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Hotel Franco, Yaounde, Cameroon.

An Overview of Animal Welfare in Ethiopia

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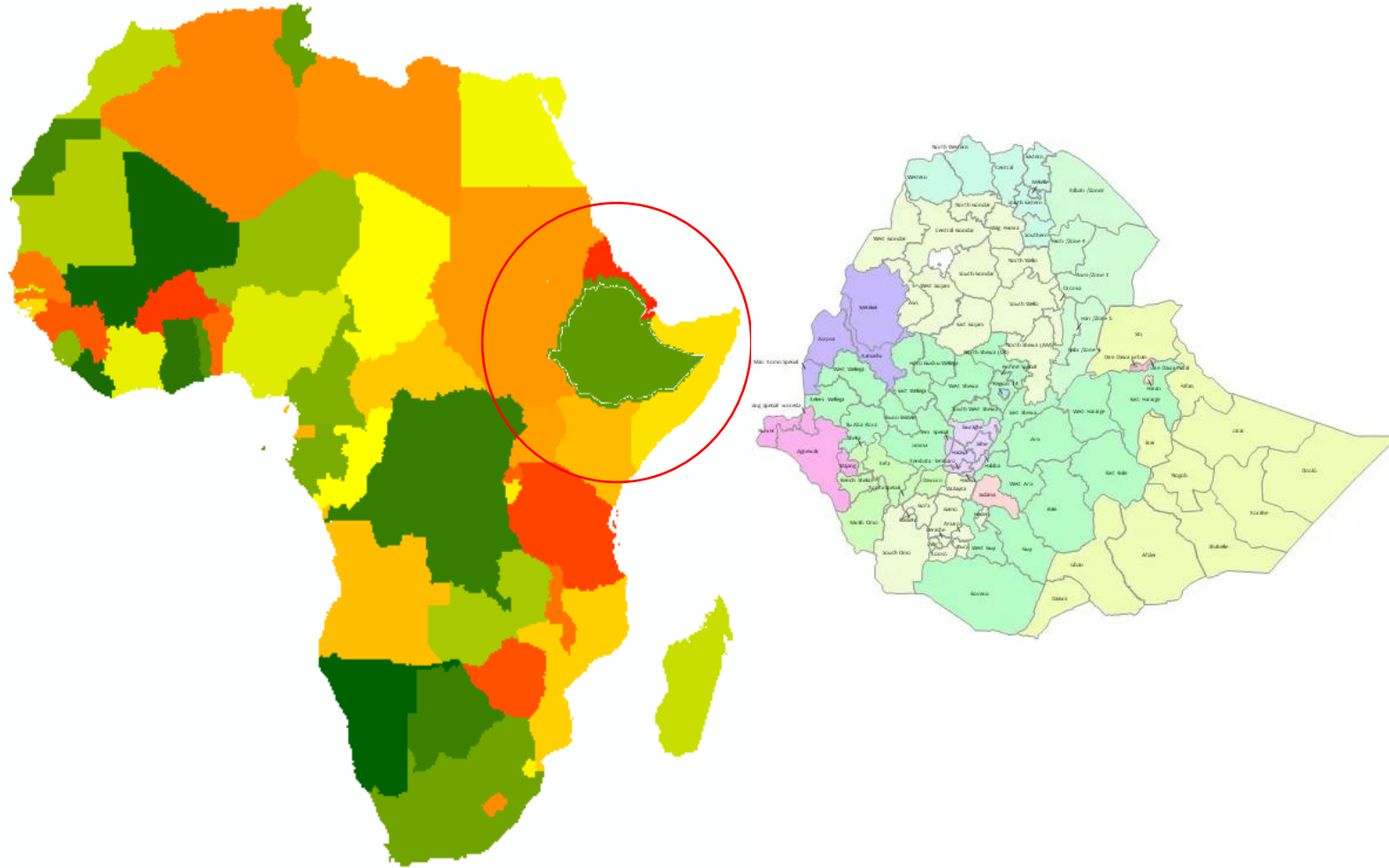
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Ethiopia geographic location



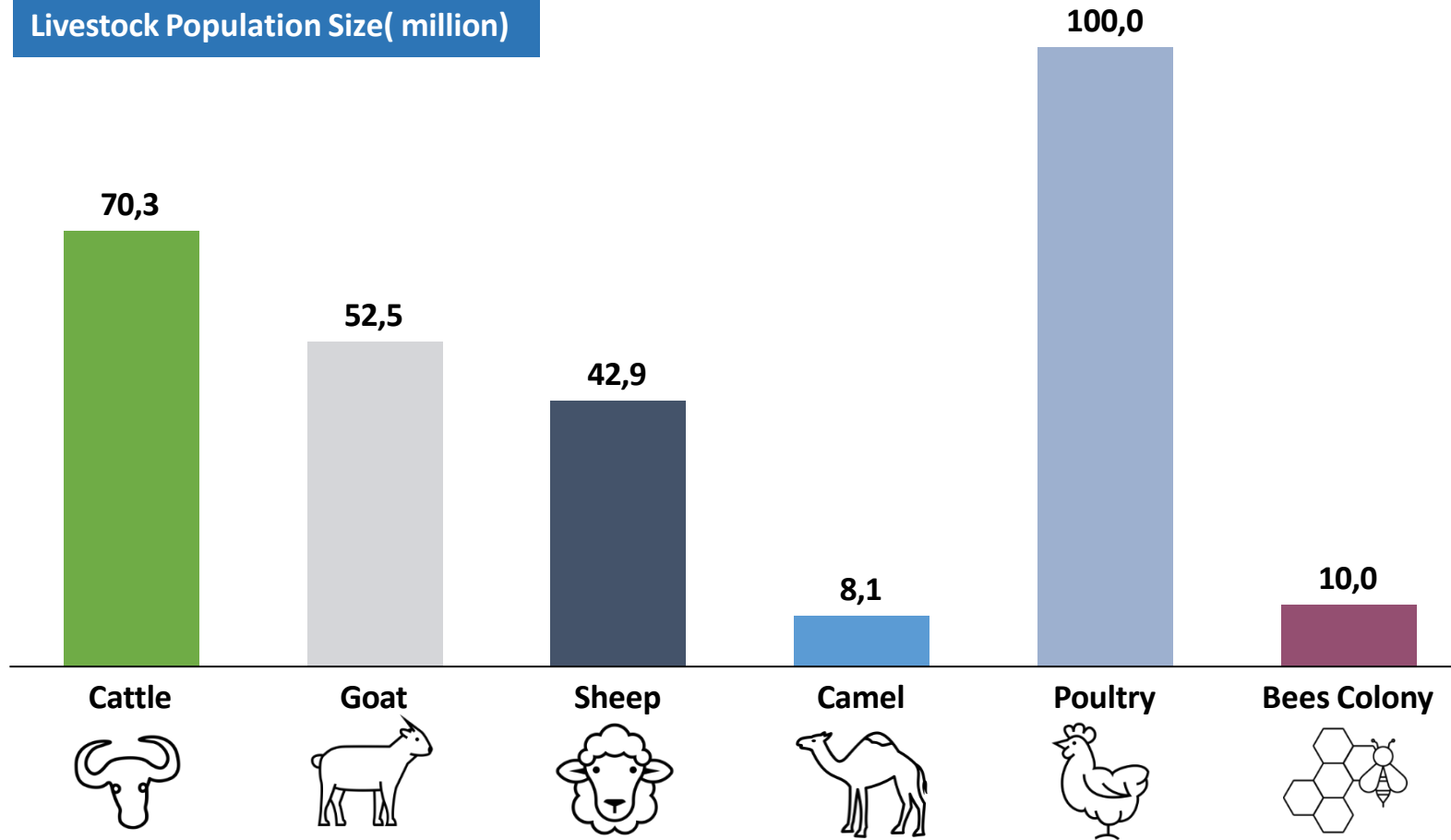
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- Ethiopia is found in Eastern Africa, A member of the IGAD countries
- Ethiopia is a country that operates under a federal system as per the FDRE Constitution of 1995
 - Ethno-linguistic is the basis for creating regional states
- Ethiopia have
- Regions- 13 regions and 2 chartered cities
- Zones: 128 zones
- Woredas: 1,081 woredas
- Kebeles: Over 21,149 kebeles



Ethiopian livestock

Livestock Population Size(million)



Livestock is estimated to contribute

- ❑ 17%-19% to the national GDP and
- ❑ 45% to the agricultural GDP

The Livestock Industry Face Productivity Challenges

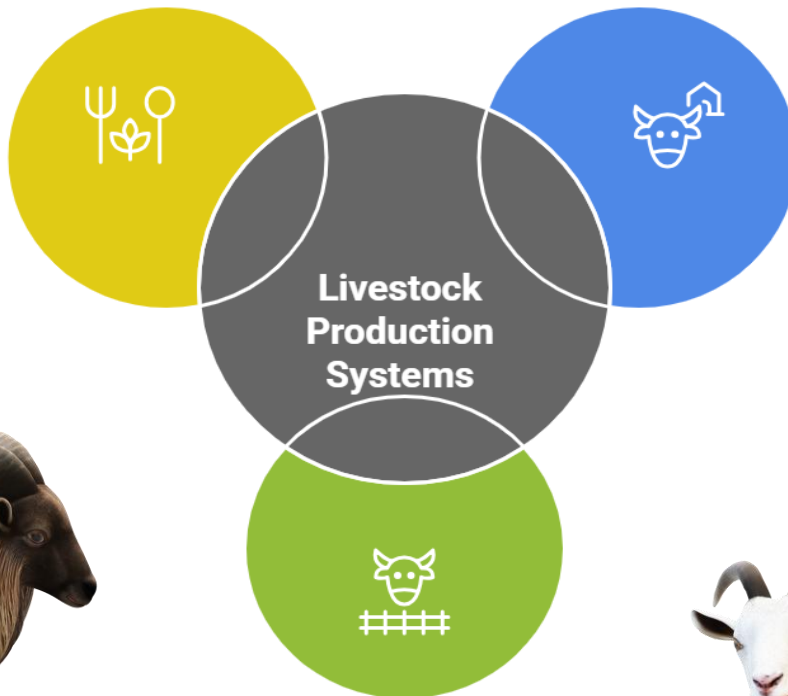
- ❑ Limited adoption of modern technologies
- ❑ Climate related risks
- ❑ Inadequate value addition/processing
- ❑ Export infrastructures



Production system

Mixed Systems

Integrated crop-livestock systems in highland areas.



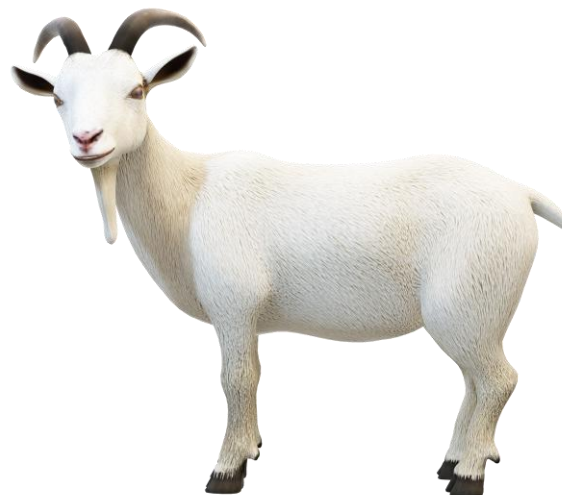
Intensive Systems

High-input, high-output farms like commercial dairies.



Extensive Systems

Low-input pastoral and agro-pastoral settings.



The Unique Endemic Mammals



Ethiopian Wolf

World's rarest canid, found only in Ethiopian highlands



Mountain Nyala

Magnificent antelope endemic to Ethiopian mountains



Walia Ibex

Critically endangered wild goat of Simien Mountains



Gelada Baboon

Unique grass-eating primate of Ethiopian plateaus

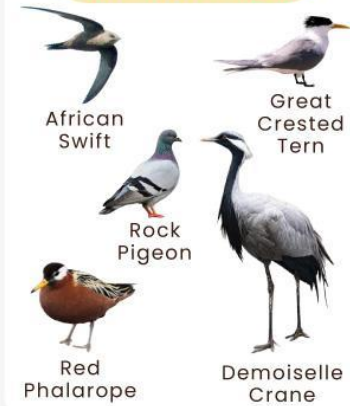
Ethiopia's Livestock and Wildlife Resources



Birds of Ethiopia

Animal Spot

Non-native Birds



Native Birds



Ethiopia's Remarkable Biodiversity



Ethiopia ranks among Africa's most biodiverse nations, hosting exceptional species richness across multiple taxonomic groups.

Category	Total Species	Endemic Species
Mammals	320	39
Birds	918	19
Reptiles	240	16
Amphibians	71	30
Freshwater Fish	172	38
Vascular Plants	6,500	625

High amphibian endemism reflects Ethiopia's isolated highland ecosystems and ancient geological history.

Protected Area Network

Federal Protected Areas

- 11 National Parks
- 2 Wildlife Sanctuaries
- 1 Wildlife Reserve

Regional Protected Areas

- 10 National Parks
- 18 Controlled Hunting Areas
- 7 Open Hunting Areas
- 3 Community Conservation Areas

Ethiopia's 55 protected areas represent a collaborative federal-regional approach to biodiversity conservation.



Livestock Production Challenges

Feed Shortage

- Insufficient grazing land and seasonal feed scarcity limit animal nutrition and growth rates across pastoral and mixed farming systems.

Disease Burden

- Endemic diseases and parasites reduce productivity while limited veterinary services constrain treatment and prevention efforts.

Traditional Production Systems

- Low-input, low-output systems dominate with limited technology adoption and insufficient supportive policies hindering modernization.



Ethiopia's Landmark Commitment to Animal Welfare

A New Era of Protection and Care for All Animals

Ethiopia's Animal Welfare Focus

Productivity Enhancement

- Better animal welfare directly improves health, reproduction, and economic returns

Food Safety

- Humane treatment ensures safer animal products for domestic and export markets

International Compliance

- Following WOAHO/OIE's 2011 evaluation, Ethiopia aligns with global animal welfare standards

Institutional Framework

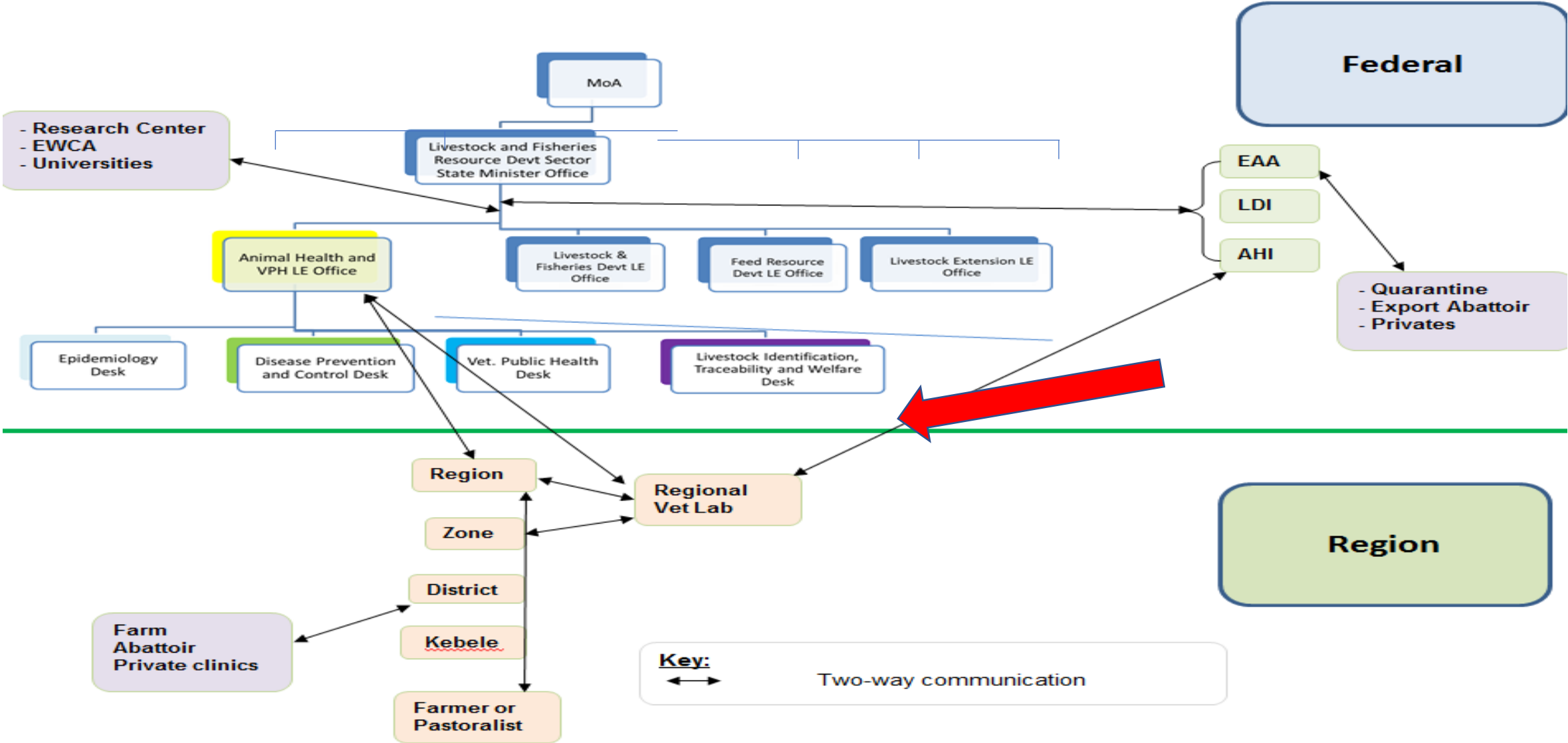
Ethiopia established a dedicated Animal Welfare Department within the Livestock Identification and Traceability System, institutionalizing animal protection as a governance priority.

Key Functions-

- Policy development and implementation
- Regulation and enforcement
- Public awareness campaigns
- Training and capacity building



Organizational Structure



Multi-Stakeholder Animal Welfare Working Group

Government Officials

Policy makers and regulatory authorities



Academic Institutions

Research and knowledge generation



NGOs & Charities

Advocacy and implementation support



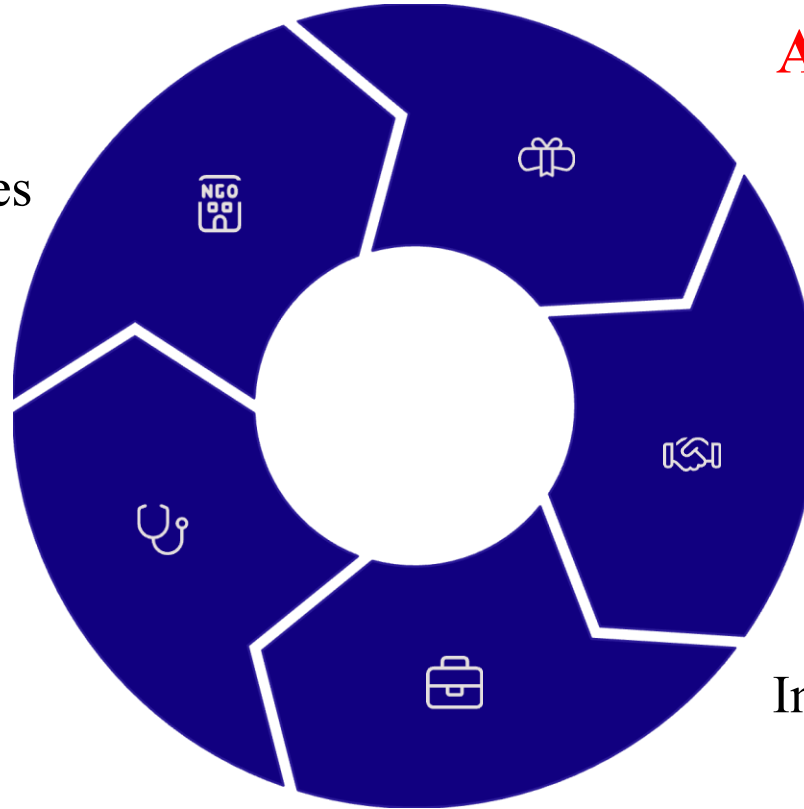
Professional Associations

Veterinary and livestock specialists



Private Sector

Industry stakeholders and practitioners



- ❖ This coordinated approach ensures comprehensive strategies that integrate animal welfare into Ethiopia's broader sustainable development agenda.







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PROCLAMATION ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE



-The newly ratified Proclamation No. 1376/2025

Landmark Proclamation

- Ethiopia's house of representatives has ratified a historic proclamation on animal health and welfare, establishing a robust legal framework to protect animals from cruelty and ensure their well-being.

Rights & Responsibilities

- This proclamation clearly defines the rights and responsibilities of animal owners, veterinarians, and all stakeholders, providing clear guidelines for animal treatment and care.

- ❖ This ratification underscores Ethiopia's profound commitment to upholding the highest standards of animal welfare at the governmental level, aligning national efforts with global best practices.

ETHIOPIA'S ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY

➤ A Comprehensive Roadmap for Action

1

Comprehensive Vision

- Ethiopia has developed a comprehensive strategy for animal welfare, articulating a clear vision, ambitious goals, and actionable initiatives to enhance the lives of animals nationwide.

2

Systematic Implementation

- This strategy serves as a dynamic roadmap, ensuring that all animal welfare initiatives are systematically coordinated and aligned with both national priorities and international best practices.

3

Enhanced Quality of Life

- It includes robust measures to significantly enhance veterinary services, promote humane treatment across all sectors, and demonstrably improve the overall quality of life for all animals in Ethiopia.

SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

➤ Protecting All Sentient Beings

❖ The strategy thoughtfully encompasses all sentient animals within Ethiopia, ensuring a holistic approach to welfare across diverse categories-

- **Food Animals/Livestock-** Including beef cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and poultry, vital for livelihoods.
- **Working Animals-** Horses, donkeys, mules, and oxen crucial for transportation and labor, as well as military/security dogs.
- **Companion Animals-** Beloved dogs, cats, birds, and other pets in homes.
- **Wildlife & Captive Animals-** Focusing on natural resource management and conservation.
- **Aquatic Animals-** Ensuring welfare in marine and freshwater environments.
- **Bees-** Recognizing their ecological and economic importance.
- **Research & Education Animals-** Mandating ethical treatment in scientific and academic settings.



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ETHIOPIA NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (2025-2030)

Draft Version

STRATEGIC PILLARS



- SO1** Policy, Legislation, Institutional Framework, and Guidelines Development
- SO2** Capacity building, training and awareness
- SO3** Research, Extension and Evidence-based Intervention
- SO4** Mainstreaming Animal Welfare into Ethiopian Education System
- SO5** Communication, Stakeholder Engagement and Resource Mobilization

➤ These strategic objectives form the bedrock of Ethiopia's commitment, ensuring a holistic, data-driven, and collaborative approach to animal welfare.



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Elnet Foundation flagship project with our state-of-the-art Equine Mobile Veterinary Clinic

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY ON ANIMAL HEALTH

➤ Fostering a Culture of Care



Public Awareness

A ratified communication strategy elevates awareness among the public, livestock owners, and critical stakeholders.



Changing Attitudes

Targeted campaigns aim to transform behaviors, cultivating a national culture of compassion and responsibility towards animals.



Information Dissemination

Crucial information on best practices for animal health and welfare is actively disseminated across all communities.



Ethiopia's Animal Health Communications Strategy



Animal Welfare Guidelines for Livestock Value Chain

Health of Ethiopian Animals for Rural Development Project

Amsalu Demissie (DVM, MPH)

21 October 2023

Adama



CULTURE



GUIDELINES ON ANIMAL WELFARE



➤ Standardizing Humane Practices

Consistency & Quality

- Ethiopia's comprehensive animal welfare guidelines ensure consistent application of principles, outlining minimum requirements across the value chain to enhance export trade and consumer health.

Detailed Instructions

- These guidelines offer detailed instructions for humane treatment across all sectors- agriculture, transportation, and veterinary care, serving as a unified reference for all stakeholders.
- ❖ Standardizing practices and promoting high welfare standards, Ethiopia is building a robust framework for ethical animal management nationwide.



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ANIMAL WELFARE OVERVIEW



Objective: To introduce participants to the concept of animal welfare

What is Animal Welfare?

Animal welfare means animals



Health Nutrition Comfort



Freedom from Pain, Injury or Distress
Freedom to Express Behavior

Welfare and Productivity



Stocking Density

Humane Handling Transport & Slaughter



Well-standard Avoid overgrazing Avoid houting, beating, or

Harmful Practices to Avoid



Hot iron branding No rest or water during travel Keeping animals in dirty crowded pens Poaching wildlife



Painful handling methods Overfishing Uncontrolled pet breeding



Key Takeaway

Animal welfare means caring for our animals with respect. It brings health, income, and dignity to both the herder and the herd.

Working Animal Welfare

- Proper health care
- veterinary attention, emergency treated
- with respect



‘Welfare is about how working animals live, feel, and perform—free from suffering and treated with dignity.’

Welfare is about how working animals live, feel, and perform—free from suffering and treated with dignity.

ANIMAL WELFARE MATTERS

Promoting Humane and Ethical Treatment for All Animals



What is Animal Welfare?

Animal welfare measures animals are healthy, comfortable, well-nourished, and free to express natural behaviors. It applies to livestock, working animals, poultry, wildlife, and pets.

The Five Freedoms

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
- Freedom to express normal behavior

Harmful Practices to Avoid

- Hot iron branding
- Poor shelter or overcrowding
- Poaching and wildlife conflict
- Transport without rest or feed
- Live bloodletting

Housing and Stocking Density



- shelter = less stress & disease
- Overstocking = land degradation and malnutrition

Why it Matters

- Better Welfare = Better Productivity
- Gentle handling
- Regular rest and feeding
- Pre-slaughter stunning to reduce suffering

Housing and Stocking Density



The Role of Pastoralist Communities

- Elders, religious leaders, and model herders guide community with traditional wisdom

Why Standards Matter

- National and international welfare standards:
- Ensure humane care
- Support law enforcement



Equine Animal Welfare



Help participants understand the concept of animal welfare, the Five Freedoms, and how good care of equines (horses, donkeys, and mules) improves work output, animal health, community wellbeing

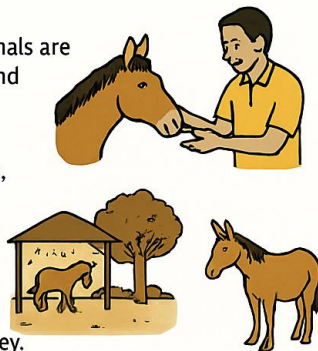
What is Animal Welfare?

Animal welfare means ensuring that animals are healthy, well-fed, treated with respect, and free from suffering.

This includes:

- Access to veterinary care for wounds, injuries, and diseases
- Safe shelter, shade, and rest areas during extreme weather

“Animal welfare is about how animals live, feel, and are treated – especially those who work hard for people every day.”



Why Equine Welfare Matters

- Equines support transport, farming, water collection, and trade
- Their health and strength directly affect family income and livelihoods
- Poor welfare = lower work ability, injuries, and avoid overloading



Animal welfare is about how animals live, feel.

The Five Freedoms for Equines



Freedom from Hunger & Thirst

Provide clean water after work and regular access to forage (e.g. hay, grass)



Freedom from Pain, injury, or Disease

Treat wounds, foot rot, sores from harnesses, and avoid overloading



MoA-LITAW

Aquaculture Animal Welfare

Objective

To help participants understand the importance of fish welfare in aquaculture, the Five Freedoms, and how good practices improve productivity, animal health, and free from unnecessary stress or suffering.

Welfare in aquaculture is about helping fish live in clean, healthy, and stress-free environments.”



Good water quality and oxygen levels



Safe and clean living environments



Freedom to swim, school and behave naturally

The Five Freedoms for Farmed Fish



Freedom from Hunger & Thirst
Provide high quality feed in the right quantity and timing



Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease
Avoid rough handling



Freedom to Express Normal Behavior
Avoid crowding



Freedom from Fear & Distress



Why Aquaculture Welfare Matters

- Fish are sentient beings - they feel pain, stress, and discomfort
- Better welfare results in higher growth survival, and product quality
- Supports food safety, public health and ethical farming practices

Welfare and Productivity

Economic benefits



MoA-LITAW

RESEARCH AND LABORATORY ANIMAL WELFARE



Objective. To help participants understand the concept of laboratory animal welfare, the Five Freedoms, and how the humane treatment of animals used in research upholds scientific integrity, ethical standards, and public trust

What is Research Animal Welfare?

- Ethical justification and minimization of animal use
- Access to veterinary care, appropriate housing, nutrition
- Clean, enriched environments that reduce stress
- Monitoring and minimizing pain, distress, and suffering
- Use of alternatives (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement — the 3Rs) whenever possible.

“Welfare in research means protecting animals while advancing science with responsibility and compassion.”



Why Research Animal Welfare Matters

- Ensures valid, reliable, and reproducible scientific results
- Reduces pain, fear and suffering for animals
- Builds public trust in science and research institutions
- Complies with national and international ethical standards
- Protects researchers from legal and reputational risks

“Good science requires good ethics — and animal welfare is central to both.”



The Five Freedoms in Research Settings



Freedom from Hunger & Thirst

Provide clean water and species-appropriate feed



Freedom to Express Normal Behavior

Offer environmental enrichment and ‘social housing’ when possible



Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease

Use anesthesia and analgesia; perform regular health checks



Freedom from Fear & Distress

Minimize handling stress; avoid loud noises and rough treatment

MOA-LITAW





NEXT STEPS



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➤ Strategic Initiatives for Implementation

Institutional Strengthening

Allocate dedicated budget and human resources for animal welfare.
Strengthen collaboration with regional agriculture bureaus and relevant ministries for cohesive implementation.

Awareness Creation & Advocacy

Develop a national awareness strategy utilizing radio, schools, vet clinics, and community platforms. Observe World Animal Day for sustained advocacy.

➤ Empowering Stakeholders & Enhancing Infrastructure

Capacity Building & Training

- Train professionals in animal handling, including market inspectors, transporters, abattoir workers, police, and customs officials. Integrate animal welfare into veterinary and para-vet curricula.

Infrastructure Improvement

- Advocate for renovation of livestock markets, transport systems, quarantine stations, and abattoirs. Pilot welfare-compliant infrastructure in selected locations.



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Animal Health Extension Package

Livestock and Fisheries development Extension,
Ministry of Agriculture
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May 2025

Animal Welfare Extension Package

Malpractices and How They Compromise Animal Welfare

Some common animal handling practices can cause harm to animals and reduce their welfare.

Common Malpractices and Their Impact on Welfare:

- Beating animals: Causes pain, fear, and injuries. Makes animals weak and less useful.
- Overloading/overworking: Tiring animals, causing wounds and even death.
- No water during work or travel: Makes animals thirsty, tired, and stressed.



Instruction to the Trainer

- Read each point clearly. Tell participants: "These malpractices may seem normal, but they lead to stress, sickness, pain, and loss of productivity."
- Ask participants: Have you seen or done these? What happened to the animal? What can we do to avoid it?
- Encourage discussion and share simple examples from your local area.

NEXT STEPS



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➤ Measuring Progress & Forging Partnerships

1

Monitoring & Evaluation

Establish a national animal welfare compliance monitoring system. Conduct baseline and follow-up assessments, linking with the ET-LITS system for traceability.

2

Partnership Development

Strengthen collaborations with NGOs (e.g., Brooke, SPANA), academic institutions, and development partners. Engage private sector actors for technical and financial support.

3

Integration & Scaling

Integrate animal welfare into animal health, livestock marketing, and climate resilience strategies. Pilot implementation in priority regions and gradually scale nationwide based on lessons learned.

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Thank You

