



Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

First Animal Welfare Technical Meeting to Develop and Prioritize Animal Welfare Key Issues and Intervention Areas for Africa

AU-IBAR : MAKING ANIMAL WELFARE AND HUMAN WELLBEING OUR PRINCIPAL GOAL IN AFRICA



Fish Eagle Inn, Naivasha 27th-29th July 2015

1. Introduction

In 2014, the African Union *Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources* (AU-IBAR) began enhancing focus on *animal welfare* (AW) in order to position it as a leading technical institution of the *African Union Commission* (AUC) in the field of animal welfare. It is in this context that “**Compliance with animal welfare standards**” was included as one of the key result areas in its strategic plan 2014-2017 with the ultimate goal of enhancing the compliance of African *Member States* (MS) with animal welfare standards.

The focus will involve providing technical and institutional support to *Regional Economic Communities* (RECs) and AU MSs in understanding, reviewing and contributing to AW standards setting process as well as including animal welfare matters in their national policies, legislations, strategies and programs related to the development and utilization of animal resources.

In order to identify and prioritize key issues and intervention areas on AW and to develop an *issues paper* (IP) for the continental AW stakeholder consultative meeting, AU-IBAR organized in close partnership with *World Animal Protection* (WAP) and The Brooke the first animal welfare technical meeting held from 27th to 29th July 2015 at the Fish Eagle Inn, Naivasha, Kenya.

2. Opening ceremony

The meeting was officially opened by the Director A-IBAR professor Ahmed Elswalhy, who welcomed all participants to the meeting and wished them fruitful deliberations.

The Director commended the existing partnership between World Animal Protection and other partners and emphasized the need for Africa to lead the way in promoting AW and for AU-IBAR to take the lead by providing leadership and resources. The director, however, observed that promotion of AW has not received adequate attention and resources especially in areas of policies and legislation; while much attention has been concentrated in the areas of companion and draught animals it may provide useful experience.

The Director said that in order to fill any existing gaps and improve advocacy, policy/strategy and legislation in AW, AU-BAR has taken AW as a key result area. This will lead to enhanced compliance of AW in MSs.

In his remarks, the OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa, Dr. Walter Masiga indicated that animal welfare was first identified as a priority in the OIE Strategic Plan 2001-2005 and emphasized the role of OIE as the international reference organization in providing standards, recommendations and guidelines covering animal welfare practices. He said that many OIE standards and actions have been developed and that the scope of AW developed by OIE provides a suitable framework for developing actions for AW. He emphasized the fact that AW standards should be science-based, *copying and pasting* AW regulations from other regions may lead to negative effects in terms of adoption and implementation.

Dr. Bouna Diop, Regional Manager of FAO ECTAD for East Africa, in his speech, looked at AW as an ethical good and said that in the recent past, AW area has attracted increasing concern related to the requirements of AW standards in production and consumerism. Studies have quantified the economic

value of AW and proved that if improved, it can contribute to economic wellbeing. It is also evident that any systematic attention to best practices in production systems can lead to increased productivity.

The Africa Director, World Animal Protection, Mr. Tennyson Williams focused his speech that the misconception of animal welfare is a western concept. He said that unfortunately the twisted notion is misleading and there is need to examine its source in order to deal with it. This misconception he said is part of the genesis of problems related to harnessing the full potential of Africa's animal resources. As such, there is need to put AW on Africa's development agenda.

In his speech, The Brooke Eastern Africa Regional Representative, Fred Ochieng while quoting from the book by George Orwell (*The Animal Farm*) explained how the animal's perceptions on their poor welfare status is akin to the realities of today where many of the welfare problems facing animals can be associated with negligence, poor handling and practices as well as abuse by owners and users. Fred called on members present to strive to impact positively on the policy and legislative environments affecting the welfare of animals, recognize their contribution to the economy, and strive to make a difference to improve the welfare of all animals. He emphasized the need for stronger participation and collaboration particularly amongst all AW organizations.

3. Objectives of the technical meeting

The overall objective of the retreat was to initiate the development of an AW agenda for Africa with special emphasis on the increasing importance of compliance with OIE AW standards.

The specific objectives were to:

- identify key issues of AW in Africa
- identify key issues of AW in livestock marketing and trade including at the quarantine stations
- prioritize key issues of AW in Africa;
- identify key interventions on AW in Africa;
- develop an AW *issues paper* (IP);
- discuss plans for the AW continental stakeholder consultative meeting;
- discuss and adopt the TORs for the proposed African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW).

4. Participants

The meeting involved various experts from AU-IBAR, FAO-ECTAD East Africa, stakeholders in livestock marketing systems from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania; OIE-East Africa, World Animal Protection (WAP), African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) and The Brooke, The Donkey Sanctuary for Kenya and Ethiopia, IUCN and the Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance (PAAWA).

5. Proceedings of the meeting

Proceedings of the three day meeting enabled participants to address the various topics in the agenda that included:

- The context of *animal welfare* (AW) in Africa (Livelihoods, Poverty Alleviation, Wealth Creation)
- Animal production and AW in Africa
- AW and livestock trade and marketing in Africa
- AW activities of the OIE of relevance to Africa
- Animal welfare activities in Africa by various stakeholders including World Animal Protection, Africa Network for Animal Welfare, The Brooke East and West Africa and The Donkey Sanctuary of Kenya and Ethiopia.
- Aquatic AW: Issues and challenges for biosecurity and food safety
- Status of Animal welfare in Africa
- Presentation of ARIS e-forum discussion outcomes
- AW and *Disaster Risk Reduction* (DRR)
- *Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare* (UDAW)
- Animal welfare standards of the OIE and work programme of the AW working group.
- FAO AW activities in Africa and AW global perspectives
- Animal welfare policy landscaping and analysis in Africa
- Mainstreaming AW in AU Livestock development Agenda (LiDeSA)

During working group sessions, participants debated the key issues and priorities and identified possible intervention areas to promote animal welfare agenda across the continent. The continental stakeholder consultative meeting for the establishment of *African Platform for Animal Welfare* (APAW) was also discussed.

Following fruitful discussions, the meeting agreed on key AW issues and road map as summarized below:

5.1. Key Animal Welfare Issues and Priorities for Africa

Animal welfare (AW) is a growing concern that is gradually gaining relevance and application in social, economic, political and legal sectors. From further reflection within the current definition of AW set by OIE, it is evident that some aspects of AW have been practiced over time in different African systems and cultures, though at varying levels, and that continues to add value to an ongoing debate on what constitutes “animal welfare”. Currently, there exist different institutions and organizations, both in the public and private sectors, that have adopted AW within their mandates and endeavor to advance the development of best practices in AW. The developed countries have shown considerable implementation of AW practices and continue to influence the international adoption of these practices (e.g. through import requirements).

To a large extent, the increased attention granted to AW in these countries is a result of the empowerment of consumers with animal ethics considerations and trade aspects putting more pressure on the rest of the world to address such animal welfare issues. In line with this realization, animal welfare stakeholders in Africa are faced with a critical question: that of identifying key animal welfare issues in Africa and interventions to address them. The meeting participants however noted that the

animal production context and conservation arrangements, amongst others, in Africa, have unique specificities that should be considered in advancing the AW agenda. Animal welfare approaches in Africa “should not be a cut and paste affair” of what is being done in the developed countries. This approach is in line with OIE standards, which focus on outcome-based welfare indicators, rather than prescriptive input or management based indicators, in keeping with the principle of “equivalence”. The following issues were identified and grouped in twelve (12) themes that represent the key concerns for animal welfare in Africa as per the below table.

5.2. Table

	Key Issue	Concerns
1.	Education and awareness	<p>Ignorance, certain attitudes towards AW, certain cultural / ancestral practices, stereotyping, lack of awareness, knowledge gaps and poor opportunities for the acquisition of relevant skills, lack of opportunities for capacity building, inadequate advocacy and poorly understood pathway or tools for communicating AW issues, inadequate understanding of the values/benefits of AW (economic, non-economic, social etc.), specificities of certain production systems, trade implications and implications on animal health.</p> <p>Lack of positive case studies, African success stories, lessons learned.</p> <p>Teaching values of AW are absent from school education/curriculae.</p>
2.	Stakeholder’s engagement and involvement	<p>Inadequate participation, consensus building, involvement, inclusivity, synergies, coordination, stakeholder organization and institutional development, lack of opportunities for capacity building.</p> <p>Little empowerment of the livestock owners, low social status in many areas of Africa.</p> <p>Coping strategies of many farmers include having more animals, rather than better animals.</p>
3.	Science and research	<p>Lack of (homegrown) evidence, lack of strong advocacy discourse, lack of appropriate technology, lack of widely adopted performance measurements (<i>Animal Protection Index, Performance of Veterinary Services</i>).</p> <p>Teaching of AW as a scientific subject matter is absent from higher education (veterinary training)</p>
4.	Value chain	<p>Inadequate understanding by many stakeholders of the value of AW (economic, non-economic, social etc.) in terms of production systems, trade and health, inadequate understanding of AW in the context of SPS and TBT measures.</p> <p>Pressing need for increased production of food in view of demographic in Africa and worldwide (competing priorities) with predicted growth in number and purchase power of the middle-classes</p>

5. Policy framework, guidelines strategies, and action plans	<p>Lack of laws or outdated / inadequate laws, low/lack of law enforcement, inappropriate laws/policies, private standards, lack of political will/support, lack of applicable guidelines (for the industry) and domestication of international best practice into national / local practices, incomplete and potentially antagonistic set of regional strategies, as well as a continental strategy or policy.</p> <p>Lack of bench-marking against other continental strategies or policies.</p> <p>No clear pathway towards African endorsement of the UDAW.</p> <p>Lack of involvement of RECs at Africa level.</p> <p>Pressing need for increased production of food in view of demographic in Africa and worldwide (competing priorities)</p>
6. Husbandry practices	<p>Inappropriate husbandry practices, both in indigenous and modern husbandry, inadequate knowledge surrounding animal production, disregard or underestimation of the impact of good AW practices on productivity, lack of appropriate technology, constraints generated by specific production systems such as pastoralism, transhumance/nomadism.</p>
7. Gender and Youth	<p>Lack of involvement, shortage of information/education directed towards women and youth, lack of opportunities for capacity building, unemployment, drugs and animal abuse,</p>
8. Implementation, enforcement and M & E	<p>Inadequate validation of the values of AW in society, lack of indicators of AW, lack of (law) enforcement, poorly resourced implementing structures/mechanisms, numerous competent authorities with overlapping or contradicting mandates, lack of inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation</p>
9. Standards	<p>Inadequate compliance, domestication, and benchmarking against OIE standards.</p> <p>Possible interference of private standards.</p> <p>Little or no participation in standard setting processes.</p>
10. Natural resource management	<p>Droughts, disasters, competing use of natural resource, pressure on land, climate change impacts on AW, inadequate domestication of international best practice (LEGS, OIE standards on DRR)</p>
11. Emerging areas	<p>Climate change, inappropriate use of certain drugs and narcotics in animals, other animal species (captive wildlife, aquaculture and cage fisheries, dromedaries and other working animals, non-traditional food/farm animals, non-traditional companion animals),</p>
12. Resourcing	<p>The cost of AW interventions at all levels, as measures against the benefits of AW, lack of financial, technical, technological, social capital for AW</p>

An ad-hoc working group was formed to further work on the identified key issues and priority areas to prepare the IP for the continental stakeholder meeting

6. Road Map for Animal Welfare Agenda Development

Item	Activity	Responsible for the action	Timeline
1	Prepare and circulate the Report of this technical meeting (only the meeting participants)	AU-IBAR	7 August 2015
2	Feedback from participants	Participants	11 August 2015
3	Consolidation and wider dissemination of the report; including sending a save a date message	AU-IBAR	14 August 2015
	Mapping of key AW stakeholders	OIE, CVOs, The Brooke, WAP, ANAW and AU-IBAR	25 August 2015
4	Establish AW Taskforce and draft the TOR (letter to be sent to the organisations' higher management to allow for participation in this task force)	AU-IBAR (to nominate) – working group to progress as AU-IBAR formalizes the taskforce	14 August 2015
5	Feedback from partners on taskforce (acceptance and focal point)	Partners/ Institutions	21 August 2015
6	e-forum on AW initiative for Africa	AU-IBAR to coordinate with taskforce (topics for discussions)	1 - 14 Sept. 2015
7	Preparatory meeting for CN, logistics including budget	Taskforce	1 September
8	Finalise Concept paper for the continental meeting (drawn from this meeting) and proposed agenda and speakers	Taskforce	20 September 2015
9	Send invitation for the continental meeting	AU-IBAR (save a date to be sent by 14 August)	21 September 2015
10	Conduct the meeting in Addis Ababa	AU-IBAR + Partners	11 - 12 Nov. 2015

7. Acknowledgement

The participants expressed their sincere gratitude to AU-IBAR for organizing this 1st face-to-face technical meeting on animal welfare. They also thanked all the technical partners represented: FAO, OIE, World Animal Protection, The Brooke, ANAW, PAAWA, The Donkey Sanctuary and IUCN for their contribution to the success of this event.

8. Annexes

8.1. Proposed pre-taskorce

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3	Edwards Nengomasha	
4	Annie Lewa	
5	Nelly Isyagi	
6	Bouna Diop	FAO
7	Patrick Bastiaensen	OIE
8	Fred Ochieng	The Brooke
9	William Tennyson	World Animal Protection
10	Otieno Mtula	
11	Samuel Theuri	ANAW
12	Calvin Solomon Onyango	The Donkey Sanctuary
13	Arthur Razingrim Ouedraogo	IUCN

8.2. List of participants

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