



8TH AFRICA ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE -Action 2024

**Partnership Actions to Improve Animal
Welfare and Environmental Sustainability**

30 September - 02 October

2024

United Nations Complex
Nairobi, Kenya

Programme



PROGRAMME

NOTE: Time is indicated as East Africa Time
(GMT/UTC + 3)

Day 1: Monday 30 September 2024

8.30 am -
9.00 am

OPENING SESSION

Conference Moderators:

Hellen Aura, Journalist - Nation Media Group
Josiah Ojwang - Conference Director

8.00-08.40 a.m.

Arrival and registration of delegates
(Conference Secretariat)

08.40-09.00 a.m.

Preliminaries – Moderators

08.40-09.00 a.m

WELCOME REMARKS

- **Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme
- **Dr. Huyam Salih**, Director, African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
- **Prof. James Nkansah-Obrempong**, Chair, Board of Directors, Africa Network for Animal Welfare

9.00 am -
9.30 am

Special Remarks

Remarks by Conference Organizing Committee chair, **Tennyson Williams**,
Director for Africa, World Animal Protection

Remarks by **Hon. Dr. Roger Baro** - Minister for Environment, Burkina Faso

Remarks by **Hon. Lelise Neme** – Director General of the Ethiopian
Environmental Authority (TBC)

Remarks by **Hon Adan Duale**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment
Climate Change and Forestry, Republic of Kenya

Remarks by Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
Development, Republic of Kenya

9.30 am -
10.15 am

Official Opening

9.30 a.m-10.00 am

**Keynote Address and Official Opening:
H.E. The President of The Republic of Kenya
(TBC)**

10.00 am -11.15 am

**Photo op
Break**

10.15 am -
10.45 pm

Goodwill Messages:

10.15 - 10.45 a.m

- **Dr. Luther Anakur Bois** – Regional Director, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Dr. James Yeates** – CEO, World Federation for Animals
- **Susan Millward** - CEO, Animal Welfare Institute
- **Andrea Gavinelli** - Head of Unit, Animal Welfare, European Union
- **Franck Berthe** - The World Bank (WB)
- **Dr. Bernadette Abela-Ridder** – World Health Organization (TBC)
- **Daniela Battaglia** – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- **Dr. Patrick Bestiaensen** – World Organization for Animals (WOAH)

**10.45-11.10 am
Tea/Coffee Break**

11.10 am-11.30 p.m.

Africa Animal Welfare Conference Impact Review: A Look at the Past, Present, and Future, **Dr. David Obiero** –
Masai Mara University

11.30 pm
-1.30 pm.

SESSION 1 :

Session Moderator: Prof. James Herbert Williams,
Arizona State University, USA

Innovations, Education and Emerging Trends in Animal Welfare

11.30-11.45 pm

Sustainable plant-based food systems, **Abigail Mukonyo**,
Thrive Philanthropy

11.45- 12.00 pm

Just Transition from Industrial Animal Production to Equitable, Humane and Sustainable Food Systems, **Dr Patrick Muinde**, World Animal Protection

12.00- 12.15 pm

AI Collaborations to Protect Animals and the Environment,
Yolanda Eisenstein, Animal Law Commission

12.15pm- 12.30 pm

Building a more humane community through human-animal connection, **Prof. Philip Tedeschi**, Denver, USA.

12.30 pm- 12.45 pm

Animal welfare perspectives from Asia, **Zhou Zunguo**,
Compassion in World Farming, China.

12.45 - 1.00 pm

Humane innovations and replacement: case studies to illustrate the curriculum of an ideal veterinary degree, **Nick Jukes**, InterNICHE, United Kingdom

1.00 -1.30 pm

Q & A Session

1.30-2.30 p.m.

Lunch

2.30 pm-
4.30 p.m.

SESSION 2 A:

Session Moderator: **Rubina James**

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG)

Farm and Working Animals (Part A)

2.30-2.45pm

Progress of cage free chicken campaigns in Africa, **Aurelia Adhiambo**, Africa Lead, Open Wing Alliance

2.45-3.00 pm

Human-Animal interface in urban areas: A holistic approach to reducing the transmission of rabies in Masvingo, Zimbabwe, **Nancy Makuvise**, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe

3.00-3.15 pm

Hike in price of diesel and its effects on health and welfare of traction animals: a study of Taraba State, Nigeria, **Moses Gani Umaru and Ezekiel Yudaunda Waba**, Federal Polytechnic, Bali, Nigeria.

3.15 -3.30 pm

Implementing Farmed Animal Welfare Training: Successes, Experiences and Scale-Up, **Dr Kikiope O. Oluwarore** and **Ilunamien E. Aisedion**, OHDI, Nigeria

3.30-4.00 pm

Q and A

4.00-4.30 pm

Plenary Session for reporting back on breakout sessions 2A and 2B

2.30 pm -
4.30 p.m.

SESSION 2 B:

Session Moderator: Alexis Olds
CEO, Compassion in World Farming, Southern Africa

Farm and working animals (Part B)

2.30-2.45 pm

African Union Decision on Donkey Species Preservation in Africa, **Dr Hiver Boussini**, AUIBAR

2.45-3.00 pm

Case study of working donkey welfare in the Mwea rice belt, Kenya, **Jane Njuguna**, Animal Health Officer

3.00-3.15 pm

Case Study of SPANA and TAWESO Partnership for Emergency Response in Northern Tanzania, **Martin Kahema**, Tanzania.

3.15-4.00 pm

Q and A

4.00-4.30 pm

Plenary Session for reporting back on breakout sessions 2A and 2B

4.30-5.00 pm

Tea/Coffee Break

5.00-6.00 pm

Networking Session

*******END OF DAY ONE*******

Day 2: Tuesday 01 October, 2024

9.00 am -
1.00 pm

SESSION 3 :

Session Moderator: **Isaiah Otieno,**
UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

09.00-09.20 am

Importance of Major groups Engagement with UNEP and UNEA Processes, **Radhika Ochalik,** UNEP

09.20-09.30 a.m.

Question and answer session

09.30-10.15 a.m.

The Outcomes of UNEA-6, Preparations towards UNEA-7 and the role of Major Groups and Stakeholders **Ulf Bjornholm,** UNEP.

10.15-10.30 a.m.

Question and answer session

10.30-11.00 am

Tea/Coffee Break

11.00-11.30 p.m

Opportunities for Major groups to Engage at UNEP and UNEA, **David Ombisi,** UNEP

11.30-12.00 noon

UNEP Accreditation Process, **Melissa Ngilandala,** UNEP

12.00-1.00 a.m.

Question and answer session

1.00-2.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 pm -
3.30 p.m

SESSION 4 A:

Session Moderator: **Isaiah Otieno**, *UNEP*

Working Group on Africa Animal Welfare Conference Evaluation Report

2.00-2.30 pm

Presentation of Highlights of the AAWC Evaluation Report,
Dr David Obiero, Masai Mara University

2.30-3.30 pm

Discussion

2.00 pm -
3.30 pm

SESSION 4 B:

Session Moderator: **Dan Oduor**,
Stawisha Africa Initiative

Animal Welfare, Environmental Conservation and Development

2.00-2.20 pm

Enhancing animal welfare through nature-based solutions,
Charles Karangwa, Global Head of Nature Based Solutions
Centre, IUCN, Switzerland.

2.20-2.40 pm

Animal welfare in development cooperation, **Karin Siegmund**,
WTS and **Dr Jean Claude Masengesho**, RAWO, Rwanda.

2.40-3.00 pm

Shifting trade routes of live animals export by sea, **Dr Bryce
Marock**, NSPCA, South Africa.

3.00-3.30 pm
Q and A

3.30-4.00 pm

Tea/Coffee Break

4.00 pm -
5.30 pm

SESSION 5:

Session Moderator: **John Forelli**
Stress Management Consultant

Disasters and animal welfare

4.00-4.15 pm

Disaster preparedness and Response/Management in Animal Resource Sector in Africa **Prof. James Wabacha, AU-IBAR**

4.15-4.30 pm

Effects of floods on animal welfare in East Africa: **Dr Thomas Kahema**, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and **Dr Dennis Bahati**, Kenya

4.30-4.45 pm

The state of animals during climate related and environmental disasters in West Africa-a case for emergency animal welfare, **Abdul Rahman Safian**, West African Centre for the Protection of Animal Welfare (WACPAW), Accra, Ghana.

4.45-5.00 pm

Animal Disaster Management Law and how African nations can collaborate to minimize disaster related harm to animals, **Dr Steve Glassey** and **Mark Anderson**, Animal Avec. New Zealand.

5.00-5.30 pm

Q and A

*******END OF DAY TWO*******

Day 3: Wednesday 02 October, 2024

8:30.00 am -
10.30 am

SESSION 6:

Session Moderator: Susan Millward
CEO, Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)

Wildlife conservation

8.30-8.45 a.m.

Improving bird welfare and conservation in Africa: case of vultures, **Dr Paul Kariuki Ndong'ang'a**,
Regional Director-Africa, Birdlife International

8.45 - 9.00 a.m

The power of storytelling and education to inspire empathy for nature, **Trish Sewe**, Wildlife Direct, Kenya

9.00-9.15 a.m

Clinical approaches in the rehabilitation of African Grey Parrots: an UWEC success story from rescue to release, **Dr Victor Musiime**, Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre, Entebbe, Uganda.

9.15-9.30 a.m.

Africa Conservation Education Fund: an integrated conservation education model, **Dr Brenda Oliwa-Okumu, Eunice Robai** and **Isaac Maina**, Africa Network for Animal Welfare

9.30. 9.45 a.m.

Transboundary Partnerships to Combat Organized Wildlife Trafficking – **Jim Karani**; and Etienne Lesage

9.45. 10.30 a.m.

Q and A

10.30-11.00 a.m.
Tea/Coffee Break

11.00 am -
1.00 pm

SESSION 7:

Session Moderator: Tennyson Williams
Regional Director, World Animal Protection

African Union - InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

Session Theme: Unlocking the Obstacles to the Adoption of Animal Welfare Policies in Africa

11.00 am-11.15 a.m.

Opening Remarks: A Review of the Barriers to Animal Welfare Policy Adoption in Africa, **Dr Hiver Boussini**, AU-IBAR

11.15-11.45 a.m.

The status and prospects for strengthening aquatic animal welfare in Africa; **Nelly Isyagi**; Fisheries and Aquaculture Trade and Investment, Expert -AU-IBAR

11.45 am-12.15 pm

Advancing farmed fish welfare in Africa: Lessons learned from Egypt and Kenya, **Wasseem Emam**, Director, Ethical Seafood Research

12.15-12.45 pm

Environmental Sustainability and Animal Welfare: Synergies and Challenges, **Dr Elynn Njeri** – AU-IBAR

12.45-1.00 pm

Discussion

1.00-2.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 pm -
3.00 pm

SESSION 8:
Panel Moderator: Michael O'Brien Onyeka;
Executive Vice President, Nature for Justice

Panel Discussion

Keynote: Understanding Animal Sentience: Science, Ethics and Policy – Dr Mwenda Mbaka

2.00-3.00 p.m.

Panel speakers:

Jim Karani - General Counsel at Lawyers for Animal Protection in Africa (LAPA),

Yolanda Eisenstein - Animal Law Commission,

Alexis Olds – Compassion in World Farming, Southern Africa (TBC);

Raphael Kinoti, CEO-Brooke EA.

3.00 pm -
4.00 pm

SESSION 9:
Conclusion and Way Forward

3.00-3.30 pm

Implementation status on UNEA's Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution,

Abdelkader Bensada, UNEP

3.30-3.45 pm

Conference Resolutions

3.45-4.00 pm

Way forward for the Conference

4.00 -4.10 pm

Vote of Thanks: **Josphat Ngonyo**, Conference Patron

4.10-4.30 pm

Closing Ceremony: **Minister for Agriculture, Republic of Kenya (TBC)**

4.30-5.00 pm

Tea/Coffee Break

*******END OF CONFERENCE*******

Abstracts

UNEP ABSTRACTS

1. Importance of the engagement of the major groups and stakeholders in UNEA and UNEP-led processes by Radhika

The presentation will stress the importance of the engagement of the major groups and stakeholders in UNEA as outlined in Rule 70 of Rules of Procedure of UNEA. (https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39812/OEWG_PP_1_INF_2_UNEA%20Rules%20of%20Procedure.pdf?sequence=15&isAllowed=y).

Stakeholder engagement is also a UN practice as outlined in “The Future We Want” and Governing Council Decision 27/2.

Stakeholders are important to UNEA and UNEP-led process as their expertise and contributions enrich the inter-governmental decision-making processes and gives an opportunity for those who might be affected by decisions to raise their concerns.

The three levels of engagement of stakeholders at UNEP and UNEA processes can be listed as agenda setting; decision making and implementation.

2. The Outcomes of UNEA-6, preparations towards UNEA-7 and the role of Major Groups and Stakeholders by Ulf Bjornholm

The presentation will give a summary of the key outcomes of UNEA-6 that are relevant to the Animal Welfare Conference. It will delve on the process of choosing the UNEA-7 theme and give some of the guideline that Member States look at while choosing a theme.

The road to UNEA-7, which includes the Committee Permanent Representatives (CPR), UNEA and the CPR bureaux retreat, regional ministerial meetings and any other relevant meeting will be discussed. Ulf will explain how major groups and stakeholders can leverage on these meetings to make an impact at UNEA-7

3. Implementation status on UNEA’s Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution by Abdelkader Bensada and Rebeca Garcia Pinillos

Presentation will be on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/1 entitled “Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus”. Progress made such as the scoping report as requested in UNEA resolution 5/1 . Challenges such as shortages of resources will be discussed and how they can be overcome.

The presentation will include a road map of the next steps of implementations and how major groups can support the process.

4. Opportunities for Major groups to Engage at UNEP and UNEA by David Ombisi

Major groups and Stakeholders need a formal accreditation to UNEP as condition to engage with UNEP and UNEA process. They get accredited under any of the nine major groups:

- Women
- Children and Youth
- Indigenous Peoples and their communities
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Local Authorities
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Business and Industry
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Farmers

The presentation will outline major groups opportunity at UNEA and CPR as observer regarding oral and written statements.

Other opportunities as below will be outlined:

- Access to CPR portal including to un-edited working documents and submission of written inputs
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) prior to the UN Environment Assembly as well as Youth Environmental Assembly (YEA)
- Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs) – often back-to-back to regional Ministerial Forum
- A chance to network with other organizations
- An Opportunity have bilateral with member states representatives and senior UN staff members

5. UNEP Accreditation Process by Melissa Ngilandala, UNEP

This presentation will guide major groups on how to get accredited to UNEP. It will give guidance on the basic criteria that an organization must meet:

- Registered with a Government for at least 2 years
- Non-governmental, non-profit
- Focus on environment
- With environmental work locally and internationally

It will give an overview of the entire process of accreditation and why some request delay while other go through faster.

Impact Assessment of the Africa Animal Welfare Conference (2017-2023)

*David Obiero Oduori^{1,3}, Gilbert Kirui^{2,3} and Robert Ofwete³

¹Maasai Mara University, Department of Animal Health and Production, Kenya

²Egerton University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, Kenya

³Africa Center for One Health-One Welfare Research, Innovation and Sustainable Livelihoods, Kenya

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Abstract

The Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC), initiated in 2017 at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, has become a premier platform for promoting animal welfare, environmental sustainability, and development in Africa. This evaluation examines the AAWC's impact on policies, practices, and awareness, informed by a mixed-methods approach involving desk reviews, grey literature, stakeholder interviews, and surveys of past delegates. The findings highlight significant achievements in three key areas: enhancing animal welfare programs, fostering personal professional development, and influencing policies.

The conference has driven innovation and collaboration in animal welfare, with 90.7% of delegates reporting improvements in their organizational practices. AAWC has also bolstered personal growth, equipping participants with enhanced knowledge and skills. Notably, the conference has influenced global policy by integrating animal welfare into the environmental agenda and contributing to the African Union's moratorium on donkey skin trade. It has also influenced industry practices, notably leading to a shift towards cage-free poultry farming.

Despite its success, the AAWC faces challenges such as resource constraints, inconsistent engagement, and logistical complexities. Recommendations include enhancing inclusivity, improving conference logistics, expanding funding, and ensuring post-conference resolution implementation. Overall, the AAWC remains a crucial platform for advancing animal welfare and sustainability across Africa, with the potential to effect greater change in the future.

Sustainable Plant-Based Food Systems

Abstract:

This presentation examines the role of sustainable plant-based food systems, focusing on diet change and creating partnerships as a strategy towards promoting environmental sustainability .

The shift towards plant-based diets is gaining momentum as a viable strategy to decrease the environmental footprint of food production, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and minimize the use of finite natural resources. However, the transition requires collaborative efforts among stakeholders, including farmers, policymakers, researchers, and consumers, to develop effective frameworks that prioritize ethical practices.

We will present case studies demonstrating successful partnerships that have initiated transformative practices in agricultural systems and fostering environments that lead to increased plant-based food production. These initiatives showcase how diet change by investing into agricultural methodologies can lead to enhanced biodiversity, soil health, and ecosystem resilience.

Through this discussion, we aim to highlight actionable strategies, share insights from collaborative efforts, and encourage dialogue among conference participants on how to leverage multi-sectoral partnerships. We emphasize that by aligning goals towards diet change and environmental sustainability, we can cultivate a more sustainable future for food systems that respects all living beings and the planet we share.

We explore the potential of sustainable plant-based food systems as a catalyst for transformative change, illustrating how collective actions can lead to a more harmonious balance and environmental sustainability.

Yolanda Eisenstein, Esq.
793 Stagecoach Circle
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AI Collaborations to Protect Animals and the Environment

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is impacting, and will continue to impact, everyone's lives, including those of animals. Researchers and scientists are already using AI's language and imaging tools in ways that directly affect animals. The work is exciting and has the potential to enhance conservation efforts significantly. However, the technology is often being used without the benefit of an ongoing dialogue with animal advocates, lawyers, and philosophers and without fully addressing the ethical questions that must be addressed when humans insert themselves into the lives of animals. The beneficial use of AI for animals will only come from collaborations with AI developers, lawmakers, and scientists, who are primarily taking a human-centric approach. This presentation will provide an overview of the relevant AI technology, give examples of how it is being used with wildlife, and consider how to reframe the human-centered approach to ensure the protection of animals and the environment.

Environmental Sustainability and Animal Welfare: Synergies and Challenges

Dr. M. Mbaka [mwenda.mbaka@au-ibar.org], Dr. E. Njeri elynn.njeri@au-ibar.org] 2024

Abstract

The intersection of animal welfare and environmental sustainability is vital for achieving sustainable development in Africa, where rich biodiversity and diverse socio-economic conditions coexist. This article, presented at the 8th Africa Animal Welfare Conference, explores the synergies and challenges at this nexus, emphasizing the need for integrated approaches that benefit animals, ecosystems, and human societies. Case studies from Kenya, Namibia, Ethiopia, South Africa, and West Africa demonstrate how sustainable practices like community-based conservation, habitat restoration, and rewilding can improve animal welfare while preserving the environment. These initiatives illustrate the importance of aligning animal welfare with environmental sustainability to enhance biodiversity, prevent zoonotic diseases, and support human livelihoods. The article calls for cohesive strategies and collaborative efforts among stakeholders, aligned with the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa, to create a sustainable future that harmonizes the well-being of animals, humans, and the environment.

Just Transition from Industrial Animal Agriculture to Equitable, Humane and Sustainable Food Systems

Patrick Muinde¹ Salome Kahiu¹ and Tennyson Williams¹

¹ World Animal Protection, Westside Towers, 9th Floor, Suite 901, Along Lower Kabete Road, Westlands, P.O. Box 66580, Nairobi 00800, Kenya (<https://www.worldanimalprotection.or.ke/>)

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The global industrial animal agriculture is inherently flawed, inequitable, and unsustainable, pushing the planet toward ecological collapse. It is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, a major contributor to climate change, and a source of environmental pollution. This system prioritizes profit over ethical considerations, often at the expense of workers and local communities. Furthermore, it undermines key global targets such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Despite the well documented evidence that food systems contribute 34% of the global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, with livestock farming accounting for 14.5%, industrial animal farming continues to expand. This expansion accelerates deforestation, habitat destruction and pollution through extensive pesticides and fertilizer use, along with the conversion of land for animal feed production, resulting in significant biomass carbon displacement.

Every year, over 80 billion land animals are farmed globally (excluding billions of farmed fish), predominantly in factory farms. Factory farms are characterized by high production efficiency, but their environmental and public health costs - including climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation and water contamination - externalized, remaining unaccounted for the price of the products. Given these impacts, experts suggest that global emissions from animal production must decrease by 50% by 2030 to align with the Paris Agreement targets.

While the Global North bears the primary responsibility for the historical buildup of climate gases and has high per capita emissions, the rising demand for animal-sourced foods in Africa - for example meat is projected to increase by 30% by 2030 - poses a threat to traditional food systems. Unlike industrial grain-fed livestock systems, Africa's local food systems are characterized by a high level of integration between crop farming and livestock, making them more sustainable. These systems are grounded in nutrient cycling at the farm level and agroecological principles, with animal feeds primarily derived from natural or cultivated pastures that rely minimally on soil amendment, fertilizer, and pesticides.

The promotion of humane and sustainably reared livestock is essential to ensuring food security, particularly in Low and Middle-Income Countries, by providing food, employment, and income. A shift toward Equitable, Humane and Sustainable Food Systems, is urgently needed. This shift requires centering smallholder farmers - who produce up to 70% of the food – and adopting agro-ecological practices that promote human rights, particularly for the historically marginalized populations. Transitioning to diets within planetary and social boundaries can enhance public health while freeing up land and resources for diversified agroecological production systems. Through this Just Transition, we can ensure a sustainable and equitable future for generations to come.

Keywords: Just Transition, Climate Change; Equitable Humane and Sustainable; Factory Farms

Humane innovations and replacement: Case studies to illustrate the curriculum of an ideal veterinary degree

Nick Jukes

InterNICHE, United Kingdom

A growing number of departments within veterinary colleges across the world use only non-animal tools within student practical classes. These tools may be developed in-college through interdisciplinary partnerships, or may be purchased from producers. Increasingly they are employed within dedicated clinical and surgical skills labs. Most colleges also have diverse clinical rotations that provide patient care while presenting learning opportunities for students, and some have established body donation programs to source animal cadavers ethically, including from clinics. This presentation will follow the trajectory of an ideal, fully humane veterinary degree by using case studies of humane innovation and replacement that feature in the InterNICHE documentary film series 'DVM: Training the Animal Doctor'. The evolving film series explores knowledge and skills acquisition within all disciplines and from diverse colleges across the world, including Africa. It features interviews, demonstrations of 'alternatives' of all types, and student labs and rotations. These ethical and effective methods have been implemented in courses from the pre-clinical years up to graduation and beyond, and are considered the norm in the departments featured. The case studies will demonstrate the feasibility of a fully humane veterinary education, the sustainability goals that can be supported, and the associated need for an expeditious transition.

Human-animal interface in urban areas: A holistic approach to reducing the transmission of rabies in Masvingo, Zimbabwe.

World Health Organization defines One Health as an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of people, animals, both domestic and wild, plants and the wider environment are closely linked and interdependent. This approach is particularly relevant to rabies as the disease is a zoonotic disease that can be transmitted between animals and humans. Studies show that more than 75% of emerging infectious diseases and 60% of known human infectious diseases are transmitted from animals, with rabies being of utmost public health significance due to its lethality. Rabies in humans is 100% lethal, there is no cure for it and research shows that domestic dogs are responsible for rabies virus transmission to humans. In order to deal with rabies, the City Council of Masvingo has been shooting stray dogs on sight with no apparent result except reducing the number of strays in the street. With rabies being a preventable disease, the One Health approach to rabies control and prevention, would involve a coordinated effort between veterinary, medical, environmental health and law enforcement professionals to address the disease from multiple angles. For this case study, that would involve educating the public about the risks of rabies, vaccinating both humans and animals and controlling the populations of animals that are known to carry the virus. Community awareness of the mandatory vaccination of animals and the necessity of adherence to the law is a must.

A Case Study of Working Donkey Welfare in Mwea Rice Belt, Kenya.

It is an honor to address you today at the 8th Africa Animal Welfare Conference. My name is Jane Njuguna, and I am a livestock production officer and animal welfare advisor for the Kirinyaga County government. The County has dedicated many efforts to improving the welfare of working donkeys.

The Mwea Rice Belt, famous for its' massive rice cultivation, relies heavily on donkeys for transportation, labor and income provision. With about 1000 donkeys who are essential in Kirinyaga. Furthermore, donkey manure is a valuable organic fertilizer rich in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

The welfare of these donkeys is often overlooked. Our study reveals that many donkeys in Mwea suffer from inadequate nutrition, poor health care, and harsh working conditions. These issues stem from economic constraints, lack of awareness, and insufficient veterinary services. Donkeys are frequently overloaded, subjected to long working hours, and deprived of proper rest and hydration.

Through education and training programs, farmers have learned proper donkey care, balanced feeding, regular health check-ups, and humane treatment. Mobile veterinary clinics have also been introduced, providing accessible and affordable veterinary services.

This study recommends workshops and training programs designed to educate owners on proper care, nutrition, and handling techniques, as well as establishing strategically placed shade structures and water points to ensure donkeys get necessary rest and hydration. Collaboration with local authorities is essential to enforce policies that safeguard donkeys' well-being. Furthermore, promoting the use of suitable harnesses and equipment will help reduce injuries and discomfort.

The research highlights the importance of practical interventions and partnerships to ensure the donkeys receive the care and respect they deserve. The world would be a better place if everyone took the time to care for the environment and the animals in it.

Partnerships for Emergency Response in Tanzania'

Speaker: Mr. Martin Kahema, Central Zone Programme Manager, TAWESO Tanzania.

“Floods impact animals and people by causing habitat flooding and destruction in various infrastructures and ecosystems, leading to significant animal deaths and intensified human suffering due to the loss of non-human lives. Late last year the destructive El-Nino rains caused a serious disaster in Northern Tanzania causing a greater part of Mount Hanang in Manyara region to collapse, with the raging mud, stones, trees covering homes and anything that stood in the way. The death toll was about 100 people and hundreds being injured but over 7,000 people are displaced. There were many efforts made by the Government to rescue the affected people, collecting the dead bodies, rushing the injured to hospitals and preparing rescue centres where the affected people are getting their basic needs. The animals are left behind and were in thousands, others were dead, but many are injured and displaced and needed support for their urgent needs especially treatment, vaccinations, feeding, clean water and rescue. TAWESO was only organization stepped in to help animals during the disaster in respect Veterinary care to sick and injured animals, feeding of the displaced animals, Rescue, relocating, reuniting the displaced animals to their owners, Education to the communities due to threat of possible disease outbreaks and possible recurrence of the tragedy. But also education on destocking as there are many farm animals in the area. About 10,000 animals were reached mostly working and farm animals but dogs and cats Keywords: Flooding, El Nino, animal rescue, animals in disaster, disease outbreaks, human suffering, Education.”

“Partnership actions to improve animal welfare for environmental sustainability

Mr. Martin Kahema

Abstract

Keeping livestock is an essential part of small-scale farming around the globe. However, international development cooperation programmes reaching out to small-scale farmers mostly neglected animals and their needs despite their important contribution to the communities, be it as working animals, providers of food and fertilizer or companions.

But the welfare of animals has become a public concern and cross-cutting issue over the past decade. It is time to include animal welfare in international sustainable development goals, and also in the design and implementation of development cooperation projects. This will not only make projects more sustainable but will also contribute significantly to the success of several SDGs with regards to food security, sustainable agriculture, and a healthy environment for all beings.

WTS started its programme “Animal welfare in development cooperation” in 2019, aiming to sensitize NGOs, politics and other stakeholders on the importance of animal welfare in rural development projects. The foundation funds good practice and new approaches in promoting animal welfare on the ground. Additionally, it collects and provides information, holds webinars and supports networks. Some of the major outputs were the Guidelines for animal welfare in development cooperation projects and the foundation of AWeCCA, the Animal Welfare Competence Center for Africa at Makerere University Kampala, Uganda.

At the 8th AAWC WTS introduces its new platform “Animal welfare in development cooperation” which provides information relevant to any actor in the field, such as definitions and concepts, standards and policies, specific thematic approaches, education and research.

A particular asset of the portal are the good practice case examples which have been collected from the foundations’ own projects and from other NGOs. One of the successful examples is a farmers training in Rwanda which will be presented at the conference by our partner RAWO.

For more information please go to www.integrating-animal-welfare.org

Live Exportation of animals by sea: animal welfare issues and the shifting trade routes-

Dr Bryce Marock

Abstract

This is a topic that has been a controversial for many decades, and it is unsurprising that SAVA has taken a position to not fully embrace the trade. This position falls in line with the other large veterinary associations throughout the world.

In South Africa, the trade has been limited to short haul journeys, monitored by the NSPCA. This would include, monitoring of loading, travelling with the vessels, being present at unloading, and inspecting slaughter overseas. While remaining opposed to the trade, the NSPCA continues with necessary welfare enforcement, and will take part in the proposed regulations.

The welfare concerns include but are not limited to heat stress, cold stress, injury, rapid spread of disease, hygiene issues, rough seas, lack of visibility of dead and dying animals, limitations in treatment, noxious gas buildup, breakdowns, refusal at ports, 24-hour lighting, feed insufficiencies, constant loud noise, and a lack of water.

The global livestock fleet is one of the oldest in the world and according to data from credible maritime authorities, the risk of being lost is twice that of the general cargo fleet. There are several reasons for this, but notably because most are retired converted car, oil and cargo carriers.

South Africa is recognized for high welfare standards, but now, under increased scrutiny worldwide, including full and partial bans, any company with any vessel may seek out South Africa as an alternative.

The trade is under increased global scrutiny with international media interest, due to threats of full or partial bans and extended journey times to avoid war.

Veterinarians in all parts of the world have been involved to some extent, and it is appropriate for all to become aware of the current issues as the World Organization for Animal Health begins soon revising the outdated relevant chapter in 2024.

Effects of Floods on Animal Welfare in East Africa

Dr.Thomas Walwa Kahema

Executive Director, Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO),

P.O Box 10268 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, E-mail: taweso@gmail.com

Abstract

Tanzania is one of the largest countries in East Africa and has a rapidly growing population and economy.

Rising temperatures, longer dry spells, more intense heavy rainfall and sea level rise make

Tanzania the 26th most vulnerable country to climate risks. The current population of 62 million is expected to increase to 130 million by 2050.

The frequency of floods in Tanzania increased by 45% during 2010-2020, Droughts and storms have become more frequent in Tanzania as well but rose in line with other countries in the region and the world.

Climate change in Tanzania is affecting the natural environment and residents of Tanzania. Temperatures in Tanzania are rising with a higher likelihood of intense rainfall events (resulting in flooding) and of dry spells (resulting in droughts).

Increased frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall lead to flooding, erosion and water logging increased pest and disease outbreaks affecting the welfare of both animals and people.

The floods have caused further destruction of homes, infrastructures, crops, and agricultural assets. In a statement to the Tanzanian Parliament on 25 April, the Prime Minister announced that the rains and floods since January had left 155 dead and 236 injured and affected 200,000 people and 51,000 households with millions of animals affected in respect to lack of feed, disease outbreaks, lack of clean water, displacements, drowning and massive deaths due to landslides in the North of Tanzania.

Additionally Tropical Cyclones that swept across East Africa at the beginning of May caused severe flooding with lots of damages to people and animals in Tanzania.

Keywords: Floods, Animal Welfare, Tropical Cyclones, Climate change, Landslides, Displacements

The State of Animals During Climate-Related and Environmental Disasters in West Africa: A Case for Emergency Animal Welfare

Abstract

The impact of climate-related and environmental disasters on animal welfare in West Africa is a critical yet underexplored issue. Despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, Africa faces severe consequences from climate change, including storms, floods, and droughts, which significantly affect animal welfare. These disasters not only displace animals but also destroy pastures, increase disease risks, and contribute to food and water scarcity, ultimately leading to animal deaths. The socio-economic implications are profound, particularly in regions where agriculture and livestock are integral to livelihoods. This review highlights the compounded effects of inadequate disaster preparedness, conflict, and socio-political instability, further exacerbating animal vulnerabilities. In conflict zones like Northern Nigeria and Mali, livestock is often abandoned or killed, disrupting traditional livestock management practices and undermining long-term economic stability. The review also emphasises the global implications of climate change on animal welfare, with rising temperatures linked to increased risks such as dog mortality, rabies, and other health issues. Many African countries' lack of robust Early Warning Systems (EWS), modern tools, and financial resources hampers effective disaster response and mitigation efforts. Additionally, weak communication channels and inadequate policies further constrain disaster preparedness. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that includes strengthening EWS, improving research and data collection, and fostering collaborative efforts between governments, communities, and international organizations. The review calls for greater attention to the welfare of animals during disasters, recognizing their essential role in ensuring food security, economic stability, and community resilience in West Africa.

Reference

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The power of storytelling and education to inspire empathy for nature

Trish Sewe

As the world grapples with the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, fostering empathy for nature has never been more critical.

Storytelling and education, two powerful tools, are uniquely positioned to inspire this empathy and drive meaningful action. This presentation explores how narratives, when paired with educational initiatives, can cultivate a deep emotional connection to the natural world and empower people to address these interconnected crises.

Stories have the remarkable ability to transcend boundaries, communicate complex ideas in accessible ways, and evoke powerful emotional responses that can lead to lasting impact. By weaving narratives that bring nature's challenges to life, individuals can see the world from a new perspective, fostering a sense of responsibility and urgency to protect it.

One shining example is Team Sayari, an innovative groundbreaking television series designed for children across Africa. Team Sayari has inspired young viewers to become conservation leaders, demonstrating that narrative-driven education can nurture environmental stewardship in future generations. By educating children on critical conservation issues, the series empowers them to become advocates for a sustainable future.

The Wildlife Warriors TV series also exemplifies the role of storytelling by shining light on local conservation heroes. Featuring real-life conservation heroes from Kenya, Wildlife Warriors spotlights local efforts to protect wildlife and combat biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. By sharing their stories of resilience and innovation, the program has reshaped public perceptions, leading to positive behavioral changes that address the broader environmental challenges we face today.

WildlifeDirect's Safari StoryLab adds another dimension to this effort by supporting the growth of African filmmakers and storytellers, emphasizing capacity building for African storytelling and nurturing the next generation of natural storytellers.

Through these case studies, this presentation will illustrate how storytelling and education can not only build empathy for nature but also equip people with the knowledge and inspiration needed to confront environmental challenges.

Clinical Approaches to the Rehabilitation of African Grey Parrots: A Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC) Success Story from Rescue to Release

*Dr. Victor Musiime¹, Dr. Racheal Mbabazi^{1, 2}, Dr. James Musinguzi³

¹Wildlife Veterinarian -UWEC

²Manager, Animal and Horticulture Department- UWEC

³Executive Director-UWEC

*Corresponding Author and Presenter

Abstract:

African grey parrots are currently classified as Endangered on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List due to factors such as habitat loss, wildlife trafficking, and illegal wildlife trade. Various efforts have been made to conserve this species, including stricter enforcement of wildlife trade laws, habitat protection and restoration, conservation education, and promoting eco-tourism activities. Despite these efforts, there is still a significant need to enhance the survival chances of rescued African grey parrots ex-situ. The rehabilitation of rescued African Grey Parrots presents a unique opportunity to address injuries, malnutrition, and poor welfare, ultimately increasing their chances of survival in the wild. However, rehabilitating these rescued parrots comes with challenges due to their complex social behaviors, unique environmental requirements, and complex diets. The Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC) has successfully rehabilitated and released rescued parrots back into the wild using a comprehensive approach. This includes rescue from illegal wildlife trade and traffickers, comprehensive veterinary care, systematic disease screening, annual health checks, and tailored nutritional and behavioral rehabilitation. The success story of UWEC illustrates the significance of a multi-disciplinary approach and provides a model for similar rehabilitation efforts for endangered species globally. It also underlines the interaction between in-situ and ex-situ conservation efforts to safeguard the African Grey Parrot.

Africa Conservation Education Fund: an integrated conservation education model

Dr Brenda Oliwa-Okumu,

Eunice Robai

Isaac Maina

Africa Network for Animal Welfare Africa Conservation Education Fund (ACEF) was initiated in 2019 under Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)'s strategic area of human-animal coexistence. The program was implemented to address the challenges of biodiversity loss through community engagement and education and implemented in response to research findings that indicated that poverty and unemployment were the main drivers of bushmeat hunting. The educational initiative applies a holistic approach in a bid to foster action towards animal welfare and conservation among diverse stakeholders including students, local communities, and educators. The initiative's beneficiaries gain from an interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses on animal welfare, human and environmental health, with a combination of theory and hands-on experiences that promote environmental stewardship, animal welfare, and sustainable practice among learners.

Currently twenty-five (25) students in secondary schools have benefited from the educational scholarship. More than 2,000 school children across 55 target primary schools in Kenya have shown interest in environmental conservation through their engagement in the extracurricular Promotion of Animal Welfare in schools' program or the Animal Welfare Clubs. Their club patrons or schoolteachers have also been trained in conservation education to support our greater efforts against community reliance on bushmeat. Through the provision of education scholarship for children from communities living in wildlife areas, livelihoods that are at peace with wildlife will be secured, while simultaneously promoting the welfare of both wildlife and the communities that host them. Financial contributions from individuals, and most recently partnerships with the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), continue to ensure that students remain in school, teachers are trained in conservation education, and communities are enlightened. The need for increased and diverse partnerships and resources for support are key to the overall sustainability of this program.

Understanding Animal Sentience, Science, Ethics, and Policy.

Abstract

The keynote speech at the 8th African Animal Welfare Conference, delivered by Mwenda Mbaka, Animal Welfare Expert for the AU-IBAR, emphasizes the critical importance of understanding animal sentience and the ethical responsibilities it imposes. Highlighting scientific evidence that animals experience a wide range of emotions, Mbaka calls for practices and policies that reflect this understanding, particularly within the African context.

The speech underscores the Africa-Centric perspective of the African Animal Welfare Strategy (AWSA), which integrates traditional values and modern animal welfare principles. Mbaka points out that some African countries, such as Kenya and Ghana, are already adopting humane practices, but notes that significant challenges remain in implementing the AWSA across the continent.

Mbaka also addresses the urgent need for increased financial support and advocacy to implement the AWSA effectively. He stresses that while global movements toward veganism and reduced animal-sourced proteins are important, they must not overshadow the immediate welfare needs of animals in Africa, especially within resource-constrained environments.

The speech concludes with a call to action, urging all stakeholders to enhance their commitment to animal welfare in Africa. Through combining traditional knowledge, scientific insights, and ethical standards, Mbaka encourages the audience to work towards a future where animals are valued and protected across the continent.

Think Small: How Individual Partnerships Improve Animal Welfare and the Environment

When we think of partnerships, we think of businesses, governments, nonprofits, and other entities. However, a partnership can be much simpler, such as an association between two individuals, and just as effective.

In this session, Yolanda Eisenstein, John Forelli, and Jim Karani discuss the importance of our partnerships with other individuals and why those partnerships must reach beyond the animal welfare and environmental conservation sectors to impact animals and the environment globally.

Ms. Eisenstein will discuss the value of partnerships with international lawyers outside animal law and environmental law. Mr. Forelli will discuss partnerships with clients who learn that their health and wellness goals affect animal lives and the environment. Mr. Karani will discuss opportunities provided by impact investing—especially in the green space—and how reaching out to partnerships beyond the ones in animal law influences how we make, raise, and spend money. Finally, they will discuss how their collaboration has expanded and enhanced their work in animal welfare and environmental conservation.

The Partners:

Yolanda Eisenstein: animal lawyer, advocate, author, president of Paris-based UIA Animal Law Commission, and adjunct professor, Santa Fe, United States.

John Forelli: stress management consultant, personal trainer, certified yoga instructor, and sustainable building expert, Santa Fe, United States.

Jim Karani: Kenyan lawyer, international animal lawyer, academic, PhD candidate in criminal justice, Nairobi, Kenya.

Speakers' Profile



DR HUYAM SALIH - Director
African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal
Resources (AU-IBAR)

- Ensuring compliance with international sanitary measures
- Strengthen capacities for antimicrobial resistance's Monitoring and Evaluation, and supporting monitoring of Global Action plan on AMR (GAP) and FAO AMR Action Plan.

Additionally, Dr. Salih has played a pivotal role in championing the adoption of a One Health approach and facilitating extensive collaboration among various sectors to effectively tackle the pressing issues of Antimicrobial Resistance and zoonotic diseases.



RADHIKA OCHALIK
UNEP

Radhika Ochalik has more than 20 years of experience working at the United Nations, mostly supporting intergovernmental meetings, including the meetings of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies as well as many international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly.

Prior to joining UNEP, she worked as a Senior Intergovernmental Affairs Officer in the General Assembly Affairs Branch in the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. She was also the Deputy Chief of the NGO Branch

in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and had field experience as a Best Practices and Planning Officer at the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste. She holds a master's in business administration.



TENNYSON J. C. WILLIAMS – Director for Africa,
World Animal Protection

Tennyson J. C. Williams is currently the Director for Africa, World Animal Protection based in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition to his overall management and leadership responsibilities, he is also a member of the Global Senior Leadership Team. As an international development specialist, with over Twenty-five years of experience with International Livestock Research Institute Nairobi, ActionAid International and World Animal Protection, Tennyson has held several senior management positions directing Africa-wide regional programmes. Originally from Sierra Leone, he was the ActionAid Kenya Country Director responsible for directing programmes, and

shaping the development of the organization in the country. Prior to that, he was ActionAid International Director for West and Central Africa, responsible for providing leadership and management support to nine countries in West and Central Africa, and promoting the causes targeted by ActionAid International.

Before that, he was Country Director for ActionAid in Sierra Leone focusing on poverty reduction and humanitarian interventions. While in Sierra Leone, Tennyson led the development process of the country strategy paper and contributed to the positioning of Sierra Leone's development agenda at national and international levels.

Tennyson was also involved in several research and consultancy projects and contributed to the design of civil society programmes, undertook evaluation of various programmes and served on the boards of ActionAid International UK and Open Society Initiative for West Africa.

Tennyson holds an MSC. in Zoology, BSC in Agriculture, Diploma in Epidemiology and control of Human Vector- Borne diseases and a certificate in Human Resources and Industrial Relations Management.



ANDREA GAVINELLI – Head of Unit SANTE G3: Animal Welfare – Directorate General Health and Food safety – EU Commission – Brussels

Veterinarian graduated in Milan and policy official at the European Commission since February 1999.

Andrea is now leading the Unit responsible for Animal Welfare policies in DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE). The Unit is currently dedicated to the implementation and the reform of the EU legislation on animal welfare.

In his career, Andrea has been dealing with several strategic initiatives around animal health and welfare both at European and global level. He started his career at the Ministry of Health in Rome as official veterinarian till 1999 when

moved to the EU Commission. He has covered different roles in international organisations such as the Council of Europe where he was Chair of the working group of the Council of Europe “Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming purposes” and at the World Animal Health Organisation (former OIE) as member of the “Animal Welfare Working Group” from its creation in 2005 till its end in 2015. Furthermore, he is actively involved in several initiatives related to animal welfare organised by FAO with different collaborations. In connection with the ONE-Health approach Andrea has been also responsible for the coordination of DG SANTE policies to fight Anti-Microbial resistance for 2 years.

For a five years period until September 2020, he also supervised the Unit in charge of the eradication of animal diseases such as Avian Influenza or African Swine Fever, and he has coordinated the implementation of the European Regulation on official controls in the food, and feed area.

Andrea wrote and contributed to numerous scientific and technical articles on animal welfare and several papers on the relationships between animals and the society that have been published at international level.



Josphat Ngonyo - Executive Director
African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)

Josphat Ngonyo is a leader in the fields of animal welfare, wildlife conservation, and environmental protection. With a Master's in Conservation Leadership from The African Leadership University School of Business, and a Bachelor of Education Arts degree and a diploma in the management of not-for-profit organizations, he brings a unique blend of expertise to his role as Founder and Executive Director of the Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW). With over two decades of experience in these areas, Josphat has played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of animal welfare and conservation

efforts across Africa. As a Board Member of three prominent Animal and Environmental Protection Organizations, Josphat demonstrates his commitment to fostering collaboration and driving positive change within the sector.

Josphat's influence extends beyond organizational development to spearheading initiatives of global significance. He played a pivotal role in initiating the Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC), now being co-hosted with the United Nations Environment Program and the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). Additionally, his efforts in catalyzing the National Judicial Dialogues addressing wildlife and environmental crimes in Kenya, involving 16 law enforcement agencies, underscore his dedication to driving systemic change.

Recognized for his expertise and leadership, Josphat has been appointed by the Government of Kenya to the National Steering Committees twice. He played a key role in reviewing the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act and the Anti-cruelty Act, CAP 360 and in the development of a wildlife conservation policy.

Through his tireless efforts and unwavering dedication, Josphat continues to be a driving force in the fight for animal welfare, environmental conservation, and sustainable development in Africa and beyond.



SUSAN WILLMA
Animal Welfare Institute

Susan Millward is the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), a non-profit organization established in 1951 and based in Washington, DC. With a vision of a world where no animal suffers because of humans, AWI works to protect animals everywhere—in agriculture, in commerce, in our homes and communities, in research, and in the wild. AWI advances its mission through strategically crafted policy and legal advocacy, educational programs, research and analysis, and engagement with policymakers, scientists, industry, educators, other NGOs, the media, and the

public. AWI seeks scientifically grounded protections for animals in all settings, and robust enforcement of those protections.

A native of England, Susan obtained Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University of Wales. She moved to the United States in the early 1990s and worked with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and later environmental engineering firms before joining AWI in 2003. As Executive Director and CEO of AWI, she leads a staff of over 30 scientists, lawyers, policy-analysts and other experts.

Susan has represented AWI in many meetings at the United Nations and other fora involving the negotiation and refinement of international wildlife protection agreements, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Whaling Commission, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition to being AWI's Executive Director and CEO, Susan serves on the boards of Monitor Caribbean, which works closely with AWI to preserve the biodiversity of the Wider Caribbean region, and the Species Survival Network, which works to strengthen wildlife protections established through CITES.



ULF BJÖRNHOLM - Chief, Civil Society Unit, United Nations Environment Programme

Ulf Björnholm has served as Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies and Deputy Director for the UNEP Governance Affairs Office since December 2017 and is responsible for UNEP's policy-making organs such as the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and for UNEP's engagement with major groups and stakeholders. He is also Head of the Governing Bodies Unit and Officer in Charge of the Civil Society Unit. Ulf joined UNEP in April 2014 as Head of the UNEP Brussels Office, responsible for promoting and facilitating partnership-building between UNEP and the EU institutions as well as EU

as EU stakeholders in Brussels. He was also a member of the Heads of Agencies Team of the United Nations Offices in Brussels, and he chaired the UN Brussels Policy Group on Sustainable Development and led efforts to green the UN House in Brussels.

Prior to joining UNEP, Ulf served in the European Commission, where he contributed to developing and negotiating a new clean air policy and legislation and represented the EU in international UN negotiations relating to air pollution.

A national of Sweden, Ulf has also held several positions as a representative and diplomat for the Swedish Government, both in Stockholm and abroad. In his role as a political advisor and negotiator on international environmental affairs for Sweden, he chaired and represented the EU at several UN/EU environmental negotiations during two EU Presidencies – in New York (2001) and in Brussels (2009). For almost 8 years he served as Environment and Climate Counsellor at the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels. In early 2000, he was appointed Second Secretary at the Swedish UN Mission in New York, responsible for the preparations of Rio + 10 in Johannesburg where Sweden served as Vice Chair in the Bureau. During the period 1996-99 he was the Swedish National Focal Point for UNEP, attending several UNEP Governing Council and Bureau meetings. Before joining the Swedish Government, he worked for local municipalities and for a youth network under the Swedish UN Association to promote the implementation of the outcomes of the 1992 Rio conference and Agenda 21 in Sweden, and in 1995-96 he represented Swedish youth before the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in New York



Dr. Abdelkader Bensada
UNEP

Dr. Abdelkader is a Programme management officer for the land and biodiversity branch. He is responsible for UNEP's work on sustainable pastoralism and rangeland conservation. He is UNEP's focal point for UNEA5- Res1 Animal Welfare and sustainable development Nexus. He has a background in forestry with extensive experience in biodiversity conservation and protected areas management.

Abdelkader holds a PhD in forest ecology and conservation from University of Padova in Italy.

Abdelkader is a true blend of diverse culture and experiences coupled with a perfect polyglot (Arabic, French, English, Italian).

He brings almost 25 years' experience leading and advising on biodiversity conservation, particularly on drylands, protected area management and integrated forest conservation.

Before joining UNEP, Mr. Abdelkader Bensada served with UNOPS as the Regional Project Coordinator (2010-2015), where he managed a complex multi-donor project on sustainable management of endemic ruminant livestock in West Africa. He was also responsible for providing advice and guidance, reinforcing standards, and developing and delivering high-quality and impactful training on project management for junior managers and staff.



AURELIA ADHIAMBO
Open Wing Alliance (OWA) Africa Lead at The
Humane League

Aurelia is the current Open Wing Alliance (OWA) Africa Lead at The Humane League. The Open Wing Alliance (OWA) is a global coalition of animal welfare organizations working together towards ending the abuse of chickens. She is also one of the advisors at the Effective Altruism Animal Welfare Fund, and the Africa Liaison for the Animal and Vegan advocacy (AVA) Africa summit. She is passionate about empowering animal welfare organizations in Africa



David Ombisi
UNEP

Dr Patrick X. Bastiaensen was born in Kinshasa, Congo (° 1965). A Belgian national, he graduated in 1991 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (DVM) from the University of Ghent, in Belgium. After a short stint working as a research assistant in tropical helminthology at the University from which he graduated, he left for the southern hemisphere, working on long term contracts for a variety of national, regional and international organizations, amongst which the Belgian, French and German Development Cooperation, the African Development Bank, the European Union and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN.

He was consecutively based in Suriname, Togo, São Tomé and Príncipe, Mali, Botswana and now Kenya, and gradually moved away from tropical parasitology to become an all-round animal epidemiologist, confirmed by the corresponding Certificate in animal epidemiology, obtained in 2006 from the Alfort School of Veterinary Medicine in Paris. In 2016, he concluded a Master of Science degree (M.Sc.) in animal / human / ecosystem health at the University of Pretoria, in South Africa. He has worked for WOA, the then OIE since 2007 when he joined the newly established Gaborone office in Botswana, after a successful assignment working for the final Programme towards eradication of rinderpest, the PACE Programme, coordinated by the African Union. Over time he has worked in more than 30 countries on all continents. He is the principal author of 15 peer-reviewed scientific articles and co-authored another 10, as well as co-editing several books, field manuals and conference proceedings. He is a peer-reviewer for several scientific journals, mainly in the field of preventive medicine.



DR. KIKIOPE OLUWARORE

Dr. Kikiopé Oluwarore is a veterinarian with over 13 years of experience in cross-cutting fields of One Health and Animal Welfare programming, research, and interventions. In the field of Animal Welfare, she has expertise in animal welfare integration into food production systems, advancing Afro-centric animal welfare knowledge and innovations through research, developing and establishing educational tools in animal welfare for stakeholder training and capacity building, leading field interventions to promote implementation of on-farm welfare practices, and policy advocacy.



DR DAVID OBIERO
Maasai Mara University

David Obiero Oduori is a dedicated and results-driven professional with over 17 years of experience in animal welfare, livestock development, and veterinary public health. He holds a BVM from the University of Nairobi, an MSc in International Animal Health from the University of Edinburgh and is a PhD fellow in Veterinary Public Health. His career is marked by notable contributions to the development of Kenya's Animal Welfare and Protection Bill and the welfare of working equines through leadership roles at various organizations.

David's work spans program management, research, and capacity-building initiatives in animal health

and welfare, including his role as a lecturer at Maasai Mara University, where he contributes to research, curriculum development, and community outreach. He has managed projects funded by international organizations focusing on welfare assessments, epidemiological studies, and policy development.

Recognized for his technical expertise, David has been consulted by global organizations. His academic contributions include several peer-reviewed journal articles and conference presentations on animal welfare and public health. David's leadership and collaboration with diverse groups demonstrate his commitment to advancing animal welfare and veterinary public health in Africa and beyond.



ALEXIS OLDS
Compassion in World Farming Africa

Alexis is the head of the newly registered Compassion in World Farming Africa (based in South Africa). She has always had a passion for animals and the natural environment and studied nature conservation. She has an MSc in Ichthyology from Rhodes University. After graduating, Alexis worked for provincial nature conservation in the Western Cape, South Africa as an ecologist. In this role, she championed for the protection of endangered marine species such as endemic sharks, fish, African Penguin and their environments. She has always had a passion for animal welfare, having volunteered at numerous organizations over the years. After leaving the conservation sector she followed

her passion for animal welfare and the environment and joined Compassion in World Farming in July 2024. This is an incredibly exciting time as this is the first CIWF office in the global south where we will champion the cause of improved farm animal welfare and farming practices in Southern Africa.



Dr Bryce Marock

Dr Bryce Marock qualified from the University of Pretoria, with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science in 2011. He spent 2 and a half years in private practice, thereafter, taking a position at the National Council of SPCAs in South Africa. As a NGO, it is unique in that it has legislative authority that was confirmed by Constitutional Court in 2016 to be the authoritative voice for animal welfare in South Africa. It has the power to police and privately prosecute animal cruelty offences. He has been attached to this environment, largely dealing with animal cruelty forensics, and providing expertise in animal welfare science.

He has given in person evidence in magisterial courts on eight occasions, with many more affidavits filed resulting in convictions where his evidence was accepted or where the matters are still pending. He has given evidence in regional courts on two occasions, with more affidavits filed resulting in convictions and where matters are pending. He has also provided evidence for the High Court of South Africa once, being cited in the judgement.

He has been invited to speak at the Africa Animal welfare conference on welfare matters related to livestock. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2019), Accra, Ghana (2021) and Gaborone, Botswana (2022).

He has presented at the South African Veterinary Association`s annual congress in 2023 and the World Veterinary Association`s 39th congress in 2024 on the topic of Live Exportation by Sea.

He is an ad-hoc member of the South African Veterinary Association`s Animal Ethics and Welfare committee, the NSPCAs representative to the National Animal Health Forum, and for the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW), the unified NGO welfare body represented at the WOA. H.



DR PARTICK X. BASTIAENSEN

Dr Patrick X. Bastiaensen was born in Kinshasa, Congo (° 1965). A Belgian national, he graduated in 1991 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (DVM) from the University of Ghent, in Belgium. After a short stint working as a research assistant in tropical helminthology at the University from which he graduated, he left for the southern hemisphere, working on long term contracts for a variety of national, regional and international organizations, amongst which the Belgian, French and German Development Cooperation, the African Development Bank, the European Union and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. He was consecutively based in Suriname, Togo, São

Tomé and Príncipe, Mali, Botswana and now Kenya, and gradually moved away from tropical parasitology to become an all-round animal epidemiologist, confirmed by the corresponding Certificate in animal epidemiology, obtained in 2006 from the Alfort School of Veterinary Medicine in Paris. In 2016, he concluded a Master of Science degree (M.Sc.) in animal / human / ecosystem health at the University of Pretoria, in South Africa. He has worked for WOAHA, the then OIE since 2007 when he joined the newly established Gaborone office in Botswana, after a successful assignment working for the final Programme towards eradication of rinderpest, the PACE Programme, coordinated by the African Union. Over time he has worked in more than 30 countries on all continents. He is the principal author of 15 peer-reviewed scientific articles and co-authored another 10, as well as co-editing several books, field manuals and conference proceedings. He is a peer-reviewer for several scientific journals, mainly in the field of preventive medicine.



Dr. Patrick Muinde
World Animal Protection

Dr. Patrick Muinde is a Research Manager at World Animal Protection, an animal welfare organization envisioned in inspiring and moving the world to safeguard the welfare of animals. As a Research Manager, he collaborates with colleagues and institutions on a local, regional and global scale to provide credible evidence that informs delivery of evidence-based campaigns aimed at realizing the organization's vision of a world free of cruelty and suffering for animals.

Before joining World Animal Protection, Patrick spent six years at the International Livestock Research Institute where he worked on a variety of multidisciplinary research projects ranging from

emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases, to mapping and understanding livestock value chains and associated food safety risks.

Dr. Patrick works with key stakeholders in wildlife and livestock to catalyze policy and socio-economic change that benefits animals, people and the planet, and believes that what is good for animals is good for the people and the world. Patrick envisions a world in which mankind recognizes the importance of high animal welfare in sustainable food systems and where wildlife is protected from all forms of cruel exploitation, for a healthy environment and climate-safe future.



Abigail Mukonyo

Abigail Mukonyo is a youth advocate from Kenya. She is the Executive Coordinator of Thrive Philanthropy and the Co-founder of Mzizi Empowerment Initiative. Abigail has 8 years of experience in the nonprofit sector and is passionate about empowerment and community engagement to arrive at sustainable solutions. Her passion towards veganism is empowered by the desire to have humane treatment of animals, the health and lifestyle advantages associated with plant-based meals, environmental conservation and protection and empowered communities towards plant-based meals.



James Herbert Williams, PhD, MSW, MPA
Arizona University

James Herbert Williams, PhD., is the Arizona Centennial Professor of Social Welfare and Director of the Center for Child Well-Being at the School of Social Work at Arizona State University. Dr. Williams is Dean Emeritus at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver and previous Director of the School of Social Work at Arizona State University.

Dr. Williams has published several books, articles, book chapters, and research reports on human security and economic sustainability, health promotion and disease prevention, behavioral health disparities and health equity,

sustainable development, one health paradigm, adolescent violence and substance use, intimate partner violence, academic achievement, African American children in urban schools, and community strategies for positive youth development. Dr. Williams has worked extensively with communities and organizations in the United States, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, and Botswana family and child well-being, disease prevention, health equities, economic development, youth development and sustainable development. He has received grant funding of more than 20 million to support his research and training projects nationally and internationally. Dr. Williams is a Fellow in the American Academy for Social Work & Social Welfare and the Society for Social Work and Research. He served on the Executive Committee and Leadership Board of the Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative. He served as President of the Society for Social Work and Research and the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work. He is the former Editor-in-Chief of Social Work Research.



YOLANDA EISENSTEIN

Yolanda Eisenstein is an animal law attorney in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. She is president of the Animal Law Commission of Paris-based Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA), where she focuses on international wildlife issues, represents the UIA at the United Nations, and serves on the Artificial Intelligence Task Force. She is a previous chair of the American Bar Association Animal Law Committee and, in 2018, received the “Excellence in Animal Law Award” in recognition of her work to advance the humane treatment of animals through the law. She is an author and former adjunct professor of animal law at SMU Dedman School of Law. Her books include *Careers in Animal Law* and *The American Bar Association Guide to Dog Laws* (author), *Representing Animal Protection Organizations and Wildlife Law and Ethics* (co-editor), and *Animal Cruelty: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Understanding and the Elgar Encyclopedia of Animal Law* (contributor).



Mr. Isaiah Otieno
Associate Programme Management Officer – UNEP

Mr. Isaiah Otieno holds a master’s degree in information technology from Strathmore University and a bachelor’s degree in information system technology from United States International University (USIU). Isaiah worked in the Information and Technology field for a period of 10 years before following his passion in the environment and joining UNEP in 2014. At UNEP Isaiah has been the focal point for organization from the Africa region by ensuring that Major Groups and Stakeholders are engaged meaningfully in the work of UN Environment’s Governing Bodies. Isaiah oversaw the signing of MOUs with several accredited organizations from Africa to enhance collaboration between

UNEP and these organizations. Such MOU saw UNEP and Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) organize an annual conference named Animal Welfare Conference. The first and the Second conference took place in Nairobi Kenya. The third conference took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia while the fourth conference that was to take place in Accra Ghana had to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Isaiah has six years’ experience in the UN system, working with the civil society in the environmental advocacy sphere.



REBECA GARCIA
UNEP

Dr. Rebeca García Pinillos is a veterinarian qualified in the University of Zaragoza (Spain), PhD from the University of Reading (England) and a specialist in animal welfare, ethics and legislation recognized by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioral Medicine.

She has worked in veterinary practice, as a government veterinary surgeon since 2001 and is past president of the Association of Government Veterinary Surgeons in England. Rebeca has also worked as a volunteer with exotic animals and currently supports the UN Environment

Programme as an international consultant. Rebeca is an internationally recognized lecturer and speaker in the field of animal welfare and One Welfare, educating and lecturing worldwide. She founded the non-profit social enterprise One Welfare CIC through which she has established a global presence of the One Welfare concept, supporting educational and research systems worldwide.



DR PAUL NDANG'ANG'A
BirdLife International.

Dr Paul Kariuki Nding'ang'a is the current Regional Director for Africa at BirdLife International. BirdLife's mission is to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people toward sustainability in the use of natural resources. Dr Nding'ang'a has worked in the field of bird and biodiversity research and conservation for over 25 years and has published widely on the subject. His current leadership role involves coordination of BirdLife Partnership's work in Africa across >27 countries. Previously he used to be a research scientist at the National Museums of Kenya. He has a PhD in Landscape conservation and planning, an MSc in Conservation Biology and a BSc in Wildlife Management. He also has an interest in mentoring and training of upcoming conservation biologists and leaders.



DR. VICTOR MUSIIME – Director
Zoo & Wildlife Veterinarian/Animal Welfare
Compliance Coordinator –UWEC

Dr. Musiime Victor is a dedicated Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarian with five years of professional service focused on promoting animal health and welfare standards for wildlife in both in-situ and ex-situ environments. He actively participates in wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and release programs, with a strong commitment to biodiversity conservation, One Health approaches, animal welfare, and environmental protection. He serves as the Animal Welfare Compliance Coordinator and is the head of the National Wildlife Hospital, Nursery, and Quarantine at the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC).

Dr. Musiime is also a member of UWEC's research committee and Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

Dr. Musiime holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine from Makerere University and is currently pursuing a Master of Wildlife Health and Management: Wildlife Medicine track, at the same institution.

His research interests include Conservation Medicine, One Health, and Captive Wildlife Management. He has extensive experience working with communities on conservation and One Health projects, ensuring the welfare of wildlife and fostering community engagement.

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MELISSA NGILANDALA –
Civil Society Engagement Assistant

Melissa is a young professional specializing in monitoring and evaluation, with a solid background in Business Information Technology. With nearly three years of experience in UNEP accreditation processes, she has a strong commitment to sustainable development and environmental governance. Her role involves actively facilitating engagement with civil society organizations, ensuring they meet the necessary standards for accreditation. Melissa's dedication to fostering collaboration between these organizations and UNEP highlights her passion for driving impactful environmental initiatives and promoting global sustainability efforts.



TRISH SEWE
Wildlife Direct

Trish Sewe is a seasoned communications and development professional with over two decades of experience in steering complex projects. Currently serving as the Chief of Party for National Geographic's Team Sayari & Nature Positive Kids Outreach Program at WildlifeDirect, Trish is a driving force behind the project implementation and management. Beyond her managerial role, she is an ardent advocate for storytelling for conservation and leadership. Trish is dedicated to instigating behavioral change that leaves a lasting impact on the conservation of species-rich landscapes.

Simultaneously, she strives to create meaningful economic opportunities for communities across East Africa. She passionately champions the empowerment of young minds, actively working towards equipping the youth with knowledge and skills, which enable them to make informed choices that contribute to a sustainable and harmonious coexistence with our natural world.



NANCY MAKUVISE

Nancy is an enthusiastic and passionate animal lawyer, well versed in wildlife conservation and animal law and welfare. Her passion is driven towards the realization of a world where animals and people live in harmony and where the health and welfare of animals and the environment are prioritized as much as that of humans. She has contributed to this through the training of stakeholders, teaching of students on wildlife law and the training of communities on animal welfare and wildlife conservation. Making use of her experience from prosecution, she has monitored several wildlife crime cases

with a focus on specially protected animals, with outstanding outcomes. As a Research and Consultant Officer she has collaborated with Community Conservation and Climate Frontiers (CCCF), an organization focused on working with communities on conservation and climate matters, on the penning of a children's book on animal welfare in their Children4Animals project. Her work has earned her an accolade as a Global Animal Law Ambassador for the year 2023-2024 by the Centre for Animal Law Studies. She holds an LLM in Animal Law from Lewis and Clark Law School, USA and an LLB degree from South Africa.



KARIN SIEGMUND – Director
WTS Welttierschutzstiftung, Berlin, Germany

Karin Siegmund is the director of WTS Welttierschutzstiftung, Berlin, Germany.

Karin has worked for national and international non-profit organisations, with a special focus on global environmental issues and sustainability. With her long-term expertise in development cooperation, she strives to implement a holistic approach into the programmes and projects, serving animals and society alike. Under her leadership WTS has developed into a knowledge organisation providing resources to the global animal welfare community, such as teaching materials, guidelines and an expanding database



DR JEAN CLAUDE MASENGESHO
Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO)

Dr. Jean Claude Masengesho is a Rwandan veterinary surgeon with extensive experience in veterinary medicine, animal welfare advocacy, and One Health. He is the founder and Executive Director of the Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO) and serves as the National Focal Point for Animal Welfare and the ambassador of World Animal Day in Rwanda. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Rwanda and has completed advanced training in veterinary laboratory diagnostics and animal welfare at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Austria. In 2018, he earned an MBA with a focus on Project

Management.

Dr. Jean Claude has significantly contributed to various animal welfare and One Health projects in Rwanda and the region. He played a key role at New Vision Veterinary Hospital and as a project manager for WTS-VETS UNITED in Rwanda, advancing animal welfare through continuous professional development of vets and para-vets. Jean Claude have served as a consultant for ANAW in assessing chicken battery cage adoption in Rwanda and worked with CAAWO and Brighter Green in evaluating the country's industrial animal-agriculture farming situation. He is well-connected in the animal welfare field, participating in international conferences and served as a co-moderator for the 7th Africa Animal Welfare Conference held Kigali-Rwanda-2023

His career and contributions have made a significant impact in advancing animal welfare and One Health in Rwanda and he is continuing to be a driving force in promoting those causes.



Dr. Hiver Boussini - African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

Dr. Hiver Boussini, a National from Burkina Faso, has a BSc in Biology and Biochemistry, Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and a Master in Biotechnology concentration in Microbiology and Biochemistry. He has certificate of specialization in Epidemiology and sanitary emergency interventions and laboratory diagnosis. He has worked for over 16 years at the African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) as Animal Health Officer.

From September 2018 to December 2019 Dr. Hiver joined FAO-ECTAD as Country Team Leader in Nigeria before coming back to serve again AU-IBAR as Senior Animal Health Officer in charge of Animal Health Policy, strategy and program development and implementation as well as One Health Approach and animal welfare.

Currently Dr. Boussini is the Head of Animal Health Unit and Ag. Coordinator of the Pan African PPR Secretariat and Team Leader PPR eradication in Africa, Animal welfare and One Health.



DR ELYNN NJERI -
Animal Welfare Expert, Au-Ibar

Dr. Elynn Njeri is an animal welfare expert with a strong foundation in veterinary medicine, having graduated in 2020. She is currently pursuing a master's in wildlife health and management, reflecting on her ongoing commitment to expanding her expertise in the field. Dr. Njeri is deeply passionate about animals and is dedicated to increasing awareness and knowledge about their care, as well as addressing the various issues that affect them. Her professional journey includes significant experience with the Africa Network for Animal Welfare, where she has engaged in advocacy and the sensitization of good animal welfare practices. Dr. Njeri has expertise in wildlife interventions, particularly in response to human-wildlife conflict-inflicted injuries and has been instrumental in promoting and coordinating clinical care and disease control for both domestic and wild animals. Her work is characterized by a deep commitment to improving the well-being of animals across diverse environments.



Dr Dennis Bahati
Africa Network for Animal Welfare

Dr Dennis Bahati is a Program Manager at Africa Network for Animal Welfare and an accomplished Veterinarian and Programme, Research and Advocacy Specialist with over 9 years of experience in leading animal welfare and conservation initiatives. Adept in managing and executing projects spanning across Africa, with a strong commitment to the well-being of animals, wildlife conservation, and community engagement. He has been engaged in orchestrating multifaceted campaigns, conducting impactful research, and fostering collaborative partnerships to drive positive change. He possesses a deep understanding of the complexities of animal welfare

and conservation issues in various African contexts, seeking opportunities to leverage expertise in program management, research, and community outreach to advance the cause of animal welfare and environmental conservation.

In addition to undertaking several animal welfare programs, Dr Bahati is currently engaged in Cage-Free Campaigns and Research in Africa focused on establishing the extent of adoption of caged farming in East, West and Southern Africa. This has been combined with assessing the gaps within the legal and policy frameworks governing the poultry industry as well as consumers' perception on chicken caged farming and its influence on their purchasing characteristics. Dr Bahati was involved in the planning and execution of the first Chicken Cage Free Conferences in East Africa that was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in May 2022 and in Accra, Ghana in April 2023 that highlighted on key recommendations to tackle caged farming in the regions as well as the whole continent.

With a high regard for life, Dr Bahati accentuates key sentiments of The Dalai Lama who believed that at the most fundamental level, our nature is compassionate, and that cooperation, not conflict, lies at the heart of the basic principles that govern our human existence. By living a way of life that expresses our basic goodness, we fulfill our humanity and give our actions dignity, worth, and meaning.



ABDUL RAHMAN SAFIAN
West Africa Centre for the Protection of Animal
Welfare (WACPAW)

Abdul Rahman is a dedicated and passionate animal welfare and behavior practitioner with extensive experience in animal welfare advocacy, education, and the implementation of humane practices in livestock management. As the Executive Director of the West Africa Centre for the Protection of Animal Welfare (WACPAW), He has successfully led innovative techniques to enhance the welfare of animals during transportation and slaughter in rural Ghana. His commitment to improving animal welfare is reinforced by a strong educational foundation, including a B.Sc. in Business Administration from the University of Ghana, Legon, with

specializations in public administration, business management, and policy planning, as well as a Diploma in Basic Education from Bagabaga College of Education, with concentrations in English language, mathematics, and integrated sciences.

Abdul's professional development in areas such as animal behavior and welfare, equine welfare, and humane slaughter has equipped him with the knowledge and skills to lead and manage complex programs. As the Programs Manager at United Force For Development (UF4D), He was responsible for managing annual project planning and scheduling, ensuring the effective execution of animal welfare programs. His leadership skills are further demonstrated through his role as a founding member and Executive Director of WACPAW, where he has advocated for animal welfare practices since 2015. Additionally, as the President of the Animal Welfare Forum Ghana (AWFG), he actively engages in national discussions on animal welfare policies.

Beyond his professional achievements, Abdul is deeply involved in community outreach programs, establishing school animal welfare clubs, educating the public on wildlife protection, animal care, and promoting plant-based diets and environmental sustainability. His organizational skills, adaptability, and ability to work collaboratively within diverse teams, combined with his innovative and open-minded approach, have been instrumental in advancing animal welfare initiatives in various settings.



Dan Joshua Oduor-
Stawisha Africa Initiative

Dan Joshua Oduor is the Principal Founder of Stawisha Africa Initiative with passion for grassroots development and growth, particularly among youth. Dan has over fifteen years of dedicated experience in non-profit organizations in Western Kenya. Stawisha Africa Initiative, an NGO that works with vulnerable children and youth between the ages of 10 and 35 years. Stawisha operates in the following thematic areas:

- a) Education and skills training (Job creation, Job access, Apprenticeship - In collaboration with established artisans, young people get trained in real environment and get absorbed in the job market with great experience. Library access, Sports for social growth. Dignity restoration project – Making school uniforms for needy pupils to keep them in school and build their confidence.
- b) Agriculture and Environment (Food security, Agribusiness, financial literacy - Training on proper resource management, VSL and the discipline of wealth creation) Environment conservation- Establishment of environment awareness campaign groups in partnership with 15 primary & secondary schools. Creation and support of environment clubs in schools, growing of fruit trees and vegetables, bee keeping, chicken value chain
- c) Health and wellness (Mental wellness support, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, Dignity restoration project for girls and boys providing sanitary towels and boxers, Teen mothers return to school engagement, advocacy, Nutrition) Distribution of dry foods during the pandemic and during the election period.

Social media @stawishaafricainitiative

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DR HUYAM SALIH – Director
African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal
Resources (AU-IBAR)

Luther Bois Anukur is the Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which comprises of 24 countries in the Horn of Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean

Prior to joining IUCN, he served in several development organization as Deputy Regional Director, Eastern and Southern Africa with Plan International; Regional Director for Panos Eastern Africa; Country Director World Vision International & Programme Director with Child Fund International. in Programme development

and management, operational research and applied policy work on governance, organizational development, institutional capacity building, public policy formulation and advocacy across a range of sectors engaging widely with diverse groups of practitioners and policy makers.

He is a winner of the British Council Professional Service Award 2006. He is also a Senior Fellow with Synergos, which brings together distinguished international civil society and business leaders committed to address the underlying causes of poverty and inequality by promoting and supporting collaborations among business, government, civil society and marginalized communities. Luther's educational background includes a Master's of Business Administration (MBA) from the Maastricht School of Management in the Netherlands and a Bachelor's degree in Social Science, Economics and Social Administration from Makerere University in Uganda.



EUNICE ROBAI MAKUNDA -
Africa Network For Animal Welfare (Anaw)

Eunice Robai Makunda is the Capacity Building, Education and Awareness manager at Africa Network for Animal Welfare. She has over 12 years experience in conservation communication and education. She is responsible for leading the organization to develop and implement comprehensive campaigns that advance animal welfare education goals. This is achieved while conducting animal welfare clubs and community education that address systematic issues in animal welfare. She has extensive experience in graphic design, concept development and different kinds of creative problem-solving skills.

She designs campaign and activities that increase as well as change behaviours and attitudes in animal welfare. She graduated from The Technical University of Kenya with a Bachelors of Technology in Journalism and Mass communication and has a Diploma in Journalism and Public relations. She also holds an International Certificate in Humane Education, certificates in Leadership, Leadership and emotional intelligent and Certificates in Content Writing and Translation.



GABRIELLA MUTISO

Gabriella Mutiso is a passionate and dedicated conservationist with a strong commitment to wildlife preservation. At the young age of 19, she has already amassed significant experience in the field, making notable contributions to various conservation efforts across Kenya.

Since 2019, Gabriella has been a volunteer with the Kenya Wildlife Service's Mobile Veterinary Unit in Nanyuki, where she has been actively involved in wildlife care and rescue operations. Her dedication to the cause extends to her work with the Lewa Conservancy, where she volunteered in 2022, and

her participation in the Mpala Wild Dog Research project in 2023, showcasing her deep interest in wildlife research and conservation. In recognition of her outstanding efforts, Gabriella became the first Kenyan student to join the prestigious Young Conservationist Program by Honeyguide Safaris. Her leadership skills are evident in her roles as the former President of the Wildlife Club at Precious Blood Kilungu, former Chair of the Wildlife Club at Mount Kenya Senior School, and her current position as the President of the Wildlife Club at Oshwal Senior High School. Gabriella's journey in conservation is marked by her unwavering commitment to protecting Kenya's wildlife and her aspiration to inspire others to join her in this vital mission.



Philip Tedeschi, LCSW MSSW
University of Denver

Clinical Professor, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver

Founder and Director Emeritus, Institute for Human-Animal Connection, University of Denver

Co-Director, Institute for Animal Sentience and Protection

Philip Tedeschi is the Co -Director of the Institute for Animal Sentience and Protection and Director Emeritus and Founder of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver. He is a licensed clinical social worker, a clinical professor at the Graduate School of Social Work and an affiliated faculty with the University of Denver's Animal Law Program. He teaches in the Graduate School of Social Work, examining the intricate relationship between people, domestic and wild animals, and the natural world. Tedeschi's research, scholarship, teaching, and community practice work have focused on issues of social and interspecies justice, global perspectives of human-animal interactions and human ecology. He specializes in the bio-affiliative connection between people and animals, causes of maltreatment to people/non-human animals and the health promoting potential of human-animal and nature interaction.



WASSEEM EMAM
Founder, Ethical Seafood Research

Wasseem Emam is an aquatic ecologist and fish welfare researcher with over 14 years of varied international experience across the fisheries and aquaculture sector. He holds advanced degrees in applied aquatic ecology and is completing a doctorate in the welfare of farmed Nile tilapia between the UK and Spain. In 2021, he founded Ethical Seafood Research, a research organisation with the mission to fill knowledge gaps around animal welfare in the fishing and aquaculture sectors. Before this, Wasseem had worked on fisheries and aquaculture studies for a wide range of clients including the United Nations, the European Parliament, the UK and Canadian governments, the Aquaculture Stewardship Council and WWF with time spent across Europe, North America, Africa and the Middle East, where he is originally from.



DR. BRENDA OLIWA-OKUMU PhD
Africa Network For Animal Welfare

Dr Brenda Oliwa holds a doctorate in Educational Psychology from Kenyatta University. She has over ten years' experience in the education sector with a recent focus on enhancing education opportunities for vulnerable populations. Brenda coordinates the Africa Conservation Education Fund (ACEF), ANAWs education initiative that is dedicated to the provision of financial scholarships for needy students from communities that border wildlife areas whilst also supporting physical infrastructure in poorly resourced schools in this unique environment. Her work has covered designing curricula that integrates psychological

principles to enhance empathy while encouraging responsible stewardship of the environment. Her current research interests focus on how educational interventions can shift attitudes toward wildlife conservation while fostering pro-environmental behavior. Through her work, she aims to cultivate a generation of informed, compassionate advocates for animal welfare and environmental sustainability.

Dr Brenda can be reached via email on brenda@anaw.org



JANE NJUGUNA
Kirinyaga County

Jane Njuguna works for the Kirinyaga County government as a livestock production officer and an animal welfare advisor. Jane has worked in the field of animal welfare and health for more than five years. She works to improve the welfare of working donkeys by providing high-quality veterinary care, engaging the community, and advocating on their behalf. She also has previous experience working on environmental conservation and animal welfare with the Mwea Rotary Club where she is the club secretary. She holds an AHITI NDOMBA certificate in artificial insemination as well as a certificate in animal health

and production. She is committed to improving the livelihood of communities through improved agricultural and husbandry practices to enhance food security in rural areas.

She has been advising farmers far and wide beyond her current geographical region. Her life motto is that a person's treatment of animals reveals a lot about their heart, and that a person's soul is never fully awakened until they have loved an animal. The world would be a better place if everyone took the time to care for the environment and the animals in it. All animals deserve to have their lives valued.



DR. THOMAS KAHEMA
Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO)

Dr Kahema is the Executive Director of Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO), an organization that works to improve the welfare of all animals and livelihood of the people in Tanzania. TAWESO runs a variety of programmes throughout the country including Donkey Welfare, Veterinary Outreach, Farm Animal Welfare, Community Animal Hospital, Humane Education, Policy and Advocacy. He is a veterinarian and graduated from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). He has also done Project Management from University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), International Animal Welfare Training (Welfare,

Modern Surgical Techniques) in the UK, including a variety of Internships in Animal Shelters in the US and UK. He has about 30 years in the veterinary profession and is among the people who drafted the Animal Welfare Act of Tanzania, which came into effect in the year 2008, the legislation and is regarded as one of the best in the Continent.

Currently, He is appointed by the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries as one of the members of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Council that works to advise the Minister on all matters related to Animals Welfare in the Country.

He also leads a special collaborative programme that brings together veterinary graduates, veterinary students and diploma students through TAWESO team capacity building involving the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS-SUA) and the International Veterinary Outreach (IVO) from USA.



ISAAC MAINA -
Africa Network For Animal Welfare (Anaw)

Isaac Maina is an accomplished Project Manager with over 20 years of experience working in non-governmental organizations focused on animal welfare, environmental conservation, and sustainable development. His expertise includes project planning, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), capacity building, and emergency response, where he has consistently delivered practical solutions to complex challenges.

Isaac's career in wildlife conservation began as an elephant keeper, before transitioning to de-snaring operations and conservation education. Notably, he participated in Kenya's first formal de-snaring patrol, which laid the foundation for full-time

operations across many organizations. Throughout his career, Isaac has led over 100 de-snaring missions, resulting in the removal of 70,000 snares, the rescue of more than 300 animals, and the arrest of over 70 poachers. His hands-on field experience is further enhanced by patrol training from the British Army and first aid certification from the Kenya Red Cross Society.

Beyond fieldwork, Isaac is deeply involved in conservation education. He has trained and mentored numerous professionals and contributed to curriculum development and outreach programs aimed at promoting environmental awareness. His dedication was recognized with the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund Hero Award in 2008.

Isaac's academic background complements his practical expertise. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Technology Education from Moi University and a Master's in Project Planning and Management from the University of Nairobi. Currently pursuing a PhD in Project Management, he blends academic insights with field experience to drive successful, sustainable projects.

Isaac has also contributed to animal rescue during disasters and served as an Honorary Warden for the Kenya Wildlife Service for 10 years, supporting wildlife protection and policy advocacy. His unwavering commitment to conservation, animal welfare, and community development continues to inspire his contributions to the sector.



MARTIN KAHEMA
Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO)

Martin Kahema is a dedicated young Tanzanian hailing from the Lake Victoria region and currently based in Dodoma, Central Tanzania. He has been serving as the Central Zone Manager for the Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO) for two years. In this capacity, he oversees all animal welfare programs and activities across the four centers within the Central Zone, ensuring compliance with the Animal Welfare Act of 2008 and advocating for the protection of animals in line with the law.

Martin holds a Law degree (LLB) from the University of Dodoma (UDOM), where he conducted

research on the legal framework surrounding animal welfare. His research, titled “Effectiveness of the Law in Regulating Animal (Cattle and Other Animals) Transportation in Mainland Tanzania: Law and Practice,” uncovered key challenges within current animal welfare regulations.

Since his graduation, Martin has continued to expand his knowledge in the field of animal welfare. He recently participated in Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) training provided by the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANA). This training enhanced his understanding of strategies to promote positive behavioral changes in society, with a special focus on improving the welfare of animals, particularly donkeys. In recognition of his efforts, Martin received a certificate for his participation in the SBCC workshop.

Martin has been actively involved in addressing the impact of natural calamities on animals, especially those related to climate change. During the recent floods in Hanang, Northern Tanzania, which caused significant landslides affecting both people and animals, he worked diligently to provide assistance through SPANA's support. His passion for animal welfare goes beyond his professional duties, reflecting his deep commitment to ensuring the well-being of all animals under his care.



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