

Assessing the social dimension of Extended Producer Responsibility

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AGENDA

Gap in assessment

Potential issues

Criteria selection is challenging

Social impact assessment process

Questionnaire

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Potential issues

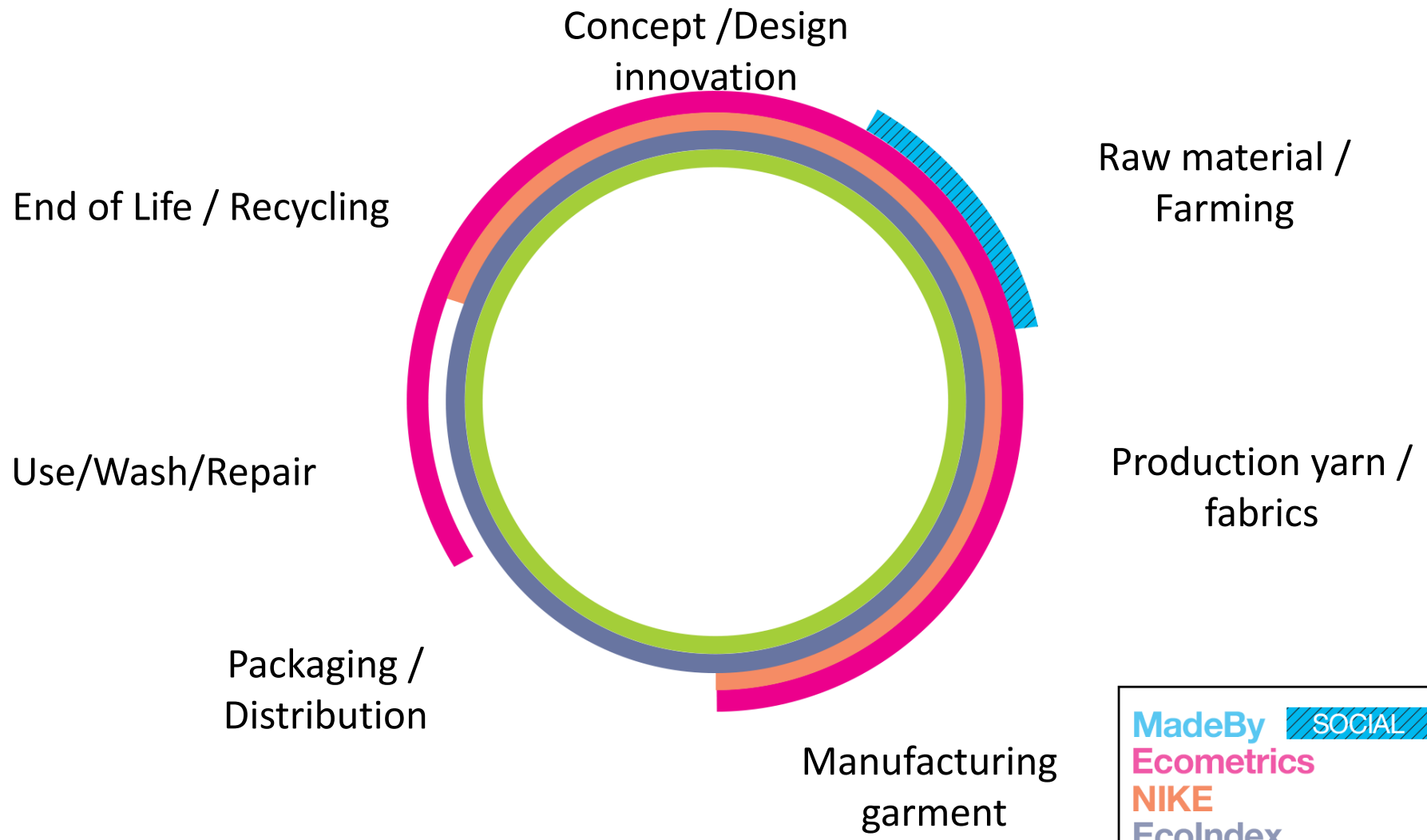
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Textile assessment and design tools



Adopted from : Kjersti Kviseth,2011

MadeBy	SOCIAL
Ecometrics	
NIKE	
EcoIndex	
Cradle to Cradle	

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Social issues in end of life management

- Impact on employment:
 - Job creation or jobs destroyed in local textile and clothing production?
 - Employment is generated in terms of handling, cleaning, repairing, restyling and distributing . E.g.: Approximately 150,000 Ghanaians work in second hand clothing sector
 - Up to 80,000 jobs have been lost in the local textile and clothing industry between 1990 to 2004 in West Africa. (Baden & Barber, 2005)
- Haggblade (1990) compared the number of jobs associated with expenditure of 10,000 USD in Rwanda on local production, second hand clothing industry or new imports.
 - The second hand clothing sector displaced employment in local textile production resulting in marginally lower total employment.

Social issues in end life management

- Second hand clothing trade in recipient countries is mainly informal and poorly regulated. New imports enter as used clothing without fully paying the import tariffs and reducing government revenue.
- Working conditions during handling, cleaning, repairing, restyling and distribution.



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PROSA list of social criteria

Employees: Safe and healthy working conditions:

- Presence of national framework
- Number of fatal accidents at work
- Number of accidents at work
- Number of recognized occupational diseases and reports on elevated health risks
- Workplaces associated with noise, fumes, dust, heat, insufficient illumination
- Basic measures and arrangements to maintain and increase safety at work
- Measures and arrangements to maintain and increase health at work
- Access to clean drinking water and sanitary facilities at work
- Policies and programmes to combat HIV/AIDS and/or other locally important health issues (dengue, malaria, alcoholism etc.)

Employees: Freedom of association, right to collective bargaining and workers' participation

- Presence of national framework
- Voluntary commitments by the company in the field of freedom of association & right to collective bargaining
- Reports on hindering workers' organizations and their activities
- Rate of unionization
- Possibilities for collective bargaining
- Possibilities for bottom-up communication

Employees: Equality of opportunity and treatment & fair interaction

- Presence of national framework
- Voluntary commitments by the company in the field of equal opportunities and treatment
- Reports on discriminatory practices of the company
- Proportion of women in management positions
- Proportion of disabled employees
- Reports on harassment and mobbing

- Reports on sexual harassment
- Measures and programmes to maintain and increase equal opportunities and treatment

Employees: Abolition of forced labour

- Presence of national framework
- Voluntary commitments by the company on abolition of child labour
- Reports on cases of child labour as defined by the ILO core labour standard conventions No. 138 and 182

Employees: Adequate remuneration

- Presence of national framework
- Average remuneration level
- Average level of performance-related incentives
- Level of corporate minimum wages
- Ratio of corporate minimum wages to local costs of living
- Number of employees in the lowest remuneration segment
- Average level of performance-related incentives in the lowest remuneration segment
- Application of a transparent remuneration system
- Payment of wages in due time

Employees: Adequate working time

- Presence of national framework
- Duration of one standard working week
- Maximum weekly working hours
- Duration of weekly rest period (at least 24 hours in one stretch)
- Duration of annual paid holidays
- Possibility for individually arranged working hours
- Fundamental decisions to increase / maintain / reduce working hour

Employees: Professional development

- Presence of national framework
- Enhancement of professional qualifications on the job
- Proportion of employees covered by training programmes
- Average number of training days per employee
- Quality of training (participants' feedback)
- Language courses and integration measures for foreign employees

Employees: Job satisfaction

- Presence of national framework
- Company festivities and social events
- Workplace reachability (location, public transport etc.)
- Aesthetic design of workplaces
- Provision of housing facilities fit to live decently

Local and regional communities: safe and healthy living standards

- Presence of national framework
- Fatal accidents connected to the company's activities
- Accidents connected to the company's activities
- Negative and positive health impacts for the local population
- Noise, fume, dust, heat and wastewater emissions
- Measures and arrangements to maintain and improve safe and healthy living conditions

Local and regional communities: respect of human rights

- Presence of national framework
- Voluntary commitments by the company in the field of human rights
- Reports on human rights violations related to the company's activities
- Forced evictions / resettlements related to the company's activities
- Human rights training for employees, particularly for security staff

Local and regional communities: community engagement

- Presence of national framework
- Information possibilities for residents
- System to respond to community grievances
- Breaches of obligations established by local political and social decision-making authorities

Local and regional communities: maintaining and improving social and economic opportunities

- Presence of national framework
- Influence on local resource conflicts
- Provision / overburdening of infrastructure facilities
- Provision / overburdening of welfare services
- Additional education facilities for local residents
- Impact on local economic development

Society: Public commitments to sustainability issues

- Presence of national framework
- Awards for engagement in social and / or sustainability issues
- Membership in alliances and programmes to support and promote sustainable business practices
- Evidence of lobbying against implementing sustainability measures
- Publication of a sustainability report or social report

Society: prevention of unjustifiable risks

- Presence of national framework
- Use of genetically engineered products and / or promotion of activities in the field of genetic engineering of living organisms, and in relation to patenting genes, organisms and plants
- Handling of radioactive substances and / or support of activities connected to nuclear power and warfare
- Evidence of other short-, medium- or long-term risks to human security

Society: employment creation

- Presence of national framework
- Labour intensity (working hours per product or functional unit) / number of employees
- Development of indicators 1. and 2. within the last 3 years

Society: Vocational training

- Presence of national framework
- Number and proportion of apprentices (in relation to the total number of employees)
- Enhancement of professional qualifications on the job

Society: Anti-corruption efforts and non-interference in sensitive political issues

- Presence of national framework
- Evidence of corrupt and / or extortionate business practices
- Reports on improper involvement in political activities
- Corporate measures to combat corrupt business practices

Society: Social and environmental minimum standards for suppliers and cooperation partners

- Presence of national framework
- Proven efforts to implement social and environmental minimum standards at suppliers, sub-suppliers, intermediary dealers and cooperation partners
- Evidence of breaches of fundamental social and environmental minimum standards at suppliers, sub-suppliers and cooperation partners

Society: Contribution to the national economy and stable economic development

- Presence of national framework
- Contribution to GDP
- Direct investments
- Contribution to the foreign trade balance
- Development of innovative products and services
- The sector's stability during market crisis

Employees: Abolition of child labour

- Presence of national framework
- Voluntary commitments by the company on abolition of child labour
- Reports on cases of child labour as defined by the ILO core labour standard conventions No. 138 and 182

Employees: Employment security

- Presence of national framework
- Portions of permanent, non-permanent, freelance employees, and workers provided by temporary work agencies and sub-contractors
- Labour turnover rate
- Regulations on dismissal protection (cancellation period etc.)
- Fundamental decisions on hiring or dismissing employees

Employees: social security

- Presence of national framework
- Evidence of breaches of obligatory social contributions
- Duration and level of wage continuation in the case of illness
- Occupational pension schemes
- Maternity protection and childcare
- Additional occupational social contributions

Users and consumers: Fair competition and marketing practices

- Presence of national framework
- Evidence of agreements and practices that distort competition
- Evidence of fraudulent, misleading or unfair marketing strategies
- Prevention of high downstream costs for maintenance and disposal
- Proportion of advertising costs in product price
- Evidence of infringements of commercial advertising law (reprimands by advertising monitoring council etc.)
- Evidence of dubious practices to bind consumers (non-compatible software, ink cartridges etc.)

Society: contribution to national budget

- Presence of national framework
- Contribution to the national budget (taxes paid minus subsidies received)
- Evidence of tax evasion

Society: Prevention and mitigation of armed conflicts

- Presence of national framework
- Link between economic activities and armed conflicts

Society: Transparent business information

- Presence of national framework
- Comprehensive and transparent business reporting and sustainability reporting
- Handling of inquiries on sustainability issues

Society: Protection of intellectual property rights

- Presence of national framework
- Reports / court sentences on breaches of intellectual property rights

Users and consumers: Protection of the consumer's health and safety

- Presence of national framework
- Health opportunities / risks related to product use
- Accidents related to product use
- Fatalities related to product use
- Findings of product safety tests (incl. any awards, labels)

Users and consumers: quality of product or service

- Presence of national framework
- Quality in relation to comparable products
- Good service, reparability, availability of spare parts
- Functioning procedure to settle consumer complaints

Users and consumers: complete and understandable product information

- Presence of national framework
- Precise and readily understandable information (user manual, constituent substances, safe use, maintenance, storage and disposal) as basis for information-based consumer decisions

Users and consumers: Protection of consumer's privacy

- Presence of national framework
- Indications of infringements of consumers' privacy and/or data protection rights

Users and consumers: Enhancing the consumer's social and economic possibilities

- Presence of national framework
- Reduction of consumer costs
- Suitability of product to meet needs of disadvantaged groups (disabled, aged, ethnic minorities etc.)
- General and widespread access to products and services

Local and regional communities: Respect of indigenous rights

- Presence of national framework
- Reports on interference with social, economic or cultural activities of indigenous groups
- Evidence of exploiting indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage
- Reports on the violation of local traditions and values
- Respect of indigenous development goals

Due to the sheer number of potential social aspects for analysis, the task of selecting the aspects and indicators to be studied in depth is important.

Consulting organization Prosa lists over 3000 possible social indicators for several hundred criteria.

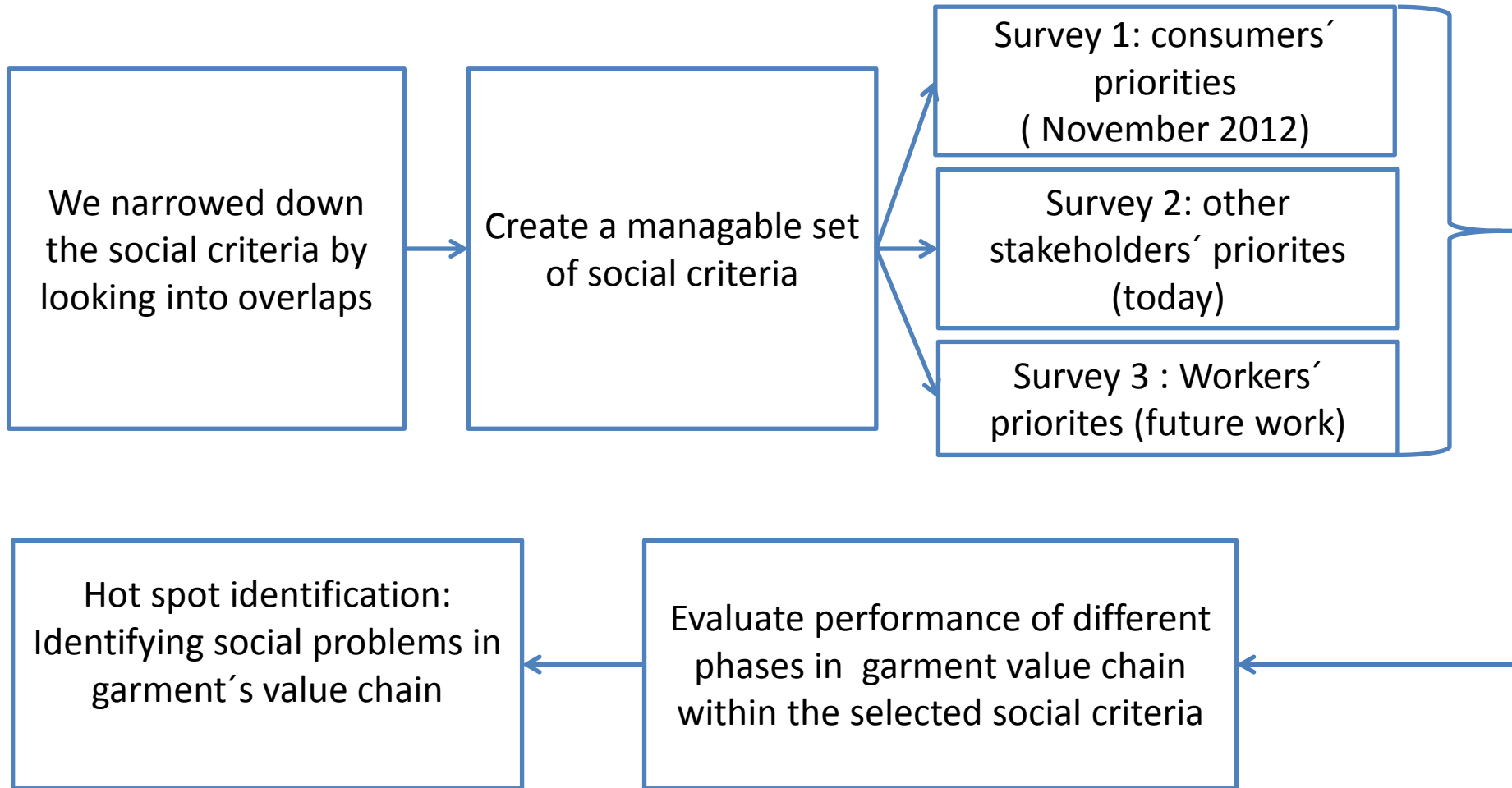
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If a garment is labelled "socially sustainable" how important are these social criteria?

1: extremely unimportant

2: unimportant

3: neutral

4: important

5: extremely important

Thank you for collaborating!

References:

1. Kjersti Kviseth, 2011, *Pulling wool over our eyes: the dirty business of LCA*, KEA conference :Towards sustainability in textiles and fashion industry ,Copenhagen
2. Sally Baden, Catherine Barber, 2005, *The impact of the second-hand clothing trade on developing countries*, Oxfam
3. <http://www.prosa.org/index.php?id=316>, list of social indicators