



BACKGROUND

The Africa Animal Welfare Conference, organised by The Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) in partnership with UNEP and others, is an annual conference that brings together representatives of governments, civil society, academia, business, international and state agencies from Africa and beyond to discuss issues that cut across animal welfare, wildlife and environmental conservation in the context of sustainable development.

The cooperation between ANAW and UNEP has seen three sessions of the Animal Welfare Conference; the first and second taking place in Nairobi, Kenya; with the third taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The fourth conference was to take place in Accra, Ghana. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the session was held virtually from 7 September to 10 September 2020. The fifth session will be held in Ghana in 2021.

The Conference

This year's session of the conference was held under the theme of **"Animal Welfare, Wildlife and Environmental Conservation for Sustainable Development in Africa: Enhancing Nature-Based Solutions"** from 7 September to 10 September 2020. The conference received a total of 751 registrations. It brought together 524 participants, from 43 countries around the world with 34 of these countries coming from Africa.

Topics discussed at the conference ranged from animal welfare, animal conservation, development vis-a-vis environmental conservation, food safety and security, indigenous knowledge's role in food safety and security, the relationship between animal welfare, biodiversity and zoonotic diseases among other topics. A special session was dedicated to UNEP to present UNEA 5 and opportunities for stakeholders to engage.

Speakers at the conference ranged from academics to legal experts, governmental and NGO representatives and experts from international organisations, such as UNEP.

The conference resulted into a call for stakeholders to enhance efforts to ensure good animal welfare policies are adopted across Africa and that governments are made aware of the importance of the implementation of these policies. Find the conference presentation and other resources [here](#)