

Sustainable Leather Foundation

Industry Led – Consumer Focused

End of Year Partner Meeting

12th December 2023

1.30 – 5.00 pm



www.sustainableleatherfoundation.com

The Sustainable Leather Foundation

Industry Led – Consumer Focused – A Fresh Approach

Benchmarking and SLF Annual Report 2023

Deborah Taylor, Managing Director, SLF



www.sustainableleatherfoundation.com

2023 Annual Review



SLF Commitments

- **Industry Led Action** that sees us work from within the industry to drive change
- **Consumer Focused** results that provide assurance and verified information
- Transparency of clear, evidenced and verifiable information through our **Transparency Dashboards™**
- Supporting improvement and assessment across all **3 Pillars of Sustainability**; respecting people, planet and profit
- Avoiding duplication of effort and cost by recognising other certifications of **Equivalent Standard** within our platform.



2023 Annual Review



20

Speaker
presentations at
external events

(up 3)

26

Countries
engaged in
Partnership

(up 6)

69

Audits now
conducted

(up 37)

71

Transparency
Dashboards™
created

(up 26)

90

Partners now
actively engaged

(up 16)

106

Countries have
visited the
website

(up 1)

24,472

Unique users
have visited the
website

(up 8,898)

104,586

Website
page views

(18,924)

Benchmarking – Partnership Growth

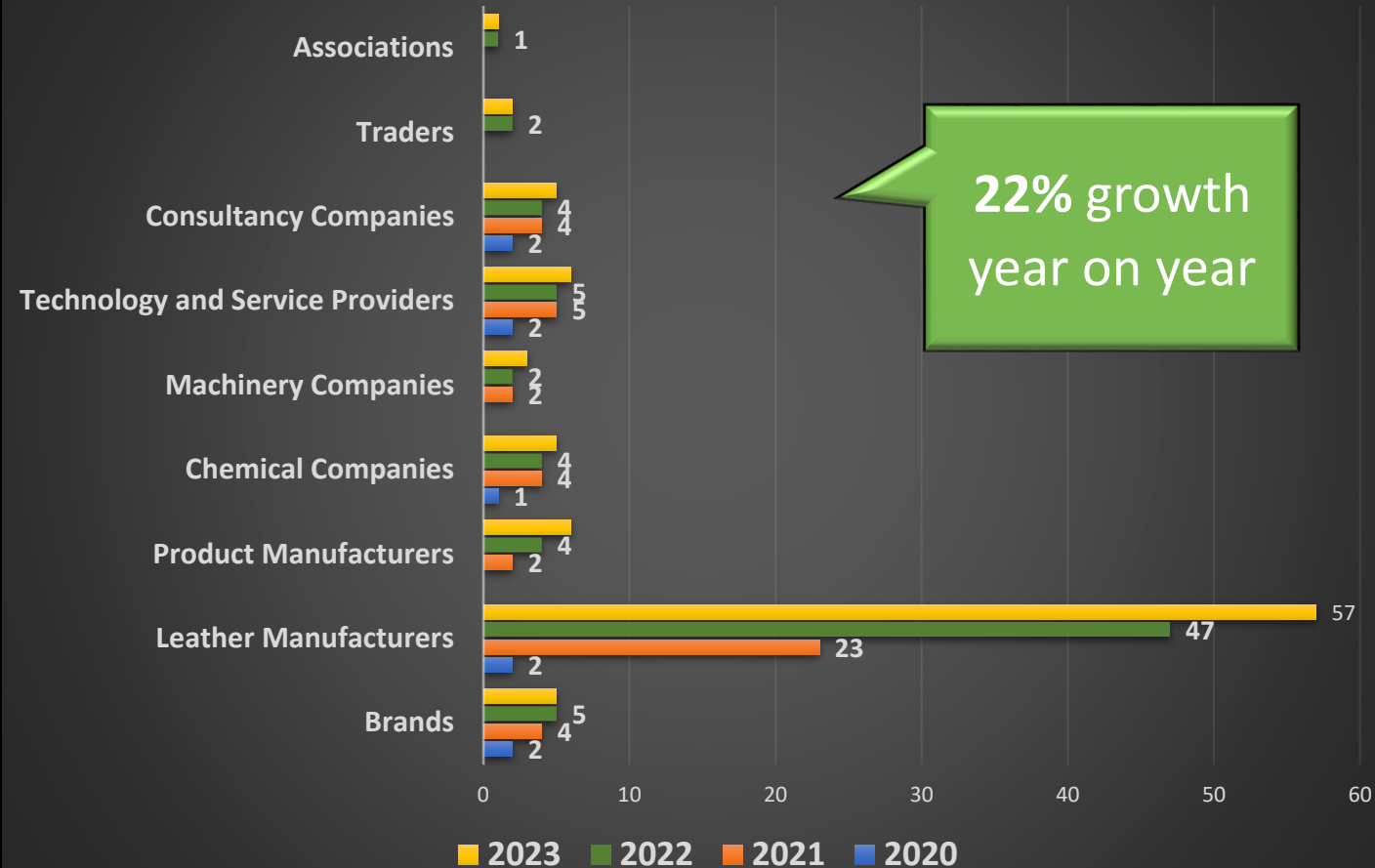


- Although slower growth was experienced in 2023, it was still significant giving the turbulent economic and political times we are in.
- The largest growth category again is the Leather Manufacturers which proves that the Foundation is delivering on its vision to be Industry led and Consumer focused.
- Our reach now extends to 26 countries around the world and this will rise in 2024.

Benchmarking – Partnership Growth

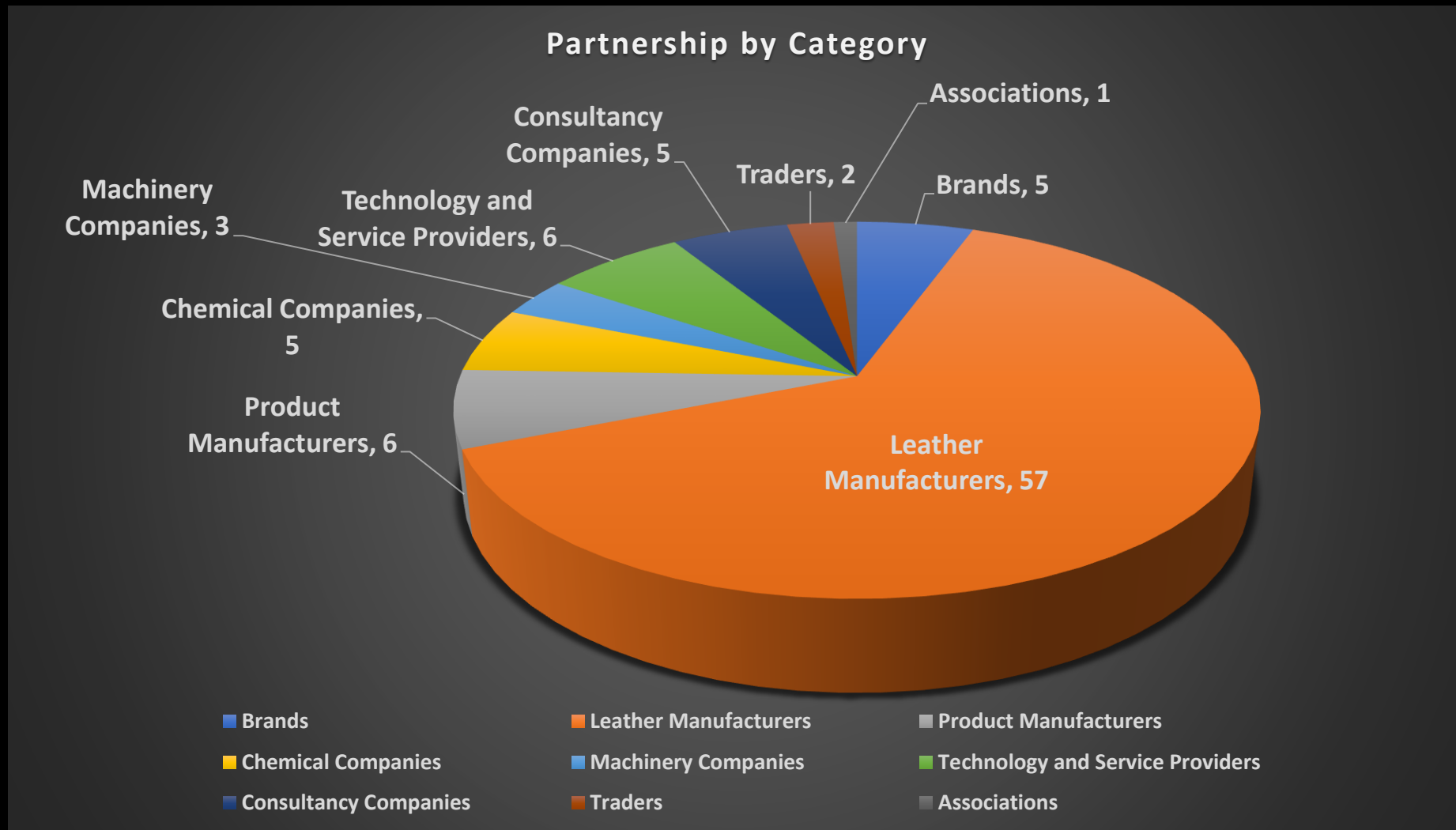


Partnership Growth by Type

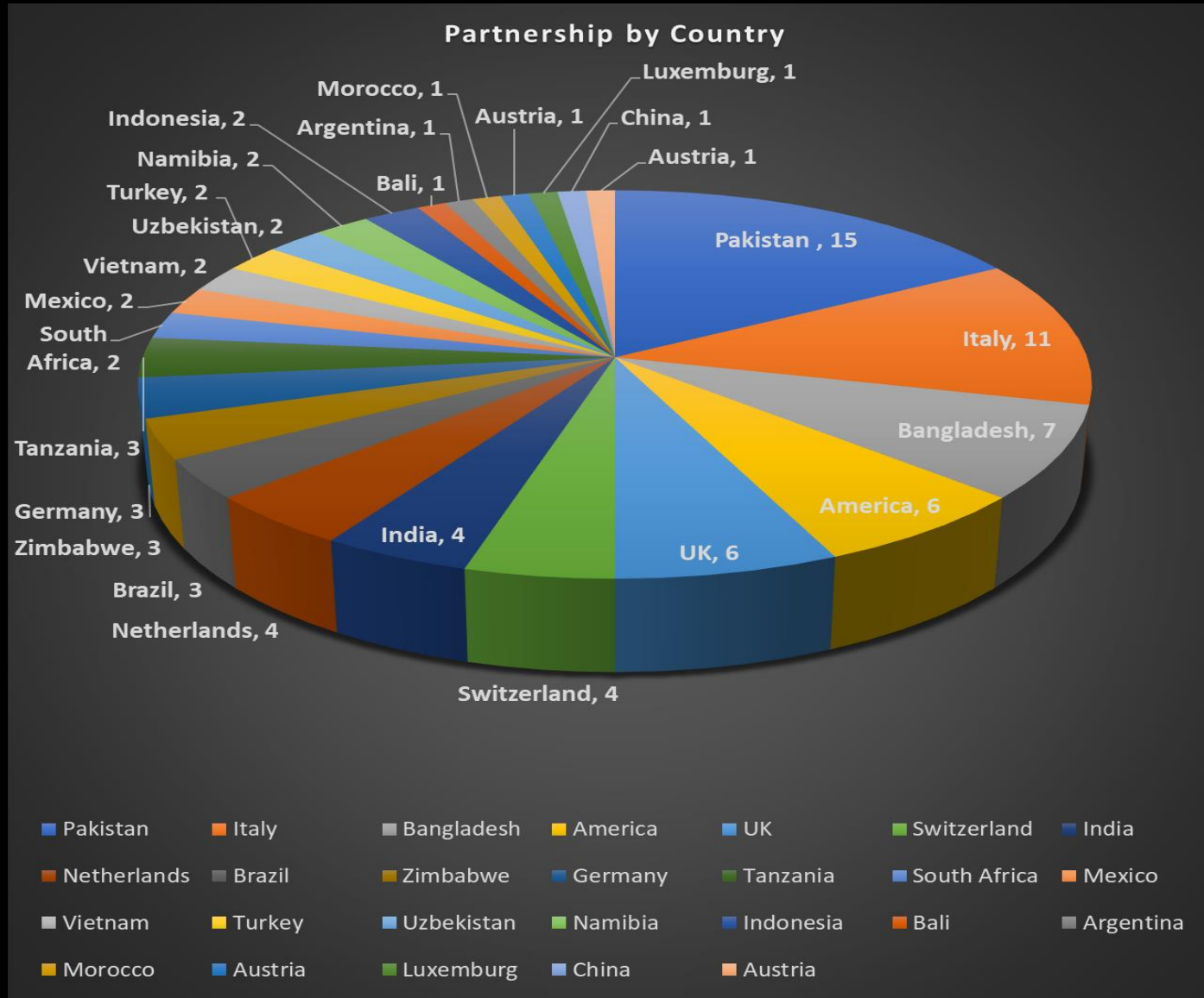


Partnership Type	2020	2021	2022	2023
Brands	2	4	5	5
Leather Manufacturers	2	23	47	57
Product Manufacturers		2	4	6
Chemical Companies	1	4	4	5
Machinery Companies		2	2	3
Technology & Service Providers	2	5	5	6
Consultancy Companies	2	4	4	5
Traders			2	2
Associations			1	1
Total	9	44	74	90

Benchmarking – Partnership Growth



Benchmarking – Global Reach



January 2021

✓ 9 Founding Partners

December 2021

✓ 44 Partners

December 2022

✓ 74 Partners

December 2023

✓ 90 Partners

✓ 26 Countries

✓ All Continents

Benchmarking - Audits



- Audit Performance continues to grow, primarily in Social Responsibility
- This is in line with our equivalency approach to certification
- Traditionally leather manufacturers have focused on environmental certification
- With the advent of regulations and directives, facilities now recognise the need to demonstrate social and governance responsibility alongside their environmental credentials.

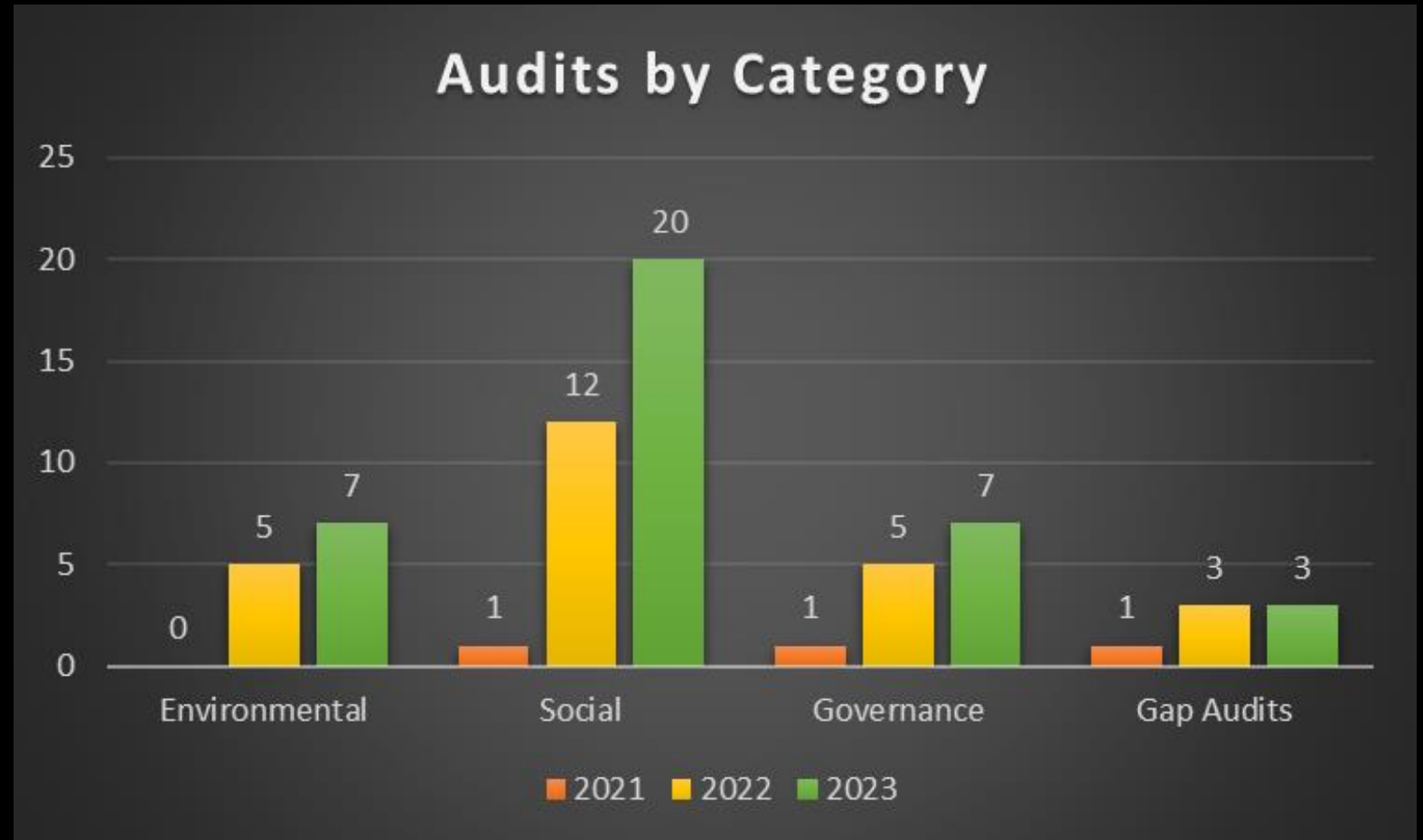
Benchmarking - Audits

37 Audits
conducted in
2023



Country reach for audits in 2023:

- Austria
- Italy
- Mexico
- Pakistan
- Indoneasia
- Turkey
- India
- UK
- Namibia



Projects - SIPS



SLF is working with the Joint Action *Support towards Industrialization and the Productive Sectors* in the SADC region (SIPS) project to support sustainable and environmental compliance for the leather value chain in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

During the initial contract term of May to November 2023, SLF has provided training workshops aimed at increasing capacity-building on sustainability and best practices, followed by pilot audits, training and formal audits carried out in chosen tanneries located in the SADC region, initially in Tanzania and Namibia.

The project has been extended until 31st May 2024 with 3 additional countries now included within the remit: Madagascar, Mauritius, and Zimbabwe



Projects - SIPS



Namibia Workshop Feedback:

100% of attendees agreed that:

- The training was engaging and informative.
- The quality of training materials and resources was good.
- Would be willing to participate in future training.
- Would recommend this training for others in the tanneries.

Suggestions for improvements were only positive:

- Extend the training by another day.
- Extend to industry visits and perhaps to other countries.

Tanzania Workshop Feedback:

100% of attendees agreed that:

- The training was engaging and informative.
- The quality of training materials and resources was good.
- Would be willing to participate in future training.
- Would recommend this training for others in the tanneries.

Suggestions for improvements were only positive:

- Conduct the training 4 times per year.
- More hours' training and visits to tanneries.
- Training should be repeated regularly for continuous improvement and more practical exercises for deeper understanding.
- Increase to a 5-day training workshop.
- Local language translation of materials.
- Repeat the training after 3 months.



Projects – SIPS Audits

- www.sustainableleatherfoundation.com



Projects



- SLF has been contracted to create a traceability audit standard specifically for the meatpackers and processors in the USA.
- To align with their existing legal structures but also fit within existing tannery traceability systems.
- Considerations of commercial integrity and privacy are paramount, but the goal is to enable a chain of custody approach that gives assurance of origin with a specific focus on proving non-deforestation in the supply chain.
- The first draft of the audit standard is expected to be ready for piloting in the Spring of 2024.



- Under the guidance of, COTANCE a traceability cluster has been established to assess the feasibility of aligning on traceability requirements.
- The core standards group have now aligned on terms and definitions and are currently working through the mechanics of what is required to demonstrate robust traceability.
- Complexities arise with the harmonisation of terms adopted, measurement types and other metrics so that industry will be able to exchange traceability data from different systems with interoperability.
- The end objective is to create a CEN or ISO standard that industry can adopt.



Projects



- As part of our commitment to continually provide trusted, low to no-cost resources for our global Partners, SLF endorses UNIDO's leather industry training programme hosted on the UNIDO Leather Panel:
- **How to Deal with Hydrogen Gas**
- **First Aid at the Industrial Workplace**
- **Introduction to Treatment of Tannery Effluents**
- **Safety & Health in the Workplace.**
- Upon completion of the training course, attendees receive a certificate endorsed by both organisations.
- The Foundation encourages the use and sharing of these valuable resources, and we are committed to developing more work with UNIDO in 2024.

NORTHAMPTON
SUSTAINABILITY
ACCORD

SIGNATORY
ORGANISATION



It was an honour for the Foundation to be the first recipient of the **University of Northampton Vice Chancellor's Award for Best Sustainability Strategy** for their work within the leather industry, through their innovative Transparency Dashboard and A.I.M. Approach (Accessible, Inclusive, Modular) designed to support sustainable improvement within the leather value chain



Looking Forward



- More Dashboard development: Meatpackers and Farmers
- More Pathway Papers
- IT development
- Easing the burden of incoming regulations and directives