

# The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

*Ensuring that biofuels deliver on their promise of sustainability*



# *Presentation Overview*

- Aims and organization of the RSB
- Draft principles and criteria
- Organization
- First results
- Next steps

# *The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels*

We are an international multi-stakeholder initiative developing principles and criteria for sustainable biofuels production that will be:

- **Simple, accessible** and implemented worldwide
- **Generic** to all crops
- **Adaptable** to new information
- **Efficient and cheap** to measure
- **In line with WTO rules**  
(use ISEAL code)



## *How is the RSB organized?*

- One **Steering Board** composed of international stakeholders from WWF, UNEP, Swiss and Dutch governments, US and Japanese universities, Shell, WWF, BP, Toyota, TERI India, Mali Folkecenter, and others.
- One **secretariat** based at EPFL.
- Four **Working Groups (GHG, Environment, Social, and Implementation)** + smaller **Expert Advisory Groups** to make recommendations to the Steering Board. 230 participants from international organisations, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions have signed up for one or more Working Groups.
- **Global stakeholder** feedback at every step (blogs, meetings, wiki technology, pilot projects, regional outreaches)
- Innovative **transparent standard-setting using [www.BioenergyWiki.net](http://www.BioenergyWiki.net)**, to share background information and share comments with other participants.

# *Draft Principles*

- **National Law** (especially regarding land, labor, water rights)
- **Community Consultation** (especially to determine land rights, assess social & environmental impact, identify idle land, and resolve grievances)
- **GHG** – positive balance over lifecycle, including direct & indirect effects
- **Environmental** – conserve and protect high conservation values, soil, water, air; responsible use of potentially hazardous technologies (e.g. biotechnologies)
- **Social** – biofuels should benefit rural communities and workers; should not contribute to food insecurity

## Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels - Draft Scorecard Concept

Overall Energy and Greenhouse Gas Efficiency	Conservation of Natural Resources				Social Concerns		
Total score for product life-cycle (well-to-wheel)	biodiversity	soil health	air quality	water use	Food security	Working conditions	
Considerable reduction of ecol./ social footprint	Low GHG emissions, maximize carbon sequestration (e.g. low-till)	Biodiversity corridors	Restore degraded land	No sig. impact on air quality on farm or at processing facility	No sig. impact on local water quality or quantity	Use of degraded or idle land	Best-practice wages and working conditions
Small or no reduction on ecol./ social footprint	10-90% GHG emissions as compared to fossil fuel	Buffer zones	erosion protection	Moderate impact on air quality	Moderate impact on local water quality, quality		
No or negative impact on ecol./ social footprint	High N2O emissions from fertilizers, conversion of high carbon-stock land	Deforestation, habitat encroachmt.			Water pollution, significant reduction in water availability		Hazardous or illegal working conditions

# *Timeline*

- Draft principles and criteria to be approved by Steering Board in June
- Next steps regarding governance (e.g. regional groupings, how to formally balance stakeholder groups, membership requirements) to be discussed in June



After June:

- Implement next phase of governance
- Pilot testing of draft standards in real supply chains
- Encourage/foster crop-specific better practice definitions (e.g. jatropha)
- Collaborate with US and other partners to co-host an in-person meeting on indirect land use change accounting, perhaps summer 2008

# *Contact*

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