



# Revolutionizing Animal Welfare Education in Rwanda: A transformative journey for animal wellbeing

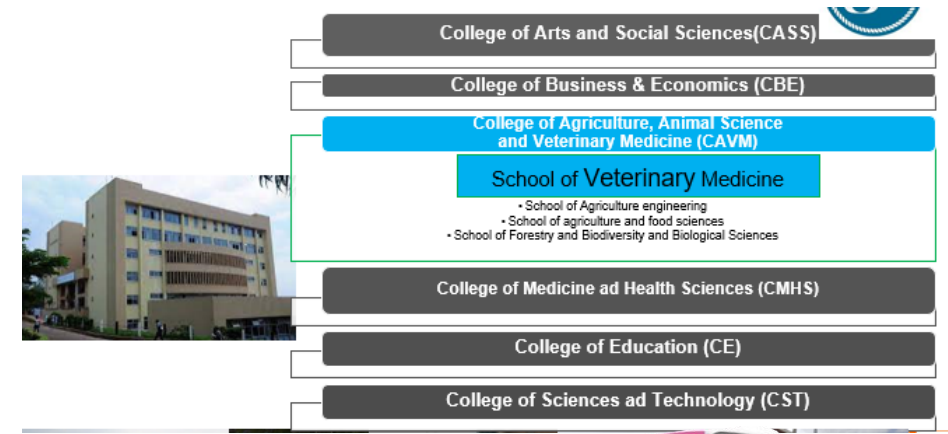
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# Introduction



## Education to

- Improved Animal Welfare Standards:
- Economic Benefits:
- Sustainable Agriculture & Food safety
- Ethical Considerations:
- Educational Opportunities
- Resilience to Climate Change

## SDG 12 & 14





# The Current State of Animal Welfare Education in Rwanda



## ➤ Many Key actors

### ○ Limited Resources:

- Competition for resources with other educational priorities

### ○ Balancing Interests:

- In some cases, there are conflicts of interest between human needs and animal welfare.

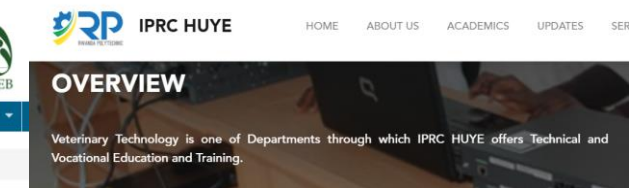
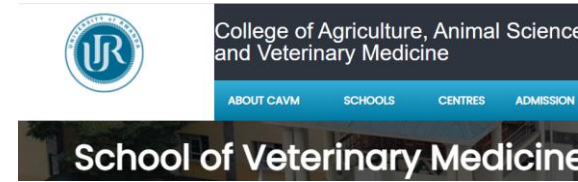
### ○ Keeping Pace with Scientific:

- Educators must continually adapt their materials to reflect new insights and developments.

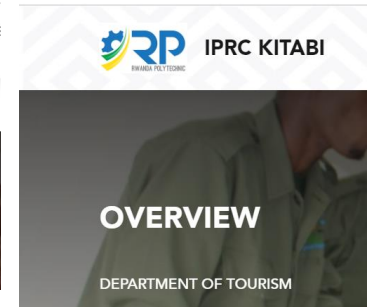
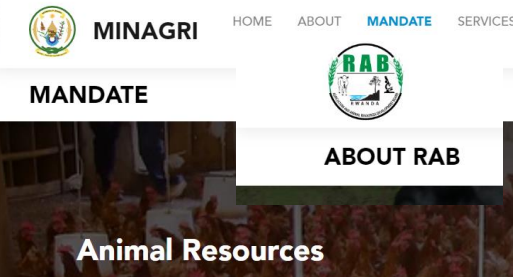
### ○ Age-Appropriate Education:

- Teaching young children requires a different approach than educating adults or professionals in animal-related industries.

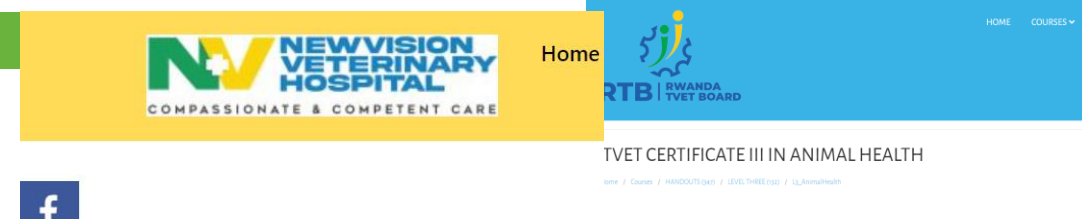
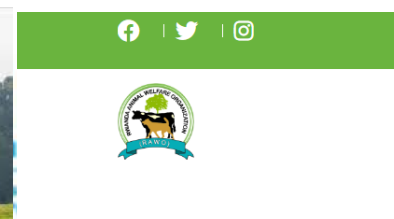
### ○ Research: Not enough



Helping People.  
Saving Gorillas.



WELFARE FOR ANIMALS GUILD RWANDA







# The Need for Transformation



- **Holistic Impact:** Animal well-being,
  - ✓ Addressing not only specific issues but also the underlying factors that contribute to animal suffering
- **Interconnected Challenges:** (Agriculture, livelihoods, environmental conservation, and public health)-
  - ✓ Recognize these connections and finds sustainable solutions that benefit both animals and people
- **Environmental Conservation:**
  - ✓ Addressing issues like overgrazing and deforestation through a transformative approach can help protect Rwanda's ecosystems
- **Public Health:**
  - ✓ Diseases that affect animals can also affect humans (zoonoses, AMR), so improving animal well-being is critical for preventing disease outbreaks and safeguarding public health.
- **Education and Awareness:**
  - ✓ This increased awareness can lead to more informed decision-making and a stronger commitment to animal well-being.





# The Need for Transformation.....



- **Rwanda's conservation and ethical values**

- ✓ **Environmental Conservation:** Establishment of national parks and conservation initiatives.

- ✓ **Sustainable Development:** Rwanda has embraced the concept of sustainable development, seeking to balance economic growth with environmental conservation

- ✓ **Community-Based Conservation:** local communities in the management and protection of natural resources.

- ✓ **Wildlife Conservation & Ethical Tourism**

- ✓ **Green Initiatives:** These initiatives contribute to environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation.



Umusambi Village

195 posts



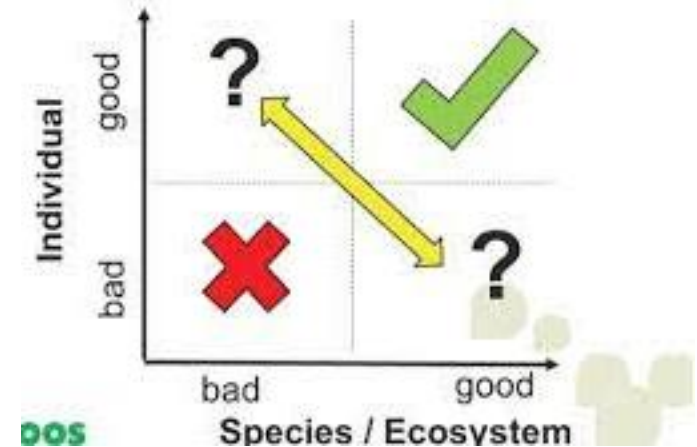


# Compassionate Conservation Principles



- ✓ C.C represents a shift in the way conservationists think about and approach their work
  - It strives to find a middle ground between the sometimes-conflicting goals of conserving biodiversity and respecting the welfare of individual animals.
- ✓ Shift from merely teaching facts about animals to fostering empathy and understanding of their experiences, needs, and emotions. (**Prioritizing Animal Welfare**)
- ✓ encourages students to think deeply about their own values and beliefs concerning animals. (**Ethical Considerations**)
- ✓ highlight the interconnectedness of species and ecosystems and teach students to consider the well-being of animals within the broader context of conservation efforts. (**Biodiversity and Ecosystem Ethics**)

COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATION

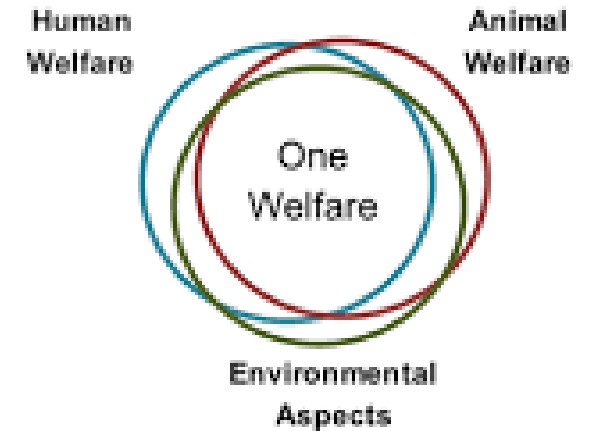




# Compassionate Conservation Principles



- ✓ Teaching about conflict resolution is a key aspect of compassionate conservation (**Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution**)
- ✓ Engaging local communities in discussions about animal welfare and conservation practices, respecting their cultural beliefs, and seeking collaborative solutions that benefit both animals and people ( **Community Engagement**)
- ✓ Animal welfare education guided by compassionate conservation should inspire students to become advocates for animals (**Promoting Empathy and Action**)







# Rethinking Curriculum and Pedagogy



- ✓ Incorporating modern animal welfare and compassionate conservation topics into the curriculum equips students with
  - The knowledge and values needed to address current and future challenges related to animals, the environment, and ethical considerations.
  - It empowers individuals to make informed, responsible, and compassionate choices, contributing to a more ethical and sustainable coexistence with animals and the natural world.
  
- ✓ Need for the innovative teaching methods that engage students and promote empathy towards animals
  - **Hands on & Outdoor Experience:** Practical experience can foster a deep connection and empathy toward animals.
  - **Guest Speakers:** Hearing from professionals who work closely with animals can provide unique insights and inspire empathy.
  - **Documentaries and Films & Storytelling and Narrative-Based Learning:**
  - **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving**
  - **Animal Ethology and Behavior Studies**







# Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration



## • Structured Education: Courses available at UG & PG program

- Infectious diseases prevention and control, Animal Handling
- Livestock management
- Veterinary Jurisprudence, legislate on Ethic & rights
- Animal behavior, and Welfare
- Wildlife & Conservation



## • Unstructured Education:

- **Local NGO- WAG, NVVH, PET+, RAWO, Gorilla Drs, Hapet, Agrotech etc, Farmers associations**
  - IPC
  - Animal transport, Vaccine, Prudent use of drug, Vaccination, 5 freedom etc
  - Humane Dog Population Management
- **Public Institutions: RAB, RBC, REMA, RDB**
  - Awareness

## • WTS

- Modules being used across the region
- FAO, WOA, VSF, AU-IBAR etc



PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS FOUNDATION CC

VETS UNITED

More Animal Welfare through Academic Education and CPD for professionals

- ✓ Online Courses and Resources & Educational Apps:
- ✓ Use of Unmanned aerial vehicles (Drone)
- ✓ Social Media and Online Communities:
- ✓ Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR):
- ✓ Online Certification Programs:
- ✓ Data Collection and Monitoring:
- ✓ Conservation



Zipline Rwanda Animal Health



Wild Welfare

<https://wildwelfare.org/resources-elearn-programme>

## E-Learning Programme | Wild Welfare

Wild Welfare's digital education programme creates accessible and engaging opportunities for animal care principles to be learned and understood.



UR - Elearning Platform

<https://elearning.ur.ac.rw/course/info>

## Summary of ANP6124:Animal Ethology and Welfare



WHO WE ARE ▾ WHAT WE DO ▾ WHAT WE OFFER ▾ MEDIA ▾

## OIE e-learning resources



E-LEARNING  
OIE Training Portal



OIE PPP E-LEARNING COURSE  
Public-Private Partnerships: Opportunities



OIE WAHIS E-LEARNING COURSE  
E-learning training platform for OIE-WAHIS



# Overcoming Challenges



- ✓ **Increased Awareness**
- ✓ **Engage** with community leaders, elders, and stakeholders to foster open dialogues about the benefits of animal welfare education
- ✓ **Seek partnerships** with governmental agencies, NGOs, and international organizations that may provide funding or support
- ✓ **Develop cost-effective educational materials and use technology for wider reach.**
- ✓ **Adapt educational materials to local languages and cultures**
- ✓ **Foster constructive dialogue with industry representatives to find common ground and develop sustainable, ethical practices that benefit animals and businesses**
- ✓ **Develop a variety of educational formats, such as online courses, workshops, and community outreach programs, to reach different demographics**





- ✓ **Measuring Impact;** Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors among participants.
- ✓ **Balancing Competing Interests:** Promote sustainable and humane practices that consider both human and animal well-being
- ✓ **Long-Term Commitment:**
- ✓ Advocate for the development and implementation of animal welfare education policies and regulations at local and national levels (**Legal and Regulatory Barriers**)
- ✓ Collaborate with authorities to integrate animal welfare into existing curricula.



# Call to Action



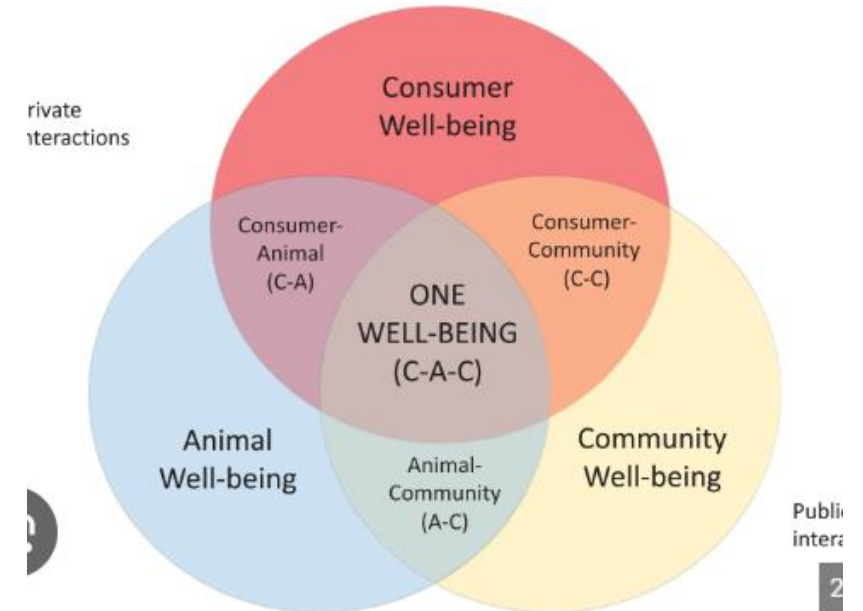
✓ **Join us in the transformative journey for animal well-being in Rwanda.**

- ✓ **Revise and Modernize Curriculum:** (Harmonized)
- ✓ **Interdisciplinary Approach:**
- ✓ **Ethical Education** (importance of humane treatment and welfare in all aspects of their work)
- ✓ **Technology Integration:**
- ✓ **Continuing Education**
- ✓ **Research and Innovation**
- ✓ **Resources allocation**



# Conclusion

- ***"A transformative journey for animal well-being" describes a purposeful and significant effort to bring about positive, enduring changes in how animals are cared for, supported, and protected, with a focus on their welfare, health, and overall quality of life".***



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