

Responsible Leather Roundtable Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2018

Agenda:

1. Introduction & Review
2. News & Updates
3. LWG presentation
4. What's Next

Introduction & Review

- Introduction to Textile Exchange
- Introduction to Responsible Leather – **email us if you have any feedback on the below**
 - Draft Vision: *We envision a world in which all aspects of the leather value chain are environmentally and socially responsible, promotes animal welfare, and is economically viable.*
 - Draft Mission: *Ensure responsibility and continuous improvement in the global leather value chain through leadership, science, and inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration.*
 - Draft Goals:
 - A platform for stakeholders in the leather industry to engage with each other, share information, and identify common challenges and opportunities.
 - A common voice that represents the interests of the leather value chain.
 - A structure for interacting with other organizations and government bodies.
 - A forum to agree on priority issues and desired solutions to advance our mission and vision.
- Assessment Tool

Our goal is to create a system that will allow different stakeholders to align their activities in order to achieve meaningful impact.

 - Create a common language and understanding of the issues
 - Set shared expectations and commitments
 - Identify existing tools and the gaps that need to be filled
 - Develop a system to align the use of existing or new tools
- Assessment Tool Framework:
 - In the first version, we will focus on addressing priority issues (to be determined through the task group process)
 - As much as possible, we will strive to reference existing programs, standards and tools and tie in with globally recognized targets
 - We will provide mechanisms for brands to link their leather sourcing to 'responsible' sources
 - There will need to be a thorough process to develop clear language for product or sourcing claims, and to ensure a thorough understand of stakeholders from inside and outside the value chain.
 - We will use the ISEAL Credibility Principles in the development of the assessment tool.

Comments:

- CFA strategy is run by 3 core organizations. NWF has taken the lead this strategy now, so please reach out to us for more information, etc.
- GRBSB aligns with Brazilian Roundtable – they want to be open to and aware of what happens in the latter parts of the supply chain.

News & Updates

- Website: Our current work is now posted on the home page, giving greater transparency to what we are doing, and an easy way to give input.
- GRBSB: The new constituency has been created, and we are welcome to join as a member, with the potential to take on a Board seat as well. Their reporting framework has now been approved and about to be piloted.
- “Cow Laundering” is getting increased attention.
- We are looking at the week of October 9th in Kilkenny, Ireland (to align with the GRBSB meeting) for a full Responsible Leather Event
- We have decided on the name “Responsible Leather Roundtable”

Funding Update

- We have currently raised **\$51,600** of our targeted **\$250,000** budget for 2018 – thank you to those of you who have made contributions!!
- **Please let us know if you can help out with the remaining \$198, 400 needed – we simply cannot do this work without your support**

Presentation by the Leather Working Group (LWG)

Findings from the Animal Welfare Group (AWG)

- Peter Hughes, Sustainability Lead at BLC
- Gemma Tovey, Sustainability Analyst at BLC
- Contact the LWG for more information about their work and how to get involved at info@leatherworkinggroup.com

Leather Working Group background

- Multi-stakeholder group with an objective to develop and maintain a protocol that assesses the environment compliance and performance capabilities of leather manufacturers and promotes sustainable and appropriate environmental business practices within the leather industry
- To promote sustainable and appropriate environmental business practices within the leather supply chain
- Approximately 500 members in total
- LWG covers 15% of the world finished leather production (excluding pigs)
- British Leather Consortium (BLC) facilitates the LWG, but all decisions are made by the executive committee, which is made up of LWG members

LWG Animal Welfare Group

- Formed about 18 months ago
- Self-funded with 21 members

- The principal objective of the AWG is to provide education and information to its members on the salient aspects of livestock and animal welfare within the leather value chain
- Key outputs group produces are country profiles
 - 14 country profiles – AW landscape of each
 - All profiles are peer-reviewed by in-country experts/NGOs
 - Over 65% coverage of global finished leather supply
 - Monthly update includes AW news
- Investigation on topics raised by members
- An “information group”
- Members have agreed there would be value in providing some of the headline information we are finding as part of the AWG
 - High-level Information sharing
 - This information has been signed off

The LWG Animal Welfare group produces information based on requirements set by its members, how they use the info is up to themselves. The group is designed to provide information to its members only. However, they have signed off on sharing this information the Responsible Leather Roundtable.

Agreed to share the following information: (see LWG slides in Meeting presentation)

- Scale of the AW challenge
- Livestock holding – where located globally
- Traceability and realities of the situation
- Location of risk globally

Understanding the Scale

- **Total Global Livestock:**
 Developed World: 1.1 Billion
 Developing World: 3.8 Billion
World Total: 4.9 Billion
- Slaughter in the non-developed work is non-industrial
- Overall, livestock exists predominantly in the developing world (regions, not country-specific, based on economic development)

Livestock Holdings

- **Total Estimated Livestock Holdings:**
 Developed World: 18.8 million
 Developing World: 380 million
World Total: 398.8 million
- Over 95% of holdings exist in the developing world

Traceability

- In order to deliver an animal welfare assessment tool, we need to look at traceability

- Traceability to slaughterhouse and Direct Farm theoretically possible (only in countries highlighted in slide)
- Traceability to birthing farm theoretically possible (only in countries highlighted in slides) – this is even more difficult
- Traceability in the livestock sector is extremely hard
- There is never any guarantee
- The majority of hide-producing countries don't have the infrastructure to trace the material up to the birthing farms

Percentage Location of Animal Welfare Risk

- In every species case, animals are slaughtered in a high-risk country
- The highest risk being sheep and goats, but high risk across all species studied
- The livestock sector is one of the few truly global industries with a global footprint and global challenges attached to it

Q&A:

Q: How are you defining animal welfare and what is a risk? Any other issues looked at other than slaughter?

A:

- The group looks at animal welfare across 3 key risk areas: farm, transport, slaughter
- Group is paid members group and in order to access the information, you need to become an LWG member and an AW group member.

Q: Will the LWG/Animal Welfare Group look into verification/audit tools, similar to the already existing work for tanneries? Such plans could be relevant for the Assessment Tool.

A:

- We are primarily an info group
- Looking at what existing standards say
- This is where cross-over between RLR work and LWG can occur

Suggestion: contact Professor Mateus Paranhos in Brazil, his ETCO Group, a group of professors and students, develop a great work about animal welfare and ethology all over our country and is a reference to Brazilian Roundtable on Sustainable Livestock.

What's Next

Traceability Options Task Group Meeting #1

Tuesday, April 17th

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM EST

Join link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/120717157>

Scopes Prioritization Task Group Meeting #1

Wednesday, April 18th

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM EST

Join link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/192808549>