

# Results from the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability: ENV Indicators

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# ENV Achievements in 2017



## Environment Sub-Group (ENV)

- 6 virtual meetings during 2017, each meeting addressed 1 or 2 ENV indicators
- Broad participation of GBEP partners and observers
- Very good inputs and material provided, covering new data, methods, and country experiences
- Concise and timely note-taking by the Secretariat
- Draft Report for Implementation Guide
- TFS ENV Subgroup **Draft Report** on Indicators 1 – 8

# ENV Indicator 1: Key findings

## Lifecycle GHG emissions – main challenges:

- Scope of LCA (imports?)  
Coherence in scope for bioenergy and fossil life-cycles
- Accounting for potential climate feedbacks (albedo...)  
Suggested approach: outside of scope, focus on GHG
- Inclusion of potential soil organic carbon (SOC) storage  
Focus on flows, not stocks

## 2018 potential further work:

Inclusion of guidance concerning imports for bioenergy

# ENV Indicator 2: Key findings

## Soil Quality – main challenges:

- Data availability on soil organic carbon content and its development
- Data availability regarding the amount and distribution of soil improvement measures
- Attribution to bioenergy production (cross-cutting)

## 2018 potential further work:

Further guidance on how to identify high-risk areas, describe bioenergy crop properties in terms of risks for soil quality (e.g. erosion risk, humus depletion)

# ENV Indicator 3: Key findings

## Harvest levels of wood resources – main challenges:

- Data availability in some countries
- Determination of the share of woodfuel coming from forests (attribution)
- Aggregated national data –can be misleading when masking regional differences

## 2018 potential further work:

See ENV draft report

## ENV Indicator 4: Key findings

### **Emissions of non-GHG air pollutants, incl. air toxics – main challenges:**

- Measurement is quite burdensome (data and tools required; LCA scope – see Indicator 1)
- Very skill intensive, requires involvement of team of expert chemists and engineers

### **2018 potential further work:**

**Supplementary data sources to be determined**

# ENV Indicator 5: Key findings

## Water use and efficiency – main challenges:

- Correct level and timeframe for analysis  
Suggested approach: consider dry years when determining the average
- Ensuring that reference values are available for comparison of data

## 2018 potential further work:

Compile reference from which to compare watersheds

# ENV Indicator 6: Key findings

## Water quality – main challenges:

- Attribution - often good data on national level on pollutant loading as contributions by sector - but bioenergy is not a sector (transcends sectors)  
Coherence in scope for bioenergy and fossil life-cycles
- Several tools available – which one to use?

## 2018 potential further work:

Attribution; more tools, e.g. SWAT



# ENV Indicator 7: Key findings

## Biological diversity in the landscape – main challenges:

- Data availability
- Definition of “nationally recognized areas”  
Suggested approach: extend to available mapped areas
- Habitat corridors between areas of high biodiversity value or critical ecosystems should be considered

## 2018 potential further work:

Consider “connectedness”, update data sources

# ENV Indicator 8: Key findings

## Land use and land-use change related to bioenergy feedstock production – main challenges:

- Attribution (cross-cutting issue)
- Time component of land-use change (variations due to weather etc.); suggested approach: averaging!
- Data sources (UNCCD...)

## 2018 potential further work:

Attribution; update of data sources

# Towards an Implementation Guide!



- **Consider additional** virtual meetings to resolve open issues (LCA scope...) in early 2018
- **Prepare draft ENV section** of Implementation Guide (April/May)
- Virtual discussion on draft (June)
- **Final draft** (July/August)

# More Information



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