

# Annual Report 2011



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## Table of Contents

<b>I. EDITORIAL</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>II. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INITIATIVES IN 2011/12</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>III. STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<b>5</b>
A. RSB GHG TOOL .....	5
B. POLICY FOR BIOFUELS PRODUCED OUT OF END-OF-LIFE PRODUCTS (MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND USED COOKING OIL) AND WASTEWATER .....	6
C. RSB GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL IMPACTS (PROJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE RSB STANDARD--FUNDED BY THE SWISS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY).....	6
D. REVISED SCREENING TOOL.....	8
<b>IV. EU RECOGNITION</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>V. ISEAL MEMBERSHIP: FULL MEMBERSHIP AND PROJECTS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>VI. ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS SERVICES FOUNDATION UPDATES</b> .....	<b>9</b>
A. LEGAL INCORPORATION AND RSB SERVICES TEAM.....	9
B. FIRST RSB CERTIFICATE .....	9
C. RSB SERVICES – BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	10
D. AUDITOR TRAININGS.....	11
E. RSB SERVICES OUTREACH .....	11
F. RSB SERVICES FOUNDATION WEBSITE CREATION.....	11
<b>VII. MOVING FORWARD ON INDIRECT IMPACTS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>VIII. ESTABLISHING EQUIVALENCES AND BENCHMARKING</b> .....	<b>12</b>
A. TOWARDS THE RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL EQUIVALENCES IN CANADA .....	12
B. MEXICO, PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND ETHIOPIA.....	13
C. RAINFOREST ALLIANCE/SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE NETWORK.....	13
<b>IX. REGIONAL INITIATIVES</b> .....	<b>14</b>
A. ACTIVITIES IN BRAZIL .....	14
B. TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS IN ETHIOPIA? A PROJECT FUNDED BY THE SUSTAINABLE BIOMASS CONSORTIUM.....	15
<b>X. SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (SSTI)</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>XI. MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENTS</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>XII. STEERING BOARD DEVELOPMENTS</b> .....	<b>17</b>
A. NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS.....	17
B. RSB STEERING BOARD MEETING AND TELECONFERENCES.....	17
<b>XIII. RSB SECRETARIAT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENTS</b> .....	<b>18</b>
A. SÉBASTIEN HAYE – NEW ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY .....	18

B.	ANNE-SOPHIE DÖRNBRACK .....	18
C.	ALWIN KOPSE .....	18
D.	ANNIE SUGRUE .....	18
E.	MATT RUDOLF AND PETER RYUS.....	18
<b>XIV.</b>	<b>OUTREACH: NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE</b>	
<b>RSB</b>	<b>18</b>	
A.	CHALLENGE BIBENDUM (BERLIN, MAY 18-22, 2011).....	18
B.	ASIA-PACIFIC RSB MEMBERS' CAUCUS (KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 1, 2011) .....	18
C.	REGIONAL OUTREACHES - HAWAII (SEPTEMBER 2011).....	19
D.	GLOBAL BIOPACT MEETINGS (SEP. 26-27, 2011 AND FEB. 15-17, 2012).....	19
E.	BIOFUELS INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS (OCT., NOV. & DEC. 2011).....	19
F.	19TH SECTION FALL MEETING: THE ABA ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND RESOURCES LAW SUMMIT (INDIANAPOLIS, OCT. 12-15, 2011).....	19
G.	ICAO AVIATION AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE FUELS WORKSHOP (MONTREAL, OCT. 18-20, 2011) .....	19
H.	SHELL-IUCN MEETING (OCT. 18, 2011).....	20
I.	3ÈME CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LES BIOCARBURANTS EN AFRIQUE (OUAGADOUGOU, NOV. 14-16, 2011).....	20
J.	BIOENERGY AUSTRALIA, IEA EXCO AND TSG7 (SUNSHINE COAST, NOV. 24-26, 2011).....	20
K.	WORLD FUTURE ENERGY SUMMIT (ABU DHABI, JAN. 16-20, 2012).....	21
L.	OECD – GREEN GROWTH AND THE FUTURE OF AVIATION (JAN. 23-24, 2012).....	21
M.	WORKSHOP: AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES THAT RESPECT LAND RIGHTS AND FOOD SECURITY (THE HAGUE, FEB. 20, 2012).....	21
N.	WORLD BIOFUELS MARKET 2012 (ROTTERDAM, MAR. 13-15, 2012) .....	21
O.	6 <sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM (MARSEILLE, MAR. 12-17, 2012) .....	22
P.	6 <sup>TH</sup> AVIATION & ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT 2012 (GENEVA, MAR. 21-22, 2012) .....	22
Q.	SOCIAL ASPECTS OF BIOENERGY SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP (WASHINGTON, D.C., APR. 24, 2012) .....	22
R.	SUSTAINABLE BIOMASS FOR ELECTRICITY (GÜSSING, MAY 1-4, 2012) .....	22
S.	ICAO'S SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE (MONTREAL, MAY 22-25, 2012) .....	22
<b>XV.</b>	<b>FINANCIAL REPORTING.....</b>	<b>23</b>
A.	BALANCE STATEMENT.....	23
B.	EXPENSES .....	23

## I. Editorial

This annual report covers the activities of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012 (please note that the sections on finances and membership only cover the period until March 31).

In the last twelve months, the RSB has entered a new phase, following the official launch of the RSB certification system in March 2011. The creation of the RSB Services Foundation in October 2011 is of utmost importance with regards to the implementation of the RSB Standards and Certification System.

This new phase is bringing the RSB closer to the reality of biofuel operators. Implementation provides essential feedback on the practicality of the RSB certification systems by pointing out potential improvements.

The Secretariat is showing outstanding proactivity and creativity in addressing the issues related to the practicality and cost-efficiency of the RSB certification systems, while guaranteeing transparency and participation in the decision-making process. Combining robustness and flexibility remains the strength of the RSB.

On standard development front, the Secretariat developed a specific regime, applicable to biofuels made from end-of-life products, such as Municipal Solid Waste, Used Cooking Oil and wastewater, thereby allowing operators to be audited through a simplified process. This special regime was approved by the RSB Constituencies in November 2011. A similar regime is currently being developed for by-products and residues, which should be formally approved by the end of 2012.

In parallel, the RSB staff, in collaboration with a group of social experts, further improved the RSB guidelines for conducting social impact assessments on complex issues such as food security and land rights. This revision improves the accuracy and quality of the RSB guidelines while making them more explicit and more accessible to operators.

On the regulatory front, the European Commission confirmed the recognition of the RSB Standard and Certification System under the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) in July 2011. Although there was little doubt about this recognition (the RSB Standard covers a larger number of sustainability issues than the RED), this decision constitutes an important milestone, as it allows RSB-certified operators to access the EU biofuel market.

A few weeks before the EU Recognition, the RSB became a Full ISEAL Member after demonstrating compliance with the ISEAL Code of Good Practices for Standard-setting Organisations. This membership is unique among EU-recognized schemes and comes as a reward for the long standing commitment of the RSB to be a truly multi-stakeholder and transparent process. We are all very proud of this recognition. For more information on ISEAL, see [www.isealalliance.org](http://www.isealalliance.org).

These forthcoming months will certainly prove decisive for the future of the RSB. With several companies currently going through the certification process, RSB Services will strive to enhance the visibility and uptake of the RSB Standard among biofuel businesses. In the meantime, the RSB will acquire full autonomy with the creation of a separate entity outside of EPFL, which has initiated and hosted the RSB for more than five years. Many exciting challenges ahead!

Our warmest thanks, as always, to our staff, members, partners and supporters worldwide.



Sébastien Haye, Acting Executive Secretary

## II. Major Accomplishments and Initiatives in 2011/12

- *First RSB Certificate issued*

In February 2012, the first RSB certification was issued. Shoalhaven Starches Ltd., part of the Manildra Group of Companies, in New South Wales, Australia produces anhydrous ethanol from starchy wastewater, produced as a by-product of wheat processing. For more information please see section VI.B.

- *EU Recognition*

On July 19, 2011 the European Union recognized the standards and certification system of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) as a way to demonstrate and document compliance with the sustainability requirements of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC). For more information please see section IV.

- *Full ISEAL Membership*

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels has committed to follow the ISEAL Codes of Good Practice from the beginning. This long-term effort was rewarded in June 2011, when the RSB was accepted as a Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance after demonstrating compliance with the ISEAL Code of Good Practices for Standard-setting Organisations. For more information please see section V.

- *RSB Services Foundation*

In October 2011, the RSB Services Foundation was legally incorporated in the United States as a 501(c)3 non-profit. RSB Services is the sister organization of the RSB, in charge of the implementation and promotion of the RSB Standard and Certification System. For more information please see section VI.

- *Launching of the Transition Process*

After more than five years spent under the auspices of the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, the RSB will become an autonomous entity by the end of 2012. The transition process was initiated by the Steering Board at the end of 2011, in collaboration with the EPFL Energy Center. For more information please see section XII.B.

## III. Standards development

### A. RSB GHG Tool

In June 2011, the RSB launched the RSB Tool, an online software developed by the RSB in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Material Sciences & Technology (EMPA) and the Technical University (HTW) Berlin. The main function of the tool is to perform lifecycle GHG calculations using the RSB and EU RED methodologies. Initially, the tool allowed operators to conduct an RSB Self-Assessment, self-risk assessment, and to apply for certification. Since the first quarter of 2012, these three functions are hosted on the [RSB Services website](#). The *RSB GHG calculator* is still hosted on the [HTW server](#), though it will be moved to a permanent server shortly. Meanwhile, the project partners RSB, EMPA and HTW Berlin have been working to make the RSB GHG Tool even more user-friendly and to greatly improve its functionalities by, for instance, allowing users to print out or save a copy of their inputs and results. The technical development of the Tool by EMPA and

HTW Berlin, as well as its maintenance and further improvements, are mainly financed by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO and Novozymes.

## **B. Policy for biofuels produced out of end-of-life products (Municipal Solid Waste and Used Cooking Oil) and wastewater**

On November 25, the RSB Steering Board approved a specific policy for the certification of biofuels generated from end-of-life products (Municipal Solid Waste and Used Cooking Oil) and wastewater. As the RSB Standard and Certification Process are primarily designed for conventional biofuel supply chains, which include dedicated crop cultivation, it has to be adapted to the specificities of end-of-life products and wastewater, in particular:

- These feedstocks are generated at the end of the life-cycle of existing production chain regardless of their possible use for biofuels.
- The impacts caused by the existing production chain, which generates end-of-life products or wastewater do not increase with the use of these feedstocks for biofuel production.
- The traceability of end-of-life products and wastewater upstream from the collection point is technically limited.

Taking these elements into account, the RSB constituencies decided to start certification audits for Municipal Solid Wastes, Used Cooking Oil and wastewater at the stage where these raw materials are specifically processed for the purpose of biofuel production. The policy requires biofuel operators using Municipal Solid Waste to ensure that the feedstock has a minimum of 50% biogenic content and is pre-sorted so that recyclables and hazardous components are removed. The [full policy](#) and [FAQs](#) are available on the RSB website.

## **C. RSB Guidelines on Social Impacts (project: Further development of the RSB standard--funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency)**

The Swiss Development Cooperation Agency supported EPFL Energy Center to work on the social aspects of the RSB standard and specifically to develop guidelines for compliance by operators. The project ran from February 2011 to May 2012. The goals of the project were:

1. The development of RSB guidelines for operators on local economic development (P5), local food security (P6), water rights (P9a) and land rights (P12). This work was conducted with the support of a group of ten international experts which met twice in person in Lausanne (June 2011 and February 2012) and otherwise worked remotely. The following table lists the experts who contributed to the work and their affiliation:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>
<b>Helena Barton (RSB Evaluator)</b>	Director	Corporate Context, United Kingdom
<b>Sigrid Brynestad</b>	Principal Project manager, Climate Change and Environmental Services	DNV, Norway
<b>Marcus Colchester</b>	Director	Forest Peoples Programme, United Kingdom – Lead author: RSB Land Rights Guidelines

<b>Rocio Diaz Chavez</b>	Research Fellow, Center for Environmental Policy	Imperial College London, United Kingdom – Lead author: RSB Guidelines on Rural and Social Development
<b>Laura German</b>	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology	University of Georgia, USA (formerly Center for International Forestry Research, Indonesia)
<b>Anna Carla Lopez</b>	Professor	San Diego State University, USA – Lead author: definitions of region of poverty and region of food insecurity
<b>Graham von Maltitz</b>	Senior Researcher	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa – Lead author: RSB Guidelines on Water Rights and Social Impacts
<b>Andrea Rossi</b>	Natural Resources Management Officer (Bioenergy)	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>Annie Sugrue</b>	Regional Director for Southern Africa	Solidaridad, South Africa
<b>Stephen Thornhill</b>	Lecturer and Research Fellow, Department of Food Business and Development	University of Cork, Ireland – Lead Author – RSB Guidelines on Food Security

The updated guidelines for compliance with social criteria are available for download on the RSB website at <http://rsb.epfl.ch/page-24929-en.html>

- Seven field tests were successfully completed in the following countries: Mali, Peru, Mozambique, Brazil, Thailand, Indonesia, and Ethiopia. Two of these operations have initiated the RSB certification process in late 2011/beginning of 2012. The field evaluations were also instrumental to test the different versions of the screening tool proposed throughout the lifespan of the project. The following table provides the key information on the seven field evaluations conducted under the umbrella of this project:

<b>Africa</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>S. America</b>	<b>S. America</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Africa</b>
Jatropha	Sugarcane	Sugarcane	Jatropha	Oil palm	Oil palm	Sugarcane
Smallholder-based	Plantation/Estate	Plantation/Estate	Smallholder-based	Smallholder-based	Plantation/Estate	Plantation/Estate
Production	Preparation	Preparation	Preparation	Production	Production	Production
Screening Tool ver. 1.9	Screening Tool ver. 2	Screening Tool ver. 2.1	Screening Tool ver. 2.3	Screening Tool ver. 2.3	Screening Tool ver. 2.4	Screening Tool ver. 2.5

#### **D. Revised Screening Tool**

Principle 2 of the RSB Principles & Criteria requires all operators to conduct an impact assessment, which starts with a screening process. The screening allows the operator to understand where potential impacts might occur, e.g. on soil, water or land rights. When significant impacts are foreseen through the responses to the questions in the screening process, operators must conduct a detailed impact assessment on the topic of concern. In total, the operator may have to conduct several detailed impact assessments, if operations are at risk of causing a number of negative impacts. Similarly, operators with limited risk of impacts may not trigger the need to conduct any detailed impact assessment.

Since some of the requirements in the RSB Principles & Criteria depend on whether a detailed impact assessment was triggered during the screening, the questions and thresholds included in the screening document need to be robust and comprehensive in order to avoid the risk of overlooking potential impacts. At the same time, detailed impact assessments shall only be triggered when necessary, so as to avoid unnecessary costs to operators.

To fulfill these objectives, the screening exercise has been further improved by the RSB Secretariat, in collaboration with RSB Services, and an updated version of the Screening Tool was issued in March 2012. However, a number of additional improvements are still required and an additional revision is expected before the end of 2012.

#### **IV. EU Recognition**

In 2009, the European Union published the EU Directive 2009/28/EC (usually referred to as the Renewable Energy Directive or RED), which establishes the target of 10% of energy used for transport within the EU to come from renewable sources by 2020. To count against the 10% target, biofuels need to comply with certain land-use requirements; e.g. biofuels cannot be produced at the expense of primary forests or carbon rich soils such as peatlands. Additionally, biofuels must demonstrate a minimum of 35% greenhouse gas savings compared to fossil fuels.

To verify the compliance with these requirements, the European Commission (EC) allows biofuels to be certified by recognized certification schemes. The RSB submitted its application for recognition by the European Commission in June 2010. In order to be consistent with the RED terminology, the documents had to be slightly modified and were renamed “Consolidated RSB EU RED” standards. These alterations mostly consisted in adding a list of areas specifically prohibited by the RED for biofuels production, as well as adjusting the rules for chain of custody (e.g. the RSB Content Ratio Accounting System is not allowed under the RED regime). On July 19, 2011, after a thorough internal review and consultation process, the EC publicly announced the recognition of the RSB and 6 other schemes. This decision was enthusiastically welcomed by the RSB community, as it provides RSB certified biofuels with access to the EU market.

#### **V. ISEAL Membership: Full membership and projects**

The ISEAL Alliance brings together the most well-established and recognized sustainability standards and certification schemes, such as the Forest Stewardship Council, Fairtrade International, Rainforest Alliance, Interna-

tional Organic Accreditation Service and Marine Stewardship Council. It aims to define good practices for standard-setting processes, robust assurance systems (accreditation and certification processes), as well as efficient monitoring and evaluation of impacts. [Full members of ISEAL](#) are required to fully comply with the ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice within a given timeframe. The Codes set out criteria such as the need for public consultation periods, mapping of relevant stakeholders, and participation in standard-setting by more vulnerable stakeholders. To find out more about the ISEAL Alliance, please visit [www.isealliance.org](http://www.isealliance.org).

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels committed to following the ISEAL Codes of Good Practice from the beginning of its activities. This long-term effort was rewarded in June 2011 when the RSB was accepted as a Full Member of ISEAL, which is unique among the EU-recognized schemes for biofuel. This demonstrates RSB's successful application of the best practices for development of sustainability standards.

As part of the next steps, the RSB Secretariat is currently developing a Theory of Change and a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, in line with the ISEAL Impacts Code. In addition, the RSB is has been involved in ISEAL's "Demonstrating Impacts" project, which studies the contribution that standard systems make towards improving livelihoods and reducing poverty among smallholder producers and laborers.

## **VI. Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels Services Foundation Updates**

### **A. Legal incorporation and RSB Services Team**

In October 2011, the RSB Services Foundation was legally incorporated in the United States as a 501(c)3 non-profit. Peter Ryus was appointed as CEO of RSB Services and Matt Rudolf took up the position of Regional Director, Americas. In May 2012, the RSB Services Foundation grew from a two team members to four. Dr. Melanie Williams joins the RSB Services Foundation as Regional Director for Europe, Middle East and Africa. She previously worked at SERCO, leading the Environmental Measurements Group at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in the UK for over seven years. Dr. Williams will be leading the RSB Service Foundations outreach and sales efforts in her region. Helena Tavares Kennedy joins the RSB Services Foundation as Director of Marketing and Communications. She has over 14 years of experience and will manage the RSB Services Foundation's activities in advertising, business development strategy, content management, communications, events, and website. The RSB Services Foundation will work closely with the RSB on the implementation of the RSB standard.

### **B. First RSB certificate**

The RSB announced the certification of the first operator, Shoalhaven Starches Ltd., part of the Manildra Group of Companies, in New South Wales, Australia in February 2012. Shoalhaven Starches produces anhydrous ethanol from starchy wastewater, produced as a by-product of wheat processing. Their audit was performed by NCS International, under close supervision by the interim integrity body AB Training. The completion of RSB certification by Manildra offers tangible evidence that sustainable biofuels may be efficiently and economically produced at a large scale while adhering to ambitious social and environmental standards. The [summary report](#) of the audit is publicly available. Several other operations around the world are currently in different stages of the audit process and are expected to shortly follow Manildra in paving the way towards biofuels that deliver on their sustainability promises.

### **C. RSB Services – Board of Directors**

- Mr. Mitchell R. Hawkins, Chair:

Mr. Hawkins is the Chairman of Biojet International, a leading worldwide supply chain integrator for renewable jet fuel. He strongly believes that the opportunity before us is to address the 5,000 year legacy of depletion and destruction of our natural resources and transform it into a potential \$100 Trillion worldwide inventory of restorable and renewable assets.

- Prof. Hans B. Püttgen, Treasurer:

Dr. Püttgen is the treasurer of RSB Services. He holds the Chair de Gestion des Systèmes Energétiques (Energy Systems Management) at the EPFL, where in April 2006 he became the inaugural Director of the Energy Center, a university-wide and cross-disciplinary organization with the responsibility of coordinating all R&D activities on campus related to energy. Professor Püttgen was previously Georgia Power Professor and Vice Chair for External Affairs in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He holds an engineering degree in Electrical Engineering from EPFL, and graduate degrees in Business Administration and Management from the University of Lausanne. His PhD, in Electrical Engineering with an emphasis in electric power, is from the University of Florida.

- Mr. Leonardo Rosario, Secretary:

The Secretary of RSB Services Foundation's Board is Leonardo Rosario, Executive Director of the Trowel Development Foundation, which provides community development and management services to small-scale fishers, rural women, and rural youth and also works with small agricultural producers in community-based sustainable biofuels production through processing of coconut and nipa sap into bio-ethanol. He also monitors a Jatropha demonstration project.

- Dr. Jennifer Holmgren, Board Member:

RSB Services Foundation has added two new Board members to the original three, including Dr. Jennifer Holmgren who joined in April 2012. Dr. Holmgren is the Chief Executive Officer of LanzaTech, a bio-fuel company recognized as a world-leader in energy innovation. She has over 20 years of experience in the energy sector including a proven track record in the development and commercialization of fuels and chemicals technologies.

- Mr. Cameron Byers, Board Member:

Mr. Cameron Byers was most recently Senior Vice President & General Manager at Solazyme, a renewable oils company and a member of the RSB. He was previously President & CEO of BP Energy Co. He received his B.Com Honors degree in Economics and International Business from University of Edinburgh, and is a graduate of INSEAD's Executive Development Program. He currently is an independent business advisor for early growth companies with a focus on alternative and renewable energy. He is also an advisor and member of the MIT Enterprise Forum and the Houston Technology Center.

## **D. Auditor Trainings**

The RSB Services Foundation and AB Training have launched the RSB Training Program for Auditors and Lead Auditors in May 2012. The training program combines a series of online courses with a short face-to-face training which gives RSB auditors the knowledge and practical skills they need to perform audits to the RSB requirements. The [course brochure](#) is available [here](#). The first three face-to-face training sessions were held on June 25-27, 2012 in Europe, on July 11-13, 2012 in the USA and on September 26-28 in Brazil.

## **E. RSB Services Outreach**

The RSB Services team has been very active in attending relevant industry events and getting the word out that the RSB certification program is now available. Team members have recently attended and/or spoken at the following events:

- World Biofuels Market 2012 (Rotterdam, Netherlands)
- Advanced Biofuels Leadership Conference 2012 (Washington, D.C., U.S.)

These events have opened up the lines of communication with many biofuel entities, from producers to distributors as well as with industry media, which resulted in increased press coverage of the RSB.

## **F. RSB Services Foundation Website Creation**

The RSB Services Foundation launched a website dedicated to the certification process in January 2012, providing tools and resources to biofuel entities seeking RSB certification. A specific web area accessible to applicants provides certification tools to help an entity prepare for the certification process and audit. These tools include:

- A Self-Risk Assessment to determine the applicant's risk classification
- A Self-Evaluation to evaluate the applicant's compliance with RSB Principles & Criteria
- An online Greenhouse Gas (GHG) calculator to calculate the greenhouse gas emissions occurring across the operations managed by the applicant
- An Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) template which serves as a living document the applicant will use and modify on an ongoing basis
- A Screening Tool (see also section III.D), which is an online exercise to help entities identify areas that need to be more closely monitored or to determine if a more detailed study or assessment of a particular aspect of the operation is required.

RSB Services Website: <http://rsbservices.org/>

## **VII. Moving forward on Indirect Impacts**

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) has discussed the issue of indirect impacts of biofuel production since 2007. In its June 2010 in-person meeting, the RSB Steering Board acknowledged that the risk of indirect impacts is an "important issue", but requested that, prior to making a decision on the subject, further work be conducted by the RSB Secretariat at EPFL. There was a need to better understand the link between biofuels and indirect impacts, to better establish how indirect impacts risks may be mitigated at the project level, and to further research how the concept of "additionality" may be addressed in practice. To that effect, the Steering

Board encouraged the Secretariat to progress on the development of the Low Indirect Impact Biofuels (LIIB) methodology, as well as to continue collaborating with the RSB Indirect Impacts Expert Group.

The first half of 2012 saw a return of the question on indirect impacts to the forefront of the RSB. The RSB Secretariat has been working on the indirect impacts issue on several fronts. On the one hand, the Indirect Impacts Expert Group (IIEG) continues to be active; in 2011 it met in May and September. In 2012, the IIEG was invited to participate in the public consultation (see below) and some members volunteered to peer review the background document. The activities of the IIEG can be found on the expert group website: <http://rsb.epfl.ch/lang/en/iieg>.

EPFL Energy Center also collaborated with Ecofys, WWF International and other project partners on the **LIIB methodology**, which aims at identifying biofuel feedstocks and production methods with low risk of indirect impacts. The project lasted from mid-2010 to March 2012. The methodology lists certain categories of biofuels/biofuel feedstocks and production practices with a low risk of causing indirect impacts, such as using waste/residue as feedstock, cultivating in unused land, increasing yields, or increasing the productivity of the land by integrating food/feed and bioenergy production. Project sponsorship came from the Dutch development and implementation Agency (NL Agency). The LIIB methodology specifies how to demonstrate aspects such as “yield increases” or the fact that land is “unused” – widely recognized to be complex concepts which are hard to demonstrate. The methodology aims to do so in a straightforward manner that is implementable at the project-level and verifiable in an audit. The methodology is designed to be integrated as an add-on to existing voluntary certification schemes or used in government regulations. **Version 0 of the Low Indirect Impacts of Biofuels (LIIB) methodology** is to be published in August 2012.

On the basis of the knowledge and information compiled within the Indirect Impacts Expert Group and of the EPFL work on the LIIB methodology, the RSB Secretariat organized a public consultation and a chamber consultation on the way forward for the RSB regarding indirect impacts. The Secretariat prepared a **background paper “Indirect impacts of biofuel production and the RSB Standard”** (April 2012), which describes the state of knowledge regarding indirect impacts of biofuels, the potential ways of addressing indirect impacts in the RSB Standard (including the option of not addressing them), and evaluates the options according to a series of parameters.

The **public consultation** was organized by the RSB Secretariat from April 13 – May 15, 2012. The public was asked to send feedback to the Secretariat via a feedback form that asked whether the background document was neutral and objective, and which option(s) for addressing indirect impacts they would suggest. The same background document (slightly modified based on the public consultation) was used to conduct **Chamber calls in the month of May 2012**. The outcomes from the public consultation and chamber calls were fed to the Steering Board as part of the backgrounders for the Board’s in-person meeting (June 2012).

## VIII. Establishing Equivalences and Benchmarking

### A. Towards the recognition of national equivalences in Canada

In January 2012, the RSB Secretariat, in cooperation with RSB Services, decided to start a process of benchmarking of relevant Canadian laws and legislations against the RSB Principles & Criteria. Evidence exists that legal compliance might be deemed equivalent to compliance with some RSB requirements. Therefore such

benchmarking can facilitate the access to the RSB certification process for Canadian stakeholders by reducing the burden and cost of verification by independent auditors. The goal of the project is to identify the extent to which Canadian operators could demonstrate compliance with RSB Principles & Criteria by proving that they are compliant with relevant laws and regulations.

The benchmark analysis is expected to be completed in the second half of 2012 and includes the following steps:

1. Identification of relevant legislation for biofuel operations in Canada.
2. Identification of overlaps between relevant legislation and the environmental and social requirements in the RSB Principles and Criteria.
3. Evaluation of enforcement of the relevant legislation to establish partial or full equivalence with RSB Principles & Criteria.
4. Development of checklists for operators and auditors describing partial and full equivalences for which the demonstration of legal compliance (e.g. legal permits) could be considered sufficient for compliance with the corresponding RSB requirements.

### **B. Mexico, Pacific Northwest and Ethiopia**

Similar regulatory benchmarking were conducted in Mexico, the Pacific Northwest region (USA) and Ethiopia (see also section IX) to better understand how the existing legislation could possibly be used to facilitate the access of operators to the RSB certification system.

### **C. Rainforest Alliance/Sustainable Agriculture Network**

Building on a previous field audit comparison exercise in December 2010 in Colombia, the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) and the Roundtable for Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) jointly agreed to commission a series of comparisons of all relevant RSB and SAN standards and policy documents (benchmarking), with a view of establishing a recognition process of SAN certificates.

The Proforest Initiative was jointly retained as a consultant to aid RSB and SAN in the benchmarking process. The first desk based comparison focused on the two core documents, which describe sustainability requirements for certified operators. These are:

1. The SAN Sustainable Agriculture Standard (July 2010)
2. The RSB Principles & Criteria for Sustainable Biofuel Production (RSB reference code: [RSB-STD-01-001 (Version 2.0)])

In agreement with SAN and RSB, the comparison used an MS Excel comparative framework based on the criteria developed by the Sustainability Standards Transparency Initiative (SSTI) – a project in which both schemes participate.

The sustainability requirements of RSB and SAN were tabulated against the SSTI criteria. For each of them, the consultant established whether:

- The given SAN and RSB requirements are equivalent; or
- SAN requirement is more stringent than the corresponding RSB requirement, if any; or
- RSB requirement is more stringent than the corresponding SAN requirement, if any.

The RSB and SAN Secretariats analyzed the results and held discussions to improve the accuracy of the analysis based on their own interpretation and field experience, identify key issues and agree on a possible way forward. From the RSB side, each step was conducted in agreement with RSB Services.

The Secretariat invited the Steering Board to approve the following steps in its in-person meeting (June 2012):

- SAN-certified farms can be considered compliant with all RSB Principles & Criteria, with the exception of Principle 3 (Greenhouse Gas) and Principle 6 (Food Security).
- RSB could certify SAN-certified farms through a simplified audit process to reduce costs for the operators, pending further comparison of chain of custody and assurance for both systems.
- RSB and SAN should identify opportunities to increase the number of auditors which are both RSB and SAN accredited.

In addition, the recognition of SAN Certificates by the RSB would have multiple benefits, mostly:

- The possibility for RSB-certified processors to enlarge the number of suppliers they can source from.
- The possibility for SAN certified farms to sell to a wider number of processors, including RSB-certified operators and to access the EU market.
- The Sustainable Agriculture Network and the Rainforest Alliance are considered as credible standard organizations and are founding members of ISEAL. The RSB would benefit from this credibility.

The RSB Steering Board is due to take a decision on the official recognition of SAN Certificates during its in-person meeting (June 2012)<sup>1</sup>.

## **IX. Regional Initiatives**

### **A. Activities in Brazil**

#### **Outreach in Minas Gerais**

In September 2011, the RSB Secretariat, together with Brazilian environmental NGO 4 Cantos do Mundo carried out an outreach on Biofuels, Sustainability and Certification in the state of Minas Gerais, the Brazilian frontier of sugarcane expansion.

The outreach was sponsored by the Dutch development and implementation agency (NL Agency). The outreach consisted in a workshop on certification and sustainability in Uberlândia/Minas Gerais, which was attended by approximately 36 participants from 15 different sectors, including the sugar cane producers' representative, labor union representatives, environmental NGOs, other civil society organizations, certification bodies, and sustainability certification schemes. Both the RSB and Bonsucro were presented as voluntary sustainability schemes. The main outcome was a better understanding of the benefits and limitations of certification, as well

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<sup>1</sup> Note that this recognition was approved in June 2012, but this decision falls outside the time frame of this Annual Report.

as the recognition of the need to increase awareness and allow the creation of a participatory and multi-sectorial process towards sustainability of biofuels.

EPFL and 4 Cantos do Mundo prepared a workshop report which is publicly available at the [NL Agency website](#).

### **Roadmap for Sustainable Aviation Biofuels for Brazil (SABB)**

EPFL was invited to participate in the Roadmap for Sustainable Aviation Biofuels for Brazil (SABB), taking place during eight stakeholder meetings and regional outreaches from April to December 2012. The meetings will be held in different areas of Brazil.

The purpose of the SABB roadmap is to conduct a comprehensive national assessment of the technological, economic and sustainability challenges and opportunities associated with the development of sustainable aviation biofuels in Brazil. The project is sponsored equally by FAPESP, The Boeing Company and Embraer. EPFL will participate in the discussion around sustainability.

### **B. Towards Sustainable Biofuels in Ethiopia? A project funded by the Sustainable Biomass Consortium**

This project started in early 2011 with the establishment of contacts with the Ethiopian government and Ethiopian Airlines through the Boeing Company, a founding member of the Sustainable Biomass Consortium. The Sustainable Biomass Consortium is an initiative launched in 2011 by EPFL and BOEING as inaugural members. The goals of the Consortium are to promote the further development of the biomass and bioenergy sustainability standards established by the RSB; to facilitate the development of implementation tools and mechanisms of such standards; and to foster cooperation and harmonization among sustainability standard initiatives.

The objective of the work was to understand the current regulatory context relevant to the biofuel sector in Ethiopia and propose a number of recommendations on improving and implementing the existing regulations. The process for the development of recommendations to the Ethiopian government included desktop research, stakeholder consultations and field evaluations. The work was coordinated by the RSB Secretariat with the support of local Ethiopian consultants.

The comparison of the existing Ethiopian regulations applicable to biofuels with the RSB Standard shows that there are several existing regulations that are relevant to biofuel production. However, additional regulations are required to comprehensively address potential impacts on the environment and the people, especially in relation to the following RSB Principles:

- Planning, monitoring and continuous improvement
- Rural and social development
- Food security
- Conservation
- Use of inputs/technology
- Land & land use rights.

Based on this comparison analysis, a draft roadmap towards the creation of a national system for sustainable biofuel production was prepared. The roadmap identifies five key activities in line with the RSB Principles & Criteria, including institutional strengthening, the updating of the 2007 National Biofuel Strategy and the establishment of a monitoring system. The report is available on the [RSB website](#).

## X. Sustainability Standards Transparency Initiative (SSTI)

The Sustainability Standards Transparency Initiative (SSTI) is developing a methodology to perform objective and solid in-depth comparisons of standards and certification systems. Through the use of an associated online software, companies and other users may compare the sustainability requirements embedded in different certification systems, EU-RED requirements and national regulations.

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels is one of the founding members of the SSTI with ISEAL, GIZ and the Rainforest Alliance. During the period June 2011 to May 2012, thanks to support provided by the Sustainable Biomass Consortium, the Secretariat participated in the development of a structure for the tool and was able to host a meeting in Lausanne in January 2012 on the comparison of assurance levels. The finalization of the structure of the tool is expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

## XI. Membership Developments

As of 31 March 2012, the RSB membership included 120 members in seven chambers. The full list of current RSB members is listed by chamber category on the RSB website (<http://rsb.epfl.ch/page-24931-en.html>). During the membership period (April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012), 16 new members joined the RSB while 15 organizations left the RSB, mostly for lack of human resources to contribute to the RSB process.

Chambers	Apr. 10-Mar. 11	Apr. 11-Mar. 12	
	Total Members	New Members	Resignations
1. Farmers and growers of biofuel feedstocks	19	5	2
2. Industrial biofuel producers	24	3	2
3. Retailers/blenders & the transportation industry, bank/investors	11	1	1
4. Rights-based NGOs (including land, water, human, and labor rights) & Trade Unions	4	0	0
5. Rural development or food security organizations & smallholder farmer organizations or indigenous peoples' organizations or community-based civil society organizations	9	2	2
6. Environment or conservation organizations & climate change or policy organizations	17	2	1
7. Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), governments, standard-setters, specialist advisory agencies, certification agencies, and consultant experts	36	3	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>

Table 1 Fluctuation of participants' number by chamber

## **XII. Steering Board Developments**

### **A. New Chair and Vice-Chairs**

- The RSB Steering Board reelected Ms. Barbara Bramble (National Wildlife Federation) as Chair in October 2011;
- Mr. Khoo Hock Aun (Cosmo Biofuels) was reelected as Vice-Chair in November 2011;
- Mr. Kevin Fingerman (University of California, Berkeley) was reelected as Vice-Chair in February 2012.

### **B. RSB Steering Board Meeting and Teleconferences**

The Steering Board held one in-person meeting on June 15-17, 2011 in Lausanne and two teleconferences in November 2011 and February 2012. The following outcomes were achieved:

- *Terms of Reference*  
The Terms of Reference were revised and approved by the Steering Board in November 2011. The key changes relate to the definition of claims that RSB Members can make, an updated definition of subsidiary companies, and a clear determination for the locations of corporate headquarters. In addition, the role of alternates on the Board was clarified. The full RSB Terms of Reference are available on the [RSB website](#).
- *Policy on end-of-life products*  
Please see section III.B.
- *Way forward with Indirect Impacts*  
Please see section VII.
- *Two-tiered standards system*  
In June 2011, the Steering Board approved a draft Tier One of the RSB Principles & Criteria, which would provide interested operators with a lower “entry level” into the RSB system. Operators would have three years to transition to Tier Two, i.e. full compliance with the RSB Principles & Criteria and the full RSB claim would be allowed. Due to the recognition of the full RSB Standard by the EU and the lack of demand for Tier One certification, the two-tiered system is currently on hold.
- *Carbon trading platform*  
The option of a carbon trading platform was discussed, but no final decision could be reached. The RSB Secretariat and Members will further discuss the possibilities and gather additional information.
- *Transition towards an independent RSB*  
The Steering Board decided that the time has come for the RSB to become independent of EPFL, and approved the launch of a transition process to create a new legal entity which will handle the stewardship and further development of the RSB Standard. It is planned that the EPFL Energy Center will keep some R&D activities related to biomass and bioenergy sustainability through the Sustainable Biomass Consortium and other projects.
- *Revised Screening Tool*  
Please see section III.D.

### **XIII. RSB Secretariat and Staff Developments**

#### **A. Sébastien Haye – New Acting Executive Secretary**

Sébastien Haye was appointed as Acting Executive Secretary as of January 1, 2012. He joined the RSB in 2007 and worked as Manager for Environmental Affairs for the previous four years.

#### **B. Anne-Sophie Dörnbrack**

Since January 2012 Anne-Sophie Dörnbrack works as manager for projects and partnerships. Her activities include the revision of various components of the RSB Standard and associated documentation, implementation of the Global Biopact project (an EU FP7 project), and a project to improve the guidelines for the compliance with the social principles of the RSB (funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency).

#### **C. Alwin Kopse**

Alwin Kopse left his function as Executive Secretary as of December 31, 2011. The RSB thanks Alwin Kopse for his strong leadership and the great progress of the RSB during his term, which started in July 2009.

#### **D. Annie Sugrue**

Annie Sugrue left her consulting contract with the RSB at the end of September 2011 to work as Regional Director for Southern Africa of Solidaridad. Annie coordinated several projects and working groups concerned with social affairs and the social components of the RSB standards. The RSB wishes her all the best in her future activities.

#### **E. Matt Rudolf and Peter Ryus**

Peter Ryus (former Manager for Certification and Implementation) and Matt Rudolf (former Regional Manager of the Americas) were respectively recruited as CEO and Regional Director for Americas at the RSB Services Foundation, the sister organization of the RSB responsible for certification.

### **XIV. Outreach: Non-exhaustive list of conferences and meetings attended by the RSB**

#### **A. Challenge Bibendum (Berlin, May 18-22, 2011)**

Once again, the RSB was given the opportunity to participate in the Challenge Bibendum, which gathers hundreds of actors from the transportation sector around the challenges of mobility and sustainability. Along with other EPFL projects, the RSB was presented to the public through a booth and a public presentation. Unfortunately, biofuels were not a major topic of interest compared to electric, hydrogen and hybrid vehicles. All the information about the Challenge Bibendum can be found at <http://www.michelinchallengebibendum.com/>

#### **B. Asia-Pacific RSB Members' Caucus (Kuala Lumpur, July 1, 2011)**

In July 2011, the RSB Asian Members Caucus and RSB Services Roll-out Event were held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. These events were attended by 53 participants from the region, composed of feedstock growers and processors, biofuel producers and blenders, as well as plantation advisors, mill consultants, traders and bank-

ers, along with several academic experts and media. RSBS was represented by Peter Ryus. RSB was represented by Barbara Bramble, Khoo Hock Aun, Hafeez Rehman and Leonardo Rosario. The RSB standards were presented, and then the RSBS certification process was explained. Several RSB member organizations presented their own biofuels initiatives. A visit to an independent mill and small producer plantation was organized for the RSB visitors by Vice Chair Khoo Hock Aun.

### **C. Regional Outreaches - Hawaii (September 2011)**

In September 2011, Matthew Rudolf of RSB Services and RSB Chair Barbara Bramble represented the RSB at a series of stakeholder meetings held in different locations in Hawaii, and in meetings with 5 producers of biofuels on the islands. The results of the meetings will be compiled into a report on the suitability for RSB standards to be used as the basis for biofuels decision in Hawaii.

### **D. Global Biopact Meetings (Sep. 26-27, 2011 and Feb. 15-17, 2012)**

The RSB is participating in the Global-Bio-Pact project (“Global-Bio-Pact Global Assessment of Biomass and Bioproduct Impacts on Socio-economics and Sustainability”), which is funded by the “7th Framework Programme” of the EU. The main aim of the project is the development and harmonization of global sustainability certification systems for biomass production, conversion systems and trade in order to prevent negative socio-economic impacts.

The Secretariat attended two Global-Bio-Pact Progress Meetings, which were held on September 26-27, 2011 in Bamako, Mali and on February 15-17, 2012 in London, UK. Both were internal meetings for participants of the Global-Bio-Pact consortium only. For more information please see <http://www.globalbiopact.eu/>

### **E. Biofuels International Meetings (Oct., Nov. & Dec. 2011)**

Biofuels International, one of the leading monthly publications on biofuels, organized a series of international conferences in 2011, which aimed to gather stakeholders from various sectors. Although these meetings primarily targeted the private sector, topics such as sustainability and regulations were thoroughly discussed. The RSB and Biofuels International agreed that the RSB would participate and speak at each of the three events (Canada in October 2011, Belgium in November 2011 and Malaysia in December 2011).

The three meetings provided good opportunities to present the RSB Standard and Certification System to a diverse audience and provided an opportunity for networking.

### **F. 19th Section Fall Meeting: The ABA Environment, Energy, and Resources Law Summit (Indianapolis, Oct. 12-15, 2011)**

In early October, 2011, RSB chair Barbara Bramble prepared a paper entitled: “Biofuels: Neither “Good” nor “Bad” – It all depends” for the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy and Resources. The paper was to be presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> Section meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, later in October, but due to the death of her spouse she was not able to deliver it in person.

### **G. ICAO Aviation and Sustainable Alternative Fuels Workshop (Montreal, Oct. 18-20, 2011)**

In October 2011 the RSB participated in a panel discussion on biofuels sustainability in the aviation sector with a number of participants from the environmental NGO sector, including Paul Steele (ATAG), Jeff Gazzard (Avia-

tion Environment Federation), and Chris Mallins (ICCT). Although Barbara Bramble was slated to speak on the panel, she was unable to do so due to a personal matter, and Matt Rudolf took her place on the panel. Paul Steele kicked off the presentations with a general look into why aviation biofuels should not repeat the mistakes of first generation biofuels. Jeff Gazzard caused a bit of stir when he criticized the aviation sector for not going far enough, and Chris Mallins focused on technical issues regarding indirect land use change.

The RSB presentation gave an overview about how different governments are addressing biofuels sustainability issues, as well as how such issues have been incorporated into lending policies, such as the Inter-American Development Bank's Biofuels Sustainability Scorecard. Finally, the RSB explained why the RSB standard is a good fit for the aviation sector, which requires a globally recognized, feedstock-agnostic standard.

#### **H. Shell-IUCN Meeting (Oct. 18, 2011)**

As part of its strategy to enhance change in business practices, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has a long term partnership with Shell, mostly focused on how this company can improve its approach to biodiversity and conservation issues. On the particular topic of biofuels and sustainability, the RSB Secretariat was invited to participate in the discussion on the achievements and next steps for this partnership, in particular how this partnership could be used to enhance the uptake of standards and certification schemes such as the RSB.

#### **I. 3<sup>ème</sup> Conférence internationale sur les biocarburants en Afrique (Ouagadougou, Nov. 14-16, 2011)**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> conference on biofuels in West Africa took place November 14-16, 2011 in Burkina Faso's capital, Ouagadougou. The conference was widely attended (about 300 participants), mainly African politicians and scientists, developing agencies, and French scientists. Conference co-organizers were CIRAD, 2iE, and others.

The RSB presentation was about the drivers for certification for biofuel for domestic use in Africa. The key message of the presentation was that our current model, based on 3rd party auditing, can be costly and thus not present evident benefits to operators that produce biofuel/feedstock for domestic use. Hence, the RSB Standard could be adapted to streamline it for instances of domestic use/smallholder production; and/or sustainability requirements could be integrated in national/regional regulations, thus paving the way for easier certification (especially if regulations and RSB Standard are benchmarked). The presentation was very well received.

The RSB Secretariat met with Officials from West African countries and will remain involved in the development and implementation of national policies for sustainable biofuels in these countries through ongoing projects.

#### **J. Bioenergy Australia, IEA ExCo and TSG7 (Sunshine Coast, Nov. 24-26, 2011)**

The Bioenergy Australia 2011 conference took place in Sunshine Coast, state of Queensland, Australia on November 24-25, 2011. As part of this conference, the IEA Bioenergy Executive Committee (ExCo) Workshop on "Governing Bioenergy: An International Perspective on Attempts to Define and Promote Sustainable Bioenergy" also took place. The ExCo invited the RSB to participate in the conference and present as part of the ExCo parallel session. The RSB also participated in the Targets and Solutions Group 7 (TSG7) of the World Water Forum on the subject of Water and Bioenergy – the results from the meeting of this group (held on Saturday November 26) were fed into the report that was presented at the WWF in Marseille in March 2012.

### **K. World Future Energy Summit (Abu Dhabi, Jan. 16-20, 2012)**

The World Future Energy Summit (WFES) took place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from 16-20 January 2012. The WFES is a very large international event bringing together policy makers, government leaders, private industry, the financing sector and the public sector and it is dedicated to “future energy”, with particular emphasis on renewable energy. The summit included a Business Forum, with different days devoted to specific clean tech industries and innovation, as well as economic and policy analysis.

EPFL and the RSB participated in the “3rd Sustainable Biofuels Workshop: The Middle East Perspective”, Masdar Institute of Science & Technology (MIST) as part of the EU-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Clean Energy Network conference. The biofuels event featured presentations by MIST, EPFL (Victoria Junquera), RSB (Barbara Bramble), Boeing, Etihad Airways, and the IEA, as well as UAE biofuel producers, among others. Boeing, Etihad and Masdar are involved in a bioenergy production from halophyte salicornia R&D project in the UAE. The event was attended by biofuel stakeholders and government officials from the energy and environmental sectors. The purpose of the event was to show the potential for sustainable bioenergy production in a country like the UAE, where water scarcity is a key consideration.

### **L. OECD – Green Growth and the Future of Aviation (Jan. 23-24, 2012)**

The RSB Executive Secretary was invited to join this high-level discussion attended by several ministers, officials and senior managers from leading companies (Air France, British Airways, BP, Boeing, General Electric, etc.). The discussion aimed at fostering discussions and exchanges around three fundamental questions:

- Do the particularities of the aviation sector make it a special case for policy makers?
- To what extent can biofuels provide the aviation sector with a sustainable way forward?
- What are the most important things governments can do to provide the aviation sector with a clear planning horizon?

Biofuels were discussed as a credible option to further green the aviation sector, provided that sustainability issues would be comprehensively addressed. The meeting provided useful opportunities for networking.

### **M. Workshop: Agricultural Commodities that Respect Land Rights and Food Security (The Hague, Feb. 20, 2012)**

On February 20, 2012, RSB’s Chair Barbara Bramble presented a talk entitled “The RSB Tackles Social Standards” at the high level workshop on the topic: “Agricultural Commodities that Respect Land Rights and Food Security”. This event in The Hague was sponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Dutch Directorate-General for International Cooperation.

### **N. World Biofuels Market 2012 (Rotterdam, Mar. 13-15, 2012)**

Matt Rudolf from RSB Services and RSB Chair Barbara Bramble had the opportunity to speak at the industry conference World Biofuels Market in Rotterdam about recent RSB developments, what sets the RSB apart and sustainability biofuel policies for the aviation industry. In addition, the RSB was also present with an information booth. Companies and other participant expressed a great interest in the RSB and got an understanding of how to become RSB certified.

**O. 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (Marseille, Mar. 12-17, 2012)**

The RSB was invited to convene a specific discussion group on how certification systems address water impacts within the framework of the [6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum](#). The group gathered several experts from UNEP, IEA, EU-JRC, UC Berkeley, etc. The World Water Forum takes the interesting approach of setting up several of discussion groups, called “Target and Solution Groups”, with the target of compiling concrete solutions and successful examples of implemented best practices in water management. The discussion group convened by the RSB compiled several such examples to illustrate how projects and operators could demonstrate compliance with requirements related to water management, such as those included in the RSB Standard (Please add a few examples of the solution). These solutions were presented during the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille (12-17 March 2012).

**P. 6<sup>th</sup> Aviation & Environment Summit 2012 (Geneva, Mar. 21-22, 2012)**

The RSB Chair Barbara Bramble spoke at the March 22, 2012 meeting in Geneva of the Air Transport Action Group, which is analyzing the future of sustainable aviation jet fuels for aviation. Boeing and Airbus co-sponsored the event. The RSB presentation concentrated on sustainability policy initiatives, and the potential for globally harmonized biofuels standards, especially if robust sustainability objectives and processes are central to the acceptability of standards.

**Q. Social Aspects of Bioenergy Sustainability Workshop (Washington, D.C., Apr. 24, 2012)**

On April 24, 2012 the RSB chair presented the RSB social principles and criteria, at a seminar co-sponsored by the US Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory on the Social Aspects of Bioenergy Sustainability.

**R. Sustainable Biomass for Electricity (Güssing, May 1-4, 2012)**

This conference was co-organized by FAO and UNIDO in the village of Güssing, Austria, which has become famous for its pledge to become energy self-sufficient, including through the production of bioenergy. This ideal setting was chosen to gather government officials, scientists, companies and standard organizations to discuss sustainability issues related to the production of electricity from solid biomass. The RSB gave a presentation to the audience, in which the decision to broaden the scope of RSB certification to solid biomass was discussed.

**S. ICAO’s Special Sub-Committee of the Legal Committee (Montreal, May 22-25, 2012)**

In May, 2012, RSB’s Chair was invited to participate in the International Civil Aviation Organization’s new process to examine potential policy recommendations by ICAO to its member states, for promotion of sustainable aviation fuels and adoption of such fuels in aviation supply chains. This process will include phone and in person meetings, through March 2013.

## XV. Financial Reporting

### A. Balance Statement

The RSB closed the period covering April 2011 to March 2012 (i.e. the RSB membership period) with a positive cash balance of CHF 285'091.

#### Revenue

The total revenue from April 2011 to March 2012 was CHF 990'790.

The biggest single share is represented by the Packard Foundation with a contribution of 25%, followed by the Energy Center with 17%, membership fees with 13%, and CIIB with 11%.

In addition, there are several revenue streams from different sources that in total account for 31% of the total revenue. Those sources include e.g. EMPA, SBM Consortium, SDC, and NL Agency. In addition, a large part of the travels of the RSB Secretariat was covered through sponsorship provided by the organizers of the conferences, meetings and workshops attended.

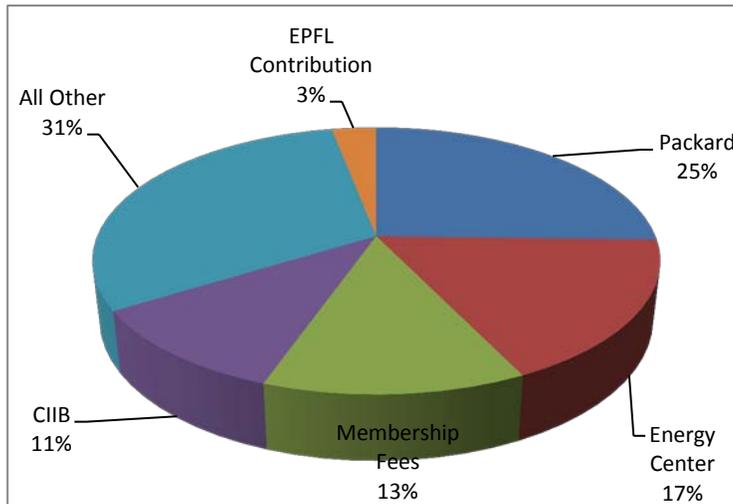


Figure 1: Total Revenues - April 2011 to March 2012

### B. Expenses

The total expenses from April 2011 to March 2012 were CHF 1'629'917. Personnel costs constitute half of the expenses. Project expenses account for the second largest cost, one third of the total. Meetings and travel, auditor trainings and other expenses represent the remaining 20%.

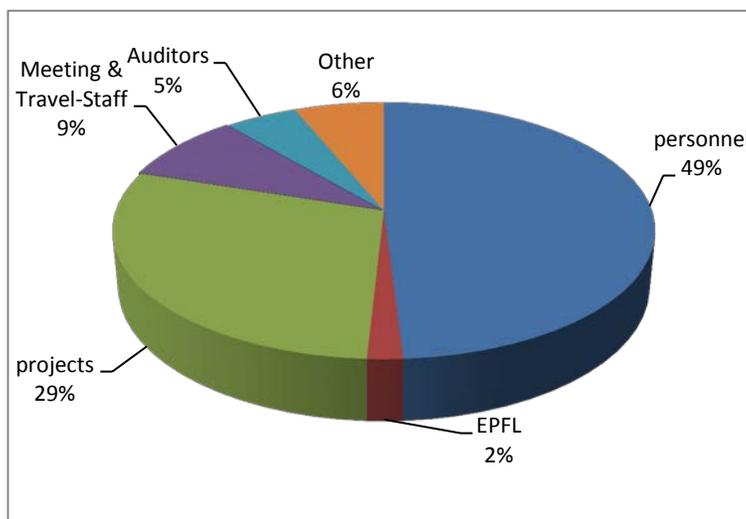


Figure 2: Total Expenses - April 2011 to March 2012