



AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

An Integrated, Prosperous
and Peaceful Africa

Elevating Animal Welfare In Africa

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26th Conference of the WOAH Regional Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4th February 2025

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



1. Overview of AWSA: Goals and Strategic Objectives

2. Stock taking exercise: Key Findings, Recommendations and Next Steps

3. Donkey Species preservation: STC Decision, AU-IBARs Role and Next Steps

4. Strengthening Collaboration: Between AU-IBAR and WOAHA for Animal Health and Welfare in Africa.

Significance of Animal Welfare

Animal welfare is a critical pillar for sustainable development in Africa, directly impacting food security, livelihoods, public health, and biodiversity conservation.

Strengthening animal welfare aligns with Africa's development goals, ensuring ethical, economic, and environmental benefits for communities and ecosystems.

Goal of the African Animal Welfare Strategy

“To transform the animal resources industry through adoption of **good animal welfare practices** for the wellbeing of humans, **sustainable livelihoods, poverty reduction and economic growth**”



ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY FOR AFRICA (AWSA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Integrating the Welfare Interests of Human and Animals in Africa

- AU-IBAR, in close collaboration with key stakeholders, spearheaded the development of a continental animal welfare strategy. The Animal welfare strategy for Africa (AWSA)
- This will be coordinated by the African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) to enhance collaboration, cooperation, coordination and partnerships with specialized organizations, and engage in the formulation of a common African position on animal welfare during the WOAHA standard setting and approval processes
- AWSA aligns with global, continental, and national frameworks, such as One Health, to address welfare for animals used in production, conservation, and recreation.

Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa(AWSA)

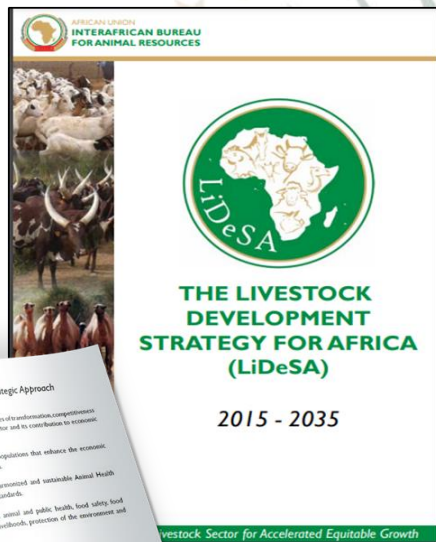
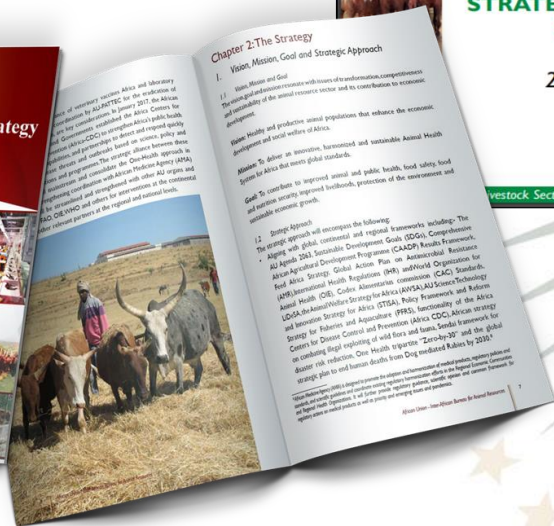
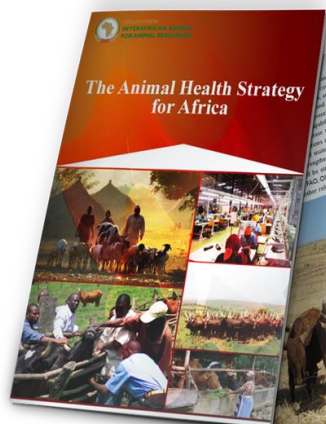
Global Frameworks: The United Nations' SDG 2, 3, 12, 15 - emphasize the role of AW in food security, health, and ecosystem conservation.

WOAH Standards: the strategy encourages African countries to adopt WOAH standards that recognize animal sentience and humane treatment in livestock production, conservation, and disease control.

Continental Alignment's and Agenda 2063: AWSA supports Africa's socio-economic transformation, contributing to goals such as quality of life, well-nourished citizens, modern agriculture, and environmental sustainability



Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa(AWSA)



- **Integration with CAADP:** AWSA is a key enabler of the CAADP, vital for optimizing animal resource development and protecting biodiversity
- **LiDeSA and AHSA:** AWSA aligns with the LiDeSA and AHSA, focusing on AW for resilient livestock systems and public health through the OH approach

The Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa

Vision

An Africa where animals are treated as sentient beings, as a leading continent in implementation of good animal welfare practices for a competitive and sustainable animal resource sector.

Mission

To invest in developing animal resources value chains through treating animals as sentient beings and supporting good animal welfare practices in the animal resources sectors to contribute to socio economic transformation

Goal

To transform the animal resources sector through adoption of good animal welfare practices for the human wellbeing, sustainable livelihoods, poverty reduction and economic growth

SO1

Attain behaviour change, educate, inform, promote awareness, advocacy and good practices aligned to WOAH standards towards animals

SO2

Strengthen effective action on animal welfare (technologies, human resources, research, animal care, contribution to standard settings

SO3

Mainstream animal welfare in policies, strategies, legislation, investments, programmes and projects



African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW)

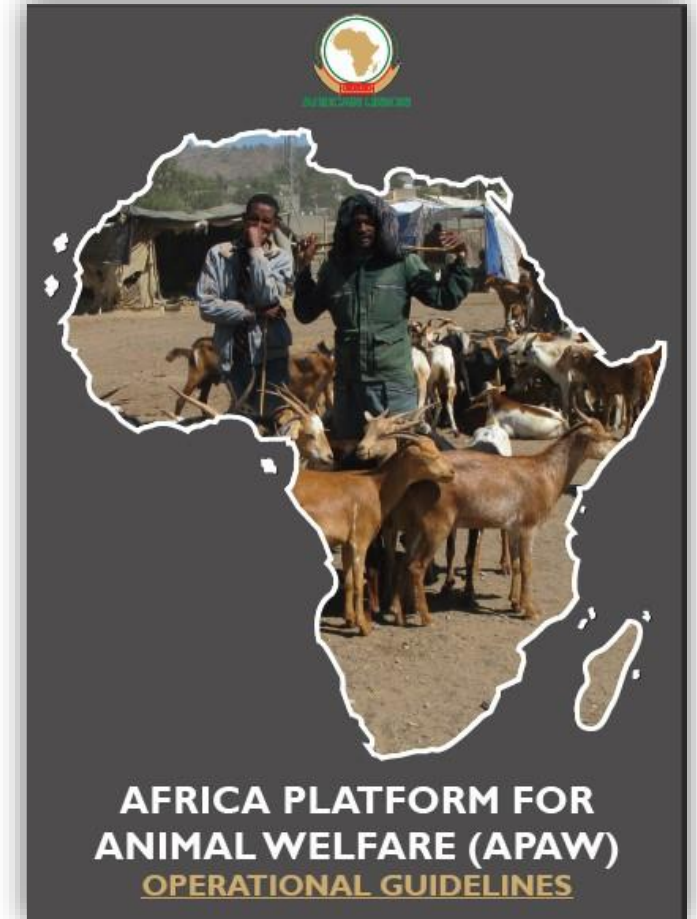
Support the implementation of the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA)

Composition:

- i. The African General Assembly for Animal Welfare (AGAAW);
- ii. The Coordination Committee for Animal Welfare in Africa (CCAWA) and
- iii. The Secretariat

Functions:

1. Guide **implementation and monitor progress** of implementation of AWSA
2. Promote **coordination, collaboration**, information sharing and to foster partnerships on animal welfare
3. Promote the **animal welfare agenda** across the continent through participatory approaches, community engagement and ownership
4. Foster a **holistic and multi-stakeholder approach** ensuring good animal welfare practices in different contexts and situations in Africa
5. Provide guidance to countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs); and stakeholders on **priority intervention areas in animal welfare**, based on the African context.



Stock-taking assessment of Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa



- A comprehensive evaluation assessed the adoption of AWSA across African Union member states.
- Feedback was gathered from key stakeholders, veterinary officers and animal welfare organizations.

Stock-taking assessment of Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa- contd.

Key findings showed

- Governance challenges, financial constraints, limited political commitment, and capacity-building gaps were identified as key barriers to AWSA implementation across regions, with West and Central Africa facing the most significant difficulties
- AWSA implementation remains underfunded, with fragmented donor funding and limited private sector engagement; increased budgetary allocations and public-private partnerships are necessary.
- Southern Africa and East Africa have made progress in AWSA implementation, while WA & CA continue to struggle, and need better CAWFP representation & collaboration
Although Southern and East Africa show improvements in productivity, income, and food security, there are still gaps in data collection, limiting comprehensive impact analysis



Recommendations from the stock-taking assessment and next steps

- **Resource allocation** to the implementation for AWSA
- **Coordination Mechanism:** Strengthening the Secretariat of the Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (**APAW**)
- **Integration of AWSA** into national and developmental strategies through development of national and regional **AW strategies (NAWSRA/WS)**
- **Capacity building:** Invest in training programs for stakeholders; especially CAWFPs to become trainers, promoters and animal welfare data managers
- **Networking:** Support RECs to establish and operationalize Regional Animal Welfare Network (RAWN)
- Strengthening **aquatic animal welfare** in Africa
- Next steps seeks to refine and update the AWSA results framework from the findings, develop targeted strategies for lagging regions and increase collaboration with civil society and the private sector.
- Fostering **Broader Coalition and inclusive strategic partnerships** with AW stakeholders for the effective and efficient implementation AWSA.

Donkey Species Preservation



- Across Africa and across the globe, donkeys are now faced by a serious welfare and existence threat from the demand for their skin, propelled by a traditional belief that their skins and some body parts have medicinal properties.
- Donkey farming to meet the demand for skins is scientifically proven to be unsustainable. Donkeys have **low fertility** and **long reproduction cycles**, **low welfare awareness** and cross border smuggling between neighboring African Member States.
- Evidence shows that donkey skin trade has led to loss of livelihoods for donkey dependent communities, spread of donkey diseases, loss of indigenous genetic resource, alarming decline in the donkey populations exposed the animal to the risk of extinction further putting the livelihoods of the donkey-dependent communities in Africa at jeopardy.

Mass slaughter of indigenous donkeys for the skin trade



Thousands of donkeys at a holding facility waiting to be slaughtered



Thousands of donkey skins being salted for export



Thousands of donkeys moved on foot [others on trucks] to slaughter points [and across borders]

Donkey Species Preservation in Africa

- The **5th STC on ARDWE DECISION on 14-17 November 2023.** acknowledged the 2022 Pan-African Conference on Donkey Species (PADCO) and emphasized the socio-economic importance of donkeys, while raising concerns over welfare, unsustainable exploitation, and inadequate policy inclusion.
- It highlighted the alarming decline in donkey populations due to the demand for skins, compounded by their low reproductive rate, necessitating urgent research on breeding and conservation and Called for an African common position and moratorium on donkey exploitation to mitigate negative impacts, protect livelihoods, and enhance food security.
- Urged the development of a Pan-African Strategy for Donkey Development and mobilization of resources for a coordinated continental program with support from AU, RECs, WOAH, FAO, and animal welfare organizations.

AU's Executive Decision on Donkey Preservation

On **18 February 2024**, the African Heads of States and Governments at the **37th African Union Summit** held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, made an Executive Decision effectively Donkey Preservation in Africa and a moratorium on the mass slaughter the slaughter of donkeys for the export of their hides/Skins;

- **Socio-Economic & Welfare Concerns** – Recognized the critical role of donkeys in livelihoods and lack of data needed to inform evidence-based policies to protect their welfare.
- **Population Decline & Reproductive Challenges** – Raised alarm over rapid population decline due to international skin trade and called for research on breeding and conservation.
- **Call for an African Common Position** – Urged the AU Commission to lead and coordinate a unified response to mitigate the negative impacts of donkey exploitation
- **Development of a Pan-African Strategy** – Requested the formulation of a continent-wide strategy and resource mobilization, with support from AU, RECs, WOAHA, FAO, and animal welfare organizations.

AU-IBAR's Role

- AU-IBAR is leading efforts to track moratorium implementation across Africa.
- Conduct research on donkey populations & sustainable management.
- Develop donkey strategy to support long-term donkey conservation and utilization.

Long term vision seeks

- Population recovery – Restore and stabilize donkey numbers across Africa
- Sustainable management – Implement responsible practices for donkey utilization
- Rural development – strengthen rural economies through preserved donkey resources
- Continental leadership - through establishing Africa as a model for animal welfare and sustainable development



Next Steps in Donkey Species Preservation

- Prepare and implement a road map for mobilization and lobbying of governments for political support to the implement the Heads of States Executive Decision that bans slaughter of donkeys.
- Develop a **Pan African Strategy for the Development of Donkey Species** in Africa and action plan for increased production and productivity.
- Secure African Common Position and moratorium on the exploitation of the donkey to anticipate and mitigate the negative impact of the donkey skin trade
- Advocate for MSs to establish a dedicate service for donkey health care and husbandry
- Preparation for second Pan African Donkey Conference scheduled for **26-27th June 2025** with the support of RECs and other strategic supporters.
- Present the validated donkey preservation strategy and action plan; and the moratorium on donkey skin trade in the 2025 STC-ARDWE for Endorsement
- Submit the STC-ARWE report/Decision to the Head and Governments Summit of AU in **February 2026** for adoption



World Organisation for Animal Health

- AU-IBAR and WOAH have a long-standing partnership in animal health and welfare.
- Joint efforts focus on improving livestock health, disease control, and trade across Africa.
- Recent collaboration aims to enhance Africa's influence in global animal health governance.



Collaborations with WOA



In May 2024, AU-IBAR and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) co-hosted an orientation workshop on WOAH International Standards at AU-IBAR's headquarters.

The event aimed at enhancing the participation of African Union Member States (AU MS) in developing and refining international livestock standards.

Chief Veterinary Officers from various African countries attended, underscoring the collaborative efforts between AU-IBAR and WOAH to implement global standards across the continent



World Organisation for Animal Health

Collaborations with WOAHA

Training of animal welfare focal points
Nairobi, Kenya September 2024



Key Areas of Collaboration

Capacity building: Training and engagement of African experts aligned with WOAHA standards.

Animal health policies: Strengthening veterinary services and disease control mechanisms.

Trade facilitation: Supporting African countries in meeting international animal health and welfare standards.

Welfare and sustainability: Integrating animal welfare into broader agricultural and environmental policies



Future collaboration

- Expansion of technical training and capacity development.
- Strengthening monitoring, evaluation, and data-sharing frameworks.
- Promoting regional and continental policies aligned with global best practices.
- Enhancing cooperation with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and national veterinary services.

Conclusion

AU-IBAR and WOAH remain committed to strengthening animal health and welfare in Africa. Continued collaboration will drive policy alignment, capacity building in Africa and stronger regional integration.

Call to action:

- Increased engagement of African stakeholders in global animal health governance.
- Stakeholder engagement and involvement of local communities, NGO and private sector in animal welfare and species conservation efforts
- Elevating animal welfare in Africa requires a collective effort to address current challenges and implement sustainable solutions. Strong partnerships among governments, regional bodies, international organizations, and stakeholders are essential to achieving a shared vision for the health and welfare of animals, people, and the planet.

Thank you Merci

