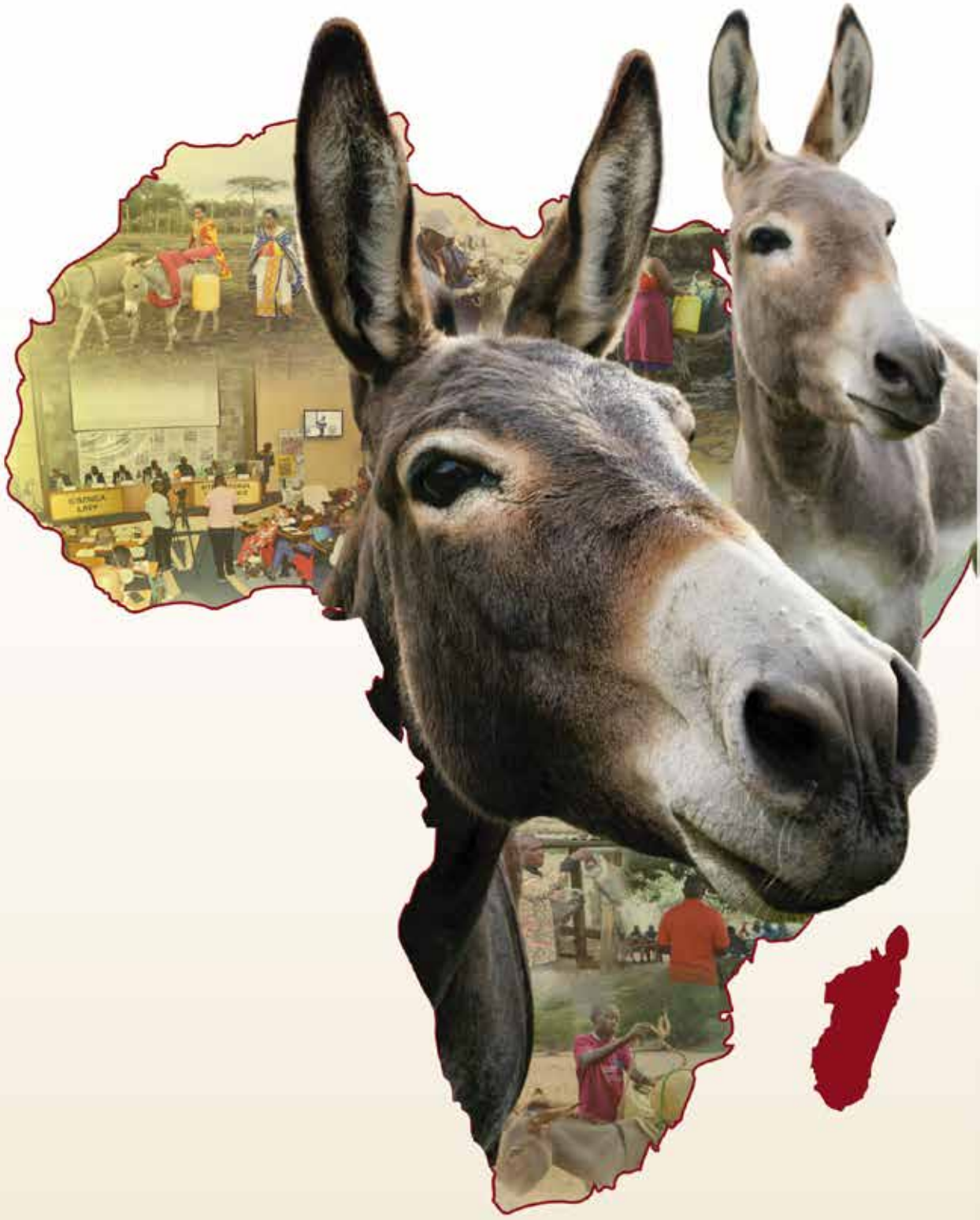
AFRICAN UNION
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REPORT OF THE SECOND PAN-AFRICAN DONKEY CONFERENCE

Theme: "Africa's Commitment in Policy and Practice to Donkey Preservation: Now and in the Future"

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EXCECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Second Pan-African Donkey Conference (PADCO-2), held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, convened African Union Member States (AU-MS), regional and international organizations, civil society, and technical experts under the theme "Africa's Commitment in Policy and Practice to Donkey Preservation: Now and in the Future."

Building on the outcomes of the First Pan-African Donkey Conference (PADCO-1) in 2022 , which led to the African Union Moratorium on the Slaughter of Donkeys for their Skins, PADCO-2 assessed progress, addressed implementation challenges, and validated the Pan-African Strategy for the Preservation, Welfare, and Sustainable Utilization of Donkeys in Africa and its Action Plan.

Donkeys were reaffirmed as vital to Africa's rural economies, powering agriculture, transport, and trade and essential to the resilience of women, children, and vulnerable communities. In ecosystems, the presence of donkeys promotes ecological balance, which is crucial for the sustainability of natural resources and the resilience of communities in the face of environmental changes. Yet, speakers highlighted urgent threats from the unsustainable donkey skin trade, inadequate welfare standards, low reproductive rates, and lack of policy integration.

Ministerial statements from Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda other AU-MS demonstrated strong political will, with examples of national bans on slaughter, integration of donkeys into livestock policies, community sensitization, and strengthened enforcement.

Technical sessions examined; country case studies on policy and legislative measures, socio-economic and gender impacts of the donkey skin trade, law enforcement and cross-border collaboration, demand reduction strategies, welfare and veterinary care improvements, links between donkey health, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) prevention, and safe food systems.

Central to the conference was the Pan-African Donkey Strategy, developed under AU Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1471(XLIV), which offers a continental framework to enforce the AU Moratorium through legislation and cross-border cooperation, integrate donkeys into livestock censuses and development plans, enhance welfare and productivity through sustainable value chains, and strengthen data systems, research, and partnerships.

Partners ,including The Donkey Sanctuary, World Horse Welfare, SPANA, Brooke, and the East African Legislative Assembly ,pledged sustained support through technical expertise, advocacy, and capacity building. The conference concluded with the Communiqué and Abidjan Declaration, reaffirming Africa's Common Position and committing AU Member States to domesticate the AU Moratorium, strengthen enforcement and regional cooperation, promote capacity building and investment in welfare-friendly value chains and research. PADCO-2 confirmed that preserving Africa's donkeys is both a welfare and development priority. The commitments made in Abidjan chart a clear course for translating continental policy into tangible, lasting action.



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ABBREVIATIONS

CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Communities of Central African States (ECCAS)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ICPALD	IGAD - Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development
ICWE	International Coalition for Working Equids
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
KARLO	Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization
LiDeSA	Livestock Development Strategy for Africa
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
MS	Member States
NGOs	Non- Governmental Organizations
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPANA	Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad
STC	Specialised Technical Committee
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health
PADCo	Pan-African Donkey Conference

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The First Pan-African Donkey Conference (PADCO-1) that was held in Dar es Salam on 1st and 2 December 2022, under the theme "Donkeys in Africa Now and in the Future" played a pivotal role in advancing donkey welfare across Africa, culminating in the African Union Moratorium on the Slaughter of Donkeys for their skins in Africa. This milestone decision that is contained in decision X.CL/1471(XLIV) of the Heads of States and Government Summit underscored the need for urgent and coordinated action to address the escalating threats to donkey populations, primarily driven by the global demand for donkey skins for traditional medicines.

As Africa continues to implement the AU Moratorium, PADCO-2 aims to assess progress, address challenges, and develop a continental strategic framework for the successful domestication of the moratorium across African Union Member States (AU-MS). Additionally, PADCO-2 will introduce a communication and advocacy strategy tailored for AU-MS to champion donkey welfare and combat illicit trade effectively.

PADCO-2 presents a critical opportunity to solidify gains from the AU Moratorium on Donkey Slaughter for Skins while setting a structured roadmap for long-term continental policy success. Engaging a wide range of stakeholders, presents the opportunity for the conference to reinforce policy, enforcement, advocacy, and socio-economic strategies essential for the sustainability of Africa's donkey populations and the communities that depend on them.

PADCo-2 envisions a continent where donkeys are protected, valued, and sustainably integrated into socio-economic systems. Through promoting strong policies, enforcement mechanisms, and collaborative advocacy, the conference aims to solidify the implementation of the AU Moratorium, safeguard donkey populations from illicit trade, and promote humane, sustainable livelihoods for communities dependent on them.

Through multi-stakeholder engagement, evidence-based strategies, and continental cooperation, PADCo-2 aspires to set a firm foundation for a long-term strategic framework that ensures the survival and welfare of Africa's donkeys for the posterity, as well as their contribution to sustainable ecosystems and climate change resilience in climatically fragile environments.

Conference Objectives

The overall objective was to provide a platform for African governments, civil society, researchers, and development partners to review progress in safeguarding donkey specie from the skin trade and ensure their sustainable utilization through effective policies and practice.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the Conference are to;

i. To provide a platform for informed policy dialogue among stakeholders on policy options to safeguard the donkey species from the threats of the donkey skin trade;

ii. To exchange knowledge and best practices to enhance the welfare of donkeys;
iii. To Illustrate progress towards mainstreaming donkeys in development and global agendas especially as relates to youths, women and vulnerable groups;
iv. To develop a critical mass of sensitized animal welfare stakeholders in Africa to champion and support the donkey welfare agenda in the continent.
v. To reinforce MS commitment to the Africa's common policy position on the donkey skin trade.

The PADCO-2 structure combined presentations, discussions, scientific papers, and country testimonials, covering topics such as:

- Lessons learned and challenges related to the implementation of the moratorium on donkey skins;
- Legislative and policy frameworks for integration at the national level;
- Impact of the donkey skin trade on livelihoods and rural economies;
- Cross-border enforcement of laws against illegal trafficking;
- Ethical, welfare, and veterinary considerations for working donkeys;
- Innovations in breeding, husbandry, and sustainable value chains.





SESSION 1: AGENDA SETTING

Presentation of Speakers

Theme and objectives | Prof. James Wabacha



Prof. James Wabacha introduced the conference theme, "Africa's Commitment in Policy and Practice to Donkey Preservation: Now and in the Future," stressing the donkey's critical role in rural livelihoods, agriculture, and transport, yet it continues to suffer from neglect and a lack of recognition. He stressed the serious threats posed by the skins trade, poor welfare conditions, and policy neglect, and called for stronger protection measures and the inclusion of donkeys in development agendas. He recalled progress since PADCO-1 in 2022, including the Dar es Salaam Declaration, the AU Moratorium on donkey slaughter for skins, and the directive to develop a Pan-African Strategy and Action Plan. PADCO-2 aimed to review progress, validate the draft strategy and action plan, and promote knowledge sharing, with expected outcomes of an endorsed continental strategy and reaffirmed common position on donkey preservation.

Highlights of the Pan-African Strategy for the Preservation, Welfare and Sustainable Utilization of Donkeys in Africa | Dr. Hiver Boussini

Presenting highlights of the strategy, Dr. Hiver Boussini outlined its goal to preserve healthy donkey populations, safeguard welfare, and protect livelihoods. He outlined priority actions such as enforcing the AU moratorium through national policies, integrating donkeys into livestock plans and censuses, improving their welfare and productivity, developing humane value chains, strengthening research and data systems, and mobilizing partnerships.

He urged PADCO-2 to validate the strategy for submission to the AU Specialized Technical Committee for formal adoption.

Goodwill remarks by Chris Wainwright, CEO of Brooke Action for Working Horses and Donkeys



In his speech, Mr. Chris Wainwright, CEO of Brooke Action for Working Horses and Donkeys and representative of the International Coalition for Working Equids (ICWE), highlighted crucial issues regarding the welfare of donkeys in Africa, as well as the detrimental impact of the donkey skin trade on these animals and the communities that depend on them.

Firstly, he emphasized the significance of the ICWE, which was established eight years ago and collaborates with various NGOs and partners, including the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), to improve the welfare of working equids. He proceeded to alert the audience to the dramatic consequences of the donkey skin trade, driven by the high demand for ejiao. This illegal activity leads to

the inhumane slaughter of millions of donkeys, resulting in a rapid decline in their population.

Moreover, he specified that donkeys play an essential role in the livelihoods of more than 600 million people in low- and middle-income countries. Their disappearance particularly affects the most vulnerable communities that rely on these animals for their means of living.

In a positive turn of events, Wainwright announced the historic decision of the African Union to impose a moratorium on the slaughter of donkeys for their skin. This decision reflects a strong commitment to the preservation of this endangered species.

In conclusion, he called for the necessity of discussing an action plan for the conservation of donkeys, in alignment with the African Agenda 2063, which aims for sustainable development. Wainwright underscored the urgency of collective action to put an end to this harmful trade. His speech generated genuine hope regarding the future of donkeys and the livelihoods of the communities that depend on them, insisting that these animals are not only sentient beings but also essential pillars of local economies in Africa.

Statements by Ministers from Member States.

Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries of Cameroon | Dr. Taiga



At the second Pan-African Conference on the Preservation of Donkey Species in Africa (PADCO-2), the Minister of Livestock, Fisheries, and Animal Industries of Cameroon emphasized the significant role donkeys play in the economy and social life, particularly in rural areas where they assist in transporting water and goods while contributing to children's education. He also addressed the threats facing this species, including illegal skin trade, diseases, and habitat degradation.

In this context, the Minister commended the moratorium established by the African Union on the slaughter of donkeys for commercial purposes, viewing it as a vital measure for their protection. He pointed out that the PADCO-2 conference marks a crucial step toward the effective implementation of this decision. In conclusion, he reaffirmed Cameroon's commitment to supporting this initiative by mobilizing qualified personnel to implement the recommendations arising from the conference.

Ministry of Livestock and Animal Production of Chad | H.E. Prof. Abderahim Awat Atteib



Chad's Minister, H.E. Prof. Abderahim Awat Atteib, lauded the conference as a platform for solidarity and action, describing donkeys as pillars of rural life and biodiversity, including the critically endangered Nubian wild ass. He reaffirmed Chad's commitment to the Dar es Salaam Declaration, legislative protection, CITES listing considerations, and ongoing national efforts in community awareness, enforcement, and data-driven policy.

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda | H.E Dr. Rwamirama Bright Kanyontore



H.E. Dr. Bright Rwamirama Kanyontore, speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda, expressed sincere appreciation to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the Second Pan-African Donkey Conference and extended warm greetings from the people of Uganda. He commended AU-IBAR and its partners for convening this landmark gathering, which he described as a critical platform to consolidate Africa's collective resolve to protect donkeys.

Drawing on Uganda's national livestock census data, Dr. Rwamirama presented a sobering picture of the country's donkey population trends. In 2008, Uganda had an estimated 144,000 donkeys; by 2021, this number had declined to just 63,000, a dramatic 56.3% decrease over little more than a decade. He explained that most donkeys in Uganda are concentrated in the semi-arid Karamoja region, where they serve as indispensable working animals, transporting heavy loads over long distances in areas with limited infrastructure. The loss of these animals, he stressed, would severely disrupt livelihoods, especially for vulnerable households in harsh climatic zones.

He placed Uganda's experience in the broader continental and global context, noting that the world's donkey population stands at approximately 44 million, with Africa accounting for nearly one-quarter. Ethiopia leads with around 7.1 million donkeys, yet even such large populations remain under threat. Dr. Rwamirama warned that Africa now faces the same pressures that led to China's sharp decline in donkey numbers from 11.1 million in 1990 to around 6 million two decades later driven largely by the demand for hides for traditional medicinal products. The shortfall in global supply has shifted demand toward Africa, posing an urgent and severe threat to the continent's donkey populations and the communities that depend on them.

He called for continent-wide measures to protect donkeys, including targeted research to address their low reproductive capacity and strategies to improve herd sustainability. He underscored the importance of strict enforcement of anti-slaughter measures, cross-border cooperation to curb illicit trade, and the

integration of donkey welfare into national livestock development policies.

Dr. Rwamirama reported that Uganda has already implemented a national ban on donkey slaughter and is in the process of incorporating the AU moratorium into domestic legislation, which is currently under review. He reaffirmed Uganda's strong support for the Pan-African Donkey Strategy, recognizing it as a critical tool to guide policy harmonization, build enforcement capacity, and strengthen community engagement.

Acknowledging the need for sustained momentum, he suggested that Pan-African Donkey Conferences be convened more frequently to track progress, share best practices, and galvanize political commitment. He concluded by reiterating Uganda's readiness to host future conferences and reaffirmed the nation's unwavering commitment to the preservation of donkeys — not only as working animals but as integral components of Africa's rural economy, cultural heritage, and sustainable development aspirations.

Opening Remarks H.E. Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment at the African Union Commission [DARBE]



Dr. Huyam Salih, speaking on behalf of the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) of the African Union Commission, warmly welcomed all participants to the Second Pan-African Donkey Conference. She noted that the 2022 Dar es Salaam meeting was a key turning point in recognizing and responding to the growing threats facing Africa's donkey populations. That meeting initiated a landmark process that led to the African Union's moratorium on the slaughter of donkeys for their skins; a decision that has had significant impact across rural communities, conservation efforts, and policy circles

She reminded delegates that donkeys were far more than working animals; they were lifelines for millions of rural households, particularly women and children, providing transport, supporting smallholder agriculture, and underpinning local economies in some of the continent's most fragile regions. Their loss to unsustainable exploitation and illicit trade, she cautioned, would carry devastating socio-economic and ecological consequences.

Dr. Salih emphasized that while progress had been made, significant challenges remained. She noted that low investment in donkey welfare, poor reproductive performance, weak enforcement mechanisms, and growing cross-border trafficking continued to threaten both domestic and wild equid populations. She highlighted that the AU's Specialized Technical Committee and the AU Summit of Heads of State had entrusted AU-IBAR with the development of a Pan-African Strategy for the Preservation, Welfare and Sustainable Utilization of Donkeys, a strategy to be validated during the meeting and designed to guide Member States in safeguarding donkey populations for present and future generations.

Commending countries such as Botswana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Togo, and Kenya for their proactive legislative and administrative measures, she urged all Member States to integrate donkeys into national livestock policies, strengthen anti-slaughter enforcement, improve data collection systems, and invest in welfare-friendly value chains. She stressed that the strategy would not only align with Africa's Agenda 2063 but would also serve as a blueprint for protecting livelihoods, promoting sustainable agriculture, and ensuring that donkey populations continue to contribute to climate resilience and rural prosperity in Africa.

In closing, Dr. Salih called for renewed commitment from governments, researchers, civil society, and development partners. She called on participants to use the conference as a platform for decisive action—turning commitments into measurable outcomes and safeguarding Africa's donkeys as a source of strength, dignity, and opportunity for future generations.

Official Opening by the H.E. Prime Minister of Cote D'Ivoire | H.E. Mr. Laurent Tchagba, Minister of Water and Forests, Côte d'Ivoire



On behalf of the Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Laurent Tchagba, Minister of Water and Forests, Côte d'Ivoire opened the second Pan-African Conference on the Preservation of Donkeys, by expressing his honor in representing the President of the Republic and the Ivorian Government. He emphasized the importance of this meeting, which follows the first event in Dar es Salaam, marking a collective awareness of the threats facing donkey populations in Africa. He commended the historical decision of the African Union to ban the trade in donkey skins, a crucial measure against a frequently destructive commerce.

The Prime Minister also affirmed that donkeys are essential for family economies and local development, playing an irreplaceable role in rural life. However, the growing international demand for ejiao has led to mass and cruel slaughter, threatening this species. He stressed the need for concerted action at the continental level to address this situation.

The conference aims to result in an African action plan to safeguard donkeys, strengthen legislation against the trade in skins, promote sustainable economic alternatives, and mobilize rural communities. Furthermore, the Prime Minister highlighted that this gathering represents a genuine opportunity for African solidarity, establishing a link between economic development and animal welfare. He also committed Côte d'Ivoire to carry the conference's conclusions to regional and international levels. Finally, he declared the conference open, wishing fruitful discussions for all participants.

SESSION 2 : STATUS OF DONKEY SPECIES IN AFRICA

Overview of Donkey Status in Africa | Dr. Elynn Njeri



Dr. Elynn Njeri presented AU-IBAR's 2018 survey findings from 25 Member States, which estimated a combined population of 13.04 million donkeys in the surveyed countries, representing about 36% of all working animals recorded. The survey revealed marked disparities in distribution and reproduction, with some countries reporting zero reproduction rates. The gender ratio was balanced, with both males and females equally utilized for labor.

In terms of animal health services, the data showed 11,120 veterinarians and 20,000 paraprofessionals across the surveyed countries, though services were concentrated in urban centers. This urban bias left rural communities heavily reliant on paraprofessionals, showcasing the need for consistency and quality of care in underserved areas.

Key diseases identified included tetanus, African horse sickness, anthrax, equine influenza, rabies, trypanosomiasis, helminth infestations, and skin injuries linked to poor harnessing, overloading, and poor husbandry. Systemic gaps included inadequate vaccination coverage, limited emergency response, and insufficient centralized data.

Dr. Njeri recommended mainstreaming donkeys into agricultural and livestock strategies, expanding training for veterinarians and paraprofessionals, improving preventive healthcare and vaccination programmes, increasing community education on welfare, and enhancing cross-border collaboration to combat illegal skin trade. She emphasized that sustained donkey welfare was essential to rural economic resilience and the long-term sustainability of donkey populations in Africa

Impact of disease and injury on working donkeys | Dr. Girma Birhan



Dr. Girma Birhan, PhD researcher at the University of Liverpool, presented findings from a study in Ethiopia assessing donkeys' contribution to livelihoods and the economic costs of disease and injury. Ethiopia, with an estimated 10.7 million donkeys, about 20% of the global population, had over 7.5 million households depending on them for transporting water, firewood, and agricultural produce. Despite this central role, donkeys were excluded from livestock development policies and received minimal investment in welfare.

Using the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) framework, the study combined surveys, interviews, and herd simulation models to quantify benefits and losses. Donkeys contributed an average of USD 567 annually per household, around 21% of income, while reducing labor burdens, especially for women and girls, by an estimated 17 hours per week. Nationally, their contribution in 2021 was estimated at USD 2.2 billion, equivalent to roughly 2% of Ethiopia's GDP.

However, preventable diseases and injuries, including wounds, lameness, trypanosomiasis, and African horse sickness, reduced household incomes by 28%, causing national economic losses of USD 646 million annually. Dr. Birhan recommended integrating donkeys into livestock and agricultural policies, expanding veterinary service access, and enhancing surveillance and vaccination to mitigate these losses

Understanding of donkey value chain: Case study in Kenya, mapping, governance, challenges, and equity | Dr. James Kithuka



Dr. James Kithuka presented findings from a Kenyan case study mapping donkey value chains in seven counties across four agro-ecological zones. He noted Africa's total donkey population was estimated at 44 million, with donkeys serving roles in transport, manure production, and, in some contexts, milk provision.

The study found the value chain to be simple, poorly developed, and weakly regulated. Donkeys were sourced through markets, barter arrangements, dowries, and charitable donations. Urban prices ranged from USD 350 to USD 1,230. Significant gender disparities emerged: men often controlled donkey sales, while women and children were the primary daily users.

Key challenges included the illegal skin trade, theft, poor welfare practices, outdated legislation, lack of traceability systems, and unregulated markets. Respondents called for the integration of donkeys into national livestock policies, stronger enforcement, community education, gender inclusion initiatives, and expanded veterinary services. Dr. Kithuka concluded that without policy reform and coordinated interventions, Kenya's donkey sector would remain fragmented and vulnerable.

Working donkeys as vital community resilience assets in Disasters | Anna Mary & Dr Shaban Tozo



Anna Mary, Global Head of Policy and Advocacy at Brooke, discussed working animals as critical but often "invisible" assets in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Globally, disasters cause an estimated USD 2 trillion in annual losses. Donkeys, horses, and mules contribute by supporting evacuations, transporting goods, and aiding post-disaster recovery, yet they remain under-recognized in policy frameworks.

She noted their partial recognition in the UN Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and explicit mention in a UN General Assembly resolution following advocacy by Brooke and partners. However, a review of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policies in six African countries—including Senegal, Ethiopia, and Kenya—found that only Kenya specifically referenced working animals, and even then, community awareness was limited. Successful models from Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras demonstrated how working animals could be effectively integrated into national DRR strategies.

Dr. Shaban Tozo expanded on the Tanzanian context, where donkeys provide critical transport for goods, water, agricultural produce, and vulnerable individuals during floods, droughts, and pandemics. Case studies included COVID-19 responses in northern Tanzania, where donkeys supplied water to healthcare facilities, and their deployment in recent flood and landslide emergencies for transporting food, water, and medical supplies.

He emphasized that cross-border smuggling and the growing skins trade, combined with the continued neglect of donkey welfare in humanitarian and disaster-response planning, severely undermine the contribution donkeys can make to community resilience. Tanzania offers a notable example of good practice, having implemented a 2017 ban on donkey slaughter aligned with AU resolutions, strengthened legal protections through the Animal Welfare Act No. 19 of 2008, and launched national awareness and welfare campaigns. During recent donkey commemorations, veterinary services—including hoof care, spraying, and vitamin supplementation—were provided to approximately 400 donkeys, while awareness sessions reached more than 1,600 schoolchildren.

Dr. Tozo concluded that explicitly integrating donkeys into disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies, embedding them within early-warning systems, promoting welfare-sensitive disaster planning, and expanding community education would significantly enhance resilience and safeguard livelihoods across Africa.

SESSION 3: PAN AFRICAN STRATEGY FOR THE PRESERVATION, WELFARE AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF DONKEYS

Impact of donkey skin trade/export on donkey population in Africa: case study in some AU Member States | Prof. Philip Mshelia



Prof. Philip Mshelia presented a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the donkey skin trade across selected African Union Member States, combining a continental overview with country-specific findings, livelihood implications, trade modelling, and policy assessment. He highlighted that the trade was depriving Africa not only of economic value, but also of biodiversity, ancestral wealth, and valuable time. Every exported skin, he emphasized, represents an irreplaceable loss occurring without proper documentation, traceability systems, or recognition of the cultural heritage attached to donkeys.

His presentation underscored the critical importance of the African Union's moratorium on commercial donkey slaughter and skin export, which has been widely recognized as a landmark decision for animal welfare, rural resilience, and the preservation of Africa's genetic and cultural assets. However, he also noted that enforcement remains inconsistent in several regions, with illegal trade continuing through porous borders, informal markets, and unregulated rural slaughter points.

Continental and Regional Dynamics

Prof. Mshelia emphasized that Africa, which holds nearly half of the world's donkey population, is facing an escalating threat as expanding exploitation erodes population viability, rural mobility, and community livelihoods. He observed that trade dynamics vary significantly across regions: in Central Africa, Chad acts as a major aggregation hub funneling donkeys into Nigeria; West Africa remains the epicenter of extraction, with Nigeria operating as a primary gateway to the Chinese market and receiving animals through thousands of informal border crossings from Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. In Southern Africa, South Africa permits regulated slaughter, yet porous borders continue to facilitate smuggling into clandestine markets. Meanwhile, in North Africa, Egypt's quota system is weakened by limited enforcement capacity, enabling Mediterranean ports to function as covert exit channels for the skin trade.

Enforcement Challenges

Despite the AU moratorium, conflicting national quota systems continue to create exploitable loopholes that sustain illicit trade flows. Key structural weaknesses undermine enforcement, including the absence donkey-specific Harmonized System (HS) Codes, inadequate border surveillance capacity, and the sophistication of organized smuggling networks. These networks employ tactics such as concealment within mixed consignments, bribery along transit corridors, and fragmented or staggered shipments to evade detection. Collectively, these gaps make consistent implementation of the moratorium extremely challenging and highlight the urgent need for harmonized regulatory standards, coordinated surveillance, and a unified continental enforcement approach.

Welfare Abuses and Organized Crime

Across all regions, severe welfare violations are widespread, with donkeys routinely deprived food and water, subjected to brutal handling, and slaughtered under crude and unhygienic conditions. Beyond the immediate welfare crisis, the growing involvement of organized crime and the surge in donkey theft have further destabilized rural communities, eroding household assets, reducing mobility, and deepening the social and economic burdens associated with the trade.

Positive Interventions and Recommendations

Some encouraging examples demonstrate that progress is possible. In Nigeria, customs authorities have successfully intercepted illegal consignments; in Kenya, community-based patrols have reduced cross-border movement; and in several Nigerian states, traditional leaders have intervened to halt slaughter activities. These cases illustrate that coordinated action, formal and informal, can meaningfully disrupt the trade. Building on these successes, the following measures were recommended:

- Criminalizing the donkey skin trade at the national level;

- Domesticating AU policy into binding national legal frameworks;
- Strengthening regional enforcement mechanisms and supporting alternative livelihoods for affected communities.

He concluded that safeguarding Africa's donkeys is essential to protecting rural dignity, preserving genetic heritage, and advancing long-term socio-economic

Responding to the global demand and availability of Donkey- Skin Gelatin [ejiao] in the European Union | Wiebke Plasse



Wiebke Plasse of WTG examined the availability of ejiao a gelatin derived from donkey skins—in Germany and the wider EU. Promoted in traditional Chinese medicine for supposed health benefits, ejiao had no robust scientific backing, yet was sold in block, powder, granule, capsule, and confectionery forms.

WTG's investigations revealed that ejiao products were readily available online and in pharmacies without prescriptions, bypassing the EU's legal requirements for traditional Chinese medicine products. Loopholes, weak enforcement, and poor labelling allowed these sales to continue, with many consumers unaware of the donkey skin origin.

She linked this demand to widespread welfare abuses documented since 2016, including unregulated slaughter, theft from communities, and illegal trade. The inability of China to meet domestic demand had shifted sourcing to Africa, intensifying population declines.

Plasse called for urgent EU and African action to:
- Close regulatory loopholes and enforce bans.
- Improve labelling and traceability.
- Enforce and extend donkey skin export bans in AU Member States.
- Strengthen trade surveillance.

WTG's ongoing work in Kenya, Tanzania, and India supported local welfare efforts, veterinary training, advocacy, and public awareness campaigns. She warned that rising EU demand risked accelerating global population collapse and suffering unless urgent measures were taken.

Stolen donkeys stolen futures – impacts of the donkey skin trade on the African women and children | Dr. David Obiero



Dr. David Obiero presented research conducted by The Donkey Sanctuary in collaboration with the University of Maasai Mara on the social and economic impacts of donkey theft and slaughter on women in Kenya. The study covered five affected counties—Nakuru, Laikipia, Siaya, Narok, and Kirinyaga—using surveys with 171 women and in-depth interviews with 17 participants.

Key Findings

- Prevalence: 41% of respondents reported donkey theft, with Laikipia worst affected (97%).
- Financial Losses: Income losses ranged between 14% and 73%, highest in Siaya (73.4%) and Narok (62.7%).
- Emotional Impact: Donkeys were commonly given as marriage gifts and regarded as family members, making their loss deeply distressing.
- Health and Nutrition: Loss of donkeys forced women and children into strenuous physical labor, reducing productive time and worsening nutrition.
- Community Consequences: Household savings and investment plans were often diverted to replace donkeys, especially in areas with poor water access

Dr. Obiero called for stronger law enforcement, the integration of donkey protection into national livestock policies, and community-level prevention measures. He emphasized that safeguarding donkeys is critical not only for women's livelihoods and community resilience but also for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In plenary, Prof. Mshelia highlighted that donkey meat is frequently misrepresented and sold as beef in several African markets—a form of food fraud closely associated with the skins trade and indicative of wider regulatory gaps. He stressed that the species' low reproductive rate makes population recovery extremely slow, underscoring the need to formally recognize the economic contribution of donkeys within national GDP calculations.

Responding to Lesotho's Chief Veterinary Officer, who noted the existence of general HS codes for equines, Prof. Mshelia emphasized that the absence of a donkey-specific HS code continues to undermine enforcement efforts. Even with such a code in place, he cautioned, meaningful progress would still depend on strengthened border controls, harmonized national laws, and effective traceability systems; without these, smugglers would continue to exploit regulatory loopholes.

He concluded by questioning the legitimacy of the trade itself, arguing that a trade built on the extraction of a rapidly depleting and unsustainably sourced commodity cannot be considered genuine commerce, but rather constitutes a form of exploitation.

Dr. Macktar Seck raised the issue of donkey corridors, emphasizing Ghana's role as a major transit route, which he felt had not been highlighted during the presentation. In response, Prof. Mshelia clarified that the reference to the West Africa corridor is inclusive of Ghana, which, alongside Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, constitutes a critical transit route in the regional donkey trade

Dr. Obiero reiterated the need for governments to integrate donkey protection into national livestock policies, strengthen enforcement of anti-theft laws, and collaborate with NGOs to train law enforcement officers in prosecuting welfare and theft-related offences.

Presentation of the Pan-African Strategy for the Preservation, Welfare and Sustainable Utilization of Donkeys in Africa | Dr. Eng. Camille Laure Nguekeng



Dr. Eng. Camille Laure Nguekeng presented the Pan-African Donkey Strategy, developed under the African Union Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1471(XLIV). This decision mandated AU-IBAR to lead the creation of a continental framework for donkey preservation and sustainable utilization, following the adoption of a continental moratorium on the slaughter of donkeys for the skin trade. The strategy was framed as both a policy and action blueprint to secure the survival of Africa's donkey populations while safeguarding the rural economies, cultures, and livelihoods they support.

Dr. Camille set the context by emphasizing that donkeys, often referred to as Africa's 'invisible helpers,' are vital to agriculture, household economies, and rural transport. They carry goods, fetch water, provide traction, and connect communities to markets, schools, and healthcare. Yet their role has long been undervalued, unrecorded, and poorly protected, leaving them vulnerable to rapid decline due to low reproductive rates, lack of breeding programs, policy neglect, and weak welfare measures.

Dr. Camille set the context by underscoring that donkeys—often described as Africa's "invisible helpers"—are indispensable to agriculture, household economies, and rural mobility. They transport goods, fetch water, provide traction, and connect communities to markets, schools, and healthcare services. Despite this central role, their contribution has remained undervalued, unrecorded, and insufficiently protected. As a result, donkey populations across the continent are now highly vulnerable, owing to low reproductive rates, the absence of structured breeding programmes, longstanding policy neglect, and inadequate welfare safeguards.

The strategy's vision is for donkeys to be recognized as sentient beings that thrive in conditions which enable them to contribute fully to sustainable development. Its mission is to strengthen engagement, investment, and capacity to ensure their preservation and humane utilization. The goal is to provide AU Member States with a clear, harmonized framework to maintain healthy donkey populations while supporting equitable, sustainable value chains.

Six Strategic Objectives:

1. Enhance Health and Welfare – Equip owners and handlers through capacity building, promote One Health approaches linking animal, human, and environmental well-being, and establish humane end-of-life practices.
2. Promote Sustainable Production and Breeding – Develop structured breeding programmes, preserve genetic diversity, and encourage responsible productivity to meet legitimate local needs without depleting populations.
3. Strengthen Policy and Legislation – Harmonize and domesticate policies, laws, and strategies across Member States to protect donkeys from unsustainable exploitation.
4. Advance Research and Knowledge Sharing – Generate and disseminate data on population dynamics,

welfare status, nutrition, genetic diversity, and drivers of the skin trade.

5. Raise Awareness and Improve Communication – Run coordinated campaigns to change perceptions, highlight donkeys' socio-economic and cultural value, and promote welfare-friendly practices.
6. Foster Collaboration and Resource Mobilization – Build partnerships across governments, RECs, NGOs, private sector actors, and international organizations such as FAO, WOAH, and ICWE to deliver coordinated action.

Implementation Framework:

- Continental Level (AU-IBAR) – Lead coordination, develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, facilitate resource mobilization, and convene annual/biannual reviews.
- Regional Level (RECs) – Harmonize legal frameworks, support cross-border enforcement, and facilitate knowledge exchange.
- National Level (Member States) – Integrate donkeys into livestock policies, enforce the moratorium, develop national action plans, and ensure local enforcement.
- Non-State Actors – Advocate, deliver capacity building, extend veterinary and welfare services, and engage in public education.

Risk Management and Sustainability:

Dr. Camille acknowledged risks such as weak political will, illicit cross-border trade, limited financial commitment, and biological constraints like long gestation periods and low reproduction rates. These would be mitigated through political advocacy, integration into livestock development plans, alignment with WOAH welfare standards, and sustained partnerships.

Expected Outcomes:

- Continental, regional, and national strategies fully aligned and operational.
- Annual progress reviews and a biennial reporting mechanism to the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC).
- Measurable improvement in welfare indicators, genetic preservation, and population stability.
- Strengthened resilience of rural livelihoods through protected and sustainable donkey utilization.

Dr. Camille concluded by highlighting that the strategy's unique and comprehensive scope presents an exceptional opportunity to set new standards for continental collaboration and sustainable development. She called for political courage, sustained financing, and unwavering collaboration to transform it from a policy document into a living instrument for change ensuring that donkeys remain a thriving part of Africa's biodiversity, heritage, and economy for generations to come.

Abidjan Declaration on the moratorium of ban on donkey Skin Trade and export in Africa| Dr. Hiver Boussini



Dr. Hiver's presentation underscored the strategic significance of the Abidjan Declaration as a unifying call for action and a tangible outcome of the conference. He reiterated that the Declaration built upon the commitments enshrined in the Pan-African Donkey Strategy, serving as both a policy instrument and a moral compact among African Union Member States and partners to safeguard donkey populations and the communities that rely on them.

Dr. Hiver outlined how the Abidjan Declaration reaffirmed Africa's Common Position on the donkey skin trade, clearly rejecting unsustainable exploitation and committing to the full domestication of the AU Moratorium into national laws. He stressed that this was not merely symbolic , it was a concrete roadmap, urging governments to close legislative gaps, strengthen enforcement, and foster cross-border cooperation to combat trafficking.

The presentation emphasized the Declaration's broader vision: integrating donkey welfare into livestock development plans, investing in community education and humane breeding programs, and supporting research to enhance sustainable value chains. Dr. Hiver also noted that the Declaration positioned Africa as a global leader in advocating for working equine welfare, providing a strong foundation for partnerships, technical cooperation, and resource mobilization.

In closing, he called on all stakeholders , governments, civil society, and development partners to treat the Abidjan Declaration as a living document, ensuring its provisions are translated into measurable actions that protect donkeys, strengthen rural livelihoods, and preserve cultural and economic heritage.

SESSION 4: PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY AND THE MORATORIUM

Veterinary Training Institutions as Catalysts for Sustainable Preservation of Donkeys in Africa: The Case of EISMV of Dakar | Dr. Yalace Kabore



Dr. Yalace Kabore positioned veterinary education institutions as strategic actors in the preservation and sustainable use of donkeys, describing them as "custodians of both scientific knowledge and societal responsibility." Using the École Inter-États des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires (EISMV) of Dakar as a case study, he illustrated how targeted academic and research initiatives could transform donkey welfare from a neglected subject into a driver of rural resilience and economic opportunity.

Founded in 1968 by African Heads of State and Government, EISMV is a pan-African institution serving 14 West and Central African countries, training students from 21 African and European nations, and collaborating with WOAH (OMSA) and UEMOA.

Dr. Kabore described donkeys as "silent allies" of rural development—critical for transporting goods, fetching water, and providing traction, particularly for women and smallholder farmers. Yet their potential is undermined by overexploitation for hides, poor welfare practices, limited breeding programmes, and insufficient veterinary attention.

EISMV's integrated approach combines:

- ***Education*** **–** Inclusion of donkey welfare in core curricula through dedicated equine health modules, a clinical simulation room, a paddock for donkeys, and compulsory rural internships.
- ***Continuing Professional Development*** **–** MOOCs, specialized internships, and post-graduate certificates in working equid medicine.
- ***Research*** **–** Generating evidence on donkey diseases, socio-economic roles, breeding practices, and genetic diversity, directly informing public policy.
- ***Partnerships*** **–** Collaborating with NGOs to exchange best practices, mobilize resources, and implement joint field projects.

He concluded that veterinary institutions had a moral and strategic responsibility to lead in donkey preservation. EISMV aimed to serve as a continental hub for excellence, innovation, and advocacy, strengthening collaboration with governments, NGOs, and rural communities to integrate donkeys into sustainable livestock systems.

Multiagency collaboration and coordination in implementing the moratorium; the case for Kenya| Dr. Maryanne Mwimali & Dr. Raphael Kinoti



Dr. Maryanne Mwimali, representing WOAH in Kenya, stressed that illegal donkey slaughter was not just a national issue but part of an international network of trade and crime. She emphasized that tackling it required a coordinated multiagency approach, with veterinary authorities, security forces, civil society, and development partners working together to share intelligence, mount joint operations, and build public awareness.



Dr. Raphael Kinoti, Brooke East Africa, provided the Kenyan case study: from 2016–2020, four licensed slaughterhouses processed around 1,200 donkeys per day, many imported from neighboring countries. A 2019 KALRO study projected the country could lose its last donkey in five years if slaughter continued.

Kenya's April 2020 ban on the trade triggered a new phase, post-ban enforcement, which demanded close cooperation among the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Health (Public Health), police services, and the judiciary. The trade was linked to organized crime, cross-border smuggling, public health risks, and food fraud, with donkey meat often sold as beef.

To respond, the government launched a 100-day Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) focused on:

1. Multi-agency enforcement at hotspots.
2. Large-scale public awareness campaigns.
3. Domestic implementation of the AU moratorium.

Border counties adjoining Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, and Ethiopia became enforcement priorities. Actions included:

- Training magistrates and prosecutors to treat donkey theft and slaughter as serious crimes.
- Expanding surveillance through community networks.
- Targeting and dismantling criminal supply chains.

Challenges included political interference, weak prosecution, logistical gaps at ports, poor handling of rescued animals, and legal loopholes. Enablers of success were political will, cross-sector cooperation, community intelligence, media support, and new SOPs for law enforcement. The RRI demonstrated that political resolve and partnership coordination could make the moratorium enforceable and replicable in other countries.

Policy Actions and Challenges in other Regions (Pakistan, Asia, Brazil and Latin America) Case Studies| Naem Abas & Eduardo Santurtun

Pakistan and Asia– Naem Abas



Naem Abas described Pakistan as an emerging front in the global donkey skin trade. The signing of an agreement between a Chinese company and the Government of Pakistan to establish a slaughterhouse in Gwadar—a strategic port—posed risks of becoming a regional processing hub for domestic and imported donkeys.

Pakistan's 5.9 million donkeys support diverse sectors: agriculture, goods transport, waste management, construction, brick kilns, and mining. Their loss would undermine rural economies, increase physical labor burdens—especially for women—and erode community resilience.

A three-pillar strategy was outlined:

1. ***Policy Advocacy*** **–** Campaign for a national ban, engage policymakers, religious leaders, and academia, and prepare policy briefs and draft legislation.
2. ***Partnerships*** **–** Collaborate with ministries, industry owners, and civil society groups.
3. ***Public Awareness*** **–** Conduct culturally sensitive campaigns with communities and youth to highlight donkeys' socio-economic importance.

Research would focus on population mapping, tracking cross-border movements (including from Afghanistan), and debunking economic myths used to justify the trade. Abas stressed the need for regional and global solidarity, learning from African enforcement successes to resist investor pressure, weak enforcement, and limited legislation.

Latin America and the Caribbean – Eduardo Santurtun

Eduardo Santurtun reported that the region's 6.6 million donkeys are concentrated in Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, and Haiti, with rural communities—especially women—relying heavily on them despite high urbanization levels.

In most countries, donkeys are absent from national policy frameworks, facing chronic welfare challenges including poor harnessing, inadequate nutrition, lack of veterinary services, and exposure to extreme weather.

Brazil and Peru are confirmed exporters of donkey skins to China. In Bahia, Brazil's industry is marked by long-distance transport without traceability, high mortality rates, and disease risks such as glanders and equine infectious anemia—posing serious biosecurity and zoonotic concerns.

Brazil's anti-trade campaign focuses on:

1. ***Advocacy*** **–** Engaging policymakers, veterinary councils, and the public.
2. ***Legal Action*** **–** Advancing bans at state and federal levels.
3. ***Public Awareness*** **–** Mobilizing urban and rural citizens to oppose the trade.

Innovative alternatives include research into precision fermentation collagen to replace ejiao. Santurtun called for Africa–Latin America partnerships to share intelligence, advocacy tactics, and technical solutions.

Feedback from West African Economic and Monetary Union. WAEMU on donkey skin trade in the region | Sidy Ndiaye

Sidy Ndiaye outlined UEMOA's approach to the donkey hide trade across its eight member states, which together have over 5.5 million donkeys. The region faces mass slaughter, cross-border trafficking, and organized criminal involvement, driven by high Asian demand and regional insecurity.

Following advocacy from NGOs and livestock ministers, UEMOA convened expert meetings to:

- Assess clandestine slaughter and hide exports.
- Share national measures to combat the donkey hide trade.
- Raise awareness of socio-economic and environmental impacts.
- Identify sub-regional solutions for coordinated enforcement.

Recommendations:

- ***Member States*** **–** Integrate donkeys into livestock policies, legislate bans, conduct censuses, and assess socio-economic roles.
- ***AU-IBAR*** **–** Provide technical and financial support, and lobby for donkeys' threatened species classification in FAO frameworks.
- ***ECOWAS*** **–** Finalize and adopt its 2023–2027 donkey trade ban strategy.
- ***Equid Welfare Organizations*** **–** Support technical and census work.
- ***UEMOA*** **–** Harmonize legislation, support member states, and collaborate with AU-IBAR on international advocacy.

UEMOA plans to convene a ministerial meeting to establish a community-wide regulation banning mass and uncontrolled donkey slaughter for hides, signaling increased political traction on the issue.

SESSION 5: PARTNERS STATEMENTS OF COMMITMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY AND THE MORATORIUM

The Donkey Sanctuary |Niall Duffy



Niall Duffy, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of The Donkey Sanctuary reiterated its unwavering commitment to improving the lives of donkeys and the communities that depend on them. Commending the collaborative progress achieved so far, the organization acknowledged the vital role of African governments, civil society, and international partners in advancing donkey welfare.

He stressed the urgency of sustaining the momentum generated by the Pan-African Donkey Strategy and the AU moratorium, particularly through:

- Strengthening cross-border collaboration to combat illegal trade.
- Investing in reproductive programmes to address low breeding rates.
- Integrating donkey welfare into national livestock and rural development policies.

The Donkey Sanctuary reaffirmed its readiness to provide technical expertise, research support, and advocacy to strengthen protection measures, urging all stakeholders to commit to long-term preservation and welfare.

World Horse Welfare |Penny Ward



Penny ward, representing, World Horse Welfare expressed appreciation for AU-IBAR's leadership in convening the conference and spearheading the Pan-African Donkey Strategy. They underlined the interconnectedness of donkey welfare, sustainable development, and community resilience, particularly women's resilience in rural economies.

The organization called for:

- Stronger political will and policy enforcement.
- Closing legal loopholes that enable illegal slaughter and trafficking.
- Backing the strategy with measurable actions, robust monitoring systems, and adequate resourcing.

World Horse Welfare pledged to remain a committed partner to African institutions and civil society to ensure the strategy's promises translate into lasting, measurable change.

Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANA)| Dr. Amadou Doumbia



Dr Amadou Doumbia, on behalf of SPANA praised the adoption of a unified African position on the donkey skin trade and the collaborative spirit that had characterized the conference. They emphasized that donkeys are essential working animals underpinning livelihoods, education, and food security in rural communities.

SPANA called for:

- Expanded awareness and education campaigns targeting communities, policymakers, and enforcement agencies.
- Practical welfare solutions, including improved veterinary care and investment in sustainable working practices.
- Full alignment of national policies with the Pan-African Donkey Strategy.

The organization reaffirmed its dedication to supporting these goals through technical assistance, partnerships, and advocacy to safeguard donkey populations and the communities they serve.

Brooke Action for Working Horses and Donkeys |Emmanuel Bouré Sarr



Emmanuel Bouré Sarr reiterated Brooke's long-standing commitment to improving equine welfare and strengthening the resilience of the communities that rely on them. Welcoming the progress achieved during the conference, they stressed the need to translate commitments into tangible outcomes.

Brooke emphasized:

- Practical measures for effective strategy implementation at both national and local levels.
- Integration of donkey welfare into broader livestock and rural development policies.
- Community-based interventions to improve welfare standards and livelihoods.
- Capacity building for veterinary professionals, community leaders, and enforcement bodies.
- Cross-sector collaboration among governments, NGOs, and the private sector to strengthen protection measures.

The organization pledged to continue providing technical expertise, advocacy, and resources to ensure the long-term protection of donkeys and the recognition of their vital contribution to African livelihoods

East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) | Hon. Veronica Babirye Kadogo



Hon. Veronica Babirye Kadogo, representing the East African Legislative Assembly, commended AU-IBAR and its partners for creating a platform to consolidate a continental approach to donkey protection.

She underscored:

- The critical legislative role in safeguarding donkey populations.
- The importance of harmonized policies across member states to prevent cross-border trafficking.
- The socio-economic value of donkeys to rural households and the devastating impacts of the skin trade on communities, especially women.

Hon. Kadogo called on parliamentarians and policymakers to prioritize the domestication of the AU moratorium into national laws, strengthen enforcement mechanisms, and allocate resources for implementation. She concluded by pledging EALA's full support in advancing legislative frameworks aligned with the Pan-African Donkey Strategy.



RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD

To reinforce commitments made at the 2nd Pan-African Donkey Conference and accelerate collective action towards donkey preservation, the following recommendations and future actions are proposed:

1. Endorsement of Strategic Frameworks:
Present the Donkey Preservation Strategy and the Abidjan Declaration to the African Union Specialised Technical Committee (STC) for formal endorsement, thereby securing continental legitimacy and guiding harmonised policy and programme implementation.

2. Domestication of Regional and National Policies:
Facilitate the development, domestication, and implementation of aligned regional and national policies by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU Member States to operationalise the Donkey Preservation Strategy and the Abidjan Declaration.

3. Hosting of PADCO-3 in 2027:
Confirm Uganda as the host of the 3rd Pan-African Donkey Conference (PADCO-3) in 2027 to sustain political momentum and strengthen continental dialogue on donkey welfare and preservation.

4. Appointment of a Continental Donkey Ambassador:
Designate the Minister of Livestock of Côte d'Ivoire as Africa's Donkey Ambassador to champion donkey preservation, mobilise political support, and popularise the Donkey Preservation Strategy and the Abidjan Declaration.

5. Strengthening Grassroots and Community-Level Action:
Enhance support from development partners, civil society organisations, and the International Coalition for Working Equids (ICWE) for community-driven initiatives that safeguard donkeys, empower owners, and improve welfare practices.

6. Establishment of a Continental Donkey Programme:
Mobilise AU-IBAR, the African Union Commission (AUC), and partners to develop and implement a comprehensive continental donkey programme that advances research, capacity building, policy execution, and monitoring.

7. Support to the Technical Secretariat and Working Group:
Provide AU-IBAR with the mandate and resources to support the Technical Secretariat and Working Group in fast-tracking implementation of the conference recommendations and coordinating the execution of the Abidjan Declaration.

SESSION 6: CLOSING SESSION

Final communique

The official Communiqué, adopted at the close of the conference, captured the collective review of progress since the AU Executive Council's 2024 decision establishing a continental moratorium on donkey slaughter for the skin trade. It reflected the deliberations on population trends, reproductive challenges, welfare issues, and the socio-economic value of donkeys in rural livelihoods and disaster resilience.

It also recorded the formal validation of the Pan-African Donkey Strategy (2026–2035) and its Action Plan, which set out coordinated measures for sustainable management, welfare improvement, and protection of donkeys.

Key recommendations from the Communiqué included:

- Integration of donkey welfare into national livestock and rural development policies.
- Strengthening cross-border cooperation to prevent smuggling and illegal trade.
- Mobilizing resources, financial, technical, and human—to support implementation.
- Establishing robust monitoring systems to track progress at national, regional, and continental levels.
- Maintaining momentum through continuous reporting and biennial conferences, with Uganda confirmed to host the next Pan-African Donkey Conference in 2027.

Abidjan Declaration on Donkey Preservation and Moratorium

The Abidjan Declaration, endorsed by ministers, RECs, civil society, and international welfare organizations, reaffirmed the continent-wide ban on donkey slaughter and live export for skins.

Core commitments from the Declaration:

1. Legal domestication of the AU moratorium into national laws, policies, and enforcement mechanisms.
2. Immediate suspension of new slaughterhouse licenses and phased closure of facilities linked to the skin trade.
3. Enhanced border surveillance—both land and maritime—targeting informal crossings used for donkey smuggling.
4. Establishing a continental monitoring and reporting framework under AU-IBAR to track legal, institutional, and data aspects of implementation.
5. Mobilizing financial and technical resources to support Member States.
6. Promoting community awareness and enhancing veterinary and welfare services.
7. Engaging in diplomatic outreach to importing countries to curb demand for donkey skins.
8. Endorsing World Donkey Day as a continental observance to raise public awareness and political attention.

The Declaration concluded with a unified call to protect donkey populations and preserve the livelihoods of millions of Africans dependent on them.

Vote of thanks on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock of Nigeria



Delivered by Dr. Musa Inuwa on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Alhaji Ede Mukhtar, Nigeria's statement thanked the AU, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, and partners for convening the conference.

The Minister highlighted that Nigeria's donkey population , estimated at under one million , faced critical threats from aggressive slaughter, illegal trade, and rising global demand, with extinction possible within a decade. Between 2012 and 2018, smuggling caused economic losses exceeding Naira12 billion.

Nigeria reaffirmed its commitments under the 2016 ECOWAS Declaration, including:

- National bans on skin exports.
- Declaring donkeys an endangered species.
- Establishing sustainable breeding programmes and community breeding centres.
- Enhancing veterinary and extension services.
- Enforcing export bans and regulating abattoirs.
- Raising public awareness and engaging traditional leaders, media, and NGOs.

Challenges included cross-border smuggling, low public awareness, lack of structured breeding, and security constraints. Nigeria called for a unified African position, regional policy harmonization, and stronger border controls.
Dr. Inuwa closed with an appeal for equine budget allocations alongside food animals, affirming that "no animal should go extinct for profit".

Closing Remarks by H.E. Moses Vilakati, AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, delivered on his behalf by the Director of AU-IBAR



In her closing remarks, delivered on behalf of the African Union Commission (AUC), the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment commended the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, AU-IBAR, and all partners for their unwavering commitment to safeguarding Africa's donkey populations. She noted that the Second Pan-African Donkey Conference had been a moment of renewed purpose — one that reaffirmed Africa's unity of vision, sharpened its strategies, and deepened its resolve to protect these vital animals and the communities that depend on them.

Reflecting on the discussions, she highlighted that the conference had moved beyond identifying the threats posed by the donkey skin trade to setting out clear, actionable pathways for change. She emphasized that the validation of the Pan-African Strategy for the Preservation, Welfare, and Sustainable

Utilization of Donkeys, alongside the reaffirmation of the AU moratorium, represented a decisive step toward ensuring that Africa's policy frameworks match the urgency of the challenge.

She commended AU Member States that had already taken legislative and administrative measures to ban donkey slaughter and called on others to follow suit without delay, noting that harmonized laws and enforcement would be critical to preventing cross-border trafficking. She also underscored the importance of integrating donkeys into livestock development plans, improving data and census systems, and embedding welfare-friendly practices into value chains.

The Commissioner stressed that the Pan-African Donkey Strategy is not just a policy document but a continental commitment — one that requires active political leadership, robust partnerships, and sustainable financing to achieve its goals. She called on governments, civil society, the private sector, and international partners to align their actions with the strategy's pillars, ensuring that donkeys are recognized as central to rural economies, gender equity, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

She concluded by reaffirming the AUC's readiness to work hand-in-hand with AU Member States, technical partners, and communities to turn commitments into tangible results. She urged participants to leave the conference not only with a shared vision but with the determination to act, reminding them that preserving Africa's donkeys means safeguarding livelihoods, culture, biodiversity, and the continent's shared future.

Official closing Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries, Côte d'Ivoire



In his closing remarks, the Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources of Côte d'Ivoire, speaking on behalf of the host government, expressed deep gratitude to all delegates, partners, and organizers for their active participation and commitment throughout the Second Pan-African Donkey Conference. He emphasized that hosting the event had been both an honor and a responsibility, as Côte d'Ivoire recognized the critical role of donkeys in Africa's socio-economic fabric and the urgent need to protect them from the threats of exploitation.

He reflected on the conference as a defining moment in the continental effort to safeguard donkeys, an opportunity that brought together governments, regional bodies, development partners, and civil society under a common vision. He noted that the rich exchanges, evidence-based discussions, and validation of the Pan-African Donkey Strategy had strengthened Africa's capacity to act in unity, turning the AU Moratorium from a principle into a practical, enforceable reality.

Reaffirming Côte d'Ivoire's unwavering commitment to this cause, the Minister recalled his government's decisive measures, including the August 2023 decree banning the slaughter, export, and sale of donkey hides nationwide. This action, he stressed, was more than an act of conservation; it was a socio-economic

safeguard for rural communities, a protection for biodiversity, and a pledge to uphold ethical livestock practices.

He recognized the alignment between national measures and continental priorities, noting that Africa's shared success would depend on harmonized legislation, cross-border enforcement, and sustained awareness-raising at all levels. He commended the leadership of AU-IBAR, the African Union Commission, and partner organizations for providing the vision, technical expertise, and advocacy needed to sustain momentum.

The Minister called on all AU Member States to match words with action , by enacting and enforcing protective laws, investing in donkey welfare programs, supporting reproductive health initiatives, and ensuring that donkeys are integrated into agricultural and rural development policies. He stressed that preserving donkeys is an investment in Africa's rural economy, in gender equality by supporting the women who rely on them, and in climate resilience for communities facing environmental challenges.

He concluded by reaffirming Côte d'Ivoire's readiness to continue playing an active role in regional and continental partnerships, pledging ongoing collaboration to implement the Pan-African Donkey Strategy. He urged all delegates to return to their countries with renewed determination, carrying the conference's key message: the preservation of Africa's donkeys is a shared responsibility, and their protection is essential for the continent's sustainable future.

ANNEX

Annex 1: Abidjan Declaration on the Common Position and Continental Moratorium on Donkey Slaughter for Skins in Africa

Adopted at the Second Pan-African Donkey Conference (PADCO-2)
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire – 27th June 2025

Preamble

1. We, the Ministers in Charge of Livestock and Animal Production from, Cameroon, Chad, , Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda, and on behalf of all Ministers in charge of livestock from African Union (AU) Member States, Chief Veterinary Officer (CVOs), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Civil Society organization (CSOs), Representatives of international organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations International Coalition for Working Equines (ICWE), during the Second Pan African Donkey Conference convened by the InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire 26th – 27th June 2025

2. Guided by the following;

   2.1. The Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1471(XLIV) of African Union adopted in February 2024 in Addis Ababa, which directed the Commission to institute and coordinate an African Common Position and Moratorium on the slaughter of donkeys for their skins and to develop a donkey strategy.

   2.2. The communication dated 2nd September 2024, Ref. DIR/AU/STRC/13/0924.01, from the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) to African Union Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and Animal Welfare Organizations informing them of the Executive Decision to ban the slaughter of donkeys for their skins, and urging them to support and prioritize its implementation

   2.3. The commitments in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, particularly Articles 3 and 4 on the Objectives of the Union, including the promotion of sustainable development at the economic, social, and cultural levels, as well as the protection of the environment and protection of human and peoples' rights and the promotion of social justice to ensure balanced economic development;

   2.4. The decision of the 4th STC [EX.CL/1310(XL)] which CALLED UPON AU Member States to increase their commitment to protect all animals, including wildlife and other living species to ensure that any use of natural resources, including terrestrial, ocean, sea and marine resources, is ecologically sustainable and humane, as well as the use of sustainable farming practices.

2.5. The Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA) 2015 - 2035, which seeks to transform the livestock sector by energizing its under-utilized potential and promoting inclusive growth, food security, as well as resilient livelihoods through sustainable animal resources management.

3. Recalling the Malabo Declaration (2014) on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation, that stressed the significance of enhancing conservation and sustainable use of our natural resources including, livestock through coherent policies and governance and institutional arrangements at national and regional levels;

4. Noting the Kampala CAADP Declaration (January 2025) on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agri-food Systems in Africa;

5. Upholding the principles and commitments of the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA), jointly endorsed by the AU, FAO, WOAH, and Member States in 2017, which aim to coordinate cross-country / cross-regional animal welfare improvement efforts and forging partnerships to address the production and productivity of animals and actors in the animal resource sector;

6. Cognizant of relevant frameworks, protocols and strategies adopted and being implemented by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that align with donkey / livestock production, welfare, protection and sustainable use;

7. Acknowledging the 2022 Dar es Salaam Declaration on Donkeys Now and the Future, which underscored the vital contribution of donkeys to rural livelihoods, the threat of donkey's skin trade, the inadequate investment, low donkey reproductive rates, poor welfare standards, cross-border trafficking, and the absence of dedicated national policies to enhance their production and productivity;

8. Determined to preserve the donkey, safeguarding its populations, promote its welfare and sustainable utilization in Africa, as well as protecting the vulnerable communities that rely on them;

9. Recognising evidence that underpins the worrying state of donkeys in Africa, that threatens their existence with the negative consequential impact on GDP, biodiversity, livelihoods and Africa's heritage; Compounded by the complex interlinkage between external factors (demand for ejiao) and local context in Africa (poverty, unemployment, and a lack of alternative livelihoods support).

Hereby declare and adopt the following Common Position and Moratorium:

10. Adopt the AU-IBAR led Pan African Strategy for the Preservation of Donkey Species in Africa 2026 - 2035, and recommend it for endorsement by the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE) and for adoption by the AU Heads of State and Governments for implementation by member states.

11. Adopt an Africa wide moratorium on the slaughter of donkeys and export of live animals for purposes of donkey skin trade and Urge AU Member States to;

    11.1. Domesticate it and align their livestock and related policies, laws, administrative regulations, ministerial directives and institute sustained crackdown on the illegal donkey skin trade.

    11.2. Not to issue new licenses for donkey slaughterhouses and encourage them to suspend and revoke operations of existing donkey slaughterhouses.

    11.3. Embrace cross border collaboration and to strengthen surveillance of land and maritime borders, targeting informal crossings used for donkey smuggling.

12. Further Urge AU-IBAR to;

    12.1. Develop a monitoring and reporting matrix detailing legal, institutional and efforts,

    12.2. Propose a biennial reporting mechanism for AU Member States to track to track and assess the implementation of the moratorium and the Pan-African Donkey Strategy for the Preservation of Donkey Species in Africa

    12.3. Prepare a report every two years, to be presented to the Specialized Technical Committee (STC-ARDWE) and the AU Assembly for review and further guidance.

13. Request that the AU Commission and Member States to communicate the Abidjan Declaration to stakeholders on the donkey skins demand side and raise awareness on the impact of the trade to the African people

14. Request the AU Commission, RECs, and Member States to mobilize financial and technical resources in collaboration with development partners, FAO, WOAH, ICWE and other animal welfare organizations towards the implementation of the Pan-African Donkey Strategy including the establishment of the Africa Donkey Welfare and Preservation Program at the AU-IBAR.

15. Request AU Commission, Member States and Government to co-adopt the World Donkey Day (May 8th) as a day dedicated to celebrate and reflect on the significant contribution of donkeys to humanity

16. Considering that;
    a. African States are engaged in concerted strategic actions on the preservation of their donkey herds and in a moratorium on the progressive ban of donkey skin exports, in line with the socio-economic and environmental impacts observed,
    b. African Union through its competent bodies (AU-IBAR) is facilitating continental dialogues on the sustainable management of donkey resources and promoting a common African position on the trade in donkey skins,

c. Africa share a desire for bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation anchored on sustainability, ethics and mutual benefit models serving as a vector of shared prosperity rather than increased vulnerability, and in the spirit of upholding joint commitments on sustainability, biodiversity, and equitable development.

We further call for:

i. A diplomatic dialogue with countries importing donkey skins and live donkeys including the People's Republic of China, in a win – win partnership framework at national, regional and continental levels, to
ii. Progressively limit imports of African donkey skins and live donkeys, and support the assessment of their impact and promote sustainable alternatives in the ejiao industry.
iii. Support the implementation of Pan African Strategy for the Preservation, Welfare and Sustainable Utilization of Donkey Species in Africa (2026-2035) and support it in the framework of cooperation that considers natural resources, animal welfare and the needs of rural African communities.
iv. Support to research on alternative and innovative sustainable solutions, for the Preservation, Welfare and Sustainable Utilization of Donkey Species.

Adopted in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 27 June 2025.

Annex 2: Speeches

Goodwill Remark by Chris Wainwright, CEO of Brooke Action for Working Horses and Donkeys, and on behalf of The International Coalition for Working Equids to the Second Pan African Donkey Conference Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire June 26 – 27, 2025

- Your Excellency, Sidi Tiémoko Touré, Minister of Animal resources and fisheries, Côte d'Ivoire
- Honourable Ministers and High-level government representatives of Member States
- Distinguished representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Your Excellency, Dr. Huyam Ahmed Mohammed Elamin Salih, Director of African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
- Invited Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) of Member States
- Respected delegates of Intergovernmental Organizations (WOAH and FAO)
- Invited delegates of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Religious Leaders
- Respected delegates of member of The International Coalition for Working Equids
- All Invited guests
- Ladies Gentlemen
- All Protocols Observed

It is my great honour and pleasure to speak on behalf of members of the International Coalition for Working Equids and the organization that I represent, Brooke, Action for Working Horses and Donkeys.

The International Coalition for Working Equids (ICWE) was established 8 years ago, having four equine welfare NGOs as its members, including, Brooke Action for Working Horses and Donkeys, The Donkey Sanctuary, SPANA and World Horse Welfare.

Since its beginnings, the coalition has been working with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), its members and partners to implement the working equid welfare standards in the WOAH Terrestrial Code and to collaboratively advocate for the recognition and visibility of the role of working equids in Africa and globally.

The donkey skin trade has been a key priority in recent years, and member organizations have been working alongside key partners like AU-IBAR, to bring an end to this unsustainable trade at continental level and beyond.

Over the last decade, the soaring demand for ejiao has led to the slaughter of millions of donkeys for their skin. Currently, it is estimated that close to 6 million donkey skins are required for ejiao production and reports further suggest that the figure may continue to rise to 7 million by 2027.

The growing demand for donkey skins has led to a rapid and unsustainable depletion of the number of donkeys in some parts of the world where the demand for skins is high, first in China and then in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Africa being home to 2/3rd of the world's donkey population, has been the prime

destination for the donkey skin trade. Regulation challenges in Africa has led to inhumane slaughter of donkeys, donkey theft and cross-border smuggling creating a crisis across the continent.

The donkey skin trade is unsustainable and incompatible with good animal welfare. Donkeys intended for slaughter travel long distances either on foot or cramped in vehicles, without access to feed or water and suffering injuries. They are then slaughtered in an inhumane fashion, or sometimes in the bush.

But it isn't only about the welfare of donkeys. It is about people too. Working equids like donkeys support the livelihoods of more than 600 million people in low- and middle-income countries. They directly provide an income through their work in agriculture or construction and save time and money in transporting goods from field to home and market. The donkey skin trade destroys livelihoods of some of the most vulnerable people and further pushes them into poverty. Women and children are most affected by the loss of their donkey that helps with heavy tasks like fetching water. The trade also poses biosecurity threats, due to cross boarder smuggling of donkeys or their skins. A good example is the outbreak of equine influenza in 2019 in skin trade routes in West Africa, causing fatalities to tens of thousands donkeys. But there is also good news.

In February 2024, African Union Heads of States took the historic and visionary decision to adopt a continent-wide moratorium on the slaughter of donkeys for their skin. As ICWE members we are proud to have been able to contribute evidence, advocacy and technical assistance to support the AU to make this happen.

This decision is a recognition of donkeys as sentient beings, their socio-economic contribution, and the growing concern due to the unsustainable use of donkeys. The decision shows Africa's commitment to protect and preserve its natural resources and it is well aligned with Agenda 2063 - Africa's blueprint for sustainable development. More than ever, now is the time to build on the decision made by the AU Members States to enforce the ban in donkey skin trade and preserve the species to ensure its continued existence. For this AU-IBAR, member states, ICWE and partners have collaborated to develop the Pan African Donkeys Strategy which is going to be presented and discussed in this conference. I am confident that the strategy will help shift gears for the implementation of the ban, the ultimate preservation and development of the donkey species.

The International Coalition for Working Equids is proud to be a partner, funder and co-organiser of PADCO-2, where we have gathered to shape the continental approach towards the preservation and development of donkeys. The conference theme 'Africa's Commitment in Policy and Practice to the Donkey Preservation Now and in the Future', makes it clear that we are in this for the long haul, and that we urgently need to connect policy measures with what is actually happening on the ground.

This second Pan African Donkey Conference is a unique opportunity for all of us to ensure that we act on the moratorium and agree a clear road map for donkey preservation in Africa. On behalf of ICWE, I would like to thank AU-IBAR for bringing us together and to the Government of Cote d'Ivoire for generously hosting us in your beautiful country.

In conclusion, ICVVE members urge all member states, regional economic communities, animal welfare organizations and all stakeholders to support and prioritize the outcomes of this conference.

If we all work together, we can end the trade in donkey skins, and protect these loyal and magnificent creatures that are central to the socio-economic futures of so many communities in Africa.

Thank you!

Chris Wainwright,
CEO, Brooke Action for Working Horses and Donkeys

Second Pan-African Conference on the Conservation of Donkey Species in Africa (PADCO-2) Speech by Dr. TAIGA, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries, and Animal Industries of Cameroon
Abidjan, June 26-27

- Your Excellency, Mr. Prime Minister of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,
- Madam Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission,
- Ladies and gentlemen, Ministers,
- Ladies and gentlemen, Representatives of Regional Economic Communities,
- Ladies and gentlemen, Representatives of international partner organizations,
- Distinguished Delegates, dear technical and financial partners,
- Ladies and gentlemen, in your respective ranks and grades,

First of all, I would like to extend, on behalf of the Republic of Cameroon, my fraternal greetings and express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for the warm welcome that my Delegation and I have received, as well as to the African Union, through its Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources, for the exemplary organization of this crucial conference in the beautiful city of Abidjan.

It is an honor for me to speak today as the Minister of Livestock, Fisheries, and Animal Industries of Cameroon on the occasion of this second Pan-African Conference on the Conservation of Donkey Species in Africa (PADCO-2), dedicated to the conservation of donkeys, organized by the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), a specialized technical body of our African Union.

This event holds tremendous importance for all of us. It reflects a shared commitment to preserving an often-neglected animal species, which plays a fundamental role in the economic and social life of millions of our fellow citizens, particularly in rural areas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The theme that brings us together today—"Africa's Commitment to Policy and Practice for Donkey Preservation Now and in the Future"—is a strong call to action. It reminds us that the donkey is not just a working animal but a vector of resilience, dignity, and survival for millions of African families.

In arid regions like North Cameroon and the Lake Chad Basin, the donkey plays a critical role in resilient communities by transporting water and goods, and it also contributes to children's education. Yet, this species is now threatened by illegal trade in its skin, neglected animal diseases, and habitat degradation.

To this end, we commend the courageous decision of the African Union Executive Council, made in February 2024, which establishes a moratorium on the slaughtering of donkeys for the commercial purpose of their skin. This conference, PADCO-2, marks a decisive step toward its effective implementation.

Dear participants, ladies and gentlemen,

Cameroon stands firmly alongside countries committed to this cause. In this regard, we commit to providing qualified and competent personnel and to implementing the recommendations arising from this conference.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Opening Remarks by the director of the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Dr. Huyam Salih
26th June 2025

- Distinguished delegates and representatives of Member States of the African Union
- Partners from the International Coalition for Working Equids, FAO, WOAH
- Representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen
- All protocol observed.

Good morning. Bonjour à tous.

It is a great joy to be in Abidjan once again. From the warmth of its people to the scent of attiéké in the breeze, this city offers not just hospitality, but a spirit of welcome and togetherness, something we deeply value as we gather for this important occasion.

It is both a privilege and a solemn responsibility to address you today on behalf of the African Union–InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the technical institution of our Union entrusted with protecting and advancing the continent's animal resources, and by extension, the millions of lives and livelihoods they sustain.

In February 2024, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government took a bold and historic step. Through the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1233-1264(XLIV), the African Union established a common continental position and called for a moratorium on the slaughter of donkeys for their skins. It further mandated AU-IBAR to lead the development of a Pan-African Strategy for the Development of Donkey Species in Africa, along with an action plan to promote sustainable productivity and preservation.

Distinguished Delegates,

The pronouncement by the Heads of States and Governments moratorium has catalysed commendable action by many of our Member States, to name but a few:

- Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Botswana, Senegal, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and recently Togo have enacted complete bans on slaughter and export.
- Kenya, Ghana, and Namibia have suspended abattoir licenses through ministerial directives.
- Egypt and South Africa have capped annual hide exports.

In parallel, pilot breeding programmes are being tested albeit with mixed results in Nasarawa (Nigeria), Oromia (Ethiopia), and Centre-Nord (Burkina Faso). We also recognize the leadership of Swire Shipping who voluntarily ceased transporting donkey hides, providing critical support to enforcement.

Yet, despite these advancements, we must confront the reality: illegal trade is becoming more entrenched, leveraging more than 3,000 informal border crossings and exploiting regulatory loopholes across

borders. This is a challenge that no single country can tackle alone.

I would like to take this moment to warmly acknowledge the outstanding work of the Technical Working Group (TWG) for their dedication, expertise, and rigor in developing the Pan-African Strategy for the Preservation, Welfare, and Sustainable Utilization of Donkeys in Africa.

This Strategy is more than a document—it is a continental blueprint designed to guide Member States in safeguarding donkey populations, promoting humane treatment, and ensuring their sustainable contribution to livelihoods and rural economies.

It reflects a shared vision of Africa where donkeys are not only protected from exploitation but recognized as indispensable partners in our socio-economic development. The Strategy outlines coordinated actions, policy guidance, and collaborative frameworks that will serve as the foundation for national and regional implementation, standing as a testament to what we can achieve through unity, expertise, and an unwavering commitment to animal welfare and resilience

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Second Pan-African Donkey Conference is not just a review of progress—it is a renewal of our collective resolve. It offers us a platform to:

- Take stock of developments since the adoption of the AU Moratorium.
- Identify the key levers for effective implementation across Member States.
- Validate and adopt the Pan-African Strategy and Action Plan.
- Engage experts to explore practical, evidence-based solutions.

In this room, we have the power to chart a future where donkeys are not just protected, but valued, supported, and sustainably integrated into our socio-economic systems.

I urge each of us here—policymakers, partners, and practitioners alike—to join in mobilizing resources to convene an international forum on donkey species preservation. A forum that highlights the science, showcases innovations, and inspires global action for a future where donkeys thrive—across Africa and beyond.

Let this conference be remembered as a turning point. A gathering where Africa stood firm—not only in words, but in action—to ensure that these humble, resilient animals continue to serve generations to come.

I warmly welcome you all to this historic conference.

Thank you.

Merci.

OPENING SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF COTE DIVOIRE

- Representative of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, Minister of Sports and Living Environment;
- Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries of Uganda;
- Federal Minister of Livestock Development of Nigeria;
- Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Chad;
- Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Production of Cameroon
- Secretary General of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries of Tanzania;
- Minister of State, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Animal Production;
- Minister of the Interior and Security;
- Minister of Finance and Budget;
- Minister for Women, Family and Children;
- Representative of the President of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire;
- Mayor of the Municipality of Port-Bouet;
- Director of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources;
- Head of the European Union Delegation in Côte d'Ivoire;
- The Ambassador of France to Côte d'Ivoire;
- The Representative of the President of the African Development Bank;
- The Resident Representative of the FAO;
- The President of INADES Côte d'Ivoire;
- Heads of African Official Veterinary Services;
- Representative of the Minister-Governor of the District of Abidjan;
- Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources;
- Regional Prefect, Prefect of the Department of Abidjan;
- Ladies and Gentlemen, Technical Advisers, Central Directors and Heads of Service;
- Honourable guests in your ranks, grades and capacities, with all protocols respected,
- Dear friends from the press, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a great responsibility for me to address you today at the Second African Conference on Donkey Conservation, which our country, Côte d'Ivoire, has the honour of hosting. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and in particular the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources, I would like to welcome you all and commend your commitment to a cause that we have underestimated for too long: the survival of donkeys in Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are gathered here to continue the work begun at the first conference in Dar es Salaam and to welcome together a historic decision: that taken by the African Union to ban the trade in

donkey skins on the continent. This is a strong move, recognising the major threats to this species, which is essential to our rural economies. In Côte d'Ivoire, donkeys play a fundamental role in agro-pastoral activities, particularly in the north, centre and west of the country.

They are a means of transport, a daily companion and a support for women in domestic and agricultural tasks. For many families, they are a living economic asset, often the only one.

Faced with the worrying rise in the trade in donkey skins for foreign markets and the risk of extinction of this species in certain areas, the Ivorian government has taken responsibility.

That is why, in August 2023, Côte d'Ivoire adopted a decree formally banning the slaughter, export and sale of donkey skins throughout the country. This decree is part of a broader policyto protect our animal resources, preserve biodiversity and support livestock farmers and users of working animals.

We were delighted to learn that Togo also followed in Côte d'Ivoire's footsteps a few weeks ago by regulating the slaughter and banning the export of donkey skins. We would like to take this opportunity to commend the work of animal protection organisations, and in particular Brooke West Africa, which for many years has been supporting the efforts of our governments in the field of animal welfare, alongside our veterinary services.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Preserving the donkey is not simply about saving an animal species. It is about protecting millions of rural families, maintaining agricultural production chains, combating poverty, and promoting an ethical and sustainable approach to livestock farming. Côte d'Ivoire is firmly committed to this dynamic. My ministry will continue to collaborate with national actors, regional organisations, and technical and financial partners to make the preservation of donkeys a priority of our livestock policy. I invite you all to show boldness, solidarity and commitment during these days of reflection and work. Together, we can and must ensure that the donkey, a pillar of our rural economies, regains its rightful place in our policies and in our hearts.

Thank you

CLOSING REMARKS OF MINISTER SIDI TIEMOKO TOURE
On the occasion of the 2nd Pan-African Conference for the Preservation of Donkey Species in Africa:
CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Abidjan, Radisson Blu Hotel
FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025

- Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries of Uganda;
- Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Chad;
- Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Cameroon;
- Representatives of diplomatic institutions in Côte d'Ivoire;
- Director of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources;
- Honorable Guy Marius SAGNA, Member of the ECOWAS Parliament;
- Representatives of Regional Economic Communities;
- Venerable DAO Gabala, Senator of Côte d'Ivoire;
- Representative of the Mayor of the Commune of Port-Bouet;
- Representative of the President of INADES CÔTE D'IVOIRE;
- Directors of African Veterinary Services;
- Venerable Traditional and Religious Leaders;
- Honorable guests of various ranks and titles, all protocols respected;
- Dear friends from the Press.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with immense satisfaction that I join you on this second day, to speak on this solemn occasion for the closing of the 2nd Pan-African Conference on the Preservation of Donkeys in Africa, here in Ivorian territory.

On behalf of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Alassane Ouattara, and the Ivorian Government, as well as in my own name, I would like to thank the African Union, through the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, for choosing Côte d'Ivoire to host this high-level conference.

I would particularly like to thank all African ministers involved in the preservation of donkeys, especially my counterparts who have traveled to this hospitable Ivorian land. I want to name:

- His Excellency Dr. RWAMIRAMA Bright, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industries, and Fisheries of Uganda;
- His Excellency Professor ABDERAHIM Awat Atteib, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries of Chad;
- His Excellency Dr. TAIGA, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries, and Animal Industries of Cameroon.

Thank you sincerely for enhancing the prestige and solemnity of this conference with your presence.

I would like to thank the International Coalition for Working Equids (ICWE), including NGOs BROOKE, SPANA, DONKEY SANCTUARY, and WORLD HORSE WELFARE, for their ongoing technical and financial support in the sustainable preservation of donkeys and effective action against the illegal trade in donkey skins.

My thanks also extend to (i) the Representatives of Regional Economic Communities, (ii) the Directors of Veterinary Services, and (iii) African animal health experts for their efforts in strengthening national and cross-border policies to promote animal welfare, ensure food security, maintain economic resilience, and protect biodiversity.

I sincerely thank Mr. TCHAGBA Laurent, Minister of Water and Forests of Côte d'Ivoire, for his interim role, for his effective presence at the opening ceremony, and I thank all other members of the Ivorian Government for the successful organization of this conference.

Lastly, I would like to express special thanks to the organizing committee for all their efforts in ensuring the success of this conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Honorable Participants,

Côte d'Ivoire has not remained indifferent to the issue of donkey preservation. Like several other African states, our country has already taken measures to prohibit the mass slaughter of donkeys for the export of their skins.

In this regard, the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union can count on Côte d'Ivoire to play its leadership role in implementing the conclusions from these two days of work, specifically:

- The African action plan to safeguard donkeys;
- The prohibition of the trade in donkey skins through strengthened national legislation;
- The promotion of sustainable economic alternatives for stakeholders in the donkey sector;
- The mobilization of rural communities for donkey preservation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The results of this conference will amplify the voices of the most vulnerable, allowing us to jointly write a new chapter of African solidarity, demonstrating that economic development and animal welfare are not incompatible, but rather inseparable.

As the host country, Côte d'Ivoire is fully committed to carrying the conclusions of this conference to regional and international platforms.

I would like to conclude my remarks by declaring the 2nd Pan-African Conference on the Preservation of Donkeys in Africa officially closed and invite you to the next conference of African Heads of State and Government.

Thank you.

Closing Remarks by H.E. Moses Vilakati, AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE)
SECOND PAN-AFRICAN DONKEY CONFERENCE (PADCO-2)
Radisson Blu Conference Centre, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire | June 26, 2025

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the very outset, allow me to echo the powerful words of Uganda's Hon. Dr. Rwamirama Bright Kanyontore that: "Africa must arise to protect the donkey population." These words capture the spirit and urgency that bring us together today, and indeed, they set the tone for this important conference

This gathering set to achieve three key objectives;

1. To receive an update on the progress made since the adoption of the African Union Executive Decision on a Common Position and Moratorium on donkey preservation.
2. To receive, discuss, and validate the draft Pan-African Strategy for the Development of Donkey Species in Africa, along with its accompanying Action Plan for AU Member States.
3. To adopt the Abidjan Declaration on the Common Position and Continental Moratorium on Donkey Slaughter for Skins in Africa.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we come to the end of the two days conference,

I am encouraged by the statements delivered by representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya and other representatives, as well as contributions from Regional Economic Communities and animal welfare organizations, and the detailed research presented by scholars, it is evident that Africa, through this Second Pan-African Donkey Conference in Abidjan, has spoken with one voice: we are committed to donkey preservation, and we are ready to translate this commitment into concrete policies, practices and sustained action now and into the future.

We have discussed how to turn the decision on the moratorium to Action: through policies, legislation, community engagement, surveillance, and grassroots monitoring; and that our enforcement must be all inclusive and firm to deter Illegal actions within or across our borders.

We have underscored the role data to inform decision making at all levels and the role of partnerships with academic institutions and other partners to quantify the true economic and social value of donkeys in rural resilience.

We have also explored pathways toward welfare-friendly value chains that includes enhancing veterinary services, improving husbandry and addressing knowledge gaps on donkey breeding and reproduction through research , that recognize the role of the donkey not as a product, but as a partner in agri-food systems and development in Africa.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we bring this transformative conference to a close, we do so with renewed conviction and a deeper understanding of the steps that lie ahead.The dialogue we have had over the past two days has illuminated that path.

The adoption of the Abidjan Declaration on the Common Position and Continental Moratorium on Donkey Slaughter for Skins is a landmark achievement. Together, we have also validated the Pan-African Donkey Strategy, that set priorities for Action..

Therefore as I conclude I wish to extend the African Union Commission's deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Over the past two days, your passion, expertise, and unwavering dedication have enriched our deliberations and reaffirmed a powerful truth: Africa stands united in its resolve to preserve and protect the donkey.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for their exceptional hospitality, warm reception, and gracious hosting of this conference, including the memorable welcome dinner that truly set the tone for our engagements.

I wish to sincerely thank all the governments represented here today, as well as the Regional Economic Communities (RECS), international organizations, and civil societies who have contributed immensly to this conference. Your presence and active participation have enriched our discussions and affirmed the shared commitment to safeguarding Africa's donkey population.

As we conclude, I urgeyou to Let the outcomes of this conference serve as a springboard for concrete actions, policy integration, and continued collaboration in ensuring the protection and sustainable development of donkeys across our continent.

In a special way, I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the Secretariat and the Technical Working Group(TWG) for their tireless efforts, dedication, and professionalism in preparing for this conference and supporting the development of the Strategy.. We are truly grateful for your commitment to this cause and for laying a strong foundation for the future of donkey preservation in Africa.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the spirit of continuity and shared responsibility, I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully encourage Hon. Dr. Rwamirama Bright Kanyontore, Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda, to consider the possibility of Uganda hosting the next Pan-African Donkey Conference in two years' time. Uganda has shown strong leadership and commitment to donkey preservation, and we believe that convening the next gathering in your country would further strengthen regional

engagement and drive momentum toward the implementation of our shared goals.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African Union remains firmly committed to advancing the outcomes of this conference through its established structures and decision-making organs.

The Strategy and the Abidjan Declaration will be presented through the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, with the aim of securing endorsement by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

This high-level political support is crucial for ensuring that donkey preservation is prioritized across national and regional agendas. In addition, the AU, through AU-IBAR, is in the process of establishing a dedicated Donkey Program to coordinate implementation, support member states, and monitor progress across the continent.

This reflects a clear and lasting institutional commitment to safeguarding Africa's donkey populations now and into the future.

Together, we have made history. Now, together, we must shape the future.

SAFE TRIP BACK HOME

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL

MAY ALLAH BLESS AFRICA

CLOSING SPEECH OF MINISTER SIDI TIEMOKO TOURE
On the occasion of the 2nd Pan-African Conference for the Preservation of Donkey Species in Africa:
CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Abidjan, Radisson Blu Hotel

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025

- Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries of Uganda;
- Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Chad;
- Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Cameroon;
- Representatives of diplomatic institutions in Côte d'Ivoire;
- Director of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources;
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- Representatives of Regional Economic Communities;
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- Directors of African Veterinary Services;
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- Honorable guests of various ranks and titles, all protocols respected;
- Dear friends from the Press.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with immense satisfaction that I join you on this second day, to speak on this solemn occasion for the closing of the 2nd Pan-African Conference on the Preservation of Donkeys in Africa, here in Ivorian territory. On behalf of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Alassane Ouattara, and the Ivorian Government, as well as in my own name, I would like to thank the African Union, through the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, for choosing Côte d'Ivoire to host this high-level conference.

I would particularly like to thank all African ministers involved in the preservation of donkeys, especially my counterparts who have traveled to this hospitable Ivorian land. I want to name:

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Thank you sincerely for enhancing the prestige and solemnity of this conference with your presence.

I would like to thank the International Coalition for Working Equids (ICWE), including NGOs BROOKE, SPANA, DONKEY SANCTUARY, and WORLD HORSE WELFARE, for their ongoing technical and financial support in the sustainable preservation of donkeys and effective action against the illegal trade in donkey skins.

My thanks also extend to (i) the Representatives of Regional Economic Communities, (ii) the Directors of Veterinary Services, and (iii) African animal health experts for their efforts in strengthening national and cross-border policies to promote animal welfare, ensure food security, maintain economic resilience, and protect biodiversity.

I sincerely thank Mr. TCHAGBA Laurent, Minister of Water and Forests of Côte d'Ivoire, for his interim role, for his effective presence at the opening ceremony, and I thank all other members of the Ivorian Government for the successful organization of this conference.

Lastly, I would like to express special thanks to the organizing committee for all their efforts in ensuring the success of this conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honorable Participants,

Côte d'Ivoire has not remained indifferent to the issue of donkey preservation. Like several other African states, our country has already taken measures to prohibit the mass slaughter of donkeys for the export of their skins.

In this regard, the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union can count on Côte d'Ivoire to play its leadership role in implementing the conclusions from these two days of work, specifically:

- The African action plan to safeguard donkeys;
- The prohibition of the trade in donkey skins through strengthened national legislation;
- The promotion of sustainable economic alternatives for stakeholders in the donkey sector;
- The mobilization of rural communities for donkey preservation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The results of this conference will amplify the voices of the most vulnerable, allowing us to jointly write a new chapter of African solidarity, demonstrating that economic development and animal welfare are not incompatible, but rather inseparable.

As the host country, Côte d'Ivoire is fully committed to carrying the conclusions of this conference to regional and international platforms.

I would like to conclude my remarks by declaring the 2nd Pan-African Conference on the Preservation of Donkeys in Africa officially closed and invite you to the next conference of African Heads of State and Government.

Thank you.

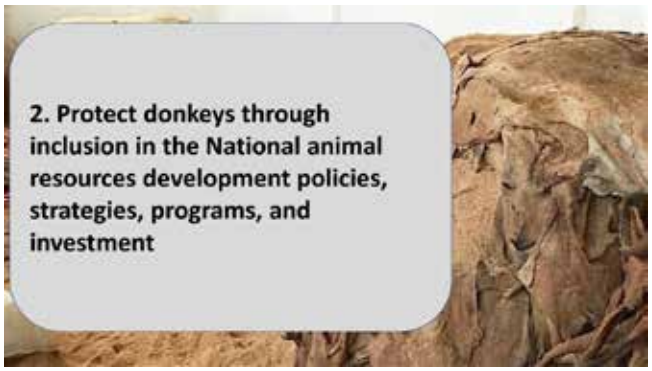
Annex 3: Power Point Presentation Highlight of the The Pan-African Strategy for the Preservation, Welfare and Sustainable Utilization of Donkeys in Africaby Dr. Hiver Boussini



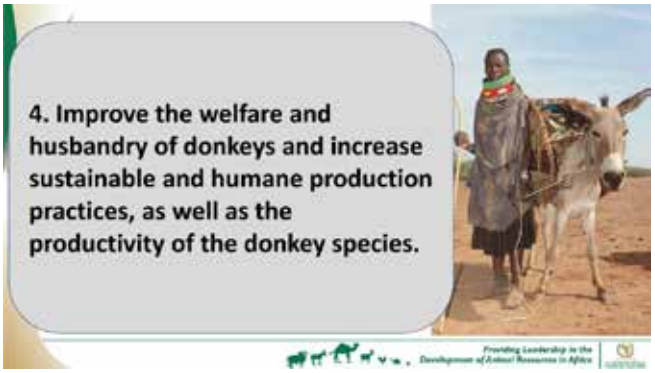






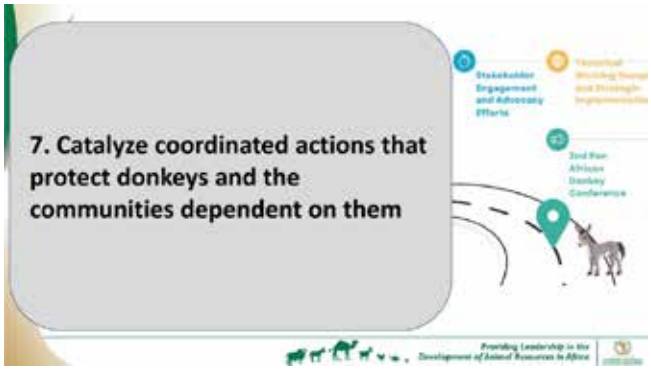








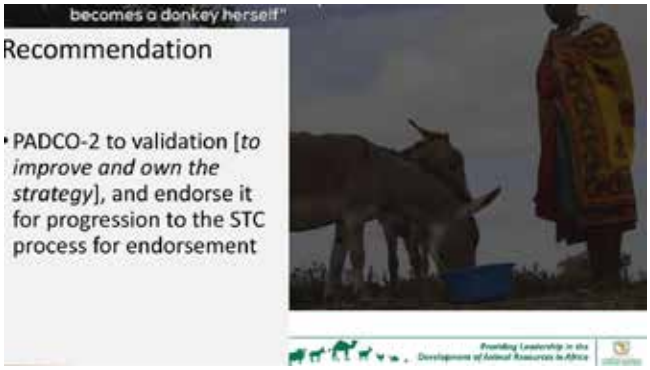

6. Accelerate collaboration, partnerships, and resource mobilisation for a coordinated continental program on donkey conservation and management


7. Catalyze coordinated actions that protect donkeys and the communities dependent on them


The Strategy
Vision
• The vision of this strategy is – 'an Africa where donkeys are recognized both as sentient beings with intrinsic value and are thriving for socio-economic development, biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods'
Mission
• The mission of the strategy is to 'Increase commitment, collaboration, investment and capacity of AU Member states and stakeholders to develop a flourishing population of donkeys and safeguard their welfare and sustainable utilization in supporting livelihoods'


Goal
• The goal of the strategy is to 'provide a framework and guidelines for Member States to advance the preservation of healthy donkeys, ensuring their welfare, and safeguarding the sustainable livelihoods of the donkey dependent communities'.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
1
2
3
4
5
6
Improve the health and welfare of donkeys
Increase investment in sustainable donkey production and husbandry, productivity, genetic preservation and value chain development programs
Developing and harmonising holistic policies, legislation and actionable strategies for donkey preservation by MS
Undertake and disseminate relevant research on donkeys
Strengthen collaboration, resources mobilization and coordination for the implementation of the strategy


Conclusion
• This strategy outlines clear priorities regarding donkey health, preservation and welfare.
• It champions the integration of donkey welfare into national animal health and livestock systems.
• calls for harmonized regional action, translating into coordinated and tangible action.


becomes a donkey herself"
Recommendation
• PADCO-2 to validation [to improve and own the strategy], and endorse it for progression to the STC process for endorsement


Thank you | Merci | شكراً لك | Obrigado | Gracias | Asante

Annex 4: Agenda

2ND PAN AFRICAN DONKEY CONFERENCE
Theme: Africa's Commitment in Policy and Practice to the Donkey Preservation Now and in the Future

26th - 27th June 2025
Radisson Blu Hotel Conference Centre, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

PROGRAM

TIME	TOPIC	MODERATOR
	SESSION 1 ***Session Chair: – Dr. Hiver Boussini [AU-IBAR]***	
	Agenda Setting	
8.30 – 11.30	Entertainment ***Cote d'Ivoire National Anthem & AU Anthem***	All
	Welcome remarks • Minister of Animal resources and Fisheries, Côte d'Ivoire • Director of AU-IBAR / DARBE	MC
	• Exposition on the Head of States and Governments Executive Decision on donkey preservation • Theme and objective of the conference	Dr. Hiver Boussini
	• Highlights on the Pan African strategy for the preservation, welfare and sustainable utilization of donkeys	Director of AU-IBAR
	Goodwill remarks • International Coalition for Working Equids [CEOs of TDS, SPANA, WHW, Brooke] • World Organization for Animal Health [WOAH] • Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations • Regional Economic Communities (RECs) - ECOWAS	MC
	Statements • Ministers from Member States • Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment at the African Union Commission [DARBE]	
	Official opening by the Prime Minister, Côte d'Ivoire	
11.30 - 12.00	***Media briefing and Health Break***	Secretariat

TIME	TOPIC	MODERATOR
SESSION 2 ***Session Chair: – Dr. Wamalwa Kinyanjui [IGAD/ICPALD]***		
Donkeys and Human Wellbeing		
12.00 – 12.15	• Donkey status in Africa	Dr. Elynn Njeri
12.15 – 12.30	• Understanding of donkey value chain: Case study in Kenya, mapping, governance, challenges, and equity	Dr. James Kithuka
12.30 – 12.45	• Impact of disease and injury on working donkeys	Dr. Girma Birhan
12.45 – 13.00	• The role of donkeys in supporting gender equality: insights & research findings	Janneke Merkx
13.00 – 13.15	• Working donkeys as vital community resilience assets in disasters	Dr. Lutege, DVS, TZ
13.15 – 13.30	• Q/A Session	
13.30 – 14.30	***Lunch Break***	Secretariat
SESSION 3 *Session Chair: Director - AU-IBAR*		
Status and Efforts of donkey species preservation in Africa		
14.30 – 15.30	• Responding to the global demand and availability of Donkey-Skin Gelatine [ejiao] in the European Union	Wiebke Plasse, WTG
	• Theme paper: Impact of donkey skin trade/export on donkey population in Africa: case study in some AU MSs	Dr. Phillip Mshelia
	Panel discussion • An overview of donkey slaughter for the skin trade post-moratorium and key trends in Africa • Presentations by RECs-SADC, IGAD, ICPALD, ECOWAS, EAC and ECCAS • Plenary session [Q/A] & Next Steps	Director - AU-IBAR
SESSION 4 *Session Chair: Minister of Animal resources and Fisheries, Côte d'Ivoire*		
Pan African strategy for the preservation, welfare and sustainable utilization of donkeys		
15.30 – 16.30	• Presentation of the strategy and action plan	AU-IBAR
	• Abidjan Declaration on the moratorium of ban on donkey skin trade and export in Africa	
	• Plenary session [Q/A]	
END OF DAY 1		

DAY 2: 27th May 2025		
TIME	**TOPIC**	**MODERATOR**
8.30 – 9.00	• Arrival and registration	
SESSION 5 *Session Chair: AU-IBAR*		
Partnership coordination and resource mobilization for the implementation of the strategy and the moratorium		
9.00 – 9.15	• Multiagency collaboration and coordination in implementing the moratorium; the case for Kenya	Dr. Raphael Kinoti
9.15 – 9.30	• Multiagency collaboration and coordination in implementing the moratorium; the case for Cote d'Ivore	Cote d'Ivore
9.30 – 9.45	• Multiagency collaboration and coordination in implementing the moratorium; the case for WAEMU	WAEMU
9.45 – 10.00	• Policy Actions and Challenges in other Regions (Pakistan, Asia, Brazil and Latin America) Case Studies	Brooke & Janneke Merkx
10.00 – 10.30	***Health Break***	Secretariat
SESSION 6 *Session Chair: Minister of Livestock [Uganda]*		
Commitments in Policy and Practice to the Donkey Preservation Now and in the Future		
10.30 – 10.45	• Consolidated strategy and action plan	AU-IBAR
10.45 – 11.00	• Common position on the moratorium on the ban on donkey skin trade and export in Africa	AU-IBAR
Partners statements of commitment on the implementation of the strategy and the moratorium		
11.00 – 12.00	• Statements from donkey owners' associations • The Donkey Sanctuary [TDS] • World Horse Welfare [WHW] • Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad [SPANA] • Brooke | Action for Working Horses and Donkeys • World Health Organization (WHO)Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations • WOAH - World Organization for Animal Health	MC

TIME	TOPIC	MODERATOR
SESSION 7 *Session Chair: Minister of Animal resources and Fisheries, Côte d'Ivoire*		
Closing Ceremony		
12.00 – 12.30	• Final communique	AU-IBAR
12.30 – 13.00	• Abidjan Declaration on Donkey Preservation and Moratorium	Minister of Livestock, Ethiopia
13.00 – 14.00	• Vote of thanks	Minster of Livestock, Zambia/ Tunisia
	• Closing Remarks	Commossioner DARBE
	• Awards of Ministers	
	• Official closing	Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries, Côte d'Ivoire
14.00 – 15.00	***Lunch Break and Departure***	Secretariat
END		

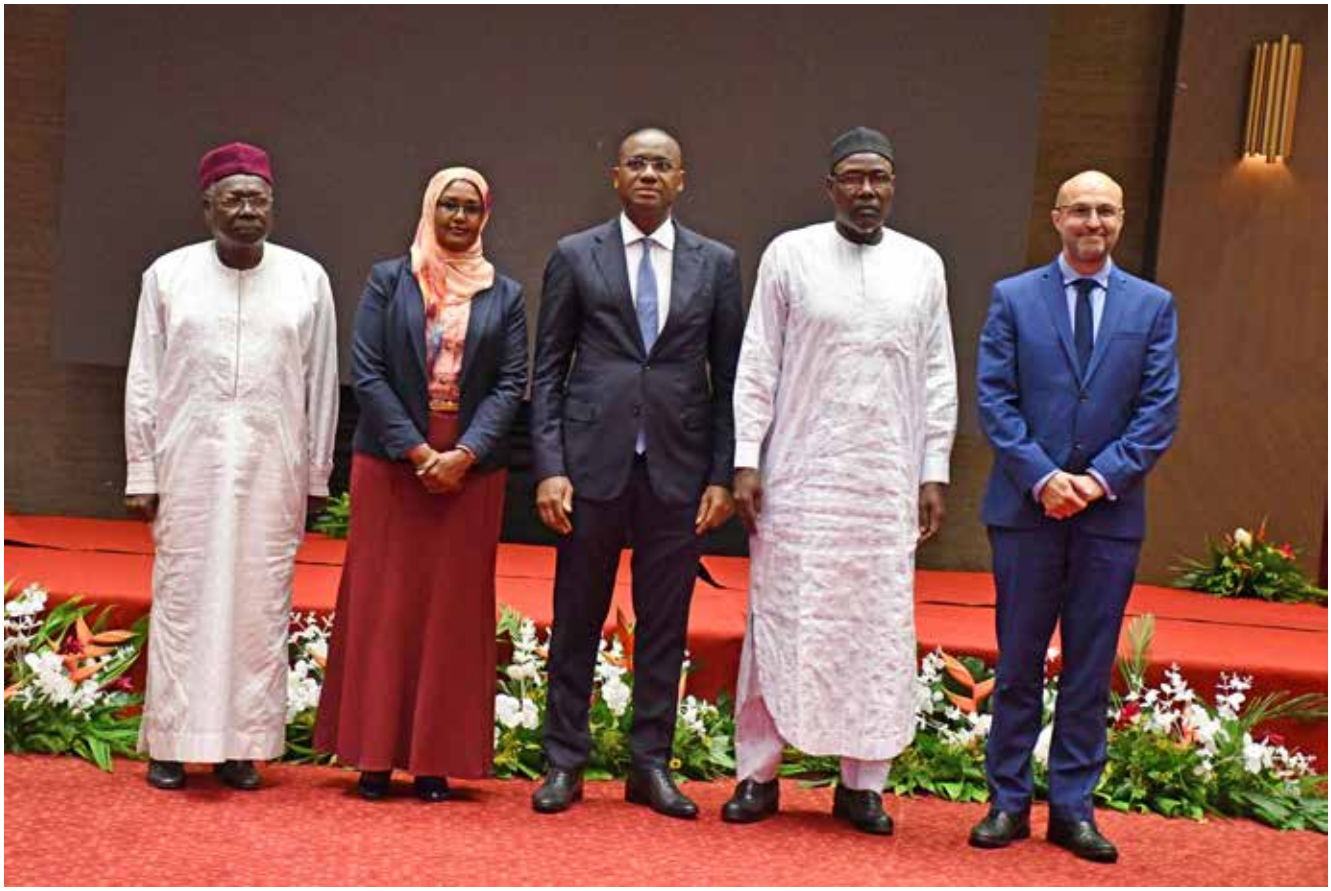
Annex 5: Photo Gallery






ICWE
SPANA


Brooke






L'engagement politique et pratique de l'Afrique en faveur de la préservation des ânes Aujourd'hui et à l'Avenir
2ÈME CONFÉRENCE PANAFRICAINE SUR LES ÂNES
24 - 27 juin 2025
Abidjan, République de Côte d'Ivoire








Africa's Commitment in Policy and
Practice to Donkey Preservation
Now and in the Future
2ND PAN AFRICAN DONKEY
CONFERENCE











The donkey is often an invisible helper, and an invisible helper - and thus often misses in the animal resources development policies and strategies, with its welfare tragically neglected

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