

The 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference - Action 2023

Theme: Navigating the Delicate Balance of Animal Welfare, Climate Change, and Development - Concerted Actions Towards a Healthy and Sustainable Environment.



Conference Report

September 25 to 27, 2023

Sainte Famille Hotel

Kigali, Rwanda

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAWC	Africa Animal Welfare Conference
ACFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AHG	Ad-Hoc Groups
AMR	Anti-Microbial Resistance
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
ANAW	Africa Network for Animal Welfare
APAA	Action for Protection of Animals Africa
APAW	Africa Platform for Animal Welfare
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR	African Union- InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AU-OHDAA	African Union One Health Data Alliance Africa
AWESDE	Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development - Nexus
AWGF	Animal Welfare Global Forum
AWSA	Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa
AWWG	Animal Welfare Working Group
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBD	Convention for Biological Diversity
CBO	CBO Community Based Organization
CCAWA	Coordination Committee of Animal Welfare in Africa
CIWF	Compassion in World Farming
CMRR	Community Managed Risk Reduction
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of Parties
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DPM	Dog Population Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FARMS	Farm Animal Responsible Minimum Standards
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMGSF	Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
ICWE	International Coalition for Working Equids
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

KSPCA	Kenya Society for the Protection and care of Animals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
LEGS	Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards
MGFC	MMajor Groups Facilitating Committee
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECPR	Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives
OHHLEP	One Health High Level Expert Panel
OWA	Open Wing Alliance
PADCO	Pan African Donkey Conference
PEP	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
PFRS	Policy Framework and Reforms Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
PrepCom	Preparatory Committees
RAB	Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board
RAFFS	Resilient African Feed and Fodder Systems Project
RAWO	Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization
REC	Regional Economic Communities
RCM	Regional Consultative Meetings
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPANAN	Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad
TDS	The Donkey Sanctuary
UN	United Nations
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UDAW	Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund
USA	United States of America
WAG	Welfare for Animals Guild
WAP	World Animal Protection
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health
WTG	Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTS	Welttierschutzstiftung

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Josphat Ngonyo

Executive Director
Africa Network for Animal Welfare

The expansive mountains, gleaming lakes, the scenic hills and the wonderful people of Rwanda ushered in the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference - Action 2023 which was hosted at Sainte Famille Hotel in Kigali from September 25 to 27, 2023. The conference was hosted by the Government of Rwanda, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), and Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW).

The conference welcomed 195 delegates physically and 546 virtually from 38 countries across the world and tackled the theme, Navigating the Delicate Balance of Animal Welfare, Climate Change, and Development - Concerted Actions Towards a Healthy and Sustainable Environment, in extensive presentations, discussions and deliberations. Representatives from civil society organizations, government ministries, parastatals, academic institutions, research institutes, and animal welfare practitioners gathered and came up with resolutions that would continually address global animal welfare and environmental challenges.

The secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegates who attended the conference. We sincerely appreciate the dignitaries who graced the impactful event. Our deepest gratitude goes to the Government of Rwanda for their support since we began organizing the conference and for their continued involvement and participation.

We dedicate special appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI). We would like to particularly thank Jean Claude Ndorimana, the Director General, Animal Resources Development, who was immensely instrumental in planning and offering support towards the successful achievement of the conference. We also thank Dr Jean Claude Masengesho, ANAW's Representative in Rwanda and the Executive Director of Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO) for his constant support before and during the conference.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Rwanda Convention Bureau (RCB), represented by Sylvia Gasana, Christine Kembabazi and William Butare, for their guidance on all aspects of organizing the conference.

We sincerely thank the following conference sponsors for their financial support: African Fund for Endangered Wildlife - Kenya (Giraffe Centre), Animal People, Animal Welfare Institute, A Well-Fed World (Plants4Hunger), Compassion in World Farming, The Donkey Sanctuary, The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANNA), Welttierschutzstiftung (WTS) and World Animal Protection.

We convey our gratitude to the conference co-hosting partners, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the Government of Rwanda, and Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW).

We also appreciate the participation and support of Ulf Björnholm and Isaiah Otieno of UNEP's Civil Society Unit and the AU-IBAR team.

We give heartfelt gratitude to the conference moderator, Josiah Ojwang, the Conference Organizing Committee which was chaired by Tennyson Williams, and the Secretariat for the commitment and dedication to making the conference a success.

We would like to recognize the participants who participated both physically and virtually and we convey our gratitude, particularly to all delegates who took part in the six conferences that were previously held. We sincerely thank all presenters and session moderators for bringing out insightful and enriching discussions and deliberations.

Finally, we thank the management and staff of Sainte Famille for the hospitality during the entire period of the conference.



Delegates keenly following the conference proceedings



Opening Session



The moderator welcomed delegates to the 7th session of the Africa Animal Welfare Conference and to the beautiful city of Kigali. He gave an overview of the previous six sessions of the conference and appreciated them for choosing to participate in the conference, either virtually or physically. Josiah appealed them to engage actively with the rich sessions that were lined up during the three days. He then recognised and introduced his co-moderator, Jean Claude Masengesho and thereafter invited the next speaker to give an exposition of the theme.



**Josiah
Ojwang**

Conference Moderator
Africa Animal Welfare Conference

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW AND THEME EXPOSITION

After a warm welcome from the conference moderator, Mr. Wachira Kariuki took the stage and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak on the conference overview and theme exposition.

He began relaying the overview by describing the Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC) as the premier African conference on the interrelation between animal welfare, health, sustainable development, environmental protection, and climate change. The conference also prioritized its view to work toward a healthy and sustainable environment. He cited that the conference targeted all stakeholders in animal welfare and environmental sectors by drawing its participants from governments, the African Union, the United Nations, academia, students, civil society organizations, researchers, animal welfare supporters and all cadres of practitioners in veterinary and animal health professions.

Mr Kariuki oriented the gathering on the purpose of the conference and its role in the African society. He then focused on the theme of the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference - Navigating the Delicate Balance of Animal Welfare, Climate Change and Development: Concerted Actions Towards a Healthy and Sustainable Environment.

Based on the theme, he sought to answer the questions, ‘Why do we need to navigate this delicate balance?’, ‘What actions do we need to undertake to bring about the balance?’ and ‘Whom do we need to work with?’. He highlighted the importance of focusing actions through concerted efforts rather than through sectoral views.

He noted that when tackling challenges and issues on animal welfare, climate change and development, there was an imbalance between policy and legislation actions and budgeting. He cited that in the aforementioned balance, development seemed to tilt the scale. Climate change had made myriads of people's lives unpredictable where one part of the world experienced wildfires and drought and the other, floods and heavy rains.

He reminded participants that seasons of rainfall were not predictable, and that climate change had ushered in an era of uncertainty, distress and confusion, resulting in loss of food and habitat for animals and people. He stated that it presented a planning nightmare and compromised on food security which led to environmental catastrophes.



Wachira Kariuki | Policy and Public Affairs Director
Africa Network for Animal Welfare

Mr Kariuki mentioned that while it was acknowledged that development was a necessary agenda in any modern-day country, there was need to acknowledge a wider view that encompassed the environment, animals, plants, and human beings. He established that in many cases, humankind had failed, neglected, or refused to work towards ensuring a balance of animal welfare, climate change and development.

He further informed the participants that this emerging scenario called for adaptation and other innovative approaches to enhance coping mechanisms that could mitigate the adverse effects of climate change which affected both human beings and animals and sought to maintain good environmental health. Mr Kariuki emphasized that animal welfare was connected to the welfare of human beings and the environment. He urged all present to jointly address the issues and balance the complex interconnectedness between the health of people, plants, animals, and the planet.

He encouraged participants to recognize and appreciate animals and the environment and how they benefit the human populace. He emphasized that good health of people can never be attained if the health of plants, animals and the planet were not considered. He informed the delegates that humankind was experiencing the adverse effects of climate change as they did not consider the issues in a holistic and balanced way. Animal welfare, unfortunately, had been perceived as a stand-alone subject.

Mr Kariuki stated that the theme would guide the conference deliberations in observing the various concerted efforts that could be made. He urged the participants to listen and engage the presenters in the planned ten (10) sessions and think of how to navigate towards the balance and the concerted efforts that will form part of the resolutions.

Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), Board Chair, Prof. James Nkansah Obrempong



Prof. James Nkansah Obrempong
Board Chair
Africa Network for Animal Welfare

Prof. James Nkansah Obrempong welcomed delegates to the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference - Action 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda, the land of a thousand hills. He asserted that the conference was a leading African platform for stakeholders on varied dimensions of animal welfare issues that enhanced progressive development in advocating for better human health, protection of animals and the environment.

He informed the meeting that ANAW believed that animal welfare was a human responsibility at the individual and collective level. He cited that the conference was based on the premise that animal welfare practice was the best way of reducing the suffering of the animals. He emphasized that civil society organizations irrespective of their mandate and jurisdiction, played an important role in promoting sustainable development in Africa. He highlighted that the organizations deserved recognition, goodwill, good faith, and cooperation to achieve their goals efficiently and work effectively.

He explained that in its Strategic Plan (2021-2025), ANAW aimed to build a stronger and diverse animal welfare network of stakeholders across Africa to promote humane treatment of all animals.

He acknowledged like-minded partners that ANAW worked with, including the government, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector and the local communities, and recognised UNEP and AU-IBAR who had joined hands with ANAW to become co-organizers in hosting the conference since its inception in 2017. Prof. Obrempong cited that the theme espoused the aspiration of Africa in terms of animals and their welfare across the continent.

Prof. Obrempong deliberated on animals as a key component in enabling a strong impact on livelihoods as most families kept an animal in their homestead. He stated that animals were considered important as they made a significant contribution to livelihoods. He cited that the value of animals was steadily gaining interest and was the subject of many conversations on development in Africa and mentioned the prominence on the interlink between people, animals and the environment and their shared destiny.

He emphasized that ANAW believed that animals should not suffer. It was important that a basic understanding should be in place of animal welfare, of engaging in practices that support good care and of minimizing the suffering of animals. He cited that civil society organizations play an important role in promoting sustainable development in Africa.

Prof. Obrempong hoped that the delegates would learn and gain profound knowledge given by the wide array of experts. He thanked the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) for its hospitality and unwavering support to the secretariat and the participants. Finally, he relayed gratitude to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), African Union - InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU - IBAR), partners, sponsors and delegates.

African Union – InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Director, Dr Huyam Ahmed Mohammed Elamin Salih



**Dr Huyam Ahmed
Mohammed Elamin
Salih**

Director
African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
(AU-IBAR)

Dr Huyam Salih began by informing the delegates that AU-IBAR was charged with coordinating a collaborative approach among stakeholders, international communities and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Their mandate was to support African Union Member States in sustainably developing the African animal resources sector. The sector, particularly livestock production, was vital in addressing Africa's food and nutrition security gaps and remarked that AU-IBAR had already taken significant steps towards this.

She then asserted that the development of the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA) was a testament to AU-IBAR's commitment to promoting animal welfare in the continent. The Director acknowledged the partnership between AU-IBAR and the animal welfare organizations in Africa where there were great efforts to establish and support the Coordination Committee of the African Platform for Animal Welfare (CCAPAW) within AU-IBAR, which aimed to the implement AWSA.

However, she stated that there had been constraints such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and geopolitical instability. These continued to encumber access to feed, fodder and other essential services and collectively posed threats to animal welfare. This underscores the urgency of implementing AWSA.

Dr Salih added that AU-IBAR's involvement in advancing the UNEA Resolution exemplified their conscious recognition of the complex nexus between animal welfare, environment and sustainable development of the animal resources sector. She explained that this Resolution presented opportunities for the linkages between the economy, the environment and the wellbeing of animals. AU-IBAR's role in shaping this resolution reflected their focus in integrating the three pillars for sustainability.

The Director reiterated the significance of the intricate and intrinsic relationship between animal welfare, animal health and production. She stated that poor animal nutrition and disease spread had the most devastating impacts on animal welfare. On the other hand, poor animal welfare practices caused immune suppression making animals susceptible to different diseases and increased the vulnerability to health problems. She appealed to animal welfare organizations to consider expanding their mandate to support animal health with AU-IBAR.

Dr Salih appreciated the organizers, sponsors and delegates of the conference. Additionally, she thanked the Government of Rwanda for hosting the conference and their dedication to support the mainstreaming of animal welfare in the continent.

In conclusion, she wished the participants fruitful discussions, tangible recommendations and science-driven animal welfare action that would lead to sustainable development of the animal resources in Africa.



Delegates keenly following the conference proceedings

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies & Deputy Director, Governance Affairs Office, UNEP, Ulf Björnholm

Ulf Björnholm commenced by acknowledging that ANAW and UNEP had a longstanding cooperation together and they both mutually benefitted from joint projects. He stated that UNEP was proud to organize the conference together with partners and stakeholders.



Ulf Björnholm | Chief, Civil Society Unit
United Nations Environment Programme

Mr Björnholm outlined the background of his career to demonstrate to Major Groups and Stakeholders and other NGOs of how a United Nations event could inspire an individual to make significant life choices. Before joining the UN in 2014, he had worked 20 years as an environmental diplomat, a negotiator for the Swedish government and the European Union. He was based in Stockholm, New York and Brussels at that time. He had devoted his whole career to promoting sustainable development and environmental protection.

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His source of inspiration was the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, known as the Rio Conference. As a young biology student in the mid-1990s, he was inspired by the outcomes of the conference. It was one of the most influential UN conferences and it launched the concept of sustainable development. It sowed the seed of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs adopted in 2015 which was the common roadmap and the best blueprint in human history towards sustainability.

Inspired by the Rio Conference and together with fellow students at his university, they started the Swedish Youth Network to promote the implementation of Agenda 21, which was the first global implementation plan for sustainable development adopted in Rio. Before long he was selected to represent the Swedish youth in the government delegation to the Commission of Sustainable Development which met every year at the UN Headquarters in New York, to promote the implementation of the Rio outcomes. The springboard of his career and life choices came from his work at an NGO. He stated that he still shared the commitment, devotion and the inspiration that brought all the participants to the meeting.

Mr Björnholm mentioned that it was his first time to attend the Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC). He looked forward to learning more about animal welfare issues in Africa and to hear about ideas to improve the welfare of non-human lives on this planet. He grew up in the North of Europe in a subsistence farm and he looked forward to comparing African perspectives and approaches with the Nordic perspectives. Sweden had benefited from a strong and successful environment and an animal welfare movement for decades. He gave an example where they had stricter laws on animal welfare on how to rear, transportation and slaughter cattle, poultry and pigs. He informed the participants that it was stricter than in many other countries, but there was a long way to go in having humane animal husbandry in place. He gave an example of vegetarianism being on the rise, but it was marginal.

He remarked that UNEP and the environmental movement were finding their way on how to tackle issues on animal welfare. He asserted that, on one hand, animal welfare issues were closely related to environmental challenges and that human beings' poor treatment of the planet has a direct negative effect on the wellbeing of all living creatures. On the other hand, environmentalists and animal welfare activists do not usually take the same direction. He therefore challenged the participants to prove the contrary so that they could bridge this gap; if there was a gap.

Ulf believed that humanity at some time in the future would be able to reverse the state at which they were in and create a world where the lives of animals were cherished and cared for, where animals were respected and where animal cruelty including in the meat industry, was severely curtailed and eventually extinguished. Furthermore, he stated that humanity had the ability to create a world without wars, a world where human rights were fully respected and where humans would live in harmony with nature and the climate. Human beings needed to go beyond technological fixes and traditional socio-economic tools. To make real and lasting achievements in minimizing harm and suffering to all living creatures, they needed to ingrain ethics and spirituality. He acknowledged that there was a significant spiritual dimension to the hard ethical questions that largely remained unexplored. He invited all to explore these together.

He expressed satisfaction that he was working for UNEP, the voice of the environment at the United Nations, based in Nairobi and the only United Nations headquarters in Africa. He displayed optimism in presenting on both UNEP and UNEA 6 later in the programme and explained that UNEA 6 would take place in February 2024. Finally he indicated that his colleagues would also present on the implementation of the UNEA Resolution on the Nexus between Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development



Goodwill Messages

The Donkey Sanctuary, Chief Executive Officer, Marianne Steele

Ms. Steele began by stating that as the conference's theme indicated, ensuring a healthy and sustainable future required a balance in order to meet the needs of development without compromising on the environment, the welfare of human beings and the animal species that mutually depend upon each other. She emphasized that recognition of the interaction between these variables was critical.

In highlighting the global positive strides achieved, the importance of animal welfare was increasingly recognized and this had prompted the development of policies, frameworks and action plans to align shared objectives which were vital in driving change. She gave reference to the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development - Nexus Resolution that was adopted in 2022 and the AWSA which offered considerable opportunities for progress.



Marianne Steele | CEO
The Donkey Sanctuary

She stated that The Donkey Sanctuary continued to highlight the importance of donkey and mule welfare for community livelihoods across Africa, through protecting the values they bring to sustainable development. She then urged delegates to champion the endorsement of the Dar Es Salaam Declaration and outcome of the 2022 Pan African Donkey Conference (PADCO).

She concluded by thanking the organizers of the conference and looked forward to making progress in advancing animal welfare through shared knowledge, best practice and policy.

Animal People, Executive Director, Wolf Gordon Clifton

Wolf Gordon Clifton began by introducing the delegates to the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference and thanked the organizers, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda. He stated that Africa had showed its leadership in Animal Welfare since six of the seven Member States that sponsored the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development – Nexus (AWESDE) resolution, hailed from Africa. He pointed out some of the challenges caused by intensive animal agriculture which posed urgent threats to climate, biodiversity and human wellbeing.

He concluded that he looked forward to upcoming sessions whose discussions would address the challenges posed on the expansion of animal agriculture, and expressed optimism for the African nations to stand as world leaders in modelling the adoption of more sustainable food practices that would lead to great animal welfare.



Wolf Gordon Clifton

Executive Director
Animal People

World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), Dr Samuel Wakhusama, Regional Representative for Eastern and Horn of Africa

Samuel Wakhusama began by congratulating ANAW, UNEP and AU-IBAR for organizing the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference and expressed his gratitude to the Republic of Rwanda for hosting it. He informed delegates that the major functions of WOAH (formerly OIE) were to collect and disseminate information on the distribution and occurrence of animal diseases and to ensure that scientifically based standards governed international trade in animals and animal products. In this regard, WOAH had been recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the reference organization for international animal health and zoonoses.



Dr Samuel Wakhusama

Regional Representative for Eastern and Horn of Africa
World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

Dr Wakhusama stated that animal welfare had been identified as a strategic priority for WOAH since 2001, under a mandate granted by all members. In setting the animal welfare standards, WOAH uses its Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) and supported by Ad-Hoc Groups (AHG).

The mission of the AWWG, which has been active since the adoption of the global animal welfare strategy, was to provide international leadership in animal welfare through the development of science-based standards guidelines, provision of expert advice and the promotion of relevant education and research. More than 100 experts participated in developing the WOAHA welfare standards which are found in Chapter 7 of Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes.

He added that all African WOAHA member states had a national animal welfare focal point whose responsibilities are to establish a network of animal welfare experts within their countries, establish and maintain dialogue with competent authorities on animal welfare in their countries, receive reports on AWWG from WOAHA, conduct in-country consultation processes with recognized animal welfare experts on drafts and texts including draft standards proposed for the Code, and preparing comments for the WOAHA delegates on each of the relevant meeting reports reflecting the scientific view and position of the individual WOAHA member country.

He then highlighted the two twinning projects on animal welfare which had been conducted at the University of Pretoria in South Africa and at the National School of Veterinary Medicine of Sidi Thabet in Tunisia. He stated that this project would increase the scientific and research capacity of the region in animal welfare.

Dr Wakhusama informed the delegates on the WOAHA Global Animal Welfare Forum held annually in Paris and reflected on some of the key sectors the forum focused on including the animal welfare research community, the global animal welfare movement, and the global animal-source food sector, which were brought together to debate openly on animal welfare related topics.

The first Animal Welfare Global Forum (2018) discussed the main challenges faced by academia, industry, NGOs, and governments when implementing the WOAHA animal welfare standards. The second Animal Welfare Global Forum (2019) discussed animal welfare issues and joint responsibilities during animal transport.



During the third Animal Welfare Global Forum (2021), participants discussed their views on how improvement of animal welfare could contribute to the achievement of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how achieving these goals could help improve animal welfare. He mentioned that through the One Health Joint Plan of Action, WOAHA was providing requisite support on One-Health including animal welfare. The fourth Animal Welfare Global Forum (2022) opened the discussion on the concept of an economic analysis in the context of animal welfare.

The fifth Animal Welfare Global Forum was scheduled for November 2023, during which discussions would focus on the development of national animal welfare legislation and help in providing feedback to improving animal welfare standards and enhancing awareness on animal welfare.

In his conclusion, he remarked that WOAHA was pleased to have developed functional partnerships with many of the institutions, some of which were represented in the meeting. At the continental level, WOAHA had provided relevant contributions to the continental strategy and action plan on animal welfare with the spearheading lead of AU-IBAR and would continue to provide relevant support when called upon.

Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), An International Outlook on Climate Change, Animal Welfare and Sustainable Development, Global Director of Campaigns and Policy Advocacy, Debbie Tripley



The speaker began by highlighting the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development - Nexus Resolution adopted at United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) acknowledging that animal welfare could contribute to addressing environmental challenges and in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Debbie then stated that factory farming was the biggest cause of animal suffering on the planet and a key driver in the climate, nature and health catastrophes that faced humanity and showcased that feeding animals with grain was a form of food waste. She also brought to focus some of the effects of intensive factory farming on climate, showing that food animals contributed greatly to gas emissions and land degradation. This demonstrated that fewer people were being fed when land was used for food animals.

She also added that with the current trajectory, a three-fold increase in the emergence of zoonotic epidemics and drug resistant infections could be expected by 2050, placing 10 million human lives at risk annually.

Debbie concluded by emphasizing the need to reverse the course to avoid the catastrophic effects of factory farming on animals, humans and the environment. She advocated for the use of the three Rs: regenerative farming which cuts off reliance on chemicals, fertilizers and antibiotics; reduction in consumption of animal sourced foods particularly in high protein consuming countries and rewilding the soil with fewer farm animals kept regeneratively.



Delegates keenly following the conference proceedings

SPECIAL REMARKS BY CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Tennyson Williams expressed his delight in welcoming delegates to the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference. He mentioned that the conference had evolved into a platform where passionate individuals, experts, and organizations from various fields come together to share knowledge, insights, and best practices. The collective dedication to the welfare of animals in Africa aimed for a better world for all living creatures who inhabit the planet.



Tennyson Williams | Director for Africa
World Animal Protection

Tennyson recollected that the Africa Animal Welfare Conference had played a critical role in catalysing remarkable progress in animal welfare across Africa, from improved legislation and enforcement to innovative approaches in education and advocacy. He reminded the delegates that since its inception in 2017, the conference had driven progressive conversations centred on the sentience of animals, the urgency of environmental protection, the interconnection of animal welfare, environmental sustainability and human health, and the contribution of animals to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He stated that the conference was timely, since the just concluded Africa Climate Summit and Week that took place in Nairobi, made progress on several key issues including building consensus on climate action priorities for Africa. African Nations through the Nairobi Declaration committed to focus their economic development plans on climate-positive growth, include climate-aware practices and establish restorative agricultural practices, and essential protection and enhance nature and biodiversity. He added that they had pledged to integrate climate, biodiversity and ocean agendas and instruments at national plans and processes to assure their full potential to support sustainable development. He mentioned that the theme for the conference, 'Navigating the delicate balance of animal welfare, climate change and development: Concerted actions towards a healthy and sustainable environment', was very much aligned with this ambition for Africa.

Additionally, he cited that it was evident that the welfare of animals and largely the biodiversity continued to take centre stage in these regional and global conversations. He stated that Africa needed to continue to position itself as a driver and decision maker in matters of animal welfare and biodiversity conservation at a global level. He asserted that this platform has been a critical cog to achieving this.

Tennyson reflected that the 6th AAWC held in Gaborone, Botswana, the adoption of UNEA 5.2 Resolution on the Nexus Between Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development was applauded. He recalled that it arose from the deliberation that started in 2019 during the 3rd Africa Animal Welfare Conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He urged all to continue illustrating progress towards mainstreaming animal welfare in the United Nations and the preparations towards UNEA 6.

Further, he emphasized on the aim to develop a critical mass of sensitized animal welfare stakeholders in Africa to champion and support the emerging animal welfare, sustainable development, and environment agenda in the continent and understand that there is much work to be done. He stated that each one of them brought a unique contribution towards a common goal.

He affirmed that the conference was an opportunity for all to collaboratively identify challenges, propose solutions, and shape the future of animal welfare in Africa.

Regarding World Animal Protection, Tennyson remarked about 50 years of experience campaigning for a better world where animals (both wild and farmed animals) live free from cruelty and suffering. World Animal Protection's global food system strategy was designed to create a humane and sustainable food system, that put animals first. He added that their work in protecting animals would play a vital role in solving the climate emergency, the public health crisis, and the devastation of natural habitats.

He highlighted their work with AU-IBAR on creating strategic plans that have been pronounced to enhance compliance with animal welfare standards.

He implored delegates to actively participate in the discussions outlined for the following three (3) days, to have a flexible and innovative approach to challenges presented and, most importantly, to ensure practical and progressive action plans towards enhancing animal welfare in Africa.

He emphasized that the world was facing an unprecedented crisis of climate change, which has been altering life on the planet, leading to more frequent and severe natural disasters, loss of biodiversity, and a threat to the existence of countless species. The urgency of the situation demanded that acting swiftly and decisively was a priority. He added that factory farming had compromised the welfare of billions of farmed animals and contributed to the climate crisis that needed to be tackled head-on.

He concluded by appreciating the energy and diversity of the Organizing Committee and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Rwanda for their unwavering and invaluable support throughout the entire journey on behalf of the committee. He looked forward to interacting with the delegates and for fruitful deliberations in the days that followed.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND OFFICIAL OPENING



Dr Olivier Kamana

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Republic of Rwanda

The PS, Olivier Kamana, welcomed the delegates to Rwanda, the ‘Land of a Thousand Hills’ and urged them to enjoy every moment. He expressed his delight to be making the keynote address during the conference and conveyed his sincere gratitude to the organizers for choosing Rwanda to host the 7th session of the Africa Animal Welfare Conference.

Dr Kamana remarked that in Africa, animals were an essential livelihood support resource among majority of communities in the continent, especially in the rural and peri-urban parts of most countries. Rwanda was no exception. He mentioned that animals were embedded in most aspects of the peoples’ lives including dressing, what people eat and how people earn and maintain their wealth. There was an emerging trend where discussions on development and socioeconomics were almost incomplete without interrogating the place of animals and the role of animal welfare in the overall developmental matters. These conversations continue to help by the growing consciousness about the nexus between people, animals and the environment, and the reality of a shared destiny in the web of their interaction.

He acknowledged that since the first conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2017, this annual event had become a vaulted platform of discussion on a broad array of issues including the need to recognize and enhance the welfare of animals; the urgency of environmental protection; the interconnection of animal welfare, environmental sustainability and human health; and the contribution of animals towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The PS commented that the conference theme was both timely and captivating. It was timely because in the 21st Century, they were witnessing rapid and phenomenal changes globally. He cited that Africa was part of this change, that should be addressed. He also stated that it was captivating because, in Africa, like in other parts of the world, immense change was being witnessed in the areas of technological advancement, infrastructural development, increased industrialization, changing patterns in food production and consumption, climate change and variation, new health concerns, emergence of pandemics such as Covid-19, and concerns about pollution. This required coordinated efforts from all stakeholders not only in Africa, but across the globe.

He then made a call to the delegates to look at modest and effective means for attaining the delicate balance of nature that is fundamental for optimum health of the planet. He expressed his desire for the conference to awaken consciousness that incentivizes the continental community to invest in interventions that would ameliorate the negative impacts where the balance was already altered. He urged delegates to take deliberate steps towards preventing any further detrimental actions that could grossly affect this delicate relationship.

Dr Kamana noted that African countries were experiencing massive growth in terms of infrastructural investments, and the continent was on the verge of experiencing its own industrial revolution. He deduced that this economic reawakening was coming with a good measure of challenges of pressure on land, and animals were always made to give way for industrial projects as their habitats were disrupted or altered.

Furthermore, the changes in food production systems and consumption patterns had cascaded into ecological paradigm shifts that called for humanity to re-evaluate and refocus their actions to ensure sustainable life on the planet. He added that it would be interesting for the congregation to discuss the nexus between commercialization of agriculture and the desire for mass food production to feed the growing population in the continent.

In his conclusion, Dr Kamana stated that Rwanda, through the MINAGRI, committed to do all that was possible in terms of policy and undertake any necessary actions to accommodate enhanced growth without compromising on the integrity of the environment and maintaining good welfare of animals. He wished the delegates fruitful deliberations and looked forward to the development of the Conference Resolutions at the end of the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference.



Delegates keenly following the conference proceedings



SESSION 1: Farm and working animals.



Session Moderator: Dr Solomon Onyango, Country Director, The Donkey Sanctuary – Kenya



Dr Solomon Onyango | Country Director
The Donkey Sanctuary-Kenya

Dr Onyango introduced the session and welcomed the presenters to deliver their papers.

Cage Free Campaigns in Africa, Aurelia Adhiambo, Africa Coordinator, Open Wing Alliance (OWA)

Aurelia Adhiambo cheerily expressed her delight to be present at the conference. She informed the meeting that the presentation would focus on the use of reports and how to leverage on them in animal welfare work with the goal of improving the welfare of animals.

She introduced the Open Wing Alliance (OWA), a global coalition of animal welfare organizations who worked together to eradicate cruel forms of abuse including cruel confinement of chicken in battery cages. She cited that the coalition's mission was to work to end the abuse of chicken worldwide and informed the conference that of the 7.5 billion hens farmed globally, more than 6 billion were kept in cages. OWA believed that caged systems were restrictive and caused much pain to hens and added that caged systems kept hens from expressing natural behaviors, caused mental frustration, and subjected hens to injuries.

Aurelia expounded that OWA worked strategically to free hens from cages leveraging on the power of its membership of over 100 organizations across 67 countries to stand up against the world's biggest corporations. The organizations work together on strategy, corporate dialogue, and global campaigns through the financial support of OWA, which funded, trained, and coordinated animal welfare advocates around the world so they ensured a united front in their approach and asks.

She cited recent results achieved through strategic hard work and consistency where OWA organizations had won more than 2,200 corporate cage-free commitments, about 100 of which were global commitments, as well as approximately 400 broiler welfare commitments in Europe and North America.

The presenter elaborated that there were many retailers, hotels, and restaurants that used millions of eggs and egg products every year in Africa. She stated that despite it being integral that the sensitization and education they did within communities were critical, it could not beat the impact gained from approaching companies and encouraging them to make a change or transition to an animal welfare policy, specifically a cage-free policy. She asserted that this would ensure positive impact on caged hens.



Aurelia Adhiambo | Africa Coordinator
Open Wing Alliance

Aurelia emphasized that there was need to start holding more companies accountable to a “cage-free commitment”. This could be achieved by leveraging the use of ranking reports, which ranks or categorizes companies according to their animal welfare standards or a cage-free commitment.

She informed the delegates that OWA had launched the cage-free fulfilment reports which indicated the reporting progress done by companies that have an existing cage-free commitment. In the 2022 Cage-Free Fulfilment Report, it showed that there had been an increase in companies reporting progress and fulfilling their commitments, and that 88% of cage-free egg commitments with deadlines of 2021 or earlier had been fulfilled. She added that the reports were also a great way of advancing messages on social media, for use in campaigns, media publicity and ensuring consumer awareness and messaging.

In conclusion, Aurelia announced that OWA had launched their first Africa Ranking Report, the 2023 Africa Ranking Report which ranked companies operating in Africa that use or provide eggs and egg products to the public based on their cage-free egg status. It highlighted the companies that led and those that were falling behind and encompassed companies that operated in different sectors, including hotels, retailers, fast food outlets, and wholesalers. This was a landmark achievement for the continent as more companies operating in Africa were held more accountable to hen layer welfare.

The Global Donkey Skin Trade: Its Impact in Africa and a Call to Action to Support a Pan African 15-Year Moratorium on the Trade, Dr Otieno Mtula, Africa Campaigns and Advocacy Manager, The Donkey Sanctuary

Otieno Mtula began his presentation by defining ejiao as a traditional remedy derived from donkey skin and had been used in China for hundreds of years and that it was bought mainly by women as a blood tonic and was usually dissolved in hot water and consumed as a drink. Increased interest and demand for ejiao caused a fast decrease in the number of donkeys in various countries over the years and cited an example of China where donkey numbers fell from 11 million in 1992 to 2.6 million in 2017. This decrease had led to increased imports of donkey skin from Africa. For example, in 2016 China imported 3.5 million donkey hides.



Dr Otieno Mtula | Africa Campaigns Manager,
The Donkey Sanctuary

Dr Mtula explained the impact of the global donkey skin trade in Africa on livelihoods of community, animal welfare, biosecurity and wildlife trade. He elaborated that small holder farmers depended on donkeys to carry heavy loads needed for cultivating land, transporting hay and silage and hauling water and firewood across the African continent. He mentioned that studies show that an estimated 10 million people in East Africa rely on donkeys to support their livelihoods where each donkey generated an estimated average monthly income of USD \$110 for the families that use them. However, he noted that the donkey trade put the livelihood of communities at risk through donkey theft, and illegal bush slaughter.

The presenter further quoted the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) stating that the unsustainable extraction of a resource, whether it was donkeys, plants, trees, or minerals, could have adverse effects on the environment and communities in distant lands. In the case of donkeys, a valuable mode of all-weather, carbon neutral transport was removed from those most in need of transport in remote rural settings.

Dr Mtula informed participants that The Donkey Sanctuary was in the process of developing research to measure the socio-economic impact of the donkey skin trade on communities. He stated that there was great need to include donkeys and working equids in national, regional and continental animal welfare strategies.

Regarding the impact of donkey skin trade on animal welfare, Dr Mtula explained that this was seen in poor transport conditions over long distances, indiscriminate use of donkeys to increase numbers for profit, unskilled labour of workers who handle the animals poorly, slaughter without regard of the required expected standard and inhumane practices, including carcasses piled up next to donkeys penned adjacent to slaughterhouses.

In terms of biosecurity risks, he noted that the donkey skin trade there was a lack of hygiene at every stage, stress that compromises the immunity of the animals and the spread of transboundary equine diseases. For instance, in 2019, Nigeria reported 2,929 cases of equine influenza in one month where approximately 270 of the donkeys died. This was the first recorded outbreak of equine influenza in Nigeria and was attributed to the illegal movement of donkeys into Nigeria from a neighbouring country.

The trade had multiple negative consequences on the environment such as poor waste disposal that resulted in pollution of water sources, whereas untreated waste attracted carrion birds, rodents, feral or wild dogs.

He urged national governments, regional bodies and all stakeholders to support and implement resolutions drafted at the Pan-African Donkey Conference (PADCO) that was held in December 2022 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The conference ended with the 'Dar es Salaam Declaration, that among other pertinent calls, urged the African Union Commission to propose to the African Union Committee of Heads of State to endorse the proposal of implementing a ban on donkey slaughter for skins and other donkey derived products, for export, for at least the next 15 years.



A Case Study of WTG-ANAW Community Focused Donkey Welfare Project in Kenya, Dr Dennis Bahati, Programme Manager, Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)



Dr Dennis Bahati

Programmes Manager
Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)

Dennis Bahati started his presentation by orienting the delegates on the project lead organizations. Dr Bahati spoke of Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)'s vision, a world where people show compassion, protection, and care for all animals and reminded the delegates of ANAW's mission to work together with communities, governments, and other stakeholders to promote animal welfare for better environmental and human health. He outlined the vision of Welttierschutzgesellschaft (WTG) to be a world, in which animals are appreciated and treated with respect according to their needs. He highlighted that in their work on animal welfare, WTG focused on countries and regions that lacked strong measures to protect animals.

Dr Bahati gave a background on donkey slaughter in Kenya. He cited that the recent Kenya National Population and Housing Census (2019) presented the number of donkeys in Kenya to be 1.1 million. With the opening of four (4) slaughterhouses in the country between 2016 and 2020 and with a combined slaughter capacity of 1,260, donkey numbers plummeted fast in comparison to the previous census.

He alluded that within a span of 10 years, Kenya lost an estimate of 700,000 donkeys. Grappled with diminishing supply, the abattoirs later turned to neighbouring countries: Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, and Ethiopia to meet the growing demand.

The speaker then outlined the approach and the theory of change towards attaining the goal of the project, which is improved donkey welfare. He elaborated on the nature of the on-going study whose activities included policy research and review, stakeholder engagement for improved donkey health, enhancing donkey security, and robust media advocacy. Specifically, the project aimed to achieve stakeholder engagement for improved donkey health through capacity building and education for a changed perception and view on donkey welfare to donkey owners, donkey users, civil society organizations including NGOs, CBOs, private, government animal health practitioners.

It also intended to carry out a policy research and review through rapid assessment of donkey movement along the Kenya - Ethiopia border. He highlighted that policy discussion at county level and the push for development of county by-laws to address illegal movement of donkeys, was critical.

In conclusion, Dr Bahati stated that the project was also designed to enhance donkey health through training and offering technical support to government and private animal health practitioners and ensure robust media advocacy in enhancing donkey health and welfare including their security through donkey clinics.

Donkeys: Case Study of Past, Present and Future Use in Africa, Dr Bojia Duguma, Country Representative, The Donkey Sanctuary Ethiopia



Dr Bojia Duguma | Country Representative
Donkey Sanctuary Ethiopia

Bojia Duguma relayed the reality where sustained growth and development, coupled with a steady increasing growth of the human population put considerable strain on natural resources. He cited that this challenge resulted in less formal employment opportunities which forced the youth and women to take up jobs in the informal sector for income generation.

The slow economic empowerment of the rural sector and years of poor infrastructural development had seen a low uptake of technology as a source of livelihood. Following these challenges, the youth and women turned to donkeys for income generating opportunities as they presented a means of cheap transport and power for the communities.

Dr Duguma took the participants through a study explaining the origin of how donkeys came to interact with human beings. He highlighted the study where 49 scientists across the world from 37 laboratories sequenced the genomes of 31 ancient and 207 modern donkeys from all over the world. They found that donkeys were most likely first domesticated from wild asses, most likely by pastoralists, around 7,000 years ago in Kenya and the Horn of Africa. He mentioned that donkeys' domestication seemed to have been a mitigation response to the desertification of the Sahara and climatic changes.

Their importance is reflected in history as he reminded the delegates that donkeys carried Christ into Jerusalem while in Greek mythology, they transported Hephaistos up to Mount Olympus and Dionysos into battle against the giants. He mentioned that donkeys enabled the establishment of almost all the world empires from Egypt, Babylon, Medio-Persia, Mesopotamia, Roman and even the Great British Empire. Just as it was in the present, donkeys faithfully served mankind in civilization in the past in trade, and war – specifically, the mule.

Dr Duguma posed a sobering question to all present, *'With current trends, what is the fate of donkeys in the future?'*

He informed the delegates that the drivers for change were socio-economic factors. He explained that due to religion and culture, donkeys were seen to be 'backward' and were marginalized. He also stated that with mechanization, donkeys' function in transport and agriculture was being replaced. He cited other factors driving change to include urbanization, the climate impact and the emerging global trade.

He denoted that due to these reasons, the equine population in the world was generally decreasing. However, he noted that donkeys continued to increase in East Africa all other least developed countries in contrast with Europe where the trends show decreasing donkey population.

He posed another question to the delegates, *‘Why does East Africa, specifically Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan, seem to be the region where donkey populations are still surviving?’*

He informed the delegates that in Ethiopia, the donkey population density correlated with human population density. He gave an example of the Ethiopian highlands where with 81% of people living in the highland, 89% of donkeys were found to serve in the same area. He also stated that donkeys remained integral to rural livelihoods where community heavily relied on donkeys as their vital role was to access primary markets.

He further explained that donkeys served as ‘water pipes’ for rural villages as they helped in accessing and transporting water. He also noted that donkeys contributed to women’s quality of life and presented self - employment opportunities which facilitated the rural to urban migration of the youth. They aided in transporting construction supplies and ferried goods from villages to collection sites. Donkeys were critical in areas experiencing conflict and climate extremes causing natural and man-made disasters through providing interventions in drought and refugee situations. Dr Duguma stated that, further, donkeys continued to be the animals of choice for small holder farmers; because they provided diverse roles in households, they were easy to train and handle, they were unlikely to succumb to diseases compared to horses, they thrived on poor quality feed and scarce water, they were adaptable to arid and semi- arid climate and they represented a reliable, sustainable and affordable power source for small holder farmers.

He projected the future role of donkeys in human development in a Continuum A 2 – Scenario Hypothesis, Donkeys: Essential animals for human civilization. Scenario A presented a future where donkeys were in the national development plan, sustained rural livelihoods (>78%), supported transition to urbanization, adapted to climate extremes, mitigated conflicts (IDPs) and facilitated commodity production such as milk.

Dr Duguma also projected Scenario B, where donkeys continued under the informal economic system, skin trade would significantly decimate donkey population, there would be increased burden on remaining donkeys enabling the poorest welfare, and donkey numbers would be below minimal viable level to support human development.

He highlighted the current and emerging donkeys’ burden to include human behaviour including poor handling practices like whipping, abandonment after work, and pegging the nostrils, cultural and religious beliefs, technical gaps causing diseases and poor service delivery which brings about mortality, morbidity, abandonment, professional skill gap, inaccessibility to proper health care, use of unfit harnessing technology, policy and strategy gaps, climate change and environmental degradation where working donkeys and mules were increasingly engaged in relief and emergency situation transporting relief food, water, medical and shelter and donkey slaughter and skin trade; a new global trade that was posing a major threat to donkeys, mules and the people whose livelihoods relied on them.

Bojia concluded that donkeys left a legacy with remarkable footprints in human civilization. In recent years, they needed experts, scientists, policy makers and development organizations to save them from decimation by skin trade. Therefore, he called for an integration of efforts, policies and strategies to recognize role of working animals in national, regional and international development plans and hence the needed to improve their welfare.

Livestock Animals, Environment and Sustainable Development in Rwanda, Dr Fabrice Ndayisenga, Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)

The participants had an opportunity to understand the animal welfare and livestock landscape in Rwanda through the presentation by Dr Ndayisenga. He began by stating that the Rwandan livestock industry showed a significant growth in the last decades and was still expected to expand with the national growing economy. He mentioned that important efforts had been deployed by the Government of Rwanda to strengthen the national livestock sector. The government was committed to continue develop the livestock sub sector in the way that animal's matter for sustainable development and vice versa.

Dr Ndayisenga informed the delegates that in the dairy sub-sector in Rwanda, there was a growing milk production. The national milk production increased from 142,511 Metric Tons in 2005 to 999,976 Metric Tons in 2021/22 (over 700% increase), and was expected to grow as the national target was to reach 1,274,554 Metric Tons of milk per year by 2024.



Dr Fabrice Ndayisenga

Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)

He elaborated that on dairy value chain status, the country counted a total of 132 Milk Collection Centres (MCCs) with a total installed cooling capacity of 483,000L per day. On processing, he mentioned that there existed a total of 50 milk processing plants (7 large and 43 SMEs) with an installed capacity of 254,000 litres per day. A milk powder processing plant was under construction with a capacity of 600,000 litres per day.

The presenter highlighted that in the meat production sub-sector in Rwanda, the national meat production increased from 118,348 Metric Tons in 2012 to 185,989 Metric Tons in 2021/22 with a target of 215,078 Metric Tons by 2024.

Meat production was dominated by beef representing 34% of the national production.

Further, he informed the delegates that Rwanda recognised honey production as one of the economic activities with great potential of improving the livelihood of the people in the rural and urban communities and as a sustainable way of forest utilisation.

He stated that Rwanda's honey was sold locally and regionally in the neighbouring countries, and since 2016 it was allowed to be sold in EU countries and recently in China. He cited that the country counted 52 Honey Collection Centres (MCCs) and two (2) honey factories in Rutsiro and Nyamagabe. In terms of honey processing numbers, a total national annual production (MT) - 5,800/6000, total number of honey processors companies were 20, quality - certified processors and exporters were 10 companies and farm gate price were USD \$ 3.5 per kilogram.

Regarding aquaculture, the speaker outlined the modern fish farming systems used in Rwanda to include cage fish farming, pond fish farming, fish farming in dams, tank fish farming, and rice fish integration. He outlined the country's achievement in this sector as follows: Ten (10) private investors where 3,458,000 fingerlings were produced, and the target for 2024 was 4,004,167 fingerlings per month. He mentioned that in its tank and pond fish farming, there were two (2) farms in tanks and 130 farms in ponds with 96 productive farms. Of the thriving cage fish farming, the country had 35 operational farms in cages in Lakes Kivu and Muhazi.

He mentioned that twin lakes (Burera and Ruhondo) were also suitable for cage farming with a limitation of the availability of cold-water species with a better growth rate than tilapia. 2,225,562 kilograms is the current production from all operators and 6,579,300 kg is targeted to be achieved in 2023/2024. He reported on fish farming in dams where 2,184,713 tilapia fingerlings had been stocked in 35 irrigation dams and the stocking was ongoing.

He mentioned that applied regulations on health and environment matters were prioritized and included breeding haptas, incubator, tilapia fingerlings, indoor breeding and broodstock holding tanks and building veterinary services' climate resilience.

He noted that while animal production contributed to greenhouse gas emissions, animal health was also affected by climate change. He stated that it was for these reasons that he believed that climate change was inherently an animal health issue, and therefore, they ensured better preparedness and response to global threats, by raising awareness on animal disease control, anticipating high-risk situations and responding with early interventions.

Dr Ndayisenga further discussed the innovative achievements which included semen and animal vaccines delivered using drones, for instance, there were seven pig breeding centres established countrywide with around 20,000 doses of swine semen distributed per year. In addition, 487 zipline drop sites were available in all districts and there were ongoing trials for bovine semen (See <https://www.dw.com/en/using-drones-in-rwanda-to-deliver-semen-to-rural-breeders/video-62228464> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yobN6ufDVjc&t=59s>)

The speaker introduced the Greening Girinka initiative which is an agricultural food system that included climate smart approaches and technologies for the intensification of smallholder crop-livestock farms that were identified and tested. Smallholder farmers who were Girinka beneficiaries in the 'one cow per poor family program' applied appropriate climate positive approaches and techniques.

Regarding the dog welfare status in Rwanda, he highlighted that Welfare for Animal Guild Rwanda (WAG Rwanda), an NGO running Rwanda's only dog shelter, focused on rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming street dogs.

He mentioned that they also looked into dog ownership education, community engagement, low-cost sterilizations, research and were part of national rabies elimination working group.

The speaker ended his presentation by giving a brief highlight on Rwandan Wildlife and Animal Conservation. He stated that they provided sustainable solutions to critical wildlife conservation issues in Rwanda and the East African region using a holistic and multi-disciplinary “One Health Approach”. He then elaborated that they worked with local communities to encourage local people to take pride in Rwanda’s biodiversity, and prioritized attitudes and behaviour change towards wildlife and their habitat. The government also focused on saving the endangered grey crowned cranes and worked to raise awareness and increase collaboration with other stakeholders on illegal wildlife trafficking and carried out the conservation of animal genetic resources.



QUESTION AND ANSWER (Q&A)

SESSION

Question No. 1: Ms. Aurelia Adhiambo, Cage Free Campaigns in Africa

Can you explain the processes that led to the development of the African Report?

She stated that they worked with companies that used eggs and egg products in Africa. The companies had to be active and operating in Africa. To cap the numbers, OWA set a base of companies that had a turnover of USD\$ 1 million and over.

What type of assessment or education were done to accredit companies [A Cage-Free Commitment]?

OWA negotiated with companies and informed them that they were expected to source their egg and egg products – shell eggs, liquid eggs and ingredient eggs - to be 100% cage-free and a timeline was given. It could be typically 10 to 15 years. They were expected to report annual progress, for example by 2025, they should have sourced 20% of their supply chain, by 2027, 30%, by 2028 40% etc. Accountability was expected. She mentioned that OWA groups worked with the companies at country level.

Question No. 2: Dr Bojia Duguma, Donkeys: Case Study of Past, Present and Future Use in Africa

Donkey slaughter has been banned in many countries, but donkey slaughtering was still ongoing. What is The Donkey Sanctuary and veterinary services doing in these countries to stop the vice? b) Were there any talks going on with governments and local authorities to stop the slaughtering?

The position of the Donkey Sanctuary was to disrupt then eventually stop the trade across the world. The organization was gathering information from across the continent and helping countries to stand against the trade. With this, The Donkey Sanctuary was producing reports every year and giving updates on the slaughter of donkeys and the nature of the skin trade, not only economic, social but also biodiversity issues, One-Health issues, linked with wildlife crime.

He reported that the Donkey Sanctuary had two approaches - one was tactical, and the other was strategic. He mentioned that he could discuss the case of Ethiopia and talked about the strategic approach. He stated that the companies involved in donkey slaughter focused on East Africa and had plans to install a factory as they had noted that there were plenty of donkeys in the region. The Donkey Sanctuary was building up a strong information base that demonstrated that donkeys were still important for the livelihood of the multitude of communities.

He stated that there were no excess donkeys in the region and worked to protect the national donkey herd. They had also included the donkey skin trade in the approach stating that Ethiopia should not start slaughtering donkeys. They were not ready to establish a policy without robust information since this would lead to a shortage of donkeys and a socio-economic disaster. He expressed that as a foreign institution, The Donkey Sanctuary, could not interfere with the national plans of another country.

He confirmed that in Ethiopia, donkey slaughter existed and there were reports from the Ministry of Trade that Ethiopia was generating foreign currency from the activity. The Donkey Sanctuary was working hard to generate evidence to convince the government to help stop the donkey skin trade and were requesting for a 15-year moratorium before it took place.

Question No. 3: Dr Otieno Mtula, The Global Donkey Skin Trade: Its Impact in Africa and a Call to Action to Support a Pan African 15-Year Moratorium on the Trade

Why did The Donkey Sanctuary choose to pursue a 15-year moratorium and not less?

To respond to this question, Dr Mtula invited Dr Mwenda Mbaka. He noted that AU-IBAR had taken cognizance that the donkey skin trade was disrupting livelihoods in Africa, and that after further research, it was realised that it would be possible to breed donkeys as they bred other livestock. This process would take about 15 years, hence the 15-year moratorium. Dr Mtula added that they were trying to produce alternatives of ejiao in the laboratory as this would take the demand away from the donkeys.

Question No. 4: Dr Fabrice Ndayisenga, Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)

What is the status of the accreditation of the World Animal Welfare Standards in Rwanda?

It was a key initiative that the government had implemented, both as the legal framework and in enforcement. The Government of Rwanda and other private organisations had been sensitised to preserve the welfare of animals. Together with other organisations such as WAG Rwanda and RAWO, they advocated for animal welfare and supported initiatives by giving vaccines for free during the Rabies Week and other activities involving stray animal rescue. Further, he mentioned that the government was working to review their legislation to preserve the welfare of animals according to WOA standards.



Delegate asking a question during a session



SESSION 2: Welfare of animals in disasters

Session Moderator: Tennyson Williams, Director for Africa, World Animal Protection



Tennyson Williams

Director for Africa
World Animal Protection

Welfare of Animals in Disasters in Africa, Dr Judy Kimaru, Director, Action for Protection of Animals Africa (APAA)

Judy Kimaru began by stating that the relationship between natural disasters, animal welfare and communities resembled a complex web of interdependency which led to devastating hazards to both animal populations and communities, thus affecting livelihoods. This highlighted the importance of animal life to the communities. She emphasized that to deal with the challenges effectively, there was need to strengthen information access, community capability, and infrastructure.

Dr Kimaru explained the two types of emergencies often experienced; firstly animal disease emergencies where animals were the emergency and secondly, animal disaster emergencies which are scenarios where animals were within the emergency context. She mentioned that the primary focus was on safeguarding animals to prevent adverse outcomes including loss of animals, genetic diversity, suffering of animals and a loss of livelihoods for the animal owners.

Dr Kimaru recognized that some regions faced unique challenges such as insecurity which hindered disaster risk reduction and management efforts. To address this, she emphasized on the importance of political and institutional involvement. This was crucial to augment domestic resources for effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) including national budgets alongside donor driven budgets.

She stressed on the necessity for Africanisation of DRR thinking and processes, promoting ownership in disaster management actions and acknowledged the role of AU leadership in driving DRR initiatives across various communities.

In 2022, Africa experienced a series of severe weather events such as tropical storms, deadly floods in Nigeria, drought, famine, and heat waves

in Uganda and Ethiopia. This resulted in fatalities and affected millions of people and animals which showed that the growing crisis was aggravated by factors such as conflict, insecurity and underdevelopment.

Addressing some of the consequences of climate change due to extreme weather events, she highlighted that there had been 4000 animal deaths with 19 million people having been affected across Africa which was underreported in the media of the Global North. Having it covered in international media was important since Africa's DRR was mainly funded by donors. Only 4% of the national budget was allocated to DRR creating the need for more funding sources.

However, there had been DRR initiatives including Urban Resilience (UNDRR) which had been leading efforts in making African cities resilient. She noted that they were engaging animal welfare partners to include animal protection and recognizing the need of protecting animal species in urban and peri-urban areas.

She continued that many programs committed to gender responsiveness and needed to look at speciesism, which she explained as different genders being responsible for different species, which needed to be incorporated in the various DRR initiatives. She also highlighted other African institutions engaged in the challenges of DRR in the context of animal welfare and animal resources, notably IGAD.

She discussed the challenges grappling African institutions in implementing DRR initiatives including a lack of coordinated efforts, inadequate warning signs, limited financial resources, a lack of community participation, poverty, unregulated practices and pet abandonment and other policy challenges.



Dr Judy Kimaru | Director
Action for Protection of Animals Africa (APAA)

The animal welfare assessment in Kenya done by APAA in 2021 showed farmers' decisions regarding DRR were influenced by their social and cultural values with poverty and knowledge gaps that hindered DRR efforts. She noted that the wellbeing of an animal before disaster impacts on its resilience during crisis, therefore highlighting the importance of consistent and good husbandry practices.

She concluded by giving recommendations that aimed to strengthen DRR strategies and enhance the resilience of farming communities while prioritizing animal welfare. While progress had been made in DRR policies, there was a pressing need to provide animal protection during disasters, through developing tailored animal emergency disaster plans. It was also critical to involve communities in DRR planning, provide DRR education for veterinary professionals and engage indigenous knowledge in such scenarios. Exploring financial options and expanding the workforce dedicated to animal disaster response was one of the crucial steps in enhancing animal resilience in the continent.

Animal Welfare Challenges and Opportunities During Disaster Situations in Africa, Dr Laurien Ntamugabumwe, Rwanda Council of Veterinary Doctors (RCVD)

Laurien Ntamugabumwe began by stating that there were many common natural disasters affecting animal welfare in Africa which had severe consequences for wildlife and domestic animals. He asserted that while millions of people depended on animals and livestock, there were not enough mitigation centred on rescuing animals in times of disaster.

He outlined the impact on animals and people attributed to disasters to include loss of food and water, injury or death of domestic and wild animals, and tough economic hardships for human populations. According to a study done by International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), it showed that 59% of households had lost all of their livestock to floods caused by consecutive heavy rains. The disasters disrupted ecosystems by displacing animals which could increase the risk of zoonotic disease transmission to human beings.



Dr Laurien
Ntamugabumwe

Rwanda Council of Veterinary
Doctors (RCVD)

The speaker discussed the challenges experienced which included limited resources and infrastructure, inadequate natural resource management resulting in low resilience against droughts, floods and other natural disasters, and climate change leading to negative impacts on animal welfare. Dr Ntamugabumwe also noted that there were cultural and traditional practices that did not prioritize animal welfare

He further stated that competition from other pressing social and economic priorities made it a challenge to allocate sufficient attention and resources to the issue. He stated that despite this, there was a great opportunity for NGOs and government to collaborate in initiatives towards international collaboration, research and innovation, policy advocacy, creation of early warning systems with community-based disaster risk reduction.

He gave examples of the best animal welfare practices observed in other countries. He lauded Kenya, whose Faculty of Veterinary Medicine [University of Nairobi] had integrated disaster management and animal welfare as part of their curriculum, and Nigeria's implementation of policies on the general care of animals in production and research during emergency and disaster situations.

He elaborated on the proactive responses in Rwanda including creation of early warning systems through meteorological agency, land use and mapping to ensure its implementation, conversion of poachers who had become conservationists and developments of the animal welfare law which was ongoing.

The presenter concluded that the frequency and intensity of natural disasters was predicted to continue to escalate as the continent experienced climate change. He urged the AU Member States to adopt the One Health approach and ensure implementation while acknowledging the role of animals in human lives as an integral part of effective disaster planning and response. He deduced that while building a robust and sustainable disaster management system was challenging, it was possible and Africa members states needed to adapt disaster management systems and ensure animals rescue was part of disaster preparedness plans.

Enhancing Livestock Dependent Communities' Preparedness to Challenges of Climate Change, Dr Samantha Opere, Brooke East Africa

Samantha Opere began by introducing Brooke East Africa, stating that their mission was to achieve immediate and lasting positive change to the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules and the communities that depend on them.

Stating examples of the disaster occurrences in Africa over the recent past, she notably agreed that the frequency of the disasters was increasing, causing great losses due to the inadequate preparedness to sustain their animals.



Dr Samantha Opere | Brooke East Africa

Dr Opere discussed the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) which provides the minimum standards for humanitarian emergencies that impact livestock. The framework contained guidelines that provided communities, governments and NGOs with key principles which should be considered during humanitarian interventions to ensure livestock-based livelihoods were not lost.

She further explained the role of Community Managed Risk Reduction (CMRR) in supporting communities to identify and analyse potential disasters in their locality, conduct risk analysis and assess impact of disasters and developing action plans for disaster risk reduction.

The speaker highlighted that one tenet of Brooke's theory of change focused on "livelihoods and resilience" that shed light on capacity building of communities on fodder production and preservation, improving water access through rehabilitation of natural sources, and conservation initiatives. Since working donkeys played a significant role in disaster management through delivery of relief supplies, they tended to be overworked.

Finally, she commented on Brooke's resilience support achievements, and prompted the delegates to think about whether the communities were truly prepared to handle disasters.



**SESSION 3: Implementation status
on UNEA's Animal Welfare,
Environment and Sustainable
Development Nexus Resolution.**

Session Moderator: Isaiah Otieno, Senior Information Technology Assistant, UNEP

Isaiah introduced the session and recalled the genesis of the resolution from the 3rd Africa Animal Welfare Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2019. He then welcomed the presenters to proceed.

Isaiah Otieno

Senior Information Technology Assistant
UNEP



UNEA 5/1 Resolution: Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development – Nexus, Dr Abdelkader Bensada and Dr Rebecca Garcia Pinillos, UNEP

Abdelkader Bensada took the stage and began the session by giving an overview of the UNEA 5/1 Resolution: Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development- Nexus (AWESDE). He explained that the Animal Welfare Nexus Resolution was adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on March 2, 2022, in Nairobi, Kenya. It was sponsored by seven (7) member states including Ghana, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Pakistan.

Dr Bensada then elaborated that the resolution had requested the Executive Director of UNEP that subject to the availability of financial and human resources, to produce a report, in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), and the One Health High-Level Expert Panel.

They were to look at the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development, identify key partners and stakeholders to consult, where relevant, in the preparation of the report, and preparing a summary of the findings for consideration by Member States. He cited that the resolution further requested UNEP to submit the report for peer review by Member States and to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) at its sixth session.

Dr Bensada gave an update to the participants on the progress on the resolution. He explained that an international consultant had been recruited to assist in the implementation of the resolution and stated that an inception report had been prepared and shared with the key stakeholders.

He then mentioned that an AWESDE Nexus Steering Group consisting of UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) had been established.



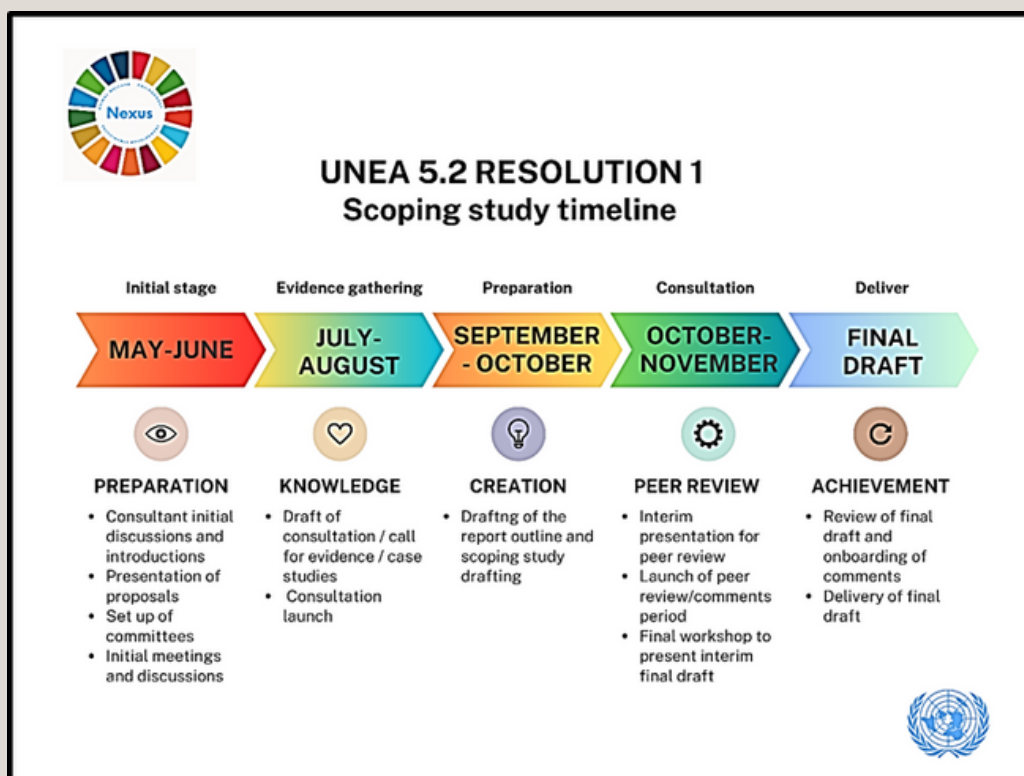
Dr Abdelkader Bensada | UNEP

He reported that UNEP convened two (2) steering group meetings and provided updates on the scoping study, the call for information progress and the steps forward. He informed the meeting that a call for information had been circulated for consideration and comments by the steering group members. He added that UNEP participated in the Third meeting of the Friends of the Resolution Working Group held in Diani, Kenya, on April 2023. UNEP also participated in the International Major Groups and Stakeholders preparatory meeting in Morocco in July 2023.

Dr Bensada took the participants through the resources raised and stated that UNEP continued its efforts to mobilize resources for implementation of the resolution

He clarified that no external resources had been mobilized or received for the resolution. He reported that the only funds received were internal contributions from UNEP Environment Fund of USD \$ 90,000 and the UNEP Norway Fund of USD \$ 58,000.

He outlined the planned tasks and the next steps and highlighted that they were in the process of drafting a scoping study of the resolution with the report’s outlines and drafting a resource mobilization strategy. They had held regular meetings with the steering committee that was established, revised the budget for the implementation of the resolution and planned to organize a peer review workshop of the desk review report and budget. Steps for scoping study process are illustrated in the figure below:



Preliminary Roadmap



Dr Rebeca Garcia
Pinillos | UNEP

Rebecca García Pinillos continued the presentation by giving updates on the call for information, an update on interim literature review and progress of the scoping study.

Dr García Pinillos informed the delegates that the call for information closed on August 15, 2023, and 56 responses were received. The results showed that 32% were from civil society, 16.1% represented academia, 14.3% were from UNEP, 12.5% represented stakeholders and 25% were from other professions or groups. The call for information received responses of respondents from 25 countries. 76.8% represented animal welfare, 19.6% represented the environment and 3.6% represented sustainable development.

The presenter stated that there was broad support for objectives and key principles and the updates had been incorporated in the new draft. The response on the report format preferences was mixed. 42.9% agreed that the report focused on a One Health One Welfare approach, 14.3% stated that the report focused on the triple planetary crisis (climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss), 14.3% agreed that the report focused on sustainable development elements, 16.1% agreed that the report focused on other reasons, the rest agreed that the report to be drafted following a WOHAT terrestrial code chapter and other models.

A question on resource mobilization was asked, *'Resource mobilization is a key element for the success of this report. Would your organization/member state like to support the development of the report financially?'* Of the 56 respondents, 28.6% responded that they would not support it, 25% were not sure, yet, 41.1% stated that it was not applicable to them (i.e., not a funding organization or Member State) and 5.3% stated that they would.

She then informed the conference that the scoping study included an interim literature review, a call for information summary, a draft proposed structure for AWESDE report, process followed in realising the report, partnerships and proposed workshops focused on UNEP workplan and resolutions.

Dr García Pinillos concluded by recommending that an expanded literature review should be made, there should be engagement with less represented groups including industry, indigenous communities, environment and sustainable development groups, and that there should be resource mobilization engagement and identification of synergic workstreams.



SESSION 4: Faith based perspectives on animal welfare and environmental conservation.



Session Moderator: Dr Mary Agutu, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Veterinary Board.



Dr Mary Agutu

Chief Executive Officer
Kenya Veterinary Board

Dr Agutu introduced the session and welcomed the speakers to deliver their papers.

A General Outlook on Faith-Based Perspectives on Animal Welfare, Joyce D'Silva

Joyce D'Silva began by highlighting various scriptures in the Bible referring to animals from the Old Testament where animals were used as a sacrifice. She shared quotes from saints and religious leaders in Christianity showing the importance of the care for animals. She stated that this created a disconnect, as majority of the Christian countries still practiced factory farming causing cruelty and suffering to animals.

The Islamic faith shared similar sentiments, highlighting that Allah created and cared for all creatures. She also stated that the Islamic scripture encouraged meat eating and noted that food should be halal (permitted) but also wholesome and good. This brought to question whether factory farmed animals were indeed wholesome and good.

Hinduism also had references to animals, expressing that there was reality in all beings.



Joyce D' Silva

She also noted that cruel practices were seen including temple elephants that were chained by the leg.

She concluded by stating there were great differences in the teachings of the various religious scriptures with what the modern and cruel animal farming and exploitation practices which she further discusses in her book 'Animal Welfare in Religion, Teaching and Practice'.

Religious Perspectives on Environment Preservation in Africa, Prof. Beatrice Okyere – Manu, University of Kwa Zulu- Natal, South Africa



Prof. Beatrice Okyere-Manu | University of Kwa Zulu-Natal, South Africa

Beatrice Okyere-Manu began by highlighting the current state of crisis and disaster in Africa most of which are caused due to human activity. She stated that there was need for a multifaceted approach to solving the crisis in which religion could play a part.

Prof. Okyere-Manu added that religion shapes beliefs and attitudes and could have great impact. She emphasized that by understanding and appreciating the rich diversity of religious perspectives on environmental preservation, stronger connections could be forged between faith communities and environmentalists, working hand in hand toward a more sustainable and harmonious future.

She explored various beliefs and teachings from Hinduism, Christianity to Islam. She described the traditional African religion which believed in the sacredness of animals and plants and believed that humans were an integral part of the natural world. She explained that people would perform rituals and ceremonies that honour nature's cycles and the people had deep spiritual connections to natural landscapes.

These beliefs and teachings emphasized the significance of nature within religious contexts and underscored the moral imperative to protect and preserve the environment. While the specific beliefs and practices may differ, she noted that they shared a common theme of reverence, responsibility, and interconnectedness with the natural world. Recognizing these perspectives was essential for understanding the interplay between faith and nature, and for fostering greater respect and care for the environment.

While there were similarities, recognizing and respecting these differences and emphasizing shared values was essential for fostering collaboration and finding holistic solutions to the global environmental crisis.

Ultimately, she concluded that the interplay between faith and nature offers a tapestry of perspectives that could inform and inspire collective efforts to protect the planet.

How NGOs Can Responsibly Partner with Religious Communities to Promote Peaceful Coexistence with The Natural World and Non-Human Animals, Prof. Janet Rumfelt – Regis University, Dr Katherine Baxter – ANAW-USA, Dr M.D Kinoti – Regis University



Katherine Baxter remarked that faith-based communities comprised the largest social organizations in Africa, representing a repository of opportunities to spread the cause for sustainability on the continent.

Dr Katherine Baxter | CEO
ANAW-USA

The communities advised that conservation leaders should reach out to religious communities to collaborate in implementing these recommendations, with a view to enhance the capacity for value-based sustainability decisions that link nature and human well-being. She emphasized that the reasons for an animal's being existed beyond serving man, and detaching from the awe and admiration of life had many consequences to humans.



Prof. Janet Rumfelt | Regis University

Prof. Rumfelt discussed how spiritual values showed aspects of anthropocentrism, which portrayed humans as having overall power over the natural world depicting non-human animals and the environment having value related to their usefulness to human beings. She stated that this was misguided since it disconnected humans from their interconnection with nature.



Prof. Kinoti noted that majority of human beings were religious and had some connection to spirituality and in order to flourish, hence NGOs needed to recognize the interrelationship and call for responsible use of resources. He encouraged bringing along religious conversations and finding ways to use that to call for responsible animal use by going beyond the economic benefits of animals in order to fight against cruelty and neglect.

Dr M.D Kinoti | Regis University





**SESSION 5 : United Nations
Environment Programme (UNEP)**



Session Moderator: Isaiah Otieno, Senior Information Technology Assistant, UNEP



Isaiah Otieno | Senior Information Technology Assistant
UNEP

Isaiah Otieno briefly introduced the session and highlighted that the focus would be on how NGOs can work with UNEP and UNEP's existence for 50 years, which was celebrated in 2022. He then invited Ulf Björnholm who would be talking more about UNEP.

Introduction to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ulf Björnholm



Ulf Björnholm | UNEP

Ulf Björnholm introduced the organization and presented its history, mandate and mission. He relayed key milestones that the organization had attained including the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. He cited that UNEP was established to monitor the state of the environment, inform policy making with science and coordinate responses to the world's environmental challenges.

Mr. Björnholm informed delegates that in 1992, the Rio Conference for Environment and Development launched the concept of environment and development.

This provided ground for the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. In 2012, UNEP was strengthened, and its governance was upgraded to universal membership through UNEA. This helped to define a new era of international environmental governance. He also mentioned that in 2022, UNEP celebrated 50 years of its existence and 5 years of the Stockholm Conference.

He described UNEP's mandate to be, *"The leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment"* and mission, *"To provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by informing, enabling and inspiring nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations."*

He further expounded UNEP's mission in practice by:

- **Informing** through bringing science and evidence to policy makers to influence informed decisions in providing evidence about the state and health of the planet and contribute solutions, identifying emerging environmental threats and providing guidance on sound policies.
- **Enabling** by convening nations and stakeholders together to tackle triple planetary crisis, supporting strong environmental laws and institutions, playing important role as hosts of secretariats for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA). UNEP also plays a role in the UN system as the voice of environmental dimension of sustainable development and capacity building through providing tools and facilities to transfer technologies.
- **Inspiring** through sharing environmental success stories, celebrating and awarding individuals and institutions, raising awareness and advocating for action on the environment.

Mr. Björnholm informed delegates that the governing body of UNEP is the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), which met every two years with the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) - a subsidiary body of UNEA, being the forum for dialogue with member states. The CPR's main functions were to provide review and oversight of UNEP's Programme of Work, implement the UNEA resolutions and prepare decisions for upcoming UNEA sessions. He stated that UNEA reported back to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

He mentioned that the CPR was open to all member states, with 133 accredited members, as compared to the 193 United Nations Member States, and emphasized the opportunity to engage with more Member States. Since UNEP's inception, there have been 96 accredited missions in Nairobi, and 37 accredited missions out of Nairobi. He added that there were over 1000 accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS).

UNEP hosted 15 of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that covered a wide range of regional and global environmental issues, including hazardous chemicals and waste, biodiversity, oceans, migratory species, and rehabilitation of the ozone layer.

Mr. Björnholm concluded by highlighting the four (4) main sources of funding for UNEP which include earmarked funds that was dedicated to specific projects (43%); global funds from Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Global Climate Fund (GCF) (37%); Environment Fund (15%) and United Nations regular budget (5%).

Opportunities for Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) to Engage, Isaiah Otieno



Isaiah Otieno | Senior Information Technology Assistant
UNEP

Isaiah Otieno's presentation focused on the platform for civil society organizations at UNEP, the Major Groups and Stakeholders. He further outlined the nine (9) Major Groups and stakeholders to include Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples and their communities, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, and Farmers. He stated that NGO's form the majority members of the MGS, since groups that did not fit into the other eight categories registered as NGOs.

He emphasized that formal accreditation was a requirement for participation, which allowed NGOs to work with UNEP and entitled them to three (3) ground passes that gave delegates access to attend CPR meetings. It also allowed access to the resolution portal and the Regional Consultative Meetings.

Accredited MGS were able to provide their expertise and inputs across three (3) levels of engagement at UNEP: agenda setting, decision making and implementation.

He highlighted that in the preparation of UNEA 6, there would be the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, a two-day meeting prior to UNEA from February 24-25, 2024, in Nairobi. Accredited organizations were encouraged to participate in all public meetings, including Sub-Committee Meetings which would provide opportunities for written and oral comments.

Isaiah described the role of the Civil Society Unit in the Governance Affairs Office which dealt with the accreditation of non-governmental observers to UNEA and facilitated the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF), Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs) and the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue during UNEA. He added that every two years, two people from each Major Group, known as Major Group Facilitation Committee (MGFC), were selected to act as communication channels between UNEP and the accredited organizations.

Mr. Otieno concluded by outlining the events and activities with Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) which included:

- **The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)** - 14 to 18 August 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, preceded by a Regional Consultative Meeting on 12 and 13 of August 2023.
- **Regional Consultative Meeting: Latin America and the Caribbean 2023** – 23 October 2023. Organized in parallel to the XXIII Meeting of the Forum, which would take place in Panama City from October 24 to 26, 2023.
- **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) 3** – 13 to 19 November 2023, Nairobi, Kenya.
- **10th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives** – 20 to 24 October 2023.
- **Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention** – 11 to 15 December 2023, Dead Sea, Jordan.

He highlighted that for a group to qualify for accreditation, it needed to be a non-governmental, non-profit organisation and registered with their respective governments for at least two (2) years. He stated that it should focus on environment, with environmental work being done locally and internationally. He finished off by stating that there were 1035 accredited organizations with majority of them from Western European and Other States, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbeans and Eastern European States respectively.



The Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), Ulf Björnholm, Chief Civil Society Unit, UNEP

Ulf Björnholm began by informing the delegates of the UNEP governance structure. He mentioned that the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) took place every two (2) years, was run by the UNEA Bureau that was composed of 10 members from the 5 UN regions who met 4-6 times a year.

He further informed the delegates that the CPR was comprised of about 130 members including the Holy See, the State of Palestine and the European Union. It was run by the CPR Bureau which was made up of five (5) members from the five (5) United Nations regions and met every month. He also mentioned that the formal Quarterly CPR meetings took place four (4) times a year while the informal Sub-Committee Meetings took place once or twice a month.



The speaker further informed participants that the Open-Ended CPR meeting, which acts as PREPCOM for UNEA, took place every two (2) years back-to-back with UNEA and the Annual Subcommittee Meeting. This provided oversight and review of the Medium-Term strategy and the Programme of Work once a year.

Ulf Björnholm | UNEP

Mr. Björnholm delved into the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), and its key mandates and functions [Governing Council decision 27/2 of 2013]. He stated that it set the global environmental agenda, provided overarching policy guidance and defined policy responses to emerging environmental challenges, undertook policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences, set the strategic guidance on the future direction of UNEP, organized multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions and fostered partnerships for achieving environmental goals through resource mobilization.

He relayed that the Sixth Session of UNEA would take place from February 26 to March 1, 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya and stated that it would be preceded by its PREPCOM, the OECPR-6, which would take place in February 19 to February 23, 2024. He informed delegates that the UNEA-6 theme was *“Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.”*

The speaker explained that consultations on the UNEA-6 Ministerial Declaration were held under the leadership of the UNEA-6 Presidency. A roadmap for the consultations on the UNEA-6 ministerial declaration was shared in April 2023 and a "zero draft" was made available to all delegations and stakeholders in May 2023, with an invitation to provide inputs in writing. He stated that first informal consultations were held in June 2023 and that the next consultation was to be held at the end of September 2023. He added that a first full draft of ministerial declaration was shared, based on the inputs on the zero draft in writing and at the first informal consultation. Further consultations and calls for inputs in writing would be organized on September 26 and during the 10th Annual Sub-Committee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

He concluded by outlining the Provisional Agenda of UNEA-6 to include the opening of the session, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, credentials of representatives, report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, international environmental policy and governance issues, programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues, stakeholder engagement, contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, high-level segment, cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (UNEP/EA.6/15), provisional agenda, date and venue of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly, adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session, election of officers, other matters, adoption of the report, and the closure of the session.

African Major Groups' Outcome of the Nineteenth Session of AMCEN and Preparations for UNEA 6, David Munene, Regional Facilitator, UNEP Major Groups & Stakeholders - Africa & Programs Manager, Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA)

David Munene introduced participants to the UNEP MGS, Africa, stating that it comprised of organizations in Africa accredited to UNEP and numbered 224. The engagements carried by UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders - Africa are in person, via email and via WhatsApp, <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KzQu3GFflw376VF6PaoKY9>

Mr. Munene elaborated on the Regional Consultative Meetings (RCM) stating that the consultative multi-stakeholder environmental dialogues were organized regionally by the UNEP MGS. He continued to explain that the meetings focused on regional priorities, challenges, observations, and solutions including provision of a platform for capacity-building and networking for MGS in the region. The meetings gave a lookback on preparations to UNEA and other conferences and is usually held annually. The main outcomes of the meeting were statements and recommendations by MGS for consideration by regional fora and UNEA and expert contribution to decision-making specific to AMCEN.

He spoke on the 2023 Regional Committee Meeting Africa which was held in Capital Hotel, Addis Ababa on August 12 and 13. It was attended by 60 in-person participants and more than 10 virtual participants and was opened by UNEP Director for Africa.

A Keynote address was delivered by the AMCEN President and a presentation was given by coordinator of the AMCEN Secretariat, and remarks were made by the Director General of the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority.

Mr Munene oriented participants on Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). He indicated that it was established in 1985 and was the regional engagement forum for environment ministers in Africa to form common positions for the continent. The theme of the conference was *'Seizing opportunities and enhancing collaboration to address environmental challenges in Africa.'* It was held at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa on August 14-18, 2023.



David Munene

The outcome of the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the AMCEN were the Addis Ababa Declaration and the five (5) decisions made. The decisions included an omnibus decision on seizing opportunities and enhancing collaboration to address environmental challenges in Africa, African participation in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, African preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, engagement of Africa at the 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and climate change where the decision welcomed the outcomes of COP27, including decisions that recognize the special needs of the African continent and agreed on Africa's outline position ahead of COP28.

He concluded that UNEP MGS was the official engagement mechanism for non-state actors and encouraged the participants to get accredited to the UNEP to become members





SESSION 6: Emerging trends in education and research



Session Moderator, Dr. Mwenda Mbaka, African Union – InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources



Dr Mwenda Mbaka

Animal Welfare Expert
AU-IBAR

Mwenda Mbaka welcomed delegates to the session and stated that how the Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC) had evolved into a pivotal continental forum drawing together various stakeholders gathered for a common goal of improving animal welfare. He then encouraged the delegates to actively engage in the session.

Bridging The Teaching Gap: Making Animal Welfare Education Accessible with Holistic Teaching Materials, Carolin Breitenbach, WTS

Carolin Breitenbach delved into the importance of teaching materials necessary for animal welfare, focusing on vet professionals, who were important advocates for animal welfare in their daily practice when advising animal keepers, informing the general public, influencing research and legislation, especially as they interacted with animals in everyday work and acted as role models.

Dr Breitenbach cited a quote by WOA (2012) that read, *'Veterinarians should be the leading advocates for the welfare of all animals, recognizing the key contributions that animals make to human society through food production, companionship, biomedical research and education.'*

She mentioned that WTS had included animal welfare into their curriculum guidelines for both veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals. This was to ensure that the students were prepared for the special responsibility that came with their profession.

The speaker highlighted hinderances where sometimes animal welfare education was not included or taught insufficiently and may focus only on certain aspects of species.



Carolin Breitenbach

WTS

It also is mainly taught theoretically and not linked to their work in future. In some instances, there was hardly any teaching material for in-class teaching for veterinary professionals. There was also an underrepresented link between the welfare and the health of the animals.

Dr Breitenbach explained that they had made teaching materials for applied animal welfare, which was taught holistically involving teaching and practice in different fields of the veterinary profession. She expressed that it was important to make the teachings adaptable for lecturers to add case study examples.

These teaching modules were first developed in 2017 with 13 tertiary institutions having used them since. This was done in consideration of the WOA recommendations together with other user suggestions. The modules were reviewed by lecturers and practitioners. She stated that new versions of the modules were released in July 2023. These were peer reviewed by 57 peer reviewers from 21 countries. She emphasized how the modules could be used as a toolbox which encompasses presentations, videos, and suggestions for practicals.

She concluded by encouraging delegates to download the materials for free as they could also be used by non-veterinarians and were available in both English and French. As a way forward, WTS hoped to further translate into Spanish and develop new modules namely, One Health One Welfare, Humane Population Management, Wild Animal Welfare and Fish Welfare.

Implementing Better Training for Veterinarians, Resources and Strategies, Nick Jukes

Nick Jukes began by emphasizing the process of transition away from animal experimentation in education, testing and research, towards humane innovative techniques.

He discussed some of the myths and about education and training for students through use of alternatives. These included the assumption that animal experimentation was more “real” than alternatives, which he stated was false since the goal of alternatives is to enhance acquisition of the skills.

In the use of alternatives, there had been development of high-level simulators used to allow for development of various scenarios of practicing procedures. There was also the use of bodies donated for use in universities.



Nick stated that InterNICHE has an alternatives database with 1500 products described and have a studies database with experienced teachers who have developed a wide range of humane tools. The organisation previously launched Training the Animal Doctor with full episodes and summary versions showing cases innovations and providing alternative materials.

He concluded by encouraging making of alternatives with available tools that are Africa based which are simple and low tech to still teach specific processes of training.

Findings from the 2021 – 2022 survey to determine the institutional preparedness of African Countries to eliminate Rabies in Africa, Dr Kavosa Mudoga



Dr Kavosa Mudoga | Action for the Protection of Animals in Africa (APAA)

Kavosa Mudoga introduced the study and stated that the main objective of the study was to support development of a Continental Dog-Mediated Rabies Elimination Strategy, and to review the literature landscape in Africa. This analysis was on 39 Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO) and 16 partner organizations.

Dr Mudoga cited various observations from literature, showing livestock losses of up to USD \$ 280 million to rabies and a GDP loss of up to USD 773 million. It also showed that wildlife rabies occurred from livestock grazing around national parks and illegal wildlife hunting. The cited literature highlighted that there were 80% of human cases in rural areas; with more than 40% of rabies deaths in children (primarily boys) aged less than 15 years. She also mentioned that there was a literature gap, with insufficient literature on the economics and planning and institutional data for one health formulation and planning.

Through online survey, it was found that 74% of the African countries had no geo referenced data on dog census and 90% of the countries had no census on wildlife. There was no gender segregated data.

She noted that 69% of the CVOs did not know when census was done. However, 16% of the countries did their census every 1, 5 to 10 years. The study also showed that 26% countries estimated dog populations which seemed far from expected dog populations in the countries.

In terms of numbers, Tanzania recorded the highest dog rabies mortality and morbidity while 8 countries had no data. 72% of the countries surveyed had no data on livestock rabies deaths. Chad and Nigeria had recorded livestock mortality deaths and 5 countries had data on wildlife deaths from rabies, while the rest did not have any information on wildlife rabies deaths. In Dog Population Management (DPM), Dr Mudoga noted that 84% of CVOs believed that both dog population management and vaccinations were the best way to solve rabies. They all believed that rabies programmes should come down to the community level.

While the majority acknowledged that rabies vaccination was important in DPM for wildlife survival, 50% were not aware of its importance in wildlife management and 62% believed that rabies had affected wildlife populations.

There were several challenges for wildlife rabies management seen in this study which included lack of funds, no dog census; inadequate wildlife surveillance, explosion of dog populations that predate on smaller mammals and hunting dogs that were not regulated. The study showed that mainly the boys took their dogs for vaccinations, except in two countries who had girls as the higher population and there was not enough information on the care for dogs for people living with disabilities. More women than men accessed treatment after dog bite incidences while levels were same within boys and girls.

The researcher also noted that there was minimal political support since politicians had no idea of the importance of rabies at national level and how it affected the country's GDP and one health system and only prioritized rabies to attain political gain.

Majority of the countries had laboratories, however what was majorly lacking was logistical support as well as tools and equipment to conduct tests. However, 62% of CVOs and 38% of partners had no pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for the teams involved in the rabies process.

She also reported that 15% of the African countries purchased vaccines through the OIE [WOAH] bank and most countries have over 50% vaccine deficit compared to their dog population. In terms of monitoring and surveillance, Dr Mudoga expounded that 79% of the countries had rabies/zoonotic diseases surveillance with 82% of the countries regularly reporting rabies outbreaks on AU IBAR, OIE [WOAH], FAO or WHO platforms.

Other countries had a facility to check for diseases for transboundary surveillance but emphasized the need for improvement in transboundary surveillance. The respondents thought that leadership and coordination was below expectation without cross coordination between countries and other organizations. The CVOs highlighted lack of political support and finances for poor national coordination.

The presenter concluded that 72 countries were beginning their national rabies strategies, 10% were in developed stage, 10% advanced and 8% percent completed. 11 out of the 72 countries had rabies plans. Unfortunately, many countries had no laws, regulations and policy/institutional frameworks therefore making it difficult to develop and entrench strategies.



Delegates keenly following the conference proceedings

Revolutionizing Animal Welfare Education in Rwanda: A Transformative Journey for Animal Wellbeing, Emmanuel Irimaso, University of Rwanda, School of Veterinary Medicine

Emmanuel Irimaso discussed about the need for education in animal welfare to change the existing narrative and lead to improved standards on animal welfare, which would in turn contribute to the economy through higher production for farmers. He shed light on the opportunity to open up more areas for research and incorporate ethics and emphasized the need to have a positive attitude towards animals and have them live better lives and achieve global targets, referencing SDGs 12 and 14.

Dr Irimaso highlighted institutional and shared challenges like limited resources leading to competition for those resources, conflict of interests between human and animal welfare, keeping pace with scientific developments and lack of age-appropriate education for younger children and much older demographics. However, there could be a comprehensive holistic approach with long lasting improvements in development of animal welfare education to clear the gaps.



He stated that Rwanda's conservation ethics and values promoted environmental conservation with different initiatives that transformed animal welfare and wildlife conservation driven by standards and guidelines. This should be accompanied by education targeting the community.

Dr Emmanuel Irimaso
University of Rwanda,
School of Veterinary
Medicine

Dr Irimaso encouraged the delegates to rethink the curriculum and enhance animal welfare by using other modes such as videos and practical experiences, which could be accompanied with multi stakeholder collaboration to have additional online information resources and include use of technology.

As a way forward, he stated that engaging community leaders to open dialogues about the importance of animal welfare education and include community awareness, making education material to be more available and affordable and harmonizing what is taught to have one message. He concluded by calling upon the audience to revise curricula and have a multisectoral approach including ethical education with a replacement of animals if used for facilitating research. He emphasized that delegates needed to describe the significance of bringing about positive change and how animals were protected and cared for, with focus on their welfare and health.



SESSION 7: Climate Change and Animal Welfare



Session Moderator: Dr Patrick Muinde, World Animal Protection



The moderator introduced the session and welcomed the speakers.

Dr Patrick Muinde | World Animal Protection

The Greatest Impact: Family Reforms to Ensure Human and Nonhuman Thriving and Equity, Esther Afolaranmi, Fair Start Movement, and Dr Carter Dillard, University of Denver



Dr Carter Dillard | University of Denver

In his opening statement, Carter Dillard stated that in many ways, Africa would be ground zero of the impact of the climate crisis and highlighted that his presentation would focus on the genesis of the climate crisis, which was likely to take the lives of billions of people. He would examine how humans viewed the non-human world and the mistakes they made that led to the climate crisis and tackle the question of how it happened and what can humans do to minimize the impact of the crisis.

He explained that the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, had a detrimental impact on animal habitats, food availability, and water sources.

It was highlighted that the rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns contributed to habitat loss, pushing many human and non-human species towards extinction or migration to find suitable environments. He stated that the costs were astronomical.

The speaker highlighted that climate-induced changes in vegetation and plant life disrupted food chains, leading to food scarcity for herbivores and subsequently impacting carnivores. He stated that it would cause inaccessibility for human and non-human species. Prolonged droughts result in water scarcity for both wildlife and domesticated animals, escalating competition and exacerbating conflicts between human and animal populations.

Dr Dillard went on to explore what went wrong and what fundamentally failed before the crisis. He looked at the most fundamental drivers and stated that world leadership designed a model that placed humans at the centre. This view exploited growth as a means of making money and profits and argued that the wealthy nations caused the climate crisis and were most prepared to survive the climate crisis. The countries that were previously colonized were the least prepared. Anthropocentric family policies were established which did not leave room for non-humans.

In this move, the development of empathy for animals in children was a failure. The climate crisis they caused set to displace billions, kill at least tens of millions of humans by the end of the century, and killed and drive countless animals into extinction. He added that the hallmark of these policies was the use of population growth and not investing highly in each child, rather than social innovation, to grow economies.

Dr Dillard delved into the key solutions to these challenges. He stated that if children's rights, like the Children's Rights Convention, were taken seriously, structures would be set for family planning incentives and entitlements around those rights so that children were not raised in conditions that violate those rights. He relayed that taking this measure was not only good for children, but that it also had the greatest impact on non-humans. It was believed that the impact would be greater than diet change, humane education, sanctuaries, and other steps that had been taken.

He elaborated how this could be achieved. He stated that wealth inverse family planning entitlements, which ensure delay and planning, child equity, and smaller or more eco-centric families provides a great solution: <https://blogs.luc.edu/lawjournal/2020/04/how-subsidizing-delayed-parenthood-will-let-children-lead-the-way-to-a-fairer-world/> this was already operational in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

The speaker asserted that because the impact of those in wealthy nations on the environment is generally four times the impact of less wealthy nations, a primary policy focus of delay and smaller families is applied first to countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, as seen here: <https://fairstartmovement.org/tag/royal-family/>

He suggested the areas of reform that could benefit animals and children at the same time and stated that climate restoration would be prioritized as a foundational element of the campaign.

He also advocated for climate justice and sought funding through loss and damage reparations to support projects that mitigated climate change. He added that birth equity was at the heart of their mission as a fundamental human right and sought to empower women and children from underserved communities globally.

He cited that teaching children to care for animals through humane education would matter little if they were not born and raised in conditions likely to foster empathy, or prosocial behaviour. It would be odd to teach children to care for animals, against a background of family policies that do not do anything to ensure biodiversity and climate/habitat restoration. Animals lived experiences depended on their relations with humans.



Esther Afolaranmi | Fair Start Movement

Esther Afolaranmi continued by stating that the solutions cited were the projects carried out by Fair Start Movement. She stated that the mission of the organization was to drive change and address pressing global issues such as climate change, birth equity, wealth inequality, and children's rights through a comprehensive approach that encompassed agroforestry, food security, kitchen gardens and children's savings account amongst others.

Esther talked about the impact on non-humans and began with African elephants and climate change.

She explained that African elephants were highly susceptible to climate change as they depend on specific habitats and (litres of) water to survive. The drought and changing rainfall patterns posed a threat to their survival and many animals had died. She suggested that in addition to the current effort to combat poaching, conservation organizations should work with governments to establish corridors to protect critical elephant habitat, ensuring access to water and forage during drought.

She cited the example of Lake Chad, a popular lake in Africa, had experienced increased temperatures and decreased rainfall and has led to reduced fish population affecting food security and livelihoods. She asserted that other changes that should reduce in Africa included factory farming, climate impacts on the Maasai Mara and their animals, the need for cattle ranching, the potential extinction of African penguins, and other threats to non-human species.

Dr Dillard resumed and in concluding remarks, mentioned that Esther Afolaranmi had written an excellent paper on impact of the climate crisis on different animal populations in Africa which was available. He mentioned that the solution for animals lied in legal reform. He gave an example of the Centre for Contemporary Equine Studies challenging the mass slaughter of donkeys. The center had filed a lawsuit in California that would prohibit the sale of ejiao, that was commonly sold in China. If successful, it would ban and limit the demand of a product produced by killing untold numbers of donkeys in Africa. This would lead the centre and its partners to move beyond asking how we should treat animals towards asking who animals need human beings to become as a species so that non-humans could become free.

Just Livestock Transition and Meat Reduction, Dr Victor Yamo, Humane & Sustainable Agriculture Campaigns Manager, World Animal Protection

Victor Yamo began by informing the delegates that World Animal Protection was guided by a global strategy that ran from 2021 to 2030, titled A New World for Animals. He encouraged those who wanted to work closely with them to access the strategy online, <https://www.worldanimalprotection.or.ke/news/new-world-animals>.

Dr Yamo outlined key trends in intensive livestock production systems. He mentioned that there was growth in the African population from 1.2 billion in 2015, to an estimated 2.4 billion by 2050 (2015 Global human population). The growing population, urbanization and increasing economic prosperity drove greater demand for animal products, per capita annual consumption of meat and milk would double by 2050 (Milk from 30 to 64 litres, Meat from 14 to 26 Kgs) and intensification of Africa's livestock system was happening at an unprecedented pace and scale.



Dr Victor Yamo | World Animal Protection

He informed the participants on meat production and consumption globally and cited 2018 statistics indicating that there were 80 billion animals consumed globally including 69 billion chicken, 1.5 billion pigs, 574 million sheep, 479 million goats and 302 million cattle. He gave a projection of meat consumption growth by 2030 to be 30% in Africa, 18% in Asia and Pacific, 12% in Latin America, 9% in North America and 0.4% in Europe. He stated that the impact of intensive livestock system included effects on public health, biodiversity loss and pollution, causing suffering to billions of animals, driving climate change, and undermining food security.

The presenter took the delegates through the impact on animal welfare and mentioned that intensive livestock production systems involved high throughput animal husbandry system with many animals of the same genetics confined in a unit under very controlled conditions. He stated that in these spaces animal welfare and sentience were not recognized and that there was poor Animal Welfare Standards. He elaborated that the goal was to minimize costs and maximize profit, to quickly produce large supplies of products and noted that the system was not sustainable due to deforestation, antibiotic resistance, zoonotic diseases and environmental contamination including waste management.

Dr Yamo stated that high animal-based food consumption was detrimental to human health and led to increased public health costs. He cited excessive meat consumption as one of four leading risk factors to chronic illness which resulted in 677.6 million obese adults, zoonotic conditions that were responsible for 2.5 billion cases of human illness and 2.7 million deaths annually, drug-resistant diseases leading to 1.27 million human deaths annually and that 73% of all antibiotics was used in livestock sector.

He added that the largest climate change and environmental impact due to animal feeds and livestock production contributed at least 14.5% of all greenhouse gas emissions, significant methane and ammonia emissions, soil degradation, aquatic habitat destruction, air pollution, water contamination and biodiversity loss, waste management and tropical deforestation.

He introduced the participant on the concept of Just Livestock Transition and stated that using land to grow crops to feed animals would be highly inefficient and destructive. To illustrate this, he argued that for every 100 calories of crops fed to farm animals, only 17-30 calories reach humans and that meat and dairy provided only 18% of overall calories and 37% of proteins for humans but used 83% of farmland.

Dr Yamo suggested solutions to include resizing the livestock industry, shifting towards humane, sustainable, regenerative and agroecological farming systems, adopting of higher farm animal welfare standards, and ensuring Just Livestock Transition principles are applied to enable this transformation.

He relayed the benefits of Just Livestock Transition and mentioned that they included growing food exclusively for direct human consumption (which increases available food calories by 70%, feeding an additional four billion people), transition towards plant-rich diets (which will free up to 75% of agricultural land, which could be used for food production), conservation, reforestation, ecosystem restoration and other essential purposes to mitigate and adapt to climate change and moving towards healthy diets.

The presenter urged participants to take steps to achieve the same at an individual level by choosing to Eat Less and Better Meat. He defined better meat as meat produced in higher welfare production systems where animal sentience and animal welfare freedoms, standards and policies were adhered to.

He stated that food companies should endeavour to meet the Farm Animal Responsible Minimum Standards (FARMS) on animal welfare requirements for production or procurement as a minimum. He informed the conference that support for their campaign was for industry to implement Farm Animal Responsible Minimum Standards (FARMS) as a minimum, end deforestation in animal feed sourcing, halve production of animal protein by 2040, and phase out sourcing of monocrops like soya as feed for farmed animals (from 2030).

In conclusion, the speaker encouraged them to join World Animal Protection's call on governments to stop approving factory farms by imposing a moratorium on intensive farming within national climate actions (nationally determined contributions) in recognition of intensive farming's climate impact. He ended by requesting the participants to visit their website for more details.



Delegates keenly following the conference proceedings

Animal Welfare and Rights: The Policy Environment in Uganda, Prof. Charles Ssekyewa, Centre for Ecosystem Research and Development (CERD-UGANDA) and St. Lawrence University, Uganda

Charles Ssekyewa began his presentation by explaining the aim of the study to the participants. He stated that it was meant to understand the policy environment in Uganda and how it is addressing concerns of animal welfare and rights, factory farming and to generate key recommendations to inform policy.

Prof. Ssekyewa stated that they reviewed the current status or drivers of the Livestock sub-sector in Uganda and highlighted that the population in Uganda was young driving demand for fast foods consuming less vegetarian dishes.

This helped them look at how they expected to benefit from animals and informed that conference that the biggest population in Uganda consisted of farmers. He stated that when in working on animal welfare and rights, it was useful to be informed of the nature of the target group.

He shared that the GDP was estimated at USD 607 per year (FAO, 2018) and agriculture contributed about 24.6% to the GDP. About 71% Ugandans were employed by the agriculture sector (UBOS, 2014) and Uganda's agriculture was about 80% smallholder farming (UBOS, 2014). The markets included East African Community with 468 million people, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) with 390 million people and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AU) with 1.2 billion people now estimated at 2.5 billion by 2050, people constituting the demand.

The speaker stated that the National Development Plans aimed at boosting agriculture to a higher level to meet needs of the growing population and strategically align with regional economic growth trends such as, Malabo Declaration (2014) and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) with key focus on inclusive growth. The plan for modernization of agriculture aimed at modernizing and commercializing agriculture, the National Development Plans 2/3 aimed at raising income status and achieving inclusive growth whereas the National Agriculture Advisory Services and Operation aimed at wealth creation and raising household income status.

He cited that there were a multiplicity of policies and acts in Uganda including Animal Breeding Act 2001, Dairy Industry Act, 2000, Animal Diseases Act 2000, CAP 38 and its Statutory Instruments, National Drug Policy and Authority Act (1993), Veterinary Surgeons' Act 39 among Hides and Skins (Export Duty) Act 1962, Animals' Prevention of Cruelty Act (1957), Cap 39, Cattle Grazing Act (1945), and Cattle Traders Act (1943).



Prof. Charles Ssekyewa

St. Lawrence University,
Uganda

.Prof. Ssekyewa mentioned that there were other related policies in place such as the draft Bio-Economy Policy (2021) and the recently launched the National Organic Agriculture Policy (2020). The policies under review included National Livestock Policy (2019) and the National Environment Management Policy (1995).

These were the acts and policies related to animal welfare and rights in Uganda and most of them were developed after the year 2000. Only one was developed in 1947 which was clear about animal welfare and rights. All other subsequent policies had been silent and had been looking at animals as the source of income and livelihood but not as a component of the environment.

He continued by mentioning that about 4.5 million households (70.8%) rear at least one kind of livestock in Uganda. In the central region, 56.3% of the household's own livestock and in other regions over 72% of all households in those regions' own livestock. Farming practices were mostly free range, paddocks or both.

He informed the participants that livestock found in Uganda included cattle, goats, pigs, sheep, rabbits, horses, donkeys, camels, dogs, cats, chicken, ducks, turkeys, geese, guinea fowls, bees, crickets, soldier flies and fish.

He informed the participants that most of the cattle were free range. He mentioned that there were issues of abuse, a breach on good animal welfare and rights and that the same applied to goats and pigs. He mentioned that in urban settlements, there were intensive systems for rearing goats.

Basing on policy objectives, solutions and recommendations towards animal welfare and rights, the researcher and his team determined the existing gaps and silences in respect of animal welfare and rights.

The analyzed policy solutions/recommendations and silences towards animal welfare and rights formed the basis for their presented recommendations.

The result of the effort was that the Animals Prevention of Cruelty Act (1957) Cap.39 had issues of animal welfare and rights covered to a great extent. However, the Act did not mention poultry welfare. In addition, convicted persons faced very light punishments (only 1000 Ugx fine or not more than 3 months imprisonment) the Act is not specific on which minister..., and the unspecified period of licensing by the minister (may permit corruption and bribery).”

All other considered policies on livestock did not have streamlined guidance on welfare and rights of animals. Policies had recommendations/articles that when implemented would possibly lead to abuse of animal welfare and rights. There was a possibility of most livestock systems which were considered to be modern today being against animal welfare and rights in the livestock sub-sector.

Prof. Ssekyewa stated that they found the policies inadequate since they found over 80 silences and irregularities and mentioned that the recommendations disabled animal welfare and rights. They therefore came up with an Animal Welfare and Rights Strategy, an idea which they sold to the Ministry of Agriculture. The ministry embraced it and accepted to merge it with what they had to come up with the National Strategy on Animal Welfare and Rights.

He stated that 80 recommendations had been produced to mitigate identified potential causes of abuse of animal welfare and rights, and that these recommendations had varying importance to enabling animal welfare and rights in the sub-sector.

This implied the need to prioritize given recommendations for best streamlining of animal welfare and rights in the livestock sub-sector. He stated that the generated recommendations should be basis for developing an appropriate strategy for animal welfare and rights towards industrial, factory, and intensive livestock management.

Prof. Ssekyewa expressed the need to redesign how animal welfare and rights were promoted and recommended coming up with a standard aligned with other global standards, that would be used to access project loans from the World Bank, the Africa Development Bank and others.

In conclusion, the professor argued that it was a serious omission for many subsequent policies not borrowing from this 1957 law that was very clear about animals' welfare and rights. He particularly cited the National Livestock Policy that sought to improve the livestock sub-sector as wanting in terms of welfare. He emphasized that issues of animal welfare and rights were multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral and urged participants that they should handle it in a cohesive way and not the traditional way and use a holistic approach.

Realizing First-Of-Its-Kind Plant-Based Alternative to Meat in Rwanda: Boosting Farmer Income Through New Nature-Positive Crops and Fighting Malnutrition in Rural Communities. Jean Paul Gisa, One Acre Fund, Rwanda

Jean Paul Gisa introduced One Acre Fund (Tubura) Alternative Protein Project and stated that since the food systems in Rwanda faced a downward spiral, such alternatives would address the issue. He elaborated that the majority of the region's poor were rural smallholder farmers who faced low staple crop yields and lacked economic opportunities. Many were therefore trapped in an ongoing cycle of poverty that they could not break through. Climate change was also jeopardizing yields and putting additional pressure on farmer income.

He mentioned that they were working to address environmental degradation because farmers lacked the means to invest in nature-positive, regenerative farming. As a result, in their efforts to survive, they often engaged in unsustainable practices that eroded the soil and converted more wild lands to farming.



Jean Paul continued by singling out other issues they were addressing, and pointed out protein-energy malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies that were common in rural communities. This could lead to health issues that limit opportunities for individuals to reach their full potential in life. He pointed out that affordable protein alternatives to meat were out of reach to these the low-income families.

He delved into the opportunity the alternative protein provides as a key driver of sustainable food systems by building a plant-based meat market in Rwanda. He then mentioned that since a growing demand for meat was expected in Africa as a source of protein, but most rural households were not able to afford it, this opportunity offered an alternative. With increased demand, this alternative plant-based meat was expected to transition farmers to more nature-positive and climate-resilient crops.

The project was aimed at three achievements: Firstly, climate resilience which involved growing nature-positive, resilient crops, secondly, farmer resilience through secured offtake for farmers of high-value crops, and lastly, nutrition where there was affordable, nutritious protein product for rural households. This was expected to improve and secure the livelihoods of more than 10,000 farmers, improving soil and climate resilience of land, and improve nutrition for more than 1 million rural households.

Jean Paul pointed out that there were fundamental entry barriers that included lack of market as the demand was not yet proven, behavioural change, uncertainty of potential scale, complex value chain where both supply and demand was scattered, difficulty in economies of scale, lack of technology and knowledge (plant-based meat technology does not exist in Rwanda), lack of supply as input crops were grown yet in Rwanda, meaning no knowledge and a big risk for farmers to start.

To overcome these challenges, the project was leveraging on One Acre Fund's partnership which was largest network of smallholder farmers in Africa which was firmly rooted in their rural communities and had a substantial value chain.



Delegates keenly following the conference proceedings

Panel Discussion: Diet Change for People, Animals and the Environment

Panel Moderator: Debbie Tripley, Global Director of Campaigns and Policy Advisor, Compassion in World Farm



Debbie Tripley

Global Director of Campaigns and Policy Advocacy
Compassion in World Farming

Panelists: Monica Chen, Factory Farming Awareness Coalition; Dr Victor Yamo, World Animal Protection; Dr Zeeshan Ali, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine; Prof. Charles Ssekya, St. Lawrence University; Jean Paul Gisa, One Acre Fund Rwanda, Taylor Quinn, Tailored Food.



Monica Chen | Factory Farming Awareness Coalition

Monica introduced her work which involved empowering the next generation with knowledge and training to end factory farming. She reflected that stakeholder's needed to bring in students to the factory farming space to make sure that the next generation would be enthusiastic about animal welfare. She continued that her organisation works with students of ages 14 to 22 in high school and college to shift behaviour and recruit them into their fellowship programme. The programme was partly theoretical and practical involving learning on the impact of factory farming and working with organisations on campaigns. They found that the environmental aspect of factory farming had been a way of connecting with ambitious students and to ensure successful campaigns.

She ended by urging organisations attending the conference who would want to work with students, to contact them for training so that they could partner in project work.

Zeeshan Ali introduced the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine based in Washington DC under the leadership of Dr Neil Bernard who had done extensive research on the importance of plant-based diet for chronic disease prevention such as diabetes and heart disease. He embarked on talking about what was the best food to eat and grow to keep humans and the planet healthy. He stated that humans needed to make sure that feeding habits and living practices should create a better environment for the current and the future generations.

The presenter continued that he had been traveling to India to raise awareness on traditional Indian plant based and vegetarian diet and how they could prevent or even reverse diseases like diabetes, heart disease and hypertension since they were seeing an epidemic proportion of these diseases in India.



Dr Zeeshan Ali | Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

He indicated that part of his work was to educate medical students both in the US and in India so that they could prepare the next generations of physicians who were able to speak to people about disease prevention, lifestyle changes, and medicine where nutrition plays such a big role.

The organization was empowering people to take charge of their health by eating a plant-based diet as research indicated that a plant-based diet was able to prevent and reverse most of the lifestyle diseases. It had a clinic at Bernard Medical Center where they saw patients and instead of prescribing medications they prescribed food like broccoli, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, legumes and fruits, and had seen profound changes. The organisation published studies in peer reviewed journals and did a lot of clinical research and their work could be found at www.pcrm.org.

He concluded by stating that plant-based diet was needed right now in Africa which



Taylor Quinn, Tailored Food

A food anthropologist, Taylor Quinn, had spent the previous seven years looking at the history and traditions of food in East, Western and Southern Africa and designing food based on culture and not on the western ideals even with the importation of KFC and McDonalds. Tailored had designed nutritious low-cost plant-based food starting in Liberia during Ebola taking to market fermented garri and soy-based porridge. The organisation scaled up soy-based porridge made with garri in Liberia, and it now sold to all the big school feeding programs in Liberia.

He mentioned that in Congo they focused on a protein rich food product that was part of Congolese culture, known as mbala pinda which was a Congolese style protein bar packaged in banana leaf. The product had never been commercialized and together with the World Food Programme (WFP) they set up 16 women's cooperative businesses to produce 100,000 of the mbala pinda protein bars every month for sale. They had since expanded to other markets and products.

He opined that in the history of cuisine in Africa there were beautiful plant-based food recipes that could be relied on to get inspiration to design food products.

Tailored Foods mostly worked with organisations like UNICEF, WFP and FAO. In Rwanda, they had been working with UNICEF to set up the food systems agenda for the country. He concluded by encouraging the organizations working with governments to help set new policies around animal farming in an ethical way and to consider the history of cuisine in order to get inspiration to develop plant-based food products that could be nutritious and taste good and be culturally relevant in the markets they work in.

QUESTION AND ANSWER (Q&A)

SESSION

Question 1: There was a nexus between high income and high consuming countries of animal protein. What needs to be done with high consuming countries to shift the livestock industry or shift people to plant based diets, and what would it take?

Monica Chen responded by stating that the United States of America (USA) was a country of immigrants coming from different places. She gave an example where in the colleges, she would ask the students, how many of them since moving to the United States, a wealthy and high-income country, had started to consume more animal products and all of them answered in the affirmative. She emphasized that the assumption that having cheaper alternatives to meat would encourage people to purchase them, was not true. This required a cultural shift about how people perceive animal-based products, and this would involve having conversations with people, working with the media as an advocacy tool, and doctors advising on the health benefits of eating plant-based diet. Zeeshan agreed that it was a problem and high-income areas like the USA and Europe were the trend setters. In Africa, countries like India and other developing countries, McDonald's, KFCs and other fast-food companies were becoming the trend setters due to media influence and advertisements. However, in USA, McDonald's was not considered as good food for the wealthy in the society.

The panellists remarked more people were shifting from their traditional diets (traditional grain, legumes, fruit or bean diet) to chicken. They emphasized that it was important to continue eating healthy plant-based foods and called for increased education and awareness towards this.

Question 2: The come back from agriculturalists have been that plant-based foods were not nutritious. They were ultra processed and have the same problems as the other processed foods that have the same amount but with meat on them. What were the issues that had emerged about plant-based foods in the EU and in the UK? How have they affected the market? How do we combat it?

Taylor acknowledged that there were concerns of ultra processed food either animal sourced or plant based and it was critical to examine how each was processed. He indicated that he had engaged with food companies over the years regarding the ingredients of their foods to ensure transparency with consumers on the ingredients of the products.

Prof. Ssekyewa referred to the nexus between high income and high consuming nations and noted that countries in Africa considered non communicable diseases as diseases of the rich. He elaborated that as an individual's income improved, they tended to abandon healthy food and cited an example of eating vegetables was considered a meal of the poor. He expressed hope that there was an attitude shift been seen among the educated. He explained that eating meat was considered festive in many communities in Africa and that packaged foods were shunned since they were considered synthetic, expensive or linked to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). Such processed foods were generally found in supermarkets frequented by the rich and were not found in small shops which are very popular in Africa.

A delegate, Tozie Zokufa, added by proposing initiative such as Meat-Free Mondays to as a good way forward to ensure reduction of meat consumption.

Another delegate, Wachira Kariuki, added that food advertising involved economic interests to make such food appear trendy, and consumer awareness was needed for people to understand that the food advertised was not as good as it was portrayed.

In her concluding remarks, Debbie Tripley, referred to the 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which made the link between the reduction of excess meat and dairy consumption as one of the most effective measures that could be taken for greenhouse gas emissions mitigation. She advised that going into Conference of Parties (COP) 28 of the UN climate change, it was important to know the action the group was going to ask the governments to take with some urgency. She stated that while cultural change and individual awareness were talked about, there were elements that did require action by government, and it would be key to collectively determine what those actions could be.



Panelists during the Panel Discussion: Diet Change for People, Animals and the Environment



SESSION 8: Wildlife And Environmental Conservation

Session Moderator: Dr. Tony Mudakikwa, Wildlife Veterinarian



Dr Tony Mudakikwa | Wildlife Veterinarian

Dr Mudakikwa welcomed delegates and speakers to the session and invited the first speaker on stage.

Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership Around Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda: Preventing Potential Economic Conservation, Public Health and Welfare Consequences, Dr. Gaspard Ndayisenga, Gorilla Doctors

Dr. Ndayisenga introduced his study by stating that dogs were indeed man's best friend. He warned, however, that when not taken care of a population of feral dogs could cause great damage to wild animals as they hunted for food. He mentioned that this was occurring with increase in human population in settlement close to the mountain gorillas.

The presenter stated that most dogs that were kept for crop or livestock protection received little care and were left to roam for food which led them to venture inside the park.

There had been great damage and reports of cases, from killed and injured animals to other animals that were of concern, like the endangered golden monkeys which were reported to have declining populations in the park. The goal of the study was to assess the damage done to animals in the park and determine the source of these dogs and teach owners on responsible dog ownership while minimizing risk of disease transmission at important human wildlife interfaces. There had been improvements to provide better opportunities to capture them and reunite them with their owners.



Dr Gaspard Ndayisenga, | Gorilla Doctors

The initiative to trap the dogs, did not show a decline, camera traps were set at the five (5) park entrances which showed a number of dogs going in and out of the park on a regular basis at certain times of the day. The team tried to reduce populations of dogs in the forest and also take them back to the owners.

With time, he mentioned, capture methods from 2017 had been improved using live cage traps in which a non-targeted species that was accidentally trapped could be safely released. Many dogs were found to be reproducing inside the park, therefore the puppies were captured and rehomed, and feral adults that could not be rehomed were euthanized.

In an effort to tackle the issues from the communities, the Gorilla Doctors partnered with RAB to do a trapping exercise of the stray dogs in the communities, and a survey was done to find out why they owned dogs. There were initiatives to educate the communities while conducting rabies vaccination campaigns.

Dr. Ndayisenga described the results from research that had been done recently, which highlighted a high risk of zoonotic and wildlife parasite infections from dogs and the need for monitoring and controlling parasites of domestic animals at this interface, which tended to be ignored. He further gave an example of *Taenia serialis* which was found in a golden monkey as a cause of death. This showed potential of disease transfer and how it affected wildlife populations.

He concluded that it was important to find long term solutions to problems caused by unconfined dogs, promote responsible dog ownership with multi sectoral approaches, and increase strategic partnerships to work together.

Mountain Gorilla Health and Conservation: the work of Gorilla Doctors in Rwanda, Dr Julius Nziza, Country Director – Gorilla Doctors, Rwanda



Dr Nziza gave a brief history on how Gorilla Doctors, initially called the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project, began. He reflected that with the help of Dianna Fossey who gathered support through Morris Animal Foundation, the first Veterinarian, Jim Foster was brought in. Presently, Gorilla Doctors had 12 veterinarians working in Rwanda (with its registered headquarters in Musanze), Uganda and Congo, with other facilities around the region.

Dr Julius Nziza,

Country Director
Gorilla Doctors, Rwanda

Gorilla Doctors' mission focused on conserving the wild Eastern Gorillas through life saving veterinary medicine and science using a One-Health approach. Dr. Nziza further highlighted the two sub-species they focused which were the Eastern Mountain Gorillas and Lowland Eastern Gorilla.

Dr. Nziza emphasized on the importance of restoring gorilla populations, which had been declining, to a self-sustaining population. He noted that the number of gorillas had increased from 250 to 1060 individuals. He then highlighted that of the gorilla population which was growing at 4% every year, Gorilla Doctors had contributed to 2% of this growth.

The presenter shared several accomplishments including over 55 clinical interventions to treat injured or ill gorillas, with over 40 gorillas rescued from snares since 1995.

They had also set up the first on site medical clinic for park staff and tourists.

He also discussed the various routine health checks, health monitoring and evaluation and clinical interventions which were only performed when it was life threatening and human induced. He proudly noted that snaring activities were no longer an issue of concern. However, due to poaching of the gorillas, there were orphans that needed rehabilitation.

The speaker concluded by encouraging capacity building to equip Africans to take matters of gorilla health into their hands with the use of One-Health, public health interventions, wildlife and zoonotic research.

Welfare of Aquatic Animals, Wasseem Emam, Ethical Seafood Research



Wasseem Emam | Ethical Seafood Research

Wasseem Emam started by discussing the importance of caring about marine welfare since it affected biodiversity and ecosystem health and played a vital role in the balancing of aquatic ecosystems. He further described how marine life was involved in the regulation of other aquatic populations, removing impurities through filter feeding aquatic animals, and making it essential to conserve them and sustainably manage them to avoid exploitation.

He explained that fish were in fact complex creatures, were capable of learning intricate tasks, retaining memory and having social relationships while some could recognize other individuals by sight. He also showed that fish could feel pain and had similar nociceptors for pain just like mammals and birds and had shown improvement under analgesics.

He further explained that other than those fished in the wild and farmed for food, fish were also used for laboratory studies and ornamental purposes. There was need to focus on farmed fish due to the welfare challenges experienced. In the African perspective, there was growth of increased fish farming which was a great opportunity to incorporate welfare into best management practices in aquaculture.

The speaker briefly highlighted key welfare issues in aquaculture which included water quality, handling procedures, stocking density, transportation and slaughter. He highlighted what good welfare should look like for fish. Due to a great variation of species, welfare needed to consider the various requirements for different species.

He finished off by highlighting work done in Africa which included carrying out surveys in tilapia fish farms focusing on Kenya and Egypt due to the growth of fish farming in these countries. Aquaculture therefore required a collaborative effort with different stakeholders to improve fish welfare since it was also linked to human wellbeing.

One Health, A responsible Approach, Dr Linda Evans, Director of Global Animal Welfare, Society for Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANA)

Linda Evans introduced SPANA and stated that it had been protecting animals for 100 years, and recently launched a new 5-year strategy focusing One-Health and responsible programming, highlighting the link between animal, people and the environment.



Dr Linda Evans | Director of Global Animal Welfare
SPANA

Dr Evans stated that SPANA worked with working animals of various species which were important to the communities. She continued by indicating that since many owners could not afford public veterinary care, poor health and welfare could have implications on people and the community which included risks of disease incidences to other animals and humans and reduced time working or at school leading to lower income.

She also said that for countries there was loss of livelihoods and reduction in food security and supply chains since they helped with transport, and infrastructure.

She highlighted SPANA's vision to attain *'a world where every working animal live a healthy and happy life'* and mission which was *'to transform the welfare of working animals in a world where animals, people and the environment are respected and thrive'*.

Their new strategy focused on three goals:

- **Welfare** – the quality of life improves for more working animals globally at a greater scale than ever before,
- **Worth** – the contribution working animals make to the rest of the world is recognized and valued,
- **World** – the world of working animals thrives and grows sustainably as part of the nexus of animals, people and the environment.

She reminded participants that quality of life required that animals were recognized as sentient beings and for their value. It was therefore important to prevent suffering and pain, have good prophylactic programs to avoid repeated suffering and the use of euthanasia to relieve intolerable pain and suffering. There also needed to be behaviour changes of people and increasing knowledge on animal welfare.

She highlighted some of their focus priorities which were centred on increasing access to quality veterinary services to make it accessible to people in remote areas, building capacity for veterinarians and community health workers, provision of education for human behaviour changes for children, youth and adults, and to prevent working animals from suffering from preventable causes. Another focus was to build a tool to measure or quantify the quality of life using a pain recognition tool especially for animals that hide pain.

Dr Evans further stated that working animals experienced various challenges including a lack of surveillance which was risky, as it was a large population and problems would not be identified easily due to lack of identification hence poor traceability. Working animals were only presented when sick or when clinics were made available and some drugs were often not accessible to the owners.

She highlighted the importance of biosecurity, as contamination of the environment could lead to emerging diseases that could be identified when significant with high costs of disease eradication. She finalized by emphasizing the importance of using fecal egg counts to determine levels of worm burden before the use of anthelmintics and cautioned against unnecessary use of antibiotics.



Delegates keenly following the conference proceedings



SESSION 9 B: AU-IBAR: Coordination, Harmonization, and Scaling of Africa's Intervention in the Delicate Balance of Animal Welfare, Climate Change and Development

The Moderator introduced the African Union - InterAfrica Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) session and conveyed greetings from the Director of AU-IBAR, Dr Huyam Salih, and the AU-IBAR team.

AU-IBAR: Championing the Animal Resources in Africa: Exploring the role of AU-IBAR in Animal Welfare, Climate Change, and Development, Dr Mwenda Mbaka, Animal Welfare Expert, AU-IBAR

Mwenda Mbaka began his presentation by giving an overview of the African Union - Inter-Africa Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). He mentioned it was a specialized technical office of the African Union Commission (AUC) and was headed by the Director who reported to the AUC through the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture.



Dr Mwenda Mbaka | Animal Welfare Expert
AU-IBAR

He indicated that since its establishment in 1951 to combat rinderpest, the organisation had evolved to take up a mandate that covered all aspects of animal resources including livestock, fisheries, wildlife, across Africa. As a continental body, AU-IBAR worked at regional levels with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and national level with Member States.

He informed participants that the vision of AU-IBAR was an Africa where animal resources significantly reduce poverty and hunger.

The mandate of the organization was to support and coordinate animal resource utilization. He stated that the specific areas of mandate included health, resource management, investment, standards, capacity building, knowledge dissemination, and emergency support. The organization's mission was to provide leadership in developing animal resources for Africa. He stated that the core values were teamwork, transformation, transparency, accountability, and integrity.

He introduced the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA) mentioning that its vision was an Africa where animals were treated as sentient beings, and as a leading continent in implementation of good animal welfare practices for a competitive and sustainable animal resource sector. He outlined its strategic objectives as behaviour change, educating, informing, promoting awareness, advocacy and good practices, that are aligned to OIE [WOAH] standards and strengthening effective action on animal welfare.

Dr Mbaka also introduced the Animal Health Strategy for Africa, which was a framework for delivering a sustainable animal health system in Africa. The strategy was aligned to global, continental and regional frameworks including; AU Agenda 2063, Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), International Health Regulations (IHR) and World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

He explained that though there were seven strategic objectives, the presentation focused on Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen Animal Health interventions to address current, emerging and re-emerging issues of public health concern - Promote the One Health Approach; mitigate impacts of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), strengthen safety control systems for animal feeds and foods of animal origin – all contributing to One Welfare.

He then linked with AU-IBAR's work to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Res 5/1 Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development - Nexus Resolution. He stated that the resolution acknowledged '*...that animal welfare can contribute to addressing environmental challenges, promoting the "One Health" approach and achieving the SDGs*'. Additionally, the resolution noted "*that the health and welfare of animals, sustainable development and the environment are connected to human health and well-being,*' It also acknowledged '*(...the increasing need to address these connections through the One - Health approach, among other holistic approaches.*' Finally, the resolution acknowledged "*... that there is a strong body of science supporting animal welfare.*'

He remarked that AU-IBAR valued collaboration with stakeholders such as the AAWC, Pan African Donkey Conference (PADCO) and others to achieve a sustainable and healthy environment and urged the delegates to work together to balance animal welfare, climate change, and development in Africa.

Regarding next steps for AU-IBAR, Dr Mbaka cited the promotion of One Health and One Welfare whereby AU-IBAR established an inclusive, integrated and harmonized continental One Health data and information systems to inform One Welfare, and to build technical and infrastructural capacities to support One Health and One Welfare. It also aimed to foster strategic partnerships and alliances for targeted investment to implement One Health and One Welfare. Another step was to work towards promoting an inclusive and community centric One Health and One Welfare strategies to enhance awareness creation and advocacy. On AWSA, he emphasized that it was focused on Africa – centric narratives to promote animal welfare and was tailored to cater for the needs of the African communities.

In conclusion, Dr Mbaka mentioned that the transformation included increased awareness creation and advocacy, improved governance and improved welfare of animals, well-being of people and environment. The aspiration was a paradigm shift built on collaboration, coordination, capacity building and communication.

Navigating the Delicate Balance of Animal Welfare, Climate Change, and Development: Africa's Response to the Effect of the Triple Global Crises on the Feed and Fodder Sector, Dr Sarah Ashanut Ossiya, Resilient African Feed

Sarah Ashanut Ossiya began by referring to the conference theme and noted its alignment with the agenda to address Africa's disarticulated feed and fodder sector. She stated that the triple global crises coupled with Covid-19 Pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict had exacerbated global food and nutrition insecurity. She mentioned that feed and fodder constituted 60 – 70% of the cost of animal production hence it was an area greatly affected and this impacted on livestock, livelihoods and production of animal sourced foods.

She stated that they provided important insights to the weakness in African response to crises as well as the opportunities for where Africa could strengthen its feed and fodder systems. Future climatic challenges were inevitable and definitive urgent action was needed for better animal welfare outcomes.

Dr Ossiya examined the underlying causes of the challenges. She pointed out that there were weak, fragmented and disarticulated feed and fodder systems; dependence on external value chains which had been disrupted; limited data for decision making; inadequate policy, legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks; existing but poorly harnessed models for upscale; inadequate investments; exclusion of women and youth from gainful participation; and negative effects on access and cost of quality animal sourced foods especially by women and children.

She reported on the effects of the recent drought crisis and mentioned that the last three droughts had each in turn, as they occurred, been declared the worst in living memory. The first occurrence was the 2010/2011 drought where 250,000 people lost their lives, The second occurrence was the 2016/2017 drought where the combined effects of less precipitation and high temperatures made experts declare it to be of the severity of a drought that occurs once every 250 years in observational records (Xue Han, Yan Li, Weidong Yu and Licheng Feng (2017). The third and the latest drought took place from late 2020 to 2022 and early 2023 which had the unprecedented feature of being the first with five consecutive rainy season failures, a climatic event not seen in the last 40 years, with massive loss of livestock and wildlife. This trend indicated that future droughts might be worse.

The presenter reiterated that some mild droughts had resulted in severe socio-economic crises due to confounding effects of other factors including conflict, cumulative erosion of resilience capacities, and other crisis. An example is the mild 1983 – 1984 drought that resulted in over 1,000,000 human deaths. She further noted that the negative effects of climate change were exacerbated by other crises.

Dr Ossiya further mentioned that the landscape of the Covid-19 pandemic, locust invasion, the Russia-Ukraine war all had compounding effects. She informed participants that an estimated loss of 9.5 million livestock in the Horn of Africa occasioned by the drought, obliterated a financial equivalent of over two billion dollars leading to huge market failures. This was equivalent to twice the total food import budget for Kenya (which according to KNBS stood at 1.2 billion USD in 2022) or nearly thrice the export value of coffee from Uganda, Africa's largest coffee exporter, which earned 876 million USD in 2022 (Food Business Africa).

She cited that the genetic resources developed over decades were key to adaptation to climate change, and for livelihoods and incomes especially among pastoralists and small holders who produce over 80 to 90% of meat and milk. The major disruption of ecosystem services of animals, including water recharge systems and nutrient recycling and soil health were a key cause of increasing flooding in livestock areas. There was loss of millions of litres of milk leaving 1.6 million underage children malnourished. A huge loss was experienced in incomes for downstream processing and retailing businesses, with many unable to service loans, and passing costs to consumers, linking them to the climatic effects on welfare of livestock.

Regarding the effects of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine on feed and fodder, Dr Ossiya informed participants that it had disrupted global trade dynamics, including the availability of essential agricultural inputs. The conflict had had cascading effects on feed and fodder supply chains, adding complexity to an already fragile system. Africa was highly vulnerable due to its over-reliance on imported inputs.

As a response to these crises, the presenter informed delegates that AU-IBAR and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) established the Resilient African Feed and Fodder Systems Project RAFFS Project. This emergency initiative aimed to understand and address the effects of the 3Cs (Covid-19, climate shocks, and the conflict between Ukraine and Russia) on African feed and fodder systems, which were pivotal in Africa, as they constituted 60 – 70% of the cost of animal production.

She stated that while focusing on three (3) severely affected regions and six (6) AU Member States - Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Cameroon -, RAFFS Project aimed to enhance AU-IBAR's capacity to address feed and fodder system inefficiencies across the continent. She highlighted that good animal welfare practices were integral to animals' efficient utilization of feed and fodder, therefore the project would also enhance AU-IBAR's coordination of the implementation of AWSA would ensure the sustainability of interventions.

Dr Ossiya concluded by remarking that very few countries had an articulated feed and fodder sector and industry. This was due to lack of institutional capacity and contractual investment mechanisms to enforce contracts to deliver the feed and fodder critical to animal welfare. Africa's response to these crises was key to demonstrating commitment to forging a sustainable One Welfare linking animal welfare, human wellbeing and environmental health.

The AU ODHAA Project: Enhancing Data Management for Sustainable Evidence - Based Animal, Human and Environmental Health Interventions, Dr Mary Mbole-Kariuki, Technology, Innovation and Skills Development Expert, AU-IBAR



Mary Mbole-Kariuki began by giving a background of her topic and informed participants that Africa was a livestock-rich continent representing about one-third of the world's livestock population. The livestock sector contributed between 30% and 80% to countries' agricultural GDP and approximately 350 million people were directly dependent on livestock for their incomes and livelihoods. Livestock products such as milk and meat (the richest sources of protein) were currently contributing up to 13% of the world's calorie intake. She asserted that the sector held promise to alleviate food and nutritional insecurity and poverty.

She presented the situational analysis to the participants citing that 75% of emerging human infectious disease outbreaks were zoonotic, and that there was a 63% jump in disease spread from animals to people in Africa. Dr Mbole-Kariuki stated that Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) was a silent pandemic, causing around 4.95 million deaths globally as reported in 2019. She then emphasized One Health as a concept that could not be ignored as there was need to combine the already existing segmented actions towards the health of human beings, animals and the environment through communication, collaboration coordination and capacity building.

The presenter remarked that the lack of data sharing platforms and granularity of data has affected one health governance and management in Africa. As a result, AU-IBAR introduced the African Union One Health Data Alliance Africa (AU-OHDAA), funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), initiated in January 2023 and projected to run until December 2024.

The vision of the project was an Africa where the health of humans, animals, and ecosystems were viewed as interconnected and were collaboratively managed. Its intention was to build a data-driven culture in Africa in the animal health space across the continent where information sharing formed the bedrock of decision making in One - Health matters. The desired impact for the project was to have efficient and effective health systems contributing to reducing socio-economic effects of One Health.

The project focused on three main outcomes. The first outcome was to achieve an efficient One Health digital platform to guide multi-sectoral decision making, the second was well trained and robust One Health Expertise for delivery of Effective health systems, and the third outcome was a robust and enabling One Health policy environment for improved One Health Governance and management. The cross-cutting themes were gender equality, inclusivity and climate change.

The project's the overall objective was to ensure that the digitalized One Health governance and management in Africa were improved. The specific objectives included: a continental One health information policy and one health information architecture was developed and endorsed; technological and institutional prerequisites for digitalized One - Health governance and management was operationalized; and foundations for building human capacities for operationalization and maintenance of One - Health digital information was established.

She explained that the main idea was to come up with one continental platform that would be used by all Member States regarding One - Health as the focus was not just to collect data but to allow data sharing, analysis and feedback. She asserted that it was time for Africa to step into the space of being smart in terms of data-driven actions and develop data competencies. That had to be the continent's bedrock in terms of data collection, analytics and even feedback – not scientific but in an easily understandable way.

The beneficiaries included veterinarians and animal health workers, farmers and agribusinesses, policy makers, researchers, women, youth and pastoralists.

The guiding principles of the project that were developed included intersectoral collaboration, sustainability and resilience, data scalability, community engagement, equity and inclusion, data sharing and exchange, evidence-based policy and practice, and data standards and interoperability.

She explained the One - Health Information Architecture that include data standards, data analytics, data informatics, data governance, feedback loop and operational framework.

She stated that they enabled digital One - Health coordination environment and sustainability through One - Health Secretariat and the African Union One - Health Technical Working groups. She added that they also carried out capacity building of digital One - Health technical competencies which includes data analytics, data informatics and risk communication.

She cited that animal welfare as an essential missing piece and concluded that to promote One Health and One Welfare, there was a need to include it. She ended by encouraging delegates to be part of the architecture under the capacity building segment as animal welfare experts.

Aquatic Resources and Animal Nutrition Welfare in a Changing Climate: AU-IBAR's Perspectives, Dr Nelly Isyagi, Fisheries Trade and Investment Officer, AU-IBAR

Nelly Isyagi remarked that when animals were mentioned, people tend to think of terrestrial animals and stated that the assumption was that aquatic resources would provide food for the terrestrial animals bearing in mind the emerging climate change issues. She clarified that Africa's animal resources included both terrestrial and aquatic animals and the interconnectedness implied that the welfare, nutrition and health of all aquatic animals needed to be taken care of. She highlighted that no matter how small, all animals were essential.

Dr Isyagi stated AU-IBAR's perspective was to sustainably manage and harness aquatic resources. She highlighted that AU-IBAR focuses on the ecosystem approach and ecosystem health through optimum environment for animal production, adequate food and nutrition for all Africa's animals, adequate and good quality drinking water and safety of aquatic sourced foods and animal feeds.

She highlighted that this focus was encapsulated in AU-IBAR's *Policy Framework and Reforms Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS)*. The vision of the program was sustainable management and utilization of fisheries and aquaculture resources through the creation of a conducive and enabling environment for equitable, economic and social development in Africa.

The pillars of PFRS included Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use; small-scale fisheries development; sustainable aquaculture development; responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing; strengthened regional and sub-regional cooperation; awareness enhancing; human-capacity development; and high seas fisheries.

The presenter put emphasis on the ecosystem approach and mentioned that AU-IBAR had taken actions towards aquatic animal health and welfare component through FishGov, aquatic biodiversity and blue economy. The blue economy not only looked at sustaining the production in fisheries and aquaculture, but also expanding the opportunities such as establishing zones in aquatic ecosystems in game parks and other marine protected areas. She mentioned that aquatic animal health and welfare components applied to all creatures great and small, and that all needed to be sustained.

She emphasised the ecosystem approach citing the importance of food chains in ecosystems and considering ecosystem health as a way of sustaining aquatic population health and welfare. For instance, corals were animals that fell sick, were exploited, their survival affected by climate change, and acidity in water which also affected their availability of feeds to the aquatic animals, subsequently impacting on productivity and income generated.

The presenter mentioned some threats to aquatic animal welfare and the ability of Africa's aquatic resources as environmental degradation, pollution and climate change.

She concluded that to ensure benefits continued to accrue from Africa's aquatic resources and Blue Economy, water resource management practices in Africa needed to be expanded to cater for the needs of aquatic living resources and the use of aquatic resources needed to be optimized for animal feed and fodder production. Concerted efforts and advocacy were therefore required, and an example was the Aquaculture Africa Conference held every year as well as other continental and regional aquatic conferences. She invited delegates to the next Aquaculture Africa Conference scheduled in November 2023 in Zambia.

Navigating the Opportunities in the Nexus between Animal Welfare and Sustainable Animal Production in Africa: The Relevance of the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa, Dr. Mwenda Mbaka, Animal Welfare Expert, AU-IBAR

Mwenda Mbaka began his presentation by deliberating on the importance of animal welfare in Africa and recognised Africa's deep-rooted reliance on animals for livelihood and underscored the intertwined relationship between animals and human well-being. Agriculture, which formed the backbone of many African economies, was heavily reliant on animals. Animals were a source of food security and had numerous cultural, social and economic significance in Africa.



The presenter informed participants that the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA) was aimed at addressing animal welfare considerations and was AU-BAR's commitment to mainstream animal welfare in Africa. Its goal was to transform the animal resources sector through the adoption of good animal welfare practices for human welfare, sustainable livelihoods, poverty reduction and economic growth. Africa was developing rapidly and it was therefore crucial to integrate animal welfare into development efforts to ensure sustainable livelihoods, food security, cultural preservation, and environmental sustainability.

He stated that animals derived their wellbeing from the environment. Healthy animals contributed to a stable food supply, reducing insecurity. With food, people could engage in other socio-cultural issues, political, trade among others. He added that promoting sustainable animal production practices mitigated environmental degradation.

AWSA was launched in 2017 and one of its cornerstones was the acknowledgment of animals as sentient beings hence recognising the moral and ethical responsibility towards their well-being. AWSA's role promoted awareness raising about the importance of animal welfare across Africa through education and outreach, and fostered a deeper understanding of the ethical and practical aspects of animal welfare. It also facilitated advocacy and mainstreaming. AWSA actively advocated for the inclusion of animal welfare considerations in policies, and legislation and it supported governments and stakeholders in mainstreaming animal welfare in SDGs. Lastly, it encouraged the adoption of good animal welfare practices at all levels of animal production which contributed to improved livelihoods and sustainable animal production.

Dr Mbaka relayed AWSA's work in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through animal welfare. AWSA aligned with various SDGs, including Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, and Life on Land and upheld that animal welfare contributed significantly to the global development targets.

The speaker mentioned AU-IBAR's commitment to the implementation of AWSA through collaborations with governments, NGOs, and stakeholders as it was a shared responsibility. This involved capacity building, policy development, and public awareness to navigate the nexus between animal welfare and sustainable animal production in Africa. He then lauded the AAWC as a key platform for the convergence of animal welfare, environment and sustainable development matters in Africa and noted that over the years the conferences had consistently addressed these critical themes.

In his concluding remarks, the speaker referred to the UNEA 5/1 Resolution, Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development – Nexus and highlighted it as a significant global milestone in the interconnection between animals, environment and sustainable development. This resolution offered Africa a unique opportunity to leverage its rich biodiversity for sustainable development. This was through mainstreaming animal welfare into their policies and practices; prioritizing animal welfare to enhance sustainability of its agriculture, conservation, and food security; and collaborating with international partners and organizations to access resources for a sustainable future.

Progress Report on Outcomes of Pan African Donkey Conference (PADCO), Samuel Theuri, Brooke East Africa

Samuel Theuri informed delegates that the Pan African Donkey Conference (PADCO) took place in Dar es Salam, Tanzania, 2022 under the theme, 'Donkeys Now and in the Future'. It was jointly convened by AU-IBAR, Brooke, The Donkey Sanctuary, World Horse Welfare and SPANA. The conference was focused on addressing the threat of mass slaughter of donkeys in Africa which there had been many calls and attempts at various interventions.

He referred to the 3rd Africa Animal Welfare Conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in September 2019, which recommended that international donkey skin trade to be banned forthwith as it contributed to serious violation of animal welfare for donkeys, and that international donkey skin trade be categorized as an economic crime. The presenter also cited the IGAD Regional Conference on Donkey Skin Trade held in November 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya which urged the governments of Kenya and Tanzania to consider enacting legislation to ban all trade in donkey skins, meat and associated products to allow the population of donkeys to recover from the steep decline since the slaughter started.



Samuel Theuri | Brooke East Africa

He also reflected on the 4th Africa Animal Welfare Conference held virtually in September, 2020, where a resolution was passed calling upon African governments to immediately ban the sale of donkeys and donkey skin trade from their countries as it had serious socio-economic threat to donkey-dependent communities, and urgently take donkey protection measures including the establishment and effective implementation of supporting policy and legislation.

Lastly, he made reference to the resolution made at ECOWAS Regional Donkey Skin Trade Conference held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in 2021, which recommended that donkey skin trade should be banned. Thereafter, ECOWAS ministers affirmed that it was important to rethink the slaughter and sale of the donkey skin in one of their resolutions.

The speaker then presented to delegates the key take away from Pan-African Donkey Conference, which was the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Donkeys Now and in the Future, calling for “... *an AUC resolution for a 15-year moratorium on commercial slaughter of donkeys for the skins, development of an Africa donkey strategy on donkey exploitation, production and productivity and inclusion in global development agenda.*”

As an outcome of PADCO, the following steps had been taken:

- Briefed the AU-IBAR's Coordination Committee of the African Platform for Animal Welfare (CCAPAW).
- A briefing meeting with AU-IBAR Director in June, 2023.
- Briefing the International Coalition for Working Equids (ICWE).
- One-on-one meetings with the governments to strengthen the support around the declaration including, sensitization meetings with government of Senegal in April 2023, sensitization. The meetings included meetings with the governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria in May 2023.
- Sensitization meetings with government of Zimbabwe and Ethiopia in July 2023
- Sensitization of Africa Diplomatic Corps Group in September 2023 held in Kenya.
- The preparation of technical documents in line with Specialised Technical Committee STC templates was work in progress and the preparation the Africa Donkey Strategy was due to start any time.

In conclusion, the speaker informed the participants that the aim was to have the Dar es Salam Declaration adopted at the Specialized Technical Committee of AUC, and ultimately at the AU Heads of States Summit in 2024.

To end this session, a delegate commented that according to FAO, 60% of unutilised arable land was in Africa. Based on this, he mentioned that Africa had rangelands that could produce animals sustainably but the problem was in their management, since they were getting degraded at an alarming rate. He remarked that it was key for Africa to see how it would manage its rangelands so that they could ensure the production of enough feed for their animals.





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SESSION 10: Conclusion and Way Forward

Resolutions of the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference

- THAT the AAWC lobbies for policies mainstreaming animal welfare in the continent's development agenda, while incorporating ethical and spiritual aspects, in promoting the transformation of sustainable food systems towards eliminating intensive agricultural systems and adoption of indigenous food systems.
- THAT the AAWC through the AUC champions for the adoption and implementation of livestock production systems that caters for the welfare of animals.
- THAT the AAWC through the AUC champions endorsement and adoption of the 'Dar es Salaam Declaration' of the 2022 Pan-African Donkey Conference, by the African Union Heads of State Summit in implementing a ban on donkey slaughter for skins and other donkey derived products and ensuring the inclusion of donkeys and donkey owners welfare issues in the implementation of Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa.
- THAT the AAWC champions and lobbies for the development and implementation of a coordinated Disaster Management Plan to cater for animals affected by disasters in Africa.
- THAT the AAWC promotes faith-based dialogue and an increased role of religion in animal welfare education and awareness.
- THAT the AAWC in partnership with UNEP continues promoting and coordinating CSO engagement in Africa for enhanced human wellbeing, animal welfare and environmental protection.
- THAT AAWC champions for the development of policies that promote the use of alternatives to animals in education, research and testing.
- THAT AAWC champions for the development of policies and legal frameworks to address dog population control, human-wildlife conflict and conservation of aquatic animals.



Closing Remarks, Dr Olivier Kamana, Permanent Secretary (PS), Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Republic of Rwanda

The PS began by expressing his joy to be present for the closing ceremony of the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference - Action 2023.

He noted that there were 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16% of the global population. He added that Africa was the continent with the youngest population worldwide with 70% of sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 30. With that, there appeared to be an inevitable increase in urbanization and infrastructure development that was envisaged to continue for the next 20-30 years. He added that with the increase in population, there was bound to be an increased demand for animal protein, which could only be satisfied by increasing the livestock.



Dr Olivier Kamana | Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Republic of Rwanda

He noted that the FAO predicted a need for increased conversion of forests into farmland. And since more forests were to be turned into agricultural land, there would be an increased demand for water leading to scarcity due to decreased forest cover. He stated that it would be fundamental to integrate the needs of the people, animal and the environment to live in a healthy interlinked ecosystem.

Dr Kamana then highlighted the increase in interaction between wildlife, domestic animals and humans had increased the chance of zoonotic disease transmission. He cited that 60.3% of emerging infectious diseases were zoonotic in nature and that 71.8% of the zoonoses were emerging infectious diseases coming from wildlife.

He observed that the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference had, for the last three days, been a refreshing opportunity for the discussion of ideas, sharing experiences and learning lessons from professionals and practitioners from different parts of the world, especially on the need for humans, animals and the environment to continue co-existing mutually especially in this rapidly changing 21st century.

He emphasized Rwanda's keenness to some of the key recommendations that have emerged and captured in the resolutions thereof.

Dr Kamana concluded thanking the organizers of the conference again for choosing Rwanda as the host country and he hoped that the delegates would have time to tour the city of Kigali and behold its amazing rich features and history.

Lastly, he declared the conference officially closed, and sincerely thank the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) for their tireless effort in making the conference a success.



Conference Programme



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Agriculture
& Animal Resources



7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference – Action 2023

Theme: *Navigating the delicate balance of animal welfare, climate change and development: concerted actions towards a healthy and sustainable environment*

Venue : Sainte Famille Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

Date: 25 -27 September 2023

PROGRAMME

Note: The time indicated here is Rwanda Time (UTC+2)

Day 1: Monday 25 September 2023	
Conference Moderators: Jean Claude Masengesho and Josiah Ojwang	
OPENING SESSION	
08.00-08.30 a.m.	Arrival and registration of delegates (Conference Secretariat)
08.30-08.45 a.m.	Preliminaries - Moderator
08.45-09.00 a.m.	Conference Overview and Theme Exposition: Wachira Kariuki, ANAW
09.00-09.20 a.m.	Welcome Remarks by Conference Co-hosting Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. James Nkansah Obrempong, Board Chair, Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)• Dr Huyam Ahmed Mohammed Elamin Salih, Director, African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)



AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulf Bjornholm, Chief, Civil Society Unit, United Nations Environment Programme
09.20-09.40 a.m.	<p>Goodwill Messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marianne Steele, CEO, The Donkey Sanctuary • Wolf Gordon Clifton, Executive Director, Animal People • Emmanuel Ngumbi, African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW)-Giraffe Centre • Dr Samuel Wakhusama, Regional Representative for Eastern and Horn of Africa, World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)
09.40-09.55 a.m.	An International Outlook on Climate Change, Animal Welfare and Sustainable Development, Debbie Tripley , Global Director of Campaigns and Policy Advocacy, Compassion in World Farming
09.55-10.00	Special remarks by Conference Organizing Committee Chair, Tennyson Williams , Director for Africa, World Animal Protection
10.00-10.30 a.m.	Keynote Address and Official Opening: Dr Olivier Kamana , Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Republic of Rwanda
10.30-11.00 a.m.	Tea/Coffee Break (Group photo)
<p>SESSION 1: Farm and working animals. 11.00 a.m-1.00 p.m. Session Moderator: Dr Solomon Onyango, Country Director, The Donkey Sanctuary-Kenya</p>	
11.00-11.15 a.m.	Presentation 1: Cage Free Campaigns in Africa, Aurelia Adhiambo , Africa Coordinator, Open Wing Alliance
11.15-11.30 a.m.	Presentation 2: The Global Donkey Skin Trade: its impacts in Africa and a Call to Action to support a Pan African 15-year moratorium on the trade, Dr Otieno Mtula , Africa Campaigns Manager, The Donkey Sanctuary
11.30 a.m.-11.45 p.m.	Presentation 3: Case Study of WTG-ANAW Community Focused Donkey Welfare Project in Kenya, Dr Dennis Bahati , Programmes Manager, ANAW
11.45 a.m.-12.00 p.m.	Presentation 4: Donkeys: Case study of past, present and future use in Africa, Dr Bojia Duguma , Country Representative, Donkey Sanctuary Ethiopia





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12.00 p.m. – 12.15 p.m.	Presentation 5: Livestock Animals, Environment and Sustainable Development in Rwanda, Dr Fabrice Ndayisenga , Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)
12.15-1.00 p.m.	Q and A
1.00-2.00 p.m.	Lunch
SESSION 2: Welfare of animals in disasters 2.00-3.00 p.m.	
Session Moderator: Tennyson Williams , Director for Africa, World Animal Protection	
2.00-2.15 p.m.	Presentation 1: Welfare of animals in disasters in Africa, Dr Judy Kimaru , Director, Action for Protection of Animals Africa (APAA)
2.15-2.30 p.m.	Presentation 2: Enhancing Livestock dependent communities' preparedness to challenges of climate change, Dr Raphael Kinoti , CEO, Brooke EA
2.30-2.45 p.m.	Presentation 3: Animal welfare challenges and opportunities during disaster situations in Africa, Dr Laurien Ntamugabumwe , Rwanda Council of Veterinary Doctors (RCVD)
2.45-3.00 p.m.	Q and A
SESSION 3: Implementation status on UNEA's Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution. 3.00-4.00 p.m.	
Session Moderator: Isaiah Otieno , Senior Information Technology Assistant, UNEP	
3.00-3.20 p.m.	Presentation 1, Dr Abdelkader Bensada , UNEP
3.20-3.40 p.m.	Présentation 2, Dr Rebeca Garcia Pinillos , UNEP
3.40-4.00 p.m.	Discussion/Q and A
4.00-4.30 p.m.	Tea/Coffee Break
SESSION 4: Faith based perspectives on animal welfare and environmental conservation. 4.30-5.45 p.m.	
Session Moderator: Dr Mary Agutu , Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Veterinary Board	
4.30-4.45 p.m.	Presentation 1: A general outlook on faith-based perspectives on animal welfare: Joyce D' Silva





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4.45-5.00 p.m.	Presentation 2: Religious perspectives on environment preservation in Africa: Prof. Beatrice Okyere-Manu , University of Kwa Zulu-Natal, South Africa
5.00-5.20 p.m.	Presentation 4 (Joint presentation): How NGOs can responsibly partner with religious communities to promote peaceful coexistence with the natural world and non-human animals, Prof. Janet Rumfelt , Regis University, Dr Katherine Baxter , CEO ANAW-USA, and Dr M.D Kinoti , Regis University
5.20-5.45 p.m.	Q and A

*******END OF DAY ONE*******

Day 2: Tuesday 26 September, 2023

SESSION 5 : United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

09.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.

Session Moderator: Isaiah Otieno, Senior Information Technology Assistant, UNEP

09.00-09.30 a.m.	Introduction to UNEP, Ulf Bjornholm , UNEP
09.30-10.00 a.m.	Opportunities for MGS to engage – Isaiah Otieno , Senior Information Technology Assistant, UNEP
10.00-10.30 a.m.	Question and Answer session
10.30-11.00 a.m.	Tea/Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:30 am	The Sixth session of United Nations Environment Assembly, Ulf Bjornholm , UNEP
11.30-1.00 p.m.	African Major Groups' outcomes of 19 session of AMCEN and preparations for UNEA 6, David Munene
1.00-2.00 p.m.	Lunch

SESSION 6: Emerging trends in education and research

2.00-3.30 p.m.

Session Moderator: Dr Mwenda Mbaka, Animal Welfare Expert, AU-IBAR

2.00-2.15 p.m.	Presentation 1: Bridging the Teaching Gap: Making Animal Welfare Education Accessible with Holistic Teaching Materials, Carolyn Breitenbach , WTS
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2.15-2.30 p.m.	Presentation 2: Implementing better training for veterinarians: Resources and strategies, Nick Jukes , Coordinator - InterNICHE
2.30-2.45 p.m.	Presentation 3: Findings from the 2021-2022 survey to determine the institutional preparedness of African countries to eliminate rabies by 2030, Dr Kavosa Mudoga , Action for the Protection of Animals in Africa (APAA)
2.45-3.00 p.m.	Presentation 4: Revolutionizing Animal Welfare Education in Rwanda: A transformative journey for animal wellbeing, Dr Emmanuel Irimaso , University of Rwanda, School of Veterinary Medicine
3.00-3.30 p.m.	Q and A
3.30-4.00 p.m.	Tea/Coffee Break
SESSION 7: Climate Change and animal welfare	
4.00-5.00 p.m.	
Session Moderator: Dr Patrick Muinde , World Animal Protection	
4.00-4.15 p.m.	Presentation 1: Animal wellbeing and climate change, Esther Afolaranmi , Fair Start Movement, and Dr Carter Dillard , University of Denver
4.15-4.30 p.m.	Presentation 2: Reducing meat consumption-options for Africa, Dr Victor Yamo , World Animal Protection
4.30-4.45 p.m.	Presentation 3: A call to stopping factory farming to mitigate Climate Change and ensure animal welfare, Prof. Charles Ssekyewa , St. Lawrence University, Uganda
4.45-5.00 p.m.	Presentation 4: One Acre Fund (<i>Tubura</i>) Alternative Protein Project, Jean Paul Gisa , One Acre Fund Rwanda
5.00-5.10 p.m.	Health / Screen Break
5.10-6.10 p.m.	Panel discussion: Diet Change for People, Animals, and the Environment Panel Moderator: Debbie Tripley , Global Director of Campaigns and Policy Advocacy, Compassion in World Farming Panelists: Monica Chen , Factory Farming Awareness Coalition; Dr Victor Yamo , World Animal Protection; Zeeshan Ali , Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine; Prof. Charles Ssekyewa , St.





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	Lawrence University; Jean Paul Gisa, One Acre Fund Rwanda; Taylor Quinn, Tailored Food
*****END OF DAY TWO*****	
7.00 – 9.00 p.m. - Vegan Dinner	
Day 3: Wednesday 27 September, 2023	
SESSION 8: Wildlife and Environmental Conservation 8.30-10.00 a.m.	
Session Moderator: Dr Tony Mudakikwa, Wildlife Veterinarian	
08.30-08.45 a.m.	Presentation 1: Promoting responsible dog ownership around Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda-preventing potential economic, conservation, public health and welfare consequences, Dr Gaspard Nzayisenga, Gorilla Doctors
08.45-09.00 a.m.	Presentation 3: Mountain Gorilla health and Conservation: The work of Gorilla Doctors in Rwanda, Dr Julius Nziza, Country Director, Doctors, Rwanda
09.00-09.15 a.m.	Presentation 2: Welfare of Aquatic Animals, Wasseem Emam, Ethical Seafood Research
09.15-10.00 a.m.	Q and A
10.00-10.30 a.m.	Tea/Coffee Break
10.30 -11.00 a.m.	100 Years of SPANA and our new strategy, Dr Linda Evans, Director of Global Animal Welfare, SPANA
SESSION 9 A: UNEP Meeting with Civil Society Organizations 11.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.	
Session Moderator: Isaiah Otieno, Senior Information Technology Assistant, UNEP	
SESSION 9 B:AU-IBAR: Coordination, Harmonization, and Scaling of Africa’s Interventions in the delicate balance of Animal Welfare, Climate Change and Development	





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11.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.	
Session Moderator: Prof. James Wabacha	
11.00 a.m.-11.15 a.m.	Re-energizing the APAW: Building Momentum towards the Implementation of AWSA, Dr Hiver Boussini
11.15-11.30 a.m.	The RAFFS Project: AU-IBAR's response to the Triple Crises of Climate Change, Covid-19, and Conflict in Europe, Dr Sarah Ashanut Ossiya
11.30-11.45 a.m.	The African Union OHDA Project: Enhancing Data Management for sustainable evidence-based Animal, Human and Environmental Health Interventions, Dr Mary-Mbole Kariuki
11.45-12.00 p.m.	Aquatic Resources: An opportunity for Animal Nutrition Welfare in Africa, under Climate Change – Perspectives from AU-IBAR, Dr Nelly Isyagi
12.00-12.15 p.m.	Navigating the Opportunities in the Nexus between Animal Welfare and Sustainable Animal Production in Africa, Dr Mwenda Mbaka
12.15 p.m.-12.45 p.m.	Panel Discussion: The Place for Animal Sourced Foods in Africa
12.45-1.00 p.m.	Q&A: Feed-back to the Panel Discussion
1.00-2.00 p.m.	Lunch
SESSION 10: Conclusion and Way Forward	
2.00-3.30 p.m.	
Session Chair: Moderator(s)	
2.00-2.15 p.m.	Progress report on outcomes of Pan African Donkey Conference (PADCO), Samuel Theuri , Brooke East Africa
2.15-2.45 p.m.	Conference Resolutions: Dr Dennis Bahati , Programmes Manager, ANAW Feedback on Resolutions: Wachira Kariuki , ANAW
2.45-3.00 p.m.	Vote of Thanks – Josphat Ngonyo , Conference Patron
3.00-3.30 p.m.	Closing Ceremony:



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	Ministry of Environment, Republic of Rwanda
3.30-4.00 p.m.	Tea/Coffee
*****END OF CONFERENCE*****	



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Participants List

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