

5th GBEP Technical Working Group meeting

Paris, 10 July 2009

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Chair Summary

On 10 July 2009 UNEP hosted the fifth meeting of the GBEP Technical Working Group. Brazil, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA, FAO, IEA, UN Foundation, UNEP and UNIDO participated in the meeting which was chaired by UNIDO.

Potential new work areas for GBEP

The aim of the meeting was to discuss and work towards agreement on the programme of work for a new Task Force on the deployment of technologies for sustainable bioenergy (not yet formally established), on the basis of the draft scoping document presented by the Secretariat.

The 4th meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) held in Heidelberg (Germany) on 18 March 2009, considered an initial discussion paper prepared by the GBEP Secretariat presenting proposals received from Partners and Observers. The GBEP Secretariat reported to the 7th Steering Committee (May 2009 in New York) on the conclusions of the 4th meeting of the TWG. The Steering Committee emphasized the importance of technology cooperation for GBEP as well as the significance of the valuable and ambitious programme of work proposed. The Steering Committee decided not to formally establish the new Task Force for the time being, but invited Partners and Observers to have informal discussions chaired by UNIDO under the umbrella of the TWG.

The Secretariat presented the proposed scope and programme of work, divided into three phases and seven tasks, illustrating in detail the possible outcomes of each task.

The IEA offered its collaboration to work chiefly on task 2 (Collation of examples of good practice in bioenergy production, use and policymaking), task 3c (techno-economic analysis tools for evaluating the costs and energy demand of all stages of bioenergy chains), task 3d (tools allowing an integrated, holistic assessment and comparison of a variety of bioenergy policy options in a country or other specific administrative unit) and task 4 (Identification of principles, conditions and institutional frameworks to facilitate the development and deployment of technologies for sustainable bioenergy), envisaging possible collaboration with their implementing agreement on bioenergy.

Some Partners commented that the programme of work was very ambitious and that some of the tasks assumed a clear definition of bioenergy sustainability, with more work to be done within the Task Force on Sustainability.

Although the Technical Working Group agreed the programme of work was valuable and relevant to GBEP's mandate, the lack of human resources from Partners and Observers was

seen as the major obstacle to undertaking significant work in the new area and to establishing a new Task Force immediately.

The Chair suggested to focus on Phase 1 of the proposed programme of work for the time being, and to identify within this phase the tasks that could be started independently of GBEP's work on sustainability. This work would subsequently inform the TWG that will make recommendations to the Steering Committee on the possible way forward and on how to streamline the proposed scope and programme of work.

Conclusions

It was agreed that tasks 1, 3 and 4 could be partially started with the gathering and exchange of information and experiences within the TWG. It was noted that task 2 and part of task 4 required further development of the work on sustainability.

Work on *task 1* (Compilation of a report highlighting available funding options for bioenergy projects) would start with the Secretariat gathering the following information (where accessible) for nationally and internationally funds available for bioenergy projects in developing countries and transition economies:

- name of funding source and its nature (ODA, private sector, venture capital etc.)
- criteria for eligibility of bioenergy projects, including information about geographical range, size of projects funded, type of projects funded (e.g. studies vs. practical projects), percentage of investment that can be funded;
- how and when to apply;
- funds available, number of funded projects and any lessons learned from past experience including barriers to accessing these funds and successful financing models.

A matrix containing this information will be developed by the Secretariat and will be circulated to TWG members for additional information to be added.

Work on *task 3* would begin with FAO and UNEP, in consultation with other Partners, collating analytical tools to build country capacity for assessing sustainable bioenergy potential and to devise and implement a strategy for realization of this potential. The work would eventually inform the TWG regarding its possible extension (e.g. to workshops as envisaged in the proposed programme of work). FAO would develop a template to facilitate the gathering of information on these analytical tools.

It was agreed that Partners and Observers would share their ongoing work stream relevant to the proposed scope and programme of work of the new task force at the next meeting of the TWG, by means of short presentations. The "Non-comprehensive list of ongoing activities related to technology/innovation in bioenergy systems" compiled by the Secretariat as an annex to the discussion document that was presented in the 4th TWG in Heidelberg, was deemed a valuable source of information to be expanded to assist the TWG's discussion.

The group recognized the need for a catalogue of bioenergy technologies focusing on their availability in different regions as a contribution to the future development of *task 4*. UNIDO agreed to develop a document with an assessment of various technologies, their status and their potential in the future.

Next Steps

- **First draft of a matrix providing information about funding options for bioenergy projects (task 1) – to be circulated by 15 September 2009**
The Secretariat will develop a draft matrix with information about available funding options for bioenergy projects by 15 September 2009. The draft matrix will then be circulated among Partners and Observers in order to add further relevant information.
- **Gathering of information about analytical tools to assess sustainable bioenergy potential and to devise and implement a strategy for realization of this potential (task 3) – collation on analytical tools to be circulated by 15 September 2009**
UNEP and FAO will collate relevant analytical tools, in consultation with other Partners and Observers, and the Secretariat will circulate this work by 15 September 2009.
- **Catalogue of bioenergy technologies (contribution to task 4) – to be circulated by 15 September 2009**
UNIDO will develop a document with an assessment of various technologies, their status and their potential in the future. The Secretariat will circulate it by 15 September 2009.
- **Presentations during the next TWG meeting – submission of request to the Secretariat by 15 September 2009**
Partners and Observers that are interested in giving a presentation during the next TWG meeting about their activities relevant to the draft scope and programme of work for the new task force should submit a request to the Secretariat by 15 September 2009.
- **The 6th Technical Working Group meeting** will be held in conjunction with the next meeting of the Task Force on Sustainability. At this meeting the way forward for GBEP in the technology cooperation/deployment area will be discussed, leading to a recommendation to the Steering Committee. The Secretariat will circulate further details in due course.