

Status of Animal Welfare in Africa

**9th Africa Animal Welfare Conference | Yaounde,
Yaounde, Cameroon | July 28-30, 2025**

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ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY FOR AFRICA (AWSA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Integrating the Welfare Interests of Human and

Continental Animal Welfare Strategy

- AU-IBAR spearheaded development of Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA)
- Coordinated by African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) to enhance collaboration
- AWSA aligns with One Health framework addressing welfare for production, conservation, and recreation animals

The Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa

Vision

An Africa where animals are treated as sentient beings, as a leading continent in implementation of good animal welfare practices

Mission

To invest in developing animal resources value chains through treating animals as sentient beings

Goal

To transform the animal resources sector through adoption of good animal welfare practices

SO1: Behavior Change

Attain behavior change, educate, inform, promote awareness aligned to WOAHS standards

SO2: Strengthen Action

Strengthen effective action on animal welfare technologies, human resources, research

SO3: Mainstream Welfare

Mainstream animal welfare in policies, strategies, legislation, investments, programmes

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Coordinating Committee of Animal Welfare in Africa CCAWA

CCAWA's coordinating role through:

- **Cross-border collaboration** on wildlife protection and livestock management
- **Knowledge sharing** between countries with different expertise
- **Resource mobilization** - pooling funds and expertise
- **Policy harmonization** across African nations
- **Emergency response coordination** for animal disease outbreaks or disasters

previous stock-taking Assessment Findings

Key Barriers

Governance challenges, financial constraints, limited political commitment, capacity-building gaps

Funding Issues

AWSA implementation remains underfunded with fragmented donor funding and limited private sector engagement

Regional Progress

South and East Africa show progress while West and Central Africa show gaps in progress

Although Southern and East Africa show improvements in productivity, income, and food security, gaps in data collection limit comprehensive impact analysis.

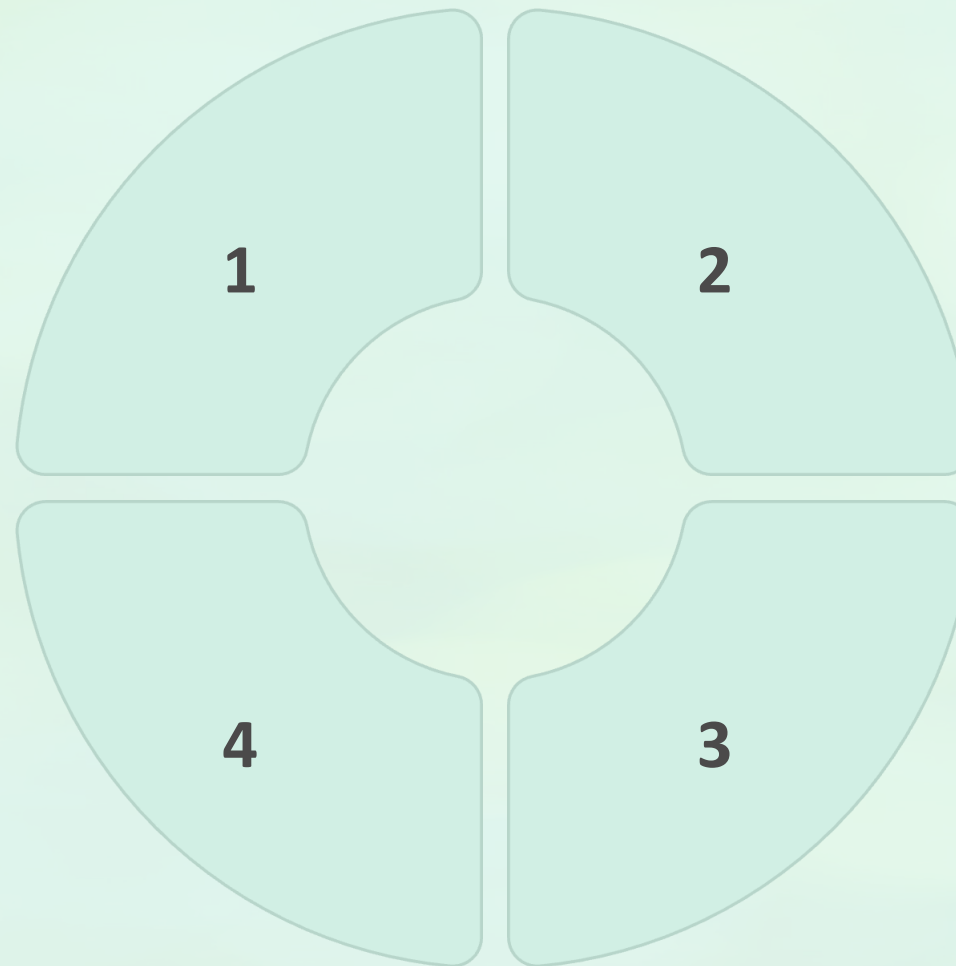
Recommendations and Next Steps

Increased Resource Allocation

Enhanced funding for AWSA implementation across all regions

Strategic Refinement

Update AWSA results framework and develop targeted strategies for lagging regions



Integration into National National Strategies

Mainstream AWSA into national and developmental frameworks

Capacity Building Investment

Training programs for stakeholders, especially CAWFPs as trainers and data managers

1. Donkey Species Preservation In Africa

On 18 February 2024, African Heads of States and governments at the 37th African Union Summit made an Executive Decision on Donkey Preservation and moratorium on mass slaughter for hide export.

1

Socio-Economic & Welfare Concerns

Recognized critical role of donkeys in livelihoods and lack of data for evidence-based policies

2

Population Decline & Reproductive Reproductive Challenges

Raised alarm over rapid decline due to international skin trade

3

Call for African Common Position

Urged AU Commission to lead unified response to mitigate donkey exploitation

4

Development of Pan-African Strategy

Requested continent-wide strategy with support from AU, RECs, WOA, FAO

Long-Term Vision

Population Recovery

Restore and stabilize donkey numbers across African continent through targeted interventions.

Rural Development

Strengthen rural economies through preserved donkey resources and enhanced productivity.

Sustainable Management

Implement responsible practices for donkey utilization balancing conservation with community needs.

Continental Leadership

Establish Africa as global model for animal welfare and sustainable development practices.

2.Collaboration with FourPaws

High-Level Side Event: Enhancing Farm Animal Welfare to Curb AMR

Curb AMR

FAO Regional Conference – 11 June 2025,

1

Raise Awareness

Link between farm animal welfare and AMR within One Health framework

2

Advocate Integration

Integrate animal welfare in national AMR action plans

3

Encourage Updates

Update NAPs with technical support from FOUR PAWS

4

Engage Stakeholders

Engage CVOs and country representatives to strengthen political commitment





3.Strengthening AU-IBAR and WOAAH Collaboration

AU-IBAR and WOAAH have a long-standing partnership in animal health and welfare. Joint efforts focus on improving livestock health, disease control, and trade across Africa.

Recent collaboration aims to enhance Africa's influence in global animal health governance.



World Organisation
for Animal Health

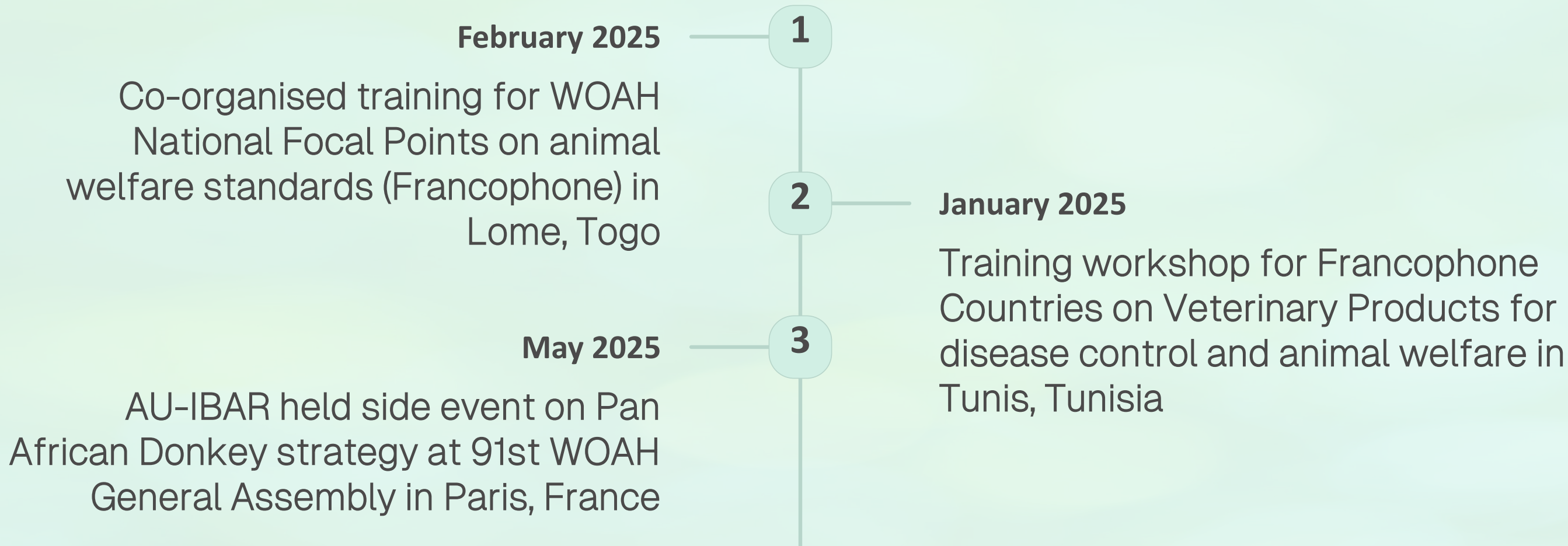
Training of Animal Welfare Focal Points

Nairobi, Kenya | September 2024



World Organisation
for Animal Health

Recent WOAAH Collaborations



Key Areas of Collaboration



Capacity Building

Training and engagement of African experts aligned with WOAHS standards



Animal Health Policies

Strengthening veterinary services and disease control mechanisms



Trade Facilitation

Supporting African countries in meeting international animal health standards



Welfare & Sustainability

Integrating animal welfare into broader agricultural and environmental policies



Call to Action

Increased Engagement

Enhanced participation of African stakeholders in global animal health governance

Stakeholder Involvement

Engage local communities, NGOs and private sector in animal welfare and species conservation efforts

Collaborative Documentation

AU Member States work with regional coordinators to systematically document and share welfare initiatives

Collective Effort

Strong partnerships among governments, regional bodies, and stakeholders essential for shared vision

Elevating animal welfare in Africa requires collective effort to address challenges and implement sustainable solutions for the health and welfare of animals, people, and the planet.