

Responsible Leather Round Table (RLRT) meeting

25th February 2020

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Textile Exchange Updates (Anne Gillespie)
3. LandScale (Sophie Persey)
4. Accountability Framework (Karen Steer)
5. GRAS (Pia Rothe)
6. Q&A/discussion

News and Updates

Next RCRT call: **May 19th, 2020 | 9:00-10:30am EST**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/upQlcOmgpz0pAWwImcZXHd7HB0itQN7mUQ>

2020 RLRT and RL IWG meeting schedule

Subject		Start Date	Start Time	End Time
RL IWG Meeting	Tuesday	4/7/2020	9:00	10:30
RLRT Meeting	Tuesday	5/19/2020	9:00	10:30
RL IWG Meeting	Tuesday	6/2/2020	9:00	10:30
RLRT Meeting	Tuesday	7/21/2020	9:00	10:30
RL IWG Meeting	Tuesday	8/4/2020	9:00	10:30
RLRT Summit	TBD	11/6/2020		
RLRT Summit Follow-up Meeting	Tuesday	12/8/2020	9:00	10:30

Call Notes

1. Welcome

Textile Exchange convenes the textile community and values diversity of views, expertise, opinions, backgrounds, and experiences. It is expected that members of this community will collaborate by sharing ideas, information, and resources of publicly available information only and avoid discussions on price, strategic plans or other private and sensitive information.

The Responsible Cashmere Round Table (RCRT) is a neutral platform for stakeholders in the leather industry to engage with each other, share information, and identify common challenges and opportunities. It is a structure for interacting with other organizations and government bodies, and a forum to agree on priority issues and take action to advance our mission and vision.

To support the RLRT, please contact the team at ResponsibleLeather@textileexchange.org

2. Textile Exchange Updates (Anne Gillespie)

We are mid way to finalizing the first draft of the Responsible Leather toolkit. Scope committees have been supporting that work. At the same time, we are working on the development of the Impact Incentives scheme. The final launch will be at the Textile Exchange annual conference in Dublin in November 2020.

An important decision was made - to decouple Animal Welfare and Deforestation/Conversion-Free 'credits'.

Stakeholder Engagement is central to the RLRT and tool development. We are inviting you to:

- become an IWG member
- sign the RL IWG Charter <https://form.jotform.com/TextileExchange/rl-iwg-charter>
- attend key calls
- give feedback
- set aside budget to keep us funded

To support our work on organizing the Responsible Leather Round Table meetings and developing a tool for the leather industry that will help the industry move towards best practices, contact the team at

ResponsibleLeather@textileexchange.org

Our Make A Difference (M.A.D.) Challenge went well, and we are happy to announce two winners who completed all four action challenges:

Mulberry and Control Union.

To appraise their commitment, we have planted 10 trees in Amazon Rainforest and Australia.

There are two updates from us on name changes (please view the recording for explanations)

1. Impact Credits became **Impact Incentives**
2. Responsible Leather program became **Leather Impact Accelerator**

We are excited to introduce a new development for the Responsible Leather Round Table is an online RLRT community in the Textile Exchange HUB. Please be on the lookout for the announcement about the launch of this community.

And last, but not least, the Textile Exchange Material Change Index (MCI) was released. It track the fashion industry's progress towards more sustainable materials sourcing, and leather will be built into this index. The MCI will also be build into the design of the Leather Impact Accelerator. To get some further insights about it, please check a series of Textile Exchange articles posted by Greenbiz <https://www.greenbiz.com/tag/material-change-index>

3. LandScale (Sophie Percey)

- Introducing LandScale
- What is LandScale and why we need it?
- The LandScale Solution
- Components of LandScale
- How does LandScale relate to traditional certifications?
- Who can LandScale help?
- LandScale can help
 - identify sustainability risks
 - measure progress
 - communicate landscape sustainability
- LandScale pilots (Guatemala, Peru, Mexico, Costa Rica, Ghana)
- LandScale development time line.

Please view the presentation slides and the recording for details and QA session.

4. The Accountability Framework initiative (Karen Steer)

- Introduction to the Accountability Framework initiative (AFi) and the Accountability Framework
 - Overview
 - Lack of progress towards ethical supply chains
 - Three gaps to mainstreaming ethical production & trade
 - The AFi was established as a unique collaboration to address these gaps
 - The Accountability Framework
 - Scope and applicability of the Accountability Framework
 - Accountability Framework structure
 - Why should companies use the Accountability Framework?
 - Company application of the Accountability Framework
- Relationship to existing initiatives
 - Use of the Accountability Framework with certification: alignment and complementarity
 - The CFA Operational Guidance: A roadmap to supports company implementation of the Accountability Framework
- A closer look at key Core Principles
 - A Closer Look: No-Deforestation supply chains and protection of forests (Core Principle 1.1)
 - A Closer Look: Supply chains respect human rights (Core Principle 2)
 - A Closer Look: Specification of commitments (Core Principle 3)
 - A Closer Look: Supply chain assessment and traceability (Core Principle 5)
 - A Closer Look: Managing for Supply Chain Compliance (Core Principle 6)
 - A Closer Look: Collaboration for landscape and sectoral sustainability (Core Principle 10)
 - A Closer Look: Monitoring and Verification (Core Principle 11)
 - A Closer Look: Reporting (Core Principle 12)

- Applications in the leather sector and opportunities for further collaboration with the Responsible Leather Round Table

Please view the presentation slides and the recording for details and QA session

5. GRAS (Pia Rothe)

- GRAS is being developed in a joint effort of a multidisciplinary team, supported by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- GRAS is a comprehensive solution to implement and monitor sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains and implement respective commitments
- Challenge: Sustainability criteria refer to a distant origin, numerous suppliers and a number of intermediate steps in international supply chains
- GRAS is an integrated one-stop-shop solution to map sustainability information identify risk hot spots and verify compliance with relevant sustainability criteria
- GRAS uses more than 80 different reliable biodiversity databases on protected areas, carbon stock and social aspects
- GRAS uses remote sensing technology to identify land use change, deforestation and degradation of land cover
- GRAS developed an interactive online tool and offers customized solutions to find the right solution for the implementation of sustainable supply chains
- GRAS provides individual solutions to successfully implement sustainability strategies, support certification processes and manage suppliers
- Using high resolution satellite images, GRAS can identify the conversion of natural vegetation to pastures and verify the compliance of production areas
- Satellite images and EVI time series can be processed to map land cover types and land use change activities and identify compliant production areas
- A GRAS dashboard can be adjusted to individual needs to support traceability and monitoring of sustainable supply chains
- GRAS analysis approaches and reporting options can be customized to specific user needs to reach high benefit, efficiency and accuracy

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Contacts:

General inquiries or comments about the RLRT may be sent to
ResponsibleLeather@TextileExchange.org

