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RSB
Roundtable on
Sustainable Biomaterials
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RSB – ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOMATERIALS

**MONITORING & EVALUATION
PUBLIC SYSTEM REPORT**

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1. Scope and Boundaries of the RSB M&E System

We are a collaboration of more than 90 diverse organisations that have united to create the RSB. What was once a vision to ensure biofuel sustainability has grown into a global sustainability certification for all biomaterials, advanced products and advanced fuels.

The RSB has to ensure that its desired long-term goals will be achieved. The RSB Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) System is designed to measure this success in many types of supply chains.

The RSB Standard, and consequently the RSB M&E System, is applicable globally and to all types of biomass, biomaterials, advanced products and advanced fuels.

The RSB monitors its performance by processing data collected among its certified operators through a set of “outcome indicators”, which cover the environmental, social and economic issues and the context in which operators work.

The measured impacts are compared to the expected results and outcomes, as defined in the initial RSB “[Theory of Change](#)”, which describes the short-term, mid-term and long-term effects the RSB is expected to drive in terms of contributing to developing a sustainable bio-based economy. In September 2019, RSB initiated a review of its Theory of Change and the process is expected to be finalized and approved by RSB Assembly of Delegates in the end of 2020.

Results from the M&E system feed into the continuous improvement of the RSB Standards, Policies, Guidance and Tools of the certification system, as well RSB strategies and activities.

Committed to transparency, the RSB prepares its M&E reports annually and circulates them among RSB stakeholders for comments and further improvements to the system.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Elena Schmidt – Standards Director (elena.schmidt@rsb.org) – is responsible for: Data analysis and evaluation, review of the annual M&E report “Outcomes of RSB’s Monitoring & Evaluation System”, regulatory reporting requirement, organisational learning.

Aurea Nardelli – Certification Manager and Technical Advisor (aurea.nardelli@rsb.org) – is responsible for: Overall responsibility for the M&E, data collection and processing, M&E reporting.

3. Defining the intended change

The sustainability impacts ¹ achieved by RSB certified operators and other stakeholders implementing the RSB Standard are expected to bring social, environmental and economic improvements over a short, medium or long term:

¹ The unintended impacts are identified in RSB Theory of Change, but are currently not measured by the M&E system, due the current capacity constrain. The system is expected to include unintended impacts from 2022.

| Social Sustainability Risks | |
|--|---|
| Existing risks (without certification) | Desired positive impacts from RSB certification |
| Labor and Human Rights | |
| Violations of human and labor rights in the context of operations, e.g. child and/or slave labor. | No cases of child labor and slave/forced labor in RSB certified operations. |
| | Workers can exercise their labor rights (e.g. freedom of association, right to organize, right to collectively bargain) in RSB certified operations. |
| | No discrimination of any kind in RSB certified operations. |
| | Gaps in remuneration between women and men are significantly reduced throughout the supply chain. |
| | Conditions of occupational safety and health for workers in RSB certified operations are significantly improved over time |
| Social and Economic Services | |
| Regions of poverty and the vulnerable (women, youth, indigenous etc.) suffer from the operations, instead of benefiting from them. Lack of benefit sharing. | Local stakeholders benefit steadily from RSB certified operations through the improvement of social and economic services, higher incomes, economic opportunities, and infrastructure building. |
| | Women, youth, indigenous communities and the vulnerable participate more and are more included. |
| Stakeholder Engagement & Consultation | |
| From operations affected stakeholders are not engaged and consulted before. Conflicts and disputes over projects; lack of understanding of local conditions and needs by biomaterial operations. | Stakeholder involvement and Free Prior Informed Consent in RSB certified operations become the norm. |
| Land Rights | |
| Violations of land rights and land use rights in the context of operations. | No violations of land use rights in RSB certified operations, and reduced cases of disputes over land and land use. |
| Water Rights | |
| Violations of prior formal or customary water rights in the context of operations. | No violations of prior formal or customary water rights in RSB certified operations and reduced cases of disputes over water resources |
| Food Security | |
| Deterioration of local food security due to operations | Food security is increased in regions of RSB certified operations. |
| Environmental Sustainability Risks | |
| Water | |
| Depletion and pollution of surface and ground water resources due to operations. | Enhancement/maintenance of quality and quantity of surface and ground water resources in RSB certified operations over time. |
| Soil | |

| | |
|--|---|
| Decrease in the physical, chemical, and biological health of soil due to operations. | Soil erosion is significantly reduced. Organic matter content is maintained and enhanced. Soil pollution is minimized. |
| Conservation (Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services) | |
| Loss of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and conservation values due to operations. | RSB certified operations do not contribute to the loss of biodiversity and maintain ecosystem services |
| Use of Technology, Inputs, and Management of Waste | |
| Harmful use of technology and bad management of waste in operations. | Use of technologies and management of waste in RSB certified operations brings clear environmental/social benefits and is appropriately monitored. |
| Air Pollution | |
| Air pollution due to operations | Air pollution in RSB certified operations is minimized over time. |
| GHG Emissions | |
| No significant reduction in GHG emissions is achieved compared to fossil fuels through operations | RSB certified operations lead to significant reductions of GHG emissions over the life cycle compared to fossil fuels. |
| Economic Sustainability Risks | |
| Enterprise Resilience | |
| Failures due to poorly managed operations | Long-term economic viability in RSB certified operations is increased over time. |
| Value Chains | |
| Bad practices and inequity throughout the chain of custody for operations. Short-term supply agreements, and unstable relationships within supply chain. | No bad practices and inequity throughout the chain of custody in RSB certified operations. Long-term off-take agreements for producers of sustainable product, stability of supply chain. |
| Income | |
| Unfair, non-regulated and non-negotiated incomes | Wages are fairly negotiated between employer and worker, with no differences in wage between genders. |

The supporting strategies to contribute to intended outcomes are:

a. Uptake of the RSB Standard and Certification System

The RSB monitors how well the RSB certification system and related tools match users' needs in order to continuously evolve and improve over time.

b. Multi-stakeholder dialogue and enabling environment

The development of the RSB Standard is based on a broad global multi-stakeholder engagement, which contributes to the RSB gaining credibility and legitimacy.

c. Market Engagement, Communications and Outreach

Through worldwide outreach and an effective communication, the RSB contributes to raising awareness about sustainability issues and the need to implement robust standards in supply chains.

d. Regulatory policy advocacy

The RSB acts as an advocate for an enabling policy or regulatory environment for the wider adoption of responsible practices throughout biomass supply chains.

4. Performance Monitoring

Outcome Indicators

The RSB monitors its performance by processing data collected among its certified operators through a set of [outcome indicators](#), which cover all the environmental, social and economic issues described in the previous section.

Data collection method

The data points required for the RSB M&E System are collected through the continuously ongoing certification processes. This data collection method allows the RSB Secretariat to continuously collect actual and third party verified data.

Data management, confidentiality of data

Many aspects of certified operations are confidential; hence the necessity for Certification Bodies (CB) to sign a non-disclosure agreement with participating operators. As parts of the data submitted by the CBs have to be considered sensitive data, confidentiality is a high priority for the RSB. The RSB Secretariat discloses/publishes only aggregated data in an anonymous manner so that individual-level data cannot be attributed to a particular operation.

Frequency, Scope, Methodology & Audience

To date, the RSB conducted four outcome evaluations, based on the data collected through its certified operators. The following table shows the schedule of M&E related activities:

| Activity | Frequency | Last update | Coordination | Other parties involved | Contribution to the M&E System |
|---|------------|-------------|-----------------|---|--|
| Data Collection | Continuous | - | RSB Secretariat | Participating Operators, Certification Bodies | |
| Prepare the Outcome Evaluation and report | Annually | July 2020 | RSB Secretariat | RSB Members, Board, Participating Operators, Certification Bodies, Accreditation Body | Based on the results, change in RSB strategy, modification of the RSB standard |
| Review the Public System Report | Annually | July 2020 | RSB Secretariat | | Transparency |

5. Outcome and Impact Evaluation

On the basis of the data processed through its outcome and impact indicators, the RSB is able to draw conclusions and trends, with regards to its impact on biomaterial, advanced products and advanced fuels supply chains.

These conclusions are articulated around the following key questions:

- What is the contribution of RSB certified operators to increasing the total number of responsibly managed areas, avoided tons of CO₂ emissions, fairly treated employees etc?
- How do these numbers compared to the desired impacts and outcomes, as defined in the RSB Theory of Change?
- What other factors may have influenced these numbers?
- Are there any observed negative impacts from RSB certified operations?
- What are the elements of the RSB M&E System, which could be improved?
- What are the elements of the RSB Standard and general RSB strategy, which could be improved?

The RSB M&E reports and other related documents are available at: <https://rsb.org/about/what-we-do/measuring-our-impact/>

6. Improving the Effectiveness of the M&E System

Results from the M&E system feed into the continuous improvement of the RSB Standard and certification system. M&E Reports are prepared at least annually. The focus will be to ensure that the Standards system is on the right path to achieve its desired impacts, and feedback will be an important aspect.

7. Opportunities for Engagement

The RSB is committed to transparency and participation. The Outcome Evaluation reports are developed by the RSB Secretariat annually and circulated via email to RSB, RSB Members, RSB Participating Operators, RSB Certification Bodies and the RSB Accreditation Body for comments. Based on the stakeholders' comments, the Outcome Evaluation Report as well as the Public System Report will be reviewed by the Secretariat.

Any comments, questions or complaints about the M&E System, please contact us: info@rsb.org