

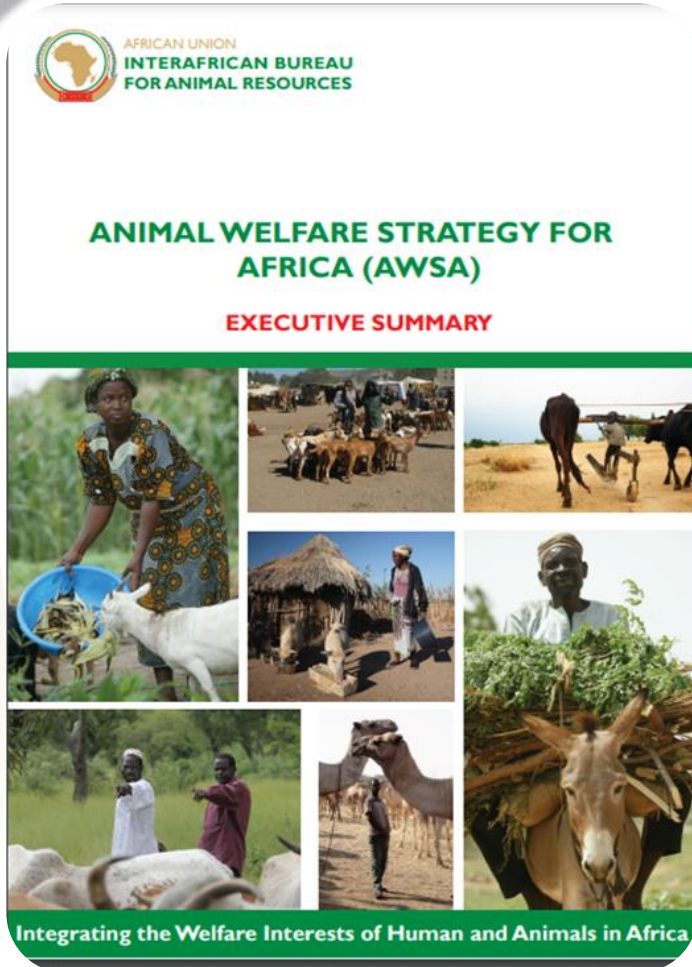
Advancing Animal Welfare in Africa

WOAH cycle III Training for WOAH Country Animal Welfare Focal Persons
3-5 Sept 2024, Nairobi

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Overview of the AWSA



- **2017: AWSA Launched:** Established with inclusive participation of CVOs, WOAH, FAO, and Animal Welfare Organizations.
- **Alignment with Global Strategy:** AWSA provides a framework for AU Member States to develop context-specific animal welfare strategies.

AWSA Strategic objectives:

- 1- *Attain behaviour change, educate, inform, promote awareness, advocacy and good practices aligned to OIE standards towards animals (SO1);*
- 2- *Strengthen effective action on animal welfare (technologies, human resources, research, animal care, contribution to standard settings) (SO2);*
- 3- *Mainstream animal welfare in policies, strategies, legislation, investments, programmes and projects (SO3).*

- **Current Challenges:** Under-implementation due to limited financial resources and technical capacity



Role of Country Animal Welfare Focal Points



- For the implementation of AWSA and to avoid duplication, AU-IBAR has chosen to work with the same AW focal points for WOAHA.
- The functions aligned to the 7 Focus Areas and strategic objectives of the AWSA, include:
 - To ensure national Animal Welfare related strategies align with AWSA and WOAHA standards for AW
 - To train on good AW practices and provide technical support for implementation to stakeholders
 - To track progress and identify challenges in implementing AW initiatives and report to stakeholders for timely interventions



Capacity Building for CAWFPS

Goal: Achieve the AW agenda through enhanced CAWFP performance

AU-IBAR Commitment

Collaboration with WOAHA to build capacity of focal points

Current Status

Ongoing stock-taking exercise to identify gaps in CAWFP capacity

Comprehensive Resources

AU-IBAR is developing a set of capacity building resources for animal welfare, to be accessible on the AU-IBAR website in the near future.



African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW)



Composition

Africa General Assembly for AW derived from AU Member States, RECs, and other stakeholders.

Mandate

Support, coordinate, and guide the implementation of the AWSA.

Operationalization

Through the Coordination Committee of Animal Welfare Agenda (CCAWA) in Africa

Leadership

AU-IBAR as Secretariat and Chair of CCAWA, with WOAHA and FAO as alternate Vice Chairs.



*Providing Leadership in the
Development of Animal Resources in Africa*

Endorsed APAW Structure and Reporting

The African Platform (APAW) planned structure:

Coordination Committee for Animal welfare agenda (**CAWA**), **secretariat** CAWA/APAW, the Technical Working Groups (**TWG**).

CAWA Meetings

- TWGs work closely with CAWFPs to implement AWSA, and generate reports and report to the CAWA, for consultations / validation
- Meet at least twice a year to monitor AWSA implementation

Annual Reporting

- CAWA reports to APAW General Assembly, at least once annually.
- The meeting is for technical feedbacks [consultations / validation]
- AU-IBAR plays a central role as the Secretariat and responsibility bearer for Coordination and collaboration among stakeholders

Biennial Reporting

- APAW GA reports to AU Heads of State Summit every 2 years, to present recommendations /requests from the APAW, and decisions on the common position for Africa are made in that Summit.



Challenges & Revitalization Efforts

AWSA` implementation action plan was agreed on in Kigali in 2018. The plan focused on formulation of TWGs to involve CAWFs and experts, to foster the strategy implementation at AU MS level, and ensure monitoring and reporting.

Challenges

- Human resources, financial, geopolitical, and pandemic-related issues have hindered APAW's vibrancy since 2018. Last CCAWA meeting was online on 25th August 2023 & TWG not yet established.

Revitalization

- AU-IBAR spearheading establishment of TWGs to revitalize CCAWA and APAW
- CAWFs to play a crucial role
- Key participation & support by Animal Welfare Organizations and other partners



Donkey Welfare Initiative - Objectives



Socio-Economic importance of Donkeys

- Vital working animals in many regions of Africa, especially the water-stressed, poorly accessible terrains in agro-pastoral communities
- Transport, mobility, farming, income-generation

AU-IBAR and Animal welfare NGOs and stakeholders planned to develop **Pan-African Strategic Framework to safeguard donkey welfare**

Protection Address threats posed by the donkey skin trade.

Community Support

Assist communities that rely on donkeys for their livelihoods.

Conservation

Prevent the potential extinction of donkeys due to unsustainable exploitation.

Sustainability

Ensure the welfare and sustainability of donkeys as a critical resource.



Donkey Welfare: A Pressing Concern

- Response to alarming studies on risk of donkey extinction due to unsustainable exploitation, AU-IBAR drafted the Report on Donkey slaughter for their skins with support of patterning Welfare organizations.
- 5th STC 2023 approved the report and the moratorium, and both Were endorsed by AU Council and heads of AU states during AU Summit Feb 2024.
- Ban on slaughter of donkeys in Africa for their skin
[Executive Decision EX.CL/Dec.1233-1264\(XLIV\)](#)



Conclusion & Way forward

- AU-IBAR ensure collaborative efforts in advancing animal welfare in Africa.
- AU-IBAR to ensure recruiting/ building the animal health and welfare team.
- AU-IBAR to assess the need for continued capacity building and implementation of strategic frameworks at Country and Regional level
- AU-IBAR to activate APAW and establish the TWGs ;
- The CAWFP to monitor and report on country progress, in collaboration with RECs based on the regional priorities, then the progress to be discussed by the TWG to monitor the progress of AWSA implementation.
- AU-IBAR to ensure the development and validation of the Donkey preservation strategy.



Thank you

Merci

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Obrigado

Gracias

Asante



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