

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	The Crises of the Anthropocene	1
1.2	New Products Are Needed	2
1.3	The Promise of Forest Products	3
1.4	Life Cycle Assessment of Forest Products	4
1.5	Purposes of This Book	4
1.6	Guide for Readers	5
	References	5
2	Strengths and Weaknesses of Forest Products	9
2.1	Renewability	9
2.2	Biodegradability	10
2.3	Climate Change	11
2.4	Biodiversity Loss and Water Cycle Disturbances	11
2.5	Indirect Effects	12
2.6	Other Aspects of the Environmental Impact of Forest Products	12
2.7	Concluding Remarks	13
	References	13
3	LCA Methodology	15
3.1	Attributional or Consequential LCA?	18
3.2	Context and Limitations of LCA	19
3.2.1	Relationship Between LCA and Other Assessment Tools	20
	References	22
4	LCA of Forest Products—Challenges and Solutions	25
4.1	Modelling Future and/or Uncertain Product Systems	26
4.1.1	Definitions and Classifications	26
4.1.2	Examples from the Literature	27
4.1.3	End-of-Life Modelling of Long-lived Products	30

4.2	Handling Multi-functionality.	31
4.2.1	Examples from the Literature	33
4.3	Inventorying and Assessing Environmental Impacts.	34
4.3.1	Modelling the Carbon Flows of Forest Product Systems	35
4.3.2	Climate Change.	39
4.3.3	Biodiversity Loss	42
4.3.4	Water Cycle Disturbances	46
4.3.5	Energy Use	50
4.3.6	Need for Improved Impact Assessment Terminology	52
4.4	Managing Trade-offs and Connecting LCAs to Global Challenges	53
4.5	Integrating LCA Work in the R&D of New Products.	54
4.5.1	Integrating LCA in Inter-organisational R&D Projects	56
	References.	58
5	Future Research Needs	69
	References.	71
6	Concluding Remarks.	73
	Reference	74