



**OIE Animal Welfare Global Forum Report**  
“Animal welfare and the UN Sustainable Development Goals”  
Paris, France, 26 – 28 April and 4 May 2021 (Virtual)

## 1. Introduction

One of the key activities of the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy (GAWS) was to establish an OIE Animal Welfare Global Forum<sup>1</sup> to bring together members of the animal welfare research community, the global animal welfare movement, and the global animal-source food sector to openly and transparently debate animal welfare related topics.

The first OIE Animal Welfare Global Forum<sup>2</sup> was held in 2018 and provided a forum to discuss the main challenges faced by academia, industry, NGOs and governments when implementing the OIE animal welfare standards. The second Forum<sup>3</sup> was held in 2019 and provided OIE partners with the opportunity to discuss issues around the joint responsibilities involved in animal transport to how to avoid animal welfare issues.

## 2. Background to this Forum

In 2015, the United Nations adopted a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that imagined a future in 2030 without poverty and hunger, and protected from the worst effects of climate change and loss of biodiversity. These SDGs have a broad scope, but the role of domesticated animals, wild animals, and aquatic animals is hardly covered and their welfare is not mentioned at all.

The OIE 7th Strategic Plan, with different strategic goals and objectives to achieve by 2025, can be seen as a complementary tool that contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. By supporting the fight against zoonoses and food borne diseases, the plan provides support to a large part of the world population relying on animal husbandry. The veterinary services were also highlighted as having an essential role in contributing to the improvement of animal health and welfare and public health, thereby directly contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

This third Animal Welfare Global Forum provided a platform for a range of stakeholders to exchange their views and experiences as to how the UN SDGs can contribute to the improvement of animal welfare and vice versa, how improvements in animal welfare can contribute to the achievement of SDGs.

The participants to this Forum included OIE National Animal Welfare Focal Points, and representatives from International Organisations with which the OIE collaborates on animal welfare topics and the OIE Collaborating Centres on Animal Welfare.

The format of the Forum was based on the methodology developed by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) for the Global Challenges University Alliance (GCUA) workshop series<sup>4</sup> in

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/communication-with-stakeholders/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oie.int/app/uploads/2021/03/a-report-1st-aw-global-forum.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.oie.int/app/uploads/2021/03/report-2nd-aw-global-forum.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Frontiers in Veterinary Science, www.frontiersin.org 3 October 2019, Volume 6, Article 336 Keeling et al. Animal Welfare and the SDGs.

2018. The [Centre of Excellence in Animal Welfare Science](#) and the [Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare \(SCAW\)](#), a member of the OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare for the OIE Europe Region, played a key role in guiding participants through a similar approach.

This Forum was a virtual event held over three days: Monday 26 April, Wednesday 28 April and Tuesday 4 May. To take account of participants in different time zones, the first two days of the agenda were conducted in two different time zones. A summary of each session is provided below. The full programme is presented at [Annex 1](#).

### **Plenary Session - 26 April 2021**

In her opening remarks, the OIE Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, highlighted the importance for stakeholders to be involved to deliver successfully the four pillars of the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy. She reminded attendees of the OIE's commitment for activities on animal welfare and thanked SCAW and the Centre of Excellence in Animal Welfare Science for their contribution and support to deliver this Forum.

Dr Matthew Stone, OIE Deputy Director General, International Trade and Science, described the link between the OIE animal welfare activities and the new OIE 7<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan and the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy. He emphasised on the importance of the Forum to identify and provide guidance for the OIE on the development and implementation of animal welfare policies.

The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr Isaiah Otieno, followed with a presentation which contextualised the role of animal welfare in achieving the SDGs.

To support and contextualise the discussions during the breakout group sessions, the linkage between dog population management and the SDGs, was presented by Alexandra Hammond-Seaman, from RSPCA/ICFAW, in time zone 1, and the linkage between the animal welfare in beef cattle production and the SDGs, was presented by Prof. Francisco Galindo Maldonado from the UNAM/OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre for the Americas Region in time zone 2, were presented as examples, after the introductory presentation on the UN SDGs by the representative of UNEP..

### **Breakout Group Sessions - 26 April 2021**

After the plenary session participants were divided into small breakout groups and each participant was asked to score, on a scale between +3 (positive) and -3 (negative), the link between the SDGs and animal welfare (AW) for each SDG. The full scale of the scoring system is presented in Annex 2.

Within each group, participants then discussed their individual scores for each assigned SDG and were asked to reach a consensus on a group score for each SDG. The groups were asked to provide reasons justifying their group scores for each SDG for both linkages (i.e., impact of the SDGs on AW and AW on each SDG).

### **Plenary Session - 28 April 2021**

The time zone 1 session started with a presentation by Prof. Jacques Servière, Scientific advisor from the International Meat Secretariat (IMS), on the link between pig production systems and the SDGs. The time zone 2 session started with a presentation by Stian Johnsen, OIE Scientific Coordinator, about the links between farmed fish production systems and SDGs.

After these presentations, each group from the 26 April sessions presented the level of agreement around their scoring exercise as well as a summary of the main discussion points including the context considered, and any potential synergies and conflicts identified.

After hearing the scores of each of the Groups, the attendees were asked to score the SDGs again following the same procedure and using the same scale as presented in Annex 2. Participants had the opportunity to score the SDGs with a more informed vision.

#### **Summary of outcomes - 4 May 2021**

Prof. Linda Keeling presented some of the results of the scoring exercise conducted during the first two days of the Forum but cautioning that these were only preliminary results. She noted that a more comprehensive report of the outcomes of the scoring exercises will be prepared for publication following a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the results. The paper should be published during 2021.

Preliminary results showed strong positive links (i.e. the impact of achieving the SDGs on improving AW and the impact of improving AW on the SDGs) for SDGs 3. 'Good health and wellbeing', 12.'Responsible consumption and production', 14.'Life below water' and 15. 'Life on land'. Weak positive links were identified for SDGs 5.'Gender equality', 7. 'Affordable and clean energy' and 10.'Reduced inequalities'. Overall, the impact of achieving SDGs on animal welfare was in most cases more positive than the impact of improving animal welfare on achieving the SDGs.

Prof Keeling highlighted that the preliminary results from this exercise were consistent with those of other previous studies, and that the outcome of this Forum provided valuable evidence, reinforcing our understanding of the links between the SDGs and AW.

#### **Closing - 4 May 2021**

In closing, the OIE Deputy Director General, Dr Matthew Stone summarised the key points raised during the Forum including the complex interactions between animal welfare and the SDGs. Overall, participants believed that the link between the SDGs and animal welfare was positive with very few negative interactions. In other words, participants were of the opinion that improving animal welfare would contribute positively to the achievement of the SDGs and likewise, achieving the SDGs would help improve animal welfare. He also noted discussions highlighting that the linkage is moderated through human choices and behaviours; that there are still potential for negative impacts on animal welfare depending on choices made in pursuing SDGs; and that there is a need to consider animal welfare in the context of policy and planning under each SDG.

In her closing remarks, Dr Eloit thanked participants for their contribution to the discussions during the Forum and highlighted that the next steps for the OIE would be to consider how the outcomes of the Forum can be used to improve the OIE work on animal welfare, including Members' engagement with OIE animal welfare policies.



**Annexe 1**

**OIE Animal Welfare Global Forum**

**“Animal welfare and the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals”**

**Virtual meeting (Zoom)**

**26 ,28 April and 4 May 2021**

**Day 1: Monday 26 April 2021**

**Day 1 Session 1:**

**Setting the scene**

Time Zone 1 (Suitable time for Asia, Far East and Oceania; Africa; Middle East and Europe Regions)		Time Zone 2* (Suitable time for the Americas; Africa, Middle East and Europe Regions)	
Time Central European Time	Theme Speaker/ Facilitator	Time Central European Time	Theme Speaker/ Facilitator
06:00-06:10 (10 min)	Zoom meeting instructions	15:00-15:10 (10 min)	Zoom meeting instructions
06:10-06:20 (10 min)	Welcome and opening remarks (recorded) Monique Eloit, Director General, OIE	15:10-15:20 (10 min)	Welcome and opening remarks(recorded) Monique Eloit, Director General, OIE
06:20-06:35 (15 min)	OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum and OIE Animal welfare activities Matthew Stone, OIE Deputy Director General	15:20-15:35 (15 min)	OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum and OIE Animal welfare activities Matthew Stone, OIE Deputy Director General
06:35-06:50 (15 min)	United Nation Sustainable Development Goals Isaiah Otieno, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	15:35-15:50 (15 min)	United Nation Sustainable Development Goals Isaiah Otieno, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
06:50-07:05 (15 min)	Example of linkage: Dog population management Alexandra Hammond-Seaman, ICFAW	15:50-16:05 (15 min)	Example of linkage: Beef cattle production Francisco Galindo, UNAM, OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Consortium for the Americas
07:05-07:15 (10 min)	Animal welfare and the Sustainable Development Goals <i>Modus operandi</i> of the Working Groups Linda Keeling, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare (SCAW)	16:05-16:15 (10 min)	Animal welfare and the Sustainable Development <i>Modus operandi</i> of the Working Groups Linda Keeling, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare (SCAW)
07:15-07:25 (10 min)	Break	16:15-16:25 (10 min)	Break
<b>Day 1 Session 2:</b> <b>Setting the scene and Working Group sessions on SDGs and animal welfare</b>			
07:25-08:25 (60 min)	Independent score First Session of Working Groups	16:25-17:25 (60 min)	Independent score First Session of Working Groups
08:25-09:25 (60 min)	Exchange of positions and potential agreement Second Session of Working Groups	17:25-18:25 (60 min)	Exchange of positions and potential agreement Second Session of Working Groups

\* Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish in time zone 2 and during plenary sessions on day 3.

There will not be simultaneous interpretation in time zone 1 nor during the working group sessions.



**Day 2: Wednesday 28 April 2021**

**Day 2 Session 1**

**Working Groups sessions on SDGs and animal welfare**

Time Zone 1		Time Zone 2*	
Time (CET)	Theme Speaker/ Facilitator	Time (CET)	Theme Speaker/ Facilitator
06:00-06:05 (5 min)	Zoom meeting instructions	15:00-15:05 (5 min)	Zoom meeting instructions
06:10-06:25 (15 min)	Examples of linkage: Pig production systems Jacques Servière, Scientific advisor, International Meat Secretariat (IMS)	15:10-15:25 (15 min)	Examples of linkage: Farm fish production systems Stian Johnsen, Scientific Coordinator, Standards Department OIE
06:25-06:30 (5 min)	Instructions for the next session	15:25-15:30 (5 min)	Instructions for the next session
06:30-08:00 (90 min)	Group presentations and discussion of individual scoring in plenary	15:30-17:00 (90 min)	Group presentations and discussion of individual scoring in plenary
08:00-08:10 (10 min)	Break	17:00 -17:10 (10 min)	Break
08:10-09:40 (90 min)	Group presentations and discussion of individual scoring in plenary (cont.)	17:10-18:40 (90 min)	Group presentations and discussion of individual scoring in plenary (cont.)

**Day 3: Tuesday 4 May 2021**

**Day 3: Plenary discussions and conclusions\***

**Time Zone 1**

Time (CET)	Theme Speaker/ Facilitator
12:00-12:10 (10 min)	Zoom meeting instructions
12:10-12:15 (5 min)	Welcome
12:15 -13:15 (60 min)	Summary of the results and discussions Linda Keeling,
13:15-13:30 (15 min)	Summary of key themes emerging from the Forum Matthew Stone
13:30-13:45 (15 min)	Closure of the meeting Monique Eloit

Annexe 2 : Scoring Scale

Interaction	Name tag	Impact	Explanation
+3	Indivisible / Indivisible / Indivisible	Large positive impact (Indivisible) / Gran impacto positivo (indivisible) / Grand impact positif (indivisible)	Animal welfare and SDG are <b>Inextricably linked</b> to each other so that achieving one results in achieving the other.
+2	Reinforcing / De refuerzo / Renforcer		<b>Aids the achievement</b> of the goal / or improving AW
+1	Enabling / Habilitación /Facilitant		<b>Creates conditions that further the achievement</b> of the SDGs (or the other way around)
0	Consistent / Consistente / Consistent /	No impact/ Sin impacto/ Aucun impact	<b>No significant</b> positive or negative <b>interactions</b> between the SDG and AW
-1	Constraining / De limitación / Conraignant/		Achieving the SDG <b>limits options</b> on improving AW / improving AW limits options on achieving the SDG
-2	Counteracting / Oposición / Contrebalancer /		Improving AW <b>clashes</b> with achieving the SDG /achieving the SDG clashes with improving AW
-3	Cancelling / Anulación / Annulation	Large negative impact (Cancelling) / Gran impacto negativo (Anulación) / Impact négatif important (annulation)	It is <b>impossible</b> to reach both the SDGs and improved animal welfare at the same time