



Minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting

Name: Mongolian Sustainable Cashmere Platform

Location: UN House, 6th Floor Meeting room

Date: 22 May 2020, 15:00-16:30

Chair of the meeting: Shinenemekh Volooj, MSCP Manager, UNDP Mongolia

No	Members of Advisory Committee	Non-members
Attendees	1. Nashida Sattar, UNDP Mongolia, Deputy Resident Representative	8. Kh.Khishigjargal, Program Analyst, UNDP Mongolia 9. V.Shinenemekh, Manager, Mongolia Sustainable Cashmere Platform 10. D.Bayarmaa, Finance and Admin Officer, Mongolia Sustainable Cashmere Platform
	2. B.Batkhashig, Country Director, SFA Mongolia	
	3. J.Una, Chief Executive Officer, SFA	
	4. J.Chantsalkham, Project Manager, WCS	
	5. A.Stuart, South Gobi Program Director, WCS	
	6. U.Sarangoo, Project Manager, AVSF StepEcoLab	
	7. G.Touati, Country Director, AVSF France	
Absent	1. Ts.Enkh-amgalan, Project Coordinator, GG AHP	

Outcome of the Advisory Committee meeting:

- Introduction about the Platform, role of the Advisory Committee, expected functions, principles of operation and work approach
- Group discussion about best way forward on Comparative/benchmarking study and integration of sustainability criteria into national certification standard study
- Group brainstorming session on Comparative study ToR

AGENDA

Time/Duration	Topic	Chair/presenter
15:00-15:10	Coffee, tea, refreshments	
15:10 – 15:30	Introduction about the Platform, role of the Advisory Committee, expected functions, principles of operation and work approach	Shinenemekh, MSCPlatform Manager
15:30 – 16:00	Group discussion about best way forward on Comparative/benchmarking study and integration of sustainability criteria into national certification standard study	Shinenemekh, MSCPlatform Manager Moderator to be chosen at the session
16:00 – 16:20	Group brainstorming session on Comparative study ToR	Shinenemekh, MSCPlatform Manager Moderator to be chosen at the session
16:20 – 16:30	Summary & conclusions, next steps	

Minutes of the first Advisory Committee meeting

First part of the meeting:

SFA, Una: I was hearing some of news at Textile Exchange meeting yesterday and they were proposing a few things as part of GCP, UNDP. It would be good to consult this together and agree on the things. It presented outside before us and announce like this market access platform.

MSCP, Shinee: If you could elaborate exactly what kind of information you meant and send us by email. As Advisory committee, we have to cover the following three areas such as:

- Workplan for 2020 for Steering committee's approval
- Covid impact on the cashmere sector that has to be discussed with high level stakeholders
- Covid response and actions in the coming year

Second part of the meeting:

MSCP, Shinee: About 80% of participants (grass root projects, existing projects) attending sustainable cashmere coalition meetings agreed to solve the following issues:

- Definition of sustainable cashmere in the context of Mongolia
- Set up criteria and indicators that would differentiate sustainable cashmere from mass produced cashmere
- Application of scientific methodology, preferably common metrics to measure sustainability of cashmere

The rest 20% were not sure about what standard can be used, whose standard should be used and why we need to use it. Today we will discuss on the commonly agreed issues. In addition to that, we will discuss about ToR of in-depth comparative analysis of sustainable cashmere initiatives in Mongolia that is aimed at removing duplication of efforts and elevating current practices according to international and national best practices. All the standards and certifications being developed by SFA, Green Gold, National Federation of Pasture User Groups (Responsible Nomads standard), WCS, AVSF, AVSF StePEcoLab project and The Nature Conservancy will be compared. We will hire one international and one local consultant to do this analysis. All the requirements will be described. If you agree, we can include one person from each Organization as a member of the study team. That way we can ensure everyone is heard.

WCS, Stuart: Will this body benchmark the current set of initiatives against another? Are you scoring gains of initiatives?

MSCP, Shinee: No, all our benchmark against ISEAL, international sustainability set of standards. Mapping, identifying gaps only. Nothing will be compared against each other. We want to see where we are.

AVSF, STepEcoLab, Sarangoo: Objective of the work is standardization and certification. But why ISEAL? Why not ECOTEX and GOTS for instance? Why not global, organic standard? How can we make sustainability standards out of ISEAL because it is kind of tool standard, not sustainable standard itself.

MSCP, Shinee: Let me give you more information on that. It is only one of series of studies. What we do further is, integrating standards into existing national standards covering, such as Noble Fibre, Responsible Nomad etc to make it sustainable. I will get back to you on ISEAL and it is already produced by GCP. For ECOTEX standard, it is production based standard, as you mentioned which means it cannot be applied to pastures, animals and etc.

SFA, Una: At ISEAL meeting, a guy who was from Textile Exchange (TE) was talking about responsible standard, impact credit trade platform that they are developing. He mentioned that they cooperate with UNDP in developing benchmarking. What you are going to do is a part of this benchmarking tool developed by TE?

MSCP, Shinee: To my best knowledge, it will not. TE is placed into one of technical working group but not a separate entity that goes all aspects of the structure. Inclusivity and roles of all stakeholders will be well balanced in line with the objective.

SFA, Una: Well noted. The Mongolia's Sustainable Cashmere Platform need to be aware of our voices where we are heading together.

MSCP, Shinee: We are planning full-day retreat among Advisory members and coalition members to discuss about sustainability definition and its social, economic and environmental aspects in detail.

WCS, Stuart: What is your position with initiatives that have definitions and implications? What is your starting point?

MSCP, Shinee: We are facilitating consensus. It needs to be agreed by all stakeholders. We are aiming at kind of universal definition. We already have 2 workshops for mapping what definitions are out there.

SFA, Khishgee: First meeting, to understand concerns and interests. As AC members are experts and practitioners on lessons learnt to make lively and effective exercise. Not only end result but to start the discussion on definition all range of stakeholders: from top scientists to very basic understanding of stakeholders. So role of AC is more responsible to provide easy, digestible recommendations. Provide well discussed information and data. To save time and effort of SC members. It is important meeting – its process which is success.

WCS, Chantsaa: – Make clear about Coalition to clarify for the SC

AVSF, StePEcoLab, Sarangoo: It started as Advisory and turned out to be coalition.

AVSF, StePEcoLab, Sarangoo: We have developed definition for cashmere sustainability. We had coalition meeting and all the members agreed to develop definition of cashmere sustainability.

SFA, Khishgee: Projects and initiatives coming together to be heard – how it originated. Now could re-organize to be member of SC of MSCP.

AVSF, StePEcoLab, Sarangoo: – SC makes decision, if they block some actions – Coalition could progress on their activities

WCS, Chantsaa: AC members need same terminology, common understanding

AVSF, StePEcoLab, Sarangoo: To send agenda before to discuss with ready comments SC to approve Action Plan
AC to review National Action Plan – experts to help SC to make good decisions

Decision: To conduct the study

SFA provided comments already – will send again. There was progress since ToR draft was circulated among stakeholders. Una – 2 studies/reports were conducted with help from other AC members. The report did not include core work information provided by SFA.

WCS, Chantsaa: Participated in report consolidation, feedback was gathered. Only GG responded.

AVSF, StePEcoLab, Sarangoo: Reviewed and commented and insisted to be included in the final report. Step Ecolab will not participate in 1st SC meeting. Will give message to whoever will participate

AVSF, Guillaume: Probably step back from taking part in 1st SC meeting

WCS, Chantsaa: Cannot attend, Stuart similar viewpoints – if Covid specific – not much to add probably, not much to contribute – as we move forward

SFA – set up working group on Covid action, assessment and survey – Covid action plan – members are supportive. 3 step plan:

1. Immediate response
2. Medium and long-term actions being discussed

MSCP, Shinee: SC has been described as approving common missions of objectives. But certainly, reviewing and approving draft versions of NAP is a final mandate. NAP will be developed by all of us, everyone's voice will be heard. However, when we are making decisions, it will not be top down but bottom up approach. We will inform SC what has been done by us, by TWGs and etc. In the future, the Platform will be placed alongside at one of the Organizations that is working on sustainable cashmere. At the moment UNDP is hosting it just for neutrality and impartiality.

Decisions:

1. B.Batkhishig, SFA Mongolia was nominated as a AC representative to the SC
2. All members agreed to conduct the comparative analysis and provide feedback within one week
3. ToR of comparative analysis should be developed and get approved