

# ANIMAL WELFARE, A ZIMBABWEAN PERSPECTIVE



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# THE GLOBAL ISSUE OF ANIMAL WELFARE IS NOT A 'TAME PROBLEM, IT IS A WICKED PROBLEM'?

- ▶ Tame problems have definite solutions, that can be solved by linear systems such as mathematical and engineering solutions. They have a clear and obvious stopping point, since we can depict when a solution is reached.
- ▶ Wicked problems are ill-defined, vague, and associated with ethical, political, socioeconomic and professional issues. Since they are strongly stakeholder dependent, there is often little consensus about what the problem is, let alone how to deal with it.
- ▶ The other characteristics of wicked problems are:
  1. The possible solutions depend on how the problem is structured. Different stakeholders have diverse knowledge and interests. Thus the problem cannot be definitively solved.
  2. Solutions to wicked problems are not true-or-false, but better or worse.
  3. There is no immediate and no ultimate test of a solution to a wicked problem. It is an ever moving target.

# ANIMAL WELFARE

Animals may be kept as working animals, companion animals, for production of food, fibre and other animal products, for scientific and educational purposes and are transported and traded internationally.



# “The Crucial Role of Animals, working equids in particular” in Africa

## ➤ Outcomes/Benefits for Countries and Communities:

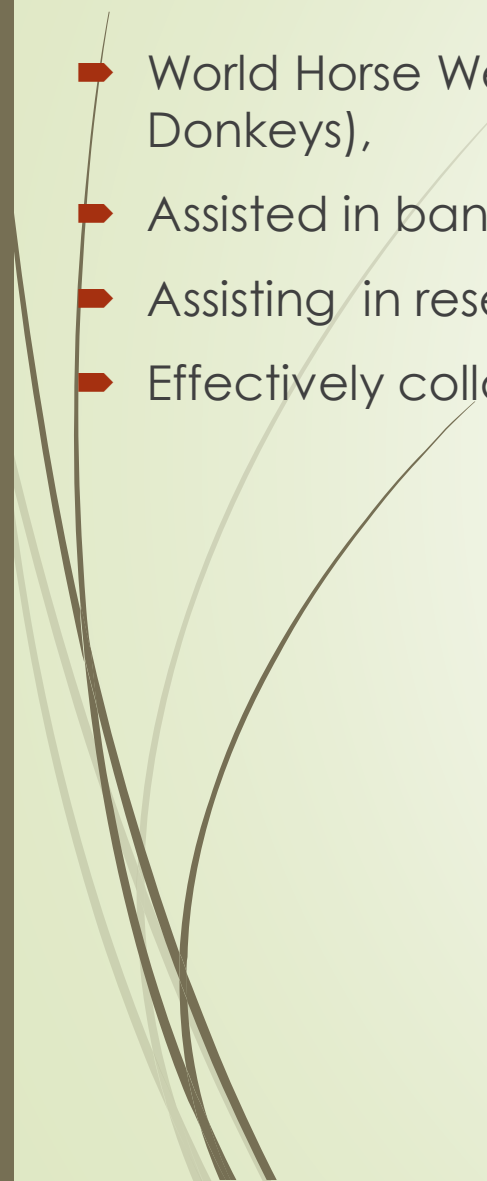
- Create awareness of the role that animals contribute to sustainable development and resilience, and creating the conditions to foster new collaborations and partnerships .
- Countries with healthy animals benefit from a more sustainable approach to agriculture in terms of energy and cost efficiency and lower ecological disturbance.
- Communities benefit from healthier animals because they prevent the development and spread of zoonotic diseases.
- Communities enjoy boosted economic capacity: as a system of transport, working animals are integral to the production process, bringing resources and supporting trade, ensuring that products can reach marketplaces and offering a wider range of opportunity for work-based and social engagement.

# “The Crucial Role of Animals” in Africa

- SDG 1- No Poverty through enhancement of productivity and access of markets
- SDG 2- Zero Hunger
- SDG 4 – Quality Education Income generated by working animals is one of the main means to pay school and vocational training fees in many parts of the world, allowing youth and adults alike, to shape fulfilling lives.
- SDG 5 - Gender Equality A large proportion of people living below the poverty line are women and are therefore most likely to suffer from the heaviest consequences of climate change and the dissemination of diseases, etc.
- SDG 3-Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 7-Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth

# Successes



- ▶ World Horse Welfare ,SPANNA, VAWZ ( supporting the welfare of working equids, mainly Donkeys),
  - ▶ Assisted in banning the slaughter of donkeys
  - ▶ Assisting in researches , community engagement on donkey welfare
  - ▶ Effectively collaborating with the government in improving animal health and donkey welfare
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# Successes

Local NGOs pushing for cage free egg production

- Sibanye Animal Welfare and Conservancy
- Nurture Imvelo Trust
- Animal Advocates International

CAAWO and ANAW are also collaborating with Zimbabwe in animal welfare activities/





# Issues on the push for cage free egg production

- Most large scale egg producers are not using cages , but some small to medium producers do (70:30 ratio)
- Most farmers who use cages are reluctant to stop. They still believe it improves productivity by reducing egg losses due to breakages and reducing feed costs. They still hoping for a return on their investment on cages.
- Cage free egg production in currently not supported by the Laws in Zimbabwe.

## **Possible solutions**

- Market driver forces , educating the retailers on cage free egg production could push them to only accept eggs from free range hens. It will start as a competitive advantage to other farmers , but with time it will become a competitive necessity.
- The problem can even be solved without changing legislation.
- More local holistic researches on the pros and cons of using cages and vice versa, so that we can educate farmers with home grown findings


# The Future of Animal Welfare in Zimbabwe

The Animal Health Act is currently under review , and will change name to Animal Health and Welfare Act.

- ▶ CHAPTER 19:09 (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT) , under Ministry Environment.
- ▶ Chapter 19:12 (Scientific Experiments on Animals Act)
- ▶ District structure to be put in place for animal welfare focal points.
- ▶ Integration of Animal welfare issues and research.
- ▶ Using good Animal Welfare practices as a leverage to improved productivity and market access.
- ▶ In-line with NDS-1
- ▶ (Supporting national strategies (Livestock growth plan and Agriculture and food systems transformation strategy)
- ▶ Veterinary school now have a compulsory course in Animal Welfare

# Needs



- Inclusion of animal welfare courses: Law, livestock production, sociology, public leadership etc
  - Training of government extension workers in animal health and production on animal welfare.
  - Local researches on current animal welfare issues in Zimbabwe, we need to have baseline on where we are in terms of animal welfare
  - Identifying willing farmers who become animal welfare champions at community level.
  - Leveraging on linkages of animals welfare with other global agendas ( eg AMR, agricultural productivity Climate change, Gender equity and poverty)
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# Addressing animal welfare issues

- ▶ 1. Participation: Early participation and involvement of key stakeholders across functions, organizations, and sectors is crucial. This will facilitate ownership and commitment of the participants to group decisions. In this regard, mental models (e.g., values, beliefs, assumptions) and emotions of all participants must be understood and respected by other participants
- ▶ 2. Common good outcomes: It is critical for the facilitator to establish at the outset that the objective of the decision exercise is to reach the 'best' possible collective (common good) outcome, which means tradeoffs are inevitable and 'optimum' solutions that suit everyone.
- ▶ 3. Learning posture: The decision-making process should be viewed as a learning process as complex problems evade simple, linear, and expert-driven approaches.
- ▶ 4. Systemic understanding: Ecosystem thinking in problem solving. The first step should be to establish a systemic understanding of the problem and its environment within the group. The focus should then turn to finding systemic solutions (leverage points) rather than focusing on problem symptoms and short-term fixes.



# Addressing animal welfare issues

- 5. Leverage: Leverage means one must look for interventions that change the system, not the symptoms. Often, lasting solutions are not the most obvious ones (e.g., educating women could be the best intervention for Animal welfare).
- 6. Timeframe: Both short-term (symptomatic) and long-term (fundamental) interventions should be considered.
- 7. Emergent outcomes: The outcomes of decisions and plans are mostly unpredictable and will unravel over time in ways not always anticipated by decision makers. Thus interventions are best viewed as desirable directions for change and not as fixed and deterministic plans
- Market driven forces eg retailers could push farmers to practice prudent care of animals

# Conclusion

- ▶ Animal welfare could be an indicator of human and economic development.
- ▶ In poverty and low income communities , human mindset is centred on survival. As people develop economically they start thinking about their welfare and the welfare of their surroundings (the route to one welfare).
- ▶ What works in developed countries might not work in developing countries. We need more local researches to find solutions best suited to our environment.
- ▶ Education and awareness is key in successful implementation of animal welfare standards
- ▶ Targeting changes in legislation might be a fix that fails because those who should enforce the law might be reluctant to do so.
- ▶ Market driven forces.

Thank you

