

Country (Insert country of origin of your company / organization or its headquarters' location)

Belgium

Submitting Organization/Company

International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO)

If Organization or Company, please indicate the approximate number of employees

< 10

Please indicate the number of employees

4

Title of the action

Supporting of Sustainable Production of Woollen Textiles

Upload your logo or an image



Relevant Website

www.iwto.org

Main Partners

AWEX, AWI, BKB, Cape Wools, Suedwolle Group, Wool Producers Australia, Segard Masurel

Other Partners

IWTO Members

Type of initiative

Foundation / Association

Description of action

The IWTO will promote Traceable Sustainable Wool production and will contribute to the achievement of UNSDG's in the following ways:

The IWTO and its members in grower countries have the objective of promoting a sustainable wool industry. This entails ensuring a profitable industry that takes care for the environment, the animals as well as the people involved. In many countries wool is grown by small scale farmers where the improvements in sustainability have a very real effect on the UNSDG's 1 to 3 of no poverty, zero hunger and good health and well-being.

Growers who manage the farms in their custodianship on which wool is grown in a sustainable and responsible manner can show proof of this by being part of Sustainability Assurance Schemes. This will have a positive effect on ensuring Clean Water, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Life on Land and Climate Action – UNSDG’s 6,8,13 and 15.

Research proving that wool does not contribute to microfiber pollution and the wool industry implementing best practices with regard to chemical use both contribute to life below water, UNSDG 14.

As this is a Wool Industry initiative that involves Wool Growers through to Wool Processers and in many cases goes as far as Brands and Retailers this contributes to Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Responsible Consumption and Production, Partnerships for the Goals , UNSDGs 9,12 and 17.

Type of action

Traceability & Transparency

Please select the specific area/s of the action

Norms and standards

Research and Development of Innovative Solutions

Awareness and Education

Collaborative Initiatives

Business Management Systems or Instruments

Scope of the action, including a description of the value chain processes that are covered

Objective (max 200 words): To facilitate the process to make it easier for consumers to recognise and make sustainable clothing and textile purchases and promote and simplify the traceability systems that back up these claims of sustainability.

Commitments (max 200 words): • Facilitate, encourage and communicate the benefits of participation of full pipeline sustainability and quality assurance schemes. • Endorse sustainability assurance schemes that meet the IWTO requirements for such schemes in terms of the functional areas that are accessed, and the quality of the audit process. • Get alignment between different schemes to make the processing of wool originating from different assurance schemes easier. • Carry out research and communicate the results to influence consumers and regulations to help consumers make the correct choices about sustainable and circular purchases. • Identify and communicate best practices to make the production of woollen products even more sustainable. • Use a natural capital accounting system to promote and implement regenerative farming practices.

Value Chain Scope: Farm to end of life

Timeframe and/or milestones for the action

The IWTO has been conducting research into areas of interest and concern relating to the production of woollen garments and textiles since 2011. By communicating the results of this work we have and continue to influence better practices and the consumer perceptions of the sustainability of woollen garments and textiles.

These actions will be ongoing and do not have a finalisation date.

In 2020 the IWTO created a working group to look at the alignment between the main Traceable Sustainable Accreditation Schemes being used in the industry. The purpose of this is to make it easier for processors to use wool from different schemes and still be able to pass on credible claims about sustainability and traceability to consumers. By mid-2023 IWTO plans to have a draft standard in place for the recognition of schemes that meet IWTO's requirements in terms of scope and audit levels.

Measures for assessing regenerative farming practices exist and new ones are being developed. Requirements for assessing regenerative practices will be addressed in the IWTO Standard.

Reference instruments and sources used

The following Traceable Sustainability schemes are participating in the IWTO process

- ABELUSI Wool
- Authentico
- Cape Wools Sustainable Standard
- Nativa

- Responsible Wool Standard
- Sustainawool
- ZQ

The following is a list of some of the research that the IWTO initiated and can be sourced on the IWTO website www.IWTO.com.

1. Review of Methodological Choices in LCA-Based Textile and Apparel Rating Tools : Key Issues and Recommendations Relating to Assessment of Fabrics Made from Natural Fibre Types
2. Application of life cycle assessment to sheep production systems: Investigating co-production of wool and meat using case studies from major global producers.
3. Reducing environmental impacts from garments through best practice garment use and care, using the example of a Merino wool sweater.
4. Environmental impacts associated with the production, use and end-of –life of a woollen garment.
5. Clothing lifespans: what should be measured and how.
6. Reducing the Environmental Impacts of Garments through Industrially Scalable Closed-Loop Recycling: Life Cycle Assessment of a Recycled Wool Blend Sweater
7. Chemical residue trends for Australian and New Zealand wool
8. Microfiber Pollution and the Marine Biodegradation of Wool (Case Study)

Expected benefits and impact for the stakeholders involved

Enhanced visibility of compliance with sustainability requirements by industry actors/partners along the entire value chain

Enhanced traceability of the social/environmental/ethical attributes of product(s)/materials along the value chain; for example, for origin, quality, sustainability performance, and compliance with health and safety requirements for consumers and workers

A measurable impact on sustainability in value chains over time, eventually verified through life-cycle assessments and/or sustainability certifications

Enhanced environmental and socially responsible consumption and production, and circularity of the value chain, that may be relevant to and inspire other countries and industry actors/partners

Management of reputational risk for manufacturers, brands and retailers who are selling the products concerned

Improved working conditions for workers along the value chain and, particularly, those who work for “suppliers to suppliers” in parts of the value chain that

today are often "hidden"

Stakeholders involved

Business and industry associations

Scientific and technological community

Key performance indicators for the action

Growth in percentage of wool being certified in Traceable Sustainable Assurance schemes at farm level.

Currently the percentage of the South African wool clip that is certified with a Traceable Sustainable Assurance scheme is 29 % of merino wools.

The Australian Wool industry has a target of more than 50% of wool is sold under a quality certification scheme by 2030.

Good practices

Good practices will be assured by wool growers' and processors' participation in one of the above listed Assurance programmes, see list in "Reference instruments and sources used."

How has this UNECE-UN/CEFACT Call to Action contributed to strategic engagement and/or public awareness in support of your commitment?

The collaborative approach involving multiple value chain members to share information will facilitate identifying alignment and synergies within the multiple wool schemes. We envisage with the support of UNECE, we will have a stronger call to action to onboard partners and successfully implement a system to simplify the decision by consumers, enabling them to make informed sustainable and responsible wool purchases. This project would furthermore bring global awareness to the initiative.

Link to relevant goal(s) and specific target(s) of the United Nations

