

ANIMAL WELFARE MAGAZINE

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Walking in the Heat of the Sun

**An Animal Welfare Nexus
Resolution takes the Stage**

**Practicing Resilience
in Overcoming Adversity**

**African Untapped Potential:
Reimagining Livestock Production**

Kifaru House

wilderness trail

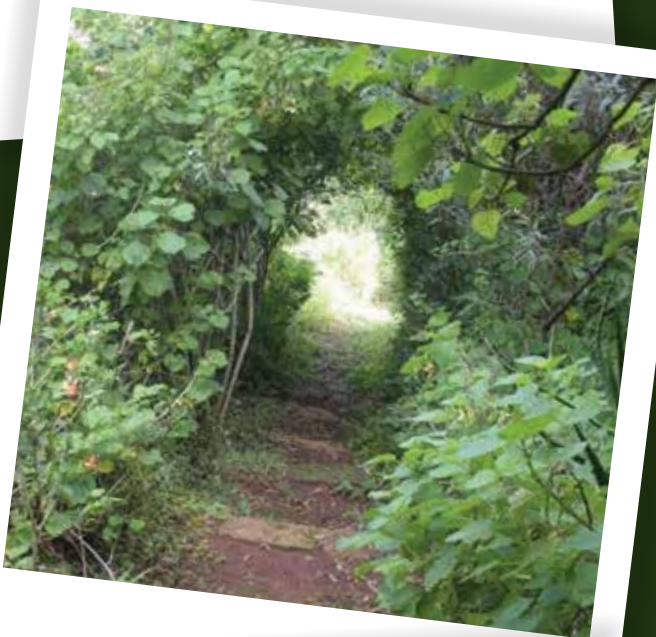
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An Animal Welfare Nexus Resolution Takes the Stage

Efforts and activities that preceded the historic ground-breaking passing of the Animal Welfare Resolution at the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA 5.2) stemmed from indigenous animal welfare groups in Africa in partnership with global like-minded organizations. Read on as the article takes you through the journey towards adopting the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution, which was sponsored by Ghana, Burkina Faso, Senegal, South Sudan, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



Animal Branding: The Red-Hot Mark That Breaches Good Animal Welfare Practice

During her extensive work, particularly when she undertook her externship program in South Omo in Ethiopia, Mahelet Yohannes noted that branding of livestock is a common means of animal identification as a practice implemented to secure herds in homesteads for security and identification and ways to avoid conflict. She observed the method in the context of the five freedoms of animal welfare and weighed in her views on it as a veterinarian in training. The article gives a student veterinarians perspectives of animal branding in Ethiopia and outlines the welfare issues in this practice.



Practicing Resilience in Overcoming Adversity

Amidst the pandemic, Africans reeled from the shock of losing their jobs. Cooped up in homes following the loss of their livelihoods, many realize that they may wallow in self pity or stay resilient, on course and develop ways to sustain their lives. This is precisely what Dr Masengesho did. Go through his interview on how the loss of his livelihood affected him and how he was able to get back on the success course in a courageous way.



African Untapped Potential: Reimagining Livestock Production

Kwolanne Felix offers key solution to the ravaging global climate crisis in tackling the inhumane impact of industrial agriculture to livestock. She reports on a virtual webinar where experts in the continent discuss the effects of industrial farming and the future of animal welfare. She highlights African expert opinions on the negative impact on biodiversity and traditional pastoral practices. Read on on how the analysis finds it crucial to encompass collaboration and focusing on it as a multi-stakeholder process

Adapting to Changes After the Pandemic: Have We Actually Changed, and How Can We?

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen us experience both extremes of the positive and the negative. Dr. Katherine Baxter talks about her experience and gives an evidence-based perspective on how human beings should adapt after the pandemic. She asks crucial questions and highlights the root cause of the problem. She gives her take on the solutions that should be looked at and ones that are currently being explored. She observes that the pandemic has more than ever brought to fore the interconnectedness of the world and its inhabitants. Read on to learn more and explore what studies in the past inform solutions that are very needed at these times.

Walking in the Heat of the Sun

Humane education embraces an innovative and creative approach in Nigeria as Chiemeka Chiedozie takes to the road by walking in the heat of the sun to teach and educate students on the field of study. His passion and action made him popular such that children were able to identify him on the streets. He lives his mission to impart knowledge to the children to have relevant information about animal kingdom and how to care for them. Get inspired by this brave project and learn about the meaningful collaboration and network he was able to make.

A Review of The Livestock Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 16 Of 2021)

Lawyer and animal welfare practitioner, Judith Muriithi takes us through the recently deliberated upon Livestock Bill 2021 in Kenya. The bill comes at a time of change. The article analyses the new bill, which will govern the livestock sector previously housed in the Crop Production and Livestock Act, reviews aspects and points critical to livestock practitioners and farmers. Read on and understand why it questions the relevance of the controversial bill and asserts the best way forward.

Does Animal Welfare have a Space in Intensive Poultry Production Systems?

Dr. Janerose Mutura relays Poultry Production Systems as crucial in driving egg production, growth rate and economical production of poultry products. She delves into how animal welfare is deemed to be a contentious topic because of the discrepancy of opinions on how animals should be reared. The article cites the track record of how animal welfare is deemed important in farming systems in Europe. She explores animal behavior in caged rearing and asserts a stance by providing statistics and information from 'The Status of Battery Cage Farming in Kenya' study undertaken by ANAW in 2020.



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COVER PHOTO

Children washing their dog during World Animal Day at a Day Clinic organised by Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)

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Editorial Note

The unbelievable gasp, tears streaming down faces, leaps of joy and loud claps that echoed the conference of the United Nations in Nairobi during the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) on March 2, 2022, were loud and collective. For a minute, it was hard to grasp that the animal resolution had really indeed passed. To live at a time where animal welfare is recognized as a key element to sustainable development by the civil society and diplomatic country representatives was incredible! This was a massive step for animal welfare advocates everywhere in the world. In this issue, we reveal and take you through the journey and learn about the steps that were taken to achieve this groundbreaking milestone.

This time, we travel and explore animal welfare issues, discuss diverse topics with practitioners, advocates, students, and researchers across the continent. Animal welfare takes a step up to aid in tackling climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

As the world takes a breath after a global pandemic, many of us come to terms with what happened as we adjust back into our external day to day lives. Take a read at the piece, *Adapting to Changes After the Pandemic, Have We Actually Changed, and How Can We?* which gives a personal reflection on life after the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of taking in the lessons learnt in this period. The incisive and informative article raises questions and highlights the root cause of the global challenge.

Many leveraged on the devastating impact of the pandemic in their personal lives to find solutions. After being forced to shut down a massive project due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Jean Claude Masengesho deliberated on a solution after staying home for a couple of months. He considered the welfare of animals in Rwanda and drew up ways in which he could tackle it. An inspiring piece introduces you to his work and his journey on his unlikely stumble upon animal welfare as a scholar and veterinarian. He takes us to school on resilience and how to turn about a difficult challenge one is dealt with into a successful initiative in Africa at a time that many resigned to their circumstances.

Resourcefulness, balance and welfare is practiced in the same breath as resilience, a trait well grasped by inhabitants of this wonderful continent, that ensures survival and adaptation. Agriculture, one of the biggest sectors in our economies, should factor these values. Industrialized farming has had a negative impact on biodiversity and traditional pastoral practices. Explore the article where arguments and discussions are relayed on how the process exacerbates the ongoing climate crisis.

We also delve into agriculture in Ethiopia and look at the welfare of livestock at peril with animal branding being a major form of identification. Africans can assert that this is an age-old effective tradition. The problem comes in when it breaches on not only the well being of the animal, but also the livestock economy. Take a look at a refreshing perspective on animal welfare today in this veterinary practice. Travel to East Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa, Latin America and across the globe and explore the animal welfare topics and deliberations in this issue of the *Animal Welfare Magazine*. Lay back, take a sip of your coffee and flip through the *Animal Welfare Magazine*.

Kindly consider jumping on board being part of the community by being an ANAW Network Partner .

Have a great read!Join us and explore this fascinating world.

Catherine Chumo

An Animal Welfare Nexus Resolution Takes the Stage

Animal Welfare Nests at the United Nations

by Catherine Chumo



Years of stakeholder collaboration with animal welfare organizations culminated in a monumental achievement at the United Nations in Nairobi, Kenya. For the first time in history, a resolution that exclusively refers to animal welfare was adopted on March 2, 2022.

The Resumed Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) adopted the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution which was sponsored by seven (7) Member States, namely Ghana, Burkina Faso, Senegal, South Sudan, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The draft resolution was discussed, negotiated, and was agreed upon at a referendum and was passed by Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) ahead of UNEA 5.2.

The international multilateral groups aligned with the resolution's call on the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to produce a

report in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the One-Health High-Level Expert Panel and other stakeholders.

Coordinated global lobbying efforts and activities that preceded this ground-breaking achievement stemmed from indigenous

animal welfare groups in Africa in partnership with global like-minded organizations. The achievement was a huge milestone following years of work undertaken by the civil society organizations to protect animals, their habitat and the communities that live with and adjacent to them. The resolution will seek to affirm the important role their work plays in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Today, the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment acknowledged the strong body of science supporting animal welfare and its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We have taken a bigger step forward to protect humans, animals, and the planet. And we showed how we are better together” said Josphat Ngonyo, the Founder and Executive Director for Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW).

The actions taken which aimed to derive support from Member States was coordinated by Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the World Federation for Animals (WFA). The organizations collaborated with their partners and member organizations in Africa, Asia, Europe, and USA.

“We are proud of this watershed moment for the animal protection movement. It is a massive collective success for our members and partners and proves the impact of a worldwide coalition of animal NGOs. A holistic understanding of the links between animal suffering and environmental harm and greater

“ Today, the world’s highest level decision-making body on the environment acknowledged the strong body of science supporting animal welfare and its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We have taken a bigger step forward to protect humans, animals, and the planet. And we showed how we are better together



inter-agency collaboration with shared aims are critical stepping stones for improving the well-being of animals across the globe.” James Yeates, the Chief Executive Officer for World Federation for Animals (WFA).

The effort was indeed collective as it was generously supported financially and in kind by Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), Four Paws, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Animal People, Animal Welfare Trust, Africa Network for Animal Welfare-USA, American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS), Animals Australia, World Horse Welfare, and Well Being International at a regional and global.

This great stride follows the endorsement of the resolution by the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) in December 2021 of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Heads of States and Government of African Union during the 35th African Union Summit in February 2022.

“An enabling policy and legal framework is a key institutional arrangement for sustainable development of animal resources upon which to anchor the development strategies, programs and projects. A clear understanding of the fundamental issues that need to be addressed and the generation of the necessary evidence for the formulation of policies and legal frameworks to guide the components of development is crucial.

AU-IBAR welcomes the adoption of the Resolution by UNEA; which is envisaged to lead to a clear understanding of the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable

development, and recognizes the resolution as a critical milestone in addressing its mandate to spearhead the sustainable development of the Animal Resources Sector in Africa.” Stated the Acting Director of AU-IBAR, Dr. Nick Nwankpa.

This major achievement had been long forthcoming for the animal welfare stakeholders and partners as the process of attaining it was focused, adept and efficient.

“It is indeed an historic moment in the United Nations Environment Assembly accepting this resolution which gives official recognition to the vital role of animal welfare in achieving a sustainable planet for us all. Huge thanks to everyone involved in making this trailblazing resolution happen.” Stated the Global Chief Executive Officer of Compassion in World Farming International, Philip Lymbery.

Tracking the Resolution Process Africa Animal Welfare Conference - Action 2019

It was on a warm day at the halls of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) that the discussions on the conference resolutions took place, after an engaging and exhausting few days at the Africa Animal Welfare Conference - Action 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Having convened for three days, African leaders, researchers, academics, conservationists, legal professionals, law enforcers, and animal welfare practitioners, from different parts of the African continent and the world agreed upon final recommendations in the East African capital.

Among the fifteen (15) resolutions that had been determined and put together to address the gaps flagged and to solve the challenges highlighted in the presentations,

was a highly ambitious one that seemed to be almost unattainable.

Under the ‘Engagement with UN Environment’ clause, Resolution No. 8 instructed the conference to table a resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) through a Member State that recognizes and affirms the contribution and significance of welfare of animals to environmental protection, social justice, and sustainable development of society. The meeting further resolved that the conference organizers, UNEP, AU-IBAR and ANAW to work together with other animal welfare organizations to actualize the resolution.

Upon the creation of the joint secretariat, ANAW was tasked to lead and coordinate the process and mobilize the resources in order to actualize the animal welfare resolution.

We Are Better Together



It has been proven, time and again, that all should work in unity to achieve a common goal effectively at the highest level. Individuals, organizations, and institutions work hand in hand to address environmental crises experienced and to make an impact in the world today. This was the mindset and approach adopted when the organizers and the secretariat set out to fulfil the assigned task – they were better together.

Following the conference, the secretariat sought support and partnership from animal welfare organizations across the world to form a steering committee and a technical committee. The appointed committees comprised of Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), Animal People, African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Brooke International, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), Eurogroup for Animals, Four Paws, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), The Donkey Sanctuary, UNEP as an advisor, World Horse Welfare, World Federation for Animals (WFA) and World Animal Protection.

During the process, the team also joined hands with the Red Latinoamericana de Protección Animal (Red-LAPA), Mercy for Animals, Proveg, Catholic Concern, and many other animal welfare, wildlife, and environmental conservation NGOs to support the sponsoring states in raising awareness of and garnering support for the resolution.

The group undertook to jointly support and inform the member states on the resolution, hoping there would be support from

at least ninety-seven (97) United Nations Member States required to support the resolution at UNEA-5.2 in February 2022, for it to be passed and adopted. This is 50% plus 1 (one) member states minimum number required to pass a resolution.

Member States Own the Animal Welfare Resolution

Civil society organizations supported Member States through their appointed joint secretariat who visited ministers and officials in different countries in an effort to discuss and provide information on the animal welfare resolution. The Member States agreed and aligned with the aims and objectives of the resolution and committed to sponsor and support it. The states appointed two focal point persons one in Nairobi and the capital.

The efforts were further aided when strategic meetings were organized to take place in ongoing global high-level conferences. A side meeting was

planned during the 5th Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC) in Ghana for the Ministers of Environment as a preparation of moving the resolution forward to UNEA and to reach out to other Member States to support the resolution.

The meetings were successful and achieved a common purpose which is to engage and inform Member States on the pioneering resolution.

The Animal Welfare Resolution at the Resumed Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2)

After the resolution was tabled and discussed by Member States during the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Sub - Committee meetings, it underwent refinement to address the concerns raised.

Unanimous Support from Global Civil Society Organizations

The civil society organizations representing different countries across the world that were accredited to UN Environment as Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) expressed their support for the resolution in a well elaborated document to UNEA. They submitted their recommendations of the Animal Welfare-Environment-Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution highlighting their thoughts and views on the document. The recommendations contextualized animal welfare in the three pillars that UN Environment addressed – Biodiversity Loss, Pollution and Climate Change.

The Major Groups and Stakeholders expressed their full support of the resolution which requested UNEP's



Executive Director to carry out an analysis and report on the interlinkages between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development. The MGS statement explained that the resolution would aid UNEP and Member States to assess how improving animal welfare could support them in delivering on their mandate of protecting the environment and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The statement established that food production systems that have a negative impact on animal health and welfare are the dominant drivers of biodiversity loss and zoonotic disease emergence and contribute significantly to climate change and environmental pollution. Major Groups and Stakeholders gave a clear recommendation that the draft resolution should stay as a stand-alone measure and should not be merged with any other resolution as it is short, targeted and deals with an issue which is new to the UN system.

A Resolution Adopted!

On March 2, 2022, the UNEA President Espen Barth Eide, announced the adoption of the resolution. “The first draft resolution is entitled, ‘Animal Welfare, Environment and

“ The first draft resolution is entitled, ‘Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus’ (UNEA/EA5/L10 Revision1). May I take it that the assembly wishes to adopt this draft resolution?... I see no objections; it is so decided.”

Sustainable Development Nexus’ (UNEA/EA5/L10 Revision1). May I take it that the assembly wishes to adopt this draft resolution?... I see no objections; it is so decided.” The president announced as he brought down the gavel.

The historic news was met with deafening shouts, claps and ululations that reverberated across the conference hall at the United Nations. An insurmountable feat had been accomplished! The resolution was finally adopted!

The Advocacy Task to Fulfil the Resolution

The magnitude of the implication of a resolution adopted by the highest-level decision-making environmental organ calls for an equally monumental convening task to fulfil it. The inference of this decision creates a massive expectation to provide evidence on the role of animal welfare as a key interlink to the global environmental challenges, as a vital pillar of One Health and as an objective to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A supporting task to the UN Environment Executive Director and the multilateral groups cited falls squarely on the unified shoulder of animal welfare advocates and practitioners.

It is crucial to perceive the move to distinguish animal welfare at the world’s highest policy making assembly as only but the beginning of a journey to attain a humane world that cares for and protects its animals.



An Animal Welfare Nexus Resolution:

The Latin American Perspective
with *Luis Carlos Sarmiento*



“I was very nervous. I knew deep inside that it has to happen. There was no other opportunity. It’s now or never.”



Luis and lamb

People present paced nervously on the corridors of the Conference Room II. They looked at their watches and took a sip of water to calm their nerves. There was anticipation and tension. Everyone was on edge and words came sparingly. For a minute, time seems to have stood still. They waited to be ushered in for the moment of decision truth.

The decision on whether the Animal Welfare, Environment

and Sustainable Development resolution would pass at the United Nations Environmental Assembly 5.2 was very crucial for animal welfare and conservation practitioners across the globe. It was an important moment for animals, their habitat and the people who worked to protect them. A lot was going on in their minds.

The meeting of clusters on different resolutions took place after months of physical and online meetings

and avid drafting, negotiation and deliberations by civil society groups and member states from across the world.

The member states had gone through all 14 resolutions, given recommendations, revised refined text and given their decisions. It was a matter of waiting to know if the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development resolution had passed.

Luis Carlos Sarmiento was quite



← *Luis and protectionists from the city of Barranquilla after a conference given by me.*

nervous. It was not the first time organizations and individuals tried to commit United Nations to bring animal welfare into their resolutions or treaties. In the past, Luis had worked for years trying to introduce the Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare (UDAW) to the global organization.

Much had been done to ensure that a unified policy to cater to the welfare of animals would be introduced at the United Nations – anything to provide direction, encourage discussion, and reflect refined solutions to the need to ensure that the welfare of animals is prioritized in a global platform. They had not been successful. Tabling a resolution that exclusively mentioned animal welfare was a giant gutsy move.

Luis was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Proyecto ALA, Animales LatinoAmérica. “I was very nervous. I knew deep inside that it has to happen. There was no other opportunity. It’s now or never.”

Animal Welfare in Latin America

It is acknowledged that animal welfare is at its elementary stages of development in many parts of the world. The article, Animal Welfare in Central and South America: What is Going On? by Ana Paula de Oliveira Souza, Luana Oliveira Leite and Carla Forte Maiolino Molento, gives insight to the historical evolution of the field of animal welfare in the continent. The article traces the formal beginnings of the field to 1980s when animal welfare research groups began. In 1986,

animal welfare was first taught in a veterinary school as a course organized by Donald Bloom in Cambridge University.

This was decades before animal welfare was introduced in Latin America. The first animal welfare course was taught to veterinary students in 1999 at Universidade de Brasilia (Molento and Calderon, 2009). Today, animal protection regulation exists in 18 countries in Central and South America that demonstrate at least minimum protection against animal abuse as cited in the article.

We decided to delve in and explore more into animal welfare in Latin America and understand the implication of the animal welfare resolution to these countries. We



← *Luis and Silvia (PAE Riobamba) in an interview after help was provided to animals affected by volcano explosion in Ecuador.*

chatted with Luis Carlos Sarmiento, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Proyecto Animales LatinoAmérica (Proyecto ALA).

How did you become involved in the animal welfare field?

Since I was a little kid I remember, I liked animals and I always loved to protect them. I always wanted to interact with the dogs and cats that I met in the houses or the strays on the streets. There was always a dog or dogs in the house. I have had a close relation with animals. The best trips in my life were those that we went to the countryside, and I saw wildlife and other types of animals – horses or cows. I love cows. I love every kind of animal.

When I started university, I had was torn between some choices. I had to decide studying to be an architect, an engineer or focus on something related to the animals. My family did not want me to be a veterinarian. I proceeded on to study a number of different careers which, unfortunately I did not finish any of them. I eventually decided that I would study something related to animals. By then I was older, more independent and could make better decisions. I was also working so that I could fund my studies.

I decided to study Agriculture Business Management. Colombia is an agricultural country with crops, and lots of livestock. I ruminated on this and found that it was a good start for me even though I was not going to get into the business. I wanted to learn more about animals. While I was studying, I started getting involved with animal protection. I worked for an organization at least for four or five years while I finished my studies. They asked me to work with them,

My work extends to partnering with several organizations like Animals Australia, and Four Paws, as a consultant. I also keep in touch with other international organizations because they rely on me for advice and technical support when needed.

which was when I started to develop a career in animal welfare. This was World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) which is now known as World Animal Protection.



My career grew within the organization. I was ultimately assigned the director in the region, and I worked for them for 22 years. I developed and expanded the office, the staff, and the work in every single country in the region. This was my real university because there I met local organizations, attended local activities, lobbied politicians, worked with universities that deal with animal welfare, met a lot of interesting people and I continued working.

My work extends to partnering with several organizations like Animals Australia, and Four Paws, as a consultant. I also keep in touch with other international organizations because they rely on me for advice and technical support when needed.

At this point, I had noted that there are gaps in Latin America which are not addressed by anyone. In 2015, I made a decision to create my own organization. This is where Proyecto ALA came into the scene. There was no organization that brought together the smaller groups - the grassroots groups. There was no organization that brought them together as a network nor work to interchange experiences and knowledge.

Sometimes international organizations give training or development based on their ideas or their thoughts. It should be noted that every region is very different from others. Country X, for example, comes to teach principles that are not adjusted to the Latin culture, reality, geography, weather, or the political scene.

There are a lot of factors involved. Being a Latino and having travelled to all the region from Mexico to

Argentina, including many of the Caribbean Islands, it's easier for me to understand the dynamics, what should be done and how to support them, not economic support. We don't give money as we are a small organization without funds but we like to share our knowledge, experience, expertise, and of course the network capacities developed in all this almost 30 years of work.

What are the top three animal welfare issues you face in Latin America?

We experience the same issues across the Global South. There are vast issues on illegal wildlife trade, traditional medicine, utilizing parts of animals, and hunting of sharks for their fins to send them to China.

Mistreatment and cruelty from humans to animals is a major issue. Every single country faced abandonment and mistreatment of strays or animals in the house. It's a sad reality. This was exacerbated



Luis and hen from a cage free farm

during Covid 19. During the pandemic, there were false news about the animals transmitting Covid 19. A lot of people abandoned their animals because they were scared that the dog or cat would transmit Covid 19 to them. People did not feed their animals.

The economic situation of Latin America also affected the welfare of the animals. A large population of the people in the country experiences poverty. If one is not able to feed their children, animals are usually the first ones to be left out. In countries like Colombia, people were allowed to go out and walk their dog twice for 20 minutes. More people started adopting dogs. But as soon as the quarantine ended, they went back to work and many of the dogs were abandoned.

Working animals such as horses, donkeys, and mules, are being overexploited. The animals are

Animals are being exploited to satisfy not only the local markets but also the international markets namely countries like those in the Middle East or China. Latin America has been converted into one of the main live export countries.

Luis, Silvia (PAE Riobamba) and politician from Ecuador



treated like machines. They are overworked from very early in the morning until very late at night and this happens in many other regions and countries. Equines are very unfortunate in Latin America because their future destiny is bleak.

Equines are used in touristic cities such as Cartagena and Colombia to push carriages to attract tourists. They work repeatedly one turn after another. This is something Proyecto ALA wants to address - to end this practice. Donkeys are used in many small cities for transportation of cargo vehicles. A four-wheel element is attached and loaded with everything from construction debris to construction material plants or trees. They move with the cargo from one part of the country to another.

Animal welfare issues are also experienced in farming. Latin America is a continent where there is a huge production of eggs, chicken, pigs, and cattle and at the south of the continent, there is sheep. Animals are being exploited to satisfy not only the local markets but also the international markets namely countries like those in the Middle East or China. Latin America has been converted into one of the main live export countries. This means that countries like Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, and Chile export live animals in ships all the way to the target countries.

They are usually destined for slaughter, reproduction or dairy. These trips are terrible because of the duration of the trip, which takes about one month. Also crucial is how they are treated during those 30 days and how they are slaughtered once they arrive in the



Luis interviewed in Ecuador after a training session on disaster relief

countries in the Middle East. You must understand that every single animal has a sad story behind it in Latin America. There is a lot of work to do. We are doing whatever is in our hands. It's a big region with a lot of problems with animals.

How did you feel about that resolution being passed?

I was nervous at first. Very nervous. When they announced it, I wanted to cry, to dance, to laugh, and to hug everybody. I was so excited. I felt so good and I know that all the intense weeks and months of work paid off. I am really excited.

As soon as I heard the news, I sent the message to our network in Latin America. This network has more than 35 organizations from different countries that go from Mexico to Argentina. We have our way of real time contact through WhatsApp. I texted them and sent them a couple of pictures. I announced to

them that the resolution had been approved because since I left my country, Colombia, I have been updating them. They knew what was happening today and they were expecting news. That was the first reaction. The word was spread across Latin America announcing to everyone that the resolution was passed. This is like a rejuvenation of our efforts and energy to help animals all over the world.

How will this resolution affect the animal welfare?

It will affect the world in a positive way. As you know, some countries were opposing the resolution. Those particular countries are ones that facilitate large production of animals being utilized for food such as cattle, sheep, and broiler chickens. They are aware that our movement is very strong, that we are not buying anything, that we want to stop animal cruelty and exploitation. They were in their comfort zone because talks about the welfare have previously not existed in United Nations.

The study or document that is going to be produced will be the very beginning. It will open doors for us to start working and pushing towards the end of many practices that are not only cruel to animals but also have a negative impact on our environment by causing pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change. They know it and that is why they didn't want it passed. We have a long way to go still. This is very beginning but we have an open door. We must use the opportunity wisely to end animal cruelty.

Animal Branding

The Red-Hot Mark That Breaches Good Animal Welfare Practice

By Mahelet Yohannes

During her extensive work, particularly when she undertook her externship program in South Omo in Ethiopia, Mahelet Yohannes noted that branding of livestock is a common means of animal identification. She observed the method in the context of the five freedoms of animal welfare and weighed in her views on it as a veterinarian in training.

Many in pastoral communities spend their days in the undulating hilly grasslands, plains, farms, roadside, and lakesides in rural African holdouts, grazing cattle, sheep, and goats. Livestock is the backbone of many families and provides substantial income to sustain livelihoods. The cultural connection and long-standing ancestral history have struck a strong bond between man and his livestock.

Livestock animals such as cattle, goats, sheep, camels, donkeys, mules, horses, and chicken are important assets of the farmers and pastoralists in Ethiopia which helps their livelihood. Among livestock species, cattle contribute significantly to the livelihoods of farmers. According to CSA (2011), Ethiopia has about 52.13 million heads of cattle. They serve as a source of draught power for the rural farming crops, supply farm families with milk, meat, manure, and also as source of cash income, playing a significant role in the social and cultural values of the society.

In Ethiopia, agriculture contributes about 50% to the overall gross domestic product (GDP), generates 90% of export earnings, and provides employment for 80% of the population according to (CSA, 2009). Livestock is an integral part of the agriculture and the contribution of live animals and their products to the



Photo showing branded animals



agricultural economy accounts for 47% according to (IGAD-LPI, 2011).

Agriculture is the main economic activity and more than 80% of population is dependent on agriculture in which livestock play a very vital role for crop production, production of milk, meat and skin (hide), for loading and generation of income by selling live animals.

On my 6th year (Externship program) of my study I have got experience to work on pastoral area of the country, which is South Omo, found at the south-western extreme part of the country and it's one of the area which got higher number of livestock population. Cattle's, goats and sheep are the first three animals that have great number of population from the livestock population of the district.

So the pastoralist uses hot iron branding practice to differentiate their animals from others. Branding is a way of identifying ownership it's been means of identifying livestock and has been practiced for many years.

Hot iron branding of livestock is accomplished by thermal injury of the skin. The hot iron placed on the un-anesthetized animals after restraining them by rope or manual, then burn the hair and skin to leave a permanent scar that scar used as identification mark. The mark need to be different from one to another so they use different characters (lines, symbol) on different parts of the body to distinguish their animals.

This practice is inhumane way of branding animals which affect animals negatively from welfare

point of view, hot iron branding is not recommended because it causes pain and discomfort to the animals which fail to fulfill the five freedoms of animals because it cause pain which oppose freedom from pain, discomfort and disease. Elevated mean plasma epinephrine, blood cortisol concentrations, heart and respiratory rates are frequently used to assess the amount of pain experienced. Behaviors like making different vocalization, depression, kicking, tail-flicking, and sometimes tears have been shown to be reliable indicators of pain in animals.

Others than the pain the followings are some negative effects of hot iron branding on the animals.

- Hair follicles of the animals will be damaged and it cause alopecia.
- Scar on the hide which is permanent,
- If the wound is didn't heal fast it may cause bacterial complication at the site of marking.

And also this practice affect the economy in a way that, hide which got scars are useless cause it can't pass to hide processing industries which fail to generate income, when slaughtering animals sometimes the hot iron damage the muscle and upon inspection meat inspectors condemned the muscle and the hot iron branding cause stress to animals which affect the rigor mortis of the muscle which reduced the meat quality. All this and others affect the economy one way or another.

Conclusion

Livestock play main role in the country as I tried to illustrate above, but the welfare of the animals is neglected by many means in this case hot iron branding cause pain to the animals it's a practice need to be avoided and above all it's unfair compared to what they do to our livelihood, so inhumane deed of us need to be improved by using different branding techniques like ear tags, neck chains, tail tags, paint marks, leg bands need to be practiced.



Mahelet Yohannes born and raised in Ethiopia and is about to complete her studies at Addis Ababa University. She has been undertaking a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in the past years and has been involved in voluntary activities such as being part of Animal Welfare Club that was founded in the college. Additionally, she has participated in different mass vacations programs and awareness creation. After finishing her DVM, she would like to continue her studies in wildlife related programs. She has a passion for creating awareness about Animal Health and Animal Welfare. She likes to spend time watching animal documentaries. It makes her eager to know more about animals.

Practicing Resilience in Overcoming Adversity

Through Practicing Animal Welfare In Rwanda

By Animal Welfare Staff



Overcoming adversity during a pandemic is no mean feat. Taking on learning gained and the training received, an accomplished veterinarian sought to do what many deem unachievable. Animal Welfare Magazine ventures to Rwanda and explores a great feat accomplished by Dr. Jean Claude Masengesho, the Executive Director of Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO)

Who is Dr. Jean Claude Masengesho?

Dr Masengesho is a Rwandan veterinary surgeon who has special interest in animal welfare. He is the Founder and Executive Director of the Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO).

Could you tell us about your academic background?

I graduated as a veterinary surgeon in 2014 from the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, University of Rwanda. In 2015, I got the opportunity to go for training in Austria, where I spent six months training in veterinary diagnostic techniques (microbiology and parasitology) at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna.

Did you come back to Africa to work in veterinary science?

Yes. From 2016 to 2020, I worked at the New Vision Veterinary Hospital (NVVH) as the head of laboratories.

Great. So, how did you come to be interested in the field of animal welfare?

In 2017, British veterinary pathologist Professor John Cooper and his animal lawyer wife Mrs Margaret Cooper visited Rwanda and spent time at the NVVH. They presented lectures and trained the NVVH staff in veterinary laboratory techniques, including pathology, forensic medicine and animal welfare.



Animal welfare was a very novel subject and concept to me and I was greatly stirred by what he heard. He became aware of the hiatus in Rwanda as far as animal welfare was concerned. From that time Jean Claude felt inspired by what he had learnt from the Coopers and he began to combine concerns for animal welfare work with his laboratory duties at NVWH.

That's a great achievement. How have you progressed further in animal welfare after coming upon it as you did?

From 2017 onwards, I gained further insight into the importance of animal welfare as a result of direct contact with experts overseas, including Cambridge University Veterinary School. They, like the Coopers, sent me various articles and books about animal welfare and discussed with me in correspondence what might be done to advance the topic in Rwanda. In September 2017, I had the opportunity to attend a workshop in neighboring Tanzania organized by WTG VETS UNITED. The workshop's theme was "Improving Animal Welfare and Health in Africa through Education". In September 2019, I attended the 3rd Africa Animal Welfare Conference which was held in Ethiopia. The title of this was "Animal Environment and Sustainable Development."

Where and how did you ingrain animal welfare in your work?

I also was the WTS-VETS UNITED Project manager and focal person in Rwanda. It was an excellent opportunity for me to improve his knowledge and skills in animal welfare and, at the same time, network with experts from Africa and elsewhere in the world. Even during this time, I was combining my interests in animal welfare with my duties

as microbiologist at the New Vision Veterinary Hospital. From 2018 to 2020, I was heading a large project from Rwanda Dairy Development which involved analyzing approximately 5000 milk samples (isolation of bacteria and sensitivity testing).

What challenges have you faced in your work?

As we all know, in 2020 there was an outbreak of Covid-19 everywhere – including Rwanda. It was a challenging year, the situation became unfavorable to me and consequently NVWH had to terminate some staff contracts, including mine.



You overcame these challenges in a massive way. Could you tell us how it happened?

Spending a couple of months at home with his family, I had time to think about the plight of animal welfare in Rwanda and ponder what I might do to tackle it. It was clear that there was minimal adherence to the “Five Freedoms” for livestock farmers and, in addition, other pressing issues such as inhumane animal transportation and little action over stray dogs.

As part of endeavoring to overcome adversity and difficulties caused by Covid 19 he resolved to be resilient. I used the opportunity to contact colleagues and share with them ideas and thinking about animal welfare that I had acquired, especially from attending conferences. A decision was made to found a non-profit organization, “Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization”, which envisages a world in which animals are treated with respect and compassion. Its mission was to be to advance animal welfare in Rwanda by improving the wellbeing of both animals and humans.

It is exciting to hear about this major feat you have accomplished. How have you progressed since?

In November 2020 the Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization received an operational certificate from the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) which permitted it to pursue its aims and objectives. At the present time I serve as Executive Director to RAWO and, under my leadership, RAWO has started three education programmes explaining animal welfare awareness for livestock farmers, pet owners and students from both primary and secondary schools.

Wow! You have made a strong impact in such a short time. What do you have planned for the future?

It is hoped that RAWO will contribute significantly to the wellbeing of both animals and humans in Rwanda by promoting animal production that adheres to the Five Freedoms for animals and by encouraging measures that protect public health. Understandably, as RAWO is a new body and still establishing itself in Rwanda, my colleagues and I would welcome contact with colleagues overseas, copies of relevant publications and literature, and suggestions as to how it might best forward its aims and attract support in terms of finance, networking and advice.



USA

Africa's Untapped Potential

REIMAGINING LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

By Kwolanne Felix

From the rich pastoral traditions of the Maasai in Kenya, to the growing of indigenous crops like sorghum in South Africa, agriculture plays a vital part in African cultures, traditions and livelihood. Farming is an important part of sub-Saharan Africa's economy and accounts for 15% of the region's GDP. However, African agricultural potential is often described as an “untapped” market. Such a perspective, often voiced by agribusiness and livestock industry advocates when discussing the future of feeding the world, begs the question, what kind of agricultural practices are untapped?

For transnational agribusinesses, governments, and international development organizations that don't consider the importance of environmentally sustainable practices, industrial agriculture is an answer. However, impacts of the industrial agricultural model on the climate and animal welfare are gaining more public awareness. This is pushing experts, organizers, and leaders across sub-Saharan Africa to question the long term impacts of further investing in industrial farming.

Brighter Green, a US-based policy action tank focusing on promoting policies that span environment, equity, human rights, and animal rights, partnered with the University of Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa to tackle the topic. Brighter Green continues to do vital work in advocating for better environmental and animal protection policies. Beyond this incredible panel, they do amazing programming in China, the United States, and East Africa.

In May of this year, Brighter Green and UWC hosted a virtual webinar which gathered experts throughout the African continent to discuss the effects of industrial farming and the future of animal welfare. This dialogue sparked conversations

on public policy, local agriculture traditions, animal rights, and climate change that form the subject of this article.

Together, local activists, leading experts, and scientists challenged this vision of African agricultural potential. Instead of following the destructive practices of industrial agriculture, the experts discussed the potential for the African continent to tap into a rich and diverse history of traditional practices coupled with modern sustainable methods to reimagine farming practice while promoting animal welfare.

Due to the ecological, social, and economic diversity of sub-Saharan Africa, there are no easy and straightforward answers that can be applied homogeneously. However, with evidence-based

research, consideration for animal well-being, the collaboration of activists, local small holder farmers, government bodies, and development agencies, innovative solutions are possible.

The Impacts of Factory Farming on Food Security & Animal Welfare (& Biodiversity)

Industrial agriculture is often described as the most economically sound choice, due to the capabilities of producing large quantities of food to meet growing populations. Africa's population is projected to double by 2050, which poses new challenges for food security.

However these economic assumptions tend to only focus on the production of food, without accounting for the environmental costs, impacts on health, and

“Industrial animal agriculture limits animal biodiversity whereas smallholder agriculture, traditional agriculture, and a blend with agroecology, there is encouragement for a biodiverse system enabling the system to be resilient to adverse conditions, pests and diseases, and other challenges.”



long term effects on biodiversity, pollution and animal welfare.

Industrial agriculture has a negative impact on biodiversity, and traditional pastoral practices. Charles Ssekyewa, a Professor of Agro-Ecology with a focus on Systems Philosophy and Applications, as well as Organic Agriculture, who is based in Uganda, notes “Industrial animal agriculture limits animal biodiversity whereas smallholder agriculture, traditional agriculture, and a blend with agroecology, there is encouragement for a biodiverse system enabling the system to be resilient to adverse conditions, pests and diseases, and other challenges.” For example, over 150 native cows to Africa have a wide variety of genetic diversity that allows them to adapt to their specific regions. However, industrial practices often prefer specific non-native breeds that are not adapted to the very unique environmental landscape that they may inhabit in Africa.

This makes non-native species even more susceptible to climate change and changes in water supply, and temperature levels. The introduction of these non-native species often leads to reduced biodiversity through the extinction of native species, as

well as the erasure of indigenous livestock practices. Increases in livestock also doesn't necessarily solve issues of hunger and food insecurity. Considering that 36% of crop land is used for animal feed worldwide, could some of what's produced be used instead to grow crops for humans to consume directly? The increase of industrial livestock production impacts native practices and threatens indigenous breeds, while leaving non-native species vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate change. Ultimately, this creates an unsustainable cycle that has long term economically devastating effects.

Panelist Ornella Kasongo, a master's student in Sociology at UWC, discusses the economic consequences of industrial farming. She emphasizes that, “In the long run, it increases food insecurity in society because industrial agriculture contributes highly to global warming..”, noting that livestock accounts for at least 14.5% of global greenhouse gases. “This, she continued, “contributes to climate changes and droughts, which [negatively] affect crop agriculture, which in the long run will [have an increased] effect on food insecurity as a whole.” Ms. Kasongo's point on the negative effects of climate change on

food production, can already be seen throughout the region. For example, Sudan experienced the historic flooding caused by climate change, which left an additional 3.5 million people suffering from acute food insecurity. In Zambia and Zimbabwe the last three years have been plagued by harsh droughts, due to late rainfall and rising temperatures. These droughts leave 11 million people facing food shortage. By relying on industrial agricultural practices that don't consider environmental consequences, food insecurity is intensified.

Furthermore, when discussing the economic merits of industrial farming, rarely is the effect on animals' well-being highlighted, and its impact on the health of the people who consume industrial livestock. Industrial farming practices favor the mass production of animals with little respect to their well-being. The sheer number of 80 billion livestock animals slaughtered each year worldwide, as Tony Gerrans, Executive Director Africa Humane Society International notes, makes it impossible to treat them humanely. As industrial livestock practices grow throughout sub-Saharan Africa, the inhumane practices follow.





As Gerrans highlights, as industrial livestock practices spread in popularity throughout Africa, farmed animals “Often live in their own wastes and sometimes attack each other depending on the species and there are thus issues of disease and injury that go unattended for long periods of time.” The life and well-being of animals are ignored for environmentally damaging mass production.

Master Student Lynne Vigeland of University of the Western Cape studying the impacts of industrialized farming on poor populations, describes this process as, “The commodification of animals in terms of its economic value changes the animal from a biological entity that experiences a

given environment to an economic entity that can be exchanged.” These conditions remove animals from their natural environment, and disturb their life processes, like birth, physical maturity, and offspring rearing are done to maximize profits.

When disregarding the well-being of animals, people also pay the consequences. As Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, sees growth in the development of industrial cattle farming, the consequences of inhumane conditions for cattle will have impacts on local communities. In a 2019 UN report, “Africa Sustainable Livestock 2050: The Future of Livestock in Ethiopia” notes various consequences of intensified industrial livestock

practices. The growing number of cattle, especially in the densely enclosed facilities in peri-urban landscapes, will lead to new emerging diseases that threaten animals and people. The consequences of these poor conditions also lead to the improper use of antimicrobials to try to combat the diseases that arise in such inhumane facilities. As Ms. Kasongo notes “... the chemicals used for livestock, for example antibiotics for growth or to speed up production, may impact human health.” The UN report echoes her statements and warns of the devastating outbreak of particularly difficult to treat diseases.

Reaching Sustainable Solutions Through Collaboration

However, economic growth and environmentally conscious agricultural practices and animal welfare are not mutually exclusive. Instead, these processes can go hand in hand when considering the multifaceted needs of diverse communities for a sustainable future. Professor Werner Sholtz, Professor of International Environmental Law at the University of Southampton, highlights this approach during the panel discussion. He highlights the balancing of various interests such as human rights, economic growth, sustainable development, and environmentally sound practices should all be considered.

He notes that “It’s necessary to understand the interplay between the elements. The use of the economic circumstances of a continent or country to follow abhorrent practices negates the interplay between all the factors. The argument may be used as a short-term solution however, there will be long-term ramifications such as pollution”. Therefore



purely relying on maximizing profits to excuse animal abuses, the degradation of human health, and depletion of environmental resources is not a sustainable approach to developing long term agricultural practices.

Achieving sustainable agriculture is a multi-stakeholder process that demands the support of various entities, including government bodies at every level, donor organizations, agribusiness sector, and small farmers. Even though there is an acknowledgement that regenerative agricultural practices are necessary throughout many African communities, envisioning specific implementation can be difficult.

The decisions on necessary policies, transitions and implementation are very complex, and there are no simple solutions. Creating these approaches, conversations throughout the community on implication is vital for meaningful and sustainable execution.

A 2021 study, “Strengthening decision-making on sustainable agricultural intensification through multi-stakeholder social learning

in sub-Saharan Africa,” conducted throughout different countries in Africa explores this. The study investigates multi-stakeholder social learning approaches to decision making in developing sustainable agricultural practices. Researchers found when diverse stakeholders engage in the topic, it allows for a democratic approach that considers the complexities of agricultural policies. Professor Ssekyaewa argues that evidence-based research that is responsive to local communities is necessary for governments to achieve a sustainable future. . By integrating multi-stakeholder perspectives, governments can craft innovative solutions that are tailored to local needs while being supported by evidence based research.

Agriculture is an important part of African history, with the first domesticated cattle in the region originating 9000 years ago. The region is rich with livestock traditions dominated by cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys, camels, and poultry. As industrial livestock practices continue to spread the consequences of animal abuses, climate change, and degradation

of human well-being is evident. As the panelists emphasize, industrial agriculture can't be the future to African agriculture, because ultimately the consequences will lead to food with no one left to eat.

Instead, these experts describe an alternative future that takes into account the diversity of cultures, ecology, and animal needs throughout the region. They acknowledge that these solutions are complex, and demand the rich traditions of African agricultural history with the knowledge of modern technological advances. Multi-stakeholder solutions are necessary to account for diverse perspectives to create innovative solutions. Sub-Saharan Africa faces a similar challenge to the rest of the world, reimagining ways to connect sustainably with the animals and the environment that surround them.

To meet this challenge, the African agricultural future must look beyond maximizing profits and toward animal well-being and innovative, equitable, and sustainable practices.

Author Bio:

Born in Haiti, and raised in Miami, Florida, Kwolanne Felix is a junior at Columbia College of Columbia University in New York City, studying the history of the African diaspora. She is currently a Navab Fellow at Brighter Green, where she researches climate change and food systems policies in the US and UN. Kwolanne's passion for international politics, human rights and gender equality has been expanded through her experiences working at organizations like the Council on Foreign Relations and the Malala Fund. In her free time, she writes a column for the campus newspaper, the Columbia Spectator, reflecting on nuanced intersectional issues of her community. After receiving her BA, Kwolanne will pursue a MPA, to further work in creating decolonial and gender responsive frameworks in international development.



For more information on the issues discussed here, a recording of the May 20th webinar, and more about the project Brighter Green has been undertaking on Africa and factory farming, please visit the Brighter Green website: www.brightergreen.org

Adapting to Changes After the Pandemic

HAVE WE ACTUALLY CHANGED, AND HOW CAN WE?

By Katherine Baxter, Ph.D.

Some reflections on the hard question of social and individual change



In my neighborhood in Denver, Colorado life has pretty much returned to normal post-pandemic. People are going on vacations, driving to work, and meeting for happy hour. Streets are busy and bustling, restaurants are full, and many people I know are being forced to return to the office for five-day work weeks.

This return to some semblance of normalcy is all happening against a backdrop of multiple wildfires tearing through the southern and western parts of the state, whilst a severe and unprecedented drought across the entire west of the United States is raising serious

what will it take for people to change their habits and behaviors to confront the magnitude of the environmental and ecological challenges we face?

concerns among scientists and local municipalities about the prospect of a water secure future in the region. Somehow this, too, is part of what we now understand to be 'normal.'

The COVID-19 pandemic has, for some, shed light on the profound interconnectedness of our world and its inhabitants - and led to real changes in lifestyle. For others, it has been a mere inconvenience that has yielded few lessons and moments of self-reflection. Wherever you fall on that spectrum, the pandemic has undoubtedly forced us as a global human population to experience and confront some of the early

manifestations of a planet that is severely out of balance.

So, before we leap back into business as usual, I'd like to question whether we should in fact be returning to 'normal', and to explore the difficult question of how we create individual and social change, and what it will take to get people to carry important lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic forward into their daily lives. You would think that a global pandemic like the one we're all experiencing might carry with it some important lessons worth learning, whether as individuals, nations, or as a global society.

Lessons that seem particularly worth learning are those that will help ensure we don't find ourselves in this situation again, and those that will help us address the root of the problem, which I would argue to be the carelessness with which we relate to, consume, and treat non-human animals and the environment. However, while perhaps many have learned lessons about how much they need human interaction and how deeply they value social relationships and going out to eat, those lessons that get at the heart of the ecological

How can we confront and then take responsibility for the rippling impacts of our daily consumption choices on the world's ecosystems? What would it take for us to find the courage to confront contradictions and hypocrisies between how we live and the moral and ethical principles we believe in?

imbalance human life has created --and that will surely lead to more pandemics in the future -- have not come as easily.

This has led me to wonder: what will it take for people to change their habits and behaviors to confront the magnitude of the environmental and ecological challenges we face? How can we change social norms and individual behaviors to prioritize our interdependence with non-human animals and the environment?

As a social scientist and someone who has grappled with this question through both an academic and a non-profit lens, it seems to me that this is one question that we don't have clear nor reliable answers to. And when we consider that nearly every issue that affects the lives and welfare of both human and non-human animals is a matter of changing norms and behavior, this seems like a challenge worth confronting. So I'd like to discuss some varying perspectives on the hard question of individual and collective behavior change - and why it's so difficult to achieve.

Many sociologists point to education as the mechanism by



which we can most effectively shape human priorities, values, and attitudes. Those future-oriented educationalists argue that by moving towards a regenerative and introspective educational pedagogy, we can instill the sensibilities into the next generation that will be required to restore balance to how we live and thus avoid climate catastrophe.

Critics of this proposition argue that this prospect is easier said than done, pointing to the perennial and unavoidable politicization of education curriculum, both nationally and globally, and the incompatibility of this type of regenerative education system with the economic priorities and skill demands awaiting students when they leave school.

Wherever you fall on this spectrum, it seems safe to say that education presents at least some opportunities to change social norms and individual perspectives towards a prioritization of human-animal-environmental interdependence.

Others coming from social psychology and neuroscience perspectives are somewhat dismissive of the prospect that we can change human behavior sufficiently to counteract the increasingly irreparable damage we are doing to the planet and ecosystems. They argue that this kind of future-oriented behavior change is so difficult primarily because it goes against our neurophysiological tendencies to delay gratification and pleasure in the present moment.

They point to evidence in neuroscience and evolutionary psychology that suggests that because of the way our brains are wired, we will be unable to sufficiently prioritize an

imagined and probably somewhat unenjoyable future, over all the comforts and luxuries we are used to being able to enjoy in our immediate, daily lives.

Some who follow this train of thought have even gone so far as to argue that broad scale social change to limit consumption and population growth is not possible within democratic frameworks of governance because the kinds of changes required to restore balance to the planet will never have the popularity required to turn them into concrete policy changes. This presents a rather bleak forecast of our capacity to change, but it certainly seems worthwhile to consider the question of behavior change from neuroscientific and social/evolutionary psychology perspectives.

One approach to circumventing those human tendencies that prevent future-oriented change, suggested by philosophers and religious scholars, is to harness people's spiritual or religious convictions to motivate them towards future goods. They argue that certain religious teachings can serve as a means to compel people to act on behalf of others, human and non-human, both in the present and in the imagined future.

They assert that these teachings can provide a source of meaning

and motivation for change that purely science-motivated reasoning cannot. Critics of this approach point to the cycles of conflict that have historically been endemic to religious or otherwise sectarian/dogmatic doctrines of change, many of which tend to possess exclusionary and anthropocentric teachings that run counter to the kinds of changes needed.

Other scientists in the fields of engineering and chemistry who are working to address climate change and biodiversity loss advocate for technocratic or technological solutions to the most pressing challenges we face: for example, using carbon capture to reduce CO₂ emissions, or generating 'clean meat' to avoid the devastating impacts of large-scale agricultural meat production and consumption. These solutions are particularly appealing because they seem to circumvent the hard task of creating large-scale behavioral change.

However, many social scientists argue that these are surface-level, temporary solutions to problems that will inevitably require large-scale changes to how humans relate to and consume the earth's resources, pointing out that if we don't address our consumption habits and exponential population growth, technological innovations will not be able to prevent worst case climate scenarios.

While offering no definitive answers, each of these approaches raise helpful insights into the difficult question of how we might change human behavior. I would simply add that from my perspective, to better understand social change we need to begin by better understanding ourselves: our own behaviors, motivations, priorities, moral failures, hypocrisy, courage, sacrifice. Spend time reflecting on

What can we do as individuals to aid in the rebalancing of our planet to meet the needs of all creatures?

each of these. Where does our motivation come from? What makes us willing to sacrifice? What is happening inside us when we believe one thing but act otherwise? What does trying to change feel like? What gets in the way?

Before we rush to return to normal, it seems worth considering how we might challenge ourselves to change, and how we might begin to imagine and enact kinder, gentler, more harmonious ways to exist in the context of our daily lives. What can we do as individuals to aid in the rebalancing of our planet to meet the needs of all creatures?

How can we more thoroughly examine the ideas, beliefs, and doctrines we live within and that inform the decisions we make about how we show up in the world and how we treat other creatures? How can we confront and then take responsibility for the rippling impacts of our daily consumption choices on the world's ecosystems? What would it take for us to find the courage to confront contradictions and hypocrisies between how we live and the moral and ethical principles we believe in? What would be required to change our tendency to prioritize what we enjoy in the present over the dire outcomes that likely face future generations?

As we move forward into an uncertain future, I encourage all individuals and non-profits working in the fields of animal welfare and conservation to prioritize the hard question of individual and social change, to not oversimplify it, and to make space for it in your programming. Spend time self-reflecting on what compels and inspires change in yourself and encourage others to do the same.

As you work to develop and implement solutions to increasingly complex problems involving the nexus between human, animal, and environmental health, think carefully about the theories and mechanisms of social and behavioral change these solutions rely upon. And as Howard Zinn said, keep in mind that "there is no act too small, no act too bold. The history of social change is the history of millions of singular actions, small and large, coming together at critical points to create something that can't be suppressed."



Katherine Baxter, Ph.D.

Katherine joined the ANAW-USA team as Operations Manager in July 2020. She holds an MSc in Global Social Change and a scholarship funded Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Edinburgh. Over the last several years she has worked in academia, education, government, and the non-profit sector -- in the U.S., Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and East Africa -- always endeavoring to forge regenerative and holistic solutions to complex social and environmental problems. Her research, teaching and non-profit work has centered around youth, global education policy, social change, and animal rights, and she is driven by a deep commitment to creating a world free of suffering for all living things.

Walking in the Heat of the Sun

TO TEACH HUMANE EDUCATION

By Chiemeka Chiedozie



Walking in the heat of the sun without a car to teach humane education in Nigerian schools was a remarkable experience. It was indeed hectic and exhausting. It was what I wanted to do for a long time because it has been my passion and interest. Each day, as I set out to the schools, I would share a proposal to introduce humane education lectures. I had to seek consultation with teachers who then allowed me to have a talk with students as they found the initiative valuable.



My main challenge then was acquiring a laptop and a projector to show the documentaries to the children in their schools after the seminar. I informed the schools to always make provision for a television and a DVD player. This was the only way for me to be able to play the share the world documentaries. With that I was able to reach out to those schools after which I would arrange photographs with them displaying the school banners with the names of the schools.



I did not have a smart phone then to be able to take the photograph. Instead, I employed the service of a photographer who accompanied me to those schools. It was not easy but it was a huge success as the teachers were patient and understood my vision. For those schools that were not able to watch the documentaries, I took them to the zoo park where the kids can see the animals in their habitat.



“I was able to reach to two or three schools a day and in few years, I was able to reach a lot of schools.”

Walking to those schools was a great experience because I was able to relate to the kids well and became so popular in my community. I became to be known to the extent that each time I walked in the streets, I heard the kids called me by name. Despite walking in the heat of the sun, I never gave up my passion. I was able to reach two or three schools a day and in few years, I was able to reach numerous schools.



WHY I AM TAKING ANIMAL CAMPAIGN TO SCHOOLS

Chiemeka Chiedozie, who had been running this project for the past 10 years, has taken the campaign to different schools at all levels including the adults. Most of the times, he plays his documentaries after the lectures at school and takes them to zoos to see the animals in their habitat.



Another reasons why he takes the campaign to schools is because many children are aware that animals suffer a great deal in factories, farms, and laboratories as they are processed for nourishment, experiments, cleaning products and cosmetics. A significant percentage of humans depend on animals. Researchers have discovered that these animals are kept under deplorable conditions, often dragging themselves through their own excreta, left to suffer horrible untreated wounds, hunger, ear infections among others.



Chiedozie has chosen to partner with other international bodies to ensure that the children are enlightened and catching them young to be humane is his priority.

Chiemeka Chiedozie,
the Executive Director of The Humane Global Network

An organization whose work spans Nigeria and Africa, is one man that is passionate about caring for animals. Chiemeka is passionate about animals. For many years, he has been involved in caring for animals and his passion has led to the establishment of his organization which took place approximately five years ago. Through his organization, Chiedozie promotes animal welfare in schools in Nigeria especially for children below the age of 19 years. His mission is to impart knowledge to the children to have relevant information about animal kingdom and how to care for them.



A Review of the Livestock Bill -

(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 16 OF 2021),

By Judy Muriithi

Kenya's livestock sector has and continues to undergo numerous reforms, ranging from the new laws and technological changes. Presently, Kenya does not have a standalone framework governing the livestock sector; it is currently regulated by the Crop Production and Livestock Act. There was a great need to have a standalone legal framework to specifically govern the livestock sector in Kenya. This necessitated the introduction of the Livestock Bill, 2021, whose objective was to ensure that the policy instruments guiding the sector were responsive to the expectations of the stakeholders.

The Majority Leader Amos Kimunya sponsored and introduced the proposed Livestock Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 16 of 2021) which is guided by four principles: Effective, efficient, and sustainable

The Bill, in Clause 87, entitles livestock farmers, Intellectual Property Rights that may arise from their farming and breeding activities.



utilization of the livestock resource base to improve livelihoods, nutrition, food security and economic development; Promotion of an innovative, commercially oriented and modern livestock sector for global competitiveness through adoption of best practices; Sustenance of biodiversity and genetic diversity in livestock resources while ensuring sound environmental management; and returns on investment to livestock producers and commercial focus for livestock enterprise.

The Bill is set to regulate the production, manufacture and utilization of livestock inputs and products. Article 46 of The Constitution of Kenya 2010 , as read with The Consumer Protection Act, 2012 provides for the protection of consumers of manufactured products. Previously, consumer protection in terms

of livestock products was largely unregulated. The Bill set out to protect consumers of animal products by regulating such. The Bill provides for a maximum fine of one million or two years' imprisonment for persons selling animal foodstuff containing harmful ingredients.

The Bill also requires containers in which animal foodstuff is sold to be properly labelled with information of its contents, in accordance with The United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection - Any person who sells livestock products with harmful ingredients commits an offence and upon conviction would be liable to a fine of up to one million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both.

The Bill seeks to establish animal resource training and research institutions. They are the Kenya Livestock Research Organization, The Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Institute, The Kenya Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Council, The Kenya Animal Genetic Resources Centre and The Kenya Leather Development Authority. These institutions would go a long way in research and training in the livestock sector.

The Bill set out to offer incentives to livestock farmers. The Bill intended to promote the commercial aspect of livestock farming. It proposes a fund kitty for livestock agencies and livestock at large. Clause 77 of The Bill provides that The National Assembly shall set aside monies, from the Treasury, for purposes of promoting livestock farming.

This was to enable livestock farmers to benefit economically from their livelihood of livestock farming in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal Number 1 providing for No Poverty, Sustainable Development Goal Number 2 providing for Zero Hunger, and Sustainable Development Goal Number 8 providing for Decent work and Economic Growth.

The Bill, in Clause 87, entitles livestock farmers, Intellectual Property Rights that may arise from their farming and breeding activities.

The Bill defines animal as any domestic or wild animal, and includes a bird, bee, fish or other aquatic animal. This is beneficial to wild animals as the Bill has empowered the county governments to come up with policies that promote animal welfare - as there are no animal welfare considerations in the consumptive utilization of wildlife provisions under the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act.

Despite having these positive aspects, the bill had some sections that needed to be examined. Some of the key sections were:

Section 93 (1) of the bill makes it an offence to import, manufacture, compound, mix or sell any animal foodstuff unless a farmer is licensed. The offence attracts a fine of Kshs. 500,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both. Further, the bill provides that a person shall not own or possess bees or beekeeping equipment for commercial purposes unless the person is registered under the Act or even allow bees to be kept on land owned by the person unless the land is registered under the Act as the location of an apiary. With the certificate of registration being valid for one year from the issue date. Those who disregard provisions of this bill face ksh. 500,000 shillings fine or a prison term not exceeding one year or both.

Kenya is the 3rd important honey producer in Africa after Ethiopia and Tanzania as per Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA). Recent studies show that there are over 90,340 beekeepers in the country owning about 2 million hives. The impact of the proposed law on the beekeeping industry is enormous and will have a great deal on the beekeeping farmers - especially as it reins in on the farmer through requiring registration, imposes restrictions on setting up of beehives, and influences the type of hives to be used.

The Bill also empowers the Cabinet Secretary to make regulations providing for the declaration of particular animals to be livestock for purposes of the Bill, and the declaration of particular products to be livestock products. This creates a loophole as the Bill does not categorically list the animals.

Part XII of the Bill provides that any livestock breeder may make an application to The Livestock Inputs and Products Regulatory Authority to allow them to undertake breeding practices. This creates an uncertain environment as to which animals are subject to breeding. This may lead to wildlife being subjected to breeding as livestock animals.

The Bill expressly provides that its provisions do not apply to the regulation of the dairy industry. There is a need for covering the industry under the Act as it is one of the largest components of the livestock sector in Kenya.

Conclusion

Successful smallholder farming requires either specialization, flexibility to adapt to the market, or both. The bill strips smallholder farmers of the ability to adjust to the market forces of demand and supply. Farmers will thus either be stuck with farm products that will not sell or dispose of their stock cheaply to avoid huge losses.

Consequently, smallholder farmers are increasingly, inadvertently pushed out of the agriculture industry. It begs the question, is this the intent of these new laws pushed in the name of agricultural reforms? It was not so long ago that the government urged farmers to consider other careers.

With the withdrawal of the Bill, there is presently an opportunity to take advantage of the further consultation and push for textual amendments. As the government has expressed an interest to further the livestock sector, the Bill will most likely be reintroduced.

There is an opportunity to petition the Parliamentary Departmental Committee for Agriculture & Livestock with appropriate amendments that ensure inclusivity of the livestock sector. Associations and other non-governmental stakeholders have a significant role to play in the proposed law.

Does Animal Welfare have a Space in Intensive Poultry Production Systems?

By Dr. Janerose Mutura

Every morning the countryside wakes up to a life of fresh air and beautiful views with domestic animal life dotting the hills, valleys, the plains, lake shores, and arid landscapes across the Kenyan villages. One is bound to encounter a poultry house with hens and cockerels peeping out of a tiny wooden door and chicks clucking outside an African home. Poultry keeping for meat, eggs and trade has been part of country life for years.



There has been a remarkable dynamic in the last 35 years for global poultry meat, egg production and trade with poultry products. Between 1970 and 2005, poultry meat and egg production increased faster than that of beef and veal or pork.

Agriculture is the cornerstone of Kenya's economy and a means of livelihood for most of its rural population. Its continuous sustained growth and transformation offers substantial opportunities for agricultural development, poverty reduction, food security gains and improved human nutrition - innovation is inevitable. In light of this, poultry farming in Kenya has been on the rise for the last 15 years. It has dramatically changed, moving from traditionally small family farms to a large agricultural industry.

To keep up with the increase in demand of poultry products, the industry now produces as much as possible with as little cost as possible. Kenya has an estimated 28 million birds out of which, 76 per cent consist of free-ranging indigenous chicken, while 22 per cent are commercial layers and

broilers. Other poultry species like duck, turkey, pigeon, ostrich, guinea fowl and quail make up 2.2 per cent and are becoming increasingly important. Annually, the country produces about 20 tonnes of poultry meat worth Kshs. 3.5 billion and 1.3 billion eggs worth Kshs. 9.7 billion.

Over the past several decades, improved poultry production systems have contributed to significant enhanced performance traits like egg production, growth rate and economical production of poultry products.

On the other hand, the poultry industry is increasingly being challenged to address consumer concerns about animal welfare. The commercial applications in agriculture of new breeding technologies, as well as conventional breeding strategies, have the potential to influence animal welfare in both positive and negative ways.

Animal welfare in modern agriculture is a contentious topic because of the discrepancy of opinions on how animals should be reared. This includes an apparent conflict of interest whereby some

management practices increase farm profitability as they impinge on the welfare of the animals.

Focus is increasing on farm animal welfare globally and it is becoming increasingly important in Europe. But in some countries, the interest is only driven by export opportunities for poultry meat. Farm animal welfare is held in higher regard in the European Union as compared to the producing countries that export to the European Union especially developing countries.

During the second half of the 20th century, in response to the growing pressure from environmental movements and organizations, European countries began to abandon rearing laying hens in battery cages, which were so far considered the most efficient husbandry system. Council Directive 1999/74/EC has banned housing laying hens in conventional cages effective from 1 January 2012, and only housing in enriched cages is allowed.

Enriched cages are often called furnished or modified. They combine the main advantages of battery cage

Over the past several decades, improved poultry production systems have contributed to significant enhanced performance traits like egg production, growth rate and economical production of poultry products.



systems as intensity, maintenance of better hygienic parameters, restricted contact among birds and between birds and manure, better production indices, more efficient use of electrical energy, litter and veterinary medications. On the other side, furnished cages provide a larger living area for the bird, as well as perches, nests and other “enrichments” for satisfying the natural biological needs of poultry ensures the humane aspect of cage husbandry systems for laying hens.

The relationship between production and welfare is complex, we cannot assume that good production will translate to good welfare. Poultry welfare is affected by genetics, hatching, rearing and adult housing environments, method of transport and slaughter employed and to a great extent, the attitudes and standards of care by the stockpersons.

The benefits of improving animal welfare include consumer acceptance whereby in a world where consumers are becoming increasingly cognizant of the importance of farm animal welfare, the production system used and the welfare of the birds in the system will influence the type of products consumers purchase. There is also better access to markets especially for the markets located in the European Union and employment creation. Intensive production systems are labour intensive

because one has to improve on inspection and handling practices which translates to improved animal welfare.

Peer-reviewed scientific research has demonstrated that conventional cage systems deny birds the opportunity to exhibit a number of key behaviors which are fundamental to their welfare, resulting in increased levels of frustration, pain, and stress. These important behaviors include the opportunity to build a nest, preen, stretch, and flap their wings, perch, and dust-bathe.

Chickens experiencing environmental conditions that deny them important inherent behaviors attempt to find ways to cope in these environments. Their behavior then takes on abnormal patterns, becoming directed towards self or against cage mates and including such problems as feather pecking, cannibalism, or other stereotypic behaviors.

A study carried out by ANAW supported by Open Wing Alliance (OWA) in 2020 dubbed ‘The Status of Battery Cage Farming in Kenya’ indicated that many of the poultry farmers interviewed were aware of the welfare issues associated with battery cage farming. The common welfare issues highlighted included restricted movement, lack of exercise and increased stress levels. Despite being cognizant of

these welfare issues, most farmers were more eager to expand their chicken farming practice as well as encourage other farmers to adopt the system as opposed to improving the welfare standards of their production systems.

For these farmers, the profits they derive from this type of farming far outweigh the suffering and cruelty inflicted on the birds. The study also revealed that awareness of poultry welfare issues was also low among the businesspeople involved in the importation, sale, and supply of the cages. It also uncovered that poultry welfare is not well articulated nor appreciated among consumers who are more fascinated by the end-product rather than the means of production utilized.

This study gives us a glimpse of the status of poultry welfare in the country. Both the producers and the consumers do not give thought to poultry sentience and welfarism and a lot of work needs to be done to change this perception. More research needs to be undertaken to find out what exactly the consumers’ opinions are with regards to poultry welfare and if indeed it is something they consider when purchasing poultry products. To bridge the knowledge gap on animal welfare, sentience and production, education and sensitization forums are needed.



Regulating Donkey Trade

**By Gambo Dori,
Abuja, Nigeria**



I have followed with keen interest the steady progress the bill banning the killing and export of donkeys in Nigeria is making through the maze of the National Assembly. As readers may recall, there was a furore a few years back over the way and manner the population of our donkeys were being ravaged. Actually, ever since the mid-1980s the number of donkeys in both our cities and countryside have been reducing at an alarming rate.

I recall raising the issue in a piece titled: Donkey and Nigerian Unity, on 6/6/2017 and a follow-up on 26/11/2019: Donkeys are Winning, when I reminisced the familiar sight of donkeys in the far North in the 1960s, mostly as working animals not only in the farms, but also in the cities. Where I grew up in Maiduguri, donkeys were ubiquitous in the streets, particularly on Mondays when the city market had its day.

All the roads leading to the Monday Market were clogged with heavy-laden donkeys from all directions. Probably more than half were coming from surrounding villages solely for market activities.

But all these slowly changed in the 1970s with the advent of more motorcycles and motor vehicles into the country as we became more prosperous with the newly found oil wealth. The consequences were

that donkeys became increasingly redundant as beasts of burden and started disappearing from the scene. At the same time, unfortunately, a market sprung up for donkeys in other parts of the country where their meat was found to be highly valued as a delicacy. The trade in donkey became lucrative, widespread, and pernicious to their continued existence.

In the late 1980s, in Borno State which had the largest population of donkeys in the country, their disappearance became particularly noticeable. The Borno State Government felt so concerned for the fast-disappearing donkeys that it took a memo to the 12 northern governors meeting in 1990 requesting for a collective action to be taken for their survival. What has now transpired over time is that whatever actions the northern governors took at the time did not go far enough as the fate of donkeys has continued to be in dire straits.

But the worse was to come for donkeys. In the 1990s they suddenly became export material to China. Donkey skin became highly sought after as an ingredient in the preparation of ejiao, a herbal

concoction taken for skin health and reproductive prowess. This Chinese medicine used to be only for the rich and powerful members of the society, but in the last 30 years a sharp increase in disposable income in China has upped the demand for ejiao. The increased demand which cannot be met locally in China meant that they had to reach out to source donkeys from herds in other parts of the world.

The statistics are glaring and grim enough. China had 11 million donkeys in 1992 which due to sharp rise in demand for ejiao had tumbled the number to 4.6 million in 2017 and at the last count in 2019 was down to 2.6 million according to a report released by The Donkey Sanctuary, an international animal welfare and rescue charity transforming the quality of life for donkeys, mules and people worldwide. This meant that in the last many years the China ejiao industry had to seek for donkey skins from wherever at whatever price to feed the insatiable appetite of its burgeoning middle class.

Though one could hardly lay hands on any statistics affecting donkeys in Nigeria one could observe a strong correlation between the high demand for donkey skins in China, the curious one-way trade towards that country and the depletion of the donkey herd in this country as well as in many other African countries as well. The worrying part of the donkey skin trade is that there had been no concerted effort to replenish the donkey herd in Nigeria.

This must have bolstered the House of Representatives in 2018 to take up the gauntlet to make a legislation towards regulating the trade through the instrumentality of a bill sponsored by Garba Datti Muhammad, a member representing Sabon Gari Constituency of Kaduna State.

The bill stipulates a stiff 10-year imprisonment for “the killing of donkeys in Nigeria and the exportation of donkeys or their carcasses or derivatives out of Nigeria.” It is comforting to those who advocate the regulation of donkey business that this bill has already been passed by the House of Representatives.

It is even more encouraging that the Senate is considering a similar bill being pushed by none other but the Leader of the Senate Leader himself, Yahaya Abdullahi (Kebbi North). There might be a need for reconciliation when the Senate bill is passed because it envisages the ranching of donkeys which had drawn the ire of the opposition. In any case, Rep Garba Datti who had travelled widely to wherever there is a large population of donkeys, Ethiopia, China, India, etc., says that ranching might not be necessary as donkeys are very slow breeders and might not be profitable to ranch.

I guess it is not yet Uhuru for the donkeys, but if one considers the amount of energy dispensed by their strong advocates in the National Assembly, there is succour coming for these iconic beasts of burden.

I guess it is not yet Uhuru for the donkeys, but if one considers the amount of energy dispensed by their strong advocates in the National Assembly, there is succour coming for these iconic beasts of burden.

This re-printed article which was written by Gambo Dori - gambodori@dailytrust.com, a columnist of the Daily Trust. The article was originally published in the Opinion Column on July 12, 2021, in Daily Trust, a key publication by Media Trust Limited in Abuja, Nigeria.

The Landscape of Animal Welfare in Africa

By Jenna Hiscock

For a long time, Africans' familiarity with their environment that comes from centuries old knowledge and indigenous practices. They have lived with closely with animals taking care of them in humane ways taught to them. Traditional communities have been known to value their animal companions, tending them and working with them for various purposes. On the other hand, we find that there are harmful practices ingrained when animals are used for transport and work in the farms.

African communities, organizations, groups and individuals have come together to ensure that the welfare of animals is catered to. Research was launched to review the work done by animal welfare organizations. The research provides insight and information on animal welfare, mirrors the true situation on the ground, analyses the status of animal welfare in Africa, describes and takes apart the challenges and experiences, celebrates the achievements made and defines its roles and function as support and reinforcement.

This research which focuses on the landscape of animal welfare, was launched, and developed in Cape Town, South Africa by Animal Advocacy Africa (AAA) program. AAA is a capacity-building program which aims to develop a collaborative and effective animal advocacy movement in Africa. The program was initiated by Credence Institute and further developed during the Charity Entrepreneurship Incubator Program in 2020.

The project received funding for its initial 6-month research phase in December 2020 which concludes in July 2021. The research phase informed their pilot implementation of possible capacity-building interventions in Africa. The organization provided a report and expounded on the findings and challenges of the program.

The first port of call for the research was engaging with organizations and individual animal advocates within animal advocacy in Africa hoping that this engagement would help us understand cost-effective opportunities to help animals.

The purpose of AAA's research is to connect with existing African animal welfare organizations and individual advocates, better understand what these organizations are doing, i.e., their interventions and focus areas, and identify obstacles they have encountered, and what they need as an organization to become more effective.



Apart from being a decision-relevant report for AAA's strategic implementation plans, the results can be useful to funders who are interested in identifying funding opportunities in Africa and participating organizations, who may better understand which difficulties are common and which unusual, so that they can better coordinate with other organizations and understand where it would be helpful to seek or offer advice.

The study was conducted exploratory research in the form of qualitative interviews with African animal advocacy organizations, individual advocates, experts, and funders. We initially looked for those working on farmed animal advocacy in Africa, but later selected a diverse range of animal advocacy work. Simultaneously, our prioritization research identified which group of animals looked most promising to help from our perspective.

AAA reached out to 107 individual advocates and animal organizations in Africa, out of which 55 responded that they would be interested in completing the survey. Ultimately, the team surveyed 22 animal advocacy organizations (a list of organizations we've spoken to can be found on the Africa Animal Advocacy website), 11 individual advocates, 5 of whom identified as effective altruists, 10 experts, 7 of whom are experts based in Africa and 8 international funders.

For the survey that the team conducted, questions were designed to be open-ended to enable interviewees to describe their experiences freely and share their views. They conducted semi-structured interviews where they used predetermined questions centered on specific themes.

In order to gauge the effectiveness of the organizations, the team looked at how animal advocacy organizations measure the impact of their work on animals. Some of the common measurements of their success included the number of animals saved, number of days animals are free from suffering, and policy and behavioral changes.

AAA attempted to understand the obstacles that are limiting the movement's progress, which include the lack of awareness or understanding of animal welfare amongst individuals and communities, other third world issues that are considered higher priorities than animal welfare, and the lack of optimal legislation and the enforcement by local governments. Organizationally, a lack of funding and a lack of talent/capacity are common

bottlenecks mentioned by organizations. AAA hopes that if these obstacles are overcome, organizations will be able to scale up existing programs and expand their reach.

Findings about the Organizations

The kind of work that the organizations AAA surveyed are involved in were categorized either into public outreach to influence public opinion, such as educational programs aimed at fostering compassion and empathy for animals and behavioral change; direct help, namely veterinary services; political outreach involving working with government to implement better animal welfare bills; institutional outreach such as the work done by Open Wing Alliance-funded projects; and capacity building, which includes conducting research and coordinating alliances.

The type of animals that the organizations work with are predominantly farmed animals, working animals and companion animals. Some of the less focused on animals are wild animals, animals used for entertainment, and animals used for experiments.

In terms of collaboration between organizations and their awareness of one another, the purpose of collaborating with other organizations is either to share infrastructure that exists to make advocacy and outreach easier, to increase the visibility and efficiency of their work and to increase knowledge about advocacy work, receive training and mentorship.

AAA also looked at why organizations were working on more than one project or intervention which was because one intervention will usually not work without the other. For example, treating animals without first educating communities about animal welfare is unsustainable.

Similarly, some organizations claim mass education alone without direct implementation is less impactful as communities are unable to see demonstrable changes in welfare.

They also mentioned that it was because there were no other organizations within the region that were solving the issues, existing organizations feel morally obligated to address them. Often, many animal welfare issues are observed due to the low awareness of animal welfare within communities. Therefore, many issues are highly neglected and need to be solved urgently.

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General Obstacles

Obstacles mentioned by organizations and advocates that seem to apply generally across the animal welfare movement in Africa that we noted through the surveys were categorized into the following:

- Lack of awareness or understanding of animal welfare. It was reported that many individuals are brought up with unfavorable or neutral attitudes and behaviors towards animals. This stems from a misunderstanding that animals are unable to experience positive or negative experiences. Due to religious and cultural norms and traditions, animals are commonly regarded as food, tools or commodities.



- Other imminent issues affecting humans. A common bottleneck in the advocacy movement in Africa is that animal welfare gets deprioritized amongst communities and governments when they struggle with other issues such as poverty, infectious diseases, and food insecurity. Animal welfare is perceived as a Eurocentric concept - that only wealthy individuals in developed nations can afford to care about. Therefore, African advocates find that it is difficult to advocate for animal welfare alone.
- Lack of law enforcement and legislation. Animals do not have legal protection in some countries. In countries where there may be legislation, some are unfavorable or lack enforcement. Relatedly, an expert mentioned there is a lack of policy advocacy at the national level, some at the regional level but progress is usually slow.
- Obstacles imposed by the government. Working with the government is sometimes challenging. Generally, there is a lack of cooperation from the government across many countries. The legalities and bureaucracy involved in gaining governmental approval for programs hinder or stop the progress or public acknowledgment of organizations and advocates. Some communities look to the government for guidance so advocacy efforts may be ignored by the public when they are not acknowledged by the government. Corruption or political instability may also impair the public outreach and political programs implemented by organizations.
- Burnout, threats or compassion fatigue from advocacy work. An advocate mentioned it is sometimes taxing being an advocate as individuals are hostile and may behave aggressively. Alarmingly, a few organizations have reported receiving external threats about incarceration or assassination if their campaigning efforts were to continue.
- COVID-19. A few organizations mentioned the COVID-19 pandemic impeding their progress, creating missed opportunities to engage with communities directly and form meaningful relationships.
- Siloed movement. Funders, experts and organizations perceive that the movement is disconnected: where organizations and/or advocates are not working as collaboratively as possible, interests between

advocates seem varied, and there seems to be a small number of people working on a variety of projects

Types of Support Needed:

The following is a brief summary of the support that organizations mentioned they require in order to develop and work more effectively.

- Funding (to employ competent staff, arrange program logistics e.g., vehicles), particularly channeled towards isolated communities where animals are completely neglected
- Alliances and interactive platforms to network, build connections, and facilitate communication such as sharing knowledge and resources about the movement, interventions, challenges, mistakes, successes and to form collaborations between similar organizations, to present a more unified front as a movement and avoid duplicating efforts
- Mentorship or training in broad and specific knowledge about animal welfare, technical and soft skills in running an animal advocacy organization (e.g., accounting, EA concepts, advocacy, behavioral change communication, social media management/outreach, fundraising, project and people management, strategic decision-making)
- Local research. Technical and social research into the African context to inform strategic decision-making, identify sustainable and effective interventions, influence policy, and identify where resources should be channeled.
- Broadly, the experts interviewed also agree with most capacity building interventions to improve animal advocacy in Africa such as local research, building the talent pool and building alliances with governments, corporations, and media.

Jenna Hiscock

Partnerships Lead, Animal Advocacy Africa

Jenna is studying her Honors in Development Studies, having completed a Bachelor's Degree in Politics and History. She is a vegan chef and Montessori teacher, which has formed most of her professional career. Jenna is a jack of all trades, exploring different facets of our society and what is required for humane forms of development.

Conclusion

Overall, the effective animal advocacy landscape in Africa is in its nascent stages and is growing. The majority of organizations and advocates we interviewed engage in a wide range of interventions and tend to advocate for more than one group of animal populations. There appears to be significant challenges that are holding the movement back in general as well as specific challenges faced by organizations.

Subsequently, AAA thinks there is room for more resources and support to be channeled towards the animal advocacy movement. Furthermore, organizations that have been engaged with have expressed interest in receiving external support.

As noted in the disclaimer, AAA are uncertain about making substantive claims about which of these organizations' direct interventions that these organizations are implementing look most effective or promising in Africa, particularly as this will likely vary across regions and countries. Similarly, the programme is uncertain about the tractability of preventing, slowing, or stopping the growth of intensive animal agriculture practices and which strategies will be most promising in achieving that.

Nonetheless, as animal agriculture continues to grow in the continent (e.g., in countries with low but growing animal production rates), AAA finds that now is an important time to help existing organizations and advocates grow the movement as much as possible through movement building and capacity building interventions.

AAA hopes that the information collected regarding the African animal advocacy landscape will be useful to those who are interested in finding out more about the African animal welfare movement. Particularly, AAA finds that the research about organizational interventions and effectiveness may be valuable as a starting point to funders who are looking for promising funding opportunities in Africa.

The AAA programme encourages readers who are interested in providing feedback, comments, or questions to reach out to the team.



Kenyan Tourism Students Establish An Organization To Care For Stray Animals In Rongo

By Moses Wambua

Rongo University students have come together to establish an animal welfare organization to care for stray animals in their neighborhood.

Stray Animal Welfare is an organization that has been formed by tourism students in Rongo University in partnership with other students from various other faculties. Chaired by Moses Wambua, the organization aims to voluntarily take care of street animals with great focus on cats and dogs by feeding them periodically with the right sustainable nutrition, while offering first aid to injured ones.

The group partners with veterans from similar organizations for vaccinations, takes care of ones killed in accidents from public places and on roads, enlightens people on the significance of taking good care of their dogs and cats to prevent them from running into the roads and streets and coordinates with relevant health organizations to control the birth rate of the animals to prevent their population explosion. All this is geared towards ensuring harmony with humanity

“The importance of the organization is hard to overstate. I wanted to make sure that before I left campus, there was an organization that covered animal issues.”

from risks espoused by the animals and the wellbeing of the stray animals.

Having examined the life of the stray animals, the organization identified various pitfall aspects of their lives which they felt that they could consider and offer solutions. In taking initiative to care for the street animals, the students have

gained key insights and have mapped the challenges experienced.

Stray animals lack food option hence they feed on any edible food material they come across. They therefore lack the necessary nutrients required for their health which can only be obtained from food made specifically for them.

Their well-being is compromised as well. Stray animals suffer from injuries which may be caused by vehicles or from their day-to-day life explorations. They usually have open wounds which take a long time to heal. Usually, nobody cares that they have these injuries as they are stray animals.

The birthrate of the stray animals is quite high, and the students have realized that this can be controlled. The high birthrate has led to a drastic increase in stray animal population causing high expenditure by the Kenyan government and other organizations. They are forced to control their population by inhumanly poisoning and killing of the stray animals.





In addition, the population of the stray animals has recently increased due to neglect by people who were initially keeping them either as pets or for security purposes but have ended up abandoning them.

The students have also observed that when stray animals are provoked by human beings, and they retaliate being hostile. These leads to people incurring severe punishment in return causing serious injuries that sometimes lead to death.

Bodies of the stray animals that are deceased from diseases or accidents are left in public places or on roads as people wait for the relevant authority to dispose them. It takes a long time for this to happen and espouses health risks to humans living in these places and fosters environmental pollution prior to their collection. A major risk posed by stray animals is that they may suffer from diseases such as rabies in dogs which makes them hostile. This often leads to the stray animals biting people especially children.

Following these observations, the students have taken it upon themselves to undertake crucial actions. They aim to carry out periodic feeding of the stray animals in identified locations with right food to supply them with necessary sustaining nutrients.

They offer treatment to injured animals so as to help them heal up quickly and be

better, and also coordinate with veterinarians to help with the distribution of vaccines against rabies to stray animals. They plan to coordinate with the relevant health authority to offer birthrate control measures in the stray animals which may include sterilization of male dogs.

They hope to enlighten people on the significance of taking care the animals they decide to keep and encourage them to house some of the stray animals. They help in they disposal of bodies of accidentally killed stray animals from public places. In undertaking this noble task, the students will take action in various ways.

They will acquire food bowls and the necessary food to feed the animals on selected days in selected areas. They will create awareness to the public by visiting schools and create of social media channels that advocate for friendly attitude to dogs. They will inform the public to avoid provoking the dogs which make them hostile towards them. They will advocate for good care of animals.

The organization will also propose to various donors to aid in funds that will help in running the organization. They will also coordinate with veterans to help them offer quality treatment to injured animals and vaccinations.

Members of the organization will be expected to contribute in the first place to fund the organization.

“As a team and a dedicated family of Stray Animal Welfare, we have been driven by our own goals and objectives. We have been through a lot and each day is a lesson enough towards more success.

The welfare program has been able to come up with a feeding program to accommodate the strays in the local community, provide a proper education and teaching the local community about the care of each animal whether domesticated or wild and how to react to them. Awareness has not only taken place at the community level but also amongst the students at nearby schools and also fellow campus students.

The team has been able to come into aid for the injured animals and at least offer first aid services though some of them are critically ill. Our position does not put any barriers to what we can achieve together.

“The Stray Animal Welfare family is on its way to change the view of individuals and the world regarding the love and care of every animal.”

- Moses Wambua, Chairman, Stray Animal Welfare.

The student founders of Stray Animal Welfare direly need support and guidance to carry out their vision. Any help and support in funding and donation will be much appreciated. Write to us by contacting Catherine at communications@anaw.org for any questions or queries.







270 PUPILS RECEIVE DESKS IN WILDLIFE-ADJACENT GEDE REGION

Hundreds of pupils stood at the door of their classes to watch in silent excitement as 90 desks were off loaded from transport vehicles at the center of Jira Primary School. Others peeped out the windows leaning over to their classmates murmuring in low tones.

The school which stood as an oasis in a dry, windy and dusty semi-arid landscape was made up of five concrete buildings facing the center and two classes made of iron sheet walls and roofs - an effort made possible by the parents - and a wrought iron gate at the entrance.

One building painted black and red that stood out in stark contrast of the environment was recently completed as a Constituency Development Fund (CDF) project by the Kilifi County government.



The awaiting parents soon flocked around the large pick-up full of wooden desks and helped carry the desks to the rows of already lined ones on the dusty field under the massive tree. Mothers had left their daily tasks to come to school to celebrate this monumental achievement for the students, teachers and headteacher.

Eight-year-old Daima Yahya and her classmates in Class Two (2) were unaware of all that was going on. She was keenly paying attention to the teacher during Math class as he was adding sums on the black board. She was one of the many that were seated uncomfortably on stones! She had fetched her stone earlier that morning from the bushes near the toilet block - a mud outhouse located a few yards behind the class.

Daima drew lines on her math notebook that was placed upon her lap to start a new page. Like her classmates, she knew that she was soon going to sit on a new desk that day. The teacher had announced the news that the school would receive desks on Tuesday and that

they would allocate them to her class and two others. The pupils were excited, and it took everything for the teacher to calm them down so that they could focus on the class.

Sitting on rocks posed a great challenge to her and her classmates. "It is very painful to sit on those rocks. My back aches and I get very tired. It is hard for the other children who come from Shirango and Garbitu to sit for a long time because they come from very far." Daima said.

"Yes. It is very hard to concentrate in my class when the teacher is teaching." Joel Musembi, who is also in Class 2, piped in. Parents have for a long time complained that it forces them to buy uniforms almost every term.

The pupils were soon all summoned to meet the visitors who brought the desks. Community leaders, the chief, parents and the headteacher were present for the official handover of the 90 desks to the school. The desks were donated by Africa Network for Animal Welfare





(ANAW) through their initiative, African Conservation Education Fund (ACEF). The desks will sit 270 pupils of the school located in Gede which is a semi-arid region in the county of Kilifi, Kenya. The organization fundraised for funds from well-wishers in the US and Kenya in an online campaign. Pupils from nursery to Class Four (4) are now able to sit on desks comfortably.

“This project has impacted positively on us. It will contribute greatly to the academic performance of the children. Different factors aid pupils to pass examinations. This is one of them. They have to sit in a good classroom on a good chair and desk. In their learning, they sat on stones - sometimes three are placed together to ensure balance. But the stones pierce them as they sit! They get tired before the class is over. They don’t concentrate.” Moses

Chea, the chairman of the school’s Parents Teacher’s Association (PTA) said. “But now, all is well. Because of this, we hope to see a difference in the performance of these pupils. We are very grateful. The challenge of the desks has now been solved.”

“It is very painful to sit on those rocks. My back aches and I get very tired. It is hard for the other children who come from Shirango and Garbitu to sit for a long time because they come from very far.”

The initiative to provide a good school with established learning facilities and needed furniture for the children of Shirango and its environs was a joint effort by the government, development partners, and local and international donors to cater to a long-marginalized community.

The remote location of Shirango was a targeted region for ANAW as the community surrounding the school bordered Tsavo East National Park where people lived and interacted with wildlife every day. Good education in the long term provides a solution and an alternative to destructive practices such as bushmeat trade and charcoal burning that harm the country’s wildlife and its habitat.



Local And International Animal Welfare News

This section covers relay articles that cover activities, programs and initiatives that take place across the world. Animal Welfare Magazine highlights local, regional and global news pieces that demonstrate the status and progress of the field in different parts of the world.

LOCAL NEWS

Animal Welfare Bill Seeks to Replace 60-Year-Old Act

Law seeks to improve on existing one and have more enforceable sections



Photo by KNA

Experts in the veterinary industry have drafted a new bill, the Animal Welfare and Protection Bill 2019, to replace the existing Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act that was enacted in 1962 which essentially governs matters of animal welfare in the country. “The Bill seeks to improve on existing Act and have more enforceable sections and align animal welfare protection to international standards and

guidelines,” a Kenya Veterinary Association executive committee member, Kelvin Osore, said.

He added that the Bill is currently at the Ministry of Agriculture and is expected to be taken to Parliament and be passed into law this year because the country needs an Act that meets the standards.

World Animal Protection director for Africa Tennyson Williams called on governments to enact policies and practices to safeguard animal welfare and ensure that animals live a cruelty free life. World Animal Protection farming manager Victor Yamo said there are 33 veterinary laws in the country and the Bill is trying to reduce them and combine them into four big ones.

He added that the Act that currently governs animal welfare—Cap 360 on Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act—lacks an authority that manages animal welfare. Yamo said the Bill will create structures for managing animal welfare from the National government to the County government, and this has been missing.

“The old Act does not recognize counties because it was done in 1962 though it has been reviewed a number of times but it needs an overhaul. Animal welfare is a conjoined function between national and county governments. It will seek to create bodies at the county level that will manage animal welfare,” Yamo said

*Agatha Ngotho,
The Star, March 2022*



Supermarkets chain, Carrefour, will only sell eggs produced under ‘humane’ conditions in a standards policy shift that will lock out supplies from thousands of poultry farmers in East Africa. Carrefour’s parent firm, Dubai-based Majid Al Futtaim, says it will source cage-free eggs for its Carrefour supermarkets from suppliers who adhere to a new policy adopted by the global chain

Carrefour Drops Eggs from Caged Hens from Its Shelves

store to push for better animal welfare and drive healthy consumption for its customers.

Kevin Macharia, Majid Al Futtaim’s head of marketing and communications East Africa, said suppliers in the region will be made to meet the high standards set. “We will be putting in place audits to see if the policy is being implemented and if they need assistance because we understand it is a process,” Mr Macharia said.

Majid Al Futtaim signed the Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Policy under The Humane League, which commits companies to promote alternative and sustainable housing systems, such as cage-free, outdoor access, free-range systems and organic feeds. The policy will be adopted gradually

before the target in 2030.

Globally, food companies have committed to café-free eggs production and higher animal welfare-friendly farming practices throughout the supply chain. The global standards include access to sunlight unlike the use of battery cages. Carrefour’s announcement could also spur change in the local farming practices, especially those in large-scale production of eggs, where incubators are used for mass and faster production and profits.

Elizabeth Kivuva, The East African, March 2022

This story was first published in the Business Daily.

UGANDA:

Endangered Gorillas Impacted by Covid

A Ugandan silverback gorilla called Rafiki is one of countless animals that has fallen victim to poachers as the effects of coronavirus hit the East African country.

At the start of June this year wildlife rangers noticed that Rafiki had disappeared. After a search they found his body. Rafiki had been killed by a poacher who claimed the animal charged at him and the killing was an act of self-defense. The poacher was sentenced to 11 years in jail.

Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, a veterinarian and CEO of the NGO, Conservation Through Public Health, is Uganda's leading expert on gorillas. She knows every ape at the reserve. She believes Rafiki did not attack. "We think that when this poacher came and found Rafiki, he may have got scared, because he's never been that close to a gorilla. And for Rafiki, he doesn't know the difference between a good person and a bad person. And so this person speared Rafiki out of fear. I really don't think that Rafiki attacked him although he says that he was attacked," she says.

Like many hospitality activities around the world, wildlife tourism in Uganda has ground to a halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Kalema-Zikusoka says that since lockdown gripped Uganda, many people living around the parks have started entering and poaching animals to put food on the table. "In other national parks the Wildlife Authority has reported that poaching has doubled and in Bwindi (Impenetrable National Park) it has also gone up," she says. Gorilla-related tourism is very popular across Uganda.



According to the Ugandan Wildlife Authority, in the 2018/19 fiscal year more than 40,000 permits were issued, a 40 percent increase on the year before. Gorilla sales revenue in that period was more than \$25.5 million - income that has disappeared since the pandemic hit the country and tourists stopped coming.

- Jerry Fisayo-Bambi, Africa News, August 2020

NSPCA, South Africans Raise R230 000 for Ukraine Animal Welfare Organisations

The National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA) and South Africans have managed to raise R230 000 for Ukraine animal welfare organizations amid Russia's invasion of the European country. Almost a month ago, the NSPCA called for support in its efforts to help Ukrainian animal welfare organizations after it announced an initial donation of R30 000.

The NSPCA said that some time ago, it contacted various animal welfare organizations across Ukraine in order to provide assistance. The council wanted to send funds to organizations that assist companion animals and also farm animals kept in sanctuaries.

"The public may already be aware, but many of these organizations are unreachable and have been for the last two-three weeks, due to the circumstances in Ukraine. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to make contact with welfare organizations. The NSPCA is also taking every precaution to ensure that funds are not placed into fraudulent accounts of scammers claiming to be helping animals in Ukraine. We have

"The council has also been asked to consider the future of animal welfare in Ukraine. When the war is over, many animals will need much help. Organizations will have to be rebuilt."

already been warned by our colleagues overseas that this alarming issue is indeed on the rise," the NSPCA said.

The organization said the council was working with other animal welfare

organizations from the United Kingdom to source conduits for the money to be sent directly to the animal welfare organizations in Ukraine. The reason - it is impossible for organizations to receive money from banks or ATMs. "The NSPCA extends a heartfelt and sincere thank you to the South African public, especially those who we have not been able to thank personally, for coming forward to help the animals in Ukraine. Together, we have raised R230 000 to be distributed to the animal welfare organizations in Ukraine. It does not matter how large or small a donation is; what matters is that when there was a cry for help, the call was heeded. Thank you, South Africa," the NSPCA said.

"The council has also been asked to consider the future of animal welfare in Ukraine. When the war is over, many animals will need much help. Organizations will have to be rebuilt."

*IOL, Daily News
March 2022*

Four Tigers Rescued from Argentina Get New Home in South Africa

Four Bengal tigers rescued from years of captivity in a train carriage in Argentina have been released into open-air enclosures in South Africa

Four Bengal tigers rescued from years of captivity in a train carriage in Argentina have been released into open-air enclosures in South Africa. After a journey of more than 70 hours from Argentina, the tigers stepped from their crates into open-air enclosures at the Lionsrock Big Cat Sanctuary in South Africa's central Free State province.

Visibly curious about their new homes, the tigers quickly surveyed the boundaries of their fenced-in areas, about 80-square meters (yards) in size and chowed on chunks of meat put out as a welcome treat. The tigers' arrival in South Africa on Saturday was the culmination of years of planning by the international animal welfare organization Four Paws, said Dr. Amir Khalil, mission leader and veterinarian. "I was more excited than the tigers," he said, adding that it was expected the cats would be reluctant to leave their containers. "But they got out immediately. They wanted to discover the place, to smell the grass, to taste it."

He said the tigers' activity showed they intend "to defend, to secure a new place. So they need some time now to calm down, and they still have a long way to learn about the area and the new territory." The tigers are currently kept as pairs in two separate enclosures, a

plan that appears to have gone smoothly so far. Over the next weeks and months, the tigers will be monitored and get any necessary veterinary care, he said. "We will start coming here often and feeding them, getting them used to all our staff and our caretakers so that they learn to know what is our routine and when they start relaxing," he said.

The next step will be to release the tigers to bigger enclosures that are several acres large, said Hildegard Pirker, manager of the Lionsrock sanctuary, where more than 100 lions, leopards tigers and a cheetah are living. All the enclosures include open grassland with bushes and trees and protected natural areas where the animals can rest and shelter from the elements, according to Lionsrock. The enclosures are circular in shape and follow the natural shape of the land so that the cats do not feel they are in a corner.

The animals have been rescued from circuses, zoos, the entertainment industry and private captivity from all over the world including Austria, Bulgaria, Congo, France, Gaza, Germany, Iraq, Jordan, Romania, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, Syria, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Four Paws has established the Lionsrock reserve in South Africa for the big cats and visitors can come to see the animals in their new environments.

- Mogomotsi Magome, Associated Press, March 2022

*Mogomotsi Magome,
Associated Press, March 2022*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UK Parliament Passes Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill in 'Landmark' Move for Animal Rights

Today, animal rights campaigners across the UK are celebrating as Parliament passes the Animal Welfare Bill. The new bill recognizes animals as sentient beings and includes a dedicated committee to protect their welfare. Celebrities and protection organizations have been campaigning for weeks in the run-up to today to promote the essential bill. Although animals were once recognized as sentient by law in the UK pre-Brexit, this legislation did not transpose once the UK formally left the EU in 2021. Moreover, once the bill receives Royal Assent, the new law will be known as the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022.

In addition to recognizing that animals have feelings, the Animal Welfare Bill will see the formation of an Animal Sentience Committee. The Animal Sentience Committee will have the freedom to scrutinize any government policy that deals with animal welfare.

Furthermore, this board also has the freedom to publish reports on its findings. Since the original law was dropped, the Better Deal for Animals group was formed to campaign to reinstate the Bill. This alliance brought the UK's leading animal organizations together,

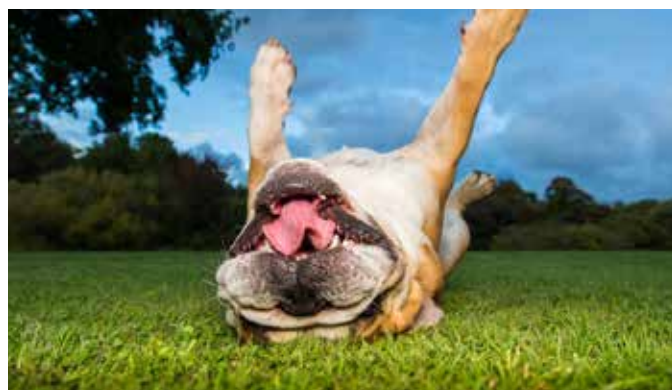


Image source: Brighton Dog Photography via Getty Images

including RSPCA, and Humane Society UK. In a statement, Claire Bass, executive director of Humane Society UK said: "It's exactly 200 years since the UK's first animal welfare law, so the Sentience Act is a fantastic anniversary gift to animals. "This legislation has enormous public support, and we're delighted and relieved to see it complete its journey through Parliament."

Additionally, Actress and activist Joanna Lumley, who campaigned to bring the law back, said: "Anyone lucky enough to share their life with an animal knows what rich emotional lives they can lead, and how much our actions can affect their wellbeing, for better or worse." I am delighted that this new law will mean that sentient animals, including beautiful sea creatures like lobsters and octopus, will be treated with greater respect and care."

*Molly Pickering,
Food and Living Vegan, April 2022*

Octopus Farms Raise Huge Animal Welfare Concerns And They're Unsustainable Too

When you imagine an octopus's world, you might well see a curious creature in a complex undersea environment. Yet the reality of life for some octopuses is existence within a barren tank, inescapably surrounded by humans and other octopuses. This is the bleak world of octopus farming – and soon there could be new commercial farms on the horizon. Recently a Spanish company announced its intention to open a new industrial octopus farm, with a goal of producing 3,000 tonnes of octopus a year. This raises huge concerns for animal welfare – because there can be no doubt that octopuses are complex and intelligent animals.

Wild octopuses are masters of camouflage, rapidly changing their skin patterns to blend in with their backgrounds. Sometimes they cover themselves with shells or even carry coconut shells to hide from predators. And they are well-known escape artists in captivity, able to squeeze through extraordinarily small spaces. They may even have a mischievous streak, with frequent reports of octopuses squirting water at unsuspecting visitors and caregivers. One octopus in Germany was renowned for repeatedly squirting water at the lights, seemingly aware that this would short-circuit the electricity and cause a commotion.

In a laboratory setting too, they have shown themselves adept at solving mazes and other puzzles to acquire a food reward. And octopuses are not only intelligent. They are also sentient, capable of experiencing feelings such as pain and pleasure. We recently produced a report for the UK government, after analyzing over 300 scientific studies. We found strong evidence in favor of sentience in cephalopod molluscs (including octopuses, squid and cuttlefish) and decapod crustaceans (such as crabs and lobsters). For many scientists, our findings merely reaffirmed what they already believed:



Octopus have different moods and can be playful and mischievous. Vladimir Wrangel/shutterstock

that octopuses are conscious animals with feelings and inner lives, just like vertebrates.

For us, all of this sits uneasily with the idea of octopus farming. While octopus has long been an occasional menu item for many, demand for octopus meat is growing rapidly. And that has led to the proposals to start farming octopuses on an industrial scale. As well as Spain, there are similar efforts in Mexico, Chile, China and Japan.

- Alexandra Schnell, Heather Browning, and Jonathan Birch, *The Conversation*, March 2022

Animal Welfare Still a Concern in Poland, Europe's Largest Poultry Farmer

As meat production figures in Poland continue to soar, animal [welfare] campaigners are calling on politicians and consumers to raise the bar for the poultry farming sector. The numbers are staggering. According to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the total number of livestock in the world in 2018 was an estimated 30.6 billion animals – four times as many as the species they were bred for. This amounted to around 60 per cent of the entire mammal biomass on Earth. In addition, more than 60 billion chickens are bred and killed for human consumption every year. In Poland, the annual meat intake per person has shot up from 47 kilograms half a century ago to more than 80 kilograms today. Over the last two decades, the country has seen a major spike in the number of factory farms. Last year, there were nearly 1,400 industrial poultry farms in Poland, each of them housing at least 40,000 chickens in what animal welfare groups describe as inhumane conditions.

According to Monika Kowalska, an activist at Stowarzyszenie Otwarte Klatki (Open Cages Association), one of the main reasons behind the plight of such animals is that modern poultry farming relies on fast-growing breeds. “These breeds have been modified genetically so that chickens gain weight as quickly as this is possible. By the end of their short, six-week lives, chickens can weigh up to 2.5 kilograms,” Kowalska tells us. “To put this in a perspective, imagine a five-year-old child weighing 150 kilograms,” adds her colleague, Maria Madej.

Meanwhile, the consensus among scientists is that animal husbandry is one of the greatest contributors to the ongoing climate change. According to FAO, the sector is globally responsible for between 14.5 and 18 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions – more than the entire transportation industry. “Industrial breeding of animals fuels the climate crisis and endangers our health. That's the hidden price we all pay for cheap meat in our shops,” Gregorzczak says.



Photo: Bigstock-white-chickens-with-red-scallo-390434381-990x556

There are some, however, who think that animal welfare organizations are biased against the poultry industry in Poland, and that the actual situation is not as bad as these groups claim. “All European standards of animal farming in Poland are met,” says Katarzyna Markowska, editor-in-chief of *Hodowca Drobiu* (The Poultry Farmer).

“Factory farms are regularly controlled by state veterinary officers. The cases shown in the media by the so-called pro-animal groups are blown out of proportion to play on people's heartstrings,” Markowska tells us. “Mistreating poultry just doesn't make economic sense. In bad conditions, poultry would not be able to show its full productive potential,” Markowska adds. According to animal welfare organization Klub Gaja, around 40 million layers are now bred in Poland, with 87 per cent of them kept in cages. The average space per hen is slightly larger than an A4 sheet of paper.

- Piotr Jędrzejak, *Emerging Europe*, April 2022

The Red Cross and Humane Society International Partner To Address Ukraine Animal Welfare Crisis

The groups are helping provide essential pet food, supplies, and more to help support refugees with companion animals in the war-torn nation

The Romanian Red Cross and Humane Society International have launched an agreement to provide essential pet food into Ukraine to help combat a worsening animal welfare crisis. “In times like these, we at the Red Cross know that our most valuable resource is kindness and compassion. Our humanitarian convoys will deliver not only supplies to people in desperate need, but also hope that help in on the way. In times like these we know that not only people, but also animals need help,” said Raluca Morar, executive director Romanian Red Cross in Sibiu, in an organizational release.

“We are happy and honored to have Humane Society International on our side, making sure that much needed pet food will also reach Ukraine with our convoys. The first ton of dry pet food has reached our loading point in Sibiu, and it will be delivered to Ukraine within the next days,” she added.

According to the release, it has been challenging for hundreds of animal shelters, veterinary practices, rescue centers, and the thousands of families with pets still in Ukraine to find food for the animals in their care and provide veterinary care for injured or sick animals as supplies are continuously depleting. Therefore, for the first-time ever the Romanian Red Cross is adding life-saving aid for animals to its humanitarian aid transport. Humane Society International has donated the first ton of pet food to the Romanian Red Cross, which they will bring into Ukraine and distribute according to need.

“There are large numbers of pet dogs and cats roaming the streets who have become separated from their families;



Dmitriy / stock.adobe.com

“We have heard from refugees we're helping in Berlin that the loyal companionship of their pets has kept them and their families going on the arduous journey to safety. For children especially, their pets are an enormous source of comfort to help them cope with the trauma of war.”

they are bewildered, traumatized and in need of help. The tragedy of war doesn't differentiate between two legs or four, and together with the Red Cross we will get aid to those people in Ukraine desperately asking for help to keep their animal friends alive in this crisis,” said Andrea Roseti, Humane Society International/Europe's Romania director, in the release.

Additionally, Humane Society International (HSI) is collaborating with other local animal welfare groups in Germany, Italy, and Poland to help Ukrainian refugees with companion animals fleeing the crisis. With a donation from Mars, Incorporated, the refugees will be supplied pet food,

blankets, and veterinary care at refugee reception points. According to the release, those accessing these resources display their relief of being able to save pets who offer comfort amid these horribly stressful circumstances, especially for traumatized children.

Particularly in Germany, Humane Society International is partnering with animal welfare group—Berliner Tiertafel—to offer pet food and veterinary treatment. Across Berlin more than 30 veterinarians are already supporting the efforts so animals receive essential veterinary treatments in addition to required vaccinations and microchips.

“We have heard from refugees we're helping in Berlin that the loyal companionship of their pets has kept them and their families going on the arduous journey to safety. For children especially, their pets are an enormous source of comfort to help them cope with the trauma of war,” remarked Sylvie Kremerskothen Gleason, HSI's Germany Director. “These refugees are frightened and exhausted, so being able to help them care for their pets means they have one less thing to worry about at a time when they need help the most,” she continued, in the release.

PR News Wire, March 2022

FUN CORNER

Animals

Put these animals into the correct place. There are more animals than you need.

penguin • elephant • tiger • hippo • panda • seal •
 monkey • lion • rhino • giraffe • crocodile • pelican



1. This animal eats meat or fish. It's got four legs and it's green or grey. It's big and long.

2. It's big and grey. It's got four legs and eats grass. It's got one horn or two.

3. It's big and grey. It's got four legs and a trunk. It eats grass and fruit. It doesn't eat meat.

4. This is a bird but it can't fly. It's small and black and white. It eats fish.

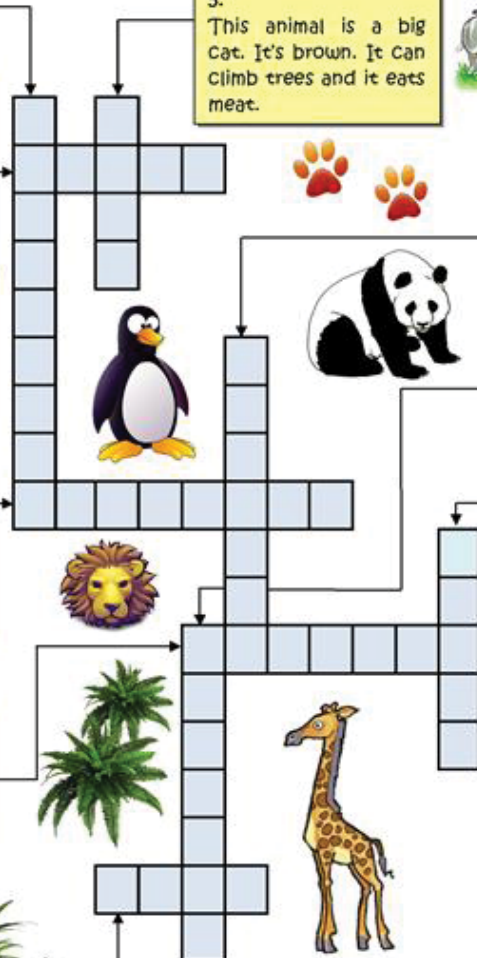
5. This animal is a big cat. It's brown. It can climb trees and it eats meat.

6. This animal is very tall. It's got long legs and eats leaves. It's orange and brown.

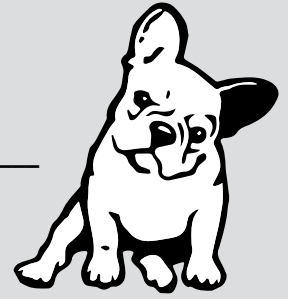
7. This is a bird. It's white or brown and one of the biggest birds. It eats fish.

8. This animal is white and black. It eats bamboo. It can't climb trees.

9. This animal is grey. It hasn't got any legs. It eats fish.



Name: _____ Date: _____ Period _____



Dog Breeds

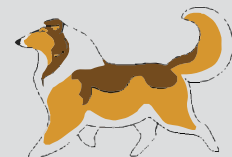
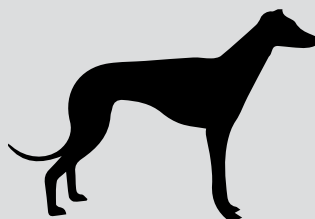
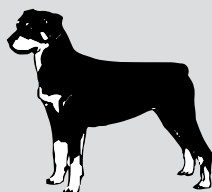
Z O M S G G D G N I T R Q R S N O N Y S C M N Q
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 L L A B R A D O R R E T R I E V E R N L Z D C L
 E M G I F E I V L B L O O D H O U N D E B V L O
 A C S T R A L I A N S H E P H E R D R E X O B G

Shetland Sheepdog
 Poodle
 Mastiff
 Herding Dogs
 German Shepherd
 Collie
 Cavalier King Charles
 Boston Terrier
 Basset Hound

Saint Bernard
 Pomeranian
 Maltese
 Grayhound
 Doberman Pinscher
 Cocker Spaniel
 Cardigan Corgi
 Boeder Collie
 Australian Shepherd

Rottweiler
 Pembroke Corgi
 Labrador Retriever
 Great Dane
 Dalmatian
 Chow Chow
 Bulldog
 Bloodhound
 Australian Cattle

Pug
 Nonsporting Dogs
 HoundDogs
 Golden Retriever
 Dachshund
 Chihuahua
 Boxer
 Beagle



KIDS CORNER

FLYING ROBOTS PROTECT WILDLIFE

H K T P S S B Z Q R Y X U O F S B I I C
H P F T O B T O N S A G C H O V U U Y D
M L Q S R A H N L E A R N I N G H X Q N
Z P Y U M X C I T A X C N M J L M N A Y
T R S O Y O T H A B I T A T D S T U L I
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X C K J I S T A N I J S H P U J Y T F Q
B B X D R K Y K T Y F Z U P M F D I Z I

AQUATIC

BRUSH

CAMERA

COUNTS

DRONE

ECOLOGIST

EXTINCT

FOREST

HABITAT

IMAGES

INTERNET

INVASIVE

JUNGLES

LEARNING

MODEL

MUCUS

MURIQUIS

PENGUIN

PETRI

PILOT

POACHER

RHINO

SEABIRD

SEI

SENSOR

SNOTBOT

SPECIES

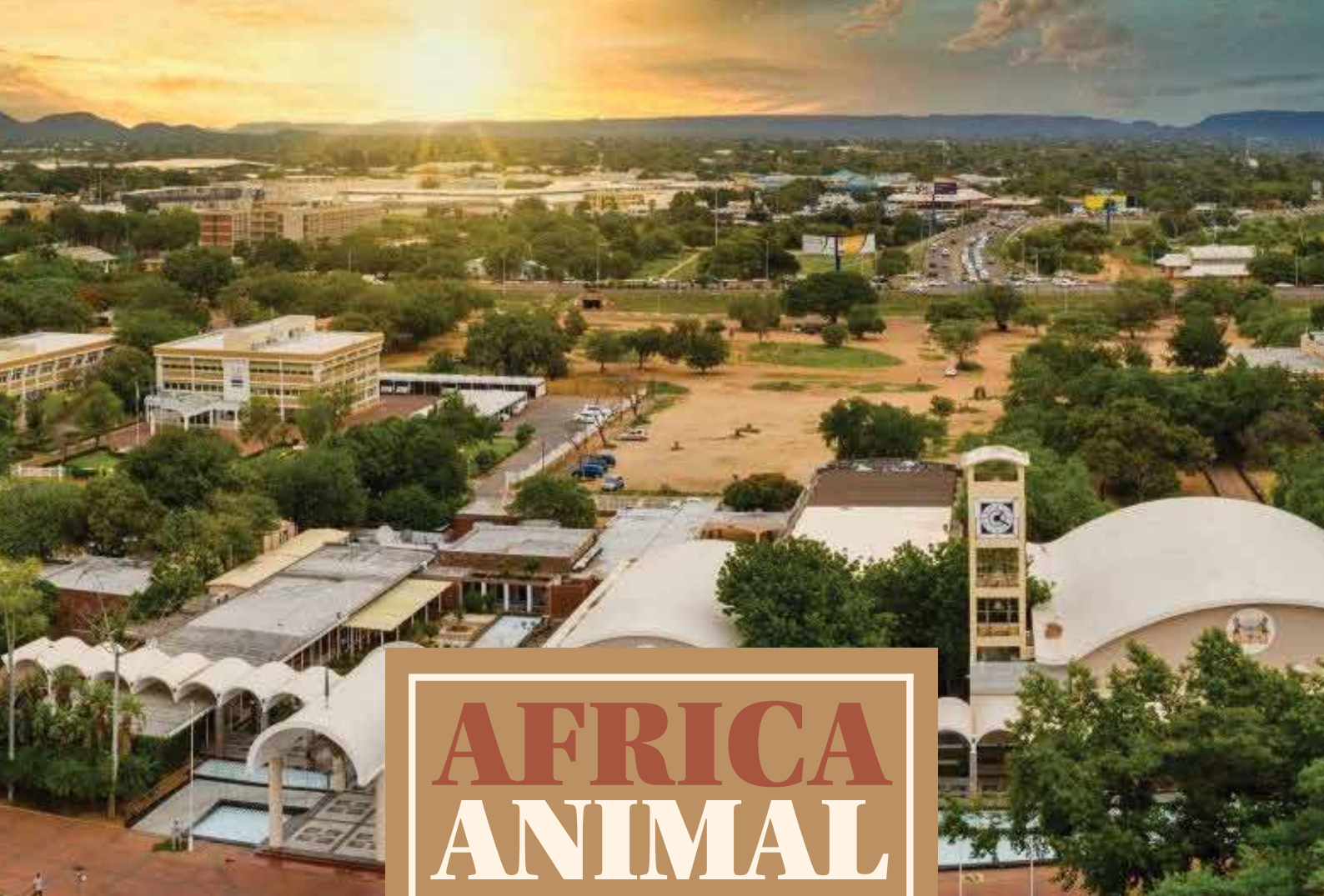
THERMAL

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