

7th GBEP Task Force meeting on GHG methodologies

Hague Academy of International Law Peace Palace

The Hague, Netherlands

16 March 2010

Chair conclusions

The Task Force on GHG methodologies of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) held its seventh meeting in The Hague on 16 March 2010. Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, UK, USA, European Commission, UN Foundation and UNEP participated in the meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by US and UN Foundation, the leading partners for this work.

The Task Force completed and published the “Version Zero” of the “*GBEP Common Methodological Framework for GHG Lifecycle Analysis of Bioenergy*” in June 2009. A dedicated Partners-only web page has been set up on the GBEP website and Partners, Observers, biofuels producers, scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders have been encouraged to respond to the checklist’s questions.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss and work towards agreement on the way forward to improve “version zero” of the GBEP methodological framework and on next steps.

Discussion and conclusions

The Task Force co-chairs opened the meeting and presented the results of the “testing phase” including feedback received. A presentation was given on the recently released U.S. Renewable Fuel Standard Program (RFS2), and the Task Force was updated on the latest developments of the EU Renewable Energy Sources Directive (RES 2009/28/EC) including the guidance that will be released soon on calculation of carbon stocks from land use and the report on sustainability requirements for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources in electricity, heating and cooling, adopted last February. The Task Force was then invited to discuss the way forward to improve “version zero” of the GBEP methodological framework and next steps.

The Task Force acknowledged comments and feedback received regarding the GBEP common methodological framework and discussed the use and dissemination of this tool. One Partner highlighted that the GBEP methodological framework may become a useful tool for domestic measurement and reporting under the Copenhagen Accord, while another Partner suggested that the framework could be a useful tool in the evaluation of development projects. In addition, researchers and policy makers may find the framework useful as a means for comparison of the current operational bioenergy GHG emissions accounting schemes (e.g. EU, US and the “Sustainability Quick Check for Biofuels” developed by the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research –EMPA) in order to identify differences as well as possibilities for convergence.

In order to define a clear and effective communication strategy to disseminate the GBEP Common Methodological Framework and collect more tests and comments, the Task Force agreed to make publicly available, through the GBEP website, the questionnaires compiled so far and to establish a clearing-house mechanism in order to allow users to compare across submissions, exchange documents and studies as well as to learn from other users' experience. This activity will also aim to provide an easily accessible reference of examples for developing countries when designing life cycle analyses for bioenergy.

Partners with experience on clearing house mechanism development and management were invited to provide the Secretariat with technical support on how to set up the structure of this system, within the GBEP web site.

The Task Force agreed to examine the current version of the GBEP methodological framework in the light of the feedback received in the testing phase, with the main goal of improving the clarity of the document.

Timeline

19 April 2010	The Task Force co-chairs will finalize a way forward to be circulated among Partners and Observers in preparation of the SC meeting (7 May 2010)
7 May 2010	The 9th GBEP Steering Committee meeting to discuss the proposed way forward to improve and communicate the methodological framework.
July 2010	Possible Task Force meeting back to back to the TF on Sustainability in order to finalize Version One of the methodological framework and, as necessary, to determine detailed steps to affect public access to the framework.
Spring 2011	Possible publication of Version One of the GBEP common methodological framework for GHG lifecycle analysis of bioenergy.