

GBEP Task Force on Sustainability: Results for ENV Indicators

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ENV Achievements

Environment Sub-Group (ENV)

- **Issue of LCA scope** (Indicators 1, 4...): **agreement on revised wording** after extensive discussions
- No group meetings due to work overload of ENV Lead (IEA Bioenergy, IPCC SRCCL...) – mea culpa!
- TFS ENV Subgroup **Draft Report** on Indicators 1 – 8 (to be distributed before Xmas)

ENV Indicator 1: Key findings

Lifecycle GHG emissions – main challenges:

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

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

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

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

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 – referring in the Guidance

ENV Indicator 7: Key findings

Biological diversity in the landscape – main challenges:

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

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.)
agreed approach: averaging
- Data sources (FAO, UNCCD...) – still challenging!

More Information



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