

ANIMAL FIBERS ROUND TABLE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

May 2021

About the Animal Fibers Round Table

Animal Fibers Round Table Background Information

The Animal Fibers Round Table evolved from Textile Exchange's vision for a global textile industry that protects and restores the environment, reduces the climate impact of our industry and enhances lives. Textile Exchange inspires and equips people to accelerate sustainable practices *and reduce climate impact* in the textile value chain. We focus on minimizing the harmful impacts of the global textile industry and maximizing its positive effects.

The Animal Fibers Round Table brings together the different animal fiber groups such as the Responsible Cashmere Round Table and the members of the Responsible Animal Fiber Standards International Working Groups into one joint Round Table covering all animal fibers.

This Terms of Reference for the Animal Fibers Round Table sets out the proposed vision and methods for the Round Table.

The Animal Fibers Roundtable now covers wool, mohair, alpaca, cashmere and yak. There is a need to broaden the scope beyond the focus on the standards to maximize their potential. For example, joint action around impact data is a high priority and whilst the standards play an important role in driving improvements and collecting data alignment on metrics and methodologies across the whole industry is needed.

There are also a number of issues that cut across several materials. For animal fibers and materials, animal welfare and climate beneficial grazing are highly relevant. Broadening this concept out to other land-based materials, biodiversity is another potential cross cutting working group extending beyond animal fibers to plant fibers.

Vision and Methods

- Vision
- Purpose
- Objectives
- Scope
- How we add value

Vision

The vision for the Animal Fibers Round Table is a global animal fiber industry that protects and restores the environment whilst enhancing social outcomes and animal welfare.

Purpose

The purpose of the Animal Fibers Round Table is to support Textile Exchange's sustainability vision with a focus on wool, mohair, alpaca, cashmere and yak. The Animal Fibers Round Table will achieve this through gathering industry members to identify barriers to growth, identify impacts and opportunities, and take collective actions that result in meaningful impacts.

Objectives

The objective of our work is defined as:

- **Improve the sustainability** of animal fiber production (with a focus on raw material production).
- **Catalyze collective action and cross-sector and -region and -species partnerships**, particularly with organizations working on the ground.

Scope

The scope of our work is defined as:

- Focused on raw material production
- Focused on animal fibers. Specifically, wool, mohair, alpaca, cashmere and yak.

How We Add Value

The Animal Fibers Round Table adds value by:

- **Providing an inclusive place** for all stakeholders to come together.
- Being **pre-competitive and collaborative**.
- **Operating through a number of activities** at both global and regional levels, including the Round Table meetings and working groups operating virtually under the RT.

Measurement

Immediate focus areas for measurement are:

Common Definitions: Alignment with the Animal Welfare Framework to deliver the Five Provisions. For voluntary sustainability standards and sustainability initiatives, The Preferred Fibers and Materials Matrix will play a key role as a tool for mapping impacts and identifying alignment.

Common core indicators: Alignment on on-farm impact measurement (land and animal welfare).

Animal Fibers Round Table Structure

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Convener | Textile Exchange |
| Eligibility | Participation in the Animal Fibers Round Table is voluntary and is open to all stakeholders with an interest in advancing the sustainability of animal fibers. |
| Composition, Representation | Representatives from Textile Exchange and the global animal fiber industry: Farmers, Suppliers, Brands, NGO's, and other industry professionals |
| Member Requests | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular attendance of and contribution to meetings• Non-disclosure and confidentiality of shared information within the group• Support the Animal Fibers Round Table development and collectively create solutions to address sustainability and uptake challenges in the global animal fiber industry. |
| Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organization: The Animal Fibers Round Table Chair Person and a Textile Exchange team member will coordinate to facilitate the meetings and tasks within its resource capability.• Determination: The Animal Fiber Round Table will identify opportunities for the global animal fiber industry to improve sustainability in their sector of the textile industry.• Action: The Animal Fiber Round Table is committed to addressing and increasing positive impacts in the global animal fiber industry. |
| Meeting Frequency | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarterly online meetings including annual in-person meetings (at the Textile Exchange conference). Additional meetings may be called as required. Working Groups will meet as needed. |