



# Biofuel sustainability certification - the RSB Standard



**Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels**

**Victoria Junquera**

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*Energy Center*

# **Biofuel Production**

## **Complex sustainability issues**

- ❖ GHG emissions
- ❖ Food security
- ❖ Conservation & land use change
- ❖ Indirect impacts
- ❖ Environmental impacts
- ❖ Socio-economic impacts
- ❖ Land rights
- ❖ Implementation / supply chain



# ***Towards sustainable bioenergy development***

- ❖ «Top down» approach / big picture
  - ❖ Land productivity: competition for bioenergy, agriculture, livestock production, fibers, bioproducts
  - ❖ Climate change
  - ❖ Energy security
  - ❖ Etc.
  
- ❖ «Bottom up»: assessment at the operator level
  - ❖ Certification
  - ❖ Verification
  - ❖ Boundary can be wider than the scope of the operator (but not too large)

# ***The Drive for Sustainability Certification***

- Certification assesses sustainability at the **operator level**
- **Matrix** of sustainability parameters, certification **process** – no quick answers
- Ensures a **level of sustainability** of an operation : minimum requirements
- Allows more sustainable operators to **distinguish** themselves in the marketplace from the worse performers
  - operators make a **claim of sustainability**
  - must be **verifiable**
- **Reduced risks** (social, environmental) and **improved internal management**

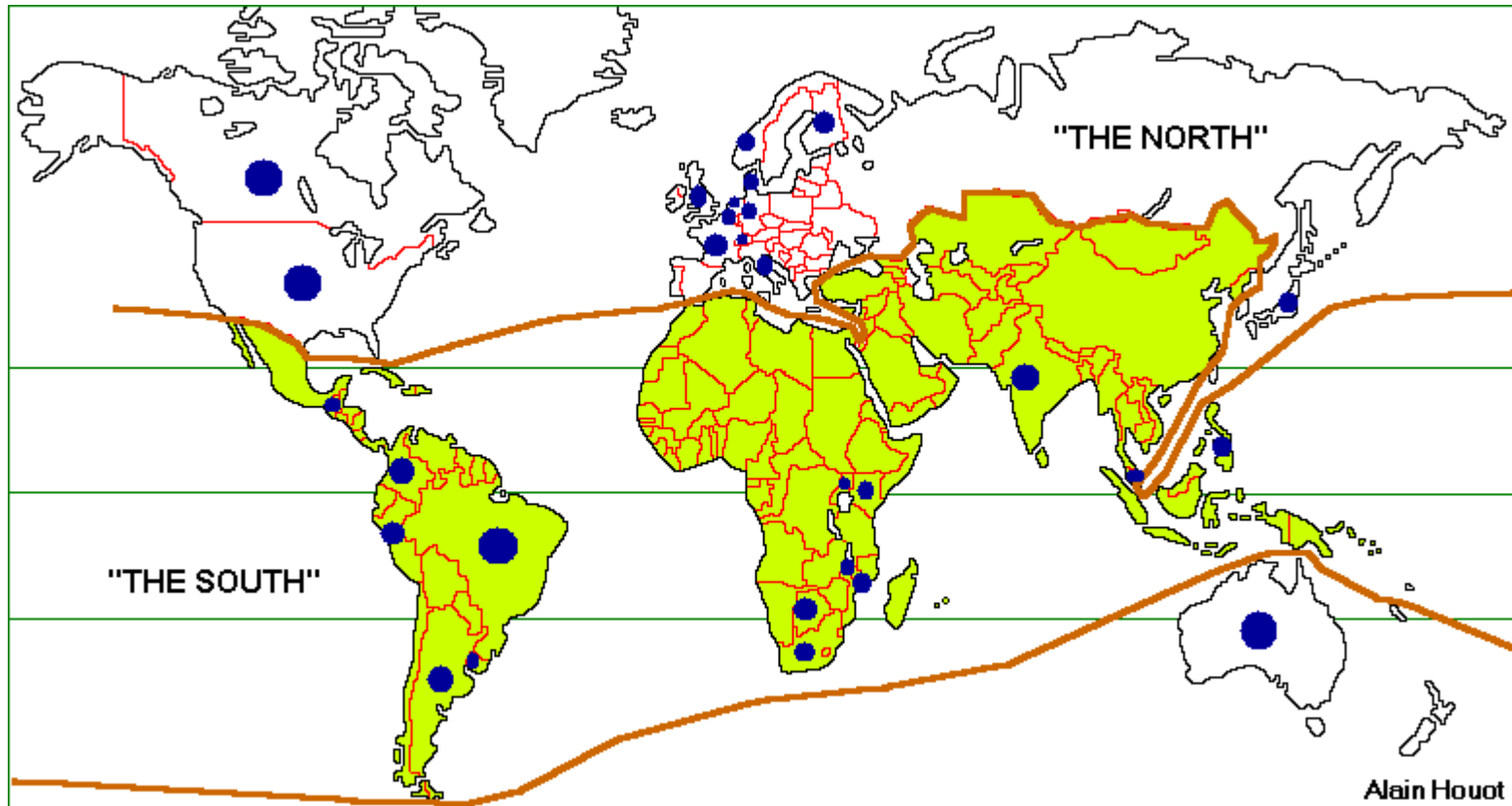
# ***The RSB Standard***

**Global, multi-stakeholder certification standard on sustainability and biofuels applicable to all feedstocks and biofuel types**

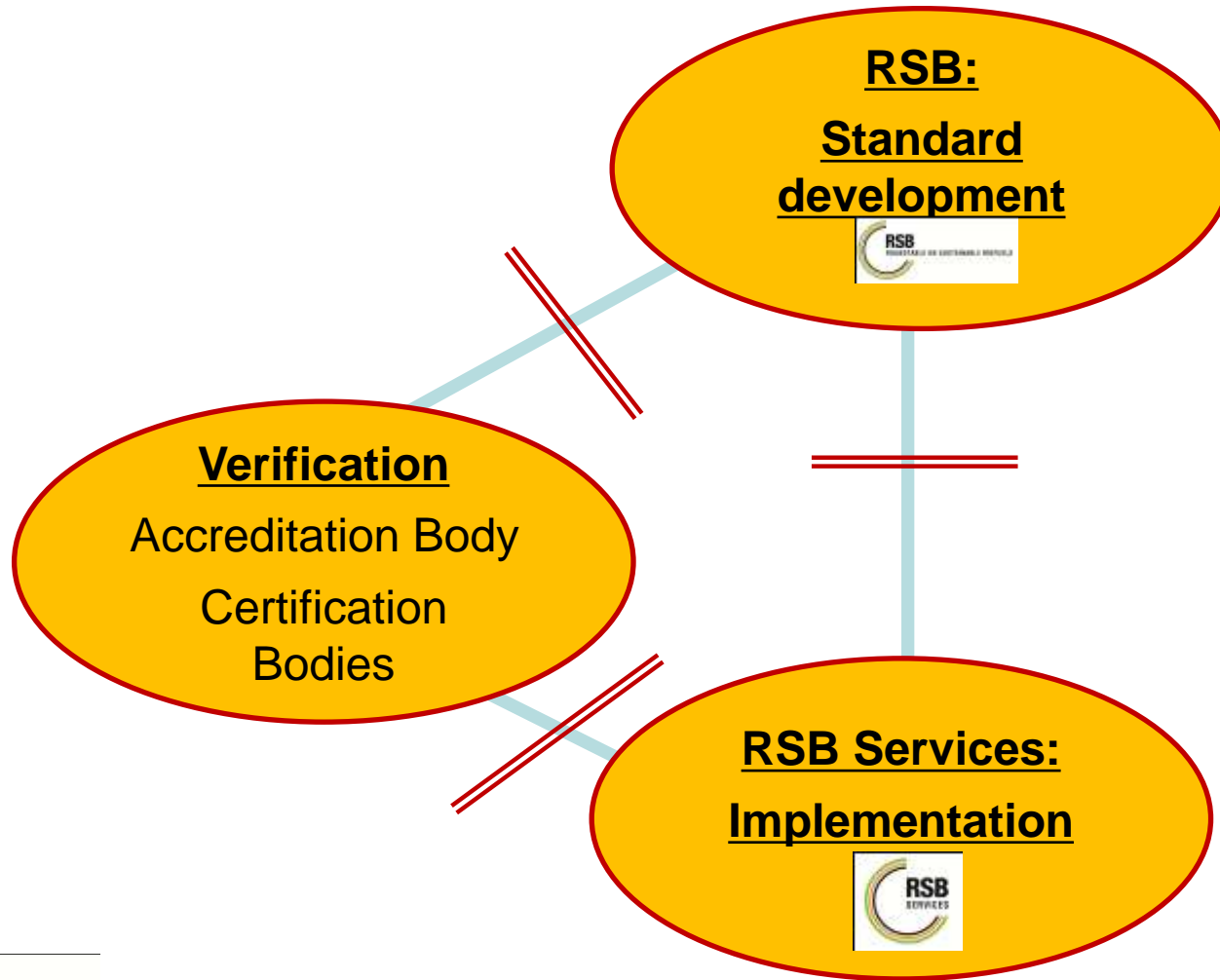


- ❖ Developed and approved by about **120 members from more than 35 countries** representing private sectors along the supply chain and NGO's. **RSB is a full ISEAL Member.**
- ❖ Covers **entire supply chain**
- ❖ **12 Principles & Criteria** (incl. GHG, biodiversity, food security etc.)
- ❖ Standard implemented in a **certification** scheme
- ❖ Applies to **all feedstocks** + enables geographic & crop specific **adaptations**
- ❖ Recognized by the EU

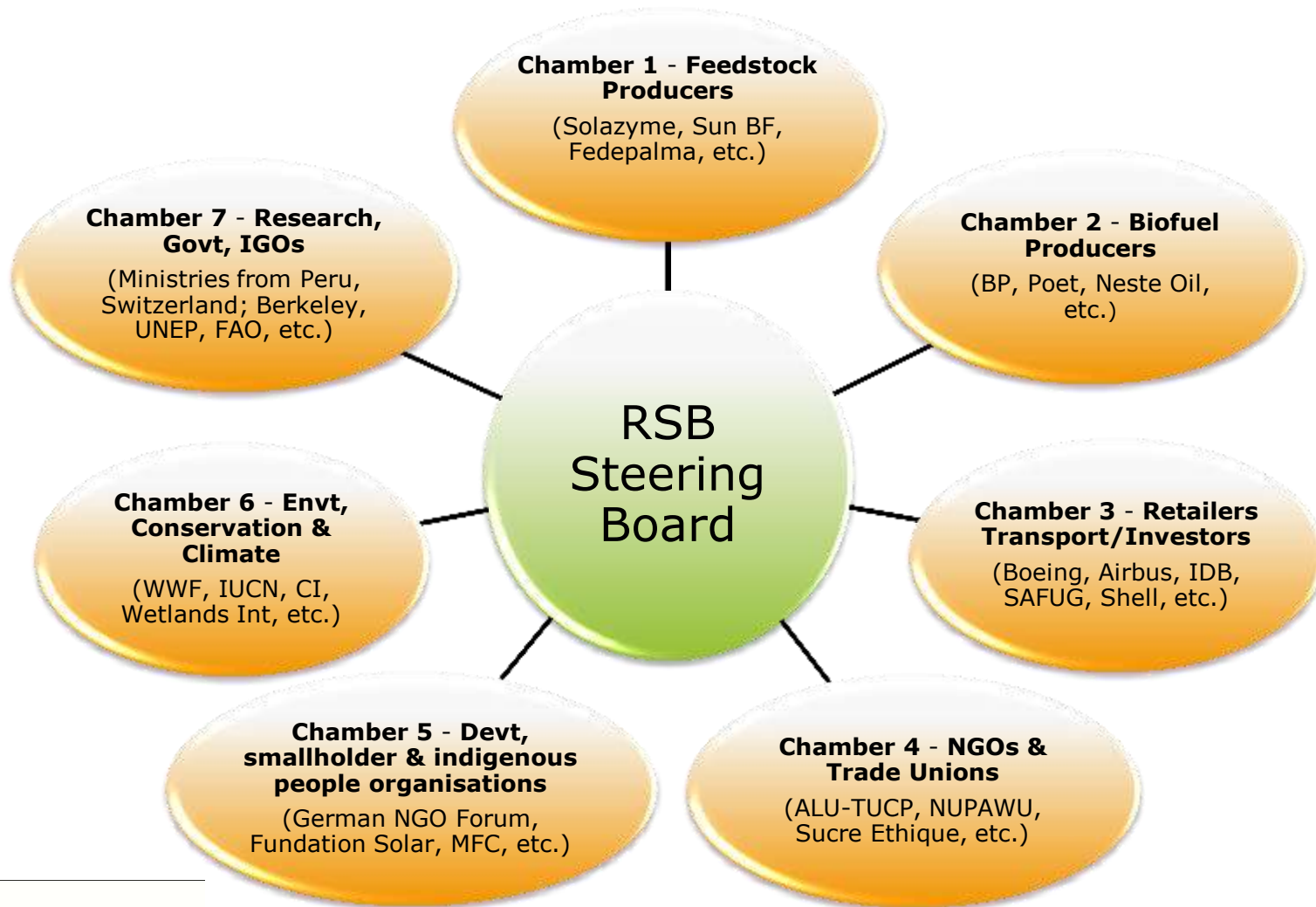
# A global discussion: RSB members



# RSB Setup Central Elements



# The RSB Governance





# 12 Principles & Criteria

Principle 1:  
**Legality**

Principle 2:  
**Planning,  
Monitoring &  
Continuous  
Improvement**

Principle 3:  
**Greenhouse  
Gas  
Emissions**

Principle 4:  
**Human &  
Labor Rights**

Principle 5:  
**Rural &  
Social  
Development**

Principle 6:  
**Local Food  
Security**

Principle 7:  
**Conservation**

Principle 8:  
**Soil**

Principle 9:  
**Water**

Principle 10:  
**Air**

Principle 11:  
**Use of Technology,  
Inputs, &  
Management of  
Waste**

Principle 12:  
**Land Rights**

# RSB P&C's and Supporting Practical Tools

- ❖ Principle 1: **Legality**
- ❖ Principle 2: **Planning, Monitoring & Continuous Improvement** → Guidelines on ESIA and Stakeholder Engagement
- ❖ Principle 3: **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** → Methodology for GHG Calculation & RSB Tool
- ❖ Principle 4: **Human & Labor Rights**
- ❖ Principle 5: **Rural & Social Development**
- ❖ Principle 6: **Local Food Security** → Guidelines on Food Security Assessment
- ❖ Principle 7: **Conservation** → Guidelines on Conservation Assessment
- ❖ Principle 8: **Soil** → Guidelines on Soil Assessment
- ❖ Principle 9: **Water** → Guidelines on Water Assessment
- ❖ Principle 10: **Air**
- ❖ Principle 11: **Use of Technology, Inputs, & Management of Waste**
- ❖ Principle 12: **Land Rights** → Guidelines on Land Rights Assessment

# ***The RSB Certification System***

- ❖ Managed by **RSB Services** (independent entity)
- ❖ Certification system based on **3rd party independent audits** by RSB-accredited certification bodies (CBs)
- ❖ **No self-declaration** of compliance allowed as basis for certification
- ❖ **Risk management** system to **lower auditing costs** (assesses type and frequency of audits for each operator)

# RSB Certification Partners

Certification bodies accredited to date:



In the process:



Industrie Service



Energy Center

# ***RSB Certification Activities***

- ❖ The RSB has received to date 7 applications for certification from biofuel operators
- ❖ First certification expected before end of 2011 / 1Q2012
- ❖ Assist operators who seek certification
- ❖ Training program for certification bodies
- ❖ Capacity building & outreaches

## ***RSB as a platform***

- ❖ Collaboration with governments / international organizations
  - ❖ E.g., to integrate sustainability criteria in regulations
- ❖ Work on indirect impacts, IIEG
- ❖ Adaptation of the RSB Standard
  - ❖ Regional adaptations
  - ❖ Feedstock adaptations
  - ❖ Smallholder farmers
- ❖ Benchmarking of other standards / regulations

# ***Australia: Biofuel sustainability requirements***

- ❖ Sustainability standards
  - ❖ ISO Sustainability Standard
  - ❖ Interim Sustainability Standard for Australia
- ❖ Currently NSW requires that biofuel operations meet the RSB P&C (Version Zero)

# ***The RSB Standard in Australia***

- ❖ RSB Standard is the product of 4 years of work and the involvement of hundreds of stakeholders around the world
- ❖ Can be used to inform the development of the Australian sustainability standard (Interim/ISO)
- ❖ Benchmark ISO Standard / RSB
- ❖ Both certifications are possible



# Conclusion

- ❖ The RSB has developed a sustainability standard for biofuels and bioenergy
  - ❖ Principles & Criteria, Indicators & Guidelines
  - ❖ Implementation: Certification & Verification, Chain of Custody
- ❖ Globally applicable, broadly respected & deemed ambitious
- ❖ Based on third party verification and auditing with strict audit requirements
- ❖ Working with governments and stakeholders to make the standard practical
- ❖ Can be used to inform other standards / frameworks / regulations
- ❖ First RSB certification(s) expected before end 2011

# *Thank you!*



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