

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

Ensuring that biofuels deliver on their promise of sustainability



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Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

Energy Center 

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

We are an **international multi-stakeholder** initiative developing principles and criteria for sustainable biofuels production that will be:

- **Simple, accessible** and implemented worldwide
- **Generic** to all crops
- **Adaptable** to new information
- **Efficient and cheap** to measure
- **In line with WTO rules**
(use ISEAL code)
- 4 Working Groups – GHG, Social, Environment and Implementation

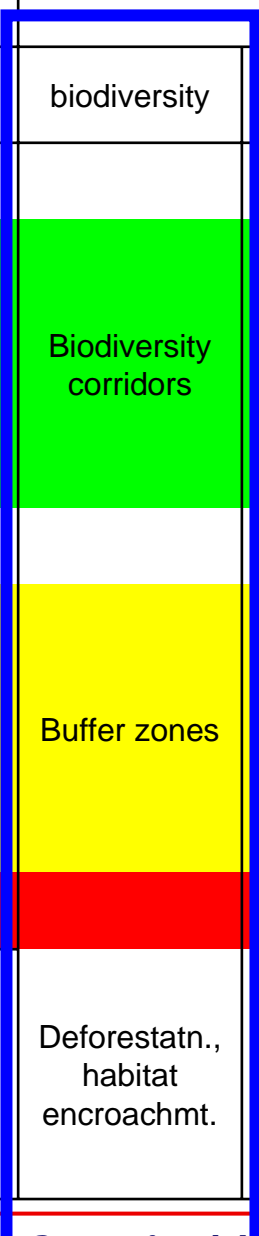


Version Zero - RSB Standard

	Direct	Indirect
National Law (especially land, labor, water rights)	✓	
Community Consultation (especially to determine land rights, social & environmental impact, idle land, resolve grievances)	✓	
Social – biofuels should benefit rural communities and workers	✓	
should not contribute to food insecurity	✓	✓
GHG - significantly better over lifecycle than fossil fuel	✓	✓
Environmental – conserve and protect soil, water, air	✓	
conserve and protect high conservation values	✓	✓
Technology – (esp. biotech) should be used responsibly and transparently, contribute to income or sustainability	✓	
Economic Efficiency - economically viable, continuous improvement		

Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels - Draft Scorecard Concept

Overall Energy and Greenhouse Gas Efficiency	Conservation of Natural Resources				Social Concerns		
	biodiversity	soil health	air quality	water use	Food security	Working conditions	
Considerable reduction of ecol./ social footprint	Low GHG emissions, maximize carbon sequestration (e.g. low-till)	Biodiversity corridors	Restore degraded land	No sig. impact on air quality on farm or at processing facility	No sig. impact on local water quality or quantity	Use of degraded or idle land	Best-practice wages and working conditions
Small or no reduction on ecol./ social footprint	10-90% GHG emissions as compared to fossil fuel	Buffer zones	Erosion protection	Moderate impact on air quality	Moderate impact on local water quality, quality		
No or negative impact on ecol./ social footprint	High N2O emissions from fertilizers, conversion of high carbon-stock land	Deforestation., habitat encroachmt.			Water pollution, significant reduction in water availability		Hazardous or illegal working conditions



Categories

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
12. Land rights

Human & labor
Rural & social
Food



security

Conservation

PRINCIPLE Soil

Biofuel production shall avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, and areas of High Conservation Value.

Water

Air

Technologies

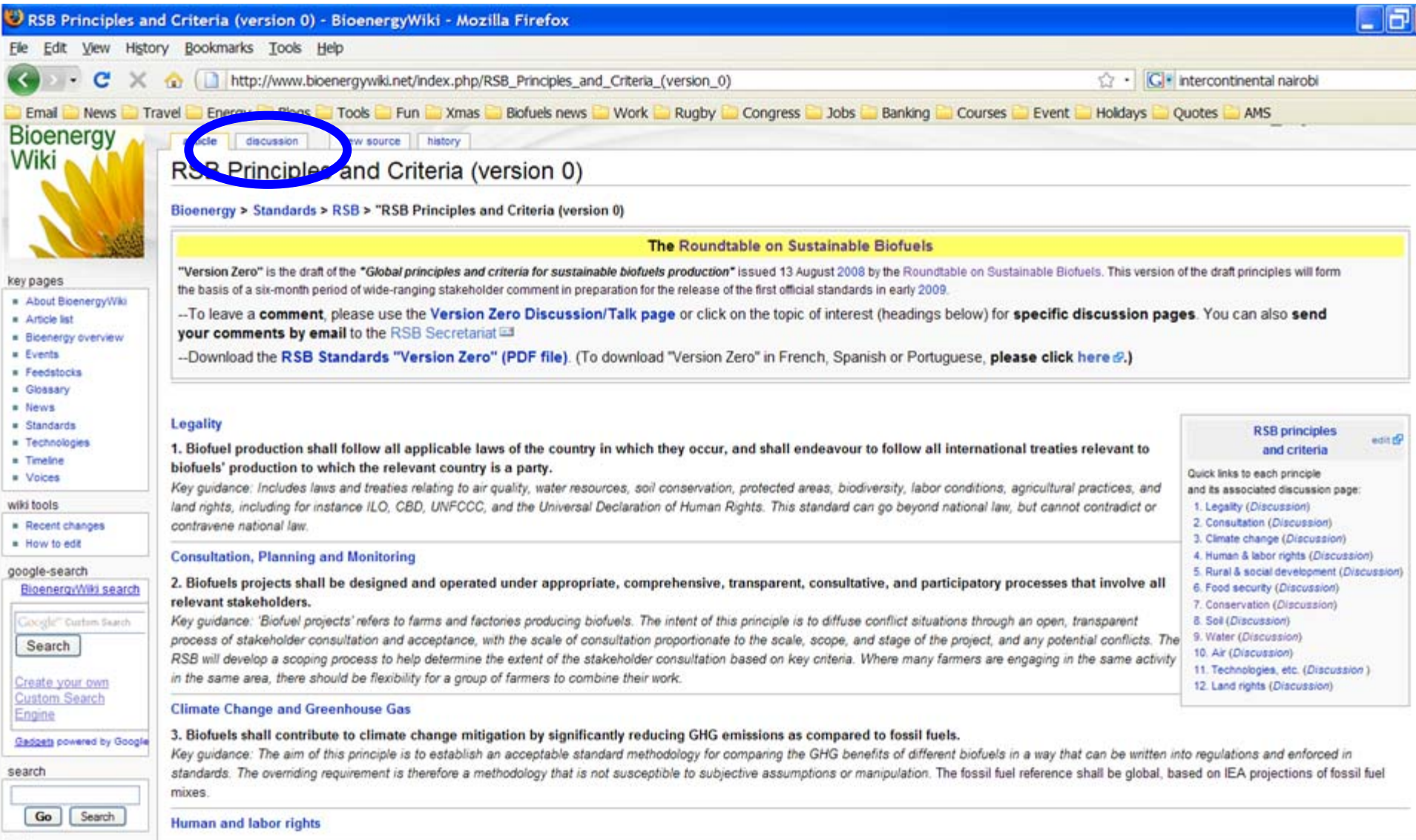
Conservation Criteria

- 7.a High Conservation Value areas, native ecosystems, ecological corridors and other public and private biological conservation areas shall be identified and protected.
- 7.b Ecosystem functions and services shall be preserved.
- 7.c Buffer zones shall be protected or created.
- 7.d Ecological corridors shall be protected or restored.

Conservation Criteria

- 7.a High Conservation Value areas, native ecosystems, ecological corridors and other public and private biological conservation areas shall be identified and protected.
- Guidance: The identification must be performed prior to any new project. Identification and mapping of HCV areas should be undertaken by governmental, inter-governmental, and conservation organizations, as part of larger participatory processes involving local communities and non-biofuel sectors. Where such mapping is occurring, the results shall be respected by producers. Where such maps do not exist, large-scale producers shall use existing recognized toolkits such as the HCV toolkit or the IBAT. Producers or cooperatives unable to perform an environmental impact assessment and/or a land management plan will need support. **The use of native crops shall be preferred.** Indirect conversions and loss of high conservation values shall be assessed and minimised (the RSB will work on appropriate methodologies and models to assess indirect impacts). Hunting, fishing, ensnaring, poisoning and exploitation of endangered and legally protected species are prohibited on the production site.

It's not too late for your comments too!



RSB Principles and Criteria (version 0) - BioenergyWiki - Mozilla Firefox

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http://www.bioenergywiki.net/index.php/RSB_Principles_and_Criteria_(version_0)

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discuss

RSB Principles and Criteria (version 0)

Bioenergy > Standards > RSB > "RSB Principles and Criteria (version 0)"

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

"Version Zero" is the draft of the "Global principles and criteria for sustainable biofuels production" issued 13 August 2008 by the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels. This version of the draft principles will form the basis of a six-month period of wide-ranging stakeholder comment in preparation for the release of the first official standards in early 2009.

--To leave a **comment**, please use the [Version Zero Discussion/Talk page](#) or click on the topic of interest (headings below) for **specific discussion pages**. You can also **send your comments by email** to the [RSB Secretariat](#)

--Download the [RSB Standards "Version Zero" \(PDF file\)](#). (To download "Version Zero" in French, Spanish or Portuguese, [please click here](#).)

Legality

1. Biofuel production shall follow all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and shall endeavour to follow all international treaties relevant to biofuels' production to which the relevant country is a party.

Key guidance: Includes laws and treaties relating to air quality, water resources, soil conservation, protected areas, biodiversity, labor conditions, agricultural practices, and land rights, including for instance ILO, CBD, UNFCCC, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This standard can go beyond national law, but cannot contradict or contravene national law.

Consultation, Planning and Monitoring

2. Biofuels projects shall be designed and operated under appropriate, comprehensive, transparent, consultative, and participatory processes that involve all relevant stakeholders.

Key guidance: 'Biofuel projects' refers to farms and factories producing biofuels. The intent of this principle is to diffuse conflict situations through an open, transparent process of stakeholder consultation and acceptance, with the scale of consultation proportionate to the scale, scope, and stage of the project, and any potential conflicts. The RSB will develop a scoping process to help determine the extent of the stakeholder consultation based on key criteria. Where many farmers are engaging in the same activity in the same area, there should be flexibility for a group of farmers to combine their work.

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas

3. Biofuels shall contribute to climate change mitigation by significantly reducing GHG emissions as compared to fossil fuels.

Key guidance: The aim of this principle is to establish an acceptable standard methodology for comparing the GHG benefits of different biofuels in a way that can be written into regulations and enforced in standards. The overriding requirement is therefore a methodology that is not susceptible to subjective assumptions or manipulation. The fossil fuel reference shall be global, based on IEA projections of fossil fuel mixes.

Human and labor rights

RSB principles and criteria

Quick links to each principle and its associated discussion page:

1. Legality ([Discussion](#))
2. Consultation ([Discussion](#))
3. Climate change ([Discussion](#))
4. Human & labor rights ([Discussion](#))
5. Rural & social development ([Discussion](#))
6. Food security ([Discussion](#))
7. Conservation ([Discussion](#))
8. Soil ([Discussion](#))
9. Water ([Discussion](#))
10. Air ([Discussion](#))
11. Technologies, etc. ([Discussion](#))
12. Land rights ([Discussion](#))

See www.bioenergywiki.net

Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

Energy Center 

Sustainability schemes

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	Principle 6: Environmental impact Principle 9 Maintenance of HCV forests <i>6.9 The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</i>
Globalgap (previously EUREPGAP)	Principle 5: Environment and Conservation
Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	Principle 1 Principle 2
Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB)	Principle 7: Conservation and Biodiversity <i>The use of native crops shall be preferred.</i>
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)	Principle 5: Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity
Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO)	Principle 2: Biodiversity Conservation
Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS)	Principle 9: Protection of biodiversity
Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN)	Principle 2: Ecosystem Conservation Principle 3: Wildlife Protection <i>Exotic wildlife must not be introduced into the farm.</i>

Contact



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<http://EnergyCenter.epfl.ch/Biofuels>

Introduction of species that have invasive risks should be avoided. The consequences of invasion by feedstock species should be fully considered and remedial actions built into the biofuel programme.