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RSB Glossary of Terms

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A. Aim of this standard

This standard has been developed with the aim to cover all relevant definitions for terminology used throughout the RSB System.

B. Scope of this Standard

This standard is an international standard and is valid worldwide. It defines general terms used in the RSB Standard.

C. Comments on and review of this document

Any party can make comments on this document by writing to the RSB Secretariat. The Secretariat will undertake a regular review of this document every five years, or earlier if deemed necessary by the Secretariat or RSB Board of Directors. The review shall follow the Procedure for the Development and Modification of RSB Standards (RSB-PRO-15-001).

D. RSB Terms and Definitions

A

Accessibility (food)

Access to food depends on levels of poverty, purchasing power of households, prices and the existence of transport and market infrastructure and food distribution systems (Source: FAO)
[Food] Access refers to the balance between the demand and supply side of the food security equation (Source: FAO)

Accreditation

Procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition that a body or person is competent to carry out specific tasks. Thus, accreditation is a third-party assessment and decision that a certification body formally demonstrates its competence, including its overall systems and procedures, its staffing levels, competence and experience, and its reporting ability to carry out specific conformity assessment (i.e. certification/registration) tasks

Accreditation decision

Granting, maintaining, renewing, reinstating, refusing or withdrawing accreditation

Accreditation decision entity

Is the entity (e.g. person(s), group or committee, etc.) that is responsible for making accreditation decisions

Acquisition process

The acquisition process includes any and all aspects of ordering, sourcing, procuring, buying, purchasing, receiving or otherwise gaining legal and physical control of a product

Acquiring a product, time of

The time of acquisition of a product refers to the time when direct or indirect legal and physical control (ownership) is acquired

Actual value

[this definition is applicable to the RSB standard for EU market access only (RSB-STD-11-001)]

The greenhouse gas emission or emission saving for some or all of the steps of a specific biofuel production process calculated in accordance with the methodology laid down in RED Annex V, part C

Adequate nutrition

Adequate nutrition is at times used as the ultimate end point of the processes of acquiring and consuming food, i.e. the nutritional status of the human being. It is also used as the overarching concept to describe the conditions that converge to determine the nutrition situation in a country, region or community (Source: FAO)

Aerial / Ground pesticides

Aerial pesticides are applied by spray aircraft, while ground pesticides are applied by backpack sprayers, boom and air assisted sprayers using hydraulic spray nozzles (Source: FAO)

Affordable Nutrition

The affordability of food, or a household's ability to get food (from the marketplace or other sources), depends on purchasing power which will vary according to market integration, price policies and temporal market conditions (Source: World Food Program)

Air pollution

The presence of contaminants or pollutant substances in the air that interfere with human health or welfare, or produce other harmful environmental effects (Source: US EPA)

Alien Invasive Species

An alien species is a species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution (Source: CBD)

An alien invasive species is an alien species which becomes established in natural or semi-natural ecosystems or habitat, is an agent of change, and threatens native biological diversity, food security, human health, trade, transport and or economic development (Source: IUCN – ISSG & 2010 Biodiversity Partnership)

Alliance for Zero Extinction Areas

AZE areas are key sites identified by the Alliance for Zero Extinction, each one of which is the last remaining refuge of one or more Endangered or Critically Endangered species. Sites must contain at least one Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR) species, be irreplaceable habitat for such a species, and have a definable boundary. AZE areas can be considered the

highest priority subset from Key Biodiversity Areas (see below) (Source: Alliance for Zero Extinction)

Annual crop

A crop which completes its life cycle within a one year period (Source: Ontario Ministry of Food and Agriculture)

Appropriate containers

Containers which prevent wastes from entering the environment in both the short term and long term, including considerations such as design and material used in construction of the containers. In the context of the standard, appropriate containers refers to containers used for wastes disposal

Aquifer

A geologic formation(s) that is water bearing. A geological formation or structure that stores and/or transmits water, such as to wells and springs. Use of the term is usually restricted to those water-bearing formations capable of yielding water in sufficient quantity to constitute a usable supply for people's uses (Source: US Geological Survey)

Aquifer recharge area (critical)

Areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers ~~used for potable water~~ (Source: Washington State Department of Ecology)

Arbitration

A process of resolving a conflict that involves a neutral third party deciding how the conflict should be resolved after investigating the issue and hearing the views of all stakeholders. In other words the participating stakeholders give up their power to make the final decision. The decision becomes binding on all parties involved. This method is often used in commercial and labor disputes

Audit

Systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining audit evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the audit criteria are fulfilled
(Source: ISO 19011:2011)

Auditor

A person with competence necessary to conduct an evaluation of an operation against the RSB Standard. A RSB Auditor is someone who has been appointed by a certification body, accredited for RSB certifications, to perform RSB audits

Audit team

One or more auditors conducting an audit, supported if needed by technical experts

Note 1: One auditor of the audit team is appointed as the audit team leader

Note 2: The audit team may include auditors-in-training

Audit type

The evaluation of a participating operator against the RSB standards can either be conducted as a main audit or a surveillance audit

Availability (food)

The availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or inputs. (Source: FAO)

The concept of food availability relates to the volume of supply and is derived from domestic agricultural output and net food imports at the national level. The availability of food is determined by domestic production, import capacity, existence of food stocks and food aid. (Source: FAO)

In other words, the monetary value of all foods consumed per capita, share of food in total expenditure, and food group diversity (Source: The Cramer Commission)

B

Baseline Assessment (also Baseline Data or Studies)

A baseline assessment is an assessment that is usually undertaken before an operation is initiated to provide data on the local environmental and social context prior to the initiation of the project. This data on the baseline context would then be compared with the results of future monitoring and/or targets to assess the impacts of the operation and inform ongoing management of impacts

Batch

Lot, consignment, quantity, shipment of product

Best Available Technologies

The latest stage of development (state of the art) of processes, of facilities or of methods of operation which indicate the practical suitability of a particular measure for limiting discharges (Source: OECD)

Bio-based

Derived from biomass

(Source: EN 16575:2014 Bio-based products – Vocabulary)

Bio-based carbon / biogenic carbon

Carbon derived from biomass

(Source: EN 16575:2014 Bio-based products – Vocabulary)

Bio-based carbon content

Fraction of carbon derived from a biomass in a product

(Source: EN 16575:2014 Bio-based products – Vocabulary)

Bio-based content

Fraction of a product that is derived from biomass

(Source: EN 16575:2014 Bio-based products – Vocabulary)

Bio-based product

Product wholly or partly derived from biomass.

(Source: EN 16575:2014 Bio-based products – Vocabulary)

Note: A bio-based product is normally characterized by the bio-based carbon content or the bio-based content and can be either intermediate or final product.

Biocide

A substance or micro-organism intended to destroy, deter, render harmless, prevent the action of or otherwise exert a controlling effect on any harmful organism, by chemical or biological means.

Biodiversity

Variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes the diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity)

Biofuel

Solid, liquid or gaseous fuel obtained from recently living material. This is contrasted with fossil fuels, which are derived from long dead biological material.

or

Biofuel

[this definition is applicable to the RSB standard for EU market access only (RSB-STD-11-001)]

Liquid or gaseous fuel for transport produced from biomass

Biofuel Operation

A development that involves the production of solid, liquid or gaseous biofuels for commercial use

Bioliquids

[this definition is applicable to the RSB standard for EU market access only (RSB-STD-11-001)]

Liquid fuel for energy purposes other than transport, including electricity and heating and cooling, produced from biomass

Biological Conservation Areas (public/private)

Any area specifically managed or protected by the State or by private bodies for the purposes of conserving species and habitats

Biomass

The biodegradable fraction of products, co-products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture (including vegetal and animal substances), forestry and related industries including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal waste

Biosafety Clearinghouse

A mechanism set up by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to facilitate the exchange of information on Living Modified Organisms. It includes access to a variety of scientific, technical, environmental, legal and capacity building information (Source: Biosafety Clearinghouse)

Book and claim

Chain-of-Custody system where, from the production of raw material to the final product for consumption, the information on sustainability is decoupled from the physical product (Source ISO 13065:2015)

Note: See more information in RSB Standard for Traceability (RSB-STD-20-001 / RSB-STD-11-001-20-001)

Buffer Zones

Buffer zones are small areas or strips of land in permanent vegetation, designed to intercept pollutants and manage other environmental concerns. Buffer Zones include the regions near the border of an area which is protected or managed for conservation, transition zones between areas managed for different objectives (including e.g. riparian buffer zones between rivers and production areas), or areas on the edge of protected areas that have land use controls and allow only activities compatible with protection of the core area, such as research, environmental education, recreation, and tourism. Buffers include: riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways, shelterbelts, windbreaks, living snow fences, contour grass strips, cross-wind trap strips, shallow water areas for wildlife, field borders, alley cropping, herbaceous wind barriers, and vegetative barriers (Source: UNEP-WCMC and USDA NRCS)

C

Calculated values

The greenhouse gas emission or emission saving for some or all of the steps of a specific production process calculated in accordance with the methodology as required by the RSB Principles & Criteria

Note: In the EU RED context the term actual values is used

Carbon Sequestration

The process of removing carbon from the atmosphere and depositing it in a reservoir (Source: UNFCCC Glossary)

Carbon Stock

The absolute quantity of carbon held in a carbon pool(s) or reservoir at a specified time and expressed in tons of Carbon per hectare (t C/ha). It is converted to GHG emissions by

multiplying t C/ha by 44/12 (the ratio of the molecular weight of CO₂ to the molecular weight of carbon) to get t CO₂/ha (based on GHG Protocol, Oct 2006)

Cartagena Protocol

A protocol on biosafety, focusing specifically on transboundary movement of any living modified organism resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Its formal title is the 'Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity' (Source: Cartagena Protocol)

Certificate code

Numerical code issued by the certification body to uniquely identify each RSB certificate issued by the certification body, and three letter code to uniquely identify each sub-certificate

Certificate holder

Participating operator which holds a valid RSB certificate

Certification

Conformity evaluation. Process by which a body, that is known to be competent and credible, issues a certificate that a particular business or product will comply with a particular standard. The competence and credibility of the Certification Body is normally assured when it is accredited by an independent Accreditation Body

Certification decision

Granting, maintaining, renewing, reinstating, refusing or withdrawing certification

Certification decision entity

The entity (e.g. person(s), group or committee, etc.) that is responsible for making certification decisions

Certification documentation

Documentation of the certification evaluation process, certification report, documentation of the review process, documentation of certification decision process, and a copy of the certificate if this is issued

Certification report

Report on the certification evaluation process, certification evaluation findings and conclusions, and certification decision

Certification scope

Extent and boundaries of a certification including the identification of the organizations, physical locations, organizational units, activities processes and products, as well as the time period covered and the applied standards, including their date of publication

(Source: adapted from ISO 19011:2011)

Chain of custody

Chain of responsibility for or control of materials as they move through each step of the process or product system under assessment

(Source: ISO 13065:2015)

Change in Carbon Stock

The change in carbon stocks between two time periods for the baseline and the project activity per unit of land area (t C/ha)

Change in Management Practice

Any change in crop type, inputs or tillage regime which impacts on local biodiversity, except changes from an annual crop to another annual crop

Child Labor

Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development (Source: ISO 13065:2015)

Cogeneration

The generation of electricity and the capture and use of otherwise wasted heat energy by-products. Cogeneration is also referred to as a combined heat and power (CHP) system

Collective agreements

Legal contracts between employers (or employer associations) and trade unions, which act as bargaining agents for units of workers. Their provisions govern terms and condition of employment, as well as the settlement of disputes internally between parties

Collective bargaining

The process of negotiations which take place between an employer, a group of employers or one or more employers' organizations, on the one hand, and one or more workers' organizations, on the other, for: a) determining working conditions and terms of employment; and/or (b) regulating relations between employers and workers; and/or (c) regulating relations between employers or their organizations and a workers' organization or workers' organizations (Source: ILO C154 Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981)

Community

Refers to a community in a particular place, where local people share common concern around local facilities, services and environment

Competence

Ability to apply knowledge and skills to achieve intended results (Source: ISO 19011:2011)

Competent authority (or delegated competent authority)

Most countries require ESIA's to be undertaken when new developments that are expected to have significant impacts are considered for authorization. In these countries, the ESIA regulations usually delegate specific competent authorities (ie, a particular government

department or minister) to manage and review the ESIA processes and make the decision on whether the proposed development should be authorized or not, and under what conditions

Conflict Management

A process of managing conflicts (or the potential for conflicts) through an open and inclusive process of stakeholder engagement aimed at building consensus and ensuring that all agreements are based on the principle of “Free, Prior and Informed Consent”

Connectivity (of Habitats)

Landscape connectivity is an ecological description of the degree to which the landscape facilitates or impedes movement between resource patches. Increased connectivity between habitats may be provided by continuous biological corridors, habitat ‘stepping stones’, or a mosaic of suitable patches

Consensus

Consensus is an agreement between all stakeholders that arises out of a collaborative effort to find a solution that addresses the interests of all the stakeholders. Consensus, in the RSB standard is defined as absence of sustained opposition. In cases where it is not possible to obtain unanimity (complete agreement), ‘overwhelming agreement’ should be considered the objective

Conservation Value

Biological, ecological, social or cultural features of a delineated area, which justify the implementation of conservation measures, e.g., biodiversity

Constituent

Entity of person involved in the RSB certification systems

Contained

Limited contact with the general population and the environment, for any activity in which micro-organisms are genetically modified, cultured, stored, transported, destroyed, disposed of or used in any other way

Content ratio accounting of product

Tracking model in which the RSB compliant physical product is not separated from and may be mixed with physical product not compliant with RSB standards. The documentation associated with the RSB compliant physical product refers to the mix of RSB compliant and non-compliant product. It usually references the content of RSB compliant products in the mix of RSB compliant and non-compliant product as a percentage of total mix. The content of RSB compliant products in the mix of RSB compliant and non-compliant product is often calculated as an average content over a specific reporting period.

The details of the tracking model “content ratio accounting of product” are prescribed in the RSB Standard for Traceability of Certified Material (chain of custody) (RSB-STD-20-001)

Continuous Improvement

A structured measurement driven process that continually reviews and improves performance

Contractor

Organizations/individuals contracted by the operator to carry out specific tasks that are an integral part of the biofuel production process and are carried out on the site of the operation subject to these standards

Conversion of land

The removal of the majority of standing natural/semi natural vegetation from a defined parcel of land, followed by establishment of substantially different vegetation composition

Conversion of a product

Transformation of a product in an internal processing step into a new product with new product characteristics which differ from those of the original product entering the internal processing step

Conversion factor

The relation between product entering and product leaving an internal processing step

Cooperative

Jointly owned enterprise carrying out purchasing, distribution, management, or other activities on behalf of its members, not for profit but benefits for members of combined rather than individual efforts and resources

Co-product

Any of two or more products coming from the same unit process or production system
(Source: EN-ISO 14040:2006)

Crop

Vegetable biological organism used for biomass production and the biomass produced based on this plant

Crop rotation

The practice of alternating the annual crops grown on a specific field in a planned pattern or sequence in successive crop years so that crops of the same species or family are not grown without interruption on the same field. Perennial cropping systems employ means such as alley cropping, intercropping, and hedgerows to introduce biological diversity in lieu of crop rotation
(Source: US Department of Agriculture)

Cultivation

Agricultural or farming activities involving intensive practices such as land-use change, intensive tillage, heavy machinery and/or the use of chemical inputs. This definition does not include extensive or shifting cultivation

Cultural Heritage Sites

Places that are considered by the local population to be culturally significant or sacred sites. These could include burial sites or sacred trees, pools or other places that are used for traditional cultural ceremonies or activities. They could also include historic buildings/structures

Cumulative Impacts

Indirect impacts or impacts/effects that amount to "...changes to the environment that are caused by an action in combination with other past, present and future human actions" (Hegmann et al. 1999)

Customer

Individual, company or other legal entity receiving products, goods or services from an operator

Cut-off Date

Deadline in time, after which full compliance with the requirements is requested

D

Decent Work

Work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development, social integration and self reliance, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men (Source: ILO)

Default value

A value derived from a typical value by the application of pre-determined factors and that may, under certain circumstances be used in place of an actual (calculated) value

Dioxins

A family of compounds known chemically as dibenzo-p-dioxins. Concern about them arises from their potential toxicity as contaminants in commercial products. Tests on laboratory animals indicate that it is one of the more toxic anthropogenic compounds (Source: US EPA)

Direct Impacts

Impacts that can be directly linked to a specific project activities or components

Direct Planting

No-till planting. Crop production system in which the soil is left undisturbed from harvest to planting. At the time of planting, a narrow strip up to 1/3 as wide as the space between planted rows (strips may involve only residue disturbance or may include soil disturbance) is engaged by a specially equipped planter (Source: US EPA)

Discrimination

Any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation (Source: ILO Convention 111)

Dispute

Disagreement about an aspect of the implementation of the RSB standards and/or RSB certification systems raised by a person or an entity to a constituent of the RSB certification systems. A dispute includes complaints and appeals and any other form of raising disagreement and any aspect thereof

Dispute resolution proceedings

Process for timely, comprehensive, consistent, transparent, effective and satisfactory resolution of disputes and any aspect thereof

Dispute resolution systems

Procedures, personnel, decision-making structures, and other undertakings established by a constituent of the RSB certification systems to address and resolve disputes raised in relation to any aspect of the implementation of the RSB standards and/or RSB certification systems

E

Ecological Corridors

A continuous strip of land or water that differs from the adjacent landscape on both sides, and allows movement of individuals and ecological processes between two or more habitat areas (Sanderson et al. 2003). Biological corridors help establish connectivity within biodiversity conservation corridors

Ecological Process

Any process characteristic of biotic communities. Ecological processes include vital functions such as decomposition, production, nutrient cycling, and fluxes of nutrients and energy

Ecological Reserve

Ecological Flow. The amount of water flowing in a river that is needed to maintain ecological functions and natural habitats

Ecosystem Functions

Characteristic processes of an ecosystem, such as decomposition, production, nutrient cycling, and fluxes of nutrients and energy, which result from interactions between organisms and the physical environment, and which ensure that the integrity of the ecosystem is maintained (Source: based on Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)

Ecosystem Services

The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and supporting services such as nutrient cycling that maintain the conditions for life on Earth. The concept “ecosystem goods and services” is synonymous with ecosystem services (Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment) The ecosystem services considered may include (but not be limited to) • Water quality and quantity regulation • Soil protection especially with reference to erosion control • Protection from fire and wind • Maintenance of a supply of natural goods (e.g. non-timber forest products) to local populations who have identified such goods as important to their livelihood

Effective date

Date when a standard becomes effective and binding for the RSB, its members and constituents and the RSB Certification Systems and its constituents

Effluent

Liquid waste product (whether treated or untreated) from an industrial process or human activity that is discharged into the environment (Source: UN)

Emission Control Plan

A plan defining actions and activities for emission limitations or reductions and compliance schedules, for the control of pollutants (Source: Massachusetts Government)

Employee

Worker holding an explicit or implicit employment contract which gives him or her a basic remuneration which is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which he or she works (Source: ILO Thesaurus)

Endangered Species

Threatened species in the IUCN Red List i.e. species that face a high (vulnerable species), very high (endangered species), or extremely high (critically endangered species) risk of extinction in the wild (see below)

Endemic

A species or higher taxonomic unit found only within a specific area (Source Millennium Assessment)

Endemism

The fraction of species (or a higher taxonomic unit) that is endemic relative to the total number of species found in a specific area (Source: Millennium Assessment)

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

The process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of development proposals prior to major decisions being taken that is informed by a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

An ESMP is a management plan for the proposed operation that indicates how the project will be managed to ensure compliance with the RSB principles and criteria. Such a plan will include all the mitigation measures and monitoring proposals developed as part of the specialist impact assessment process and through consultation with interested and affected parties

ESIA Practitioner

A person and/or organization that is contracted by the proponent to undertake an specialist impact assessment

EU RED Certified Material

Biomass or biofuels certified by any national or voluntary scheme recognized by the European Commission other than RSB. EU RED Certified Material may be handled by an RSB certified Participating Operator and forwarded with an “EU RED Compliant” on-product claim, following RSB EU RED Procedure on Communication and Claims (RSB-PRO-11-001-50-001)

EU compliance claim

Communication of compliance with the requirements of the RED as detailed in the RSB Procedure on Communication and Claims (RSB-PRO-50-001)

EU Fuel Directive

[this definition is applicable to the RSB standard for EU market access only (RSB-STD-11-001)]

Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 1998 relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Council Directive 93/12/EEC.

and

Directive 2009/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 amending Directive 98/70/EC as regards the specification of petrol, diesel and gas-oil and introducing a mechanism to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and amending Council Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the specification of fuel used by inland waterway vessels and repealing Directive 93/12/EEC.

and

Directive (EU) 2015/1513 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 amending Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels

and

any and all amendments, changes, communications, decisions and other actions thereto by the duly authorized representatives of the European Commission

EU RED

[this definition is applicable to the RSB standard for EU market access only (RSB-STD-11-001)]

Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC (“Renewable Energy Directive”)

and

Directive (EU) 2015/1513 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September amending Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and

any and all amendments, changes, communications, decisions and other actions thereto by the duly authorized representatives of the European Commission

EU sustainability criteria for Biofuels

[this definition is applicable to the RSB standard for EU market access only (RSB-STD-11-001)]

Mandatory production criteria for biofuels/bioliquids, as defined in the Renewable Energy Directive

Eutrophication

The process by which a body of water (often shallow) becomes (either naturally or by pollution) rich in dissolved nutrients (most often nitrates and phosphates) with a deficiency in dissolved oxygen, mostly due to algae growth (Source: IPCC)

Evaluation

Systematic examination of the extent to which a product or process fulfils specified requirements. In the context of the RSB certification systems evaluation refers to the systematic examination against the applicable requirements of the RSB principles & criteria and the RSB standards

Existing biomass production standards

Biomass production standards set by another independent standard setting organization

Extent of the audit

Evaluation activities needed to conduct and conclude the evaluation of a participating operator

External standards

Standards set by another independent standard setting organization

F

Facilitation

Engagement in activities aimed at making it possible for stakeholders to participate meaningfully in the impact assessment process or other consultation or decision making process

Family Farm

Farm with no hired manager where the family provides the majority of labor (Source: RTRS)

Family Labor

Labor performed by the family living at a farm

Feedstock

Biomass product resulting from primary production

Field audit

Onsite audit. Evaluation of a participating operator for compliance with the RSB standards and the RSB certification systems at the operations, sites and facilities of the participating operator

Final processor

Operator that conducts the final processing steps from biomass raw material to biofuels/bioliquids/biomaterials in the value chain

First Collector of waste and residues

Operator that receives waste or residual materials from points of origin

Food Access

Access by individuals to adequate resources (entitlements) for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. Entitlements are defined as the set of all commodity bundles over which a person can establish command given the legal, political, economic and social arrangements of the community in which they live (including traditional rights such as access to common resources) [FAO 2009] ([e.g.] total household expenditure level, current level of food in store, frequency of rice purchase) [The Cramer Commission 2007]

Food By-Products

Food by-products are non-essential components of whole foods or other products, edible or inedible by human beings and/or animals, which may be isolated or removed in the course of post-harvest processing or other processing steps (Source: Kimetrica 2009)

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity exists when people are undernourished as a result of the physical unavailability of food, their lack of social or economic access to adequate food, and/or inadequate food utilization. Food-insecure people are those individuals whose food intake falls below their minimum calorie (energy) requirements, as well as those who exhibit physical symptoms

caused by energy and nutrient deficiencies resulting from an inadequate or unbalanced diet or from the body's inability to use food effectively because of infection or disease. An alternative view would define the concept of food insecurity as referring only to the consequence of inadequate consumption of nutritious food, considering the physiological utilization of food by the body as being within the domain of nutrition and health.

Food insecurity is a complex phenomenon, attributable to a range of factors that vary in importance across regions, countries and social groups, as well as over time. These factors can be grouped in four clusters representing the following four areas of potential vulnerability:

- * the socio-economic and political environment;
- * the performance of the food economy;
- * care practices; [and]
- * health and sanitation

(Source: FAO 2009)

Food Security

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (Source: World Food Summit 1996)

Food Stability

To be food secure, a population, household or individual must have access to adequate food at all times. They should not risk losing access to food as a consequence of sudden shocks (e.g. an economic or climatic crisis) or cyclical events (e.g. seasonal food insecurity). The concept of stability can therefore refer to both the availability and access dimensions of food security (Source: FAO 2009)

Forced Labor (incl. "Slave Labor")

All work or service that a person has not offered to do voluntarily and is made to do under the threat of punishment or retaliation, or is demanded as a means of repayment of debt (Source: ILO, SA 8000, RTRS)

Forest

Land spanning more than 0,5 ha with trees higher than 5 m and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent of trees able to reach these thresholds *in situ*, not including land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use (Source: FAO)

Formal and Customary Water Rights

Rights given either through license of national/local authorities or by prior rights or customs

Forwarding compliant product

Refers to the transfer of legal and physical control of RSB EU RED or EU RED certified material to the next operator in the supply chain

Forwarding compliant product, time of

The time of forwarding of compliant product refers to the time when direct or indirect legal and physical control was forwarded to the customer

Fossil Fuel Baseline

Lifecycle GHG emissions of fossil fuel (gasoline and diesel fuel) determined for a given (baseline) date

Fragmentation (of Habitats)

Fragmentation is a process of ecosystem degradation, caused by the disturbance or destruction of formerly continuous habitat, or the creation of barriers to movement. It is a major source of threats to species and species extinctions

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Negotiated agreements that are non-coercive and entered into voluntarily, carried out prior to new investments or operations based on an open sharing of all relevant information in appropriate forms and languages, including assessments of impacts, proposed benefit sharing and legal arrangements

Freedom of Association/Right to Organize/Unionization

The right of workers and employers, without distinction whatsoever, to establish and, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned, to join organizations of their own choosing without previous authorization. Workers' and employers' organizations shall have the right to draw up their constitutions and rules, to elect their representatives in full freedom, to organise their administration and activities and to formulate their programs. The public authorities shall refrain from any interference which would restrict this right or impede the lawful exercise thereof.

Workers' and employers' organizations shall not be liable to be dissolved or suspended by administrative authority. Workers' and employers' organizations shall have the right to establish and join federations and confederations and any such organization, federation or confederation shall have the right to affiliate with international organizations of workers and employers (Source: C87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948)

Freshwater

Freshwater applies to water which salinity is below 0.5 ppm (Source: IUCN)

G

Genetically Modified Organism

An organism in which the genetic material has been altered through the use of biotechnology and not through mating and/or natural recombination

Geographic scope

Details the political, legal, customary and/or technical, social, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or economic conditions which differentiate the particular geographic region from neighboring regions

Governance

The exercise of political, economic and administrative authority over an organization. It includes establishment of policies and continuous monitoring of their proper implementation by the members of the governing body of an organization, and the mechanisms required to balance the powers of the members (with the associated accountability)

Grassland

Terrestrial ecosystems dominated by herbaceous or shrub vegetation for at least 5 years continuously. It includes meadows or pasture that is cropped for hay but excludes land cultivated for other crop production and cropland lying temporarily fallow. It further excludes continuously forested areas unless these are agroforestry systems which include land-use systems where trees are managed together with crops or animal production systems in agricultural settings. The dominance of herbaceous or shrub vegetation means that their combined ground cover is larger than the canopy cover of trees

(Source: Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014)

Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

Natural or anthropogenic gaseous constituent of the atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiations at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the earth's surface, the atmosphere, and clouds (Source ISO 13065:2015). For the purpose of RSB certification, CO₂, N₂O and CH₄ are taken into account

Group certification

Smallholder group certification. A modality of certification where a group of smallholder biomass producers joins together under a single RSB certificate organized under a common management system. The scope of smallholder group certification includes the group members' farms, the biomass production and group management. Operations which trade products of the smallholder group members as well as small-scale processors may be included in the scope of certification

Group management

The entity responsible for the group certification process. It applies for certification, represents the group members towards the RSB and a certification body and finally holds the RSB certificate

Group member

A smallholder farmer, small-scale processor or trader who participates in the group based on a formal agreement with the group management

H

Handling certified material

Refers to the storage, processing and transport of certified material within the operations included in the scope of operation.

Hazardous work

Work which by its nature or circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of persons (Source ISO 13065:2015)

High Conservation Values (HCVs)

Biological, ecological, social or cultural values or attributes associated with natural or traditionally managed ecosystems, which are considered outstandingly significant or critically important at the national, regional or global level. HCV management areas are critical areas in a landscape which need to be managed appropriately in order to maintain or enhance one or more HCVs (Source: HCV Network) Areas which possess such attributes include: HCV1: Areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia). HCV2: Globally, regionally or nationally significant landscapes where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance. HCV3: Areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems. HCV4: Areas that provide basic ecosystem services in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control). HCV5: Areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health). HCV6: Areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)

Highly Biodiverse Grassland

- (i) natural, namely grassland that would remain grassland in the absence of human intervention and which maintains the natural species composition and ecological characteristics and processes; or
- (ii) non-natural, namely grassland that would cease to be grassland in the absence of human intervention and which is species-rich and not degraded, unless evidence is provided that the harvesting of the raw material is necessary to preserve its grassland status (Source: EU RED)

Hold-out

A stakeholder (individual, group or organisation) who continues to oppose the proposed biofuel operation or aspects of it, despite lengthy consultations and negotiations aimed at addressing

the needs and concerns of the various stakeholders and building consensus. In some cases these may be stakeholders who have no interest in or commitment to the negotiation process

Human intervention

Managed grazing, mowing, cutting, harvesting or burning

(Source: Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014)

I-J-K

Identification code

A sequence of numbers, letters or signs used as a unique reference to a batch or unit of separately packed, stored or processed product (e.g. sack, pack, net, load, batch)

Identity of product preserved

Tracking model in which the RSB compliant physical product and associated product documentation can be traced back to the point of origin. Each lot, batch, quantity, or consignment of RSB compliant product is treated separately and clearly separated in both physical product and in associated documentation from other RSB compliant or non-compliant product.

The details of the tracking model “identity of product preserved” are prescribed in the RSB Standard for Traceability of Certified Material (chain of custody) (RSB-STD-20-001)

Impact Assessment

The activity of identifying and assessing the significance of the impacts of a proposed development

Impact Significance Rating

A method of rating the significance of impacts that is systematic, objective and consistent. The significance of the impacts is determined by taking into consideration the spatial extent, time-scale, likelihood, severity of the impacts and confidence levels. These criteria are used to determine if the impact is Very High, High, Moderate or Low and either positive or negative

Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

IBAs are critical sites for the conservation of the world's birds, identified by the Important Bird Areas (IBA) program of BirdLife International. IBAs are selected on the basis of their significance for species which are globally threatened, restricted-range, biome-restricted, or for important congregations of species (Source: Birdlife International). IBAs areas can be considered a specific subset for birds from Key Biodiversity Areas (see below)

In-migration

The temporary or permanent movement/migration of people from elsewhere into the area under consideration. These people usually come looking for work and/or land and other resources

Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool

IBAT (www.ibatforbusiness.org) is an online tool maintained by BirdLife International, Conservation International, United Nations Environment Program - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and IUCN, designed to facilitate access to accurate and up-to-date biodiversity information. It incorporates data on protected areas and a range of globally important sites for biodiversity (Source: IBAT website)

Intensive Farmer

A commercial farmer who grows intensively, using either organic or industrial farming practices, who has resources available to him. This distinguishes him/her from a small scale farmer in our definition

Internal processing step

All steps under the scope and control of the participating operator where product is handled and where one or more product characteristics may/could be changed (e.g. processing, conversion, transformation, change of product type, product quantity, product quality, mixing with other product, change of chain of custody tracking model, etc.)

IUCN Protected Areas

An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means (Source: IUCN – WCPA)

IUCN Red List of Ecosystems

The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems Categories and Criteria is a global standard for how to assess the conservation status of ecosystems, applicable at local, national, regional and global levels. The Red List of Ecosystems evaluates whether ecosystems have reached the final stage of degradation (a state of Collapse), whether they are threatened at Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable levels, or if they are not currently facing significant risk of collapse (Least Concern). It is based on a set of rules, or criteria, for performing evidence-based, scientific assessments of the risk of ecosystem collapse, as measured by reductions in geographical distribution or degradation of the key processes and components of ecosystems (Source: <http://iucnrle.org>)

IUCN Red List Species

Species which have been assessed using the IUCN Red List criteria at the global or regional level. More specifically, Threatened species as defined by the IUCN Red List criteria. IUCN Red list of Threatened Species -Categories of threat: EXTINCT (EX) there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW) known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range. CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) Facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. ENDANGERED (EN) Facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. VULNERABLE (VU) Facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. NEAR THREATENED (NT) Close to qualifying for

or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future. LEAST CONCERN (LC) Does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened. Widespread and abundant taxa are included in this category. DATA DEFICIENT (DD) there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction (Source: IUCN Red List)

Joint Ventures

An arrangement between two or more people or entities to work together on a specific project or within an enterprise

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. They represent the most important sites for biodiversity conservation worldwide, and are identified nationally using globally standardized criteria and thresholds (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014, Biodiversity A-Z website: www.biodiversitya-z.org)

L

Land Rights/Land Use Rights

Any form of land tenure, whether formal or informal or used through customary rights or traditions

Land Use

All the arrangements, activities, and inputs undertaken in a certain land cover type (a set of human actions) or the social and economic purposes for which land is managed (e.g., grazing, timber extraction, conservation) (GHG Protocol, Oct 2006). The IPCC Guidelines distinct six Land Use categories: Forest Land, Cropland, Grassland, Wetlands, Settlements, and Other Land (IPCC Guidelines Vol 4, 2006)

Land Use Change

Change from one Land Use category to another Land Use category (Source: IPCC Guidelines Vol 4, 2006)

Legally Protected Areas

Any area, which is protected by a country's law against exploitation and/or land use change, e.g. wildlife sanctuary, biological reserve, cultural area

Lifecycle GHG Emissions

GHG emissions across each life cycle step of the product. For the purposes of RSB Principle 3, lifecycle GHG emissions of fuels are emissions for the following life cycle steps: feedstock production, feedstock processing, feedstock transport, fuel production, fuel transport, and combustion of the fuel

Ligno-cellulosic Material

Material that is composed of cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin

Livelihoods

Livelihoods are a combination of productive and reproductive activities that household members engage in to meet their basic needs for food, water, shelter, and health. They include agricultural production activities (crops and livestock), natural resource harvesting and processing, as well as other productive activities they may engage in such as making and selling goods and providing services to other local residents and businesses

Local Ownership

Where the majority of the ownership in an enterprise is held in local hands and not by outside interests

Long Term Job

A position or role within a company which is permanent (i.e. not determined by objective conditions such as reaching a specific date, completing a specific task, or the occurrence of a specific event)

M

Main Audit

Complete evaluation, which includes both desk and a field audit where a Participating Operator is evaluated against all relevant standards and procedures included in its scope of certification

Major non-compliance

The following non-compliances are considered as major non-compliances:

1. A non-compliance with a minimum requirement in the RSB Principles & Criteria
2. A non-compliance with a mandatory requirement of the EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)
3. Management systems implemented by the PO which are not applied comprehensively and consistently to all units in the certification scope of the PO
4. Non-compliances with the potential to compromise the RSB, RSB standard, RSB certification systems, RSB trademarks or the good name of the RSB or its AB
5. Non-compliances issued in the preceding evaluation which have not been corrected, rectified or otherwise brought into compliance with the RSB standards prior to the evaluation.
6. Non-compliances which are systematic in nature (i.e. non-compliances which will continue to result in further non-compliances until they have been corrected, rectified or otherwise brought into compliance with the RSB standards).
7. Non-compliances which cannot possibly be corrected, rectified or otherwise brought into compliance with the RSB standard
8. Non-compliance with a progress requirement in the 4th year of certification

Mass balance

Chain of custody system where, from the production of a raw material to the final product for consumption, the information on sustainability can be traced to a specific production quantity (Source ISO 13065:2015)

Note: The details of the tracking model “mass balance of product” are prescribed in the RSB Standard for Traceability of Certified Material (chain of custody) (RSB-STD-20-001).

Micro Credit

Microcredit is a small amount of money loaned to a low-income entrepreneur by a bank or other institution, company or individual

Microbial Contamination

Contamination by coliform bacteria and fecal coliforms (e.g. E. coli), Cryptosporidium and Giardia lamblia (Source: US EPA)

Micro-organism

Any microbiological entity, cellular or non-cellular, capable of replication or of transferring genetic material, including viruses, viroids, animal and plant cells in culture

Minor non-compliance

A non-compliance

- that is a temporary lapse, and
- that is unusual / non-systematic, and
- that does not result in a failure to achieve the objective of the relevant certification requirement, and
- which impacts are limited in their extent

Mitigation Measure

A mitigation measure is an action that can be undertaken to avoid or minimize a negative impact or maximize a beneficial impact. These measures should be specific to a particular impact or issue and be practical and cost effective

Monitoring

The repeated measurement of impacts over time in order to facilitate project evaluation and inform management strategies

Mutagenic

An agent capable of inducing mutations (heritable changes) in a cell or tissue

N-O

Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of nature protection areas established under the 1992 Habitats Directive to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It is comprised of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the Habitats Directive, and also incorporates Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which they designate under the 1979 Birds Directive (Source: EC Environment – Natura 2000)

Natural

This term is employed where ecological processes primarily determine species and site characteristics; that is, vegetation comprised of a largely spontaneously growing set of plant species that are shaped by both site and biotic processes (Source: US FGDC)

Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)

Any of several oxides of nitrogen, mainly N₂O, N₂O and NO. Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is a powerful greenhouse gas emitted through soil cultivation practices, especially the use of commercial and organic fertilizers, fossil-fuel combustion, nitric acid production, and biomass burning

Non-compliance

Non-fulfilment of a requirement
(Source: ISO 9000:2005)

Note: Non-compliances are graded in two categories: minor-noncompliance and major non-compliance.

Non-conformity

See non-compliance

Non-food cellulosic material

[this definition is applicable to the RSB standard for EU market access (RSB-STD-11-001)

Feedstocks mainly composed of cellulose and hemicellulose, and having a lower lignin content than ligno-cellulosic material; it includes food and feed crop residues (such as straw, stover, husks and shells), grassy energy crops with a low starch content (such as ryegrass, switchgrass, miscanthus, giant cane and cover crops before and after main crops), industrial residues (including from food and feed crops after vegetal oils, sugars, starches and protein have been extracted), and material from biowaste
(Source: European Commission)

Off-product

Any and all communication of the RSB trademarks which is not directly related to RSB compliant product, and which references the good name of the RSB, the RSB itself, the RSB certification systems, the RSB standards and/or any other valuable asset of the RSB

Open-air Burning

Combustible materials on bare ground, in an open container or in a pit that are set on fire

On-product

Communication of the RSB trademarks directly related to RSB compliant product. This includes:

- a. Use of the RSB trademarks on products containing RSB compliant product (e.g. packaging, canister, tank, etc.), or on systems used for the transportation of these products (e.g. transportation tanks, tubes, pipelines)
- b. Use of the RSB trademarks on documentation associated with RSB compliant product (e.g. invoice, packaging list, advertisement, brochure, etc.) where the use of the RSB trademarks refers to the particular RSB compliant product

Operational facilities

Installations to conduct operational activities at an operational site. An operational facility is a single functional unit at an operational site of a participating operator, which is functionally distinct from other units at the same operational site of the participating operator

Operational sites

Locations where operational facilities are located and where operational activities are undertaken. Comprises the boundary of operations within the scope of certification, including land that is used for the development of infrastructure directly related to the operations (e.g. roads)

Operational systems

Systems employed by a participating operator to acquire, handle and/or forward product

Operation

A company or individual active in the production, processing or handling of biomaterial feedstock

Organic Contamination

Contamination by plant and animal residues due to discharges to the environment that exceeds the capacity of their decomposition

Organic Matter Content (Soil)

The content of residual plant and animal material, synthesized by microbes and decomposed under the influence of temperature, moisture and ambient soil conditions (Source: EU JRC)

Overall risk

The sum of the risks associated with each risk factor in the operation

P-Q

Participating operator

Legal entity or natural person producing, converting, processing, blending, trading, using or otherwise handling biomass, biomaterials and/or biofuels and participating in the RSB certification systems, and being responsible for the implementation of the requirements of the RSB principles & criteria, the RSB standards and the RSB certification systems

Participatory Methodologies

There are a wide variety of Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) and Participatory (PRA) techniques that can be used to facilitate the meaningful engagement of stakeholders and provide useful qualitative and quantitative information that can inform the impact assessment and contribute to the baseline studies. This include participatory mapping, matrix ranking, transects, Venn diagrams, seasonal diagrams, and wealth ranking amongst many others. These methods are adaptable and can be used for a variety of contexts for different purposes. They were originally designed in the 1980s as methods of involving community members in the evaluation of their own development problems and the process of planning and finding solutions for themselves. However, they can also be used as creative methods of involving community members in Environmental Assessments and other investigative and decision making processes

Particular geographic region

Geographic region defined by its particular geographic scope

Particulate Matter

Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog, found in air or emissions (Source: US EPA). It is usually separated into PM10 and PM2.5, which are respectively particles of diameter equal or inferior to 10 and 2.5 micrometers

Partnership

A voluntary, mutually beneficial arrangement entered into for the purpose of accomplishing mutually agreed upon objectives

Party to a dispute

Person or organization with the material, technical, political and/or otherwise substantial interest in the outcome of dispute resolution

Pathogenic

An agent capable of causing diseases

Peatland

Area with or without vegetation with a naturally accumulated peat layer at the surface of at least 30 cm in depth (Source: EN 16214-1:2012)

Perennial Crop

A crop which completes its life cycle over two or more years

Point of origin

Companies or private households where waste and residues occur

Precautionary approach

Approach to implement the precautionary principle.

In the context of the implementation of the RSB standards and RSB certification systems the precautionary approach implies that:

- additional safeguards are implemented by a participating operators to ensure comprehensive, consistent and transparent implementation of the RSB standards and the RSB certification systems;
- activities which could compromise comprehensive, consistent and transparent implementation of the RSB standards and the RSB certification systems are not undertaken or at least substituted with alternative approaches which are already proven to ensure comprehensive, consistent and transparent implementation of the RSB standards and the RSB certification systems

Precautionary principle

The precautionary principle states that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is not harmful, the burden of proof that it is not harmful falls on those who advocate taking the action. The precautionary principle implies that there is a social responsibility to protect the public from exposure to harm, when scientific investigation has found a plausible risk. These protections can be relaxed only if further scientific findings emerge that provide sound evidence that no harm will result

Prejudice

Uneven access to or distribution of social, environmental and/or economic advantages and benefits, and disadvantages and burdens

Primary production

All aspects of growing, breeding, propagating or otherwise cultivating biomass

Primary producer

Participating operators involved in primary production

Procedure

A specified way to carry out an activity or process

Product characteristics

All characteristics necessary to differentiate a product from other product (e.g. product type, product quantity, product quality, product identification codes, supplier information, site information, etc.)

Product classification

Recognized international classification scheme for products and products containing biomass/biofuel as well as products used in processing, transformation and/or conversion of biomass/biofuel based on the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) “Central Product Classification (CPC)” as well as on the related Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

Product description

All information necessary for the customer to differentiate a particular RSB compliant product from other RSB compliant products and non-compliant products. The product description includes the RSB trademarks and compliance claims defined in this standard and may provide information on the production process, the chain of custody tracking model and on the RSB certification systems

Product documentation

Documentation used to uniquely identify RSB compliant product in acquiring, handling and forwarding RSB compliant product

Product group

A group of products specified by the participating operator, which share basic characteristics and thus can be grouped for the purpose of RSB chain of custody control

Product item

Smallest individually identifiable subdivision of a batch of product – i.e. one piece of product, one shipment (load) of product, etc.

Product mix

Mix of different batches of product

Product type

A specific description of product based on product characteristic and the RSB product classification system, which allows for unique identification of the product in all operations controlled by the participating operator, and unmistakable and unambiguous differentiation from all other products

Propagule

Part of a plant that can detach and then form a new rooted plant (Source: IUCN)

Proprietary Technology

Technology, such as concepts, techniques and designs, which an individual or organization has exclusive ownership of

Provisioning Services

The products obtained from ecosystems, including, for example, genetic resources, food and fiber, and fresh water (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005)

R

Ramsar Sites

The Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance is the keystone of the Ramsar Convention, and (...) its chief objective is to “develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits/services” (Source: Ramsar Convention)

Rare, Threatened or Endangered Ecosystems

Rare ecosystems include those which are ‘naturally’ or ‘historically’ rare, and those which have been reduced to a fraction of their original extent due to human intervention. Historically rare ecosystems may also be threatened. Threatened or endangered ecosystems are those which are faced with a high or very high risk (actual or potential) of destruction or significant degradation across their distribution (Source: IUCN-SSC/IUCN CEM discussion documents)

Regions of Poverty

The RSB has set national-level thresholds for Regions of Poverty based on the United Nations Human Development Indicators. If the country is listed at the inequality-adjusted human development index (IHDI), the threshold is 0.59. If no data is available, the Human Development Index (HDI) may be used with the threshold 0.74. Both indices can be accessed here [UNDP Human Development Indicators World Map](#)

Related body

An entity which is linked to a body by common ownership in whole or part, common directors, contractual arrangement, a common name, informal understanding or other means such that the related body has a vested interest in any decision or has a potential ability to influence processes and/or decisions (adapted from IAF GD 5:2006)

Replenishment Capacity

Capacity for natural replenishment of water tables from precipitation and surface water, following withdrawal

Restoration measures

Restoration measures include, but are not limited to, artificial re-enrichment or re-contouring of severely eroded land, improvement of soil organic matter and nutrient levels, decontamination of polluted land (e.g., with heavy metals); reclamation of deserts*, saline soils*, and alkaline soils*; etc. *when this is not the natural state of those soils (Based on: IPCC, 2000)

Right to Food

The definition of right to adequate food shall be that of the International Covenant on Economic Social & Cultural Rights (ICESCR): The right to adequate food is a human right, inherent in all people, “to have regular, permanent and unrestricted access, either directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food

corresponding to the cultural traditions of people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensures a physical and mental, individual and collective fulfilling, and dignified life free of fear”

Riparian

Riparian habitat includes the physical structure and associated vegetation of the areas associated with a watercourse which are commonly characterized by alluvial soils, and which are inundated or flooded to an extent and with a frequency sufficient to support vegetation of species with a composition and physical structure distinct from those of adjacent land areas. These areas include plant communities adjacent to and affected by surface and subsurface hydrological features, such as rivers, streams, lakes, or drainage ways

Risk

Effect of uncertainty on objectives

Source: ISO 31000:2009)

Note: Risk can be defined as a combination of the probability of an event and its consequences, often expressed as: risk = Probability * Consequences

In the context of the RSB certification systems risk is defined as the probability of social, environmental and/or economic damage to any organization, entity or person and/or the environment and/or the community at large resulting from deficient implementation of the RSB standards and/or RSB certification systems.

Risk management process

Systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the activities of communicating, consulting, establishing the context, and identifying, analyzing, evaluating, treating, monitoring and reviewing risk

(Source: ISO 31000:2009)

Risk management plan

Scheme within the risk management framework specifying the approach, the management components and resources to be applied to the management of a risk

(Source: ISO 31000:2009)

Rotterdam Agreement

A Convention on hazardous chemicals, designed to protect human health and the environment from potential harm, through promoting shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties, facilitating information exchange, providing national decision-making processes on their import and export and a Prior Informed Consent Procedure. The Convention includes list (Annex III) of pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by Parties

RSB

Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials Association

RSB accreditation

Accreditation by an independent international accreditation body which is appointed by the RSB to accredit the certification bodies within the RSB certification system

RSB Auditor

See Auditor

RSB certificate

Attestation of conformity with the RSB standards and the RSB certification system issued to a participating operator by a RSB recognized certification body

RSB certification system

Institutions, constituents, governance mechanisms, processes and relationships which interact systematically to ensure comprehensive and consistent implementation and verification of the RSB standards

RSB Certified material

Biomass, biofuels and/or biomaterials certified to the global RSB Principles & Criteria (RSB-STD-01-001) and other relevant RSB standards and procedures

RSB compliance claim

Communication of association with, relation to the RSB and/or compliance with the RSB standards. The appropriate RSB claims are presented in RSB Procedure on communications and claims (RSB-PRO-50-001)

RSB compliant product

Product which is acquired, handled and/or forwarded in compliance with the RSB standards

RSB Criterion

Objective of performance which is specifically and measurably operationalizing an RSB Principle

RSB Crop Specific Standard

Standard developed through implementation of this RSB Standard for adaptation to crop specific conditions (RSB-STD-15-001). Standard resulting from adaptation of RSB Criteria and corresponding RSB Indicators to legal, technical, social, environmental, ethical and/or economic conditions specific to the cultivation of a specific crop

RSB EU RED Certified Material

Biomass or biofuels certified to the Consolidated RSB EU RED Principles & Criteria (RSB-STD-11-001-01-001) and other relevant RSB EU RED standards and procedures. For more information about RSB EU RED claims, please see RSB-PRO-11-001-50-001 (Consolidated RSB EU RED Procedure on Communication and Claims)

RSB Indicator

Outcome specifying a single aspect of performance which is specifically, measurably and achievably operationalizing an RSB Criterion

RSB Interface Standard

Standard developed through implementation of this RSB Standard for adaptation to biomass production standards (RSB-STD-15-003). Standard resulting from adaptation of RSB Principles, Criteria and Indicators to cover the gap between existing biomass production standard and RSB Principles & Criteria

RSB member

Legal entity or natural person participating in the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials

RSB participant code

Unique identification code issued by the RSB Secretariat to any new participating operator upon approval of the participation in the RSB certification system

RSB Principle

Description of the general intent of performance defined by the RSB

RSB Regional Standard

Standard developed through implementation of this RSB Standard for adaptation to geographic conditions (RSB-STD-15-002). Standard resulting from adaptation of RSB Criteria and corresponding RSB Indicators to political, legal, customary and/or technical social, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or economic conditions in a particular geographic region

RSB short claim

On-product communication of compliance as defined in RSB Procedure on Communication and Claims (RSB-PRO-50-001)

RSB standard

All applicable requirements set by the RSB including the RSB Principles & Criteria, RSB standards, RSB procedures and other RSB provisions (policies, , guidance documents)

RSB System Operating Entity (SOE)

Entity (organization) managing the RSB certification systems. As of February 1, 2014, the SOE is the RSB Secretariat

RSB trademarks

The RSB trademarks include:

- The initials “RSB”, the name “Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials”, the RSB logo and any and all representations thereof in any format whatsoever;
- Any and all references to the good name of the RSB, to the RSB itself, to the RSB certification system, to the RSB standard and/or to any other valuable asset of the RSB;

- Any and all claims, marks, labels, logos, signs and other graphic representations which refer to or represent the RSB and/or any part thereof.

Runoff

Portion of rainfall, melted snow or irrigation water that flows across the ground's surface and is eventually returned to streams. Run-off can pick up pollutants from air or land and carry them to receiving waters (Source: EEA/FAO/UN)

Rural People

De facto population living in areas classified as rural (that is, it is the difference between the total population of a country and its urban population)

S

Scope of certification

See certification scope.

Screening Process

This is the first stage of the impact assessment process that is used to determine which specialist impact assessments needed

Seasonal Worker

A worker who is employed for fixed but limited periods related to fluctuations in demand for labor at different times of the year (Source: ILO Thesaurus)

Sedimentation

The settling of matter to the bottom of a liquid or water body, notably a reservoir, originating from bed load transport, beach and bank erosion, and land runoff. Sedimentation can have significant impacts on water bodies and is sometimes referred to silting-up, where the water depth is reduced significantly because of deposited sediments (normally fine-grained particles)

Segregation of product

Chain of custody system where, from the production of a raw material to the final product for consumption, the information on sustainability remains traceable to the physical product (Source ISO 13065:2015)

The details of the tracking model "segregation of product" are prescribed in the RSB Standard for Traceability of Certified Material (chain of custody) (RSB-STD-20-001)

Self-evaluation

Evaluation for compliance with the RSB principles & criteria, RSB standards and the RSB certification systems conducted by the participating operator of its own operation(s) as defined in its own certification scope

Self-risk assessment

Risk assessment conducted by the participating operator of its own operation(s) as defined in its own certification scope

Semi-Natural

According to US Federal Geographic Data Committee, "Semi-natural vegetation typically encompasses vegetation types where the species composition and/or vegetation growth forms have been altered through anthropogenic disturbances such that no clear natural analogue is known, but they are a largely spontaneous set of plants shaped by ecological processes." (Source: US FGDC)

Sensitive Sites

Sensitive sites are defined as both ecological and social, and are as follows: • Cultural heritage or sacred site (including graves and places used for ceremonies or meetings) • An area of poverty and food insecurity. • Protected Area • Wetland • Mangrove • Estuarine • Buffer zone of protected area • Special area for protecting biodiversity • Coastal Bays • High Conservation Value forested areas

Severely Degraded Land

Land that did not, and is not expected to, revert back to:

- its natural state (e.g. forest, incl. secondary & tertiary forests, savanna, wetland, etc.); or
- its former function of agricultural, rangeland, or forest land through good agricultural, rangeland management, or forestry practices unless restoration measures are implemented (Based on: IPCC, 2000)

Shareholding Options

Option for an individual or organization to own part of a company, through the distribution of shares based on in kind contributions or the purchase of shares of the company

Short rotation coppice

Refers to varieties of poplar and willow grown in wood plantations managed through coppicing. Harvesting takes place every 2 to 5 years (Source: UK Solid and Gaseous Biomass Carbon Calculator User Manual v2.0)

Significant Impact

An impact that is considered 'High' or 'Very High' based on the application of the impact significance rating scale used in the ESIA

Site

A single functional unit of a participating operator, which is geographically and/or functionally distinct from other units of the same participating operator

Small-scale Biofuel or Biomaterial Producer

A biofuel producer with a company-wide total actual annual biofuels production in an amount smaller than 10 million liters of biofuels or a biomaterial producer with a company-wide total annual actual production of less than 50,000 metric tons of biomaterials

Small-scale Feedstock Processor

An operator that processes company-wide total actual feedstock, whether intended for biofuel production or not, in an amount smaller than or equal to 50,000 metric tons/year

Small-scale Feedstock Producer / Farmer

A feedstock producer with a total area of production of agricultural products, whether intended for biofuel production or not, smaller than or equal to 75 hectares

Social Exclusion

A situation whereby certain groups are pushed to the margins of society and prevented from participating fully by virtue of their financial poverty or other reasons; gender, disabilities, illness, race, tribe, employment; health; social skills, education or inadequate life skills

Social Upliftment Plan

A plan developed as part of the ESIA and ESMP aimed at ensuring that the biofuel project results in an improvement in the living conditions and/or livelihood activities of the local stakeholders. The aim of such a plan should be to assist in lifting the stakeholders out of poverty

Soil Biological Conditions

The characteristics of the soil biological community, including biodiversity and microbial biomass

Soil Chemical Conditions

The characteristics of the soil chemistry, including pH, nutrient content, salinity and cation exchange capacity

Soil Degradation

Soil degradation refers to the process(es) by which soil declines in quality and is thus made less fit for a specific purpose, such as crop production (Source: OECD)

Soil Erosion

Detachment and movement of topsoil or soil material from the upper part of the profile, by the action of wind or running water, especially as a result of changes brought about by human activity, such as unsuitable or mismanaged agriculture (Source: European Environment Agency)

Soil Physical Conditions

The characteristics of the soil structure, texture, porosity and profile

Solid Residues from Incineration

Grate or bottom ash, the bulk residue remaining in the hearth, and fly ash, including small quantities of fine particles trapped in the gas stream and reagents such as lime or activated carbon and salts used to clean the gases

Specialist Study

A study assessing particular kinds of impacts on the natural or social environment. A wide variety of specialist studies can be undertaken depending on the nature of the potential impacts and may include social, economic, land use, ecological, water, soils, air quality, visual, health studies, etc. These specialist studies will undertake baseline assessments of current conditions and trends, identify and assess the significance of the impacts, and develop mitigation and monitoring recommendations for these impacts

Species-rich grassland

Grassland, that is

- a habitat of significant importance to critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable species as classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species or other lists with a similar purpose for species or habitats laid down in national legislation or recognised by a competent national authority in the country of origin of the raw material; or
- a habitat of significant importance to endemic or restricted-range species; or
- a habitat of significant importance to intra-species genetic diversity; or
- a habitat of significant importance to globally significant concentrations of migratory species or congregatory species; or
- a regionally or nationally significant or highly threatened or unique ecosystem.

(Source: Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014)

Stability

Stability of supply and access may be affected by weather, price fluctuations, human-induced disasters and a variety of political and economic factors [FAO 2008]. Stability of food supply is related to the environmental and economic conditions that permit sustainable food production and sustainable supplies at reasonable prices

Stage of conversion

Internal processing step where biomass/biofuels product of a particular product type is converted through biological, chemical and/or mechanical processes into new biomass/biofuels product of another product type and where the product type is changed

Stakeholder

Persons, groups or organizations who are directly or indirectly affected by or who can affect an activity, but also includes people and organizations who have concerns about the activity, or who might be responsible agents

There are several categories of stakeholders:

- **Concerned Stakeholders (also referred to as Interested Stakeholders)**

Stakeholders who are not personally affected by an operation but who are concerned about the impact it may have on the social or natural environment

- **Directly Affected Stakeholders**

Stakeholders who are impacted in a very direct and obvious manner such as persons who might need to be resettled or who would lose access to land or natural resources as a result of a new activity

- **Indirectly Affected Stakeholders**

Stakeholders who are impacted in an indirect and secondary manner such as persons who might obtain economic benefits (income earning opportunities) from the provision of goods and services to persons employed by the biofuel operation, or persons who might find other people encroaching on the land and resources they rely on for the basic needs and livelihoods due to in-migration and increased pressure on land and natural resources

- **Marginal Group of stakeholders**

Stakeholders who may not have normal or adequate access to local decision making processes, or may be engaged in informal and marginally viable livelihood activities. They are in some way disconnected from the larger society or economy

- **Responsible Stakeholders**

Stakeholders who are in some way responsible for the authorization, management or implementation of a proposed biofuel operation or the agreements that arise from the operation. This would include the proponent who would have to implement the agreements, but also the environment, water, agriculture, health, education or other government authorities who would be responsible for ensuring compliance or assisting with implementation of various management plans (i.e. a resettlement plan or a social development plan). It would also include elected representatives of local stakeholders who would have a responsibility to ensure that the agreements reached addressed the needs and concerns of local stakeholders

- **Vulnerable Stakeholders**

These are stakeholders whose livelihoods and rights are likely to be negatively affected by a biofuel development, and who are marginalized from the normal decision making processes, and who have very little capacity to cope with the potential impacts. These groups would need special assistance to participate in the decision making processes and to cope with or adapt to the impacts

Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder analysis involves using the recommended tools to sort and categorize the stakeholders. An important part of analyzing stakeholders is to understand “how stakeholders relate to each other” and “the web of relationships surrounding the project”. Stakeholder analysis is important for prioritizing and defining the different levels of interest in the project. It is through this process that the various interests of stakeholders can be mapped and assessed so that they can be dealt with appropriately

Stakeholder Identification

At the beginning of a stakeholder engagement process it is necessary to identify all the stakeholders who need to be included in the engagement process. Stakeholder identification usually begins with a mapping and brainstorming exercise to identify potentially affected, responsible and interested parties. Networking with key informants and stakeholders can then be used to elaborate on the initial list of stakeholders and collect the names and contact details

of the relevant contact persons. Stakeholders already identified can also be verified through this process of consultation

Staple Crops

Food crops of predominance in a given agricultural, geographic and cultural context which provide significant food energy and nutrition, including cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables (Source: Kimetrica 2009)

Stockholm Convention on POPs

A Convention designed to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants, through reducing or eliminating the production, use, and/or release of the following: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, toxaphene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans. The Convention specifies a scientific and procedural review process that could lead to the addition of other POPs chemicals of global concern

Sufficient Food

Sufficient Food indicates a diet of adequate energy and nutritional balance and potable water [Clements 2008]. Household food sufficiency [is] defined as the number of months per year that a household can feed itself from self-produced food (grain) resources, is commonly used as a wealth and socio-economic status ranking tool [and one] indicator of wealth [Chapa et al.1997 : Inter-regional project for participatory upland conservation and development (FAO Field Document 3/97) : Nepal

Sulphur Compounds

Any compound of sulfur, such as sulfur dioxide (SO₂), a pungent, colorless, gas, formed primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels; which becomes a pollutant when present in large amounts

Supplier

Individual, company or other legal entity providing products, goods or services to a participating operator

Surface and Ground Water Resources

Groundwater: All water that is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground of the soil (Specific Definition); Surface water: All waters on the surface of the Earth found in rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, marshes, wetlands, as ice and snow, and transitional, coastal and marine waters (Source: GlobalGap)

Surveillance Audit

Limited evaluation, where a Participating Operator is evaluated against a limited number of standards and procedures

Suspension

Temporary invalidation of the RSB certification by the Certification Body.

System Boundary

Determines which unit processes are included in the lifecycle GHG emissions calculation

Systematic effect

An effect which occurs regularly due to a specific set of conditions and not incidentally or randomly

T-U-V**Technical expert**

Person who provides specific knowledge or expertise to the audit team on social, environmental, economic technical issues related to the production, processing, conversion, trade, use or tracking of biomass, biomaterials or biofuels

Temporary Worker/Employment

Labour contract of limited or unspecified duration with no guarantee of continuation (Source: ILO Thesaurus)

Termination

Revocation or cancellation of the certification contract by the certification body or the client according to contractual arrangements

Thermal Contamination

The decrease in water quality by any process that changes ambient water temperature

Total carbon (TC)

Quantity of carbon present in a product in the form of organic, inorganic and elemental carbon. (Source: EN 16575:2014 Bio-based products – Vocabulary)

Total organic carbon (TOC)

Quantity of organic carbon present in a product
(Source: EN 16575:2014 Bio-based products – Vocabulary)

Tracking model

Method used for tracking RSB compliant product through the chain of custody. Four tracking models have been identified: identity of product preserved, segregation of product, mass balance of product, and content ratio accounting of product, with one (Book & Claim) in development

Training

Organised activity aimed at imparting information and/or instructions to improve the recipient's performance or to help him or her attain a required level of knowledge or skill. Note from secretariat: it is recommended that this definition is associated with certified training, as it is difficult to verify training without verification or a certificate or in some other way. In addition, it

is critical that people get certified skills so that they can move around in the job market if they wish. This would distinguish training from capacity building or awareness raising

Tree Hedges

Hedgerow. A fence formed by trees, usually planted to protect the crops from the wind. Sometimes supplemented with bushes in order to protect the crops from the wind just above the ground

Typical value

[this definition is applicable to the RSB standard for EU market access only (RSB-STD-11-001)]

An estimate of the representative greenhouse gas emission saving for a particular biofuel production pathway

Utilization [Food]

Food utilization is utilization of food through adequate diet, clean water, sanitation and health care to reach a state of nutritional well-being where all physiological needs are met. This brings out the importance of non-food inputs to food security [FAO 2009]. Safe and healthy food utilization depends on care and feeding, food safety and quality, access to clean water, health and sanitation [FAO 2008]

Value Added

Value addition is any activity along the supply chain that increase the usability, culinary attribute or economic viability of a [food] item (Source: Josupeit 2006)

Vegetative Ground Cover

Vegetation, including herbaceous plants and small woody plants, which grow below a canopy or low to the ground

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

Any organic compound that participates in atmospheric photochemical reactions (Source: US EPA)

Vulnerable

People who are at risk of being discriminated against or who are or are at risk of being socially excluded, particularly in terms of participation in decision-making. Risk of discrimination or social exclusion may be related to race, caste, national origin, religion, landlessness, disability, gender, sexual orientation, union membership, political affiliation, age, marital status, those living with HIV/AIDS, seasonal, migrant and temporary employment or to other reasons

W-X-Y-Z

Wage

Payment made for work performed (Source: ILO Thesaurus)

Waste

Any substance, mixture of substances, material or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard

(Source: EN 16575:2014 Bio-based products – Vocabulary)

Waste Water

Used water, typically discharged into the sewage system. It may contain solid and soluble matter, as well as microorganisms (Source: UN)

Water Balance

Balance of inflow and outflow of water per unit area or unit volume and unit time taking into account net changes of storage (Source: FAO-UNEP)

Water Course

A discrete and significant element of surface water such as a lake, reservoir, a stream, river or canal, part of a stream, river or canal, transitional water or a stretch of coastal water (Source: GlobalGap)

Water Discharge

Water, such as waste water, released into surface and groundwater resources

Water Runoff

The part of the precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water that appears in uncontrolled surface streams, rivers, drains or sewers (Source: Australian Government – National Water Commission)

Water Social Reserve

The amount of water flowing in a river that is needed for basic human needs

Water Table

The upper surface of the groundwater where the pressure of water in the soil is equal to the atmospheric pressure; the level below which the soil is saturated with water. It is seldom static, rising and falling with the seasons, the rate of withdrawal, the rate of recharge, and other conditions

Water Withdrawal

Water removed from a ground- or surface-water source for use

Watershed

The land area that drains water to a particular stream, river, or lake. It is a land feature that can be identified by tracing a line along the highest elevations between two areas on a map, often a ridge (Source: US Geological Survey)

Well to Wheel

Lifecycle steps of fuels, encompassing feedstock production, feedstock processing, feedstock transport, fuel production, fuel transport, and fuel use

Wetland

Areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters (Source: RAMSAR Convention)

WHO 1a and 1b lists

Lists of 'extremely hazardous' (Class 1a) and 'highly hazardous' (Class 1b) active ingredients found in pesticides, identified by the World Health Organization. The classification is based primarily on the acute oral and dermal toxicity to rats

Working Conditions

The physical, social and managerial factors affecting a worker's job environment (Source: ILO Thesaurus)

Withdrawal

Revocation or cancellation of a RSB certificate by the certification body

World Heritage Sites (UNESCO)

As defined in the Convention Concerning The Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO, 1972), World Heritage Sites are monuments, groups of buildings, sites, natural features, geological and physiographical formations and natural sites of outstanding universal value from the historical, scientific, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological, anthological or conservation point of view (Source: UNESCO)

Youth

Aged between 16 and 30. Note: in developing countries youth is a term used to describe young people who have left education and entering the job market, as this group is highly susceptible to job exclusion due to lack of skills and experience