

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS ON DONKEY SKIN TRADE, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN KENYA

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Donkeys invisible outputs (service and income)



Broad View of Donkey Hide Trade in Relation to Development

“Donkey skin trade affects the realisation of the ambitious SDG vision, and its futile to discuss anything else around donkey welfare if we do not consider that we could have none in the near future. That is why it is critical to discuss and act on the donkey skin trade”

The Donkey Hide Trade

Supply: Estimated to be 44 million donkeys in the world

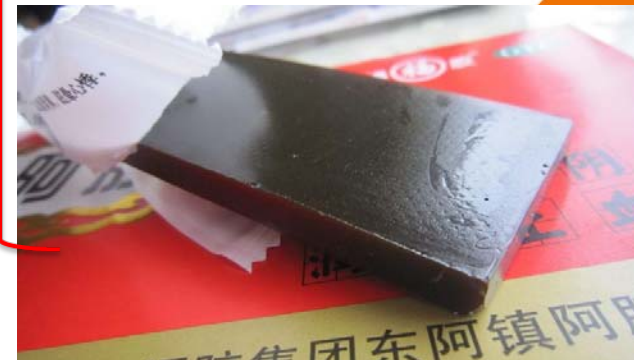


Demand: National demand for *ejiao* in China would require 2.5 to 4.5 million donkey skins/year,



Others; beauty creams, sweets, capsules etc.

Are these sweets worthy to make communities to suffer?
The sweets or the Donkey?



Donkey Welfare: Considerable Challenges

- Poor treatment by owners resulting to injuries, pain, disease and sometimes death.
- Inadequate policy and legal framework to address donkey welfare.
- Socio-cultural beliefs about donkeys cause them to suffer unnecessarily.
- Most recent donkey slaughter for meat and hide is disastrous to communities.



*Men with donkey carts, but no donkeys.
(Beth Clifton photo)*

Donkey Hide Trade: Some Results.

1. Reduction in donkeys population Impacts heavily on market access for farm produce and increases post harvest loses
2. Adolescent girls, pregnant women and mothers with small children carrying water bear the greatest burden in undertaking household transport using their backs impacting on their health and development
3. Persons with disability and the elderly who have lost their donkeys have suffered the highest burden in their dependency level
4. The reduction of donkey populations' means the available donkeys are overworked leading to welfare issues.
5. Rates of insecurity among donkey owners have increased and have been influenced by the rapid growth in the donkey trade and diminishing supply of donkeys
6. Local donkey slaughter houses in Kenya are increasingly finding it hard to get the required numbers for slaughter
7. Buying a donkey is now more expensive and farmers have to use expensive alternatives for transport.

Community Interventions

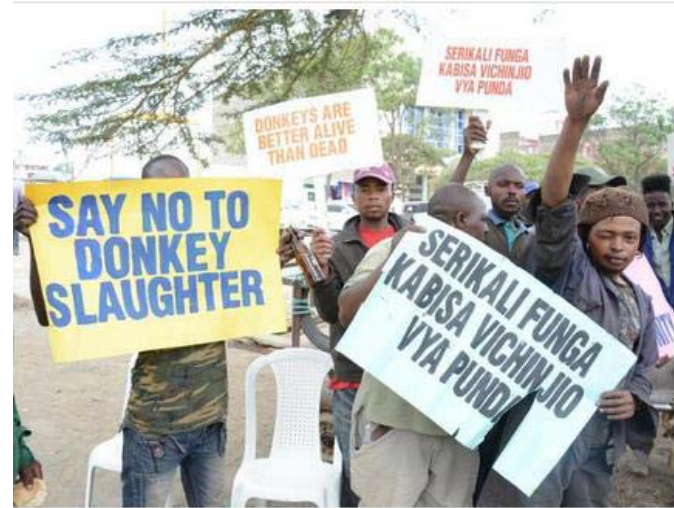
- Construction of secure shelters near the living houses.
- Integration of donkeys with other livestock and guarding them day and night.
- Community policing and leveraging security mechanisms.
- Addressing breeding barriers – restocking female donkeys, improve care and protection of pregnant donkeys and foals.

Community Interventions





Community actions



Water vendors protest against increased cases of donkey theft in Naivasha. /George Murage



- Engaging in advocacy and lobbying for a ban on the export of donkey skins and associated products from Kenya and smuggling of donkeys into Kenya.
- Donkey owners are reinforcing their advocacy and lobbying for the closure of donkey abattoirs through the formation of **National Network of Donkey Owners (NaNDO)**.

Organizations Coming together



A Voice For Working Donkeys.



Concluding comments

The communities, civil society organizations and their supporters are calling for a ban on the export of donkey skins and associated products from Kenya and a crackdown on cross border smuggling of donkeys into Kenya for their skins.

This is not easy but it has to happen given the profound effects that the trade has on the communities.



Future generations need to see, use and enjoy living with donkeys.

THANK YOU