

## Responsible Leather Stakeholder Meeting #5

Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Meeting Agenda

1. Updates & Progress
2. News & Information
3. RLI Decision Tree & Survey

### 1. Updates & Progress

#### 2017 Textile Sustainability Conference Highlights

- This year's conference was by all accounts a huge success. With over 500 registrants from 37 countries and 328 companies, the level of discourse was high.
- The Sustainable Development Goals were a key theme running throughout the conference and standards were identified as important tools for companies to use in meeting these goals.
- We had two separate sessions on the Responsible Leather Initiative
  - Leather & Cashmere Breakout Session featuring 4 speakers:
    - Sandra Vijn from WWF speaking about deforestation in the beef/leather supply chain
    - Sara Shields from Humane Society International speaking about animal welfare issues on farms
    - Caroline Reid from IKEA speaking about transparency in the leather supply chain
    - Deborah Froeb from The Nature Conservancy speaking about cashmere and challenges of nomadic herding in Mongolia
  - Responsible Leather Initiative In-Person Meeting
    - Focused on discussing issues and possible solution models

#### Conference Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Business case drivers for Responsible Leather
3. What are we really trying to achieve and what is the best way to do it?
4. Focused topic discussions

Aligning of GRSB principles & criteria and the Responsible Leather Initiative focuses:

GRSB	Responsible Leather Initiative
Natural Resources	Environmental Impacts
People & The Community	Social Impact
Animal Health & Welfare	Animal Welfare
Food	Traceability & Quality
Efficiency & Innovation	Continuous Improvement & Education

**Comment:** GRSB governance strictly dictates outcome-based expectations (not best practices)

- When it is not adhered to, the value of the roundtable dissolves immediately
- They include some best practices, but many will not be listened to if we focus on best practices
- You will find balance if you look for a balance, but try not to be black and white
- Having facilitated the principles and criteria, and metrics for McDonald's pilot in Canada, and been in those discussion, it was extremely difficult
- *TE will have to work through some differences in approaches*

**Comment:** From a broader perspective, the more such attempts try to set specific standards, the harder they are to see to the finish. Trying to harmonize and use existing standards is the best path forward. Would STRONGLY suggest going for the Roundtable option! Education is better rather than trying to force things through.

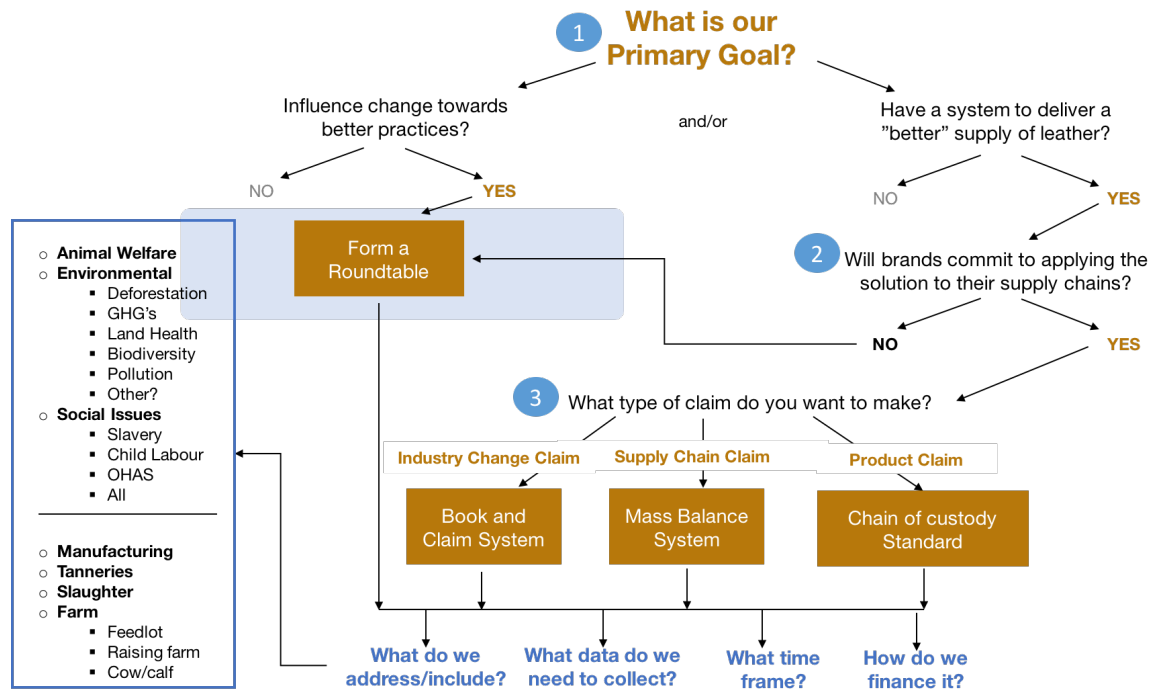
## 2. News & Information

- India's crackdown on Muslim-run leather units dents exports, hits jobs
  - [http://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-leather-exports/indias-crackdown-on-muslim-run-leather-units-dents-exports-hits-jobs-idUSKCN1C81MN?il=0&utm\\_source=GoBlu+News&utm\\_campaign=dae6450d97-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_10\\_04&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f33fa28cfd-dae6450d97-215971633](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-leather-exports/indias-crackdown-on-muslim-run-leather-units-dents-exports-hits-jobs-idUSKCN1C81MN?il=0&utm_source=GoBlu+News&utm_campaign=dae6450d97-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_10_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f33fa28cfd-dae6450d97-215971633)
- Tannery of the Future checklist functions as a baseline assessment and monitoring tool in the Kanpur region of India
- Investors Urge Leather Working Group to Add Labor Compliance to Audits
- Lives Lost to Leather: Toxic Chemicals Harming Child Workers in Bangladesh
  - [https://www.trustedclothes.com/blog/2016/02/23/24811/?utm\\_content=buffer6783e&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](https://www.trustedclothes.com/blog/2016/02/23/24811/?utm_content=buffer6783e&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)
- Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) Standard to be released in December
  - Anne & Stuart to attend meeting December 6-7 in Edmonton

**Q:** Does anybody know whether or not the Leather Working Group (LWG) will actually address social compliance issues in their audits?

- Stakeholder comment: There are very good reasons why the LWG should not add social and currently has no plans to do so.
- Stakeholder comment: We did a lot of work exploring that with LWG and BLC. The only way they practically could incorporate social would be to adopt existing standards and certifications; they don't have the resources or the skill set to undertake social audits. One of the biggest problem is which one(s) - that everyone, or at least a sufficient number would accept. Given as an industry we can't agree on a social standard for apparel and footwear production sites doing so for tanneries is probably one step even further away.
- *TE will follow up with LWG to find out more*

### 3. Decision Tree & Survey



#### Responsible Leather Survey

- We need your help in giving us direction where to go next; we need to narrow down our many options
- What will be the most effective way to move forward?
- What are the needs of your company?

The survey asks 4 main questions based on the decision tree:

1. What is our primary goal?
2. Will brands commit to apply the solution to their supply chains?
3. What type of claim do you want to make?

To understand the types of claims we are considering, please see slides 34-36 of the presentation, or see [here](#).

4. What are the issues of most importance to you?

#### Survey deadline is Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

**Please Note:** Before taking the survey, you MUST have either been on this call, or watched the pre-survey presentation [here](#). It is *essential* that you understand the background behind the questions we are asking.

We kindly ask that only **ONE survey is submitted per company/organization**, so please communicate with your team about what answers you will give and who will submit the survey on behalf of your company.