



# THE STATUS OF DONKEY SLAUGHTER IN KENYA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

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**Tabby Karanja–Lumumba<sup>1</sup>,**

**Monica Maichomo<sup>1</sup>,**

**Moses Olum<sup>1</sup>,**

**Joan Magero<sup>2</sup>,**

**Timothy Okech<sup>3</sup>**

**and Njoroge Nyoike<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research  
Organization (KALRO)

<sup>2</sup> Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS)

<sup>3</sup> United States International University (USIU)

<sup>4</sup> Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)

# Introduction



Donkeys play an important role in the lives of donkey keepers and users - owned mainly by impoverished people in marginalized rural areas with poor infrastructure, limited options to generate income or perform household tasks (Binda, 2019)



Donkeys have mainly been perceived as a source of draft power for domestic and commercial purposes hence popularly referred to as 'the beast of burden'



Recognition of the potential contribution of the donkey in improving livelihoods has resulted in initiatives to promote the donkey sub-sector - mainly donkey welfare (health and general management).



The donkey was gazetted as a food animal (GoK, 1999) with the aim of curbing backyard/bush slaughter and improving food safety.

# The problem

Establishment of 4 slaughterhouses in Kenya (2016 - 2018) despite a ban of donkey slaughter in some African countries (Botswana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Ethiopia and Tanzania)

The # of donkeys slaughtered each day is estimated to be 1,000, hence a concern that the donkey population may fall below effective reproductive numbers in the near future (Donkey population 2009 NHPC - 1.832 M (KNBS, 2010) 1.965 M (MoA, 2016)

Donkeys have not been traditionally reared for the food industry in Kenya - commercialization of donkey products (meat and skin) without structured interventions to upgrade the value chain is likely to disrupt livelihoods. Vices - donkey theft

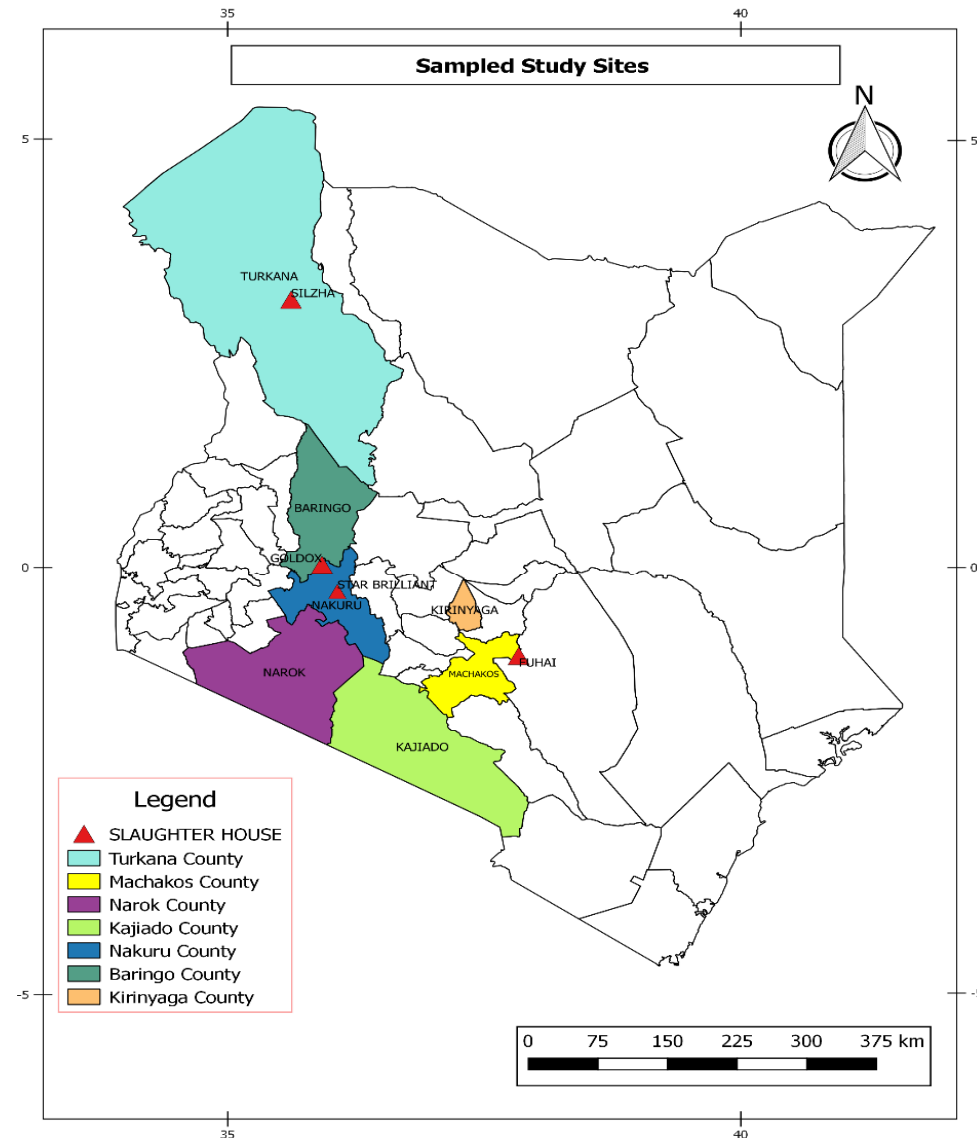
However, the current status of donkey slaughter and its implication on donkey population and community livelihoods is not well understood and documented





# Methodology

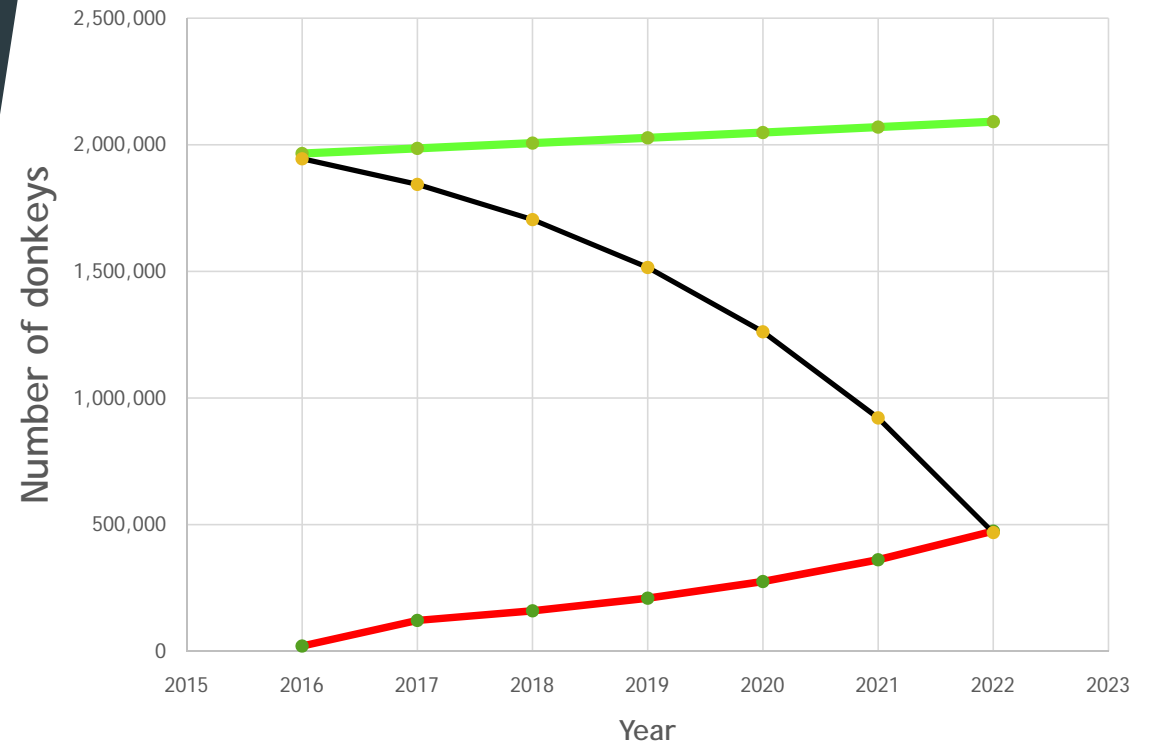
- ▶ KALRO-BROOKE EA MoU  
KALRO - Research lead BEA - financial support
- ▶ Formation of a consortium - KALRO, DVS, USIU and KNBS
- ▶ Stakeholders' inception meeting - 5th March 2019
- ▶ Study design - cross sectional descriptive survey - March 2019
- ▶ Primary & secondary data (KII, FGDs, interviews)





# Results and discussions

## Implications of slaughter on population



- Donkey population (assuming no slaughter)
- Number of donkeys slaughtered
- Donkey population after slaughter

- ▶ Donkey population growth rate - 1.04% per year
- ▶ 15.4% of the population (1,965,632 in 2016) - 301,977 donkeys slaughtered in 2016 - 2018)
- ▶ Annual donkey slaughter rate - 5.1%
- ▶ Slaughtering rate 5 times higher than population growth rate - no donkeys beyond the year 2022



# Results.. cont'd..

- ▶ Projections on zero donkeys beyond 2022 based on assumptions: donkey reproduction and slaughter rate remain constant
- ▶ Assumption may not be valid because there was indiscriminate slaughter hence disruption of the reproductive rate
  - ▶ 37.7% were female (reduce no. of females reproducing)
  - ▶ 27.3% of the females were pregnant (400 calves terminated prematurely)

REF: MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2019

## INTRODUCTION:

The month of February was dry throughout, pasture and water for livestock were in adequate hence they were in fair body condition. The kill for the month of February drastically reduced due to in availability of donkeys.

## SLAUGHTER FIGURES

	Female	Pregnant female	Total
Male			
2419	1465	400	3884



# Results.. cont'd..

## Value of donkey products (skin and meat)

- ▶ Value of donkey products (skin and meat) destined for the export market (2016 - 2018)
- ▶ Meat - 16,543 tonnes valued at USD 17.2 million as declared by the slaughterhouses during export (USD 1.04 per kilogram)
- ▶ Skin - 2,209 tonnes valued at USD 1.05 million (USD 0.48 per kilogram)
- ▶ Total meat and skin value - USD 18.2 million

## Donkeys as a source of livelihoods

- ▶ Source of income through provision of transportation services
- ▶ Mean monthly income - USD 113.90 (meet hhold financial needs)
- ▶ 25% of 301,977 donkeys slaughtered assumed to be working donkeys generating income
- ▶ Would otherwise generate USD 283 million in 2016 - 2018
- ▶ Income foregone was 15 times more than the value of donkey meat and skin exported



# Results .. cont'd

## Stunning of donkeys before slaughter

<b>Slaughterhouse</b>	<b>No. of bullets procured KSPCA</b>	<b>No. of donkeys slaughtered</b>	<b>Proportion (%) of donkeys unaccounted for</b>
<b>Goldox Kenya Ltd</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>263,890</b>	<b>81.4</b>
<b>Star Brilliant Donkey Abattoir</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>28,935</b>	<b>27.7</b>
<b>Fuhai Machakos Trading Co. Ltd</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,991</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Silzha Ltd</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,161</b>	<b>N/A* (electrical)</b>

- **Discrepancy between no. of stunning bullets & no. of donkeys slaughtered 27.7 – 100%.**
- **Are more than half of the donkeys slaughtered without stunning?**
- **Is there a source of stunning bullets that's not declared?**







# Conclusions

- ▶ Discrepancies in the quantities of donkey products exported as reported by the slaughterhouses and as captured by KRA/KNBS
- ▶ It was not clear whether the recommended guidelines on humane slaughter of donkeys was adhered to, or whether there was an undeclared source of stunning bullets
- ▶ The annual mean rate of donkeys slaughtered (5.1%) was five times higher than the annual donkey population growth rate (1.04%) hence a likelihood of depletion
- ▶ Gross revenues from export of donkey products was 15 times lower than the income foregone from 25% of the donkeys slaughter
- ▶ Further reduction in the donkey population is likely to lead to additional loss of livelihoods not only for donkey owners or users but their entire households and additional extended family members who depend on them.



# Recommendations

Dissemination of the findings of the study was done to stakeholders who validated the findings as a reflection of observed trends in the donkey keeping areas. Based on these findings stakeholders made the following recommendations:

- ▶ **Regulate** donkey slaughter in the export slaughterhouses until a donkey breeding or multiplication programme has been put in place to ensure sustainability.
- ▶ An **audit of actors** along the donkey value chain to **ascertain compliance with set rules and regulations** – importation laws to curb cross-border smuggling, animal welfare standards, slaughter of pregnant donkeys, livestock movement procedures
- ▶ Conduct **a comprehensive social and economic impact assessment** of donkey slaughter and trade **for all actors in the donkey value chain** to complement results showing that the income foregone by donkey owners and users was 15 times more than the gross revenue generated from export of donkey meat and skin.
- ▶ **Community sensitization** on impacts of donkey slaughter on their livelihoods



# Thank you

Email: [Tabby.Karanja@kalro.org](mailto:Tabby.Karanja@kalro.org)

Twitter: @TabbyKaranjaLum