

1st meeting of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability

Palácio do Itamaraty - Av. Marechal Floriano, 196

Rio de Janeiro, 19 June 2008

Chair Conclusions

The GBEP Task Force on Sustainability held its first meeting on 19 June 2008 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Brazil and attended by Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sudan, Tanzania, UK, USA, FAO, IEA and the UN Foundation. The meeting was chaired by the United Kingdom, who agreed to be the leading partner for this work.

Scope and programme of work

- The Task Force began by reviewing the scope of work and programme endorsed by the 5th GBEP Steering Committee at its meeting on the previous day. The Task Force agreed to prioritise its efforts on the development of a set of global science-based criteria and indicators regarding the sustainability of bio-energy. It further agreed that the scope should cover all biomass for energy with the option of refining this for specific uses, e.g. liquid biofuels, at a later stage.
- The Task Force decided to identify an initial set of key sustainability criteria under the following four headings or ‘baskets’: environmental, economic, social and energy security. This exercise was conducted as a brainstorming session without any editing of content in order to produce a set of preliminary criteria as a basis for further work by the Task Force over the coming months. A copy of the resulting preliminary criteria, set out in a matrix document, is attached to this note. It was agreed that the matrix would be circulated to all GBEP Partners as soon as possible after the meeting for comment by the end of July 2008.
- The Task Force agreed not to proceed with the workshop in October 2008 proposed in the scope and programme of work paper presented to the 5th Steering Committee meeting.
- The Task Force felt that the inventory of current initiatives on sustainable bio-energy development could be a useful tool for GBEP and others but that it would benefit from rationalisation to include only initiatives on sustainable bio-energy. However, it was agreed that this work would be given lower priority than the main task of developing sustainability criteria and indicators. The Chairman agreed to review the type of information for inclusion in the inventory and to write to Partners at a later date inviting them to contribute details of appropriate initiatives.

The Chairman gratefully accepted the offer from the FAO, IEA, UNEP and US to act as a support team on this task force.

Presentations

The Task Force received a number of interesting presentations on international and national bio-energy developments.

- The delegate of the UN Foundation gave a verbal update on the work of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels. Draft principles and criteria were now open for global consultation and anyone may comment. The Roundtable was aiming to finalise the principles and criteria by January 2009, and was currently engaged in a secondary discussion on certification. Further information on the work of the Roundtable and key contacts were available in the paper circulated to Task Force attendees and on the Roundtable's web site - <http://cgse.epfl.ch/page65660-en.html>.
- Members of the German delegation outlined current policy initiatives in that country. A Biofuels Quota Act was introduced in 2006 and a revised Renewable Energy Act and a new Renewable Heat Act would be in force in 2009. From 2009 only sustainable biofuels, as defined in legislation, will count towards the national quota of biofuels. The same will apply for feedstocks under the Renewable Energy and Heat Acts, but the sustainability requirements for those laws will apply immediately once they take effect, at latest from the beginning of 2010. These points were supplemented by a presentation summarising the current discussions in Germany on sustainability criteria for bio-energy.
- The delegation of China gave an overview of national policies, standards, R&D activities and targets in place to encourage the production and use of biomass for energy in that country. The presentation also included information on energy crop resources, available land, resource potential as well as several production facilities and demonstration schemes.
- The delegate from the United States drew attention to the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which mandated a significant increase in the volume of renewable fuels to 36 billion gallons by 2022, at least 58% of which must come from next generation/advanced biofuels. The US Government was currently working to develop domestic sustainability criteria relating to these requirements.
- The Brazilian delegation gave a verbal outline of various initiatives and practices in that country to support sustainable biofuel practices, including appropriate zoning of sugar cane plantation, use of residues (e.g. bagasse) to maximise feedstock use and a social seal to commercialise biodiesel from small farmers. Brazil wished to emphasise that they also have experience in biogas production, which can help avoid adverse environmental impacts, and not just in bioethanol and biodiesel.

Copies of power point presentations are available on the GBEP web site.

Next meetings

- The Task Force agreed to meet again at **FAO in Rome on 25-26 September 2008**. It was agreed that this meeting would be held back-to-back with another meeting of the GHG

Methodologies Task Force. It will be possible for Partners who are unable to attend in person to participate by video conference.

- Further meeting of the Task Force on Sustainability would be held on **19 November 2008 in Sao Paulo (Brazil)** around the International Biofuels Conference, which will take place on 17-21 November 2008. Further details will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.

Actions

- All Partners are invited to submit their **comments on the draft preliminary sustainability criteria** listed in the attached matrix document. Comments should be sent to the Chairman of the Task Force on Sustainability and to the GBEP Secretariat **by Thursday 31 July 2008**.
- The Task Force Chairman will write to Partners **by Thursday 31 July 2008** inviting them to contribute to the inventory of current initiatives on sustainable bio-energy development with advice on the type of information requested.

Matrix of Criteria and Indicators

"The draft initial criteria in this matrix are intended for comment and do not represent the final views of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability"

Basket	Criteria	Definition of Criteria	Indicators
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse Gases (GHG) • Soil quality/ Land degradation/ Desertification • Land use change/ Deforestation • Air quality • Water quality/quantity • Biodiversity/ Ecosystem/ Nature conservation 	<p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net emission of greenhouse gases... • • 	<p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Cycle Analysis of GHGs emitted from biofuel compared to LCA of fossil fuel emissions • Cost effectiveness of GHGs reduction
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources efficiency • Production cost effectiveness • Economic/rural development • Externalities • Incentives/ disincentives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct/indirect impacts of trade policies • Food security • Land and water rights • Worker rights / ILO • Income generation • Quality of incomes • Job creation/ opportunities • Social equity • Local/rural energy security • Creation of sustainable livelihoods • Improvement of energy access • Health benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Energy Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to energy • Energy balance • Fossil fuel displacement • Diversification of energy supply • Local/rural energy security • Oil price • Optimization of the energy matrix • Production capacity • Energy imports/exports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost effectiveness of GHGs reduction • •