Animal welfare challenges and opportunities during disaster situations in Africa

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Introduction
- Common natural disasters
- Disaster impact on animal welfare

Opportunities
- Challenges
- Human-animal bond

Proactive response
- Conclusion
- References

AAWC2023
INTRODUCTION

- Preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem health (Africa's iconic wildlife species are endangered)
- The domestic animals is essential for food security
- Millions of people across the continent who rely on livestock farming.
- When a natural disaster strikes, our first impulse is to rescue only people without taking cognizance of the animals.
- During a natural disaster it can be difficult to evacuate animals and provide them with shelter, food, and veterinary services, unless a system has already been established.
COMMON NATURAL DISASTERS AFFECTING ANIMAL WELFARE IN AFRICA

- Droughts
- Wildfires
- Floods
- Lightening
- Landslides
- Earthquake
- Disease outbreaks (biological disasters)
- Man-made disasters such as poaching & Fire

→ All can have severe consequences for wildlife and domesticated animals across the world
DISASTER IMPACT ON ANIMAL WELFARE

- Loss of food and water.
- Injury or death for many domestic & wildlife.
- Economic hardships (death).
- Food insecurity and poverty.
- Three consecutive failed rainy seasons since October 2020, 59% of households reported they had lost all their livestock (IFAW, 2022).
DISASTER IMPACT ON ANIMAL WELFARE - RWANDA

DISASTER IMPACT - 2021

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<th>Disaster Type</th>
<th>Cattle Lost</th>
<th>Other Livestock</th>
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AAWC 2023
DISASTER IMPACT ON ANIMAL WELFARE - RWANDA

Disaster impact-2022

- CATTLE LOST
- OTHER LIVESTOCK

AAWC 2023
Disasters disrupt ecosystems, lead to the displacement of wildlife and domestic animals, which can increase the risk of zoonotic disease transmission to humans.
Limited resources and infrastructure

Inadequate natural resource management resulting in low resilience against droughts, floods and other natural disasters, climate change leading to negative impacts on animal welfare;

Cultural and traditional practices that may not prioritize animal welfare

Competition with other pressing social and economic priorities, making it challenging to allocate sufficient attention and resources to this issue

Limited engagement for relevant stakeholders during disasters.
OPPORTUNITIES

- NGO & Government initiatives (AAWC)
- International collaboration
- Research and innovation
- Donors & funding support
- Policy advocacy (Animal welfare law, One health policy etc..)
- Early warning system
- Wildlife & livestock identification
- Institutional collaboration (Quadripartite: WOAH, WHO, FAO & UNEP)
- Community based disaster risk reduction
→**Kenya:** The faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Nairobi has now fully integrated the Disaster Management (DM) and Animal Welfare curriculum as an examinable course within the bachelor of veterinary medicine degree.

→**Nigeria:** is implementing policies on matters concerning the general care of animals in production, processing, transportation, research during emergency and disaster situations in Nigeria.
Early warning systems (Methodology agency)
Land use & mapping & ensure its implementation
Tourism revenues sharing policy (5%)
Poachers turned conservationists
Animal welfare law (in pipeline)
To foster Livestock insurance scheme
CONCLUSION

- It is predicted that the frequency and intensity of natural disasters will continue to escalate as climate keep changing.
- AU member’ states should Adopt one health approach and ensure implementation.
- Acknowledging the role of animals in our lives is an integral part of effective disaster planning and response.
- Building a robust and sustainable disaster management system is challenging but it is possible.
- Africa members states need to adapt disaster management systems and ensure animals rescue is a part of disaster preparedness plan
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