

# ANIMAL WELFARE MAGAZINE

JULY - DECEMBER 2023 KSH 500 | US\$ 5.00 VOL.17

## THE ICONIC GIRAFFE CENTRE

Urban Conservation Escape Celebrates 40 Years

## KENYAN LAYING HENS AT RISK

Due to Low Quality and Inconsistent Feeds

## AFRICAN SPECIES ON THE CLOCK

Varied Species on the Brink of Extinction

## 6 LESSONS FROM FEMALE ANIMALS

Creating Spaces for Women in Animal Welfare



## Welcome Aboard!



# HAVE YOU JOINED THE ANAW NETWORK ?

To join or if you need further information kindly contact us on:  
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### Objectives of ANAW Network Partners Program

1. Promote animal welfare awareness in society through knowledge, skills and attitude change.
2. Nurture ambassadors with the aim of working towards having a continent where people show compassion, protection, and care for all animals.
3. Foster beneficial public participation in animal welfare programs, activities and events across the continent.
4. Pursue a common agenda that will nurture a culture of advocating for good animal welfare practices.
5. Promote and coordinate information sharing on animal welfare among the partners.

### Benefits to ANAW Network Partners

1. Access to a platform to voice common animal welfare and conservation interests.
2. Opportunities to participate in animal welfare and conservation activities/ campaigns such as anti-rabies, anti-poaching, desnaring and animal rescues.
3. Opportunities to participate in animal welfare and conservation workshops, webinars as well as the annual international Africa Animal Welfare Conferences <https://www.aawconference.org/>
4. Opportunities to participate in experiential learning trips and excursions.
5. Access to a platform of sharing information, networking, and collaborations.
6. Opportunity to participate in meetings organized by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
7. Publicity on ANAW's Website and social media pages, where agreed on.
8. Where appropriate, certificates and/or plaques may be issued.

As a partner, you will work with other partners across the continent to become animal welfare ambassadors and animal welfare champions in advocating for the welfare of animals in your countries, organizations, institutions and/or other spheres of influence. You will also initiate, coordinate and collaborate with other partners in planning and implementing animal welfare field activities in their countries, organizations and/ or other spheres of influence.



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Welcome!



## **The Iconic Giraffe Centre: A Treasured Urban Conservation Escape Celebrates Forty (40) Years of its Existence**

A meeting of conservation minds in celebration of the iconic institution gleaned insights on journey of conservation in Kenya over the years and the future efforts needed to support the great achievement of contributing to save a species from the brink of extinction. As we follow the proceedings on the celebration of the 40th milestone, we understand that in visiting the ecotourism destination, many people contribute greatly to, not only, the preservation of a threatened species, but also to a wide array of conservation initiatives in a massive way. Read on and look behind the curtains of how Giraffe Centre came to be one of the top must-visit destination in Nairobi it is today.



*Page 8*

## **Kenyan Laying Hens at Risk Due to Low-Quality and Inconsistent Feeds**

In this article, we explore vital findings in a recent study giving rise to animal welfare issues that directly affect poultry farmers in Africa. We see how low-quality feeds affect poultry. Tested samples of particular feeds revealed that they were below the standard of established standards for key nutrients for hen bone development and health. Read on as these recent research findings are not only informative and insightful but they are also critical in aiding decision-making strategies and ensuring the welfare of poultry in Africa.



*Page 14*

## **The Need for a Moratorium on Factory Farming in Africa**

The brutal reality of agriculture and the animal food production industry is brought to question in its treatment of animals and its impact on the environment in this article. It highlights how factory farms are the largest global source of methane and nitrous oxide and potent Green House Gasses (GHG). Read more to gain information on how if only practiced humanely and sustainably, the industry could ensure food security across the globe.

*Page 22*

## **Bob for Pawsident: What If an Animal is Elected to Advocate for Their Own Welfare?**

A crucial fictional article presents an insightful perspective on animal welfare policy and law in Kenya. The presidential campaign portrays the need to have an animal elected in a democratic society to champion animal welfare issues in government. The humorous article cleverly enables readers to learn about and understand animal welfare policy issues giving its status as it currently is in the country. It is a must-read as you laughingly engage in a lesser-known discourse of animal advocacy at a local and global level.



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## Five Key Questions for Implementing UNEP's Animal Welfare Nexus Resolution

This republished important article takes the readers through the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus resolution, a resolution that was passed at the United Nations Environment Assembly in March 2022. The article urges governments and the UN system to improve their understanding of the interlinkages between human, animal and environmental well-being and integrate it in policy. Read to get to know more about the nexus resolution and why it is key to have in implemented.

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## Braying at the Island:

### Donkey Welfare in Lamu African Species on the Cloak

Lamu, an island known for its traditional donkey transport system, is put to question as the welfare of animal is noted to be often neglected. Traversing from ports, to markets while transporting building materials and tourists, we glimpse at how donkeys are overworked, malnourished and mistreated in ways that cause injuries and illnesses that often go untreated. The article urges action and urgent attention on the situation in order to introduce new care initiatives, projects and programs and/or strengthen and support the only already stretched, shorthanded and short-staffed clinic that is available.



*Page 37*

## African Species on the Clock

This remarkable piece guides the reader through the rarely-talked about species that are in the brink of extinction in the continent. The article informs us that as much as conservation efforts continue to rise, some species are still in danger. Readers travel across the borders within Africa and visit with the few surviving birds, mammals, great apes, and aquatic endangered species. Read on and find out more about the status of this animals.



*Page 40*

## What Makes a Great Activist?

Being an animal welfare activist for a decade in Nigeria has posed a great trajectory of growth for the writer of this article. The article gives light on the tools and skills needed to be a great activist and the critical need to work with people in achieving common goals. The readers are gently guided through the do's and don'ts, They are encouraged that is interested they can select some among the several types of activism that is most suitable to their personalities and interests. He takes readers through the five important qualities to have when spreading the message on animal protection.



*Page 54*

## Local and International Animal Welfare News

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

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## COVER PHOTO

A pair of Rothschild Giraffes at the Giraffe Centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

## DISCLAIMER

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## *Editorial Note*

We emulate nature. A nod to nature, as inspiration, is seen in architecture, agriculture, infrastructure, technological development, home designs, fashion and vehicles. It is only natural that we look closer at the animal kingdom, especially at a time when we are so removed from experiencing our authentic self, and turn to nature for solutions. Hence, it is of great interest that an article guides female leaders to apply lessons from Kingdom Animalia in their lives that will enable them to meet their goals.

Kinship to animals brings out the need to protect and care for them. This is what one of the most renowned ecotourism destinations, the Giraffe Centre, undertakes in keeping and breeding the Rothschild or Baringo Giraffe in Kenya. You will get a glimpse of how merry it was for conservationists in celebration of 40 years of its existence and the next phase plans that will not only ensure the preservation of the giraffes, but other animals through their support of other projects.

At the African home, we learn of how feeds affect laying eggs in Kenya and what happens when we prioritize egg laying productivity to their welfare. Kenyan voices present views on the true reality on the ground, talking about their experience on the quality of feed available and its effects. We also learn of the massive strides taken in Rwanda to ensure that people understand the concept of animal welfare. Livestock farmers readily ask questions and lean in during trainings in an effort to seek insight on the human-animal relationship in the context of the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare. In Kenya, it is explained that Africa should be aware of the impacts of factory farming and ways to prevent them from its proliferation in the continent. We are informed on its status globally and the call for action towards this appeal. Turn the pages and get to read on the importance of implementing the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Resolution passed at the United National Environmental Assembly (UNEA) in March 2022. An easy read, the republished article provides deeper insight to the resolution and why it is vital in order to meet the sustainable development goals.

In this issue, we go to the coast as well but not for the aquatic animals this time. We visit with the donkeys of Lamu. Well known for its donkey transport system, Lamu keeps hundreds of donkeys as they traverse the town every day. The article presents the reality of the condition of the animals in the UNESCO World Heritage Site and proposes ways to solve the challenges faced. We also get to meet Bob from the south west of Wakanda who is running for Pawsident to champion animal welfare under the trending #Animal\_own\_voices. Learn the insightful thoughts of the party he aligns with and the political pledges in their manifesto. A hearty piece, yes, but be sure to pay close attention as there are profound lessons to be learnt.

Take a seat back and read these and more stories prepared for you by writers, experts, academics, educators, activists, and veterinarians from around the continent. We would love to hear your thoughts on the stories and learn of which one you would love most. Thank you once again for being an avid reader and we do urge you to join our community and become an ANAW Network Member.

*Catherine Chumo*



# The Iconic Giraffe Centre: A Treasured Urban Conservation Escape Celebrates Forty (40) Years of its Existence

By Catherine Chumo



*“The revamping process prioritizes information sharing on how to interact with the giraffe and respecting their welfare as people enjoy the space with minimum impact on nature and the general environment”*



Emmanuel Ngumbi,  
Conservation Programs Manager, Giraffe Centre



## Giraffes in the Kenyan Savannah Wilderness

I held on firmly on to the upper door handle on side of the vehicle in a tumultuous ride in the land cruiser, racing across the conservancy with the veterinarian rescue vehicle of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) close behind us to rescue as many animals as we could before sunset. As we flew along the dirt roads, we spotted different animals including the Rothschild Giraffe also commonly known as the Baringo Giraffe.

We were camping for multiple days to undertake rescues of animals in distress at Soysambu Conservancy, a 48,000-acre conservancy which lies in an enclave between Lake Elementeita to the east and Lake Nakuru to the west. I couldn't help but wonder which of the Rothschild giraffes were from AFEW's well known Nairobi education office, Giraffe Centre.

The conservancy was one of the release sites for the Rothschild Giraffe species for African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW) as they took great care to breed the giraffes at the Giraffe Centre in Nairobi and translocated them to different sites. The organization cites that recent herds were introduced, are safe and breeding well in Soysambu Conservancy by Lake Elementeita in the Great Rift Valley, Kigio Conservancy and the Sergoit Ranch in the Mount Elgon region.

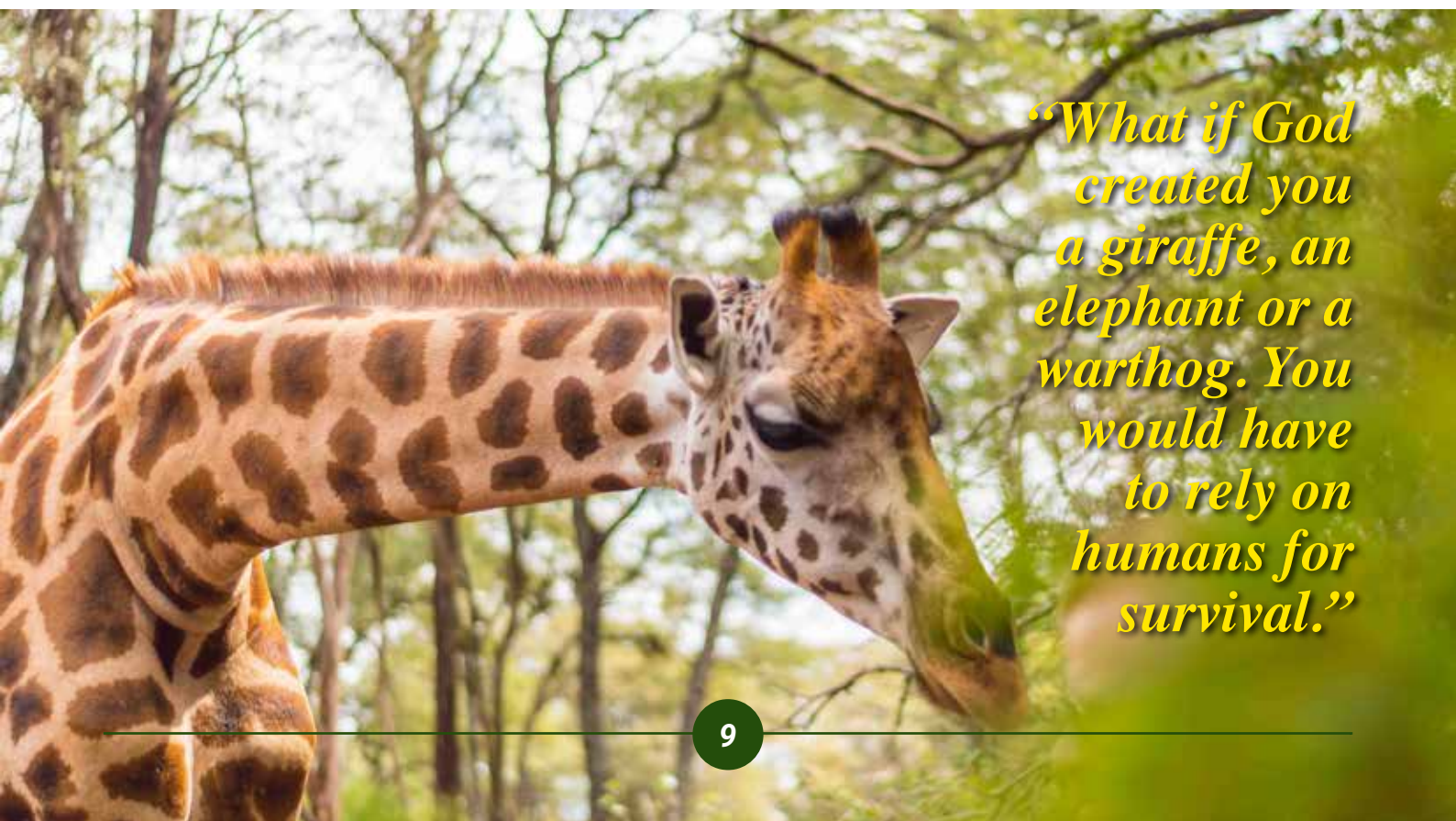
## Giraffes in the Kenyan Urban Jungle

The head butt is what you should watch out for when feeding the giraffes with the tiny pellets. If you are not careful, the head of a giraffe may smack you in an effort to gain your attention. The coconut shells used to supply the handfuls of pellets lay comfortably in the hands of tourists feeding them to the giraffes. But as much as this was usually one of the most exciting experiences when

visiting Giraffe Centre, it was not the only one. Let's start from the beginning, shall we?

As a resident who called Nairobi home, the Giraffe Centre was a place that kept the embers of my interest in conservation glowing. Every moment I set foot at the centre, the brown building - seeming to me a rising continuation of the earth beneath, with the color mirroring the markings on the giraffe's body - reminded me of the connection between human beings and animals. The feeling was unmistakable as it was inspirational. I felt a profound sense of responsibility to help conserve the animals and their habitat.

As I entered the gate of the most visited and unique ecotourism sites in the country, I was able to go through the new digitalized entrance. With the friendly guard ushering the visitors, I proceeded on to the kind attendance of the ticket clerk at the ticket office. Once at the entrance, the



*“What if God created you a giraffe, an elephant or a warthog. You would have to rely on humans for survival.”*

information screen informed the new guests about the centre, the giraffes and its habitat across the continent and across the globe. Emmanuel Ngumbi, the Conservation Programs Manager of the Giraffe Centre, stated that the revamping process prioritized information sharing on how to interact with the giraffe and respecting their welfare as people enjoy the space with minimum impact on nature and the general environment.

It is often criticized that institutions, organizations and sanctuaries that harbor and breed animals have received poor reputation as habitats that are a cesspool of poor conditions and welfare of animals. Challenges that affect the welfare of animals such as size of the space, feeding schedules, and restricting normal behavior of the species have been experienced. This is not so for the Giraffe Centre.

The centre encompasses 120 acres which provide a secure space for the giraffes to breed for rewilding into protected areas as was assigned by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). Christine Odhiambo, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Giraffe Centre, stated that the organization was

set up to protect biodiversity and the flagship project was focusing on the Rothschild Giraffe or the Baringo Giraffe.

The Giraffe Centre ushers in the visitors through its doors and opens it up for people to interact with the giraffes up close. The glee on the children's faces as they feed the giraffes sets an assurance that future generations

*“We are all interconnected. If bees do not exist, we would not exist. If animals did not exist, we would not exist.” stated Mr. Gakunju.*

would value the creatures. Briony Anderson who supervised the construction of the education centre all those years ago, highlighted that the platform of the building was designed to be raised so that the people visiting would be on the same eye level as the giraffes.

The giraffes at the centre are

friendly but before I got a chance to feed them food pellets, I visit the education centre and listened to a talk on the different types of giraffes in Kenya and the rest of the world.

The essays written and the art competition colorfully displayed at the centre relayed the impact and the achievement that the much-needed initiative had created in fostering understanding among the learners. The Giraffe Centre was set up to educate Kenyan school children and youth on the country's wildlife and environment.

The Chair of the Board of Directors, Jagi Gakunju, stated that the centre generated money with the intention of funding other conservation projects and promoted conservation in schools with a focus on young people coming up with conservation and related projects. The gift shop was a great highlight showcasing beautiful items that embody or capture the giraffe in art and crafts.

The Giraffe Centre inspired and allowed Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) board member, Peter Moll, as an ordinary Kenyan citizen, direct interaction with





wildlife. "What the Giraffe Centre has been able to achieve was beyond measure. It achieved conservation through rewilding, tourism through international and local clients and culture and heritage." He stated. Mr. Moll was talking during the 40th anniversary celebrations held in April 28, 2023.

## The 40th Anniversary Celebrations of the Giraffe Center

Amidst music, dancing and ululations, the board, partners, staff, government leaders, representatives from stakeholder organizations and government parastatals, and journalists interacted with each other in an aura of excitement and happiness. They had come to celebrate their 40th anniversary at the now revamped Giraffe Centre in a grand and stately event.

"Do you know we have worked together with AFEW and funded the judiciary project?" my colleague whispered as we walked to the event site. I did remember the sense of pride, achievement and gratitude in seeing the project become a great success. My colleague was referring to the to how we, together



with several other organizations, contributed in building the capacity of the judiciary and the public prosecutor's office on management of wildlife crimes in Kenya.

AFEW had indeed funded numerous projects with various partners and stakeholders. Some of the other projects that had been funded included the translocation and re-introduction of colobus monkeys in Karura Forest and Ngong Forest, protecting important water catchment areas in Aberdare National Park through fencing, supporting forest scouts and rangers in Arabuko Sokoke Forest and in Mt. Kenya National Park, and the advocacy of the protection of endangered

African elephant among other projects. Most of the leaders and representatives of the stakeholder organizations involved in these projects were in attendance celebrating the milestones.

During the event, many learnt and understood that the centre had undergone a lot of challenges and changes to become the popular, successful and thriving educational centre it is today. In a documentary made to mark the celebrations, Mr. Ngumbi stated that it had grown in popularity and had become one of the world's renown nature conservation and sustainable tourism centre in the country. With the expansion, he hoped that it would grow even more.



*"The country is so blessed with the fishing lions of Lamu, the building elephants of Tana River, the Baboon barazas and parliament of Suswa and the smiling people of Kenya."*

- Ms. Penina Malonza, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage.

Media personality and event MC, Ms. Zainab Wandati, welcomed everyone to the celebrations. She cited that the organization had contributed to the growth of the Rothschild Giraffe to more than 1300 giraffes in the wild. The status of the species moved from endangered to near threatened. She then spoke on the importance of working on how citizens can support in the protection of the species and the work Giraffe Centre had done.

## The History of the Giraffe Centre

Mr. Jagi Gakunju took the attendees back to where it all began. As it turns out, the Giraffe Centre was started in 1974 when Jock and Betty Leslie-Melville were concerned about the dwindling numbers of the Baringo Giraffe, which were found in only two countries: Kenya and Uganda. Its habitat around the equator had been subdivided. Kenya has been documented to have three subspecies of the giraffe which include the Baringo Giraffe or the Rothschild Giraffe, the Reticulated or the Somali Giraffe and the Masai Giraffe. The Baringo Giraffe was the most threatened. There are nine subspecies of giraffes across the world.

The couple then acquired 20 acres and they brought in the giraffes, but unfortunately, it was not sufficient. They raised funds in the US and they managed to buy 120 acres for the giraffes



*It was estimated in 2018 that there were 1399 Baringo Giraffes in the wild. In 1984, there were less than 120 Baringo Giraffes.*

which has seen to its success today.

Apart from celebrating the 40th year since its inception, the

Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, Ms. Penina Malonza officially commissioned the rebirth of the Giraffe Centre. Mr. Gakunju recognized the people who had been pivotal in the survival of the institution.

It was estimated in 2018 that there were 1399 Baringo Giraffes in the wild. In 1984, there were less than 120 Baringo Giraffes.

If they were not conserved, the species would have been extinct. Gratitude was given to KWS for designating national parks as the destination for the Baringo Giraffes as they did not want interbreeding between the three species, and for providing veterinary support.

"We are all interconnected. If bees do not exist, we would not exist. If animals did not exist, we would not exist," stated Mr. Gakunju.

## Partnership with the Kenyan Government

"The country is so blessed with the fishing lions of Lamu, the building elephants of Tana River, the Baboon barazas and parliament of Suswa and the smiling people of Kenya." - Ms. Penina Malonza, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage.

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, Ms. Penina Malonza commended the centre for the wonderful





*An appeal was made for all to join hands in the conservation of wildlife as a natural heritage that God had bestowed upon human beings to protect for their own benefit and for posterity.*

conservation work done and lauded it as a symbolic and iconic wildlife sanctuary that offers space for the near threatened Baringo Giraffe. She stated that the centre was one of the most excellent ecotourism sites promoting wildlife-based tourism and conservation education services.

The CS emphasized that the government takes conservation seriously because it supports local people and is a good model of the bottom-up approach was anchored in the country's development agenda.

She stated that a close partnership will be developed between the Kenyan Government and the Giraffe Centre. The partnership was aimed at boosting the country's tourism sector by promoting sustainable tourism practices and highlighting the importance of conservation efforts. She mentioned that partnership and collaboration was key in mobilizing resources and minimizing duplication of efforts to support sustainable conservation goals.

An appeal was made for all to join hands in the conservation of

wildlife as a natural heritage that God had bestowed upon human beings to protect for their own benefit and for posterity. "What if God created you a giraffe, an elephant or a warthog. You would have to rely on humans for survival."

Mr. Gakunju had agreed and stated that conservation was a partnership and one could not do it alone. He mentioned that the government had been supportive

The CS urged the Fourth Estate, the press, to partner with them and sing the praises of Kenya loudly of the beauty the country holds.

She commissioned a section of the Giraffe Centre and she declared the refurbished centre open. The Giraffe Centre continues to open its doors to people in the country and from across the world.

Captain Robert O'Brien, Community Wildlife Services and Partnership, KWS stated that they were losing thousands of the Reticulated or the Somali Giraffe in the North. He mentioned that he was impressed by Giraffe Centre's initiative and had observed that they could partner to save the giraffe in North Eastern.

It is clear that the centre provides a home to not only the Baringo Giraffe that are so well cared for and other wildlife species, but also is a home for learning for thousands of children eager to know more about the wildlife, the wonderful country and the remarkable continent. It is a valued institution neatly stitched in the fabric of Kenya's conservation landscape for eons to come.



### **The African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW)**

The Giraffe Centre was founded in 1979 by the late Jock Leslie Melville and his wife the late Betty Leslie Melville. The Giraffe Centre was opened in 1983

In 1979, only 130 Rothschild or Baringo Giraffe were remaining in the wild. In 2018, that there were about 1399 Baringo Giraffes in the wild.

Over the last three (3) decades, AFEW's Conservation Programme translocated 29 Rothschild or Baringo Giraffes

Of the 9 subspecies of the giraffe found globally, 3 subspecies are found in Kenya. They include the Rothschild or the Baringo Giraffe, the Reticulated or Somali Giraffe and the Masai Giraffe.

The centre comprises of 120 acres which provide a secure space for the giraffes to breed for rewilding into protected areas. 35000 students come to visit the centre per year. The centre receives 200,000 visitors per year. Approximately half of them are foreigners.

AFEW has provided funds and supported projects to the tune of Kshs. 300 million. Giraffe Centre is listed as one of the top 10 tourist destination in Nairobi.

*'Photos courtesy of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage'.*

# Kenyan Laying Hens at Risk Due to Low-Quality and Inconsistent Feeds

By Lukas Jasiūnas, Ph.D.



**Unfortunately, egg-laying hen diets today often do not contain nutrient levels optimal for the birds' health and well-being, especially, as we found, in Kenya - our country of pilot operations. The hens can experience an increase in bone-related health issues when feeds are formulated to maximize egg-laying productivity rather than welfare.**

Keel bone fractures ( ) often take 6+ weeks to heal, and, on average, each hen experiences 3 fractures throughout her life . When untreated, the animals fall into depressive-like states and can experience other welfare issues . To solve this unnoticed and untreated issue of poor hen welfare from osteoporosis and bone fractures, we are looking for a way to ensure that hens kept commercially, cage-free are given optimal levels of calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D3 - nutrients key for bone development and health. Ensuring that egg-laying hen feed meets appropriate standards for these nutrients is crucial for maintaining the health and welfare of hens reared for their eggs.

**97%**

OF HENS HAD AT LEAST ONE KEEL BONE FRACTURE [S.BAUR 2020]



**TIME IN PAIN DUE TO 1 FRACTURE**  
12 WEEKS IN ANNOYING PAIN  
7 DAYS IN HURTFUL PAIN  
2 HOURS IN DISABLING PAIN

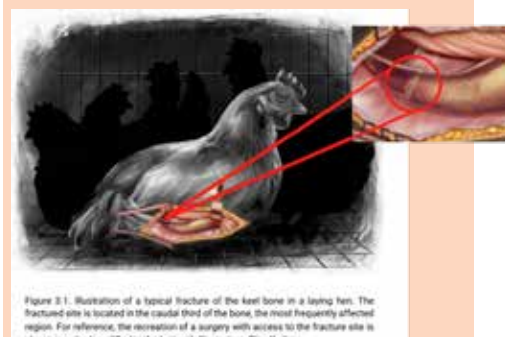


Figure 3.1. Illustration of a typical fracture of the keel bone in a laying hen. The fractured site is located in the caudal third of the bone, the most frequently affected region. For reference, the reconstruction of a surgery with access to the fracture site is shown in color (enlarged in the bottom). Illustration: Olga Kuklinska

1 Baur, S., Rufener, C., Toscano, M. J., & Geissbühler, U. (2020). Radiographic Evaluation of Keel Bone Damage in Laying Hens—Morphologic and Temporal Observations in a Longitudinal Study. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2020.00129> 2 Armstrong, E. A., Rufener, C., Toscano, M. J., Eastham, J. E., Guy, J. H., Sandilands, V., Boswell, T., & Smulders, T. V. (2020). Keel bone fractures induce a depressive-like state in laying hens. *Scientific Reports*, 10(1), 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-59940-1> 3 Schuck-Paim, Cynthia & Wladimir J. Alonso (2021) Quantifying Pain Laying Hens: A Blueprint for the Comparative Analysis of Welfare in Animals.



# Hello!

## HEALTHIER HENS

### Sample Collection Protocol

#### The Background

Through Key Informant Interviews and market research, we found a risk of inadequate feed quality in Kenya. Examples include farmers experiencing feed quality issues, high-quality feed ingredient shortages in the market and a struggle to regulate the enforcement of quality standards. We developed a sample collection protocol to aid volunteers and farmers in collecting an adequate sample for testing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GG9Gm4xeehE>

In Kenya, as in many other countries, there are established standards for the composition of egg-laying hen feed, including minimum and maximum levels of calcium, phosphorous, protein, and vitamin D3.

However, there is a lack of information on whether these standards are being met in practice. In order to address this gap in knowledge, we sampled feeds in several counties and had them analyzed at certified laboratories to assess the dietary levels of these key nutrients. The aim of this study was to evaluate whether egg-laying hen feed in Kenya meets the established

standards for key nutrients for hen bone development and health, and to provide information on how prevalent these issues might be, recommending what improvements should be made. A total of 32 samples were

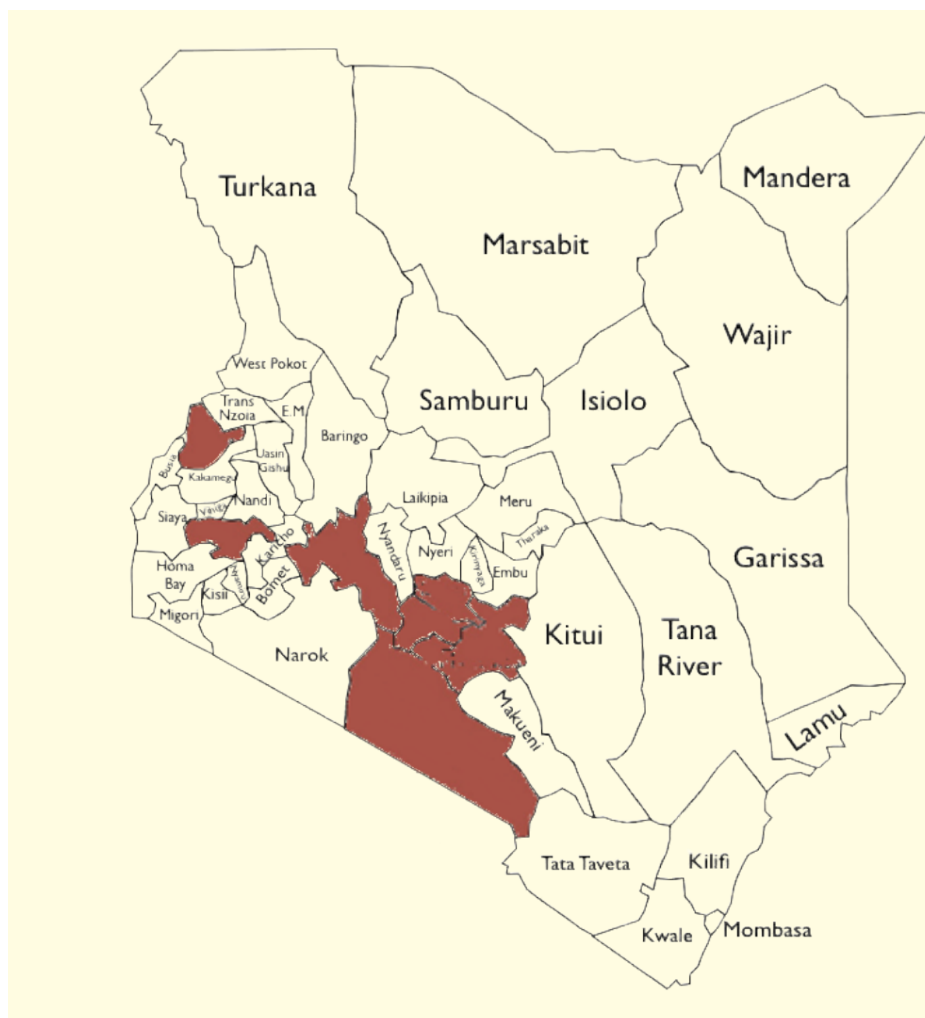
***In Kenya, as in many other countries, there are established standards for the composition of egg-laying hen feed, including minimum and maximum levels of calcium, phosphorous, protein, and vitamin D3.***

collected, 27 of which were adult hen mash feeds. These samples were collected opportunistically when connecting with various stakeholders in the egg industry, including farmers, universities, feed mills, and agrovets.

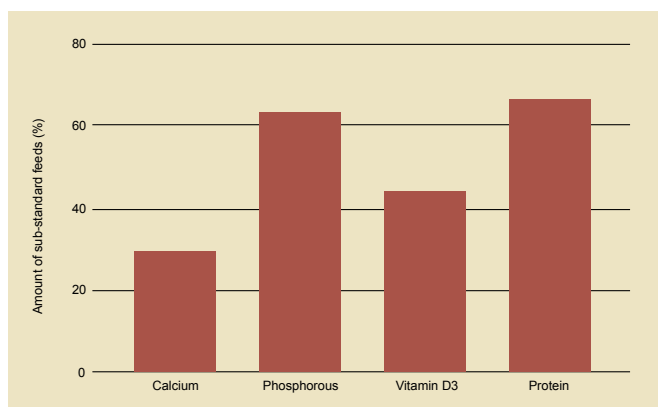
The samples were collected from 7 counties from December 2021 to December 2022 with high egg production rates, mainly consisting of commercial feeds.

#### Samples not Up to Scratch

Low feed quality may indeed be a widespread issue in Kenya. Out of the tested 27 feed samples, roughly a third were below minimum calcium, a half below vitamin D3, and two-thirds below each phosphorous and protein levels as regulated by the regional



feed composition standard. Interestingly, only one tested sample appeared to be fully compliant with the standard. Similarly, the figure below also shows how many of the tested feeds are suspected to provide diets deficient in said key nutrients. Just one sample was free of nutrient deficiencies across the tested range, highlighting how consistent the issue might be.



## Not all Feeds are Created Equal

Repeat samples were collected of two major feed producer products. This was done following up on the feed quality consistency concerns expressed by interviewed farmers. The collected data provides merits to the reported issues, with wide variability in nutrient levels in the same products. While on average, a feed fared well in terms of calcium

content, in reality, three of the five tested samples were below standard. Although the investigation did not allow for a deeper analysis of how the composition varies across geography or time, the results do point to inconsistencies that should be addressed to ensure that hens receive adequate nutrition irrespective of where in the country they are kept or when in the year the commercial feed is acquired.

## Commercial vs. Self-Formulated

A similar initial comparison was made possible by collecting samples of both commercial and self-formulated adult hen feeds. Likewise, there is great variability in terms of the nutritional content of the two feed sources. It is, therefore, recommended not to treat either with blanket statements as there were deficiencies across the board. On average, self-formulated feeds fell below standard with regard to calcium and phosphorous levels but performed significantly better in terms of vitamin D3 content. Ensuring adequate levels of protein levels seems to have been a common challenge for commercial feed producers. It is noteworthy that several producers voiced concerns over the low quality and scarcity of protein sources (e.g. soya, fish meal).





## What do the People Say?



In the animal feed industry, most of the smaller feed formulators are unregistered, unregulated and even difficult to trace and therefore easily evade the oversight of [regulators]. In addition, most feed ingredients themselves are not fully standardized causing feed manufacturers great difficulties in complying with the set overall feed standards."



"...due to poor food and calcium deficiency, layers take a long time to reach production, the quality of eggs is poor, and there is inconsistency in layers.

Bone health.... the layers suffer a lot, especially lameness, cannibalism and brittle bones."

"The government ought to reign in the feed sector through regulation and regular testing of feed standards to assess feed quality... There should be strict penalties for manufacturers who did not meet acceptable standards:"



"Some of the challenges facing the animal feeds industry in Kenya include erratic supply of raw materials, lack of standardization, and low quality of ingredients."

"The quality of commercial feeds, assessed in terms of nutrient composition as well as the presence or absence of substances that may be harmful to human and animal health has been a major concern amongst the stakeholders in Kenya."



"This year alone there have been 6 increments in price." "Another challenge is quality. They have reduced the protein levels but still charge the same amount." "There is no standardized structure for feeds in the country." "Availability of feed is not consistent. Today you get, tomorrow you don't get." "Knowledge and awareness. Farmers do not have access to readily available information."

## Laying the Foundations of Knowledge

We conducted three farmer workshops in Murang'a and Nakuru counties to improve awareness and animal welfare knowledge. The workshops revealed significant knowledge gaps, but farmers were eager to learn and improve. They were engaged and expressed interest in learning more and improving their farm management practices. We collected pre- and post-workshop survey data to assess the impact of the events on hen welfare awareness and knowledge. Farmer feedback was positive, and many participants expressed willingness to collaborate in the future and receive on-farm training via in-person visits. Post-workshop survey results indicate knowledge retention and continued interest in learning to improve.

Specifically, the workshops covered the following topics:

- The importance of animal welfare and its basics

- An overview of hen welfare and behaviour including key issues
- Welfare benefits of cage-free farming
- The role high-quality feed plays in hen welfare

The workshops were a success, and we are grateful for the participation of the farmers. We are confident that the knowledge and skills they gained will help them improve the welfare of their hens. We look forward to continuing our work with these farmers and others to improve animal welfare in Kenya.

## Hen-Spired to Do Better

It appears that the quality of egg-laying hen feed in Kenya may not be meeting appropriate standards for key nutrients, including calcium, phosphorus, vitamin D3 and protein. The investigation found that the risk of inadequate feed quality is experienced by farmers, supported by producers via the confirmed high-quality feed ingredient shortages in the market, and an observable

struggle to regulate the enforcement of feed composition standards. We found that some samples had nutrient levels below the established regional feed composition standard and some might put hens at risk of receiving inadequate nutrition, contributing to health and welfare issues. Progressive Kenyan cage-free egg farmers are eager to learn about hen welfare and seek opportunities to improve on-farm management practices to ensure hens are free of unnecessary suffering.

Ensuring that egg-laying hen feed meets appropriate standards and, most importantly, contains adequate levels of key nutrients is crucial for maintaining the health and welfare of hens reared for their eggs, and it is recommended that improvements are sought immediately to address the potential issues identified.

**Lukas Jasiūnas, Ph.D. is the Co-founder & Head of Research at Healthier Hens**





# Akosua Kumi Nyarko:

## She Wields the Scalpel as She Wields the Pen



***"Saving one animal won't change the world, but it will change the world for that one animal"***

**A**s she warps and wefts the tethers of a noble career, the formidable Akosua Kumi Nyarko is hard at work in making a strong impact in her society today. The base of her basket stands firm and strong already displaying a young industrious leader aobservations and beliefs are put down to paper creatively to give insights on a career that ensures the well-being of animals. Let's delve in to learn more about her, her work and of the process towards the goal she works so ardently to attain.

## Who is Akosua Kumi Nyarko?

Akosua Kumi Nyarko is a final-year veterinary medical student at the University of Ghana. I have a strong affection for animals, and I'm the type of person who frequently forgets the owner's name but remembers the name of the owner's pet. I have three dogs: Dzi, Bruno, and Timothy. I enjoy writing and sharing my creativity with people, and I write for the I Love Veterinary Website. I am the founder and executive director of The Animal Aider Project (TAAP), a young non-profit organisation that organizes veterinary outreach initiatives (known as VetReach) in communities throughout Ghana by offering free vaccinations and other preventive medications, medical check-ups, and community education. I aspire to be remembered as the woman who transformed Ghana's view of veterinary medical care and animal love. Regardless of the owner's financial status, I firmly think that every animal deserves the chance to experience affection and medical care.

## When did you know that you wanted to become a veterinarian?

Since I was young, I have always loved animals. I cared for the hurt birds and other smaller animals and gave proper burials to the dead ones. I suppose helping animals was where it all began, and I grew up with it. While I still wanted to rescue animals, my childhood dream was to become a doctor. Until senior high school, I had no idea it was called veterinary medicine.

## Could you tell us about your journey as a student veterinarian so far?

My experience at the veterinary school has been incredibly fulfilling. It's a little bit simpler and a lot of fun for me because I'm doing what I love. My attention was piqued by the information I learned about the advantages of the bond between people and animals. I also saw a need for more veterinary education and wanted to find a pleasant way to inform people about animal health issues. To share my experiences as a veterinary student and educate others, I started the Instagram account @ghanaian\_vetgirl. I had the chance to participate in the Clinton Global Initiative University Fellowship during my vet school journey. Being a member of the 2022 Cohort helped me develop my community involvement and engagement abilities. I also received the African Small Companion Animal Network (AFSCAN) Veterinary Studentship in 2022, a grant enabling me to conduct research related to the disease or welfare



**Community campaign during World Rabies Day**

of companion animals relevant to African society.

## What is your favorite part about desiring to work in the animal care field?

I desire to help many animals, and their owners lead healthy, meaningful lives through disease prevention and treatment. This is a win-win for everyone. Healthy animals equal healthy people. My motivation comes from this.

## Who is your biggest inspiration in the field?

I find a lot of inspiration in Dr. Sherry Johnson and hope to follow in her footsteps. Dr. Johnson is the Coordinator at the Small Animal Teaching Hospital, University of Ghana, and she is interested in zoonoses and One Health. She loves to see animals healthy and happy and would do anything in her power to ensure this happens.

Other people who inspire me are Prof. Phyllis Addo, Dr. Theophilus Odoom, Dr. Allen Okine, Dr. Benjamin Sasu, Dr. Koney, and Dr. Suu-Ire. Their love for animals and willingness to help them is admirable.

Aside from that, I love watching National Geographic



**Community Education at an Outreach**



Wild, and practically all of the doctors there are role models for me. They encourage me to strive to get veterinary practice to such amazing levels.

**What are the most common diseases or conditions in your country? What is your opinion on this and its ties to the One Health Approach?**

Zoonotic diseases such as rabies and worm infestation in dogs, Brucellosis, and avian influenza in livestock are common. Investment in animal health care has not been as expected. Preventive medical care has long been a major problem, frequently as a result of budgetary limitations, a lack of awareness, and the challenge of accessing veterinarian services.

Adopting a One Health perspective can promote a collaborative and integrated approach between animal, human, and environmental health. We can reduce the likelihood of zoonotic illnesses spreading from animals to humans by implementing practical measures to prevent animal diseases, such as vaccinations, biosecurity precautions, and surveillance systems. This preventive strategy not only protects human populations from possible pandemics and epidemics but also ensures the welfare of animals.

**Adopting a One Health perspective can promote a collaborative and integrated approach between animal, human, and environmental health.**

Additionally, by addressing the underlying causes of animal diseases, such as habitat loss or climate change, we may promote a better environment for both animals and humans, thereby advancing the sustainability of our world.

**What are the most common animal welfare issues that you face in West Africa? How should we solve these challenges?**

Investment in animal care is currently not at its best. Hence, most animals are left to fend for themselves, especially with feeding. The majority wander far from home and get lost, contributing to having stray animals in the neighborhood. Most of these animals are not on any preventive medication, posing a threat to rabies transmission and other diseases. Another concern for animal welfare in West Africa is battery cage farming because of the increased productivity with little space, which causes stress in poultry. We can control the population of stray animals by vaccinating, capturing, and neutering them. Farmers need ongoing encouragement and teaching to switch from battery cage farming to deep litter.

**What are the standard safety precautions**



**Physical examination during Clinical Rotation**



**Administration of a dewormer to a puppy during Small Animal Medicine Lab**



**Playing with a kitten at VetReach 2022**



### **Rabies education on a TV's morning show**

#### **practiced when working with animals?**

Muzzling the animal to prevent bites, wearing gloves to prevent contact with bodily fluids, using proper animal handling techniques to reduce stress and the risk of bites, scratches, or accidents, routinely cleaning and disinfecting equipment, tools, and work areas, practicing good personal hygiene by thoroughly washing hands before and after handling animals, and staying up to date on vaccinations are all examples of preventative measures.

#### **If you were to write your dream scientific paper to analyze a problem faced in the veterinarian field and provide a solution to a common animal welfare issue faced in your country, what would you write about?**

I would like to write about stray animals in a community and their effects on human and animal populations. My first approach will be to source funding to set up a shelter for stray animals. Many stray dogs are in our communities; all they need is a loving home and care. These dogs will be neutered, vaccinated, and loving homes will be found for them. I will also recommend support for the veterinary services in Ghana to perform their mandate of disease surveillance, detection, control, and prevention. Public education on responsible animal ownership is another area that I would emphasize at every opportunity.

#### **What are four (4) biggest lessons you have learnt over the years?**

**Follow your dream;** it becomes the fuel to propel you when you are drained out.

**Find inspiration and mentors** who will guide you on your way.

**Teamwork makes the dream work;** no man is an island.



### **Educational outreach campaign on rabies and bite prevention**

**No veterinarian is a hero.** Your safety is a priority, as is that of the animal.

#### **What do you have planned for the future? What area would you want to specialize in?**

My goals for the future include building my NGO (@theanimalaider on social media), making friends with and helping as many animals and their humans as possible, specializing in public health with a focus on infectious diseases, zoonoses, and the Human-Animal Bond, becoming the vet known as the "animal whisperer," and changing the perception of veterinary medicine in Ghana through education and animal love.



### **Vaccinating a pet at VetReach 2022**





# The Need for a Moratorium on Factory Farming in Africa

By Dr Victor Yamo and Dr Patrick Muinde

*Agriculture has been documented as the main driver of biodiversity loss in addition to being a major contributor to climate change and pollution. As such, it is imperative we address the emissions associated with our food systems, which account for 34% of the global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.*

Individually, livestock farming is responsible for a significant 14.5%, which is emanates through several ways including digestive processes, pesticides and fertilizer uses, and conversion of land for animal feed production which displaces biomass carbon.

Every year, more than 80 billion animals are farmed (excluding billions of farmed fish), mostly in factory farms - production systems that are characterized by high production efficiency and the true cost of production is not reflected in the final product as public health and environmental costs (climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation and water contamination) are left out. In fact, factory farms remain the largest global source of methane and nitrous oxide, two particularly potent Green House Gasses (GHG).

Although the global north bears the primary responsibility for the historical buildup of climate gases and has high per capita emissions, the rapidly increasing demand for animal sourced foods

**Access to humane and sustainably reared livestock will play a key role in ensuring food security, particularly within Low- and Middle-Income Countries, by providing food, employment, and income.**

in Africa (e.g., 30% increase in meat consumption by 2030) poses a threat to traditional food systems in the region. Unlike factory farm grain-fed systems, Africa's local systems have high level of integration between crop farming and livestock, making them sustainable. They are built on the principles of nutrient circularity at farm level and agroecology. For instance, animal feeds in these farms mostly come

from naturally or planted pastures, that are produced with limited soil amendment, fertilizer, and pesticide use.

Access to humane and sustainably reared livestock will play a key role in ensuring food security, particularly within Low- and Middle-Income Countries, by providing food, employment, and income.

Based on these arguments, Africa needs to be conscious of the impacts emanating from factory farming in global north and initiate urgent measures in developing regulations that would prevent proliferation of factory farms inside the continent. African nations must be deliberate enough in redirecting any support including financial allocation to humane and sustainable farming and discourage advent of cruel and unsustainable factory farming.

*Dr Victor Yamo is the Farming Campaigns Manager and Dr. Patrick Muinde is the Research Manager at World Animal protection.*

# Counting the Hidden Costs of Factory Farming

By Steve McIvor

*The price of our food is increasing - and it's not just about the number that pops up on the cash register. The cost to our bank balance may be the first we recognise, but when it comes to the food we eat - specifically the meat - there are an array of hidden costs with increasingly dangerous ramifications for both the planet and human health.*

All industries must today be judged on their environmental impact, but few fly under the radar like the meat industry. Farmed animals contribute an estimated 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with animal products responsible for around three-quarters of total agricultural emissions. While many consumers are beginning to opt for more plant-based foods, global meat industry giants are still thriving, with unacceptable consequences for the climate, human health and the treatment of animals.

Everything from the housing of animals, through to the harvesting of animal feed and processing of carcasses, uses huge amounts of fossil fuel-generated energy. But the meat industry's biggest climate impact is deforestation, also known as land use change,

**Slaughtering over 11 billion chickens and 150 million pigs annually, meat industry giants are also responsible for extensive animal suffering. Driven by consumer demand for cheap meat, yet deliberately hidden from those very same consumers,**

which is driven largely by the need to produce animal feed. Around 80% of global deforestation is a result of agricultural production, releasing carbon into the atmosphere and

threatening irreversible damage to the world's largest remaining rainforests. Experts are warning that the Amazon is approaching its tipping point, which would unleash mass dieback and transform the rainforest to grassland over a few decades, releasing unprecedented amounts of carbon.

New research from World Animal Protection reveals the 5 largest global chicken and pork meat processors produce in a single year the equivalent emissions to that of 36.4 million cars on the road. The biggest culprit is JBS, the world's largest meat processor headquartered in Brazil, accounting for CO2 emissions equivalent to 14 million cars in just one year. That's more than the entire number of cars in New York City and three times that of all the cars in Rio de Janeiro.





Despite public pledges to invest in technologies to reduce their environmental impact and to use less emissions-intensive animal feed, JBS and others are on track to fall despairingly short of their own self-defined targets. Claims that they are cleaning up their act should be viewed cautiously at best. The lack of progress on emissions reductions not only bodes poorly for the industry's sustainability ambitions, but also jeopardises international climate targets like the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature increases to 1.5.

Slaughtering over 11 billion chickens and 150 million pigs annually, meat industry giants are also responsible for extensive animal suffering. Driven by consumer demand for cheap meat, yet deliberately hidden from those very same consumers, animals are forced to live cheek-by-jowl, pumped full of antibiotics to stave off diseases that result from the stressful conditions they are forced to endure, and which the vast majority of meat-eaters would find sickening.

Not only is this treatment of animals unacceptable from a welfare perspective, but it has alarming implications for public health. Around three-quarters of all the world's antibiotics are used on farmed animals, increasingly giving rise to antibiotic-resistant superbugs. These superbugs already kill 1.27

***The truth is, we don't need factory farming to feed the world. It's not a price we have to pay to produce enough food. A sustainable food production system, based on more plant-based foods and a smaller number of animals farmed in humane conditions, can meet global food demand and make a significant contribution to preventing environmental catastrophe.***

million people each year and, by 2050, are projected to be the leading cause of death globally.

The truth is, we don't need factory farming to feed the world. It's not a price we have to pay to produce enough food. A sustainable food production system, based on more plant-based foods and a smaller number of animals farmed in humane conditions, can meet global food demand and make a significant contribution to preventing environmental catastrophe. Instead of undermining food security by

clearing vast swathes of land for animal feed, this land could be used to grow crops directly for human consumption. The inefficiency of the factory farming model is startling: for every 100 calories fed to animals as cereals, just 17-30 calories enter the human food chain as meat.

Governments have a role to play in incentivising and supporting the growth of the plant-based food industry, but the first step must be an immediate moratorium on any new factory farms. For those that continue to exist, we need to see both a strengthening of minimum animal welfare standards and an elimination of the staggering subsidies that incentivise their growth: over half a trillion dollars are provided to farmers in global subsidies every year, of which, according to the United Nations, 90% have a harmful impact on the climate, biodiversity and human health. A steady removal of these subsidies will put us on the road to achieving price parity between meat and plant-based foods, incentivising a shift away from factory farming and reshaping our food production system to respect the limits of our planet, protect the welfare of animals and preserve the health of our bodies.

***Steve McIvor is the Chief Executive Officer at World Animal Protection***



# 6 Lessons to Learn From Female Leaders of the Animal Kingdom!

Creating Spaces for Women in Animal Welfare and Conservation

By Dr Elynn Njeri



*We live in a fast-paced changing world that currently sees more and more women stepping into spaces; leading and making change in the spheres they occupy, paving way for more diversity, inclusivity and equity. However, there is still more room for growth and diversity. The recent past International Women's Day theme talked about innovation and technology for gender equality. With the rise of opportunities for women in conservation, it is a great time to be alive! We can borrow a leaf from some of the women leaders in the animal kingdom. Elephants, spotted hyenas, lions, bonobos are some of the animals that show various aspects of female leadership and contribution in their communities.*

***Here are 6 lessons we can learn from the 'women in the jungle.'***

**Great communication** – the matriarchal elephant leaders promote cohesion/within the herd by being great communicators and kept the herd connected and focused.

**Empathy and sisterhood** – Elephants are known to be intelligent and highly emotional creatures; they are able to recognize members that need help and

work together to help them out. Female bonobos are known to intervene as peacemakers

**Embrace uniqueness** – elephants and primates are known to have distinct and unique personalities. Embrace your personal gifts and skills and show up boldly!

**Power of sisterhood** – rarely when conflict occurs bonobos collaborate with other females to fight a male. Female hyenas are also known to join forces during clan wars. Lionesses are known to team up







together to form a cohesive unit when hunting. The importance of collaboration and social networks is fundamental.

**Knowledge is power!** – the oldest female is usually the family matriarch in females, whose experience comes with time. Unlike elephants we are able to gain experience though constantly learning. Opportunities for skill improvement and growth are great opportunities to grow.

**Life is for the living!** – even these great leaders and warriors take some time of to bask in the sun, play and take some refreshing showers. Rest is important for physical, mental and emotional health. Whether you draw inspiration from the warriors. The gentle peacekeepers, the advocates or the defiant and courageous, there is definitely spaces for more women in animal welfare and conservation.

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**Dr Elynn Njeri,**

*Programs Officer (Animal Care)*

**Dr Elynn is a veterinary surgeon with a Bachelor's Degree in Veterinary Medicine. Her experience encompasses companion medicine and surgery, wildlife medicine as well as welfare awareness trainings. She has particular interest in wildlife conservation. She is passionate about creating awareness on good animal welfare practices and incorporating creativity through science.**

**She is currently undertaking her masters in Wildlife Health and Management. She is also taking a certified course on safe Capture Chemical Immobilization by San Diego wildlife Zoo Academy.**

**When she is not working with animals, she keeps her hands busy crocheting, playing guitar while she spends time with her four (4) cats.**



# Bob For Pawsident:

## *What If An Animal Is Elected To Advocate For Their Own Welfare?*

**By Shadrack Njuguna**

***Lack of adequate policy and legislative framework on animal welfare has been a significant challenge that Kenyiah, the little know country located South-West of Wakanda, has grappled with greatly since her independence from the Wahala people in the 60's.***

**T**he Prevention of Cruelty To Animals Act, is the key but outdated legislation governing the welfare of animals. It primarily outlines the acts or omissions that amounts to cruelty (to include prescribing punitive penalties) but it neglects the crucial need to outline the universally accepted welfare standards. For now, i will refrain from mentioning its ineffective execution and enforcement.

What if we democratically elect an animal to champion for animal welfare, has been the controversial twitter discussion trending in Keyniah for the past one week, under hashtag (#Animal\_own\_voices).

Interestingly, the people (majority) made a divisive choice- a first of its kind- to allow animals to speak for themselves, literary.

Upon hearing about the intriguing news (don't ask me how), our family dog named Bob, reached out to me seeking to indulge me in a conversation (human-animal language barrier is a myth), about his desire and subsequent nomination as the flag bearer for the Paw Party as their preferred Pawsidential candidate, for 2024-2026 is the year of the Canis lupus familiaris.

Bob, a one year and nine months old, black tan, male GSD was bought from a dog breeder who

prioritized commercial interest above animal welfare.

Clearly underweight, as evidenced by his unusual slender build (underweight) and psychologically terrified visible by his timid demeanor and aversion to unfamiliar human touch. It took a team effort, which included a healthy diet, proper veterinarian treatment and most importantly -love- to nurse him back to good health.

Therefore, Bob's past serve as his inspiration to change the perception that animals are mere objects of unjust human exploitation. What makes him an outstanding candidate for





**Poster designed by CPU**

this position is that he is compassionate, diligent, devoted and loyal.

**Paw party's main political pledges as outlined in their manifesto include:**

- Constitutional amendment so as to acknowledge animals as sentient beings.
- Spearhead the sustainable use of animals.
- Devolve animal welfare function from the National Government to County Government.
- Fast track policies on Health, Agriculture and veterinary.
- Encourage use of traditional methods of farming and wildlife/environmental conservation.
- Animal welfare and environmental conservation be a basic unit/subject in all levels of education.

**But why is animal welfare important in Keyniah and across the world.**

- Animals are sentient beings capable of experiencing

emotions and therefore can not be viewed as mere property.

- A historic resolution was adopted at the United Nations Environmental Assembly 5.2, that recognizes the link between animal welfare, environment and sustainable development.
- There is a interconnection between the health of people, animals and their shared environment, commonly know as One Health.
- The teachings of various religions relentlessly prescribe for the dignified treatment of animals.

Simply put, for whatever happens to animals happens to human. By voting for Bob, you will contribute significantly in maintaining and enhancing the harmonious co-existence between humans and animals that has been in existence since time in memorial.



*Shadrack Njuguna is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. He loves animals and is passionate about their welfare and therefore is always working to ensure their intrinsic values are upheld by always upholding the highest attainable welfare standards. He endeavors to utilize his dynamic skills and legal expertise to advocate and lobby for the adherence of the gold standards of animal welfare standard through research, training and public education.*

*Through a couple of non-profit organizations, he is currently working on projects for monitoring and reporting on wildlife crimes. He enjoys telling stories about animals and their interactions with themselves, people and their environment through his blog website, Both Bird Man & Beast (<http://shadracknjuguna550833376.wordpress.com/>).*

*Shadrack loves history, creative arts and photography. Lastly, from a psychological standpoint he is fascinated about the non-human animal minds.*

# Five Key Questions

## for Implementing UNEP's Animal Welfare Nexus Resolution

By Cleo Verkuijl and Jeff Sebo

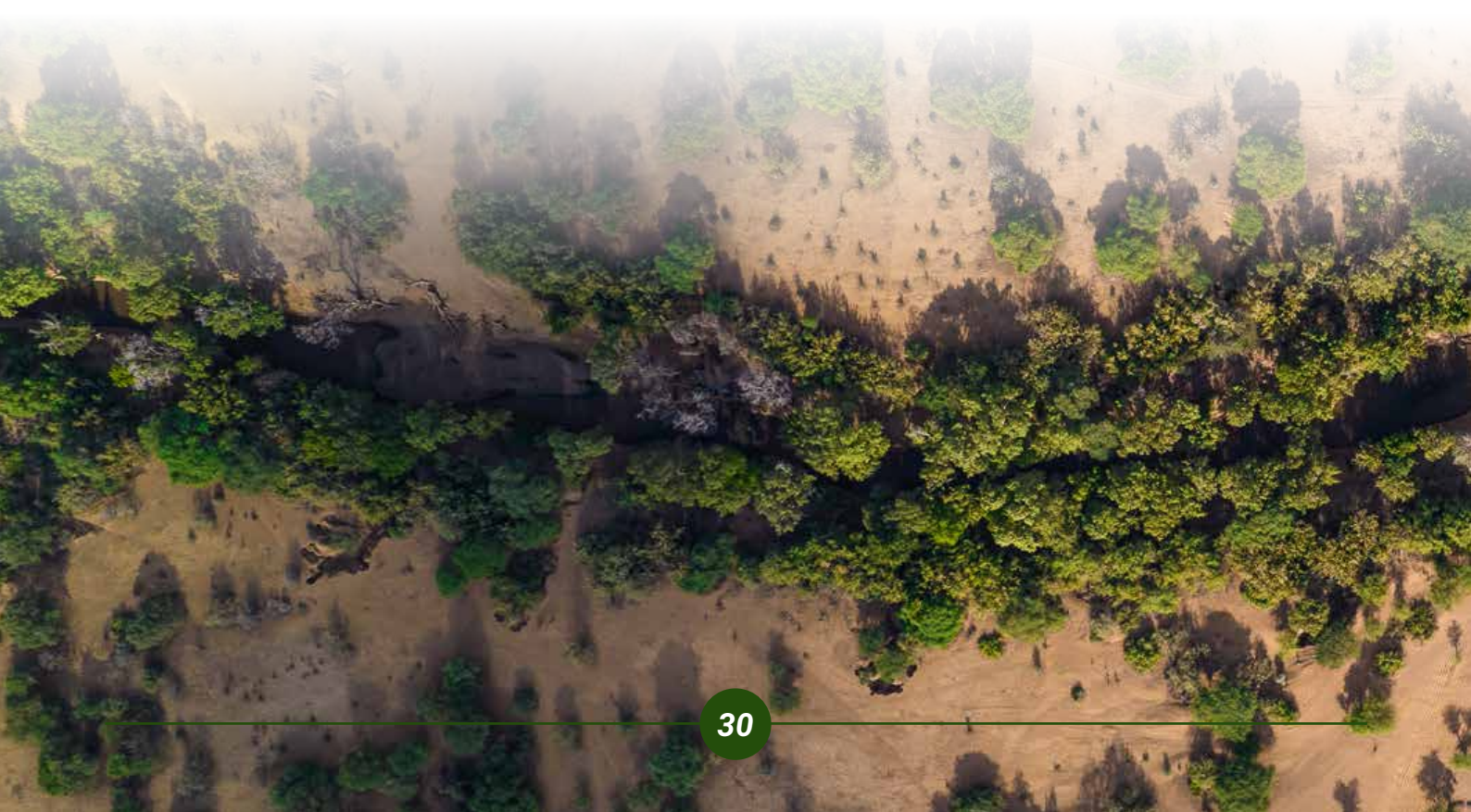
*2022 was an important milestone year for animals and sustainable development. Meeting in Montreal, Canada, in December, governments agreed to a new post-2020 biodiversity framework, including essential commitments to protect 30% of land and 30% of coastal and marine areas by 2030. A few months earlier several international organizations launched a new One Health Joint Plan of Action, reflecting the increasing recognition of the important interlinkages between human, animal, and environmental health.*

**A**nd at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), governments requested the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to produce a report on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development. This was notable since animal welfare is not included in any of the 17 SDGs or the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. Yet, as the UN Global Sustainable Development Report recognizes – and as we have previously argued – this is an important omission.

If we do not transform our relationship with animals, it will be difficult – perhaps impossible – for the world to meet many of its sustainable development objectives, including on global

health, climate change, and biodiversity. It is therefore essential for governments and the UN system to improve their understanding of the key interlinkages between human, animal, and environmental well-being, and to translate this into policy. The anticipated UNEP nexus report has the potential to be an important step on this pathway.





As preparations for the report get underway, we highlight five points that are key to understanding the interlinkages between animal welfare and sustainable development. While not comprehensive, these points form a starting point for policymakers and offer a potential frame to guide future research in this area. In the longer term, improving our understanding of these questions may also help to inform deliberations on a possible post-2030 Agenda, which are anticipated to kick off in a few years.

### **Why Does Animal Welfare Matter?**

Many political systems, cultures, and belief systems, including Indigenous belief systems, recognize the importance of animal welfare. Similarly, many ethicists now recognize that all sentient beings – that is, all beings with the capacity for happiness, suffering, and other such states – merit moral consideration, and many scientists now recognize that all vertebrates and many invertebrates are sentient. In short, a wide range of experts now accept that all vertebrates

and many invertebrates merit moral consideration.

Yet practices that negatively affect animal welfare remain widespread in human societies. In many legal systems, animals have the status of objects, property, and commodities. Anti-cruelty laws often exclude farmed animals and other animals. And even when such laws include animals, oversight and enforcement are limited. It will be important for the nexus report to acknowledge this tension, and highlight that our current treatment of animals often fails to reflect contemporary ethical and scientific views.

### **How Does Our Treatment of Animals Affect Sustainable Development?**

The nexus report can play a crucial role in improving our understanding of how our treatment of animals impacts our sustainable development aspirations. For instance, we raise around 80 billion land animals each year for meat. Farm animals make up 62% of the world's mammal biomass; humans represent 34%; and wild

mammals are just 4%. A wealth of research shows that raising many animals in close confinement not only harms animals but is also a key driver of infectious disease emergence, antimicrobial resistance, land use, water use, pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

Fortunately, switching from animal-based to plant-based diets could save trillions in climate change and health-related costs, reduce the number of animals being raised in confinement for food, and create millions of new jobs. However, many jobs will be lost as well.

The nexus report should therefore examine how a transition to a more compassionate, resilient, and sustainable plant-based food systems will impact all relevant stakeholders, including farmers, workers, and consumers, and it

*If we do not transform our relationship with animals, it will be difficult – perhaps impossible – for the world to meet many of its sustainable development objectives, including on global health, climate change, and biodiversity.*



should also investigate how a just transition approach can support these stakeholders as much as possible.

### **How Do Environmental and Social Challenges Affect Animal Welfare?**

Human-induced global health and environmental threats like climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and disease outbreaks can have devastating effects on humans and nonhumans alike. The ongoing avian flu crisis is a case in point. Factory farms are the perfect breeding ground for the emergence of new viruses that threaten the well-being of humans and animals. Already, tens of millions of birds and other animals have been killed to prevent further outbreaks, many through methods that cause severe suffering, such as

overheating and suffocation.

Many wild birds have also perished, while experts warn of the risks that such viruses could adapt and spread among people. Yet the impacts of health and environmental crises on animal welfare are still too often ignored, limiting our ability to prevent these crises and to protect animals when these crises occur.

The nexus report should empower policymakers and other stakeholders to better understand how sustainable development challenges affect humans as well as nonhumans, and to identify research priorities to enable us to further advance our understanding of this issue over time.

### **How Do Our Sustainable Development Policies Affect Animal Welfare?**

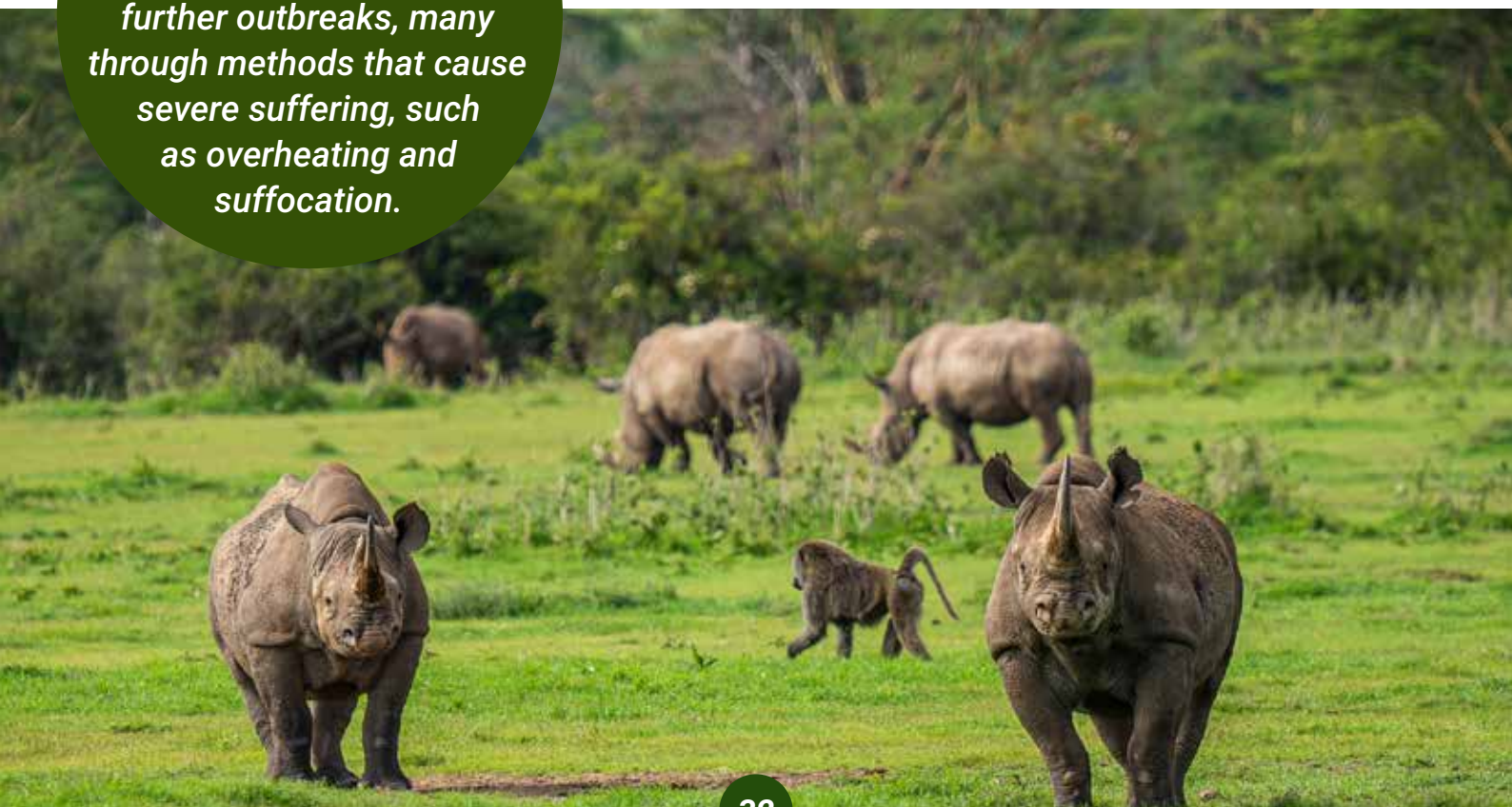
Our sustainable development policies can impact animal welfare as well. For instance, some interventions to reduce

the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from beef and dairy agriculture, such as increased intensification of farming methods, genetic engineering of beef or dairy cattle, or increased reliance on chicken, fish, or insect farming, harm many animals unnecessarily. Similarly, interventions to preserve biodiversity, such as hunting or captive breeding programmes may harm many animals unnecessarily as well.

It is essential that the UN system and governments pay attention to animal welfare as they pursue sustainable development interventions. Otherwise, policymakers may (unknowingly) continue to pursue policies that benefit some stakeholders while harming others.

The nexus report can help spotlight where potential tensions between sustainable development interventions and animal welfare may occur, and highlight opportunities to avoid such harmful trade-offs while

*Already, tens of millions of birds and other animals have been killed to prevent further outbreaks, many through methods that cause severe suffering, such as overheating and suffocation.*







*Many wild birds have also perished, while experts warn of the risks that such viruses could adapt and spread among people.*

instead increasing co-benefits and improving policy coherence.

### **How Can We Improve Our Ability To Address These Issues Over Time?**

Fortunately, there are a range of policy solutions available. For instance, shifting away from industrial animal agriculture would benefit humans, animals, and the environment at the same time.

Similarly, building an infrastructure that accommodates humans as well as nonhumans can reduce conflicts such as building and vehicle collisions that harm us all. UNEP's nexus report can help us to understand which policy solutions exist at international, national, and local

levels to support such beneficial outcomes.

If we are to enhance co-benefits between animal welfare and sustainable development, we also need to better understand how to assess current levels of animal welfare, how to forecast future levels of animal welfare, and how to monitor progress towards improving animal welfare. UNEP's nexus report can explore the development of specific, measurable, and relevant indicators towards this goal, in order to empower governments and the UN system to more effectively care for humans, animals, and the environment over time.



### **Conclusion**

UNEP's nexus report can serve as an important step in increasing awareness of how our treatment of animals affects sustainable development, and of how our sustainable development challenges and interventions impact animals. A significant body of evidence already exists to demonstrate the importance of these interlinkages for humans, animals, and the environment alike. UNEP's report has a crucial role to play in synthesizing these insights, highlighting remaining gaps, and exploring potential policy solutions towards a more healthy, sustainable, and compassionate future for all.

**The article above is a republished article. The article, *Five Key Questions for Implementing UNEP's Animal Welfare Nexus Resolution*, was originally published at the *SDG Knowledge Hub*, a Project by IISD, [www.sdg.iisd.org](http://www.sdg.iisd.org), on February 8, 2023.**



# The Pulsating World of Animal Welfare in Rwanda

By Jean Claude Masengesho



## Rwandan Livestock Farmers Exchange Experiences in Animal Welfare Awareness Sessions

***The Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO), and WTS kept their momentum for advancing animal welfare in Rwanda through a project on raising animal welfare awareness for livestock farmers in Musanze district.***



Farmers showed much interest in the theory and practical training content by asking questions and sharing their experiences in the local farms. The training content was new to most of farmers. This was seen when they were explaining and demonstrating animal-human relationship in the context of the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare, particularly, the freedom from fear and distress. Dr. Jean Claude Masengesho, the Director of RAWO,



emphasized that the Five Freedoms of Animals are internationally recognized as key in assessing the wellbeing of animals and that it is the responsibility of all humans to fulfill them.

Most of the farmers realized that they did not socialize with their animals. Few of them gave names to their cows, did not touch them, did not handle them humanely and emphasized that they should also take care of mental status of animals as animals are sentient beings emotional like humans.

“We used to hurt our animals unwillingly by beating them, depriving them of water due to its shortage, and necessary medical treatment.” Now we have learnt more so that we can respect their wellbeing and share that experience with our neighbors,” he said.

The trainings covered a wide array of topics such as the basics on responsible use of antibiotics and the danger of anti-microbial resistance in both human beings and animals, basics in livestock animal farming and management (ruminants, pigs, poultry) and basics on One Health and Zoonotic diseases.

It was explained that the fulfilment of all of those Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare were essential to better animal production and sustainable socio-economic transformation. Most of the farmers received their cows from the Girinka program (one cow per family program) by the Rwandan president.





The Director, Karin Siegmund, from the Welttierschutz-stiftung (WTS) greatly appreciated RAWO for doing a great job, assured them that they would keep supporting RAWO in order to expand this great work to other districts of Rwanda.

Dr Ssuna Paul, a consultant from WTS, congratulated RAWO for the great work they are doing to advance animal welfare in Rwanda, saying that there will be a positive impact afterward. For him, it was enriching and it would improve the way farmers treat their animals, so production will be increased.

"I am actually very happy and generally optimistic that this program will change a lot about the welfare of animals in all of Rwanda," he added.

RAWO is also supporting a lot in mass vaccination.

**Source:**

- *Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO) and Welttierschutz-stiftung (WTS)*
- *'How Rwanda Animal Welfare Organisation (RAWO) is Striving for Advancing the animal welfare in Rwanda' by Deus Ntakirutimana.*





# Braying at the Island: Donkey Welfare in Lamu

By Felix Musyoka

*Lamu Island, is known for its traditional donkey transport system that has been in existence for centuries. Located on the northern coast of Kenya, Lamu Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the oldest and best-preserved Swahili settlements in East Africa. The town has a rich cultural history, and its economy relies heavily on tourism, fishing, and agriculture. One of the most critical modes of transportation in the town is the use of donkeys.*

**D**onkeys have been used for centuries to transport goods and people in Lamu Town, but their welfare is often neglected. Most of the donkeys are owned by the local community, and they are essential to the local economy. They carry goods from the port to the markets, transport building materials to construction sites, and provide transportation for tourists.

However, over the years, the welfare of these hardworking animals has become a growing concern.

Donkeys are often overworked and mistreated, leading to injuries and illnesses that go untreated. In response to this issue, a call for action is being made to improve donkey welfare in Lamu. Animal welfare organizations should work to address the issue and bring awareness to

the importance of treating these animals humanely.

One of the main challenges facing donkey welfare in Lamu is the lack of knowledge among owners on how to care for these animals properly. Many owners are unaware of the basic requirements for keeping their donkeys healthy, such as providing clean water and adequate food, and ensuring that they have enough rest.



### *Narrow Streets Necessitating Use of Donkeys*

One of the main challenges facing donkey welfare in Lamu is the lack of knowledge among owners on how to care for these animals properly.

Many owners are unaware of the basic requirements for keeping their donkeys healthy, such as providing clean water and adequate food, and ensuring that they have enough rest. Another issue is the lack of veterinary care available for donkeys in Lamu. Many donkeys suffer from untreated wounds and infections, leading to long-term health problems and even death.

Currently only one donkey sanctuary exists to offer the needed medical care to these animals. With a small space,

limited staff and medical equipment it is a tall order to treat each donkey effectively. Moreso it is hard to separate those with contagious diseases. There is also poor disposal of donkey bodies when they die.

Expanding animal welfare services to Lamu Town, a community that depends heavily on donkeys for transportation, would have a significant positive impact on both the animals and the community.

Many of these donkeys often suffer from inadequate care, including overloading, malnutrition, and injuries. Many donkeys are worked to exhaustion, and they are often not given enough food, water,

or rest. By extending animal welfare services to Lamu Town, an animal welfare organization can make a positive difference in the lives of both the donkeys and the community. This can be done through the provision of veterinary care, training on animal husbandry and welfare, and the establishment of animal welfare regulations.

The animal welfare organization can also work with local authorities to enforce animal welfare laws, and collaborate with other organizations to improve the economic opportunities available to donkey owners.





## LAMU DONKEY SANCTUARY



*Entrance to donkey sanctuary*



*Small area leading to crowding*



*Children ferrying mats on a donkey*



*Donkey with bacterial infection*



*Donkey on the side of the road next to owners house*



*Donkey feeding on trash*

# African Species on the Clock

By Heather Theuri



*Photo by: Ana Karla Parra via Unsplash*

**A** Pangolin is poached every 3 minutes for its scales, making it the most trafficked mammal on the planet. Elephant tusks become a high end collectors item and the same fate prescribed to Rhino horns. Bear fur? A luxury coat that we can honestly do without. And the list goes on... Specific wildlife populations have been taking a hit for decades and are now dangerously close to extinction. Despite conservation efforts that have been on the rise in the past years, we are still in the red when it comes to certain species giving them the unfortunate title of endangered.

Simply put endangered species can be defined as organisms (plants or animals) in danger of extinction. As bleak as that statement sounds it does have a silver lining. These species are not extinct, Yet! Starting us off is an intelligent bird species now more common in peoples homes as opposed to the wild.



# The African Grey Parrot

Once free now caged in peoples homes, the African grey parrot is the most popular pet bird in the world. Their incredible ability to mimic speech has landed them in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (ICUN) Red list as endangered.

The African grey parrot also known as the Congo grey parrot and scientifically as *Psittacus erithacus* has the ability to learn 1000 words and has been known to have the cognitive ability of a 5 year old child.

As the name suggests the bird is predominantly grey in colour with an absolutely striking crimson shade at its literal tail end. If you're lucky enough to see one in full flight even better. These intelligent birds can be found in lowland rainforests in West, Central and parts of East Africa. African greys as they are commonly called are highly social birds that roost in large flocks and fun fact they are also a monogamous species.

These parrots are herbivores and particularly love to nimble



Photo by: Ana Karla Parra via Unsplash

***These parrots are herbivores and particularly love to nimble on oil palm nuts and the berries of the cola plant. They can also be seen foraging for a variety of berries, nuts, seeds and fruits which brings me to their role in the ecosystem. Like most birds the African greys help in seed propagation within the forest as well as plant pollination which sustains various tree species.***

on oil palm nuts and the berries of the cola plant. They can also be seen foraging for a variety of berries, nuts, seeds and fruits which brings me to their role in the ecosystem. Like most birds the African greys help in seed propagation within the forest as well as plant pollination which sustains various tree species.

Unfortunately, due to its popularity as a smart companion and their shockingly long life span, Africa's largest parrot is now facing extinction. The demand for this bird is fueling the illegal pet trade with poachers stealing chicks from their nests and most of them dying in transit. Greys are also facing habitat loss due to deforestation in their native regions.

As much as we love them as pets one has wonder, will this species survive if we continue to have them as companions? Should there be an initiative to reintroduce African Greys back into their natural habitat?

# Pangolin



Photo by Louis Mornaud via Unsplash

**T**his scaly mammal is the unfortunate victim of tradition and beliefs that are driving it to the brink of extinction. Pangolin scales are largely used in Chinese medicine believed to cure a number of ailments. Their meat is also considered a delicacy in China and Vietnam making Asia the largest market for the poor mammal. The sad fact is their scales are made of keratin which is no different from our very own nails.

All 8 species of Pangolins have gone from vulnerable to critically endangered in such a short period of time. According to WWF, Four species live in Africa: Black-bellied pangolin, White-bellied pangolin, Giant Ground pangolin and Temminck's Ground pangolin while the other four species found in Asia are: Indian pangolin, Philippine pangolin, Sunda pangolin and the Chinese pangolin.

Despite their sad reality, this mammal is solitary and nocturnal and can be found in forests and grasslands. You'll find them burrowed in the ground or a hollow tree. This absolutely peaceful mammal fancies a diet of insects preferring ants the most. Their diet choice makes them the forest caretakers as they protect the forest from termite destruction. According to Africat Namibia, Pangolins consume

**All 8 species of Pangolins have gone from vulnerable to critically endangered in such a short period of time. According to WWF, Four species live in Africa: Black-bellied pangolin, White-bellied pangolin, Giant Ground pangolin and Temminck's Ground pangolin while the other four species found in Asia are: Indian pangolin, Philippine pangolin, Sunda pangolin and the Chinese pangolin.**

approximately 70 million ants and termites per year keeping our forests healthy and ensuring a balanced ecosystem.

Other than the fact that they roll up into a ball leaving their scales exposed as a defensive mechanism, little is known about these highly threatened mammal. Due their very solitary nature the mammal hasn't been studied much and the current threat to the species just adds to this challenge.



## White-backed Vultures

**N**atures' top notch clean up crew is fighting for survival. Did you know that around 100 African White-backed Vultures can strip a 45kg carcass clean in about three minutes? Vultures are primarily scavengers that feed on carrion keeping pests, bacteria and diseases at bay. Generally African vultures are endangered and the White-backed vulture in particular is categorized as critically endangered. *Gyps africanus* (its scientific name) can be found in East Africa, Southern Africa and forests in West Africa. As the name suggests this vulture is known for its white feathers along its back and neck that contrast with the rest of its dark brown body. This bird in flight is an absolute sight to see as they seem to glide so effortlessly showing off their astounding wingspan. Done with their cleaning duties, vultures are known to be quite the groomers and can be seen near water holes cleaning their plumage. Contrary to popular belief, vultures are actually clean creatures and do enjoy getting spick and span before their next gig. Sadly, vulture populations are decreasing dramatically mainly due to carcass poisoning by livestock farmers and poachers to cover their tracks. Since vultures are always first on scene when an animal dies they unknowingly sound the alarm to the



Photo by Marvin Langer via Unsplash

authorities when poachers kill an animal and are now paying a hefty price for it. Other threats to their numbers include habitat loss, power lines causing obstacles during flight and harvesting for cultural practices.

## Bonobo



Photo by Tsauquet via Pixabay

**A**s far as studies on great apes go, little is known about our closest relative the Bonobo, together with the Chimpanzee they share 98% of our DNA. The Bonobo scientifically called *Pan paniscus* was the last great ape to be scientifically discovered and categorized as a separate species

in 1929. The species has long been thought of as a sub species of the Chimpanzee but upon careful study there are features and characteristics distinguishing the two. Perhaps we can start with the fact that Bonobos live in matriachial societies making them the only ape with this kind of structure and the

wonders do not end there. Known as the lovers of the great ape family they are seldom violent and are even known to resolve conflicts and keep harmony through sexual contact for purposes other than reproduction. Bonobos are also seen to be altruistic and empathetic known to even help total strangers. It seems that this species can teach us a thing or two about being kind and humane to each other. Despite their gentle nature bonobos are under pressure fighting for their survival. Endemic to the Democratic Republic of Congo, bonobos are endangered facing threats such as poaching and habitat loss. These primates are a vital part of the ecosystem acting as seed dispersers for forest regeneration in the Congo, and hence conservation efforts will not only protect them but the forest too.



# Sea Turtles



Photo by Randall Ruiz on Unsplash

***Did you know that five (leatherback, olive ridley, green turtle, hawksbill, and loggerhead) of the seven sea turtle species can be found in Africa's coastal shores and nearly all of them are classified as endangered.***

**T**he remaining two species are the Flatback turtle and the Kemp's ridley which can be found in coastal seas in Australia and the USA. However turtles are highly migratory and move a lot in search of nesting grounds and foraging for food.

Sea turtles in general are not very social creatures and spend most of their adult life in solitude. They can mostly be seen in

large groups during the nesting season and even then very little interaction has been observed among the reptiles. Once hatched it is a race back to the sea where they can spend almost 20 years before returning back to shore to lay their eggs again. Interestingly female sea turtles instinctively lay their eggs on the shore that they were born and males almost certainly spend the rest of their lives at sea.

Studies have shown that only 1 in 1,000 hatchlings make it to adulthood but those that do can live up to 150 years of age hoping they don't face major threats. Turtles have posed quite the challenge when it comes to studying them as hatchlings are incredibly difficult to study once they make it to the sea (if they do) and adult turtles spend a lot of time submerged at sea. However human interactions are often pleasant as these creatures are docile and friendly.

Despite their gentle nature, turtles today face a multitude of threats with the major one being, accidentally getting caught in fishing gear as by catch. Other threats are poaching for their meat and shells and also climate change which is altering the sand temperatures required for their young ones to hatch.

Sea turtles are vital for marine ecosystems, they help maintain the health of seagrass beds and coral reefs that create other fundamental ecosystems for fish and other marine life. Moreover, turtles are known to have lived more than 230 million years ago and losing this monumental reptile to extinction would be devastating.



Photo by David Troeger via Unsplash



## What next?

Throughout this article I have shed some light on rarely talked about African species that are fighting for survival on our planet. While I may have picked a few the reality is, most species today are struggling and not just in the African context, on a much larger global scale and the major reason is centered around human activity. Habitat loss, poaching, overharvesting, entanglement with fishing gear, trophy hunting, poisoning carrion, pollution of oceans, you name it we've done it! We are pushing the planet to its limit and are now living with devastating results.

That said, through ongoing conservation efforts we are slowly rebuilding a bridge for nature (plants and animals) that we have so badly burnt but that's where the focus needs to be. Encouraging positive efforts that will set us down the right path for future generations.

Nature can and will bounce back but only if we give it the support that it needs to do so.

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### Heather Theuri

is the author of the conservation blog, *Sincerely Blue*, [1], which creates awareness on the importance of protecting ecosystems and biodiversity. She is a communications studies graduate who is passionate about the environment. As a budding environmental communicator, Heather is using the power of storytelling to protect the natural world. Her favourite quote is by David Attenborough: "Saving the planet is now a communications challenge."





# Getting to Know Jim Muok

Build Your Skills Repertoire and  
Never Stop Dreaming!

*Like his animal namesake, the aardvark, the talented Jim Muok burrowed into the landscape of storytelling through photography at a time when the country was at a standstill. He tells us of his love the craft, his process and parts with some few wise words.*





## Who is Jim Muok and what do you do?

My name is Jim Muok. I am a digital media producer with a focus on wildlife, impact, and corporate projects.

## How did you become interested in animal and wildlife photography?

My interest in wildlife photography started a bit later in life. When COVID-19 hit and the 'working from home strategy' was implemented by most of our employers, many of us found ourselves with a lot of time on our hands. I had always been fascinated by phone photography/videography and cameras. During COVID-19, I had enough time to explore. I learned the basics of photography online and started by photographing birds using a friend's camera, soon I saved up and got my own. Now I run my media production business full-time.

## Why is it important to protect wildlife and their habitat and how has it been important for you to capture that?

I have learned a lot in the last couple of years about wildlife and their natural habitats. Information that I wouldn't have necessarily been keen on before. Issues surrounding human-wildlife conflict and human-wildlife coexistence have been a major topic in the majority of the projects I have worked on. Creating awareness about these issues is integral

in helping preserve wildlife habitats. As a storyteller, being part of the solution in any way is important to me.

## What are your sentiments on using creative outlets to promote animal welfare?

Photography and videography are very powerful art forms. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. And in the age of the internet, I believe a lot can be done to shed light on the issues facing wildlife through various social media platforms. Storytelling could start conversations that could help create solutions to animal welfare issues.

## What has been the greatest experience you have had while in the field?

You are bound to experience the unexpected in the wild. Sometimes you will go for days without seeing a species you are looking for. Sometimes the weather will be terrible and will hinder visibility or logistics. But sometimes when all the odds are in your favor, and the stars align, you will spot a leopard right at the end of an uneventful trip. Or the clouds will clear up for a perfect composition of a lion with Mount Kenta visible in the background. My personal favorite was spotting an aardvark which is extremely elusive. We spotted it on an interesting night on the last day of safari in Laikipia.



Fun fact, Muok mean aardvark in my vernacular language.

### **Who inspires you to create both artistic and inspiring stories about wildlife through photography and videography?**

The list here is endless. I am constantly learning from people's work either online or through working personally with them. I am a very big fan of David Chancellor who does amazing work in documenting wildlife and indigenous people in Kenya. Peter Ndungu is another photographer who knows his stuff. His work in travel, wildlife, and culture speaks for itself.

### **What challenges do you face in your career as a wildlife photographer?**

There are various challenges in working as a wildlife photographer or videographer. Partners who believe your vision are significantly hard to come by. Gear is not cheap and will arguably, never be enough. Most beginner and even renowned creatives in the industry are forced to lease gear which is equally expensive and unsustainable. Filming wildlife is very time-consuming and will more than often leave dents in your pockets. Finding the right partners helps to solve some of these issues

### **How would you describe a day in the life routine of Jim Muok?**

My days are pretty routine. I am either editing or in the field. I prefer the latter though sometimes

assignments require editing on the go. I prefer filming because I get to be outdoors, and see what Mother Nature has to offer. There is always something new to experience. Getting creative with the camera, tracking an animal, or chasing the right photograph composition gives you an adrenaline rush. Editing also has its highs. Especially when you have amazing footage and you cannot wait to turn it into interesting content.

### **What advice would you give to the youth who would like to start wildlife photography?**

It might be a cliché, but start somewhere. Use your phone, borrow a friend's camera, and learn the basics. Use resources that are available to you. In Nairobi, a good number of us have never been to the national park, yet it is available and relatively affordable to us. Volunteer as much as you can. As your skills grow, the right person is bound to see your work. Never stop dreaming.

### **What do you hope to achieve in the next five years?**

In the next five years, my goal is to create as much awareness about wildlife, culture and impact projects in Africa. I would like to make as much impact as I can as a creative in these sectors and hopefully be part of the solution to the challenges we face as a continent.







# Exploring the Human Instinct of Kindness towards Animals

**By Barnabas Babalola**

**F**ighting the impulse to care for and protect animals have become part of our nature as we grow up and find various preoccupations in our lives. Walls have been fortified to ensure that any feeling of compassion, kindness and concern for animals are suppressed and the act categorized as an issue that is of no priority nor key responsibility to warrant too much attention. This should not be the case nor the norm in our daily lives. Let's find out why.

Animal kindness is a term used to describe the compassionate and humane treatment of animals. It is an important concept that encompasses the idea that animals are sentient beings, capable of feeling pain, joy, fear, and love. Animal kindness is not only important for the welfare of animals but also for our own well-being and the health of the planet.

*"Love of animals is a universal impulse, a common ground on which all of us may meet. By loving and understanding animals, perhaps we humans shall come to understand each other."*

**~ Louis J. Camuti**

## **Why is Kindness Towards Important?**

Animals play an important role in our lives. They provide us with food, clothing, and companionship. They also play a

vital role in our ecosystem, helping to maintain the balance of nature. It is therefore important that we treat animals with kindness and respect.

Unfortunately, not all animals are treated with the respect they deserve. Many animals are kept in inhumane conditions, subjected to cruel and unnecessary practices such as animal testing, hunting, and poaching. Animal cruelty is a serious issue that not only harms animals but also affects the well-being of humans and the environment.

## **Practicing Animal Kindness**

Practicing animal kindness is not only a moral obligation but also a responsibility that we owe to our fellow creatures. Here are some ways that we can practice animal kindness in our daily lives:

### **Adopt a pet from a shelter:**

There are millions of animals in shelters waiting for a loving





home. By adopting a pet from a shelter, you not only give an animal a second chance at life but also help to reduce the number of animals that are euthanized each year.

**Be a responsible pet owner:** Owning a pet comes with responsibility. Ensure that your pet is properly cared for, has adequate shelter, and is not subjected to any form of abuse or neglect.

**Education:** Education is key to promoting animal kindness. Children should be taught from a young age about the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect. Schools can incorporate animal welfare into their curriculum, and parents can encourage their children to volunteer at animal shelters or wildlife sanctuaries.

**Support animal welfare organizations:** Many organizations work tirelessly to protect animals

***Regular checkups, vaccinations, and treatments for injuries or illnesses can help animals lead healthier, happier lives.***

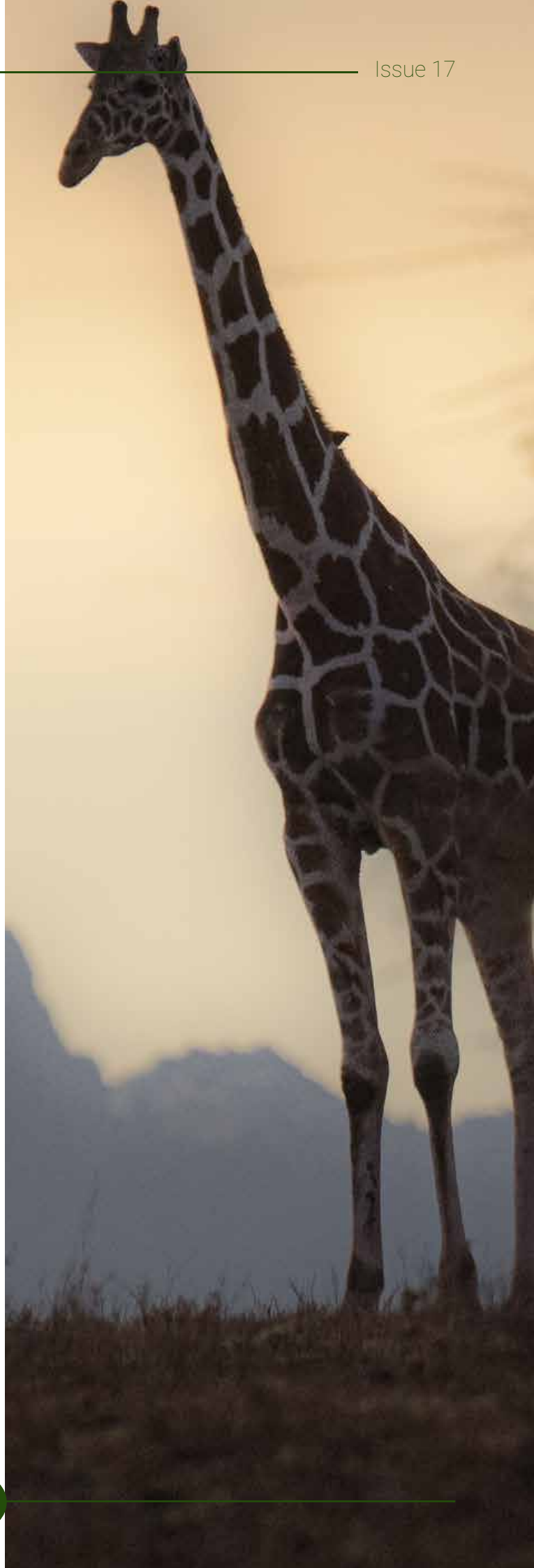
and promote animal welfare. By supporting these organizations, you can help to make a difference in the lives of animals.

**Medical support:** Providing proper medical care to animals is another essential aspect of animal kindness. Regular checkups, vaccinations, and treatments for injuries or illnesses can help animals lead healthier, happier lives. By partnering with a qualified veterinarian, individuals can ensure their pets receive the care they need to thrive.

**Volunteering:** Another way to show animal kindness is by volunteering at animal shelters or rescue organizations. These organizations rely on the support of volunteers to provide care and support to animals in need. By offering time and resources to these organizations, individuals can make a significant impact on the lives of animals.

### **The Benefits of Animal Kindness**

Practicing animal kindness has numerous benefits, not only for animals but also for humans and the environment.



## Some of these benefits include:

**Improved animal welfare:** Practicing animal kindness helps to improve the lives of animals by reducing the amount of suffering they experience.

**Improved human health:** Studies have shown that spending time with animals can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, and improve overall mental health.

**Reduced environmental impact:** Adopting a plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change.

**Increased compassion:** Practicing animal kindness can help to cultivate a sense of compassion and empathy towards animals and other living beings.

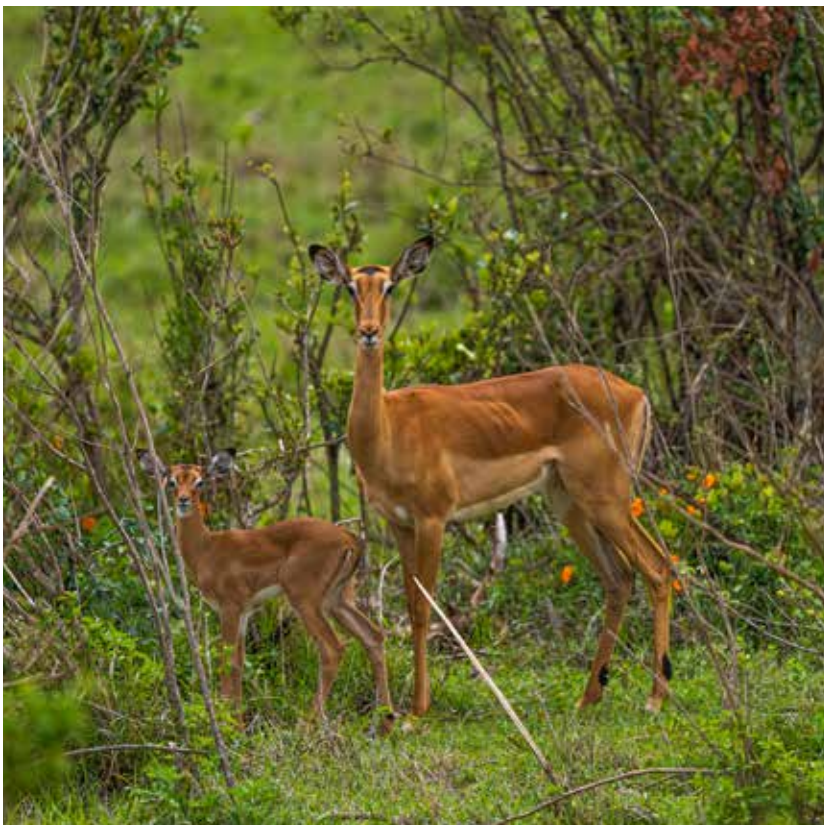
In conclusion, animal kindness is a concept that is essential for the well-being of animals, humans, and the environment. By practicing animal kindness, we can help to improve animal welfare, reduce our impact on the environment, and promote a more compassionate and humane society.



Babalola Barnabas Taiwo is a student in the Department of Animal Production and Health at the College of Animal Science, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. He is not only passionate about animal welfare and behavior but also actively involved in promoting them. As a member of the Animal Welfare Students Club at FUNAAB, he has actively participated in numerous activities organized by the club.

Furthermore, to expand his knowledge in the field of animal welfare and behavior, he has diligently attended various webinars and seminars. His commitment to continuous learning and staying up-to-date with the latest developments in the field is evident through his participation in these educational events. Babalola Barnabas Taiwo has obtained the prestigious certification of an Animal Welfare Officer from the Cloverleaf Animal Welfare System in the USA.

Additionally, he has also achieved certification as a Rabies educator through the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC).











# What Makes a Great Activist?

By Chiemeka Chiedozie

*Being a great activist isn't as hard as many people may think. I have spent most of the past decade now promoting animal welfare full time. My book on becoming a great activist will be one of the most read books on this planet as it will enable people to become more effective in animal activism. It will help protect animals globally from harm. In the book, I share the key lesson I have learned from my decade of animal advocacy and passion. This is all the stuff I wish I got back when I started the initiative.*

Every great activist or advocate should realize that animal protection is to be considered a high important priority objective and that they should focus relentlessly on protecting as many animals as possible. We need to start the action because many animals are suffering. We need to take urgent action and maximize our impact. Activism is largely about having

conversation with people, finding common ground, and passing relevant information that can inspire actions. As an activist, one ought to have a working knowledge of animal rights and animal welfare. Do you know that the worldwide meat industry uses in excess of 70 billion animals a year? Every animal activist needs the ability to reflect on this and strive to do something about it.

Working with people has made it easier for me in my quest to do something about it. In a bid to promote animal rights in Nigeria, I have been able to partner and also represent Direct Action Everywhere, USA, the organizer of Animal Bill of Rights.

I have been sponsored twice to organize a protest taking lots of





photos to my credit. That single act has earned me international recognition. It has also enabled me to meet many activists like Paul Darwin Picklesimer, USA, Monica Martella, USA, Jenna Miles, CANADA, Almira Tanner, USA, Love Liljeroth, SPAIN, Eun Yeong, South Korea, and Kyryl Karalyus, Ukraine.

**Here are five important qualities to keep in mind when spreading the message of animal protection:**

## Determination and Passion

A great activist has to have a spark light inside them that keeps them motivated. It is what can get us to set up street stall and give out leaflets on animals to the public and educate them about animal protection. You must believe that you have the power to create positive change in this world.

Do not despair if that spark inside, the one that motivates you to get out there and help the animals, dies down. It might really be difficult at times, but always think back to what got you interested in animal protection in the first place.

If you can, watch some documentaries, watch videos of animals experiencing cruelty. It is very upsetting to watch, but afterwards you may well feel that passion to fight for them again - to go and make a difference. Reading about what others are doing to help animals can also help inspire you to create change within you.

## Courtesy

Being polite and courteous are very important, but even more so when you are out there advocating for the animals. Who would you like to listen to: the person who smiles and says let talk about animal protection in a friendly tone? Or someone who stands around looking sad, forcibly and harshly giving you a leaflet?

## Sensitivity

You also need to be sensitive towards other people's opinions and beliefs. It can be tempting at times to say things out of anger, but these can offend people rather than get them thinking seriously about the issues. Ultimately, this can discourage someone who may have otherwise taken an interest in the topic.

## Confidence

Even if you are an introvert, allow yourself to be focused, with determination and never ignore your passion to get out there and help animals. Let that passion ignite you. Of course, you don't want to appear overconfident as people might see you as cocky and arrogant - it is about getting the balance right.

## Knowing your stuff

Great activists are well read and well informed about animal issues. They understand the importance of talking or writing about animal protection with data and informed research. A great example is of knowing about animal cruelty and the different ways animals are slaughtered to be able to advocate against inhumane methods.

## The Best Activists



***The best activists do what they can to help the cause. Not everyone is able to spend most of their time organizing protests or holding street stalls. This isn't about outdoing others; this is about doing the amount you can personally do for the sake of the animals. Are you the best activist you can be? Only you can answer that.***



# The Tide of Africa's Oceans and the Opportunities They Present

*By Isaac Maina and Catherine Chumo*

***Africa, the second-largest continent on Earth, is surrounded by vast coastlines covering over 30,000 km, offering abundant opportunities and playing a crucial role in the continent's socio-economic development.***

***The oceans surrounding Africa are rich in resources, biodiversity, and hold high potential for various industries. This intervention explores the importance of Africa's oceans and highlights the opportunities they present for sustainable economic growth. Figures and references will be provided to support the discussion.***

***For us to continue working to implement the Nine Priority Future Decade Actions in our aim to achieve the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap, we have to review and understand the importance of Africa's oceans, identify and audit all opportunities they present.***





## What is the Economic Significance of Africa's Oceans?

### Fisheries and Aquaculture:

Africa's fisheries sector employs millions of people and contributes significantly to food security and economic growth. In 2016, the total fish production in Africa was 10.6 million tons, worth approximately USD \$24 billion. (FAO, 2020)

The aquaculture industry in Africa has vast potential for expansion. Currently, aquaculture accounts for only 5% of fish production, but with proper investment and infrastructure, it can provide substantial economic benefits and reduce pressure on wild fish stocks. (World Bank, 2021)

### Oil and Gas:

Africa's offshore oil and gas reserves are substantial and attract significant foreign investment. In 2020, Africa accounted for 7.6% of global oil production and 8.2% of global gas production. (BP Statistical Review of World Energy, 2021)

*According to the African Development Bank, Africa's offshore wind energy potential exceeds 1,000 gigawatts, providing a significant opportunity for renewable energy investment. (AfDB, 2019)*

Countries like Nigeria, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea are major oil-producing nations in Africa, providing revenue for economic development and job creation.

### Maritime Trade

Africa's coastal regions facilitate maritime trade routes, connecting the continent with the rest of the world. Over 90% of Africa's international trade is conducted through seaports. (World Bank, 2020) The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement further enhances the potential for intra-African trade,

stimulating economic growth and regional integration. What are the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Available?

### Marine Biodiversity:

Africa's oceans are home to a diverse range of marine species, including coral reefs, fish, mammals, and marine plants. The coastline supports critical habitats, such as mangroves and seagrass beds.

The economic value of marine biodiversity is estimated at USD \$24 trillion globally, contributing to tourism, pharmaceuticals, and ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and climate regulation. (UNEP, 2021)

### Tourism and Recreation:

Africa's coastal areas are renowned for their natural beauty, pristine beaches, and unique marine wildlife. Tourism, including activities like diving, snorkeling, and wildlife safaris, contributes significantly to local economies.

In 2019, tourism in Africa generated USD \$169 billion, supporting 24.6 million jobs.





Marine and coastal tourism accounted for a significant portion of these figures. (UNWTO, 2021)

### How about the Climate Change and Blue Economy Opportunities. What are they?

#### Climate Change Resilience:

Africa's oceans play a crucial role in climate regulation and adaptation. Healthy marine ecosystems, such as coral reefs and mangroves, help mitigate the impacts of climate change, including storm surges, erosion, and rising sea levels. Investing in sustainable ocean management can enhance the resilience of coastal communities and promote climate adaptation strategies.

#### Renewable Energy:

Africa's oceans have immense potential for renewable energy generation, particularly through offshore wind and wave energy. The exploitation of these resources can contribute to reducing reliance on fossil fuels and promote a transition to a greener economy.

According to the African Development Bank, Africa's offshore wind energy potential exceeds 1,000 gigawatts, providing a significant opportunity for renewable energy investment. (AfDB, 2019)

#### What are the Opportunities in Africa Ocean Conservation?

Africa presents numerous opportunities for ocean conservation due to its extensive coastline and rich marine

biodiversity. The opportunities contribute to addressing the issues and gaps identified in the Ocean Decade Challenges as highlighted on the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap.

#### Here are some key opportunities in Africa for ocean conservation:

##### Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):

Establishing and expanding MPAs can protect critical marine habitats and species. Africa has several existing MPAs, such as the Bazaruto Archipelago in Mozambique and the Sainte Anne Marine National Park in Seychelles. Expanding these protected areas and creating new ones can safeguard marine ecosystems.







### **Sustainable Fisheries**

Management: Implementing sustainable fishing practices and ensuring good animal welfare approaches can help preserve fish populations and promote the long-term viability of fisheries. African countries can adopt measures like setting catch limits, implementing size restrictions, and promoting selective fishing techniques to reduce overfishing and bycatch.

### **Marine Pollution Control:**

Addressing marine pollution is crucial for ocean conservation. African countries can enhance waste management systems, especially in coastal cities, to prevent the flow of plastics, chemicals, and other pollutants into the ocean. Promoting recycling, reducing single-use

plastics, and raising awareness about the impact of pollution are also important steps.

### **Good Aquatic Animal Welfare Practices:**

In an article by expert Prisca Daka, it was cited that extensive scientific evidence show that fish, cephalopods and decapods are sentient – they experience pain and suffering. They deserve to live in clean, healthy environments, free from exploitation and cruelty, and to express behaviors that are natural to their own species.

Ways to ensure good welfare are identified by the Aquatic Life Institute to include an enriched environment, feed composition and feeding, space requirements and stocking density, water quality and stunning animals before slaughter. Improving

conditions for the animals can have a positive impact on the environment, fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. (Animal Welfare Magazine Issue No. 16, Pg. 25).

The adoption and implementation of the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution at UNEA 5.2 demonstrated and indicates a step towards this opportunity in ensuring capacity building and advocacy needs in achieving good aquatic animal welfare practices.

### **Mangrove Conservation:**

Mangroves play a vital role in coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and providing habitat for marine life. Africa has significant mangrove ecosystems,

These opportunities highlight the potential for Africa to contribute significantly to ocean conservation efforts and protect its invaluable marine resources for future generations.

Embracing these opportunities will aid in understanding and beating marine pollution, protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, sustainably feeding the global population, developing a sustainable and equitable ocean economy among other issues and gaps identified.

Africa's oceans provide enormous opportunities for sustainable economic growth, environmental conservation, ensuring good animal welfare and climate change resilience. From fisheries and

aquaculture to oil and gas reserves, maritime trade, tourism, and renewable energy, the continent's marine resources have the potential to transform African economies while protecting biodiversity and addressing climate challenges.

This will go a long way in achieving the Nine Priority Future Decade Action in the Roadmap for instance, sustainable ocean management, ocean and human health, unlocking blue carbon potential in Africa among other priorities.

It is imperative for governments, international organizations, and stakeholders to collaborate in harnessing the potential of Africa's oceans while ensuring responsible and sustainable practices for long-term benefits.

particularly in countries like Nigeria, Mozambique, and Madagascar. Preserving and restoring mangroves can contribute to ocean conservation and climate change mitigation.

#### **Sustainable Tourism:**

Africa's coastal regions attract tourists with their stunning beaches, coral reefs, and diverse marine life. Promoting sustainable tourism practices, such as responsible diving and snorkeling, can minimize the impact on fragile marine ecosystems while supporting local economies.

#### **Research and Monitoring:**

Investing in scientific research and monitoring programs can improve understanding of African marine ecosystems and guide conservation efforts. Research can focus on studying key species, tracking migratory patterns, and monitoring the impact of climate change on marine habitats.

#### **Community Engagement:**

Engaging local communities in ocean conservation is vital for long-term success. Encouraging sustainable fishing practices, supporting alternative livelihoods, and educating communities

about the importance of marine conservation can foster a sense of stewardship and ownership.

**International Cooperation:** Collaborating with international organizations, NGOs, and neighboring countries can enhance Africa's capacity for ocean conservation. Joint efforts can involve sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices, as well as addressing issues like illegal fishing and maritime security.

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***'The Tide of Africa's Oceans and the Opportunities They Present was presented' by Catherine Chumo and Isaac Maina during the Ocean Conference Series, Africa Roadmap of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in Rabat, Morocco on June 7, 2023.***

Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) continues to carry out hands-on programs, projects, activities and events on ocean and terrestrial life preservation in Kenya including mangrove nurturing and planting in Msambweni, rubbish collection with the communities, patrols and data collection of nests, eggs, and rescued turtles in Diani, work with organizations to protect and carry out emergency rescues of wildlife animals at Diani, capacity Building and Education in conferences in various Kenya, Ghana, Botswana, Ethiopia, Rwanda and other African countries and several other projects. ANAW works towards its mission which is to work with communities, governments, and other stakeholders to promote animal welfare for better environmental and human health.









# Why People Should Care for Animals

By Chiemeka Chiedozie

**M**any of us know that animals suffer in factory farms, in laboratories, in the zoos, on the streets and in the circuses. Before people will consider changing their lifestyle, they need the right impetus to do so.

As part of my legacy, I have been able to reach many children in schools telling them that animals suffer a great deal in the factories, farms, laboratories as they are processed for nourishment, experiments, cleaning products, and cosmetics since a significant percentage of humans depends on animals.

I have discovered in the course of my career in animal welfare that a lot of animals are kept under deplorable conditions, often dragging themselves through their own excreta, left to suffer horrible untreated wounds, hunger, ear infection, among others.

Every animal needs to be safe and secure, even domestic animals because most of them are frequently replaced by their owners. In today's world especially in Nigeria, it takes a sensational story or event to grab people interest on the need to become animal lover or stop abusing animals.

As part of my legacy, I have been able to reach many children in schools telling them that animals suffer a great deal in the factories, farms, laboratories as they are used for nourishment, experiments, cleaning products,

*No one is more loyal than an animal you have stayed with and loved so much. Animals touch the most precious parts of our hearts. Most of them do not ask for much in life and most of them need a warm, safe and shelter place to live, as well as good food, water and exercise. In return they will give us love, loyalty and compassion.*

and cosmetics since a significant percentage of human beings depend on animals.

Are animals like furniture that we often don't notice them? What must it be like for the dog chained day and night instead of being allowed to run, stop and sniff. For the birds going mad in their cages or the rabbit in their enclosures. This is indeed very hard for them to cope with. We urge people to make sure that they are friendly to animals and to stop being cruel. We use evidence from research on animal suffering and brutality and how it can be ended.

I have been able to work and educate the children in Lagos and beyond on the need to love animals and also going on the television to talk about animal protection to the public. I have combined facts from research to find a way to help stop animal suffering or brutality.

The only way to solve this problem of animal cruelty is to pay more attention to animal security and ensuring animal safety. I have discovered that every year hundreds of thousands of animals are used for experiments, households, cleaning products and cosmetics.

My love for animals started years back when my father shared his experience to me. He said he went to hunt for animals in the forest one early morning with his gun and when he got there, he saw an antelope who was pregnant and could not walk well.





As a hunter, he wanted to shoot at the antelope for his piece of meat but he had compassion on the antelope. He took his gun back home and he never went back to that anymore. That is being compassionate.

I shared recently on Forca Magazine, A UK magazine published by Vegfest, and also in a zoom interview from Washington D.C to Mrs. Avionne Simi Akanbi, an animal lover, film maker, vegan and a caricaturist to commemorate the opening of Bonnie Theatre founded by her late mother who died an activist and fought against racism in US and South Africa.

I told her that one early morning on Sunday that my little dog called Bobby was killed by our house owner when I was away to church. He came with his two sons and took his life for no reason. That was a high level of brutality. Little innocent Bobby was murdered in a cold blood with nobody to rescue him. I showed so much love to the little dog.

### Using Humane Education as

**Let us think safety. Don't expose the animals to danger. The security of the animals is a collective responsibility.**

Our government, organizations and the media should create awareness on the need for animal rights. The laws that prohibit animal abuse should be reviewed and enacted in our constitutions with serious fines attached to it.

Cruelty to animals and animal suffering should not be accepted.

Cruel activities, such as bull fighting, moving animals from place to place inhumanely, circus, animal acts, horse racing and dogs racing and hunting should not be glorified.

Wild animals should not be filmed in an environment that perpetuates the idea that it is acceptable to keep them in cages

***If we are truly ready to make a real difference for animals, we must begin by equipping the younger generation, who will go on to influence generations to come, with knowledge about the welfare of animals***

### **a Tool to Better the Lives of Animals**

The movement of animal welfare in Nigeria needs to gain traction, because animals have emotions and desires and deserve to be protected. Humane education is the most sustainable way of building a future for animals in Nigeria.

We have brought our humane education programs to many schools and communities. In a country where animal welfare is a new concept, education helps change people's negative attitudes and behaviors towards

animals. It helps people to understand that animals are sentient beings who deserve care, protection, compassion and respect.

If we are truly ready to make a real difference for animals, we must begin by equipping the younger generation, who will go on to influence generations to come, with knowledge about the welfare of animals. My organization is passionate about teaching children and young students to be respectful, kind and compassionate to animals, and to understand the human-animal bond.

We also collaborate with international groups to run campaigns against animal suffering in Nigeria. Along with our organization's work to educate children, we also recognize the need for our government, other organizations and the media to create awareness about the importance of animal welfare. Improving the lives of animals and reducing their suffering is a collective responsibility.

The need for education on animal welfare in Nigeria is pertinent. We believe that education is key to ending animal cruelty and creating a just and caring society where animal and human welfare matter. Humane Education is a critical element in preparing a generation of animal lovers, increasing community responsiveness to animal welfare issues. Humane Education also helps to tackle the inhumane treatment of animals in abattoirs, educate the general population on animal welfare, and to change attitudes and practices towards humane treatment of animals.

I also want to use this medium to thank the following organizations like World Animal Net, South Africa, Wildlife of Africa conservation Initiative Lagos, Alliance for Rabies Control USA, Naturewatch Foundation UK, Animal Advocacy Africa , The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals USA, The Donkey Sanctuary UK, Africa Network for Animal Welfare, ANAW Kenya, West Africa Center For The Protection of Animal Welfare Ghana, Pepino Project USA, African Cleanup initiative Lagos,

The Earth Needs Love Pakistan, Pakistan Youth Biodiversity Network Pakistan, Direct Action Everywhere USA, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Nigeria,

The Humane Society of the United States USA, The South African

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compassion and  
respect.***

Veterinary Council, Animal Care Council of Liberia, Rwanda Animal welfare Organization, Society for the Welfare of Animals Ghana, Liberia Animal Welfare and Conservation Society, The Humane Global Network USA, Humane Education Coalition,

Acquatic Animal Alliance, Animal Save Movement Canada Animal History Project UK, No More Agony for Children and Animals Welfare Ministry Sierraleone, Heart Network USA, for partnering with me, sponsoring me to conferences, allowing me to speak in their online conferences, taking online courses on animal welfare, inviting me to visit their organization and others area of partnership they offered me to ensure animal welfare is really appreciated.







# LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE NEWS

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

## LOCAL NEWS

### All Professionals in Livestock Sector to be Regulated

**By Anne Kangero**



**D**r. Christopher Wanga, Director Livestock Policy and Regulations from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, stated that all practitioners in the livestock production and feeding industry may soon be regulated if the proposed Animal Production Professionals and Technicians Bill 2023 sails through. He mentioned this during a two-day public participation workshop for Animal professionals and technicians Bill at Semara Hotel in Machakos town.

The purpose of the Bill is to regulate persons offering services in animal production which ranges from feeds, breeding and other associated services.

Dr. Wanga was representing the Principal Secretary State Department for Livestock, Jonathan Mueke. "We are going to ensure that all the professionals in the livestock sector are regulated, the vets are already regulated and now the animal production

professionals are to be regulated through the passing of this Bill which will give the sector the order and harmony that it has been lacking," said Wanga.

He added that the farmer for the first time will be able to access good quality services from reliable and trained personnel that he can be able to identify because they have been trained, registered and regulated. "The only way that we are going to protect the farmer or the consumer of the animal products is by ensuring the products have been attended to properly and standards upheld," added Dr. Wanga.

Dr. Wanga pointed out the highlights of the proposed Bill was that they will establish a board to regulate the animal production professionals and they have also established standards for training and registration of these professionals so that the farmer will not be advised by anybody but a trained personnel.

"The Bill establishes a Board that is going to regularly check on these professionals so that the farmer will be advised by someone who is well trained and is able to give valid information in animal production," added Wanga.

He added that the livestock sector is an open investment area that if one seizes the opportunity, then one will be in a good position to get returns from the farms and others to get gainful employment.

Dr. Wanga said the public participation had over 100 members from the public and private sector. The public sector is from Kirinyaga, Muranga, Makueni and Machakos counties, while the private sector are people in the value chain related to animal production who are practicing in the Eastern, Central and Nairobi areas.

On his part Evans Makoha who is the Chairman of the Task force that is running the whole process said the Bill is going to assist in running the Livestock Industry and is one of the Policy instruments that is going to be used to implement the livestock policy.

Makoha said the Livestock industry is unregulated unlike Veterinary animal health. He added that the Bill is crucial to assist the industry players

running from production processing, equipment production and livestock feed for the purpose of improving livestock productivity. "The Bill will offer opportunity for increased production and it will offer employment opportunities for the youth to be employed in the livestock sector," said Makoha.

Grace Kimaru who is a Senior Deputy Director Livestock Production said the people who have been taking care of animals such as nurturing and feed production have not been regulated so the passing of the Bill will help eliminate the Quacks in the industry. "Anybody has been doing training on livestock production and to give our practitioners and professionals a good deal we need to have a regulated sector and eliminate the quacks so that the stakeholders get the right services," added madam Kimaru.

Kimaru noted that whoever will be practicing will be qualified, registered and licensed to give the necessary services to the farmers and stakeholders, she added that after the two-day workshop they are going to do Validation in Nairobi.

**-KNA, May 2023**



# Humans And Lions Battle for Resources in Kenyan National Park



**T**he killing of 10 lions in just one week in May at Kenya's Amboseli National Park has highlighted an increasing conflict between humans and wildlife over resources and climate change. One of slain lions was 19-year-old Loonkiito; one of Kenya's oldest lions. In some areas, lion populations overlap with human settlements and livestock grazing areas leading to negative interaction and conflicts that often result in economic losses, threats to human life and conservation challenges.

Daniel Ole Sambu heads

the predator protection programme, Big Life Foundation and explains how the lions' territory is under threat. "These wild animal needs space, including predators," he says. "So, we are losing habitats, very important habitats for predators because of land subdivision and people resorting to the selling of land and then human population also becoming a challenge because we have homesteads coming up in every other area."

"Urbanisation, we have roads and power lines coming up in every other space, so it's a challenge to have so many predators in one area, so many other herbivores in one area."

Recent rains that came after a prolonged period of drought attracted a large number of herbivores that feed on grass growing close to human settlements. This also attracts carnivores that are pursuing prey, such as zebra, thus increasing the chances of human-wildlife interactions

that could end in fatalities. During drought, lions wander into pens that house livestock and kill cattle.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals has said the loss of habitat and climate change has threatened the number of lions in the wild and that their future now looks "bleak" but some locals say the lions are too dangerous. Parkeru Ntereka is a local herder and says: "Since the olden days, we believed that when a lion invades your home and eats your cows, it will still return even after ten years. It will never forget that your home was once a source of food."

Government and conservation groups - including the Big Life Foundation - have compensation programs for herders whose livestock is killed by wild animals. But herders have become more protective after losing livestock to a drought that has been termed the "worst in decades" in the East Africa

**By Philip Andrew Churm**

region. Joel Kirimbu is also a herder and suggests the compensation scheme is inadequate. "There is a significant disparity between the value of our livestock and the amount of money that we receive for compensation," he explains.

"Cows are expensive, and can cost as much as Kshs 80,000. One cannot compare Kshs 80,000 to Kshs 30,000. We receive very little compensation. That is why we become angry and despite receiving compensation, we come out and kill the lions."

This and a prolonged period that victims must wait until they receive compensation have come under sharp criticism from the community. The programme does also not compensate for losses related to human life as well as crops.

**-Africa News, May 2023**

## NGOs Call for Ban in Africa for Battery Cage Chicken Farming

**A**frica's non-governmental organisations have called for a ban of raising chickens in battery cages as it was cruel and carried harmful germs that can spread to humans. Most small-scale poultry producers in Africa use battery cages to breed their chickens, mostly in backyards. However, at a media workshop on chicken farming underway in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, NGOs in Africa, Open Wing, Africa Network for Animal Welfare and Nurture Imvelo Trust, say the practice is harmful to both chickens and humans. Programme manager for Africa Network for Animal Welfare Josiah Ojwang from Kenya said caged chicken farming is a cruel practice.

"Battery cages are very cruel to the chickens; they compromise the welfare of the chickens. You would realise that cages were banned in Europe, and why should we allow them here in Africa?" Ojwang said.

"This is where the media comes in because it is influential. As the media, you have a huge role to play to sensitise the public so that they rethink the issue of usage of battery cages in chicken

farming. They are cruel and oppressive and keeping chickens in cages is not compassionate."

Open Wing Alliance official Sebastian Mwanza also condemned the practice. "The media has a powerful role to play in advancing this campaign so that we remove the chickens from of these oppressive cages. The method violates animal freedoms," he said. "The media should come up with adequate ways to set the agenda so that the masses get to know about the effects that battery cages have on chickens in southern Africa. It is an inhumane practice that is very oppressive to the chickens."

Nurture Imvelo Trust director Sanele Ndlovu said the rights of chickens were being violated through the use of battery cages to rear them. "This includes the freedom of normal behaviour, pain and injury, and freedom from distress and discomfort."

Ndlovu said caged chicken farming posed a health threat to human beings as battery cages can facilitate the spread of zoonotic diseases such as the avian flu. A veterinarian, Felistas Ndlovu, urged

the public to prioritise animal welfare and ensure that they are treated in the most humane manner possible. "Animal welfare is a responsibility that must be shared by government and people who own, care for, and use animals, educational systems, veterinarians and scientists so that we relieve animal suffering," she said.

Battery cages for layer hens will become illegal in New Zealand from 2023. The plan to ban battery cages has been 10 years in the making - in 2012 after the government committed to phasing them out by 1 January 2023. Battery cages are broadly considered to be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the birds, which cannot exercise natural behaviour and are exposed to infection and disease because of the cramped conditions. Most of Europe, including the UK, banned the use of battery cages in 2012; Mexico, Israel and Canada have also banned battery cages. Australia announced in August it would phase out the cages by 2036.

**-Farmers Review Africa, January 2023**

## Ban on Imports of Animal Hunting Trophies Set to Become Law

By Becky Morton

**P**lans to ban imports of animal hunting trophies to Great Britain are set to become law. The government has backed legislation which would stop hunters bringing back body parts of thousands of species, including lions, rhinos, elephants and polar bears, killed abroad.

Tory MP Henry Smith, who proposed the bill, said it would help conserve the world's most endangered species. It was approved by MPs and will now face further scrutiny in the Lords. As it has the support of the government, the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill is likely to become law.

Every year, hunters from the UK travel abroad, often to southern Africa, and pay thousands of pounds to legally shoot animals, such as lions and elephants. Under current rules, with the right paperwork, they can then bring trophies, such as stuffed heads or horns, back to the UK.

When is hunting not poaching?

Plan to ban animal trophies criticized as too slow

Campaigners backing the bill had feared it could be blocked after more than 30 amendments were tabled by two Conservative MPs, Sir Christopher Chope and Sir Bill Wiggin.

However, after the government accepted two of their proposals - to establish an advisory board on hunting trophies and to limit the power of the

secretary of state to add new species to the list the ban would apply to - the pair dropped their other demands for further changes to the bill. Critics of the plans have argued that profits from hunting are used to pay for conservation projects in African countries and can ultimately help to protect endangered species.

Sir Bill, the Tory MP for North Herefordshire, told the Commons there were concerns that removing the revenue supplied by trophy hunters could "open the floodgate to poachers, who will cause far more cruelty and pain to the animals and will pose a far greater threat to endangered species". However, animal welfare charities have rejected this, arguing that hardly any of the revenues from trophy hunting ever reach local communities.

Environment Minister Trudy Harrison told MPs: "I do recognize that some of the income from trophy hunting has contributed towards the protection of habitat and the prevention of poaching. "But to bring [back] the body parts of endangered species... is not the way forward." Sir Bill also suggested the legislation was a "a neo-colonial attempt to control conservation management programmes of African democratic countries".

This was denied by Mr Smith, who insisted: "This is about the values that we in Britain have, that we do not want

to be part of a trade in endangered species' body parts. "We are not telling other countries how to run their trade, or their conservation or hunting policies." Some MPs, including the Democratic Unionist Party's Sammy Wilson, also raised concerns Northern Ireland could become a "back door" for hunting imports as the law would not apply there. Ms. Harrison said the government would do "everything we possibly can" to ensure Northern Ireland was not a "stepping stone for imports to Great Britain".

Explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, singer Ed Sheeran and actress Dame Judi Dench are among the celebrities who have backed the proposed legislation. Animal charities welcomed the progress of the bill, with Born Free saying it sent "a clear signal that, with wildlife in crisis, allowing rich people to kill wild animals for kicks has no place in the modern world".

Humane Society International said it was "relieved" only two amendments to the bill were accepted, although the charity added that it was disappointed one removed the power of the environment secretary to add other species in need of protection to the legislation.

-BBC News, March 2023





## First-Ever Africa Vegan Restaurant Week Held on the Continent

By Annika Hammerschlag

**A**nimal products such as beef, fish, poultry and dairy are heavily featured in many traditional African dishes. Some environmental and animal welfare advocates are hoping to change that by introducing plant-based dining to the continent.

Staff at Senegal's first and only fully vegan restaurant, Casa Teranga, cook up local West African dishes such as mafe and yassa. But instead of the traditional ingredients of beef and chicken, they use chickpeas, black eyed peas, cassava and a colorful array of veggies.

The Dakar eatery is one of 15 in Senegal that participated in the recent Africa Vegan Restaurant Week, the first event of its kind on the continent. To qualify, participating restaurants were required to offer at least one vegan option on their menus. Supporters of vegan eating say it's one of the most impactful actions individuals can take to stop abusive animal agriculture practices and to fight climate change.

The phasing out of animal agriculture over the next 15 years would result in a 68 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions through the year 2100, according to a 2022 study. Research also shows vegan diets can lower blood pressure and cholesterol and reduce rates of heart disease. Dakar native Bashir Niang owns Casa Teranga with his wife, Elisabetta, a vegan chef. Although the restaurant is extremely popular among expats, he said it's been difficult to convince his family, friends and other locals of the benefits of veganism.

"In the beginning, they can think that you're crazy," Niang said. "They can't imagine food without meat, fish or chicken. But I make a vegan version of mafe and they really appreciate it. They are happy; they say it's really tasty."

### Veganism



Bashir Niang co-owns Casa Teranga, Senegal's first fully vegan restaurant, located in Dakar's Pointe des Almadies neighborhood. (Annika Hammerschlag/VOA)

Animal products are ubiquitous in traditional Senegalese cuisine. The national dish, thieboudieune, a rice and fish platter, is often eaten for lunch and dinner. Many locals see veganism and vegetarianism as a Western import that does not align with their culture. "Veganism is not African," said Mour Mbengue, owner of Surf Black and White, a surf rental shop and roadside cafe in Dakar.

***"They can't imagine food without meat, fish or chicken. But I make a vegan version of mafe and they really appreciate it. They are happy; they say it's really tasty."***

Like many Senegalese, Mbengue comes from a long line of fishermen and was raised on fish. "God created animals to be eaten so we can survive," he said. "Just like in nature, the big fish eat the small fish." Furthermore, as inflation has pushed many items out of reach for Senegal's low-income population, he says thieboudieune has become the only dish many can afford. "Without thieboudieune, we'd have a hard time getting by because everything else is too expensive," Mbengue said. "Even thieboudieune is becoming more expensive." Overfishing along the West African coast has depleted fish stocks, causing prices to increase. Studies show that those that are left risk being contaminated with high

levels of microplastics and heavy metals.

Anna Touré is the founder of Globisis, a nonprofit that fights climate change, and the Senegal coordinator for Vegan Restaurant Week. A Franco-Malian, she maintains that veganism is not a Western concept reserved for the rich – rather, there are many vegan protein sources that are local to the region and have been relied on for generations. "Eating black-eyed peas is much cheaper than eating meat, chicken or fish, which most of the Senegalese people can't afford any longer," Touré said. "We are lucky enough to have everything in Senegal that can fit a plant-based diet."

Nuts, grains, and vegetables are all grown locally, Touré said, as are healthy specialties such as baobab fruit and moringa.

Nabaasa Innocent is the Africa coordinator for Vegan Restaurant Week and founder of the Uganda Vegan Society. Historically, she says, African cuisines were plant-based and meat was reserved for special occasions. "But when the word 'vegan' comes in they try to Westernize it," Innocent said. "So that's why we're bringing it back home to Africa. So, it's not an import and my appeal to Africans is for us to embrace this practice."

Across the continent, more than 50 restaurants in at least 20 countries took part in the event.

-VOA, January 2023



*Giza Zoo is a popular attraction - but it has been criticised for being substandard*

**A** delighted Egyptian girl tosses a handful of fish to the hungry sea lions after her father discreetly hands a few coins to a keeper at Giza Zoo. Nearby, visitors can also feed sweet potatoes to a camel or hay to zebra, or get keepers to prod a caged lion for a selfie. The historic zoo was the first in the region and was once a symbol of Egypt's modernity. But its practices - which experts say are rooted in the 1950s - and its premises are badly in need of an update.

Still, a recent government announcement that its doors will be closed for a year to make improvements has been met with scepticism by the public and animal welfare groups alike. "My kids love the zoo. We come here on weekends and holidays," says Ahmed Ibrahim, a father of four, sitting on a small rug with his family by the pelican pond.

The factory worker, who is paid just under \$100 (£82) a month, has little money to spare for leisure activities and fears the zoo will now become unaffordable. Like millions of Egyptians, he has been hit by skyrocketing prices and the latest currency devaluation. "Right now, the entrance ticket is five [Egyptian] pounds (\$0.20; £0.16) and the kids go free. How much will it be after the new development?" Ahmed wonders.

#### **Poor Conditions**

For the renovation, Egypt's ministry of agriculture is handing over responsibility for the 80 acres of zoo and gardens to a military-run company and a United Arab Emirates-based consultancy. In return, they will get the right to profits made over the next 25-years. The Egyptian President, Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, says the project will "develop the zoo to be similar to its world-class peers". He has previously complained about the site, saying it represents "the extent of negligence and shortcomings" in the country.

Poor conditions - including elephants tethered on short chains, a giraffe so depressed it killed itself, and monkeys being provoked by children - have drawn negative attention in recent years. The zoo has long lost its membership of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (Waza). Today, keepers still lack training and are low paid. Many hold back food for animals until visitors pay for it and will harass caged creatures to make them roar or perform tricks in exchange for tips.

#### **'Lack of Transparency'**

One of the many reforms promised is to replace the Victorian-style, cell-like cages for lions and bears with open-range spaces. However, animal rights advocates are worried. They complain that the plans for the zoo lack transparency and do not prioritize the welfare of the animals kept there, which include some endangered species. "The zoo is too small to build open-range spaces," says veteran activist Dina Zulfikar. "Officials talk about the zoo as an entertainment centre rather than a zoological garden. The real goals of modern zoos are completely overlooked." Ms. Zulfikar has previously successfully campaigned for improvements at the zoo, such as fans and a cooling system for the bear exhibit. Now it is not clear how many animals will be kept or even how they will be transferred to new enclosures. "Starting construction on site while the animals are still in cages is some sort of terrorism for around 3,000 animals kept at the zoo," says Ms. Zulfikar. She believes they should be moved to a new location with more spacious enclosures.

#### **Prime Real Estate**

Giza Zoo was first opened in 1891 by then ruler of Egypt, Ismail Pasha, who once said he strove to make his country part of Europe, as well as Africa. It had exotic plants and rare animals as well as prized architectural features, such as a mini suspension bridge by Gustave Eiffel, designed a decade before the

## **Egypt Zoo Overhaul Plan Raises Animal Welfare Fears**

**By Wael Hussein and Yolande Knell**

construction of his famous Eiffel Tower. Now it is one of the few green areas of greater Cairo, but it is also valuable real estate in an expensive neighborhood, opposite a luxury hotel and shopping mall and close to the west bank of the Nile. There have long been rumors that Egypt's cash-strapped government wanted to sell the zoo to foreign investors, particularly from the UAE.

In the past year, Gulf buyers, including sovereign wealth funds, have taken over many Egyptian state-owned assets in deals worth billions of US dollars. But the government denied these rumors as "baseless". A number of recent redevelopments have also led to the levelling of green spaces and trees being uprooted in favor of building cafes and restaurants. That has led some to question whether the environment will be protected with the modernization of the zoo.

Egypt's government has responded angrily to such criticism in the media, with officials insisting that in this case "not a single tree will be cut down".

#### **Shadow of its Past**

During Egyptian holidays, Giza Zoo has often been seen teeming with so many people that they can easily outnumber the animals by 10 times. But on a recent day, the well-trodden paths through the zoo were already eerily quiet, with some areas already closed off to visitors. A despondent zookeeper - who did not give his name but said he had worked at the site for 18 years - told the BBC it was not clear whether he and his colleagues would keep their jobs. "The animals are my friends," he said. "I will be so sad to not work with them again if they decide to lay the staff off."

For generations of Egyptians, Giza Zoo has been seen as a place of wonders. But increasingly it has conjured up horrors too, becoming a prominent symbol of faded glory. While many have longed for an expensive modernization, the fear is that the new plans will overlook poorer Egyptians and the huge variety of animals - from big cats to desert rats - in desperate need of better care.

**-BBC News, January 2023**



## Improving Animal Welfare Important to Sustainable Food Production, Says EU Commissioner

By Dominic Naidoo



European Commissioner Stella Kyriakides said 'better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help biodiversity'. **Picture: analogicus/Pixabay**

Improving animal welfare is essential to achieve sustainable EU food production, European Commissioner Stella Kyriakides says. She was delivering the keynote address at a Brussels conference organised by Compassion in World Farming on March 28. The event, Overhauling EU Farm Animal Welfare and held at the Residence Palace in Brussels, was organised to highlight the urgent need to strengthen farm animal protection laws as part of the EU's legislative review.

It provided a forum for discussion regarding the need to align EU laws with the latest science and move away from the cruel practices, such as the use of cages, that are prevalent in animal agriculture. Kyriakides said "better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help biodiversity. And this is why improving animal welfare is so very important to sustainable food production".

The event included panel discussions with representatives of the governments of Sweden, Austria and Belgium, as well as from the European Food Safety Agency. The event also included a video message from Dr Jane Goodall DBE, the founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and a UN Messenger of Peace, who said: "It's really important that the EU should formulate a proposal that takes into account our new understanding of the true nature of farmed animals. Caged farming, mutilations such as debeaking and

detailing and force-feeding, at least should be phased out.

"Fortunately, more and more people are aware and increasingly concerned about the cruelty that goes on out of sight and they are moving towards a healthy plant-based diet. And this trend, along with new regulations for the welfare of farmed animals, will benefit small family farms, the environment and, most importantly, will mitigate the suffering of billions of animal beings throughout the EU."

Philip Lymbery, the global CEO of Compassion in World Farming, said: "The time is now for decisive action to move away from industrial farming, centered on cages, that threatens to bring us all down. The time is right to ensure that animals are not only free from suffering but given the chance to experience the joy of life.

"Ending the Cage Age is not only about doing the right thing but an essential step in saving the day for all of us. With the clock ticking, it is no longer a case of can we afford to ban cages, it is a case of, we cannot afford not to. Let's move forward together, urgently, determinedly and with great timeliness, to end the cage age and bring about a brighter, more compassionate future for all of us.

-IOL, April 2023

## Spain Outlaws Cruelty to Animals

By AFP

Changes to the penal code also stiffen penalties for animal cruelty, ranging from 18 months to 3 years in prison.



Photo: Karen Warfel/ Pixabay

Spain's parliament on Thursday gave the green light to an animal welfare law, while also amending the penal code to bring in stiffer penalties for abuses. "This is a very important day because parliament has passed the first animal rights law," since Spain returned to democracy following the 1975 death of dictator Francisco Franco, said Social Rights Minister Ione Belarra of the hard-left Podemos party.

The law ends "the impunity of animal abusers in an achievement that responds to the sensibilities of our fellow citizens," she said. The legislation makes it obligatory for anyone adopting a dog to undergo "training" and imposes a ban on leaving a dog alone for more than 24 hours.

It also makes it obligatory for owners to sterilise cats in a bid to control births and avoid the abandonment or killing of unwanted litters. Changes to the penal code also stiffen penalties for animal cruelty, ranging from 18 months in prison if the animal needs veterinary treatment or up to three years if the animal dies under "aggravating factors". Until now, the toughest sentence was 18 months behind bars if an animal died. The legislation mainly relates to pets and doesn't include animals raised for slaughter. Nor does it concern hunting dogs, sparking a rift within the government.

Although Podemos had wanted hunting dogs included, the Socialists of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez did not. The legislation also tightens the law for animal breeders but has no bearing on bullfighting.

Just over a year ago, Spain passed a law recognising animals as "living, sentient beings" for the first time, and not mere objects, allowing for the shared custody of pets in divorce cases. Similar legislation is already in place in several other European countries including Austria, France, Germany, Portugal and Switzerland.

-The News International, March 2023

## Intrepid Travel Removes Wildlife Experiences Not Aligned with Its Animal Welfare Policy

By Selene Brophy

Intrepid Travel, one of the world's largest tour operators with a reputation for responsible tourism, has cleaned up its wildlife tours offering, maintaining its animal welfare policy standards. The travel company has reviewed its 140-plus range of wildlife experiences and removed tours that failed to meet its standards of ethical engagement.

Its customers will no longer be able to book certain tours, ending support and inclusion of Madagascar's Adasibe National Park experience for example, "due to enclosed animal living conditions for the sole purpose of travel and entertainment, without clear conservation intentions."

The company also ended a "Tasmanian Devil Zoo" experience in Australia, which offered showtime feedings that did not adhere to Intrepid's guidelines to "ensure species are able to live out natural habits and behaviors with limited impact from human interaction."

The company has been a partner of World Animal Protection since 2010, and made its first major removal of elephant riding on all trips in 2014. Despite the importance and popularity of wildlife tourism, many travel-related companies have failed to develop animal welfare policies, let alone put them into action, according to Matt Berna, Intrepid's Americas travel president. "Like all of our wildlife-themed trips, our new and improved itineraries

for the year ahead support conservation efforts in some of the world's most vulnerable ecosystems and engage with the communities who are taking action to protect local species."

Following the audit process Intrepid confirmed the launch of 16 new wildlife tours and experiences for 2023, including its first tour to the Comoros Islands, off the east coast of Africa. The lesser-known island nation was recently designated a UNESCO biosphere reserve and is home to some of the world's richest marine biodiversity.

Other wildlife tour additions include a Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust experience between Vic Falls to Kruger that lifts the curtain on wildlife crime investigations while supporting critical anti-poaching efforts

and a "Beauty from Brutality" mission experience in its Stone Town to Vic Falls trip supporting local Zambian jewelers who are turning poachers snare wire into jewelry.

Nicole Barrantes, wildlife campaign manager of World Animal Protection, US, noted the recent wildlife tours audit, adding "Intrepid continues to establish itself at the forefront of ethical wildlife tourism and as a leading resource for travelers seeking experiences that respect and protect animals. With its new set of wildlife experiences providing exciting opportunities for animal enthusiasts to observe animals in their natural environments, Intrepid is demonstrating how travel can be a force for good."

Several travel companies have recently been taken to task by a World Animal Protection Report for failing to regulated activities seen to promote the exploitation of wildlife.

Most recently TUI has announced its science-based sustainability policies and targets for 2030, including a focus on its certified process for experiences to "support local suppliers to improve the sustainability of their offerings and thereby helping to transform the whole sector."

-Skift, February 2023

***"Intrepid continues to establish itself at the forefront of ethical wildlife tourism and as a leading resource for travelers seeking experiences that respect and protect animals. With its new set of wildlife experiences providing exciting opportunities for animal enthusiasts to observe animals in their natural environments, Intrepid is demonstrating how travel can be a force for good."***



## Hope Is Still Alive As 1,500+ Animals Have Been Rescued In Turkey Since The Devastating Earthquake

By Karen Lapizco

**M**ore than three weeks after the deadly earthquake in Turkey, the animal rescue team from Humane Society International (HSI) is still finding dogs and cats alive in abandoned apartments, damaged buildings, or wandering the streets.

HSI estimates that more than 1,500 animals—dogs, cats, rabbits, goldfish, a rooster, budgies, reptiles and more—have been transported to receive medical care at just the three main veterinary field clinics set up by local veterinarians and groups in the city of Antakya, Turkey. The organization estimates that tens of thousands of animals across the country have perished in the devastating earthquakes.

Most of the animals being rescued and brought to the clinics have suffered cuts, bruises, infected wounds, infected eyes, dehydration, starvation, and shock. Unbelievably, despite most of these animals seeming to have had little to no access to food or water, they have survived against the odds.

"It's remarkable that after more than three weeks since the first earthquake, our team is still finding animals alive, but they are in desperate need of help. Around 1,500 have been treated in just the three main veterinary field hospitals where we're working in Antakya, and the numbers of dead animals across the country is likely to run into the tens of thousands," said Kelly Donithan, HSI's director of animal disaster response, who is leading HSI's deployment. "The animals we're finding still alive are often in abandoned and damaged apartments, where they've been all alone throughout this disaster.

"I can only imagine how frightening it must have been for them enduring four



***"Even during the darkest days, these reunions are bringing a glimmer of light and shining a spotlight on the bond and connection between humans and their animal companions. Being a part of these reunions is deeply moving,"***

earthquakes over the past couple of weeks, and also experiencing the deafening drone of helicopters overhead," continued Donithan. "When I think of how nervous my own animals are at home when there are loud bangs like fireworks, it's heartbreaking to think how traumatized these animals must have been. Now they're getting all the love and care they need to heal, but every day we're finding more amidst the rubble and wreckage."

HSI and the local veterinarians have been able to track down some of the owners desperate to hear news of their missing pets. One woman named Rumi was injured in the earthquake and evacuated to Istanbul but

posted a plea on Facebook to find her cat Leyla. Upon seeing the post, HSI searched for Leyla with no success until they asked Rumi to send them a voice recording of her calling Leyla. On hearing her owner's voice, a terrified Leyla eventually emerged and HSI was able to rescue her. Rumi traveled back from Istanbul – with both her legs in casts – to be reunited with Leyla.

"In the midst of earthquake aftershocks, loss and devastation, there are stories of hope. We have seen the love, comfort and joy firsthand as we reunite families with their beloved animals here in Turkey. It is overwhelming for those who are suffering unthinkable loss to be able to hold their own dog or cat – or even chicken, or pigeon – who they thought they may never see again," said Donithan.

"Even during the darkest days, these reunions are bringing a glimmer of light and shining a spotlight on the bond and connection between humans and their animal companions. Being a part of these reunions is deeply moving," continued Donithan. "Meeting earthquake survivor Rumi and being able

to reunite her with her beloved cat Leyla, brought me and the team to tears. Her love for her cat was so obvious and brought her so much joy at a time when she'd been through so much pain."

HSI's team of experienced disaster responders have come from the United States, Europe, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia and India to help rescue animals from the aftermath of the earthquakes in Turkey.

HSI responds to disasters around the world to assist animals and communities in need, and in the past has stepped in to provide emergency treatment to animals affected by volcanic eruptions in Guatemala; deadly earthquakes in Nepal, Ecuador and Mexico; hurricanes, flash floods and cyclones in India, Haiti and Mozambique; and wildfires in Australia and Chile; as well as helping refugees and their pets fleeing the war in Ukraine.

**-World Animal News, February 2023**



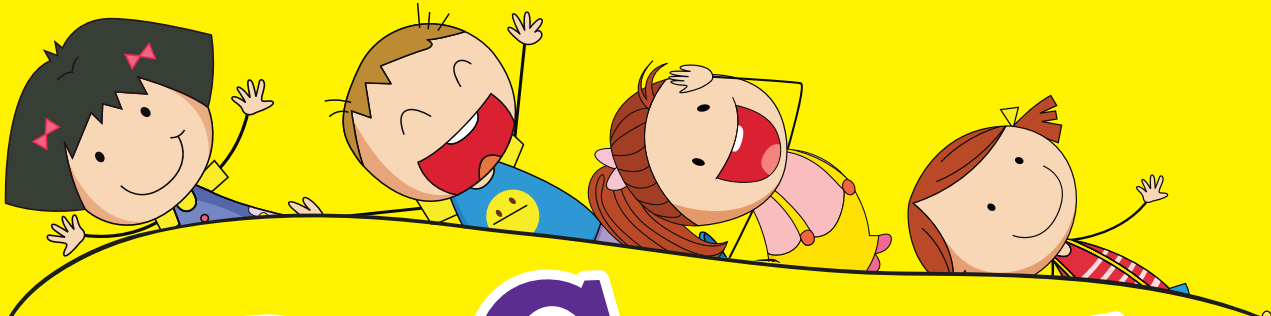
**Photos of the animal rescue team from Humane Society International (HSI)**



African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) applauds and congratulates all the rescuers who were present to rescue human and animal lives. The organization condoles with the families who lost their loved ones in the earthquake. **All Photos Courtesy of World Animal News**







# KIDS CORNER

## Poetry

*By David Harrison*

### THE DOG IN SCHOOL

I heard he's big as a grizzly bear!

Well Cecie stopped me in the hall  
And she said Ivan said he's small!

Well you know what I heard from Claire?  
He's fatter than a butterball!

He's skin and bones I heard from Pete.

Latisha said he wouldn't eat.

I heard he stole a roll from Paul!

They say he's brown with reddish feet.

I heard he's mean and mostly white!

Christina said he wouldn't bite.

I heard he bit off Sasha's seat!

Well Sasha said that's simply drool.

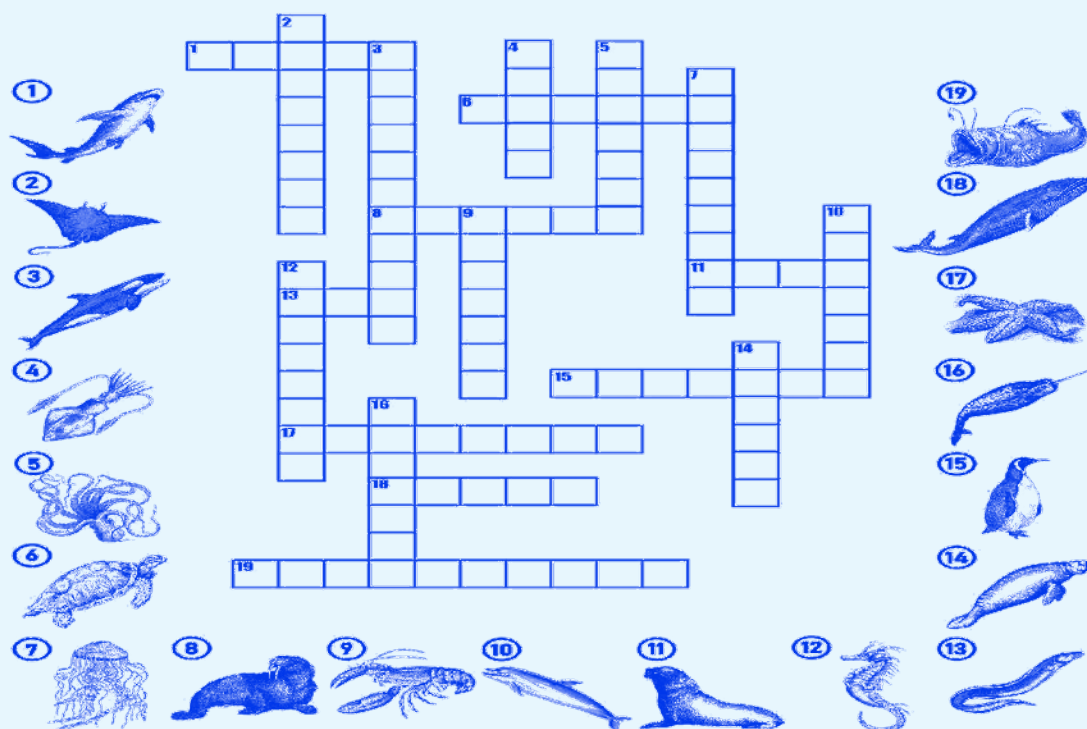
She says there is no dog in school!





# CROSSWORD

## Ocean Animals Crossword Puzzle



## Birds Crossword Puzzle



# Cartoon



Illustration by Walter Bobbet for the book, *Zanzibar Tales Told by Natives of East Africa* (1901)

## Crossword Puzzle Answers

### Ocean Animals Crossword Puzzle

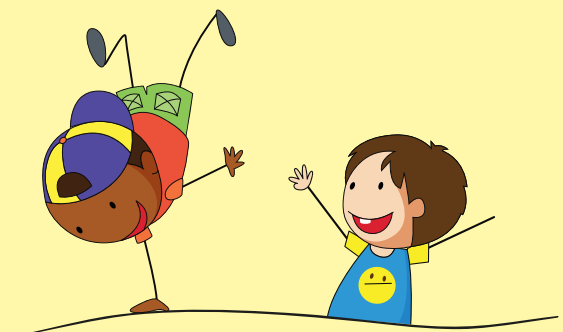
1 - shark, 2 - manta ray, 3 - killer whale, 4 - squid, 5 - octopus, 6 - turtle, 7 - jellyfish, 8 - walrus, 9 - lobster, 10 - dolphin, 11 - seal, 12 - seahorse, 13 - eel, 14 - dugong, 15 - penguin, 16 - narwhal, 17 - starfish, 18 - whale, 19 - anglerfish

<https://eslvault.com/animal-crosswords/>

### Birds Crossword Puzzle

1 - pelican, 2 - flamingo, 3 - ostrich, 4 - seagull, 5 - vulture, 6 - owl, 7 - crow, 8 - duck, 9 - peacock, 10 - chicken, 11 - heron, 12 - cockatoo, 13 - kingfisher, 14 - hawk, 15 - turkey, 16 - hummingbird, 17 - toucan, 18 - pheasant, 19 - swan.

<https://eslvault.com/animal-crosswords/>











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