



## Title:

# **WORKING ANIMALS: CLIMATE CHANGE and PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES in achieving the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

## Suggested date and time:

- Tuesday 7th of July 2020
- Time 12:00 to 13:30pm (EDT - New York time)

## Partners:

- Mission of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- The Donkey Sanctuary/World Horse Welfare

## Speakers:

- **H.E. Ambassador Abdoulaye Barro, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Mission of the Republic of Senegal to the UN**
- **Daniela Battaglia, Animal Production Officer, Animal Production and Health Division, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)**
- **Dr. Rebecca Doyle, Senior Lecturer at Animal Welfare Science Centre University of Melbourne**
- **Ian Cawsey, Director of Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns, The Donkey Sanctuary**
- **Chair: Roly Owers, CEO, World Horse Welfare**

## Respondents:

- **Bonnie Wyper, President & Founder, Thinking Animals United**
- **Dr Aileen Pypers, Director and consulting veterinarian, Pets at Play Inc.**

## Purpose:

Presenting the contribution of working animals towards tackling Climate Change-related crises and preventing the spread of zoonotic diseases.

## Context:

**Background** - Environmental-related crises have grown quickly and prominently over the past few years. Air and water pollution, biodiversity loss, deforestation, accelerated sea level rise and harsh heatwaves are just some of the disastrous effects of climate change. Alongside such issues, we have recently experience a marked increase in the occurrence and dissemination of zoonotic diseases (infectious illnesses transmissible from animals to humans), mainly caused by environmental, demographic and social changes.



***The role of Working Animals in sustainable development*** - Many of the world's most urgent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be achieved by cost-effective and simple solutions that benefit some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in society... and working animals can help. With climate change and a rapid spread of diseases impacting on the livelihoods of many, working animals can play a critical role in countries affected the most. They provide a significant contribution towards the delivery of development targets such as ensuring access to education, mitigating the effects of climate change and strengthening community resilience, tackling gender inequalities, allowing water safety and quality and facilitating interlinkages between the SDGs.

***Impact summary*** - When considering sustainable transformation at scale and pace, investment in otherwise atypical capacity building measures can empower people at all levels to participate in and effect greater change.

**Countries and VNRs:** The current reporting frame of reference does not contain any language regarding the contribution of working animals in delivering the targets of the SDGs. Suggested reporting areas that include specific reference to working animals would highlight successes as well as gaps that might be filled in the next period up to the mid-term review of the SDGs:

- Countries benefit from expanded wording to report against when preparing their voluntary national reviews and are able showcase additional progress in implementing the SDGs.
- Countries with healthy working animals benefit from a more sustainable approach to agriculture in terms of energy and cost efficiency and lower ecological disturbance.

**Interlinkages between SDGs:** Although previously considered as siloed issues and approached as such, there is a growing awareness of global interconnectivity and the positive impact that can be achieved by facilitating shared knowledge, collaborative activity and strengthened policy.

- Working animals represent a prime example of the positive impact affordable and easy interventions have on achieving sustainable development objectives while fostering cumulative beneficial effects between targets of many of the SDGs: no poverty, zero hunger, health, gender equality, water, clean energy, decent work, sustainable communities, climate action, and partnerships.

**Communities:**

- Communities benefit from healthier animals which prevent the development and dissemination of zoonosis.
- Communities enjoy boosted economic capacity: as a system of transport, working animals are integral to the production process, bringing resources and supporting trade, ensuring that product can reach marketplaces and offering a wider range of opportunity for work-based and social engagement.
- Communities are able to participate in saving schemes; such schemes are particularly important for those who are unable to access more formal bank or insurance programmes, which provide a safety net against unforeseen shock.
- Communities are ensured regular access to essential resources such as water and medical supplies.



- Communities benefit from a significant reduction in gender gaps as, thanks to working animals, women are empowered to gain a degree of independence and financial resilience, improving their social standing and saving time and energy on labour tasks.
- Communities are efficiently supported by healthy working animals in restoring income and productivity after a disaster

### **Working animals' health and welfare:**

Working animals benefit from better welfare derived from higher recognition of the role they play in improving the livelihoods of people.

### **Format:**

Panel of speakers delivering their speeches and presentations followed by Q&A session with audience

### **Agenda and suggested timings:**

Opening remark (5 min)	Chair
Presentation (40 min)	Presentations and speeches
Interactive discussion (30 min)	Q&A with audience
Closing remarks (5 min)	Chair

### **Platform:**

Zoom

### **Contacts:**



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**THE DONKEY  
SANCTUARY**

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