



# The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels in Policy



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*Designing Law and Policy for the Transition to  
Sustainable Energy: The Case of Biofuels – June 2011*

# What Biofuels are expected to deliver



**Economic Development  
Employment**

**Climate Change  
Mitigation**



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**Energy Security**



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# *What Biofuels might also cause*

**Increased deforestation  
and loss of ecosystems**

**Increased GHG emissions**

**Pollution**

**Increased conflicts over land and resources**



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## Biofuels – the New Kid on the Block

- In the spotlight for land use pressure
- Adds to the impossible Rubik's cube:
  - Agriculture expansion for export commodities is greatest cause of deforestation, resulting in high GHG emissions
  - Population growth to over 10 Billion will need MORE
  - Climate change will challenge current production
  - And now here comes – not just liquid biofuels – but also ramped up biomass for power
- All putting pressure on forests and all other ecosystems



photo by Genocide Intervention Network



Image by: Aidenvironment, Flickr

## Biofuels – The Land Pressure is Real

- Energy Information Administration projects more than tripling of biofuels production from 2007 to 2035



Ecofys estimate the land area needed by 2050 for renewable energy scenarios:

- 250 million hectares of agricultural land (about 1/6 of global cropland) for biofuels
- Plus 4.5 billion cubic meters of biomass for power from already disturbed forests
- Assumes meat consumption by wealthy cut in half, and the poor increase by no more than 25% from today
- Assumes increase in intensively forests and agricultural yields rise



## *Any Land Use is in Competition with All Other Land Use*

- All land uses are expanding, not just bioenergy
  - Pasture and crop land, cities and suburbs, factories and mines, shopping malls, highways and sports arenas
- Providing resources adequate for future populations should use essentially the current land base – freezing the human footprint in place
  - That means intentional land use planning – using land for what it's most suited for!
  - Responsible Cultivation Areas concept for agricultural expansion
  - In particular, bioenergy should only be produced without conversion of forests and other ecosystems

# The RSB Standard

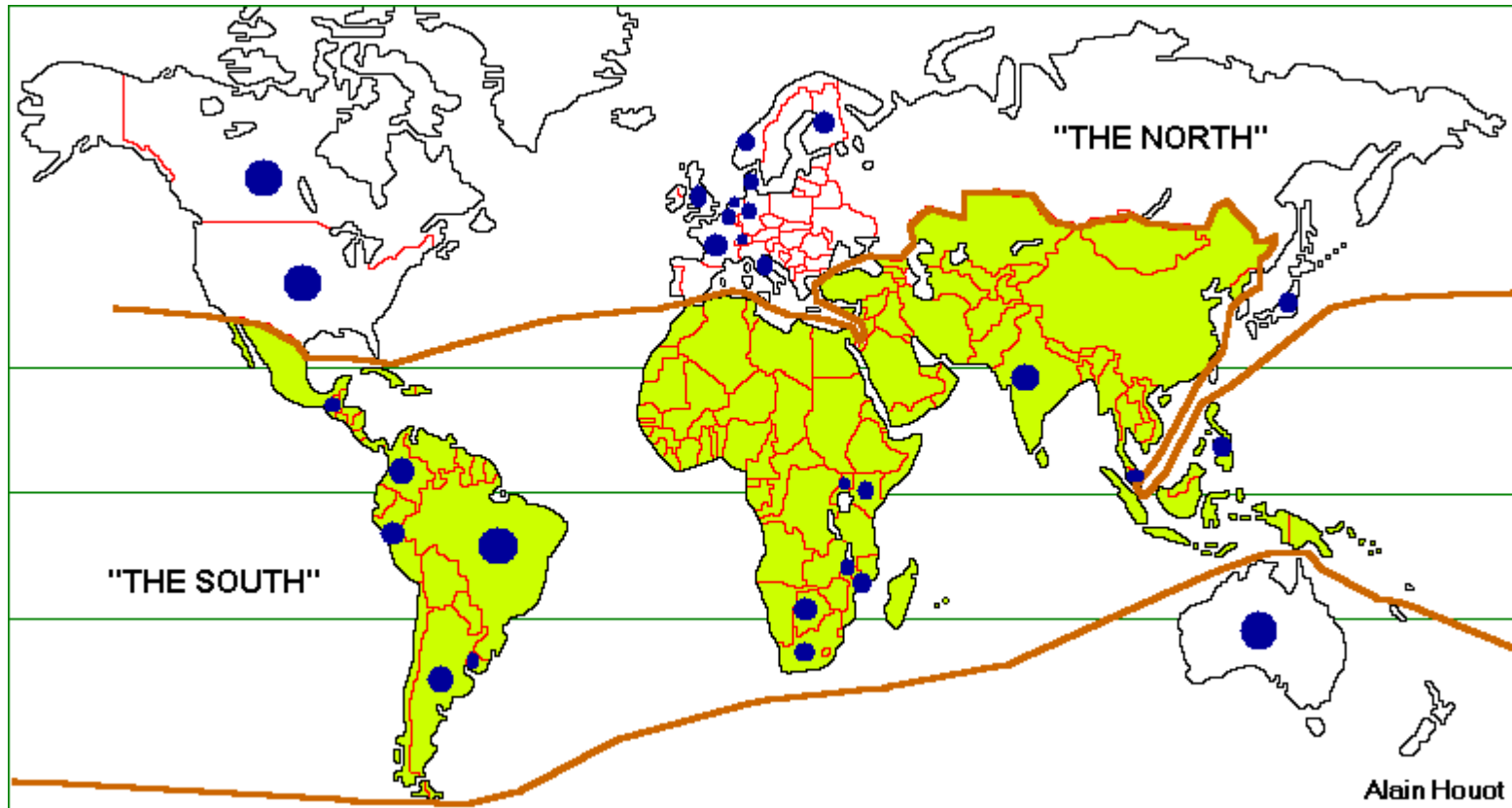
## Global, multi-stakeholder certification standard on sustainability and biofuels applicable to all feedstocks and biofuel types

- ❖ Developed and approved by about **120 members from more than 40 countries** representing civil society, industry, variety of experts
- ❖ Covers **entire supply chain**
- ❖ **12 Principles & Criteria** (several relate to forests, biodiversity and carbon stocks, as well as land rights, poverty and food security)
- ❖ Standard and **certification** scheme enable buyers to differentiate “better biofuels”
- ❖ Global Standard Applies to **all feedstocks** + enables local geographic and crop specific **adaptations**
- ❖ **RSB Tool compares** GHG calculators for various international regulations



RSB Tool

# A global discussion: RSB members



# RSB Principles & Criteria



## *Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems*

### **Principle 7** – Conservation Values of local, regional or global importance

- Identify conservation values through screening
- No conversion of areas with identified conservation values after January 1, 2009
- Areas used but not converted must have impact assessment and adequate management practices
- Maintain ecosystem functions affected by biofuel operations
- Ecological corridors to be protected, restored, created
- Prevent invasive species

## *GHG Emissions – the Second Line of Defense*

### **Principle 3 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

- Lifecycle GHG emissions and fossil fuel baseline calculated using the RSB methodology
  - Well-to-wheel
  - Includes direct, but not yet indirect, land use change
  - Includes above- and below-ground carbon stock changes
  - Incentivizes use of co-products, wastes and residues
- Each biofuel blend must average 50% lower LCA GHG emissions relative to the “fossil fuel baseline”

# *Food security, livelihoods and rural development*

- **Principle 6** – local food security
  - Ensuring that local food security is protected and enhanced
  - Links with rural development
  
- **Principle 5** – rural and social development
  - Creation of jobs, development of SMEs and out-grower schemes
  - Improve the quality of life of stakeholders
  
- **Principle 9** - Ensuring that water rights are protected
  - Formal and informal rights
  - Water for subsistence purposes

# Stakeholder Consultation and FPIC

## Principle 2:

- Stakeholder consultation is essential for the successful application of the RSB standard
- Social and Ecological Impact Assessment/management plans
  - To identify and protect rights and natural resources
- Consultation and participation take place at all stages of the process (development and implementation)
- Scope is dependent on the potential impacts of the operations and must be:
  - Open and transparent
  - In line with the principle of FPIC



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# *Land Rights and Land Use Rights*

- **Principle 12:** Evaluate and respect existing land rights and land-use rights, formal and informal
  - No involuntary relocations and all land disputes must be settled prior to development
  
- **RSB Guidelines based on best practise that assist operators to do**
  - Comprehensive stakeholder Engagement
  - Gender sensitive
  - Screening process
  - Land Rights Evaluation if needed



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# The RSB Standards in Public Policy



- EU:
- RSB is soon to be recognized as Method of Demonstrating Compliance



- Germany:
- RSB is recognized as Method of Demonstrating Compliance



- Mexico:
- RSB P&Cs are Basis for Regulatory Framework for Bioenergy



Photo: Alina Zienowicz, Wikimedia

# *The RSB Standards in Public Policy, Cont'd*

- New Zealand:
  - RSB P&Cs are “prescribed” as standard
- Washington State:
  - Benchmarking Forest Practices Rules for Mutual Recognition
- California:
  - Using RSB P&Cs as starting point for Sustainability Standard



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*Thank you!*



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