



DONKEY SPECIES PRESERVATION IN AFRICA: “DONKEY IN AFRICA NOW AND IN THE FUTURE”.

Brief description



- Donkeys were first domesticated in Africa, making them a true African livestock, and a heritage of the continent.
- The donkey has significant impacts to household economies and countries GDP. They provide clean energy for transport especially for communities in arid and semi-arid regions, agricultural rural areas across the continent
- Donkeys across Africa are not reared for slaughter but as a livelihood support option.
- Donkeys provide their owners/users with a source of income when used in commercial engagements and a savings if used in areas where the owner would have had to pay for similar service if the donkey was not there.
- They are an indigenous genetic resource and they contribute to environmental welfare, and biodiversity through their manure.
- Data shows that a working donkey contributes up to 15 times more income when it is alive, than when it sold for slaughter.



CONTS.....



If a donkey is lost, the woman & child becomes the donkey

- Across Africa and across the globe, donkeys are now faced by a serious welfare and existence threat from the burgeoning demand for their skin, propelled by a traditional belief that their skins and some body parts have medicinal properties.
- Donkey farming to meet the demand for skins is scientifically proven to be unsustainable. Donkeys have low fertility and long reproduction cycles, low welfare awareness and cross border smuggling between neighboring African Member States.
- Evidence shows that donkey skin trade has led to loss of livelihoods for donkey dependent communities, spread of donkey diseases, loss of indigenous genetic resource, alarming decline in the donkey populations exposed the animal to the risk of extinction further putting the livelihoods of the donkey-dependent communities in Africa at jeopardy.

Invisible Helpers - a livelihood support across Africa



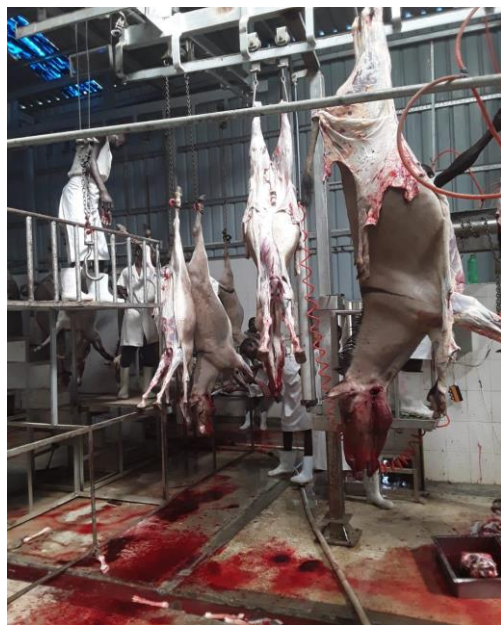
Some Priority Welfare Issues



Supply: Estimated to be 44 million **donkeys** in the world



Some online photos



Demand: National demand for *ejiao* in China would require 2.5 to 4.5 million donkey skins/year,



Others; beauty creams, sweets, capsules etc.



Mass slaughter of indigenous donkeys for the skin trade



Thousands of donkey at a holding facility waiting to be slaughtered



Thousands of donkey skins being salted for export in



Thousands of donkey moved on foot [others on trucks] to slaughter points [and across borders]



THE BUSH SLAUGHTER OF DONKEYS

DONKEY SKIN TRADE'S LINK TO OTHER ILLICIT ACTIVITY, CONTINUED

The sale of donkey skins and wildlife products is also prevalent via social media.

In addition to B2B e-commerce websites, donkey skin trade and illicit wildlife trafficking regularly takes place on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.¹

- Social media platforms provide anonymity and secure communication channels for donkey skin and wildlife traders. Traders utilizing the above social media platforms to sell donkey skins were also marketing a plethora of other wildlife products, such as hardwoods, fish maw, antelope horn, lion and tiger teeth, macaws, and grey parrots²
- Open-source information indicates that tech firms overseeing social media sites, like Facebook, do not block illicit content because the United States has laws which provide the firms with immunity.³ For example, illicit content is considered free speech on social media platforms.⁴ Therefore, there is little incentive for tech firms to stop wildlife trafficking and enforce regulations throughout the social media platforms⁵



Left: Pictures from an advertisement on Facebook selling pangolin scales and donkey skins⁶

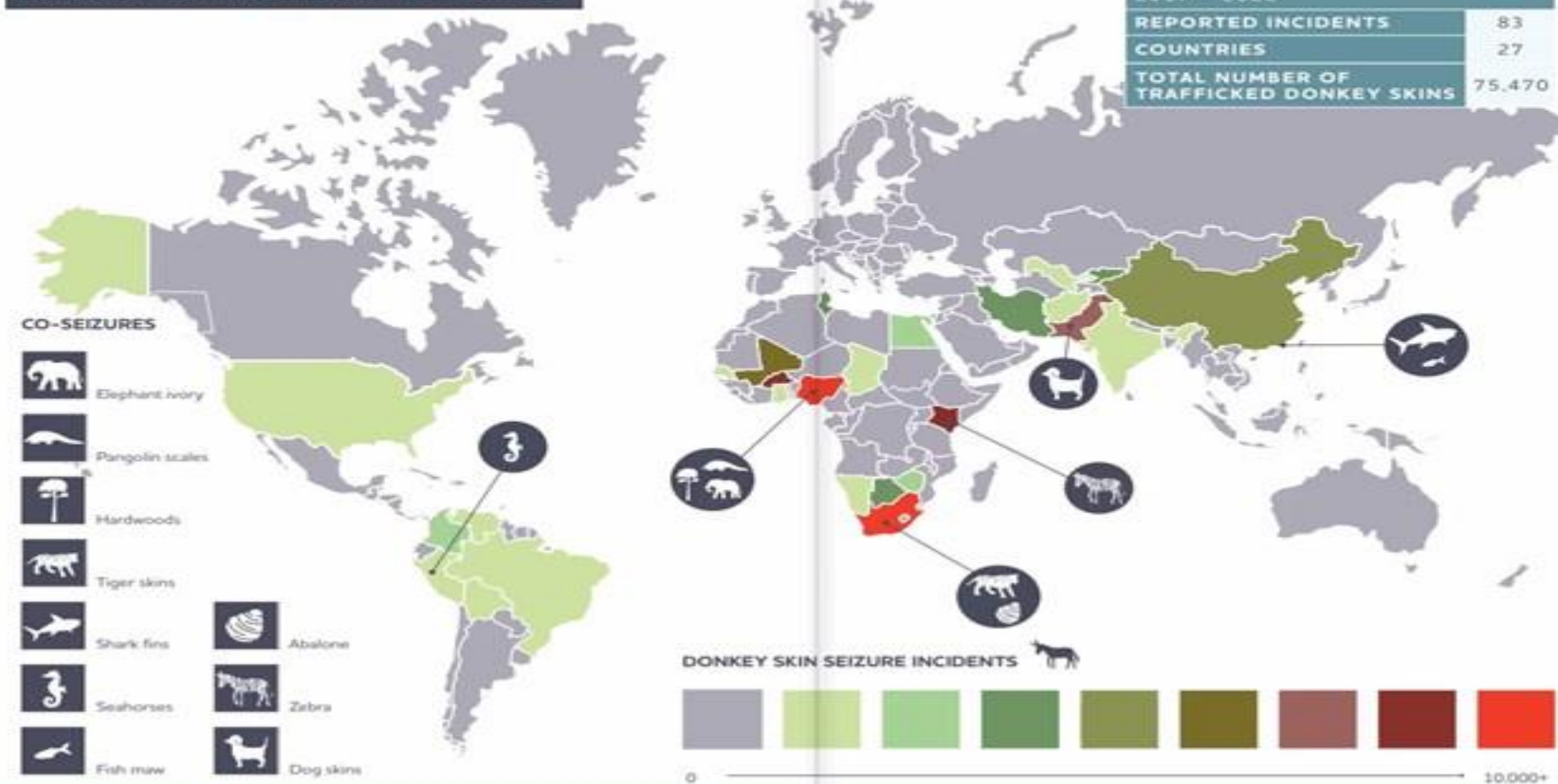
DONKEY SKIN TRADE'S LINK TO OTHER ILLICIT ACTIVITY

Various wildlife products are often seized alongside donkey skins.

Between 2017 and 2022, there were 83 reported incidents of donkey skin seizures across 27 countries. The total number of trafficked donkey skins across these seizures came to 75,470.¹

- Animal products that were seized along with the donkey skins were:
- Elephant ivory, pangolin scales, hardwoods, tiger skins, shark fins, seahorses, fish maw, abalone, and zebra²

DONKEY SKIN SEIZURE REPORTS




Right: A world map depicting donkey seizures and other wildlife product co-seizures³



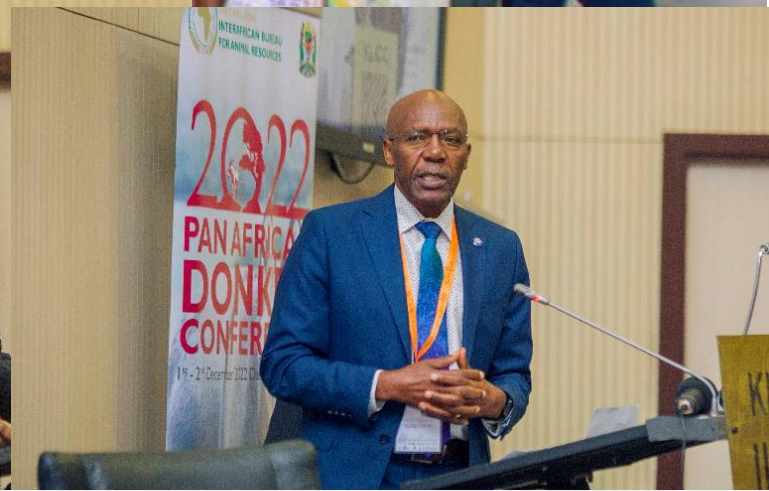
NALANG'U NKUYAYU
DONKEY OWNER, NARO

**Knowing that I have to replace the stolen
donkeys yet I wasn't responsible for their theft**



BROOKE
ACTION FOR WORKING
HORSES AND DONKEYS

PAN AFRICAN DONKEY CONFERENCE [PADCO]



Delegates and leaders during the Pan African Donkey Conference - 132 delegates attended physically, and over 70

PAN AFRICAN DONKEY CONFERENCE [PADCO] - brief



- AU-IBAR in partnered with Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Regional Economic Communities - IGAD, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC and Animal welfare Organizations convened PADCO.
- The conference underscored the role and contribution of donkeys to the livelihoods of African communities [directly and indirectly] and that donkeys hold significant cultural value in Africa hence the need for governments to recognize the lifelong value of working donkeys as a livelihood asset.
- Exploitation of donkeys for the skin trade was acknowledged as a threat to the species and livelihoods of donkey dependent communities posing a threat to the Animal Resources Sector and livelihoods
- When donkeys are lost to slaughter for their skin, it is women and children who shoulder the burden. This additional workload places a strain on their lives, impacts their access to education and limits the opportunities to improve their livelihoods.
- Many African countries who had engaged in the slaughter of donkeys had overtime banned or prohibited the trade in a bid to protect donkey populations and the communities that depend on them. However, despite prohibition, the trade continues illegally and in violation of legal frameworks and biosecurity protocols at national and international levels.
- Delegated **ENDORSED** the “Dar-Es-Salam Declaration on Donkeys in Africa now and in the Future”
- They **REQUESTED** the AUC, through AU-IBAR, to formulate and to bring forward to the next STC meeting in 2023, the Dar-Es-Salam Declaration on the exploitation of the donkey in Africa for its skin, for inclusion in the continental (AU) and global development agenda (UN).
- The Dar-Es-Salam Declaration **URGES** MSs to, based on the available evidence put a moratorium on slaughter of donkey for skin trade and to develop and implement a strategy to enhance the conservation, development and management of the donkey and other equid resources in Africa.

Ms Margret a donkey owner and victim of theft for donkey skin trade addressing the conference

COMMUNIQUE

PAN AFRICAN DONKEY CONFERENCE

Theme: Donkeys in Africa Now and in the Future

1st and 2nd December 2022

Kisenga LAPF International Conference Centre, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

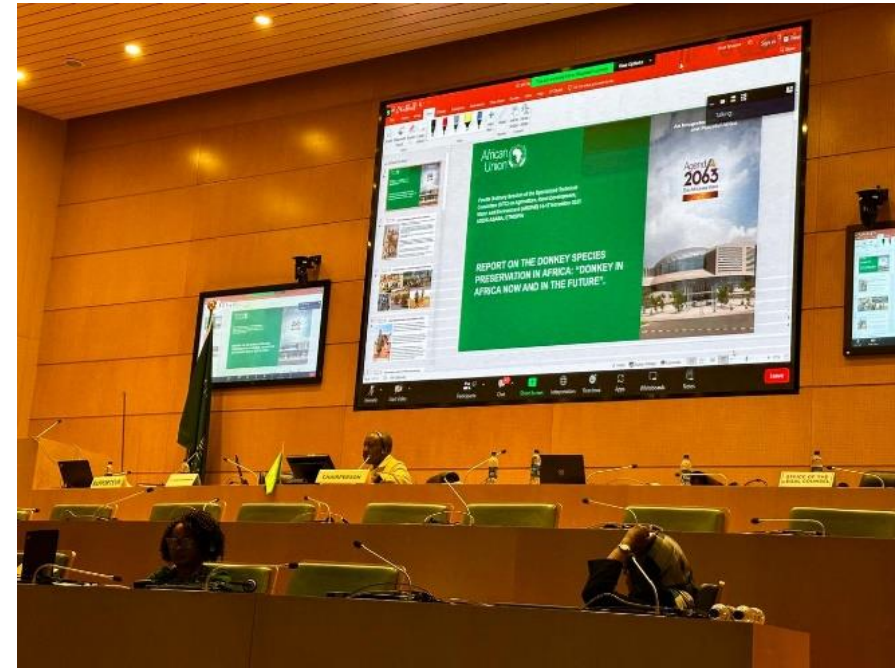


- Ministers in Charge of Livestock and stakeholders signed a declaration
 - REQUESTING the AUC, through AU-IBAR, to bring the resolution on donkeys and other equids' development, for inclusion in the continental (AU) and global development agenda (UN) to the next STC meeting in 2023
 - URGE the AUC to propose to the AU Committee of Heads of State to endorse the proposal of putting a moratorium on donkey slaughter for skins and other donkey related products, for export, for at least the next 15 years.



Photo of STC Ministers attending the STC

Report on Donkey species preservation in Africa: “DONKEY IN AFRICA NOW AND IN THE FUTURE” being presented to the Ministers and experts



Next steps

- Continued advocacy mission to MSs on donkey species preservation
- Ratification of the endorsed donkey preservation in Africa report and actions by Heads of States and Governments of African Union
- Engagement of MS/ RECs to implement the AUC decision on adoption of the resolution to preserve donkeys in Africa
- Develop a Pan African Strategy for the development of Donkey Species in Africa and action plan for increased production and productivity
- Convene a Pan African Donkey Conference that will review AUC decision implementation actions across Africa



Thank You