

Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather

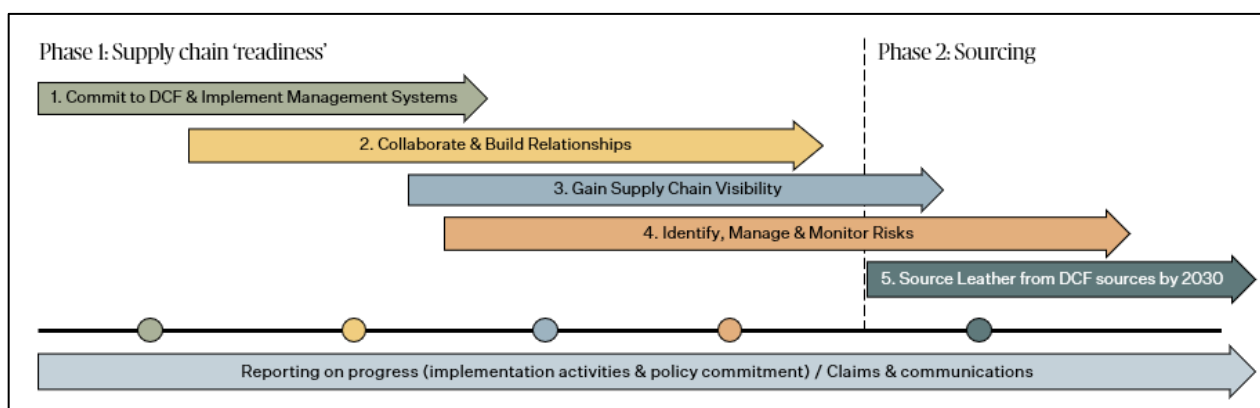
Using the roadmap and guidance documents

The Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather, led by Textile Exchange and Leather Working Group (LWG), asks brands to commit to sourcing their bovine leather from deforestation/conversion-free supply chains by 2030 or earlier.

Transforming leather supply chains is a complex and long-term journey. It requires brand commitment, adequate resourcing, active collaboration, and engagement with both the suppliers and with the wider sector and landscape-level processes (see Appendix 1).

The Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather offers a series of guides to help brands navigate through this complex journey towards ultimately sourcing leather from deforestation/conversion-free cattle farms.

The roadmap for brands has two phases. It is important for brands and their suppliers to note that the activities summarized in the roadmap are not linear in nature, nor are they considered one-off activities. Brands will continually learn, adapt, and improve through the experiences of implementing the various activities of the Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather.













Phase One: Supply chain readiness: Sets the key building blocks for brands and their suppliers to source leather from deforestation/conversion-free farms. Available documentation for this phase guides brands on how to:

- Develop a commitment to deforestation/conversion-free sourcing of leather and the internal systems that allow for effective policy implementation.
- Build and manage relationships with suppliers towards policy compliance
- Gain visibility of their supply chains
- Support wider sector initiatives through credible investments
- Identify, manage and monitor risks within their supply chain (guide in development)

Phase Two: Sourcing: Marks the point at which brands begin sourcing leather from deforestation/conversion-free farms. Documentation will be developed for this phase to guide brands on how to:

- Send clear market signals to slaughterhouses.
- Track the movement of deforestation/conversion-free leather between slaughterhouses. Support wider sector initiatives to accelerate action.

Below is a summary of the available guides that are part of Phase One, and how they are linked with the different stages of the roadmap:

Guide	Activity	Description
Policy guide	● 1. Policy & management	 Published
Management systems guide	● 1. Policy & management	 Published
Investment guide	● 1. Policy & management	 Published
Supplier engagement guide	● 2. Build relationships	 Published
Supply chain mapping guide	● 3. Supply chain visibility	 Published
Risk assessment and prioritization guide	● 3. Supply chain visibility	 <i>Developed in Q3</i>
Grievance mechanism briefing note	● 4. Manage risks	 Published
Implementing traceability guide	● 4. Manage risks	 <i>Developed in Q3</i>
Reporting guide	➡ <i>Progress reporting</i>	 <i>Developed in Q3</i>
Claims & communication guide	➡ <i>Progress reporting</i>	 <i>Developed in Q3</i>

Policy guide: Supports brands to develop (or review) their deforestation and conversion-free sourcing policy in line with the requirements of the Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather.

Investment guide: Informs how brands can support wider industry transformation, beyond their own supply chains, through investments in either traceability systems or in deforestation/conversion-free cattle farming practices.

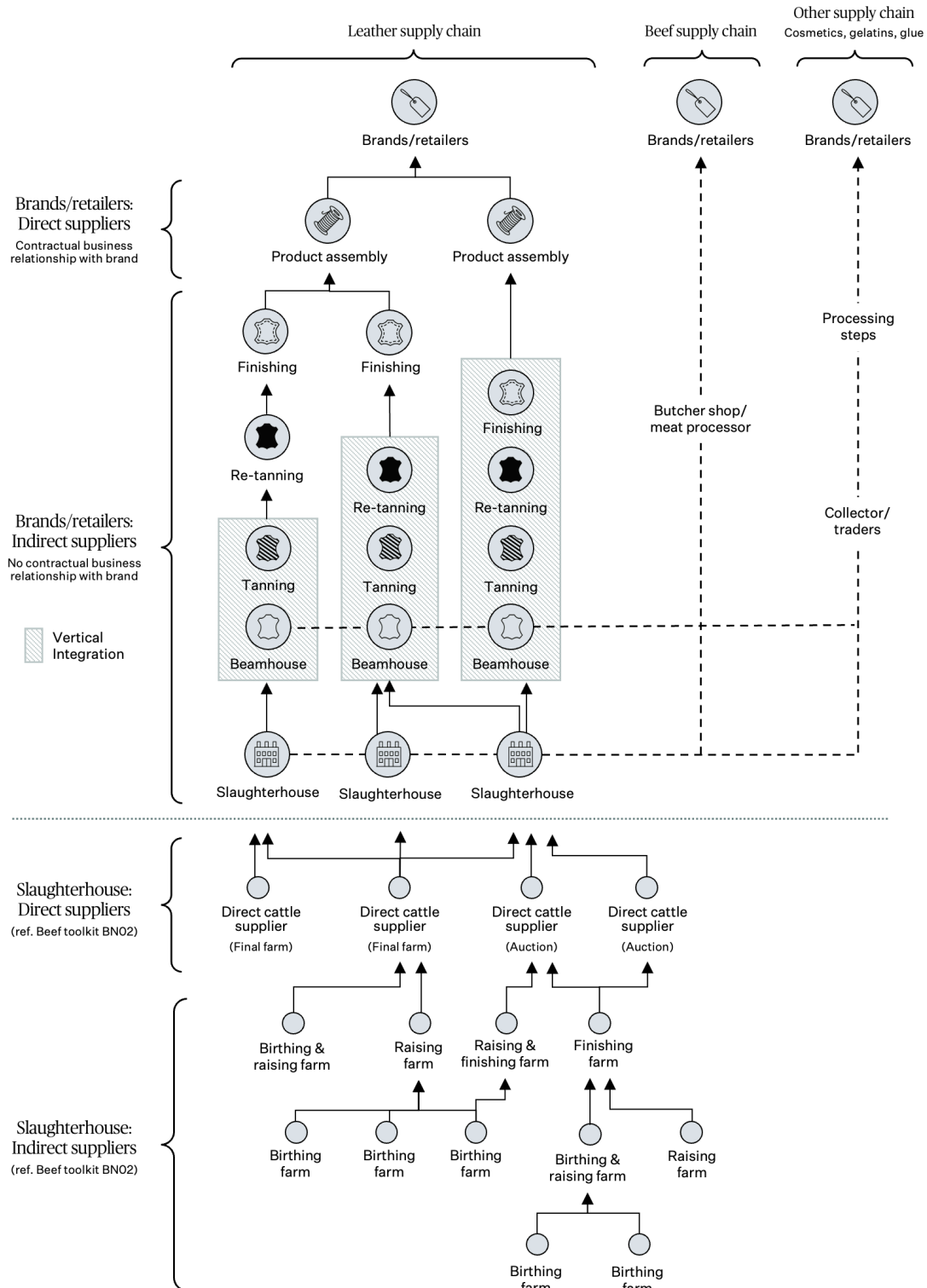
Supply chain mapping guide: Informs how brands can start and implement supply chain mapping activities, including data verification and what to consider when appointing a third-party solution producer for supply chain mapping services.

Management systems guide: Supports brands to review their management systems and integrate the Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather requirements in order to effectively implement the activities along the roadmap. The guide also provides good practice tips on KPIs to monitor supplier performance along with details for identifying, managing, and monitoring infringements and non-compliances.

Supplier engagement guide: Provides brands with guidance on the key components of an effective supplier engagement strategy and plan, together with suggested engagement activities. Supplier engagement forms the basis behind trust and relationship building between the brand and the direct suppliers.

Grievance mechanism briefing note: Provides an overview of the importance of grievance mechanisms, the Call to Action’s specific requirements, and recommendations on existing tools and guidance that can support brands to develop a new or expand an existing grievance mechanism.

Appendix 1 - Example of leather supply chains



Note: This is a simplified version of the supply chain there are many more complex iterations possible including the potential for traders to be involved between stages and for processes to be sub-contracted to other actors.