

Animal Welfare in the Context of The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

OIE Global Forum on Animal Welfare

Content

ANIMAL WELFARE AND THE SDGs



The Presentation Include the below

- Introduction – SDGs and Animal Welfare
- The relevant SDGs that synergies Animal Welfare
- Conclusion

Introduction - The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Proposed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.
- A set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world.
- Adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030
- “We envisage a world in which...humanity lives in *harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected*”.



Introduction – Animal Welfare



- World Organization for Animal Health defines Animal Welfare as “the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.”
- World Animal Protection defines Animal welfare as “the quality of life experienced by an animal and encompasses how well the animal is coping with his or her current situation and surroundings. “
- In Summary , Animal Welfare is about alleviating of cruelty and suffering of animals
- Animal welfare has become a topic of interest in the policy making and advocacy cycles stemming from and not limited to emergence zoonotic diseases that has hit the world in the past years such as COVID-19, Ebola, bird flu, and SARS.
- Thus initiatives such Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) , animal welfare strategy for Africa and Africa Platform on Animal Welfare (APAW) were initiated

Animal Welfare and The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Many species that share our planet, face the danger of being wiped out from the face of the Earth.
- Our own existence as humans depend on the very existence of these numerous species and thus it is in our best interest to ensure Animal Welfare.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are avenues that can be exploited to advance Animal Welfare and vice-versa.



THE SDGs

Goal 1: No poverty



- Animals are key in poverty eradication by
 - Sustaining communities via ecotourism
 - Source of income for poor families through trade
 - Providing food and thus food stability

THE SDGs

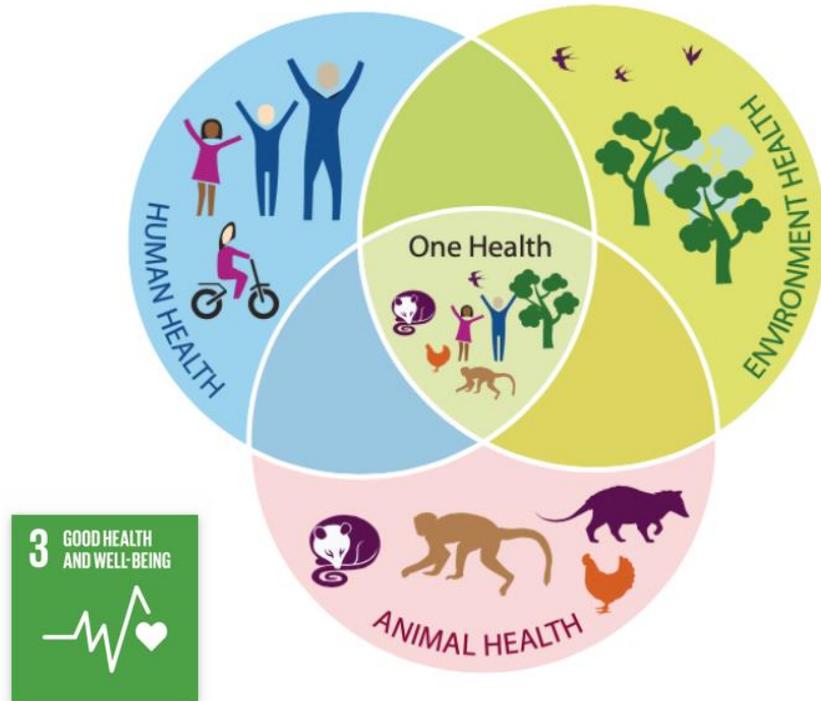
Goal 2: Zero hunger

- Livestock's industry over reliance on human-edible food as animal feed has increased food insecurity.
- Biodiversity is also affected when human adapt land-use practices that involve clearing huge tracks of lands for industrial livestock.
- With proper Animal Welfare practices, we can strike a balance between sustainable agricultural practices that reduces biodiversity destruction and over dependence on human edible food items which will in turn enhance food security



THE SDGs

Goal 3: Good health and well-being



- One health approach can be defined as the collaborative effort across multiple disciplines to attain optimal health for people, animals and the environment.
- The emergence of the very concept of one Health is an acknowledgement that the health and welfare of human, animals and ecosystems are interconnected.
- With good animal welfare policies, and enforcement of the same, we will be able to mitigate many of these zoonotic diseases

THE SDGs

Goal 4: Quality education

- Communities are able to tap into the wildlife and domestic animal potential to realize some income that with enable them to provide better education for their children.
- Intact ecosystems provide our children with a vital learning opportunity to the future generations.



THE SDGs

Goal 5: Gender equality



- Animals come in handy in helping women by taken off duties that are gender differentiated such as fetching of water from their hands. For instance, when women own animals in Africa and Asia, they improve their social and financial capacities and enables them have space for other activities because animals support their work.
- Working animals in good welfare hence offer women big a level of freedom from heavy chores like ploughing and fetching water which are ordinarily are done by women.

THE SDGs

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

- By proper management of waste, we avert plastic plagues in our seas, give aquatic life chance to life and by doing so provide better sanitation for humans as well.
- Animals play a role in water conservation and replenishment e.g. as beavers creating wetlands that replenish our freshwater aquifers.



THE SDGs

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth



- With reduction of industrial livestock and encouragement of small-scale sustainable livestock production, wealth will be spread across the communities to the poorest in the society who are practicing small-scale livestock farming.
- Ecotourism will provide decent jobs to communities around these areas

THE SDGs

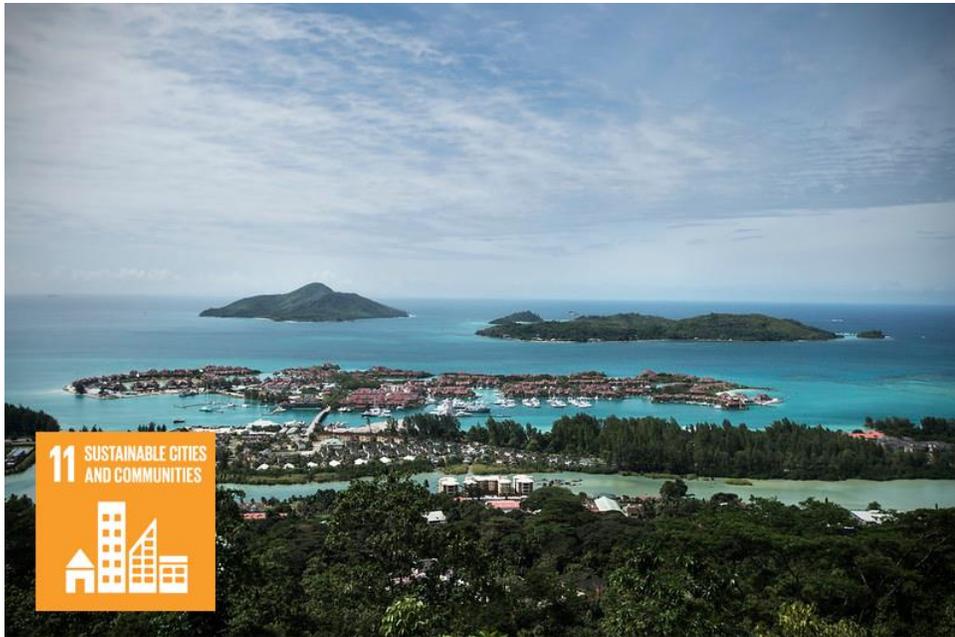
Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

- With better animal welfare that will advocate for less industrial livestock and more of small-scale livestock, wealth will be distributed in the communities. This will improve the livelihood of the majority of the population and thus reduce economic inequality within the country and globally among countries.
- Globally countries that are developing depend on ecotourism as a way of economic development via foreign exchange and a sector that's creates employment for its citizen and thus an asset. This helps in creation of jobs and elevation from poverty hence reducing inequalities among countries.



THE SDGs

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities



- Human reliance on animal may be less obvious due to technological advancements, industrialization and urbanization, but it is still there. The reliance has just evolved. Sustainable cities need sustainable supply of food which can only be achieved by better animal welfare. They need fresh air free which can only be achieved by ensuring thriving biodiversity.

THE SDGs

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

- Committee on the World Food security in its principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems has principle 8 that states that "human safety and health is promoted by supporting animal health and welfare to sustainable increase productivity, food safety and food quality".
- Its important at this point to mention that Animal welfare does not by any way mean that humans are not allowed exploit the resources in the environment for sustenance. What the animal welfare advocates, is a responsible and sustainable exploitation of these resources with deliberate efforts to protect them. A clear and easy example is overfishing where vessels catch fish faster than stocks can replenish. Catching fish is not inherently bad for the ocean but overfishing is currently threatening a number of fish species in our oceans.



THE SDGs

Goal 13: Climate action



- Animals produce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well. They however, help regulate the same by their natural behavior's. The ocean and the tropical forests are the largest carbon sinks. The tropical trees with help in the carbon stock depend on the animals for seed dispersal and regenerations.
- “Fish carbon” defines the marine life ability to address climate change and thus prevent global biodiversity loss.

THE SDGs

Goal 14: Life Below Water

- Marine life apart from sustaining humans by providing food and economic activity to earn a living, it helps in regulating the Green House Gases in our environment.
- Marine litter in our oceans are at an alarming level with reports of life in the marine getting killed because of this. With the proper animal welfare policies, governments can be able to control fishing to avert overfishing and stop ocean pollution



THE SDGs

Goal 15: Life on land



- All the life on land interdepend on each other. The plants depend on the animals for pollination, animals depend on the plants for food and as their habitat. Humans depend on both the plants and the animals.
- Its important that the ecosystem described above is maintained to be able to manage climate change, thus increase food security and eradicate poverty. In short by taking care of environment, humans will be assuring our own survival.

Conclusion

- Acknowledging the fact that all species are connected by the way of their interaction is at the core of achieving the SDGs.
- Protecting and improving the welfare of animals contributes to the realization of many of the goals and target in the 2030 agenda.
- The Coordinated efforts between WHO, OIE, FAO and UNEP that are working on cross-cutting issues including the link between animal welfare, human health and environmental conservation, hence the One Health concept.



Conclusion



- It would therefore be a great step if the agencies in this partnership (WHO, OIE, FAO and UNEP) would pursue the path of moving towards integrating animal welfare in their core mandates, activities and projects; to further buttress this critical linkage of animal welfare to global concerns involving human health, food security and a healthier environment.
- UNEP is already working with CSOs on animal welfare matters, and is actively involved in supporting and participating in the annual Africa Animal Welfare Conference.

Thank you



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