

Responsible Cashmere Round Table (RCRT) Meeting #4

Thursday, July 25, 2019

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 - Sustainable Fiber Alliance (SFA)
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 - Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontiers (AVSF)
 - Responsible Cashmere Round Table (RCRT) – *what our role is*
5. Q&A

Introductions to our Presenters

Tina Stridde, Managing Director
Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF)

Una Jones, Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Fiber Alliance (SFA)

Enkhtuvshin Shiilegdamba, Country Director-Mongolia
Wildlife Conservation Society (WSC)

U. Sarangoo, Project Manager – STeP EcoLab
Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontiers (AVSF)

Presentations

Please see slides and/or [recording](#)

Aid by Trade Foundation

- The Aid by Trade Foundation is an independent non-profit organization and was founded in 2005 by the German entrepreneur and philanthropist Prof. Dr Michael Otto. It has thus an **entrepreneurial background** and combines sustainability with a business driven approach.

- The overall **goal** of the Aid by Trade Foundation is to promote **environmental protection** and to **improve livelihoods through trade** following the Foundation overarching principle of Aid by Trade (**helping people help themselves**).
- So far the Aid by Trade Foundation's activities focused on the cotton sector in Africa: its **Cotton made in Africa standard** is one of the largest sustainable fiber initiatives globally; working with more than one million farmers in 10 countries across Africa and collaborating with **over 40 leading brands and retailers**.
- Important stakeholders for the Aid by Trade Foundation are i.a. **WWF, Welthungerhilfe, NABU, Ministry of Development Cooperation, GIZ**.

The Sustainable Cashmere Standard's goals are:

- promote **animal welfare** in cashmere production in Inner Mongolia
- **promote social criteria** for herders and employed workers
- **protect the environment** and **promote biodiversity**
- offer **transparency in the textile value chain** for brands & retailers and the consumer
- **promote** sustainably produced cashmere B2B and B2C

Sustainable Fiber Alliance

The Sustainable Fibre Alliance is a non-profit international organisation that promotes global sustainability standards for cashmere in order to restore grasslands and transform the complex supply chain of cashmere, from herders to retailers.

Organisational goals

- Environmental resilience in cashmere production.
- Improving animal welfare within cashmere production.
- Improved long-term prospects for herding communities that rely on cashmere markets.

Delivered through the implementation of the SFA Standard System

Code of Practices (standard)

- **Field level credibility** – Codes of Practice recognised by herder and other organisations as being relevant, applicable and credible (in the Mongolian context).
- **Holistic Standard with global application** – Codes of Practice cover environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainability. Standard system is in transition to an ISEAL approved standard.
- **Innovative** – Codes of Practice have a practical application with minimum criteria and continuous improvement by herders at their heart
- **Inclusive** – Codes of Practice are openly shared with a variety of stakeholders for design input and operational feedback
- Working to make sure the standard complies with ISEAL requirements and hoping to have ISEAL standard approval from 2020 forward

- 3 years in development, national consultation process – herders, government, etc.
- Looking for a suitable chain of custody mechanism and incentive options
- SFA trademark
- SFA logo use and claims guide

Wildlife Conservation Society

WCS Mongolia's mission is healthy landscapes where wildlife thrives, valued by communities that embrace and benefit from its diversity and integrity.

- Monitoring model for measuring the condition of the rangeland
- Measured from 0-100% and herders can immediately understand where they stand, based on the annual measurement.
- Working on a Wildlife Friendly Standard

Sustainable Cashmere Project Goal

Improved rangeland management & condition contribute in protecting wildlife habitat. The health of the true desert, desert steppe, and semi desert ecosystems that are valued as rangelands for local herders, is an critical component of this project.

The ultimate goal of the SCP is to establish a **sustainable cashmere value chain** through creating the enabling and incentivizing mechanisms for herders to use pasture resources in such a way that its regenerative capacity is not compromised through overutilization.

How are we measuring impacts?

We will be measuring the impacts of our project implementation:

- 1) **Rangeland use practice and rangeland monitoring:**
 - **Rangeland use plan** developed each year-inclusion all herders and stakeholders
 - We really want to see the changes in **herders practice in managing their rangelands** specifically resting and rotating rangelands in poor condition based on the annual rangeland use plan developed together
 - **Rangeland monitoring** using rangeland condition metric (0-100) to detect the rangeland condition

2) Herders income:

- Income from per kg cashmere is increased

3) Relationship between herders income from cashmere and cashmere quality and the pasture they are using

Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontiers (AVSF)

PLEASE SEE RECORDING – start at 5 7:55

Q&A

1) How many tons of sustainable cashmere is currently available in the market and 2) how much more expensive is “sustainable cashmere” vs regular cashmere? What’s the “sustainability premium”?

AbTF – in the beginning, we may have around 2000 tons (volume) of sustainable (greasy) cashmere for the first year; there will be no upcharge on the cashmere, but there will be a license fee depending on the volume.

What is the expectation of herders going into a sustainable program whether it be AbTF, SFA, WCS or AVSF?

- SFA has been working with herder communities (over 4,000 herder households)
 - trust is an important aspect; there needs to be a value to the communities, incentives, etc.

Great to have these programs introduced. Would these applicable to both farming in Inner Mongolia and herding in Mongolia?

Most programs shared on this call are specific to Mongolia (herded cashmere), while AbTF has developed a standard for farmed cashmere in Inner Mongolia (China).