

Leather Impact Accelerator 1.0 Feedback Summary

Prepared September 21, 2020

This document provides a summary of 117 comments received during the Public Stakeholder Review of the Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA) 1.0 and the response to the feedback. The full list of comments is available on the LIA website.

LIA Feedback and Revision Timeframe

- Open Feedback Period – March – May 2020
- LIA 1.0 Draft Consultation Periods:
- May 5 – June 5, 2020 (LIA Farm Scope Benchmark Criteria, LIA Leather Production Benchmark Criteria, LIA Benchmark Approval Process, LIA Standard Assurance Criteria, LIA Verification Manual);
- July 8 – August 8, 2020 (LIA Claims Framework)
- Feedback Review Period – June-September 2020
- Publication of the LIA 1.0 Feedback – September 21, 2020
- LIA IWG Consultation – October 8, 2020
- LIA Revision and Second Draft of LIA 1.0 – November 1, 2020
- Open Consultation Period – November 1 - December 1, 2020
- Final Revision and Presentation of LIA 1.0 at the RLRT Summit – December 15, 2020
- Voting – December 15 - 22, 2020

Participation

In total, 17 stakeholders participated in the Combined Revision Feedback Period. These comments came mostly from civil societies/ NGOs and supply chain. There was no input from farmers directly, but we received feedback from organizations that represent them. We will continue to put efforts to get the voice of farmers as we move forward. The first round of pilots will present an opportunity for consultations with raw material producers.

Total number of stakeholders:

- Brands/Retailers: 3
- Supply Chain: 5
- Farmers: 0
- Professional Services: 3
- Civil Society: 6

Feedback Summary

We are deeply grateful for the thoughtful feedback that we have received from a range of stakeholders. We have noted quite a few improvements that we will make to the benchmark.

Details of the feedback, as well as our replies to each comment, can be found [here](#), and we would like to point out a few themes:

- For **Animal Welfare**, we had pressure from some groups to make the requirements stronger, and from others to make it more accessible. We continue to look for a balance, and as a result will be moving some of the criteria to different option levels, and to adjust the wording to add further clarification. It is important to us that there is a sufficient number of standards that will meet the different LIA levels, so we have taken this into account.
- The issue that received the greatest attention was the allowance for slatted flooring, and based on the feedback, we will not prohibit the use of slatted flooring. There is strong interest in using LIA for the veal industry (which supplies hides into the luxury goods market), and we want to encourage the recognition and support for better practices in this sector.
- With **Deforestation/Conversion-Free**, we had only limited feedback, and after a good discussion with NWF, are not making any changes. However, we will be doing some further research to look at the number of farms that will likely be able to meet our January 1st, 2020 cut-off date for Zero Gross Deforestation.
- The **Leather Production** and **Benchmark Approval** modules also had some excellent feedback, and we will be making a number of wording changes that will increase the clarity and effectiveness of the benchmark.
- As a result of the feedback in the **Standard Management** section, the LIA team is working on a completely new set of requirements; we are currently looking at the WWF Certification Assessment Tool (WWF CAT) and the ISEAL Sustainability Benchmarking Good Practice Guide as references.
- The **Claims Framework** also received some helpful feedback and we will be bringing a few of the issues for discussion to the next LIA International Working Group call on October 8th.