

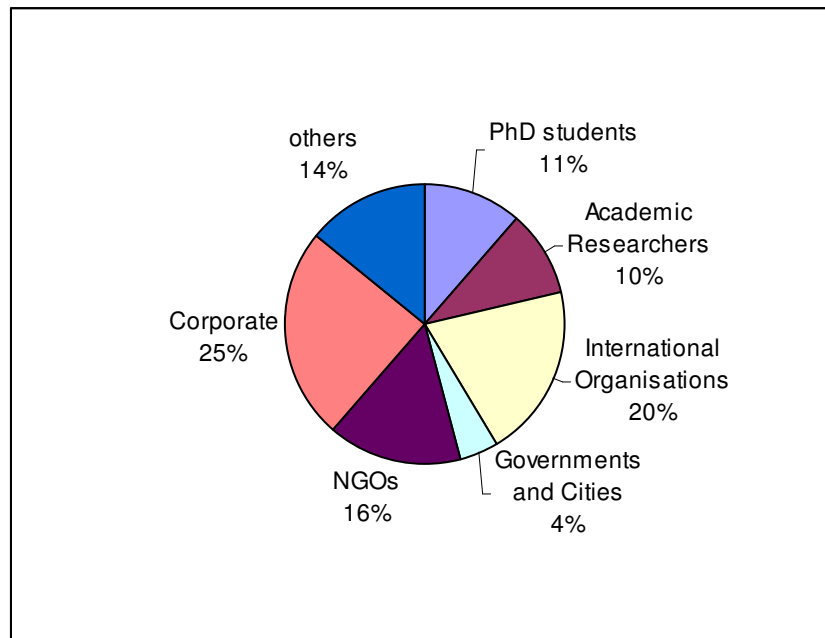
Minutes of the First Meeting of the Working Groups on Environment and GHG
28th June 2007

1. List of attendees.

Adam Harrison	Erik Meidell	Kevin Fingerman	Sebastien Haye
Alexandra Morel	J�r�mie Mercier	Lars Friberg	Stephan Krinke
Barbara Bramble	Jeroen Douglas	Meghan Sapp	Tiina Tuominen
Charlotte Opal	JF Dallemand	Naomi Penna	Tourane Corbiere
Chris Dragisic	Julie Robson	Nicolae Scarlat	Uwe Fritsche
Daniel Gilman	Justus von Geibler	Rainer Zah	Yen Chin Tho
Emilie Pons	Karen oxenboell	Riina Antikainen	

2. Synthesis of the Questionnaire:

The majority of participants are from **Europe and North America**, a few from **Latin America**, but we are cruelly missing people from **Africa and Asia**. Hence, every participant is invited to recruit people from these regions to join us!



Composition of the ENV and GHG WG

The compositions of the two Working Groups are almost the same, but with a few more participants in the ENV WG (77 VS 64 in the GHG WG so far).

Participants bring various **fields of expertise** such as (non-exhaustive list):

- Engineering (including biofuel technology and LCA)
- Physics
- Ecology and biodiversity (HCV Areas)
- Natural resource management

- Forestry
- Regional and city planning, sustainable transports,
- Fair trade
- Certification
- Economics and finances
- International trade
- Law and Political sciences (Land rights etc...)

Apart from their agreement (almost all participants) on the topics to be covered by the principles, participants have highlighted the following points as their **special expectations**:

- To define a common understanding of sustainability
- to create ambitious targets
- to cover the whole supply chain
- set clear priorities
- a responsible implementation in Southern countries
- find good indicators for monitoring
- to address leakage effects and GMOs
- not to forget the other impacts (vs GHG)
- to have a global reflection: Biofuels as a part of overall response to climate change
- The RSB should design protocols for optimization of land use, in a balanced “needs” framework

The specific interests of the participants of the GHG WG are:

- to find a proper LCA (lifecycle analysis) methodology with standards
- the challenge of addressing carbon issues rationally
- that the GHG reductions have to be substantial to benefit from a subsidy scheme

3. ENV WG Structure and Timeline

The working group will start from the **general principles** suggested by the Steering Board. The principles must remain very general, and the task of the Working Group will be to progressively go into details, through the **criteria and indicators**. In July (**second meeting**), the ENV WG will discuss and hopefully agree on the draft principles relating to the environment. This draft will be suggested to the **Steering Board**, to be incorporated into the first round of feedback. A second round will take place from October-December.

In parallel to the principles-setting, the Working Group will discuss about the different **topics to be covered** and define its **priorities** toward them. The current timeline is based on the structure of similar initiative, as the RSB wants to use already-existing efforts in an optimal way. However, based on WG members’ suggestions, topics can be added or removed through the usual democratic process.

Each topic will be discussed over a period of a few months, during which criteria will be developed. For each of the topics covered, **an expert panel** needs to be created. It will work on the preparation of support documents and discuss the topic in depth. After what, the expert panel will make propositions to the rest of the group. The propositions will then be discussed on the **bioenergy wiki website** and during the conference call by the entire WG.

Timeline:

During the **2nd meeting (25th July)**, the ENV WG will discuss the draft principles and the topics to be covered. After agreeing on the **workplan**, the background documents will be compiled by the coordinator and discussions about the first chosen topic (for example, biodiversity) will be launched during the months of August and September. Agreement of the **criteria** regarding this first topic shall be reached early after the 3rd meeting (September or October), after which the criteria for the first topic will be finalized and proposed to the Steering Board.

The same process will be reproduced for each topic until May or June 2008. After this period, the Steering Board will launch **phase 2**, mainly through field implementation of criteria and needed adjustment in order to meet feasibility and expectations.

Participants to the ENV WG are strongly encouraged to use the Wiki discussion pages (reachable from the ENV WG page) to start discussing about the order in which the topics are worked on and for how long.

- Next ENV WG meeting: **25th of July**.

4. GHG WG Structure and Timeline

The main goal of the GHG Working Group is to achieve **consensus on the best available methodology to measure GHG emissions** of biofuels production.

A small **Expert Advisory Group** will be created in the next few weeks to ensure the scientific basis of the methodology, which will be used as a basis to prepare the background papers for the Working Group. The Working Group will then make a **recommendation to the Steering Board** for a GHG calculation methodology.

Expert Advisory Group, confirmed members:

Dr. Bruce Dale, Michigan State University
Dr. Alex Farrell, UC Berkeley
Dr. Edgard Gnansounou, EPFL
Dr. Hisashi Ishitani, Keio University
Dr. Jeremy Woods, Imperial College London
Dr. Rainer Zah, EMPA
Dr. Guido Reinhardt, IFEU

Next planned meeting:

- Expert Advisory Group: **25th of July 2007**
- GHG Working Group: **27th of July 2007** (most probably at 3 pm or 4 pm London time)

Questions asked during the Meeting

- ***Should we be worried about legitimacy because of lack of Southern participation?***

RSB: We will be hosting a number of regional stakeholder discussions in developing countries, and the feedback from those discussions will be presented to the Working Groups. Hopefully we can

pick up more developing-country participation there. However, we encourage all WG members to invite others to participate to ensure a global discussion.

- ***What if we can't reach consensus?***

RSB: We must do everything we can to reach consensus. There is a lot of will among stakeholders from NGOs, producers, and industry to create principles and criteria for sustainable Biofuels. We have to reach consensus. We drafted the principles based on already existing documents, for instance the RSPO, FSC, Low CVP, Cramer Criteria, WWF Germany, German NGO Forum, National Wildlife Federation and CERES South Africa suggestions, so hopefully we will not have anything too controversial. However, if we cannot reach consensus on a principle that is particularly controversial and cannot agree on a wording, we will have to drop it.

Note added by Charlotte Opal after the meeting:

We don't mean to imply that it will be easy to build consensus around some particularly contentious issues (for instance, GMOs). Right now, we don't have a balanced stakeholder governance structure in the Working Groups, which would be the only way to make voting legitimate. It would take a long time to define stakeholders and to agree on a balanced governance structure, and given that draft principles and criteria are needed as soon as possible, we could develop these things in parallel. Throughout the year, the Implementation Working Group will make recommendations for Phase two of the project (to begin in a year's time), which would outline a governance structure for the Roundtable and set up a balanced system going forward. Thus far, we are pretty fortunate that we have participants from several countries and sectors, and all types of different businesses.

In the interim, we have tried to create a representative multi-stakeholder Steering Board, which takes decisions based on consensus (or two-thirds vote if absolutely necessary) and whose members are free to leave at any time. According to their terms of reference:

5. Decision-making

The Steering Board will do its best to make recommendations based on the consensus of Board members. However, if no consensus can be built, decisions can be taken by two-thirds majority. In this case, when the decision is communicated, it should be noted that a consensus could not be reached, and that a two-thirds majority vote had to be taken. If requested, the minority opinion, and number of dissenters vs. those in agreement, could be published alongside the decision.

Thus our legitimacy at the moment rests on the fact that if a significant type of stakeholder leaves, we could lose this multi-stakeholder aspect and thus legitimacy – it is therefore very much in the Roundtable's interest to try to achieve consensus so as not to waste all of our work by losing legitimacy in such a way. We also must make every effort to make sure that the Working Groups include participants from several different regions and sectors. If the Steering Board finds that recommendations coming out of the Working Groups were not made via a multi-stakeholder process, they will probably not accept those recommendations, and we will have to start over.

I hope that we can achieve much consensus by defining minimum criteria but also by defining at the same time 'higher bar' through a scorecard or incentive system, which would allow really excellent performance to be rewarded as such. This might relieve pressure on trying to get really high standards incorporated into the minimums (around which it might be difficult to achieve consensus), by allowing best practice to be recognized and promoted.

- ***How will we incorporate the other processes that are ongoing (in individual countries, European Commission level, etc.?) What is the added value of the Roundtable?***

We will have to recognize other national and regional processes, but the whole point is that farmers and companies don't have multiple rules for multiple markets. Ideally, we could bring any EC consensus to a global platform where Americans, Brazilians, etc. could learn about it and see if it suits their needs.

- ***The timeline is set based on having a certain number of principles. What if other principles are added?***

Good point – we will have to remain flexible in our timeline.

- ***Could you send the key documents via e-mail? It is cumbersome to have to check the Wiki all of the time.***

Yes – the key background documents for the teleconferences will be sent via e-mail. If there is a particularly active discussion happening on the Wiki, the WG coordinators will also inform all WG members that they might like to join in.

- ***Will there be any in-person meetings?***

Originally, we thought there would only be one at the end of the first year (June 2008), but many people have been asking for in-person meetings, so we will likely organize a European meeting in early 2008 where Working Group members could meet in person to work in-depth on the draft criteria. There will be regional stakeholder dialogues with as many producing countries as possible so that non-English speakers and non-Internet users can also give feedback into the Roundtable.

- ***Is this process definitely headed for third-party certification?***

It is not definite that we will create a standard or certification system – we could also create a voluntary code of conduct. But given the way other processes have turned out, it is likely that stakeholders will ask for a third-party system to be created. Certification is good at capturing direct impacts of production systems (for instance, how a particular farm treated its soils), but not indirect effects (for instance, that this farm displaced food production into a protected forest). We will have to come up with other tools besides certification to handle these indirect effects, and will be looking to the WGs to come up with ideas for how to tackle these issues.