



RSB Monitoring and Evaluation Public System Report

Version 1.3
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Introduction

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) is an international organization, which develops and maintains the RSB Standard for sustainable production and processing of biomass and its derivatives, primarily bioenergy and bio-based products (biomaterials). The RSB Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System is designed to measure the success over time in addressing environmental and socio-economic issues in biomass supply chains. The RSB M&E System collects relevant data from certified operators and the context in which they work. The measured impacts are compared to the expected results and outcomes, as defined in the RSB [“Theory of Change”](#).

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

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

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Elena Schmidt – Standards Director – is responsible for:

Oversight of the M&E System, Stakeholder engagement processes, Reporting, Organizational learning, Data analysis and evaluation.

Aurea Nardelli – Certification Manager & Technical Advisor – is responsible for:

Data collection, Data analysis and evaluation, Research on impacts and case studies.

3. Defining the intended change

The sustainability impacts 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:

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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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 biomaterial 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.

4. Supporting Strategies

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Smallholder Certification**

RSB is implementing a program that seeks to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by linking them to markets and promoting sustainable practices.

5. Performance Monitoring

5.1. 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.

5.2. 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.

5.3. Data management, confidentiality of data

Many aspects of biomaterial operations are confidential; hence the necessity for certification bodies 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.

5.4. Frequency, Scope, Methodology & Audience

To date, the RSB conducted a first outcome evaluation in February 2015, based on the data collected through its certified operators. The following table shows the schedule for upcoming 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	
Outcome Evaluation	Annually <small>(due to changes in the M&E System, no outcome evaluation was published in 2016)</small>	February 2015	RSB Secretariat	RSB Members, Board, Participating Operators, Certification Bodies, Accreditation Body	Based on the results, change in RSB strategy, modification of the RSB standard
Public System Report	Once a year	January 2017	RSB Secretariat		Transparency

5.5. Outcome and impact evaluation

On the basis of the data processed through its impact indicators, the RSB is able to draw conclusions and trends, with regards to its impact on biomaterial 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?

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

Elena Schmidt (elena.schmidt@rsb.org) is the contact point for any question or comment related to RSB M&E System.

The RSB is committed to transparency and participation. The Outcome Evaluation reports are developed by the RSB Secretariat annually. The reports are circulated via email to RSB Members, RSB Participating Operators, RSB Certification Bodies and 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. Revised versions of both documents have to be approved by the RSB Board of Directors.

2017 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

- April/2017 RSB will circulate the Outcome Evaluation Report 2016 together with the Public System Report to RSB Members, Participating Operators, Certification Bodies and the Accreditation Body ASI