

**Partners:** [International Coalition for Working Equids](#) (ICWE) made up of four organisations Brooke, The Donkey Sanctuary, SPANA and World Horse Welfare and UN Member State Nigeria.

### Speakers and Suggested Timing:

Timing	Name and Title	Pronouns	Presentation Topic
5 mins	Dr Josphat Nyika, Ministry of Agriculture of Zimbabwe	He/Him	Chair - Opening remarks and overview
10 mins	Ndaya Beltchika, Lead Technical Specialist, Gender, IFAD	She/Her	Working Animals, Gender and Resilience
10 mins	Sonigitu Ekpe, Environmental management and governance	He/Him	Climate change, environment and the role of working animals
10 mins	Fredred Valdivia, Brooke Programme Manager (BLAC) Nicaragua, Brooke	He/Him	Animal welfare and sustainable practices to build community resilience
10 mins	Mahawa Bengaly, Humane Education Officer, SPANA	She/Her	Humane education and climate resilience in Mali
5 mins	ICWE representative	She/Her	Working Animals and DRR reports.
40mins			Question and Answers

### Description:

This side event will look at positive case studies, sharing best practice and experiences focussing on the role that working animals have in providing sustainable solutions to address community and climate resilience boosting Africa's progress towards achieving the objective of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

These animals 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 security and facilitating interlinkages between the SDGs.

### Outcomes/Benefits for Countries and Communities:

- Awareness of the role that working animals contribute to sustainable development and resilience, and ability to create the conditions to foster new collaborations and partnerships.
- Countries benefit from expanded wording to report against when preparing their voluntary national reviews and are able to showcase additional progress in implementing the SDGs, specifically 4, 5 and 13.
- Countries with healthy working animals benefit from a strengthened social system that prioritises activities contributing to gender empowerment as well as education.
- Communities benefit from healthier animals which prevent the development and spread of diseases.
- 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.

The event will particularly concentrate on a number of Sustainable Development Goals and their relevant targets:

**SDG 4 – Quality Education:** Income generated by working animals is one of the main means to pay school and vocational training fees in many parts of the world, allowing youth and adults alike, to shape fulfilling lives. Working animals also play a critical role in allowing attendance to education programmes and initiatives being the only affordable means of transportation in many communities. Integrating animal welfare teaching into mainstream education will allow a better understanding of the interlinkages between animal welfare, social justice and environmental protection in order to improve quality of life, increase community resilience, and achieve the targets of SDG 4.

**SDG 5 - Gender Equality** A large proportion of people living below the poverty line are women, therefore they are most likely to suffer from the heaviest consequences of climate change and the dissemination of diseases, etc. Evidence shows women often rely on working animals to do tasks they would otherwise have to perform themselves. In many women-headed households, the more affordable draught power provided by working animals enables them to be economically active, increasing their resilience and social standing and reducing previous demographic or financial resource restrictions.

**SDG 13 – Climate Action** Climate change and extreme weather events pose a considerable threat to communities who have been marginalised, as the loss of working animals can contribute to reductions in agricultural productivity and food security. Protection and consideration of this valuable workforce within national disaster risk reduction and response strategies helps ensure community resilience and sustainability in the face of climate change.