



AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY FOR AFRICA (AWSA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Integrating the Welfare Interests of Human and Animals in Africa

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FOREWORD

For the first time, African Union Commission has set out its strategic objectives and plan for animal welfare within the next five years. The development of the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA), its launch and the operationalization of the African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) are showing AUC devotion.

Animal welfare has recently gained attention. With organizations such as The Brooke Hospital for Animals, World Animal Protection, The Donkey Sanctuary, World Horse Welfare, African Network for Animal Welfare came together with AU to undertake the development of a strategy and an action plan. We recognize and appreciate their financial support as well as the valuable contribution made also by the World Animal Net, the Panafrican Alliance for Animal Welfare, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) towards recognition, knowledge and better practices for animal welfare in Africa.

This Strategy for Africa has been formulated through a consultative and participatory approach with African Members states, the Regional Economic Communities and key animal welfare organizations across the continent and worldwide. The stakeholders' consultations that attracted a wealth of contribution have been key for examining animal welfare status in the continent and identifying key priorities and intervention areas to be considered now. This process represents an inclusive approach towards informed decisions, adequate management of animal welfare threat and holistical protection of the health and well-being of animals.

Delivering improvements in animal welfare is not a task for just one institution or group. Governments, Regional Economic Communities, Research institutions and Academia, industry, enforcement agencies, private sector such as retailers, users of working animals and each of us as consumers have a part to know and to play.

All stakeholders have a central role in implementing the actions set out. Necessary action include communication, increasing exchange on knowledge, strengthening information flow and adopting good animal welfare practices for improved human well-being which derives from sustainable livelihoods, poverty reduction and economic growth. Various on-going animal welfare initiatives across the continent and worldwide, especially the recently adopted OIE global animal welfare strategy are offering opportunities for more achievements in improving animal welfare in Africa. Therefore, the African Welfare

Strategy for Africa is intended to form an integral part of responsible development of animal resources in Africa and the world. In addition, compliance with international animal welfare standards is more and more often included in trade agreements and is consequently a new challenge to be faced by Africa.

AU-IBAR will unite a strategic alliance on animal welfare in Africa with the African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) as an AU-IBAR led continental multi-stakeholders' platform bringing together veterinary, animal production and livestock development authorities, donors, development and technical partners, relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), research, academia and training institutions as well as consumers.

By envisioning Africa as a continent where animal welfare is more widely considered and enforced through the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, APAW will develop key action. The strategy will be implemented over five years and be fully integrated for monitoring, reporting and review into AU mechanisms.

The Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa, its action plan and the African Platform for Animal Welfare will be lifted and brought ahead to next stages in the journey towards an Africa where animal welfare in animal resources industry is one of the foundation stones of responsible animal resource development in the continent.

H.E.Mrs. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko
Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

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This document is the fruit of a concerted and collaborative effort of AU-IBAR, The Brooke Hospital for Animals, World Animal Protection, Donkey Sanctuary, World Horse Welfare, African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), OIE and FAO through a joint taskforce.

The taskforce comprised Prof. Ahmed Elsawalhy, Dr. Baboucarr Jaw, Dr. Hiver Boussini, Prof. James Wabacha, Dr. Mohamed Abdelrazig, Dr. Nelly Isyagi, Dr. Edward Nengomensha and Dr. Ibrahim Gashash from AU-IBAR, Mr. Fred Ochieng and Samuel Theuri from the Brooke Hospital for Animals, Dr. Solomon Onyango from Donkey Sanctuary, Ms. Maryanne Kagai from ANAW, Mr. William Tennyson and Dr. Mtula Otieno from World Animal Protection, Dr. Thabita Kimani from FAO-ECTAD Eastern Africa, Dr. Patrick Bastiaensen from OIE, Dr. Joan Magero from DVS Kenya and Dr. Wamalwa Wafula from ICPALD/IGAD.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Animals contribute to human wellbeing in all their various uses. In recent years animal welfare, has become an issue of increasing concern in several countries worldwide, including countries in Africa. Most African countries are at different levels with regard to animal welfare laws, legislation policies, and regulatory frameworks such as the OIE standards. Policies, standards and legislation are observed to be either lacking, inadequate, outdated or inadequately enforced. Similarly, despite all countries being signatories to the OIE standards, there is often limited understanding and subsequent minimal compliance with the standards primarily due to the lack of implementation capacity and the need for elaboration into country and context specific measures.

AU-IBAR, in close collaboration with key stakeholders, spearheaded the development of a continental animal welfare strategy in line with the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) and the standards of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), whilst taking the African context into account. This will be achieved through the formulation of an Animal welfare strategy for Africa (AWSA) that will further the LIDESAs strategic priorities and the OIE's standards in the region. The creation of an African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) with a secretariat at AU-IBAR will allow to coordinate and guide the process of developing an Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA), enhance collaboration, cooperation, coordination and partnerships with specialized organizations, and engage in the formulation of a common African position on animal welfare during the OIE standard setting and approval processes.

2. DEFINITIONS OF ANIMAL WELFARE

In the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, animal welfare means “how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment” (OIE, 2016).

In general, improvements in animal welfare that are achieved by improving basic health and biological functioning – for example by reducing disease, injury, malnutrition and death – will improve the efficiency of animal production and productivity; and help reduce production costs. In contrast, measures to allow natural behavior and natural environments generally require that animals in confinement systems be given more space and other amenities; they may also require animals to be kept partly outdoors, potentially compromising control over pathogens and harsh weather effects. In such cases, conforming to animal welfare standards may increase production costs.

Measures to mitigate pain and distress may either reduce production costs by reducing stress-related losses in animal growth or health, or else may increase costs when the expense of pain-reduction measures is greater than any related production increase (Fraser, 2006).

3. KEY ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES FACED IN AFRICA

Lack of adequate education and awareness;

1. Inadequate stakeholder's engagement and involvement;
2. Lack of home-grown science and research;
3. Inadequate understanding by value chain actors of the value of animal welfare (economic, non- economic, social etc.) in production systems, trade and health;
4. Inadequate Policy framework, guidelines strategies, and action plans as depicted by lack of laws or outdated laws, inappropriate regulations and standards and weak or no implementation and enforcement;
5. Inappropriate husbandry practices, both in indigenous and modern husbandry that lack adequate knowledge on impact of good animal welfare practices on production, productivity and quality/health leading to disregard of animal welfare in production systems;
6. Lack of adequate engagement of women and youth in the animal resource sector;
7. Inadequate implementation, enforcement and M & E of animal welfare interventions;
8. Little or no participation in standard setting processes leading to inadequate compliance, domestication and benchmarking against OIE standards;
9. Inadequate natural resource management resulting in low resilience against droughts, floods and other natural disasters, competing use of natural resources, pressure on land, climate change leading to negative impacts on animal welfare;
10. Lack of recognition and mitigation against emerging issues such as climate change, emerging and re-emerging animal diseases and zoonoses, inappropriate use of

drugs in animals, and the lack of addressing animal welfare in non-traditional species (captive wildlife, aquaculture and cage fisheries, dromedaries and other working animals, non-traditional food/farm animals, non-traditional companion animals) and

11. Lack of financial, technical, technological, social capital and resourcing for animal welfare.

4. THE ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY FOR AFRICA

4.1. 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.

4.2. 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.

4.3. 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.

4.4. Guiding principles

Actions will be led by a framework based not only on animal welfare and human compassion, but also on sustainable livelihoods, communities, value chains for safe and profitable food and nutrition security, and efficient animal traction/utilisation including wild animals. A system approach will imply also addressing the full range of animal welfare challenges including farm animals, working animals, experimental and laboratory animals, companion animals, animal used in sports and leisure and entertainment, pets, captive and free living wild animals, etc. and deploying a variety of interventions; and convening partners from across countries, the continent and the world.

4.5. Aim of the strategy

- i. Developing the capacity of national and regional institutions to coordinate cross-country and cross-regional animal welfare improvement efforts and forging

partnerships with a range of stakeholders including the private sector, farming communities, regional organizations, international organizations and the donor community;

- ii. Addressing the concerns of poor animal owners and users as well as their communities which benefit from animal services by focusing on the actual animal welfare status and perceived problems, and on the drivers of locally important constraints on animal health, production and trade;
- iii. Creating and strengthening robust animal welfare sub-systems or units within animal resources or veterinary management systems with determined budget at national levels and through the relevant lines of command to the fields;
- iv. Building animal welfare management on cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches using the best available analysis and science;
- v. Ensuring that animal welfare is taken beyond the mere consideration of cruelty to animals, indeed ensuring that all the animal's welfare needs are met including provision of a suitable environment to live, appropriate feeding, able to exhibit normal behaviour and protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease, "5 freedoms".

4.6. Strategic objectives

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

Strategic objectives are translated into strategic outcomes that are interlinked and that could be achieved from an Action Plan based on areas of focus. To keep the strategy focused, interventions on animal welfare should be considered within 7 priorities as follows: i) Training, education and awareness; ii) Policy and Legislation; iii) Research; iv) Coordination; v) Communication and advocacy; vi) Monitoring and evaluation; vii) Resource mobilization.

The strategy is expressed through an action plan describing (in a sequenced and prioritized manner) the key actions to deliver major progress toward the strategy's vision and overall goal.

4.7. Action Plan

The action plan is an integral component of Livestock Development Strategy For Africa (LIDES), envisaging operational work in close association with OIE and FAO. Cross-organizational support is sought from development partners, RECs, researchers, and CSOs involved in animal welfare specifically and in animal resources development, fisheries and wildlife in general. African Union (AU) will coordinate in its capacity as convener of the AU recommendations for livestock development.

AU-IBAR will unite a strategic alliance on Animal welfare in Africa with the African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) as an AU-IBAR led continental multi-stakeholder's platform bringing together veterinary authorities, authorities in livestock production and development, donors, development and technical partners, relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), research and training institutes.

By envisioning a continent in which animal welfare is more widely enforced, the APAW is part of the action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Plan will be implemented over four years (2018-2021), fully integrated for reporting and review in AU mechanisms.

4.8. Priority areas of focus and scope of the Action Plan

To keep the strategy focused, interventions on animal welfare should be considered within 7 priorities as follows:

- i. Training, education and awareness
- ii. Policy and Legislation
- iii. Research
- iv. Coordination
- v. Communication and advocacy
- vi. Monitoring and evaluation
- vii. Resource mobilization

The strategy is expressed through an action plan describing (in a sequenced and prioritized manner) the key actions to deliver major progress toward the strategy's vision and overall goal. The expected results of the Action Plan, as well as the deliverables in the short and medium terms are outlined in Annex I.

The Action Plan proposes a programme in six areas of focus (AoF). The first three AoF are the core of the Action Plan, representing multi-pronged, long-term and integrated sets of technical actions with scope and direction to more effectively tackle the drivers of low animal welfare and reinforce inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches. The three additional areas are functional areas of work that are cross-cutting, facilitative and empowering the implementation of the 3-other technical AoFs. They are strengthening the quality of human resources supporting animal welfare, a communication strategy, and the set - up of a strong monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

- **AoF 1. Establish the current status of animal welfare in Africa**

This implies understanding the status and dynamic evolution of animal welfare in production systems, value chains, the modalities of maintenance of low animal welfare practices and behavior and the underlying technical, cultural, psychological and socio-economic factors not leading to better animal welfare.

- **AoF 2. Link social economic and animal resources development¹ to the principles of one health and one welfare**

This involves efforts for sustainable animal resource development, fisheries and wildlife welfare, conservation and environmental protection, and equitable socio-economic development including income generation, gender balance and promotion of youth. The agenda calls for cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration involving many actors.

- **AoF 3. Institutionalize animal welfare in policies, legislation, education, development strategies programs and projects**

Production of relevant, accurate and timely information and advice for governments, technical and financial international partners and donors is at the core of this area of focus. The collection of data on the status, evolution and socio-economic impact of animal welfare will allow studies and dissemination of results to document more its impact on animal production and productivity, animal health and animal protection. Information is required for the design of cost - effective mitigation tools, as well as of support systems for best practices aligned to OIE standards, public and private investments on animal welfare interlinked with other investments in the animal resource sector and aquaculture.

¹ To be defined to encompass wildlife and aquatic resources

- **AoF 4. Strengthen capacities for animal welfare at all levels on animal welfare at national, regional and continental levels**

This implies the reinforcement of sector-institutions directly or indirectly dealing with livestock, aquaculture and animals. Of strategic importance is the capacity of animal production services and veterinary services in animal health and production as well as animal welfare policy and strategy formulation, which need to be well resourced, competent, informed and based on clear governance principles.

- **AoF 5. Develop a continental, regional and national communication strategy on animal welfare.**

A communication strategy will be important to ensure effective information sharing and activity planning linkages between global and regional institutional partners, private sector, governments, and local communities.

- **AoF 6. Establish a monitoring and evaluation system**

Regular and smooth monitoring and evaluation is essential for effective animal welfare management and guidance. A performance evaluation system based on a results - based management framework and processes should be built and capacitated as backbone of the implementation of the Action Plan and achieving the expected results. A strong monitoring and evaluation system is also an important tool for accountability to Member States and donors.

Mapping areas of work, expected results and activities

For each AoF short term (2-3 years) and medium-to-long term (4-6 years) activities are proposed to achieve the results. As monitoring and evaluation is a key functional area of work, the priority in that animal welfare will be to define and select the indicators of performance or results for all animal welfare to facilitate the operationalisation of the Action plan.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is an integral component of LIDES, envisaging operational work in close association with OIE and FAO. Cross-organizational support is sought from development partners, RECs, MSs and CSOs involved in animal welfare specifically and in animal resource development and fisheries and wildlife in general. AU will coordinate in its capacity as convener of the AU recommendations for animal resource development. The African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

as AU's Specialised Technical Office responsible for animal resources, has the mandate to be the leading technical institution and the main driver for animal welfare agenda in Africa. This is reflected by the inclusion of animal welfare as one of the key result areas AU-IBAR's strategic plan 2014-2017. AU-IBAR will unite a strategic alliance on Animal welfare in Africa with the Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW)

The Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) is a proposed AU-IBAR led continental multi-stakeholder's platform bringing together veterinary authorities, authorities in animal production and development, donors, development and technical partners, relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), training institutions, research and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Assuming a decision making and implementation role, the Platform will have the following proposed characteristics:

- i. APAW's mandate is "supporting, coordinating and guiding the implementation of the Animal welfare strategy for Africa";
- ii. APAW will champion animal welfare and support voices on animal welfare agenda in Africa;
- iii. Initiatives and programmes at continental, regional and national levels will be supported by APAW to strengthen the work on and for animal welfare through sustainable and efficient involvement of the public sector (continental, regional, national), civil societies (NGOs, producers' organisations, animal protection/welfare organizations), research and training institutions; and private sector (owners, input providers, equipment suppliers).

The structures in APAW work in synergy based on agreed regional programmes in support of the Action Plan. The Plan will be implemented over four years (2018-2021), fully integrated for reporting and review in AU mechanisms.

By envisioning a continent in which animal welfare is more widely enforced in line with the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA), the Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) will contribute to the action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Partners:



Food and Agriculture
Organization
United Nations



WorldHorseWelfare