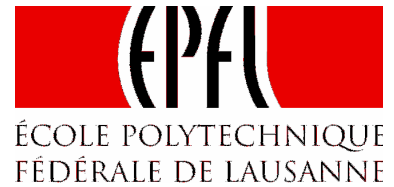


Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

An initiative of the EPFL Energy Center



Letter from the ENV WG to the members of the Working Group on Implementation.

Dear colleagues,

the recent discussions held among the participants to the Working Group on Environment and the Expert Panel on Conservation have raised several aspects that we would recommend the Working Group on Implementation to explore in order to formulate appropriate recommendations and guidelines. These points are:

- *The scale and intensity of production.* It appears that we cannot legitimately expect small scale and large scale producers to identically comply with our criteria, mainly because of the existing disparities in material and financial capacities. The working group considers that the high level of sustainability, which is currently being defined, must target large scale producers in priority, and that appropriate adaptations and support must be developed for small scale producers in parallel. Hence, the Working Group on Environment kindly suggests the Working Group on Implementation to take this aspect in consideration in the perspective of defining: **1) Objective parameters that differentiate between small and large scale producers; 2) guidance and recommendations on how to prioritize and assign weighting to the parameters according to local ecological considerations; 3) the necessary guidelines and complements to the standards in order to help small producers to comply with the standards. An appropriate language must also be found to make the broad sense of criteria easy to understand.**
- The need to include biofuel production in a **governmental land management plan at the national or local level, since many aspects need to be considered at the landscape level.** Such a management plan shall include 1) the identification and mapping of areas of biological conservation to be restricted (with the collaboration of producers in the identification process); 2) a global assessment of the ecological corridors included in the national territory, in order to prevent biofuel production from disrupting these corridors (however, the group acknowledged that allowing compensation is contradictory with avoiding disruption. Until this is resolved, the group does not ask the implementation group to consider the feasibility of working with governments to develop management plans that would allow for such compensation).; 3) the promotion of sustainable land management (no monoculture, etc...) The IMP WG should also discuss financial requirements for conducting the identification and mapping, as well as potential sources of funds to support this action.
- As one of the criteria related to conservation include the necessity to keep a part of the production site aside as ecological corridor. The IMP WG should discuss the size of land to be set aside, as regards the whole surface and farmer's capacities.
- **The share of responsibility between the government and the producers,** as regards the identification and mapping of restricted areas. The Working Group on Environment considers that governments that promote the extension of biofuel

production areas bear the responsibility to undertake the identification of “no go” and high conservation value areas, and inform the producers through a clear mapping of its territories. The producers, having an interest in the increase of the production, must share the responsibility to identify the possible biological conservation areas on their land and around, and supply the government with data. A continuous effort to improve the mapping of restricted areas must be promoted. As a starting point, producers are requested to use the existing maps set by conservation groups, governments or any other group working on the identification of High Conservation Value areas in the region.

We invite the participants of the IMP WG to consult the recent documents published by the Working Group on Environment to get details about the above mentioned points, in addition to what we would welcome any opportunity to interact directly in order to set a concrete and efficient action plan to find solutions to the issues recently raised.

With our sincere consideration,

The Working Group on Environment.