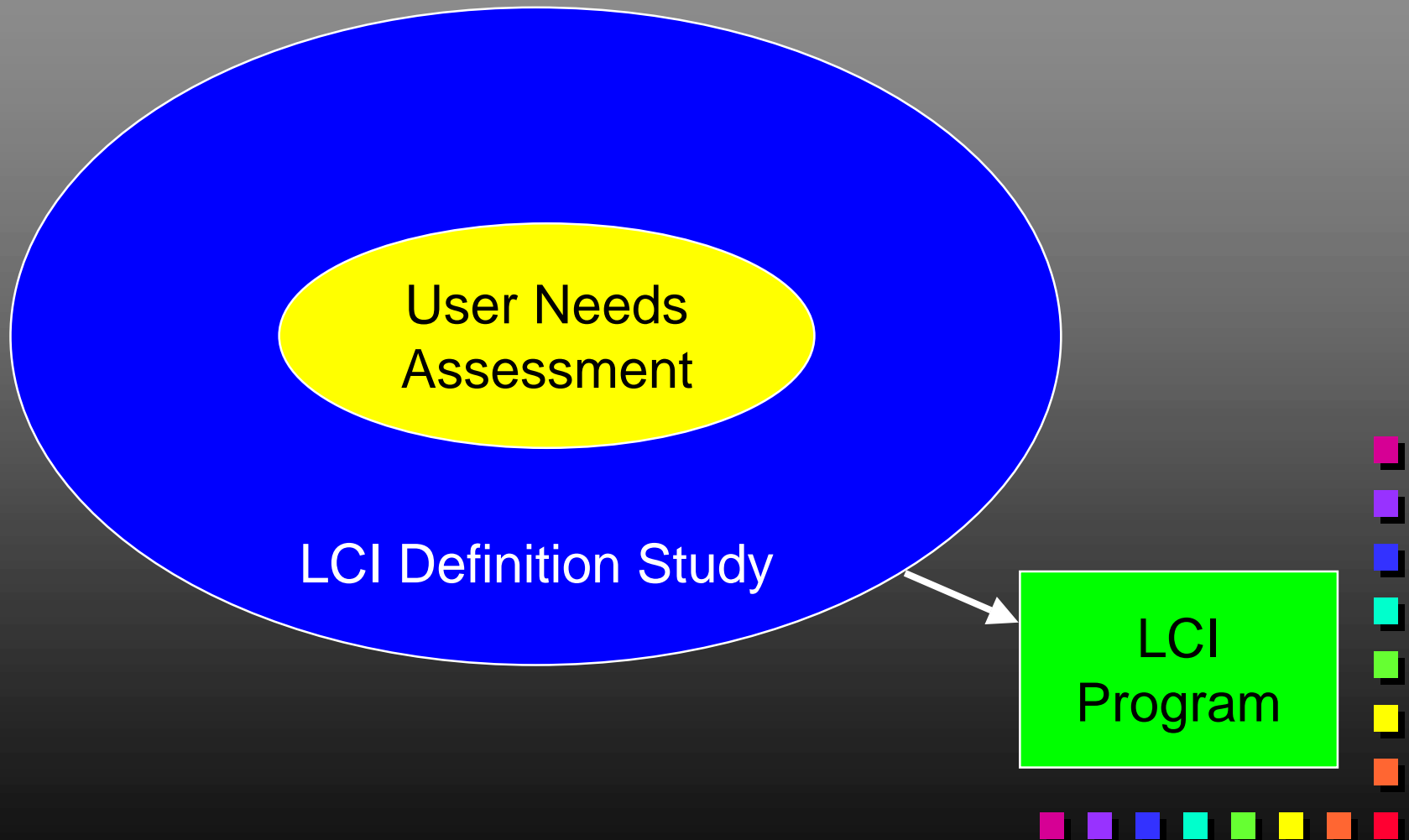


Review of Context

- There is already much positive activity
 - National data projects
 - Cooperation projects
 - ISO 1404x standards
- LCI program should
 - Compliment, strengthen, harmonize, link
Not
 - Duplicate, compete, conflict



User Needs Assessment



User community includes:

- Those who use LCI data and software tools to conduct LCIs and LCAs
- Those who provide LCI data and software tools
 - For-profit
 - Not-for-profit
- Those who use the results of LCAs to
 - Make decisions in ...
 - Provide guidance to ...

**Industry, government,
NGOs, purchasers**

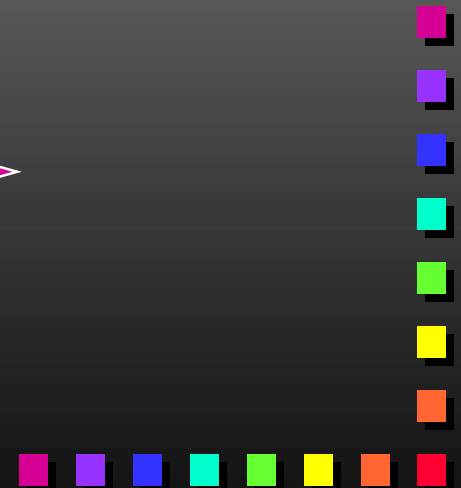
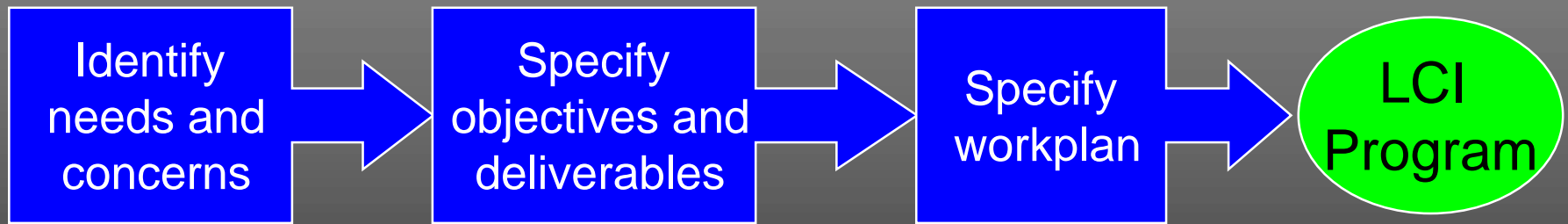


User diversity

- Needs and concerns of users may vary significantly across & within user groups
 - By country or region
 - “North” and “South”
 - By company size
 - By economic sector
- Outreach and involvement must be comprehensive



Process Overview



Definition Study

■ Data

- Identify high-need data
- Identify needed characteristics of data

■ Methods

- Identify user needs for LCI methods guidance*, consistency, harmonization. Examples:
 - Allocation
 - Process type boundaries, missing data approaches
 - Flow types to included
 - Application → marginal vs. average model, or attributional vs. consequential model

- * Recommended practice
for different application needs



Methods

- Workshops
- Internet forum periods:
 global review and comment
- Global draft author team
- Global review panel



Definition Study Work Plan

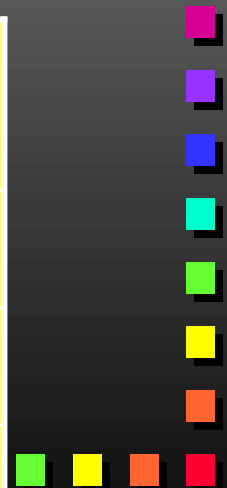
- Task 1: Survey needs and concerns
 - Includes review of methods diversity
 - Web-facilitated user input
- Task 2: LCI Program Work Plan
 - Deliverables
 - Steps, process
 - Schedule, budget



State of Practice Review / Harmonization Opportunity Assessment

- Meeting in Vienna 16 May 2002
- Review protocols of LCI databases, with emphasis on those in progress
- Identify opportunities to harmonize key characteristics

Status:	Completed	Ongoing, data development underway	Planned or ongoing, pre-data development
Managed by:			
National / Multi-national			
Academic / Decentralized			
Industrial / Consultant			



Key Characteristics of LCI DB

- Allocation method(s)
- Classes of input/process included
- Boundary cut-off rules and procedure
- Level of unit process detail available to users
- Elementary flow types, nomenclature
- Documentation
- Uncertainty; treatment of data gaps
- Modeling paradigm (consequent/attribution)
- Peer review approach and availability



Vision for LCI Program

- Remember:

User Needs → Program Goals

Still...

- Envision LCI Program Delivering:

- Projects or agreement on multinational efforts to address common data needs
- Stimulated data development in other countries
- Harmonization of national LCI database protocols, enhancing comparability and linkability
- Case-based recommended practice on methods for LCI

