INFORMATION ON PAAWA
Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance is an organisation that collaborates with environmental and animal welfare organisations across the African continent. Our mission is to provide a platform for collective work on policies, legislation and practices that leads to improved animal welfare.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON ANIMAL WELFARE
Farm animal welfare is an issue of great importance to consumers and farmers in Africa, and around the world. In South Africa, for example, major supermarket chains like Woolworth’s and Pick n Pay have adopted strong animal welfare policies, and the South African Pork Producers Organization is also working to phase out the continual confinement of sows in gestation/sow stalls. The governments of some African nations, including South Africa, are considering the development of animal welfare legislation that would encompass farm animals.

We know there are similar shifts being made around the world. Recently, multinational food companies like Nestle, Unilever, and Grupo Bimbo (the largest baking company in the world) have pledged to eliminate restrictive cages and stalls from their supply chains globally.

The caged confinement of laying hens has been banned in Bhutan and Tasmania, and is being phased out in New Zealand. Israel and three U.S. states are also restricting the use of barren battery cages. Tasmania and nine U.S. States also restrict the confinement of pregnant sows in gestation stalls. The largest pork producers in Brazil have all committed to transitioning away from gestation stalls, and Brazil’s government has expressed a desire to help their egg and pork producers’ transition away from extreme confinement systems.

Therefore, we are asking the World Bank to incorporate stronger language on animal welfare into the final draft of the Safeguards Policy. This will help reduce the suffering of farm animals, create market opportunities for smaller farmers who already use extensive/higher welfare housing systems, and help other farmers and producers in developing countries shift to higher welfare housing systems as well – allowing them to stay competitive in domestic and international markets.

Specifically, we request the World Bank to strengthen the language in ESS6 of the Safeguards Policy to explicitly reference the IFC’s Good Practice Note on improving Animal Welfare in Livestock Operations as follows:

SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON ESS6:
Page 101, para. 39: In order to avoid difficulties in interpretation and to cover all important
stages of production, the sentence needs to be amended in three ways: First, as referring to GIIP alone is too ambiguous, the text should explicitly list the IFC’s GPN as the World Bank’s main document defining GIIP in animal husbandry. Second, the paragraph shall apply to all commercial animal farming operations, irrespective of their size, as the welfare of farmed animals is important on both smaller and large-scale operations (and the draft does not define “large scale”). Further, the standards in the IFC’s GPN are already being met by the small farmers in our region, and any improvements they mandate (i.e. better feeding practices) will improve financial outcomes for our small farmers. Finally, it should be clear that the policy shall cover all stages in animal production with implications for animal welfare.

Therefore, we suggest the following:

Borrowers involved in large-scale commercial farming, including breeding, rearing, housing, transport, and slaughter of animals for meat or other animal products (such as milk, eggs, wool) will employ the Good Practice Note on Improving Animal Welfare in Livestock Operations and other GIIP, whichever is most stringent, in animal husbandry techniques, with due consideration for religious and cultural principles.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Kind regards,

Tozie Zokuza  
Chairperson of the board of Directors  
Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance