



**FORUM FOR AFRICAN ANIMAL RESOURCES
(FAAR)
CONSTITUTION**

I. BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

Africa is endowed with an enormous population of domesticated, farmed and free-living wild animals. These constitute a major natural resource that can potentially contribute significantly towards socio-economic growth, wealth creation, food, nutrition and health security, conservation of natural fauna and flora, environmental protection and preservation of cultural norms.

With burgeoning population growth and rapid economic development in many countries, demand for food products of animal origin is rapidly rising. To meet this demand Africa will have to develop innovative policies, strategies and legal frameworks to increase production of food of animal origin in a manner that is efficient and environmentally friendly.

However, there are a number of existing and emerging challenges that Africa is facing in sustainably exploiting its animal resources. These include animal diseases, low productivity, lack of adequate feed resources, and inadequate human and technical resources.

With increasing trend towards intensification of livestock production and land encroachment there is also a risk of losing valuable genetic diversity of Africa's animal resources.

In addition, the world is facing a serious threat from global warming as well as widespread emergence of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) referred to as the ongoing pandemic. The "industrial" livestock farming sector has particularly come under scrutiny due to its negative contribution to the environmental pollution.

To address these and numerous other challenges, and to ensure that Africa is able to benefit fully from its animal resources without harming the environment, it will require novel approaches, innovative ideas, new tools and appropriate technologies.

Significant investment and commitment of financial resources to the animal sector linked with development of multi-disciplinary fit for purpose skills development, formulation of appropriate policy and legal frameworks, strengthening of existing institutions and collaboration among different institutions, sectors and partners will be a pre-requisite.

In recent years, the African Union Commission (AUC) has adopted several strategic documents, for example the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA) 2015 – 2035; the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PFRS); the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation on Wild Flora and Fauna; the Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa and the Animal Health Strategy for Africa (AHSA) among others. All these are aimed at contributing to achieving the aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063, CAADP and the Malabo declaration on accelerated agriculture growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area and the Feed Africa Strategy.

There are also other international organizations and technical agencies notably the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and multi-lateral development partners that are engaged regularly in such discussions, yet there is little shared understanding or vision among the key players towards Africa-wide sustainable management of its animal resources.

The first One Health Joint Plan of Action launched in October 2022 by the Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH) seeks to improve the health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment, while contributing to sustainable development. It provides a set of activities that aim to strengthen collaboration, communication, capacity building, and coordination equally across all sectors responsible for addressing health concerns at the human-animal-plant-environment interface.

To make progress towards transforming Africa's animal resources into a modern, productive and thriving sector, it will require wide ranging open dialogue and engagement with various players including the scientific community, policy makers, national governments and communities, regional and global institutions, private sector, and development partners.

A platform that provides an enabling environment to facilitate such dialogue will serve towards raising awareness of this need.

It is hoped that Forum for African Animal Resources (FAAR) can play an important role in contributing to conversations and facilitate change towards plan of actions and activities for sustainable management of animal resources in Africa for the benefit of its people.

Why FAAR?

Africa has a rich cadre of experts who have considerable knowledge and experiences in the field of livestock development and animal resources. A large number of these experts have worked in senior level positions in various institutions and organizations at national, regional and international level and have contributed significantly to the animal resources agenda of Africa and in particular towards prevention, control and eradication of many high impact animal diseases including zoonotic diseases.

FAAR is a forum conceived by a diverse group of animal resource experts who have interest in the development of Africa and desire to share their collective experiences to contribute to the ongoing efforts of improving utilization of animal resources in Africa. The forum members' in-depth and wide experience, with international reputation, credibility, and a large network of contacts with scientific personnel, policy makers, private sector and development partners are important attributes that can be tapped by existing institutions in progressing important conversations.

Despite the imbalance between the enormous range of issues facing animal resources described, many countries in Africa seem to have no proactive plans to exploit the expertise and experience described above. Ironically the OECD countries tap into the expertise of the over-60s and those of their nationals with international experience and expertise far more than African governments and institutions do.

Sometimes when senior African expertise in animal resource field has been used the results have been positive. The cases in point are related to the utilisation of advice from such expertise in the Rinderpest eradication programme and initiation of Africa's Animal Resource Development Plans under AU-IBAR. These incidents have stimulated the thinking towards the formation of FAAR.

II. FAAR's VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Vision

Africa managing its animal resources for economic benefits and well-being of its people while protecting the environment and its rich biodiversity.

Mission

Inspire and facilitate dialogue among governments, regional and international organizations and development partners to transform animal resources in Africa into a thriving and sustainable industry accelerating wealth creation, economic growth, enhancing nutrition, health and food security, while preserving its environment and genetic diversity.

Over the next years, FAAR will:

- Create a broad and inclusive continental knowledge dissemination platform that promotes dialogue and strategic guidance on sustainable management of African animal resources.
- Monitor trends and Raise awareness of intractable pending, persisting and emerging issues related to Africa's animal resources, stimulate and facilitate discussions among African and global players.
- Support and contribute to ongoing initiatives by the global, continental, regional and national agencies on livestock production, animal health and welfare and trade related issues of live animals and animal products.
- Assist and provide guidance to AU-IBAR, AUC technical agencies and Regional Economic Communities on the development and implementation of programmes and projects to ensure that they reflect needs and aspirations of the continent.
- Assist, guide and support youth especially women and upcoming generation of professionals in Africa on quality management of animal resources.

III. FAAR's CORE VALUES

Expertise: Develop and demonstrate technical knowledge through innovative and leading approach in designing and delivering appropriate solutions.

Performance: Always geared towards improved outcome.

Integrity: Counted on for doing the right thing.

Collaboration and Team work: Joint effort for the development of a sustainable livestock industry in Africa.

IV. WHO WE ARE

FAAR is a think tank to address challenges of animal resources in Africa principally focusing on:

- Generating knowledge through raising critical issues on current and future challenges to Africa's animal resources and stimulating dialogue among key players and helping to generate evidence and supporting development of strategies to guide African governments, institutions and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to adapt and use new ways to solve present and future animal resource challenges;
- Providing advice on technical, policy and development issues related to terrestrial and aquatic animal resources in Africa.
- Collaborating with the AU Networks (e.g. Veterinary Councils, Veterinary Education Establishments (VEEs), Women in Livestock Development (WILD), Youth in Animal Resources Development, Continental Animal Health Platform (CAHP-Africa)) and a number of other relevant institutions and to be able to seek diverse opinions from a range of players and sectors.

V. FAAR's GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Geographical focus will be Africa but tap into global expertise and advice guided by latest developments in science and supported by critical, strategic and foresight thinking;
- Build on existing networks and establish key partnerships to make FAAR relevant and visible.
- Remain flexible and nimble and not to be resource heavy and burdened by complex administrative procedures;
- Work with existing establishments, avoid duplication and unwarranted competition;
- Be a neutral and independent platform to encourage conversation, debate on critical issues of technical, policy, institutional and governance nature to enable reaching consensus; and
- Create a Forum with a legal basis for credibility

VI. MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

FAAR membership is open to individuals who are committed to its mission and not to organisations. FAAR members are required to have knowledge and experiences in the field of animal resources development in Africa. FAAR admission process is based on submitting an application to FAAR Bureau.

FAAR Founding Members

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FAAR's Bureau

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- Vice-president: Dr Junaidu Maina
- Secretary: Dr Bouna Diop