

ANIMAL WELFARE, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND LEGAL ANALYSIS OF DONKEY SLAUGHTER AND SKIN TRADE IN KENYA



Dr. Calvin Solomon Onyango



ABOUT WTG

- Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V. (WTG) is a Berlin (Germany) based registered non-profit organization (WORLD ANIMAL SOCIETY)
- founded in 1998
- vision: a world, in which animals are appreciated and treated according to their needs and respectfully
- **work is based on three pillars: Animal Welfare Projects, VETS UNITED and CAMPAIGNS/ADVOCACY**
- e.g. providing and improving veterinary care, supporting animal sanctuaries, educational programs

OBJECTIVE OF THIS PRESENTATION

- comparative analysis of the animal welfare status of the donkeys at the slaughterhouses versus working donkeys
- Analysis of the legal status of the donkey slaughterhouses and international trade in donkey meat and skin in Kenya
- Give a summary overview of livelihood and revenue contribution between working donkeys in Kenya and donkey slaughterhouses.

ANIMAL WELFARE ASSESSMENT

GUIDE

- 548 donkeys at the 4 donkey slaughterhouses and 1,929 working donkeys in 32 counties
- assessment criteria: behavior/human-donkey interactions, general external body condition, injuries, wounds and lameness or any other signs of poor health/diseases
- Scoring was done based on following empathy variables
1=NOT WORRIED 2=SLIGHTLY WORRIED 3=WORRIED
4=VERY WORRIED 5=TERRIBLY WORRIED

ANALYSIS OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE STATUS

Donkeys Slaughterhouses							
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
Behaviour	89	123	189	98	49	548	2.8
BCS	97	179	205	38	29	548	2.5
Wounds	198	202	89	38	21	548	2.1
Lameness	178	219	71	32	48	548	2.2
Other	287	196	48	13	4	548	1.6
Working Donkeys							
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
Behaviour	885	579	408	82	21	1975	1.9
BCS	1037	598	284	48	8	1975	2.2
Wounds	861	525	460	96	33	1975	1.9
Lameness	939	631	306	79	20	1975	1.8
Other	1159	547	239	27	3	1975	1.6

KEY FINDINGS ON ANIMAL WELFARE

- 21% of the sampled working donkeys were in poor welfare scores (3 to 5) in comparison to the slaughterhouses where 35% were found to be in poor welfare
- Body condition score was of great concern at slaughter houses
- Harness related sores and lameness due to poor hoof care and injuries was of great concern
- Handling and human-donkey interactions were worst at the slaughterhouses despite the fact that it's a controlled environment.
- This clearly shows the assumptions that working donkeys welfare is worse and they are better off been slaughtered is erroneous.

LEGAL AND POLICY ANALYSIS The Constitution of Kenya 2010

- clean and healthy environment
- protection of consumers health, safety and economic rights
- responsible utilization of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity and control of exploitation
- exploitation of any natural resource at the magnitude of the donkey meat and skin trade demands that there should have been a parliamentary approval before the trade was allowed to go on.
- Protection of Animals
- This is not been met by the donkey slaughter houses

LEGAL AND POLICY ANALYSIS: refers to among others the

Codex Alimentarius, the Meat Control Act, Cap 356 and the Public Health Act Cap 242

- Lack of inspection code
- Lack of official carcass identification number
- Lack of clear guide on how skin has to be identified
- Lack of public environmental audit
- National policy talk of responsibility of government in terms of production food security and genetic preservation which are not met
- International agreements like GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES and the INTERLAKEN DECLARATION-FAO of 2007 talk of genetic conservation which is not been done

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

DONKEY SLAUGHTER HOUSES

- 600,000 DONKEY SKINS EXPORTED BETWEEN 2016 AND 2018
- 400 TONS OF MEAT EXPORTED BETWEEN 2016 AND 2018
- 10 TONS OF GELATIN HARVESTED BUT NOT YET EXPORTED
- 245,642 DONKEYS SLAUGHTERED BETWEEN 2016 AND 2018
- TOTAL REVENUE DECLARED IS 1.5 BILLION KENYA SHILLINGS PER YEAR
- 625 EMPLOYEES EARNING AN AVERAGE OF 6,000 TO 20,000 KSHS PER MONTH
- DIRECT TAXES FROM SALES AND EXPORT
- A DONKEY EARNS INCOME ONLY ONCE IN ITS LIFE TIME
- EXPLOITATION HAS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND LIVELIHOOD OF OTHER PLAYERS IN THE INDUSTRY

WORKING DONKEYS

- 1,929 WORKING DONKEYS ASSESSED IN 32 COUNTIES
- DONKEYS EARN OR SAVES A FAMILY AN AVERAGE OF 600 KSHS PER DAY AND MOST USED FOR 5 DAYS IN A WEEK
- TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME FROM 1,929 DONKEYS IS KSH. 94,353,000.00
- TOTAL 502 PEOPLE EARN ALIVING FROM THE 1,929 DONKEYS DIRECTLY
- MOSTLY INDIRECT TAXES FROM COMMODITIES AND SERVICES ACQUIRED BY THE INCOME
- A DONKEY CAN REPEATEDLY EARN A LIVING FOR THE OWNER FOR UPTO 7-20 YEARS
- NO THREAT TO NATURAL RESOURCES OR NEGATIVE IMPACT TO OTHER PLAYERS IN THE INDUSTRY



CONCLUSION & RECCOMENDATIONS

- WORKING DONKEYS EARN MORE REVENUE, SUPPORT MORE LIVELIHOOD AND ARE IN LINE WITH SDGs WHICH SUPPORT YOUTH AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT COMPARED TO DONKEY SLAUGHTER
- TRADE IN DONKEY MEAT HAS NO IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY IN KENYA THUS NOT ADDING VALUE
- TRADE IN DONKEYS SKIN THREATENS DONKEY POPULATION AND LIVELIHOOD AND YET DOESN'T EARN THE COUNTRY ANY REVENUE THAT IS COMMENSURATE TO THE EXPLOITATION ITS CAUSING
- THERE IS NEED TO RELOOK AND EVEN BAN THIS DONKEY SLAUGHTER TRADE AND ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WORKING DONKEYS ARE A KEY PILLAR IN SUPPORTING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE

REFERENCE

- AfricaNews, 2017. Business booms for Kenya's donkey slaughterhouse despite local ban on meat [online] Available at <http://www.africanews.com/2017/03/07/business-booms-for-kenya-s-donkey-slaughterhouse-despite-local-ban-on-meat/> [Accessed 18th February 2019].
- Andae, G., 2017. State halts licensing of donkey slaughterhouses.[online] Available at <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/State-halts-licensing-donkey-slaughterhouses/539546-4218536-ohn4bfz/index.html> [Accessed 18th February 2019]
- Gitonga, A., 2017. Donkey slaughterhouse in Naivasha reopens after renovations [online] Available at <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001249019/donkey-slaughterhouse-in-naivasha-reopens-after-renovations> [Accessed 18th February 2019]
- Kipsang, W., 2017. Donkey abattoir raises a stink in Baringo county [online] Available at <https://www.nation.co.ke/business/Donkey-abattoir-raises-stink-Baringo/996-3916468-a2isp8/index.html> [Accessed 18th February 2019]
- KNBS, 2009. Livestock population [online] Available at <https://www.knbs.or.ke/livestock-population/> [Accessed 18th February 2019]
- Koech, G., 2017. Ministry reflecting on donkey meat trade – CS. [online] Available at https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2017/10/03/ministry-reflecting-on-donkey-meat-trade-cs_c1645584 [Accessed 18th February 2019]
- Letting, J., 2017. Another donkey abattoir opens in Turkana County, residents fear animals may be terminated [online] Available at <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001244900/another-donkey-abattoir-opens-in-turkana-county-residents-fear-animals-may-be-terminated> [Accessed 18th February 2019]
- Masinde, J., 2017. As other African countries ban donkey slaughter, Kenya doubles down to meet Chinese demand.[online] Available at <https://qz.com/africa/1062794/as-other-african-countries-ban-donkey-slaughter-kenya-doubles-down-to-meet-chinese-demand/> [Accessed 18th February 2019]
- Muchira, N., 2017. Beast of burden to cash cow: The sad story of EA donkeys. [online] Available at <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/The-sad-story-of-East-African-donkeys/2560-4115718-4lt1qo/index.html> [Accessed 18th February 2019]
- Murage, G., 2016. New donkey abattoir in Naivasha [online] Available at https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2016/11/07/new-donkey-abattoir-in-naivasha_c1450801 [Accessed 18th February 2019]
- Ngotho, A., 2018. Where have donkeys gone? Let's breed more [online] Available at https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/12/19/where-have-donkeys-gone-lets-breed-more_c1867697 [Accessed 18th February 2019]
- Oduori, D.O, Onyango, S.C., Farhat, S.F., 2018. Working animals in Africa: A case study of working equines in Kenya, Ethiopia and Egypt. In: R. Ebert and A. Roba eds. 2014. Working Animals in Africa. A Philosophical and Practical Reader. Unisa Press. Ch. 4
- Onyango, S.C, Oduori, D.O., 2017. Animal Welfare Status of Working Animals in Africa. 33rd World Veterinary Congress. Proceedings of the WVC held at Incheon, Korea, 27-31 August 2017.
- Onyango, S.C, Ojwang, J.M., 2018. An Overview of the Impact of International Trade in Donkey Skins on One Health and Sustainable Development Goals. 52nd Scientific Conference of the Kenya Veterinary Association. Proceedings of the Kenya Veterinary Association held in Nyeri, Kenya, April 2018.
- The Donkey Sanctuary, 2017. Under the skin [online] Available at <https://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/what-we-do/issues/donkey-meat-skin-and-milk/full-report> [Accessed 18th February 2018]

THANK YOU AND
PLEASE
HELP THE
DONKEYS



WTG
Welttierschutz-
gesellschaft e.V.



