

Sustainability standards and biofuels

Contributions to understanding impacts



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Sustainable Biofuels Regulation Workshop

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Outline

1. Setting the stage
 - › The ISEAL Alliance
 - › ISEAL and impacts measurement
 - › Standards and biofuels
2. Measuring impacts of biofuels
 - › Which impacts?
 - › What can standards systems contribute?



Setting the stage



What is the ISEAL Alliance?

- › Founded 2002
- › Membership organisation
 - Of standards and international accreditation bodies
- › ISEAL defines credibility for social and environmental standard systems.



The ISEAL Alliance: A Growing Movement...

Full Members



Associate Members



ISEAL members and biofuels

- › Supply chain standards
 - E.g. RSB (Roundtable for Sustainable Biofuels)
- › Feedstock standards - production for the food or fuel market
 - Agricultural standards, e.g. Bonsucro, Rainforest Alliance



Codes & Credibility Principles

Codes define good practice and are conditions of membership.

- › Standard-Setting Code (since 2004)
- › Impacts Code (since 2010)
- › Assurance Code (In 2012)

Key “Credibility Principles” inform the Codes

- › Public consultation on-going



Impacts are at the heart of ISEAL's work

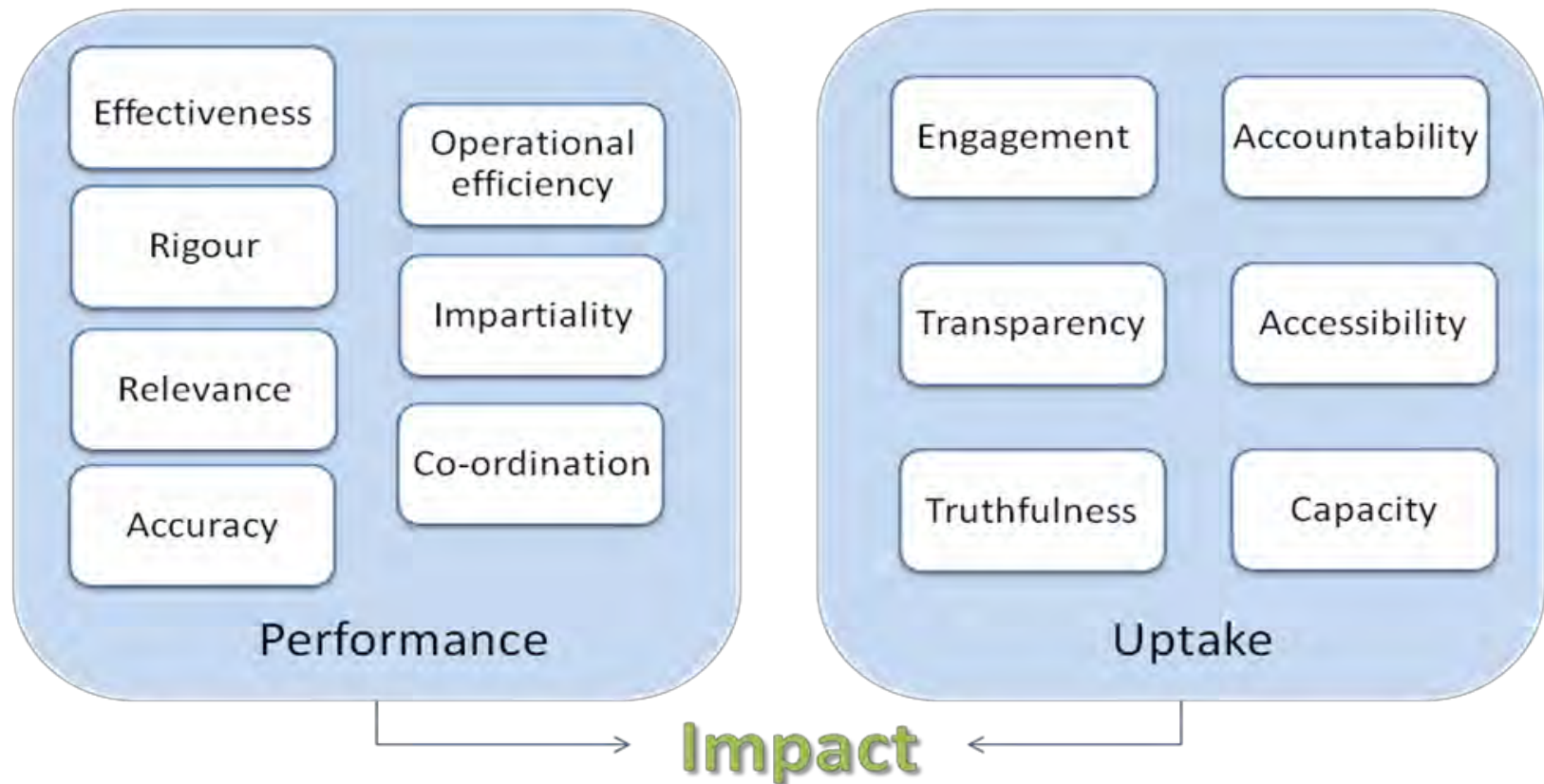
Credible standards deliver expected impacts effectively and efficiently

- › To do this, each part of the system must operate well
 - The standard
 - The assurance process
 - Capacity building and other supporting strategies
 - Monitoring, evaluation, and internal learning



Impact and ISEAL's Credibility Principles

Credibility Principles



Stakeholders demand better information on results and impacts

Most organisations today



MYTH – ANECDOTE – OBSERVATION – COMPARISON – REPLICATED – RRC



Systematic
Indicators

+ Research
Strategy

The Impacts Code as a response....

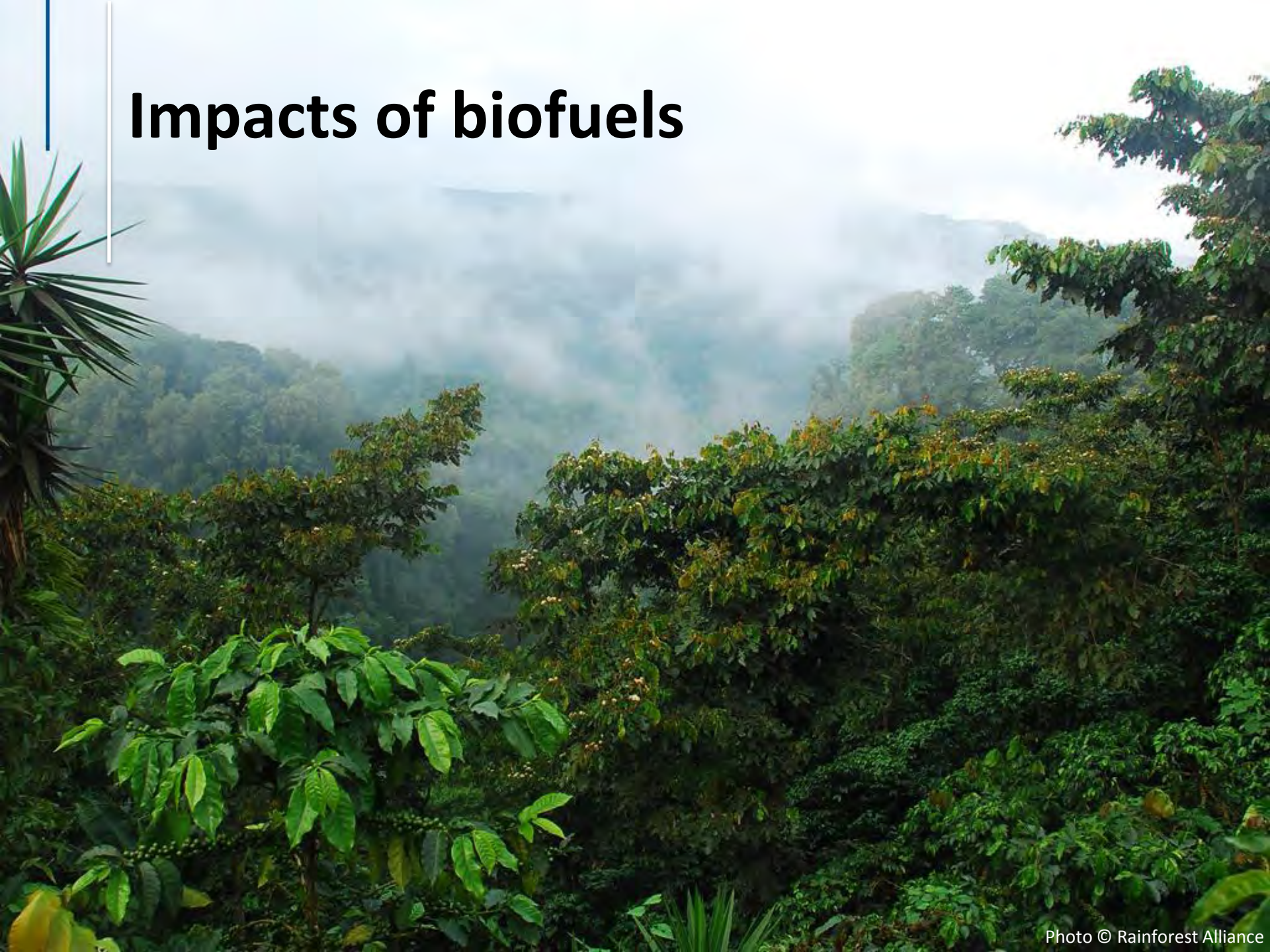
Code compliance is a membership requirement

- › Full compliance by Dec 2013
- › Or 2 years after becoming an Associate Member

What does the Code require?

- › Clear articulation of sustainability goals
- › Theory of change
- › On-going monitoring (output and outcome indicators)
- › Periodic outcome and impact evaluations (could be external)
- › Public sharing of information and results
- › Internal learning and improvement

Impacts of biofuels



Issues of primary concern in studies

Category of impact	Specific concerns
Planet	Greenhouse gas emissions Land conversion Competition for water Biodiversity Deforestation
People	Food prices and food insecurity Employment in rural areas Access to land for the poor
Profit	Rural employment / ag and rural development National energy security Economic growth in developing countries

Adapted from Michalopoulos et al 2011

Challenges for biofuels impact evaluation

- › Impacts at different scales
 - Adding up = gaps and double-counting
- › Differences across contexts (“hotspots”)
- › A “complex” system
- › “Avoiding harm” or “better than...” research
- › Traceability of feedstock



What can standard systems contribute?



Scope of concerns vs. standards

- › Concerns about biofuels are systemic, regional, national, or international
- › Scope of standard systems is generally the certified entity and the activities and resources it controls
- › Some standards try to go beyond boundary
- › Certified biofuels are small part of market



Standard systems' assurance and M&E systems match their scope

› Compliance with standard

- Practice –based: are practices implemented?
- Performance–based or metric: outcomes achieved?

› Monitoring and evaluation

- Goal = are they achieving their intended outputs, outcomes, and impact?, are strategies and standard effective?
 - » Monitoring – focus on certified entity and direct, short-term results
 - » Outcome and impact evaluation – may be broader and could potentially pick up landscape level issues

Contribution of standards?

- › Site level information
- › Average outcomes for certified crops or operations in particular regions
- › Participate in system-level or regional-level discussions and evaluations



Maximizing the contribution

- › Relevant site-level indicators
- › Methods for aggregating site level data
- › Regional studies to which they can contribute
- › Financial support for data collection and processing
- › Small organisations, with limited means for M&E
- › Info gathering is costly and should not fall on farmers



A lush green forest landscape with misty mountains in the background. The foreground is filled with dense, vibrant green foliage, including coffee plants with small green cherries. The middle ground shows a dense canopy of trees, and the background features rolling hills and mountains shrouded in a soft, white mist. The sky is overcast and grey.

Thank you!

For questions or further information, contact:
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