

Responsible Leather Initiative Meeting #2

Monday, February 26th, 2017

Note:** we are now using GoToWebinar for all of our meetings. You will be required to pre-register and your name and company will be published to a list that we will share with the group during the webinar so that everyone is aware of who is on the call (since GoToWebinar doesn't display names for attendees). *Please let us know if this is an issue for you****

Agenda:

1. News & Updates
2. The Roundtable
3. Focus Areas & Work Plan
4. Making it Work

1. News & Updates

- Textile Exchange senior team meetings in New York
 - Visited Glasgow Caledonia University in NY; was able to speak about leather and make some further connections
- SAC and EU looking at PEF (Product Environmental Footprint) for leather together
 - COTANCE is leading this initiative
- ISEAL Monitoring and Evaluation Training in London: May 4th
 - Hanna Denes from Textile Exchange will attend
- What's up Down Under – Stuart Adams back from Australia and Responsible Wool Standard work
 - In Australia shadow auditing certification bodies, reaching out to the industry to gauge response to the standard and get feedback
 - Looking into combining audits for wool and meat on the farm level

Updates from stakeholders

- Ashley McDonald – U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef/GRSB
 - Update from the US: Working on metrics and guidance to the metrics (Sustainability Assessment Guide), which will be up for review in May 2018
 - Interested to see how the leather initiative progresses because as the USRSB moves forward, it's logical to work together on these issues
 - A lot of producers are involved in the USRSB, and terminology is very important, but you also need to build a lot of trust; wording is important when working with certain groups

2. The Roundtable

- Why a roundtable?
 - Stakeholders have shown a strong need for a verification tool of sorts, but a lot of interest in a roundtable as well
 - Looking at [Collective Impact](#) for inspiration in what we will be doing with the roundtable and in a verification framework
 - 5 Conditions of Collective Impact:

1. Common Agenda
2. Shared Measurement
3. Mutually Reinforcing Activities
4. Continuous Communication
5. Backbone Support – this will be Textile Exchange
 - Guide vision and strategy
 - Support aligned activities
 - Establish shared measurement practices
 - Build public will
 - Advance policy
 - Mobilize funding

Leather Roundtable Steering Committee: The steering committee will work to create the common agenda that defines the boundaries of the effort and set a strategic action framework. Thereafter, the committee will meet regularly to oversee the progress of the entire initiative. Does not make decisions, but may work as an advisory team.

We will strive for an even representation from all sectors:

1. Brands and Retailers
2. Value Chain members
3. Producers
4. Civil Society
5. Professional Services
6. Other organizations?

Leather Roundtable Structure: Task Groups

Task Groups will allow us to move forward on multiple issues at the same time, and to leverage the interest and expertise of specific individuals.

- Task groups will have a narrow focus, and be time-limited.
- The areas of focus and desired outcomes will be discussed by the full Roundtable.
- We will encourage individual Roundtable members to lead the task group activities.
- Task group participation will fall under the Roundtable Charter
- All proposed solutions should fit with the agreed-upon goals and structures set out by the Roundtable.
- Task groups will consolidate their learnings and discussions, and bring back information or proposals to the full Roundtable.
- Key task groups will have a section on the web where TE can post their meeting notes and the information collected.
- Textile Exchange will engage and provide administrative support, and ensure that there is a strong linkage between the work of the different task groups.

Roundtable Charter

- Sets roles and responsibilities for Textile Exchange and Roundtable Members
- Sets codes of conducts for participants
- Will be mandatory for all Roundtable members to sign the charter in order to participate

Task Group: Structure & Mandate

One of the first task groups that we establish will be to look at the structure and mandate of the Roundtable. We will look at the charter, put forth a proposed vision and mission for the greater group to comment on, and focus on the roles and responsibilities of the participants as well as the backbone organization.

Leather Roundtable - Actions

“Verification System”

- Develop a set of minimum criteria under an umbrella ‘standard’
- Establish an Equivalency Assessment Model to evaluate existing standards, legislations and initiatives
- In the event that existing standards fall short of the umbrella one, the missing requirements can be audited separately or through a joint audit
- In the event that standards are not being applied to a site, the umbrella standard can be audited against.

Tractability Systems

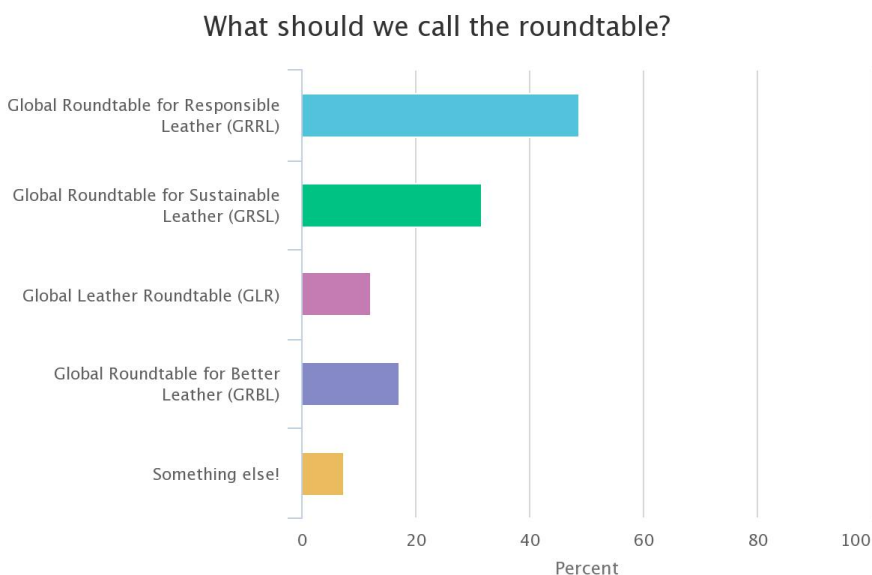
- Develop both a book and claim and an identity-protected system
- Determine the types of company and product claims that can be made with each

Measurement

- Determine what needs to be measured and how
- Develop a system to collect and manage data
- Set up plan for evaluation and reporting of data

Let’s choose our words!

In-meeting poll results: What should we call the roundtable?



Other name suggestions: Responsible Leather Roundtable

Terminology to use for what we develop – let us know your thoughts!

1. Verification vs. Assessment vs. Benchmark
2. Tool vs. System vs. Standard

3. Focus Areas and Work Plan

3 Phases for our work

Phase I: Initiate Action – this was our 2017 work

Phase II: Organize for Impact – focus for 1st half of 2018

Phase III: Sustain Action and Impact – our long-term work, it will evolve and grow over many years

Roadmap for “Verification Tool”

See slides 27-28 in presentation

Task Group: Scopes Prioritization

Another of the first task groups that we establish will be to look at which issues we should try to address through the verification system, and which we can address through separate roundtable activities. We will identify the “why” behind each issue, so that we can clearly articulate the importance of each verification scope. We can use the results from the last survey, consider a new one, and look at what is most practical to ensure we have success. We can also discuss whether there should be multiple tiers allowed (eg: bronze, silver, gold).

Task Group: Traceability Options

We are now ready to start looking more deeply at the traceability options: book & claim (certificate trading), mass balance, and full chain of custody. We will talk examine what other organizations such as RSPO have done, talk to the technology providers about what is possible, and look at which options will best meet our needs.

Work Plan/Calendar of Meetings and Events

See slides 31-35 in presentation

Expected Task Groups:

1. Roundtable: structure and mandate: 1-2 calls
2. Traceability Options: multiple calls (1+ years)
3. Scopes prioritization: survey revision: 2-4 calls
4. Brand commitment strategy: 1-2 calls
5. Benchmarking models
6. Communications and outreach strategy
7. On-ground activities and resources mapping
8. Mapping of existing trade mechanisms and financial flows.
9. Scope task groups by issue – e.g.: Animal welfare at farm, Deforestation, etc.
10. Tanneries
11. Costing and business models
12. Risk analysis
13. LCA reviews? (Roundtable)

14. Governance issues (Roundtable)
15. Indicators and data strategy
16. Data and stories to speak to CEOs and investors
17. *Suggestions???*

4. Making it Work

TE Asks:

- **Financial Support**
- **Expertise:** a specific time commitment on a given topic or job
- **Leadership:** commitment to lead a task group
- **Volunteer:** contribute time to take on a given job or do research
- **Communicate:** tell your networks about what we are doing and encourage them to join
- **Patience!**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 29th

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM EST / 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM CET

***Please note we will eventually go back to scheduling calls for alternative time zones, based on need – please let us know if you are interested*