



## ERFAN Working Group Meeting on Animal Welfare

### Common challenges in the SADC area related to animal welfare issues

1. Resistance to change of the different stakeholders/figures, due to knowledge gaps on the real impact and benefits of OIE animal welfare standards implementation. Ignorance on the principles of “One welfare”, “One Health”, components of animal welfare (Health + Feeling+ Natural Behaviour). Lack of practical, demonstrable models that work. The link between human and animal welfare and environmental sustainability is often not considered/not known.

In particular:

- Farmers: they feel threatened, worried for possible money losses due to the implementation of better AW standards
- animal owners: often they do not know how to approach animals correctly in order to improve their welfare
- Vets and paravets: sometimes they ignore AW principles on the basis of OIE standards. They could think that animal welfare is the same than animal health
- Legislators, government, policy makers, universities, veterinary institutions: they still often confuse animal health with animal welfare; the institutional approach to animal welfare issues can be not holistic, not considering the different components to be considered.

2. Inadequate public sector structure for AW

- There is not enough dedicated personnel, specifically for animal welfare

3. Lack of priority: not enough governmental budget to engage AW issues

4. Culture change is needed but it is difficult. They should be changed:

- perceptions
- the way in which the animals are used
- the fact that the poorly treated animals is considered the norm

5. Enforcement of OIE standards in effective legislation is still to be done

## What is needed

- Training based on the holistic concept of “one welfare”
- Incorporate AW into other sectors
- Get stakeholders more involved
- AW should be considered as an umbrella under which other sectors are encompassed (food safety, animal health, environmental sustainability)
- Communicate AW as a sustainability enhancer, and let stakeholders know of the economic and social benefits linked to it
- School curricula should include AW