

Date: 2021.08.31

## **L&HCA and WWF Memorandum of Understanding Work Plan**

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Leather & Hide Council of America (L&HCA) are joining forces to collaborate on a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices of the U.S. leather industry, with the ambition of positioning it as a global leader in sustainable leather.

With the support and guidance from WWF, L&HCA will be a conduit of projects, promoting solutions to help U.S. companies to secure the adoption of robust systems and processes to construct, implement, and demonstrate progress on science-based, data-driven commitments.

The partnership also intends to promote an open dialogue with a multitude of stakeholders, from academia and NGOs to public sector and financial institutions. Among the issues to be addressed via the dialogue include:

### **A. DEFORESTATION**

The proposed initiatives will provide L&HCA, its members, business partners and other stakeholders in the value chain with the necessary guidance to adequately respond to the current socio-environmental market requirements associated with the origin, processing, and production of leather.

It will also provide access to existing frameworks for business efforts focused on mitigating the risk of exposure to deforestation and help advance solutions that protect natural landscapes and ensure more sustainable outcomes.

These frameworks include the **Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI)**, which provides a set of guidelines for companies to deliver on ethical supply chain commitments, with clear targets and time-bound milestones.

With a high-level understanding for setting, implementing, and monitoring effective supply chain commitments, assisted by multiple available tools, among them the **WWF DCF Implementation Toolkit**, Global Forest Watch Pro, Trase, and Map Biomas, among others, L&HCA members will be able to implement ESG practices for more resilient and sustainable production systems.

**B. WATER STEWARDSHIP**

WWF's work on **Water Stewardship** will be instrumental for L&HCA member companies to understand the risks associated with their water footprint. This collaboration can also provide guidance for companies to take internal actions to minimize impact and contribute to the responsible, sustainable management of freshwater resources that are critical to business operations, as well as supporting local watershed conservation and engaging in collective efforts towards better basin governance.

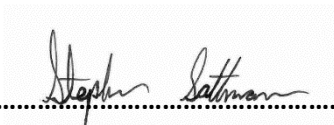
**C. HUMAN RIGHTS**

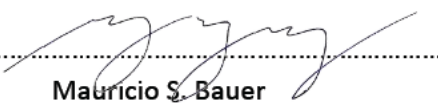
WWF will provide guidance to L&HCA member companies by connecting to them to tools for implementation of conservation programs and partnerships, encouraging good governance, protecting the vulnerable and respecting human rights, supported by **WWF's Conservation and Human Rights Framework**.

**D. ZERO NET EMISSIONS**

WWF will assist L&HCA members on setting commitments to reduce embedded Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in products present in their supply chain, as part of the **Science-Based Targets Initiative**, which aims at driving ambitious climate action in the private sector by enabling companies to set science-based emissions reduction targets.

Washington DC, August 31, 2021

Signed on behalf of L&HCA .....  
  
**Stephen Sothmann**

Signed on behalf of WWF.....  
  
**Mauricio S. Bauer**