

# SUSTAINABLE LEATHER FOUNDATION

Sustainable  
Leather  
Foundation



*Transparency  
you can see...*

## A FRESH APPROACH

Today's society is more informed and conscious of the effects that production and consumption have on the earth's natural resources and its ability to regenerate; the negative impacts that can damage our ecosystem, the importance of fair and humane treatment of workers, and the welfare of animals.

The leather industry has the potential to impact positively and negatively on both our environment and also as part of a sustainable economy for the future. Leather making is a traditional industry that is responsible for employing millions of people worldwide. Globally, the industry produces approximately 24 billion square feet of leather, resulting in an economy worth more than \$80 billion annually. These statistics make it vital that as an industry we ensure future sustainability by:

- protecting the environment
- driving innovation for improvement
- educating and encouraging the use of best available techniques
- supporting the health and wellbeing of workforces across the value chain.

*The leather industry benefits from many organisations and associations who work to support the leather industry, some specific to region or specialist area. However, there is a need for a cohesive organisation that can holistically combine the efforts of the industry with the needs of the consumers, and society in general; working to address the industry's current and future responsibilities....*

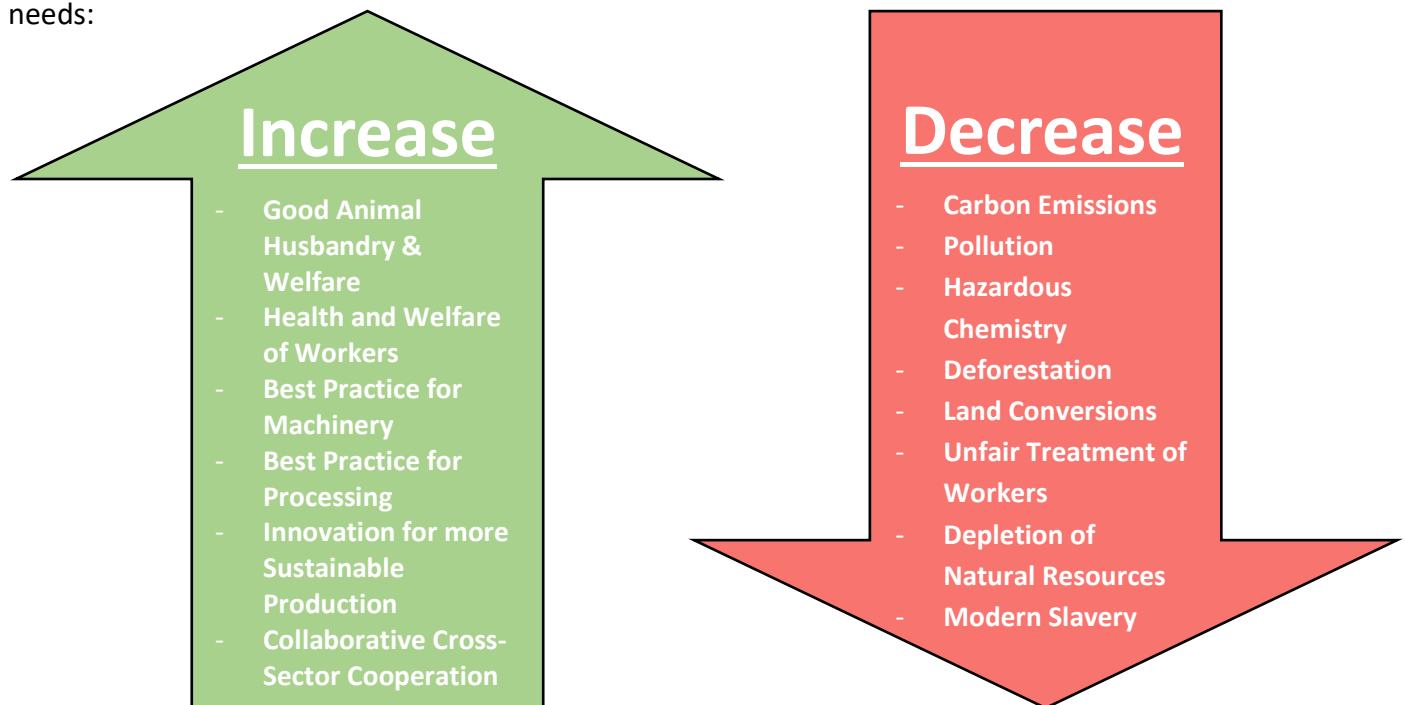
**Welcome to the Sustainable Leather Foundation.**

## VISION

The Sustainable Leather Foundation's vision is to enable collective improvement and education globally, for more sustainable practices in leather manufacture and production. SLF is concerned with all aspects of sustainability – Environmental, Social and Governance. As a not-for-profit organisation, the Foundation provides a transparent and inclusive approach to demonstrating sustainable good practice throughout the value chain. Coupled with this, the Foundation is committed to ensuring that consumers have a clear mechanism to see and understand the sustainable attributes of leather as a material, and the work that the industry does to ensure good practice.

The Foundation's objective is to unite all leather value chain stakeholders in ensuring a sustainable future for the leather industry by shining a spotlight on innovation and best practice, providing a mechanism for improvement and education, while also preserving the social and economic wellbeing of communities in less advanced regions.

Working together is key to ensure that we can accelerate the action required for our society's future needs:



## SERVICES

### Transparency Dashboard™ Service

- Our Transparency Dashboard™ gives customers and consumers an instant visual representation of sustainability performance across the 3 pillars of Environment, Social and Governance. Utilising a standard traffic light system for ease of visual understanding, this allows instant accessibility to real time information that supports due diligence.

### Equivalency Service

- By mapping a company's existing certification onto the Transparency Dashboard™, we avoid duplication of cost and resources, and encourage alignment and synergy for our partners.

### Audit Certification Service

- Based on our vision of the "A.I.M. Approach", our audit certification service is Accessible, Inclusive and Modular. This gives us the ability to support sustainable improvement with facilities no matter what size or scope.

### Guidance and Support Service

- A complete range of tools are available, all designed to enable partners to understand what is required and how to meet the requirements, from the Audit Standard Reports (ASR), to the Standards and Benchmarks, Explanatory Notes and Templates, Pathway Papers and Information Bulletins. All available in one easy Partner Only Resources Library.

### Dynamic Profiles, QR Technology and Information Service

- Linking all the work together through Partner Profiles and QR Technology that extends the work of the industry out to the consumer through each connected value chain partner. As the improvement takes place the QR dynamically updates, to always show the most up to date information.

### Whole Value Chain Connectivity Service

- Working with the whole leather value chain from farm to finished products in order to connect the dots of sustainable responsibility.

## SLF TRANSPARENCY DASHBOARD™ SERVICE

Our inclusive and transparent approach provides a consumer accessible window to sustainability performance, alongside fully transparent, detailed, data for value chain partners.

This enables better understanding of the product lifecycle management of leather articles and better-informed purchasing decisions at the consumer end.

It is possible to independently foster better solutions and better outcomes, by encouraging more secure value chain knowledge from farm to finished product. SLF accomplishes this by assessing and certifying leather manufacturers and associated facilities for their conformance and performance against the SLF Audit Standard (or other certification already in place).

The **SLF Transparency Dashboard™** approach to attainment and performance is key to transparency for both value chain customers and the end consumer, providing integrity and value.



## EQUIVALENCY SERVICE

Working smarter by avoiding unnecessary duplication of cost and resource is a key objective of the Sustainable Leather Foundation. Therefore, should a company already hold an equivalent certification from another organisation or standard provider, it can be recognised within the **SLF Transparency Dashboard™** for transparent reporting and recognition. Comprehensive sustainability metrics will be assessed and measured, either directly through the SLF Audit Standard, or by a combination of existing certifications that offer equivalency to the overarching industry and legislative requirements, encompassing:

### Environmental

- Permits, Licenses, Statutory
- Environmental Management Systems
- Environmental Health & Safety
- Environmental Footprint
- Land Use
- Energy Consumption
- Water Use
- Raw Materials & Chemicals
- Machinery & Equipment
- Air Emissions
- Effluent Treatment
- Soil Contamination
- Solid Waste

### Social

- Permits, Licenses, Statutory
- Age of Workers
- Compulsory Labour
- Discrimination
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Staff Development & Representation
- Wages and Benefits
- Worker Health & Safety
- Working Hours

### Governance

- Permits, Licenses, Statutory
- Ethical Business Practice
- Animal Welfare Practice
- Traceability & Procurement
- Housekeeping
- Best Available Techniques
- Process Control & Quality
- Chemical Control
- Restricted Substances
- Occupational Health & Safety
- PR & Communication

Accessibility is another key objective of SLF and to ensure this, leather manufacturers and associated facilities will not be excluded from partnership on the basis of non-conformance or non-certification in one or more areas. Instead, partnership will enable companies to demonstrate what they can comply with and where their outstanding areas of concern or improvement are, in order to give a fully transparent mechanism that supports continued improvement across the three pillars of sustainability.

## AUDIT AND CERTIFICATION SERVICE

The guiding principle of our certification program is A.I.M.:

### Accessible

- SLF is available to all. You don't need to pass an audit before you can become a Partner of SLF. We encourage all stakeholders to become partners in order that we can support the improvement with our tools to create a Sustainability Roadmap that is tailored to the needs of the individual facility.
- By providing access to the SLF tools and resource, facilities will benefit from an increased potential for change at a pace that suits their abilities.

### Inclusive

- Our program works whether you are a small organisation with 10 or less employees, or whether you are a multi-national organisation with thousands of employees.
- SLF's system is inclusive and recognises certification that is already in place from other credible 3<sup>rd</sup> party organisations. This avoids duplication of effort and allows for freedom of choice when working with brands, suppliers and certification companies.

### Modular

- The SLF Transparency Dashboard™ is designed to be modular. Once a facility becomes a partner of SLF, their existing certification is mapped onto the three ESG modules. SLF's Audit Standard can then be used to complete any outstanding sections if required. A tannery with no certification can start with just one module or with single sections in each module and build up their certification over a time frame that is designed around their ability/need.

Our Audit Standard covers the three pillars of sustainability: Environment, Social and Governance. For a sustainable business of the future, these three elements must be considered holistically and be ingrained as part of the everyday strategic thinking of the senior management team and right through to the workers in production. The modules can be worked on individually or together and the accompanying Standards & Benchmarks give detailed understanding of what is required at audit.



## GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICE

The Sustainable Leather Foundation provides the structure and support to enable leather value chain companies to work on the reduction and improvement criteria necessary to be successful.

At the heart of the Foundation is the **SLF Transparency Dashboard™**, linked to a certification standard that assesses new, or recognises existing, conformance and performance of leather manufacturers and associated facilities against the three pillars of sustainability, Environment, Social, Governance.

SLF provides personalised guided support and the provision of a Technical Toolbox that includes:

- ✓ Standards and Benchmarks
- ✓ Explanatory Notes
- ✓ Templates
- ✓ Pathway Papers
- ✓ Spreadsheet based system to prepare for audit

### **SLF supports our partners using a roadmap to:**

- ✓ **Identify potential risks and impacts**
- ✓ **Measure existing consumption and outputs**
  - ✓ **Agree objectives for improvement**
  - ✓ **Monitor progress**
- ✓ **Review results to provide future objectives**

## DYNAMIC PROFILES, QR TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION SERVICE



Revolutionising the way the leather supply chain accesses information, using dynamically linked Partner Profiles and QR Codes which directly link up an individual company's own website, the SLF website and the company's personal Transparency Dashboard™.

The smart system comes together to allow a company to illustrate its real-time position through the dynamic QR code and this is a crucial tool in future proofing the industry, to meet the regulations and directives for due diligence.

The infographic below explains the process from a facility with no certification that, through our guided support sees their Transparency Dashboard™ evolve from "Not Yet Started" to "Work in Progress" and then to "Meeting Standards" following an audit.

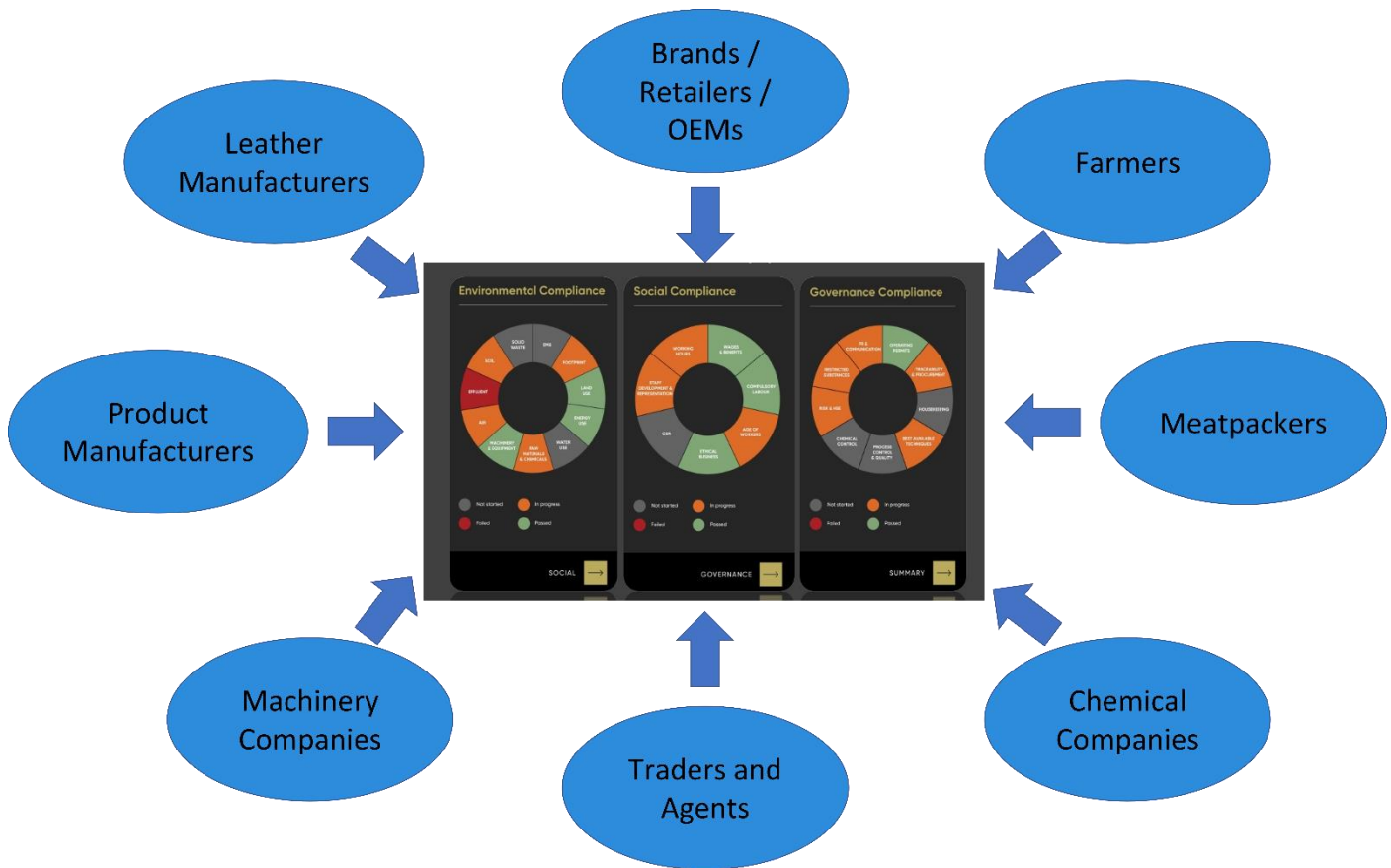
The Certification clearly itemises only the sections that have been audited and partners receive their Certified Seal, Partner Profile and QR code. As they continue to develop the QR code will always reflect their ongoing progress in real time, and this provides a perfect one-click reference for customers – especially as the Dashboard includes certification from other companies too – all in one easy reference.



## WHOLE VALUE CHAIN CONNECTIVITY SERVICE

Connecting the work of the whole value chain is the key to sustainable improvement at scale. Of equal importance is protecting individual corporate identify and information to ensure commercial integrity is maintained.

The SLF Transparency Dashboard provides a platform that can protect the individual company data while at the same time connect the good practice between companies.



## ROUTES TO PARTNERSHIP

Our partners enable the Foundation to conduct the work we do, and they are extremely important in helping us accomplish our goals. Partnership with the Sustainable Leather Foundation demonstrates a shared goal of improvement, best practice, collaboration and innovation and we welcome partners from across the value chain.

Our partners benefit from being part of a community that is committed to adopting best sustainability standards and is focused on driving positive transformative change. Furthermore, our partners benefit from the following:

For All Partners	For Compliance Partners	For Licensed Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access to a multi-stakeholder platform that supports training, development &amp; improvement</b></li> <li>• <b>Access to a Transparency Dashboard™ that provides real time certification results, performance metrics and conformance data</b></li> <li>• <b>The opportunity to actively participate in development of the Foundation for the future needs of the industry</b></li> <li>• <b>Access to SLF materials and logos</b></li> <li>• <b>Access to meetings, workshops &amp; other events</b></li> <li>• <b>Newsletters &amp; periodic updates</b></li> </ul>	<p>In addition to the general partnership benefits, compliance partners will also benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Certification Programme to demonstrate conformance and performance against the 3 pillars of Environmental, Social and Governance good practice</b></li> <li>• <b>Additional recognition for technological innovation, social or sustainability projects, that are not auditable elements or that exceed the norms of the Sustainable Leather Foundation Standard</b></li> <li>• <b>The ability to display certifications from multiple organisations in one platform</b></li> </ul>	<p>In addition to the general partnership benefits, licensed partners will also benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A user profile to create a due diligence map of your value chain suppliers</b></li> <li>• <b>Licensing to use logos and claims on product and POS materials.</b></li> <li>• <b>Support through QR technology to direct consumers to factual, relevant information about products</b></li> <li>• <b>Support with use of claims language</b></li> </ul>



## WORKING FOR THE UNITED NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), set by United Nations in 2015, are composed of 17 universal goals. They aim to acknowledge the challenges we face, such as poverty, inequality, climate and environmental change, sustainable production and consumption, and peace and justice. Aside from governmental organisations and governance, the private sector is expected to support the achievement of these goals and to translate them into their routine performance as an opportunity to build upon their capacity to contribute to the world in every possible way. The Foundation's certification programme directly supports the vision of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, across 12 of the 17 goals:

**1** NO  
POVERTY



**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



**7** AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



**13** CLIMATE  
ACTION



**14** LIFE  
BELOW WATER



**15** LIFE  
ON LAND



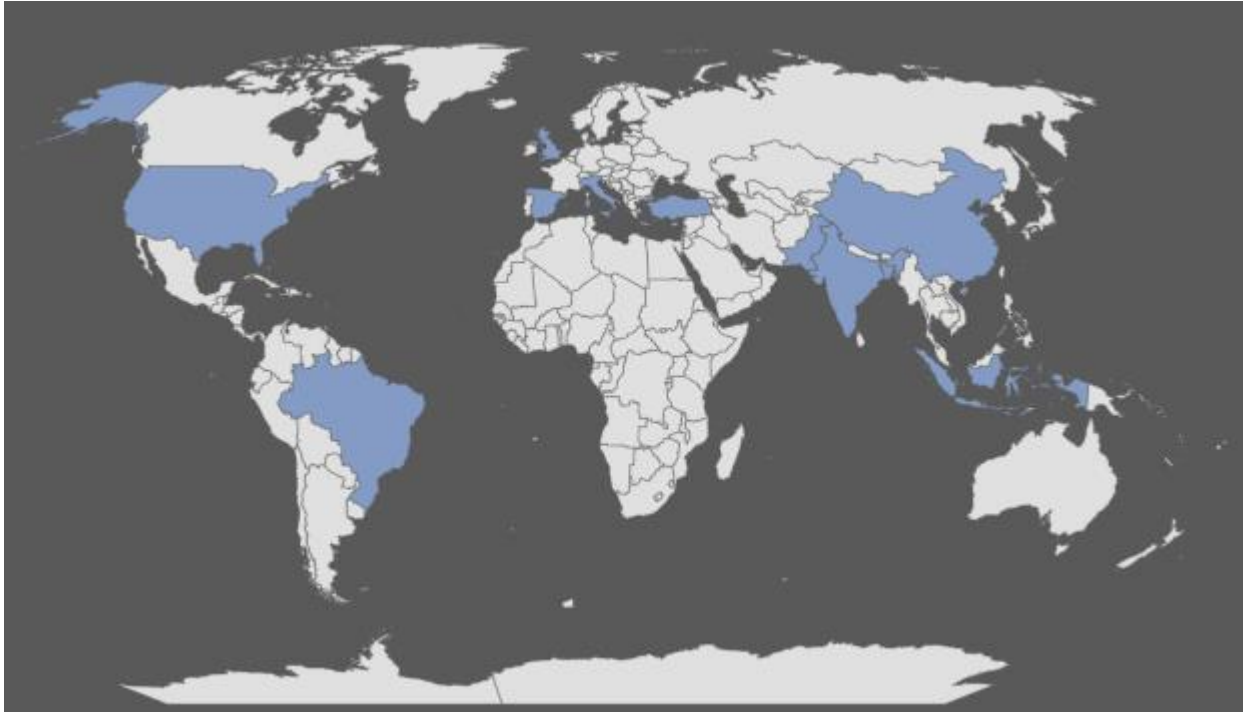
**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



More information about how we support the above goals is available on the website.

## OUR TEAM

Our Head Office is based in the UK and we work with regional partners and auditors who are geographically located to support our partners globally:




Locations include the UK, USA, China, Italy, Spain, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia.

**THE SUSTAINABLE LEATHER FOUNDATION IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT, COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY, AND IS SET UP AND REGISTERED IN THE UK, AT COMPANIES HOUSE REG NO. 12739406. THE FOUNDATION IS INDEPENDENT OF ANY COMMERCIAL INTEREST OR BIAS.**

The Foundation is governed under Articles of Association which can be accessed here:  
[Articles of Association - Sustainable Leather Foundation](#)

*"Let's Be The Change That  
Secures The Future"*



Sustainable  
Leather  
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