



AFRICAN UNION
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY FOR AFRICA 2018-2021

Introduction

Countries in Africa, although recognizing the importance of animal welfare are at different levels in establishment and implementation of legislative frameworks to ensure compliance to set standards. These are either lacking, inadequate, outdated or inadequately enforced. Similarly, despite all countries being signatories to the OIE standards, there is often limited understanding and subsequent minimal compliance with the standards primarily due to the lack of implementation capacity and the need for elaboration into country contexts.

AU-IBAR, in close collaboration with key stakeholders, spearheaded the development of a continental animal welfare strategy in line with the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) and the standards of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), whilst taking the African context into account.

This strategy furthers the Livestock Development Strategy For Africa (LIDESAs), strategic priorities and the OIE's standards in the region through the creation of an African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) with a secretariat at AU-IBAR to enhance collaboration, cooperation, coordination and partnerships with specialized organizations, and engage in the formulation of a common African position on animal welfare during the OIE standard setting and approval processes.

This Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA) thus aims to:

- Develop the capacity of national and regional institutions to coordinate cross-country and cross-regional animal welfare improvement efforts and forge partnerships with the private sector, farming communities, regional organizations, international organizations and donors;
- Address the concerns of poor animal owners and users by focusing on the actual animal welfare status and on the drivers of locally important constraints on animal health, production and trade;
- Create and strengthen robust animal welfare sub-systems or units at national levels with requisite resources
- Build animal welfare best management practices cutting across-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches;
- Ensure that animal welfare is taken beyond the mere consideration of cruelty to animals, by guaranteeing all the “5 freedoms” including provision of a suitable environment to live, appropriate feeding, able to exhibit normal behaviour and protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease,

Context and Rationale for the Animal Health Strategy for Africa

With intensification of animal production and increased trade in animals and their products, animal welfare issues have increasingly commanded attention as they are becoming a barrier in international livestock trade. Often, the five animal freedoms are not provided for due to a myriad of factors including ignorance on the part of the individuals and non-implementation of existing animal welfare standards by respective countries.

Animal welfare has been identified as a strategic priority for the OIE since 2001, under a mandate granted by all Member States. The standards,

developed in 2016 with support by OIE Member States, specify country responsibilities including the creation of coordination structures such as an animal welfare focal point to uphold the standards in respective jurisdictions.

In 2017, OIE Member states adopted the Global Animal Welfare Strategy (GAWS). The strategy is based on four pillars:

- i. Participation in the development of animal welfare standards.
- ii. Capacity Building and education.
- iii. Communication with governments, organizations, veterinary services, educational institutions and the public.
- iv. Implementation of animal welfare standards and policies.

Even with existence of international guidance, the promotion of animal welfare principles as key determinants of animal resource development and trade in many countries including Africa is yet to receive adequate attention. So far, as observed in many African countries, little attention has been given to policies and legislation regarding animal welfare, despite the support and interventions by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other non-state actors (NSA) whose focus has mainly been on companion and draught animals.

Animals contribute to human wellbeing in all their various uses. Particularly in subsistence and small-scale production systems typical in Africa, animal welfare indicators are directly linked to productivity, incomes and livelihoods. Hence the key animal welfare issues faced in Africa require adequate policy and social intervention.

Against this backdrop, AU-IBAR is geared to supporting African countries in implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards by promoting improvements in animal welfare as well as helping to change attitudes towards animal welfare. This is a contribution to the enhancement of animal trade and production performance as well as improvement of livestock products' quality. Key animal welfare issues faced in Africa have been identified as:

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

The Strategy

Goal

The goal of this strategy is to transform the animal resources sector through adoption of good animal welfare practices for the human wellbeing, sustainable livelihoods, poverty reduction and economic growth.

Vision

Africa as a leading continent in implementation of good animal welfare practices for a competitive and sustainable animal resource sector.

Mission

To support and invest in good animal welfare practices across value chains to contribute to socio economic transformation.



Strategic Approach

The strategic approach takes into account the following:

- Respect African Union principles and align to overarching African Union frameworks
- Streamline with international animal welfare standards including OIE standards in addition to the relevant alignment with LIDESAs;
- Provide leadership and integrated support in building alliances and partnerships on good animal welfare practices at continental, regional, national and community level;
- Take into account OIE standards, guidelines, recommendations and GAWS, FAO good agricultural practices, while developing animal welfare interventions adapted to the Africa context.
- Propose implementation approaches and set-ups that are diversified as regional work programmes, adapted to (sub)regional settings and priorities and in close association with Regional Economic Communities (REC) and Regional Specialized Organizations (RSO);
- Promote animal welfare agenda across the continent through participatory approach and community engagement and ownership;
- Promote a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach to ensure animal welfare in different contexts and situations in Africa, benefits from coordinated support from continental to regional and national levels;
- Enhance policy, legislation and practice socially acceptable, technically feasible and economically viable within the context of their application
- Promote animal friendly cultural and religious practices as well as innovation; Recognizes Environmental sustainability and Gender in an animal welfare development context.

Strategic Objectives, Outcomes and Areas of focus

This strategy provides a framework for managing the challenges related to animal welfare in Africa. These challenges are addressed through 3 strategic objectives, also translated into strategic outcomes that are interlinked.

Strategic Objective 1: Attain behaviour change, educate, inform, promote awareness, advocacy and good practices aligned to OIE standards towards animals

The first outcome is the existence of a strategic multi-stakeholder and multi-partner alliance to educate, inform, promote awareness, conduct advocacy for animal welfare and good practices aligned to international standards. This will be spearheaded by an umbrella platform, the Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW).



Strategic Objective 2: Strengthen effective action on animal welfare (technologies, human resources, research, animal care, contribution to standard settings)

The second outcome is about the effective action on animal welfare expanded and scaled up at regional and country level through better animal protection and care, husbandry of animals, use of working animals, laboratory animals for research and training, technologies using animals, treatment of companion and sports animals



This outcome is achieved through responding to national development priorities, supporting RECs and coordinating international technical and financial partners for upscaling country programming and implementation through broad multi-stakeholder partnerships, under the leadership of a national chapter of the APAW.



Strategic Objective 3: Mainstream animal welfare in policies, strategies, legislation, investments, programmes and projects

The third outcome is mainstreaming animal welfare in policies, strategies, legislation, investments, programmes and projects. This entails promoting the sharing of knowledge, experience, good practices, successes, guidelines and standards, peer learning with government, professionals in animal resource sector, CSOs, producer organizations and other collaborative mechanisms. It supports the testing and evaluation of technical packages, innovations in approaches, encourage the development and implementation of innovative strategies and broadly disseminate evidence, guidelines and tools for the replication of effective and scalable animal welfare responses.

Areas of focus

The strategy will be operationalized through an action plan describing six areas of focus (AoF) the first three forming the core and three additional areas are functional areas of work that are cross-cutting, facilitative and empowering the implementation of three other technical AoFs. These are strengthening the quality of human resources supporting animal welfare, a communication strategy, and the set-up of a strong monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

AoF 1. Establish the current status of animal welfare in Africa: This entails understanding the status and dynamic evolution of animal welfare in production systems, value chains, the modalities of maintenance of low level animal welfare practices and behavior and the underlying technical, cultural, psychological and socio-economic factors hindering the implementation of improved animal welfare regimes.

AoF 2. Link social economic and animal resources development to the principles of one health and one welfare: This involves efforts for sustainable animal resource development, fisheries and wildlife welfare, conservation and environmental protection, and equitable socio-economic development including income generation, gender balance and promotion of youth.

AoF 3. Institutionalize animal welfare in policies, legislation, education, development strategies programs and projects: Production of relevant, accurate and timely information and advice for governments, technical and financial international partners and donors is at the core of this area of focus. The collection of data on the status, evolution and socioeconomic impact of animal welfare will allow studies and dissemination of results to document more its impact on animal production and productivity, animal health and animal protection.

AoF 4. Strengthen capacities for animal welfare at all levels: This entails the reinforcement of sector-institutions directly or indirectly dealing with

livestock, aquaculture and animals. The capacity of animal production services and veterinary services in animal health and production as well as for animal welfare policy and strategy formulation, which need to be well resourced, competent, informed and based on clear governance principles. This is based on the OIE PVS and Gap analysis and the other assessment or monitoring and evaluation processes (AU-IBAR VETGOV policy hub and support to veterinary services; FAO Country Programming Framework, etc.).

AoF 5. Develop a continental, regional and national communication strategy on animal welfare: Implementation of a communication strategy is to ensure effective information sharing and activity planning linkages between global and regional institutional partners, the private sector, governments, and local communities.

AoF 6. Establish a monitoring and evaluation system: Regular and smooth monitoring and evaluation is essential for effective animal welfare management and guidance. Periodic follow up, review and external analysis of animal welfare programmes, projects and initiatives will ensure that commitments, deliverables and progress remain targeted and timely at the various levels of action (local, national, regional and international). This is based on a results-based performance evaluation system and monitoring and evaluation system for accountability to Member States and donors.

Coordination, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The design implementation and evolution of the Action Plan involves several entities united by the vision and strategy to promote animal welfare in Africa. With due consideration of its mandate from the African Union Heads of State and Government, AU-IBAR is leading and coordinating implementation of the strategy in its capacity as convener of the AU recommendations for animal resource development and in close collaboration with its technical partners and the CSOs network involved in animal welfare. The Action Plan is an integral component of the Livestock Development Strategy

for Africa (LIDESIA). It envisages operational work in close association with OIE and FAO, civil society organisations involved in animal welfare and relevant public and private sector institutions. Cross-organizational support is sought from development partners, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States (MSs), researchers and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) involved in animal resource development in general and in animal welfare in particular.

Through the Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW), a continental multi-stakeholder's platform bringing together veterinary authorities and institutions in animal production and development, AU-IBAR is "supporting, coordinating and guiding the implementation of the Animal welfare strategy for Africa". APAW is championing animal welfare and support voices on animal welfare agenda in Africa;

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