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RSB Bulletin (July 2012)

Show your support to the RSB!

Dear members and friends of the RSB,

For more than one year our energy and attention have primarily been focused on the implementation of the RSB certification system, which is being managed and implemented by our sister organization [RSB Services](#). With the invaluable participation and contributions of hundreds of stakeholders worldwide, we spent more than five years setting up a credible system to make sure that the climate change mitigation potential of biofuels does not occur at the expense of the environment and mankind. This system is seen as robust and credible, but it now needs to be taken up in the real world by supply chain actors to ensure biofuels deliver on their promises.

Transparency, sustainability and accountability are among the core values of the RSB system. Our commitment is to companies willing to demonstrate that their agricultural practices, processing units or management systems are respectful of the planet and the people. Our pledge is to offer such companies a credible way to differentiate themselves in the market place through claims supported by a broad range of organizations representing the private sector and the civil society.

By showing their public support, RSB Members and interested parties, have an important role to play toward the future success of the RSB Standard and Certification System. You can do this by publishing a word of support in our communication documents and website, letting us display your organization's logo, recruiting new members and spreading the word about the RSB in forums and public spaces. Please contact the Secretariat ([rsb\[at\]lepfl.ch](mailto:rsb[at]lepfl.ch)) if you have any questions or need help in getting the word out there. Let's work together towards "sustainability in action"!

The rest of this bulletin will take you through the latest news on the administrative transition of the RSB to an independent entity and the outcomes of the recent Steering Board Meeting.

Enjoy the reading.

Yours friendly,

The RSB Secretariat

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RSB Transition

There is exciting news on the RSB transition front – significant progress has been made on the Steering Board’s decision from late last year, to move toward the launch of a new entity, separate from EPFL, referred to as RSB Standards, to handle the stewardship and further development of the RSB standard. Several members of the RSB Steering Board volunteered to facilitate the transition process and officially constitute the RSB Transition Management Association (RSB TMA) which has now been formally created under Swiss law; they are: Khoo Hock Aun (Ch 1), Mitch Hawkins (Ch 2), Maarten Van Dijk (Ch 3) and Barbara Bramble (Ch 6), with Alwin Kopse, as Transition Director. The RSB TMA has met several times to prepare an expanded business plan and assess options for the legal structure of the new organization. In June, a formal letter of notice was sent to EPFL of intent to launch the new independent RSB within 6 months.

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Meanwhile, the RSB TMA has begun the process of fundraising for the new entity, with several proposals submitted and others in preparation.

It is expected that the tasks required for the transition will be completed to legally constitute the RSB Standards entity in October and open the office by the end of the year. We will keep you updated on developments, as they occur, and you are most welcome to call or write with any questions, to Steering Board Chair or Chamber Co-chairs.

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RSB Steering Board Meeting, June 2012

The RSB Steering Board met in Lausanne on June 12-13, 2012 to discuss the latest developments of the RSB Standard. In total, 21 participants attended the meeting. The key decisions taken by the Steering Board are summarized below.

Recognition of SAN Standard (Rainforest Alliance)

The RSB Steering Board approved the recognition of the standard developed by the [Sustainable Agriculture Network](#) (SAN), which is implemented by the [Rainforest Alliance](#) to certify compliant farm operations.

This recognition builds upon a benchmarking process conducted by RSB and SAN, with technical support from [The Proforest Initiative](#) to compare the respective sustainability

requirements of the RSB Principles & Criteria (RSB-STD-01-001; Version 2) and SAN Sustainable Agriculture Standard (July 2010; Version 2).

This benchmarking revealed that SAN-certified farms can be de facto considered compliant with RSB Principles & Criteria, with the exception of RSB Principle 3 (Greenhouse Gas) and RSB Principle 6 (Food Security). SAN-certified farms will receive RSB certification through a simplified audit procedure. For more details, please [read the news release \(June 26, 2012\)](#).

Other decisions

- Revision and extension of the RSB Standard on Requirements for Adaptation during the Start-up Phase (RSB-STD-80-001). It is now available on the [RSB website](#).
- The temporary version of the Screening Tool, which was approved in March, will be kept in use until the end of 2012, while the revision of the screening tool is extended.
- Approval to merge the RSB Generic Standard and the RSB EU RED Standard to maintain one unique generic standard, which will apply worldwide.
- Approval of a process for the benchmarking of national regulations (e.g. Canada).
- Approval of a consultation process for auditors.
- Development of a temporary policy on animal fats before proceeding with a general policy for by-products and residues.

Revised Social Guidelines and Field Evaluations online

During the Steering Board meeting the Secretariat presented the outcomes of the revision of the social guidelines. Thanks to the support received from the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, the RSB Secretariat has worked with a team of experts to further develop the following guidelines for operators:

- Guidelines for rural and social development (RSB principle 5)
- Guidelines on food security (RSB Principle 6)
- Guidelines on water rights (RSB Principle 9a)
- Guidelines on land rights (RSB Principle 12)

The guidelines, the RSB screening tool and the overall RSB approach to social impacts have been field-tested by the RSB Secretariat, in partnership with local companies and independent evaluators, in the following countries: Mali (Jatropha), Peru (Sugarcane), Mozambique (Sugarcane/Sorghum), Brazil (Jatropha), Thailand (Palm), Indonesia (Palm) and Ethiopia (Sugarcane).

The guidelines are available for download [here](#) and the field evaluation reports are available for download [here](#).

Latest news on RSB Certification

The months of June and July have been very busy for RSB Services as it continues to implement the RSB certification system. RSB Services has been speaking at biofuels conferences around the world discussing the importance of sustainability certification, and more importantly the RSB certification, for the biofuels industries. The team also traveled in June and July, including to an ethanol conference in Minneapolis, MN and held meetings with relevant organizations such as Growth Energy and the Iowa Soybean Growers Association to discuss how best to work together towards our common goals. RSB Services also hosted two auditor trainings over the last month in the UK and the US to ensure we have enough auditors able to help implement the RSB certification system. Keep up to date with the RSB Services happenings by checking out our "News and Events" page on our

website, www.rsbservices.org.

Companies that are members of the RSB are entitled to a 20% discount on their licensing fees for certification. For more information, please [contact RSB Services!](#)

Forthcoming events

The RSB staff will be attending the following conference:

- [4th Workshop Sustainable Aviation Biofuels Brazil](#): August 22-23, 2012 in Belo Horizonte (Brazil)
- [World Biofuels Markets Conference Brazil](#), panel "Keeping it Green": September 18-19, 2012 in Sao Paulo (Brazil)
- [Biofuels Sustainability Standards and Regulations Workshop](#): September 18-19, 2012 in Brussels (Belgium)
- ISEAL Biofuels Standards System Workshop: September 24-25, 2012 in London (UK)
- [Biofuels Certification: Opportunities for procurement and trading](#) (A Kingsman Seminar): October 4, 2012 in Geneva (Switzerland)



- [F.O. Licht's World Ethanol & Biofuels Conference](#): November 5-8, 2012 in Munich (Germany)

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