

*Terms of references Technical Advisory Group (TAG)*

**The guidelines for assessing the environmental footprint of leather**

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## 1. BACKGROUND

The project – development of the harmonized guideline for assessing the environmental footprint of leather - comes in response to the urgent need for global action to harmonize the requirements and the methodologies that are used to calculate the environmental footprint of leather, at global scale.

There is a growing demand for development of Product Environmental Footprint Calculations based on High Quality Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) data with a uniform methodology. The global standards have to be established to ensure that the same procedures are used when calculating Product Environmental Footprint.

The project, that is running since the beginning of 2024 is involving a comprehensive analysis of all existing LCA standards (Tools, Product Category Rules - PCRs) the development of a proposal for harmonization, the discussion of the proposal with a selection of global stakeholders, the final issuing of the harmonized guidelines.

Guideline will take into consideration also technical performance and durability as important factor to assess environmental footprint. Result of the guideline should provide users science based information regarding environmental footprint.

The sustainability of products is one of the key concerns for manufacturing industries. The leather industry is no exception, and understanding and improving the sustainability of leather is vital. However, the current methods for assessing the environmental impact of livestock hides and skins, and resulting leather products, are arguably outdated and unrepresentative.

The Guideline will provide scientific based recommendations for policymakers and industry on the harmonized approach for the calculation of environmental footprint of leather. This will ensure transparency along the leather value/supply chain.

Guideline will cover, among others, the following key elements:

- Impact methods
- Leather definition and characterization
- Functional unit (and related measures)
- System boundaries (Expansion, EOL, Durability; technical performance)
- Allocation: Farm
- Allocation: Slaughterhouse
- Allocation: Tannery & Mass balance requirements
- Process description
- Interpretation: Hotspot analysis, Sensitivity Analysis
- Data quality rules; and data rating

SPIN360 team was appointed to prepare under guidance of UNIDO **The guidelines for assessing the environmental footprint of leather.**

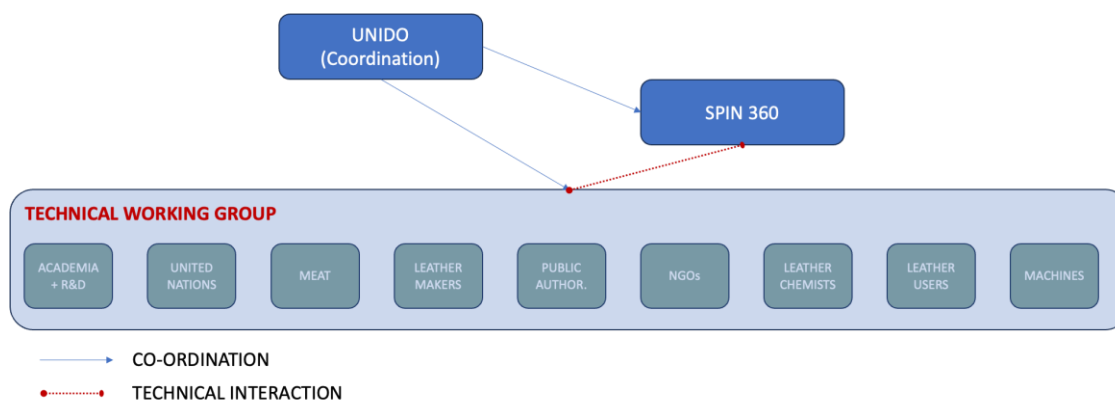
## 2. SCOPE

Aim of the call is to form a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that will comprise a set of relevant experts and stakeholders that can represent in full the skillsets required to provide constructive feedbacks for a proper peer review of the Guidelines.

The TAG will be formed by stakeholders, that will attend in personal capacity, belonging to the following categories:

- Academia and research institutions
- Public authorities
- UN organizations
- NGOs
- Meat producers
- Leather producers
- Leather users
- Leather chemists
- Leather Machine manufacturers
- Trade associations

In order to ensure efficiency of the peer review process each stakeholder group will be represented by 1 representative providing comments and feedback. In case there is more qualified experts interested in participating the peer review, each stakeholder group may form working group. Such working group will be coordinated by one representative, which will consolidate and provide comments on behalf of the stakeholder group. The indicative organizational structure of the work is represented in the following picture:



All comments to the guidelines will be allowed to one representative member per stakeholder category. Each category will autonomously select its representative. Participation to webinars is open to all TAG members.

Participants should declare any conflicts of interest where they arise.

### 3. SKILLS AND COMPETENCES REQUIRED

The following skills and competences are required for all TAG members:

- Ability to work in English.
- Ability to work in team and hence in constructively sharing views and knowledge.
- Highly motivation and commitment to developing sound tools enabling support transparent decision-making at various scales and in all regions worldwide.
- Full respect for the cultural and scientific diversity of TAG members.
- General knowledge of the leather industry and leather-related environmental matters
- Specific knowledge of the industry that is to be represented in the TAG (i.e.: meat, chemicals; leather processing; leather products; footwear etc.)
- In-depth knowledge and/or experience of LCA methodologies
- Good technical knowledge of the most important LCA standards, including ISO 14040, 14044, 14064, 14067
- Good technical knowledge of the relevant standards in the field of environmental labelling and declarations, including ISO 14020 and ISO 14025,
- Knowledge of ISO/TS 14071 LCA Critical Review Process and Reviewer Competencies
- Relevant experience in reviewing LCAs, verification of EPDs, or the equivalent.

#### 4. TENTATIVE TIMELINE AND STEPS:

TAG members will be asked in taking part of activities as described below. The table is meant to provide tentative dates for the most important steps of the review process, which is meant to be efficient and productive and therefore limited in time and interactions.

	ACTIVITY	DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Expression of interest for TAG members	June 30 <sup>th</sup> 2024	TAG members
2	Selection of the TAG members		UNIDO
3	Creation of Stakeholder working group and selection of nominated representatives		TAG working groups
4	Presentation (webinar) first guideline to TAG members/coordinators and first draft guideline circulated	July 15 <sup>th</sup> 2024	UNIDO/SPIN360
5	Submission of comments from TAG members to TAG working group coordinators for consolidation		
6	Consolidated comments submitted to UNIDO/SPIN360 from stakeholders representatives from different stakeholders groups	Aug 5 <sup>th</sup> 2024	TAG Working group coordinators
7	Revision of guidelines according to the comments accepted		UNIDO/SPIN360
8	Identification key elements to be discussed further		UNIDO/SPIN360
9	Delivery of the “Discussion points” and Organization 2 <sup>nd</sup> webinar to discuss open points	Sep 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2024	UNIDO/SPIN360
10	Participation to the “Second revision Workshop”, to discuss unsolved points and vote if consensus is not reached	Sep 9 <sup>th</sup> 2024	TAG Members

## 5. DELIVERABLES & EVALUATION CRITERIA

MAIN DELIVERABLE: Guideline for assessing the environmental footprint of leather

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The review process shall ensure that the Guidelines:

- Are consistent with the relevant LCA ISO reference standards
- Are applicable to every type of leather used in the global market
- Are written in a clear way
- Complement the existing PCRs requirements with additional requirements adequate and specific to the leather life cycle
- Clearly specify the most relevant impact categories and additional environmental information for leather

## 6. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROCEDURES

Interested candidates should send their Expression of Interest to UNIDO.

- Email Address: [leather@unido.org](mailto:leather@unido.org)
- Email Subject: EOI – TAG Guideline
- Email attachment: Self evaluation against selection criteria, as in Attachment 1 to the present TOR.

**Deadline for Eoi submission is 30 June 2024**

## 7. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND REMUNERATION

Through participation in this project, TAG members will have an opportunity to shape the future of the leather industry. Although there is no financial reimbursement for being part of the TAG or peer review process, or the participation in meetings, this can be a rewarding experience in terms of professional development, networking with like-minded professionals and keeping up to date with latest trends and innovations.

TAG members are invited to actively participate in the process described above. Active participation in TAG activities also guarantees reference of the role in contribution in development of the technical products.

UNIDO will not grant any honorarium to TAG members.

## 8. SOURCES OF EXISTING INFORMATION

The proposed guidelines will be derived from existing guidelines, including:

- Life Cycle Assessment, Carbon Footprint in Leather Processing - Review of methodologies and recommendations for harmonization. 2012 Federico Brugnoli
- Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR), Final version Apr 25<sup>th</sup> 2018
- Product Category Rules, Finished bovine leather Programme operator: The International EPD® System; Publication date: 2019-05-06 (Version 3.1)
- EN 16887 - Leather - Environmental footprint - Product Category Rules (PCR) - Carbon footprints



## Attachment 1: Self Evaluation Sheet

Name	
Company	
Proposed Stakeholder group	
e-mail	
Phone	
Address	

REQUIREMENT	LEVEL (MARK WIT AN "X")			JUSTIFICATION
	HIGH	MED.	LOW	
Ability to work in English.				
Ability to work in team and hence in constructively sharing views and knowledge.				
Highly motivation and commitment to developing sound tools enabling support transparent decision-making at various scales and in all regions worldwide.				
Full respect for the cultural and scientific diversity of TAG members.				
General knowledge of the leather industry and leather-related environmental matters				
Specific knowledge of the industry that is to be represented in the TAG (i.e.: meat, chemicals; leather processing; leather products; footwear etc.)				
In-depth knowledge and/or experience of LCA methodologies				
Good technical knowledge of the most important LCA standards, including ISO 14040, 14044, 14064, 14067				
Good technical knowledge of the relevant standards in the field of environmental labelling and declarations, including ISO 14020 and ISO 14025,				
Knowledge of ISO/TS 14071 LCA Critical Review Process and Reviewer Competencies				
Relevant experience in reviewing LCAs, verification of EPDs, or the equivalent.				