

North African animal legislation: a review

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Introduction

The following review was a student assignment as part of the Institute of Animal Technology Post Graduate Diploma (PGDip) course in Laboratory Animal Technology and Science, established in 1992 in conjunction with the University of Middlesex. Students successfully gaining their PGDip were able to continue their studies to achieve a Master of Science Degree, by dissertation, in Laboratory Animal Technology.

As part of the law module, students were given the task of reviewing legislation relating to animals in different parts of the World.

The original remit of this project was to survey legislation pertaining to animals in the African states north of the Sahara Desert. Unfortunately no one authority appears to agree on the current confines of the Sahara, therefore an arbitrary decision was made to survey those African states where the majority of the land mass lies north of the equator. In countries where the landmass lies equally either side of the equator, the position of the capital city has been used as the deciding factor, hence the Gabon has been included in this review while Kenya and the Congo has been classified as South Africa. Using this rationale 30 countries were identified as falling into the classification 'North Africa'. 19 UK embassies or consulates of the countries concerned were approached and a further 10 states were addressed via the United Nations. Only in the case of Cape Verde was contact not made, due to the author being unable to ascertain whether the islands were an independent state or

dependency of another national power, (it has since been ascertained that whilst once a former colony of Portugal, it is now an independent state). Most of the approaches made to the appropriate UK embassy were unproductive and much of the information used in this review was gained from library sources. References were updated where possible in 2023.

The legislation reviewed falls into five major groups:

- Animal in Research/Science.
- Conservation Legislation.
- Laws relating to Animal Protection.
- Legislation affecting Animals in Agriculture.
- Animal Health Legislation.

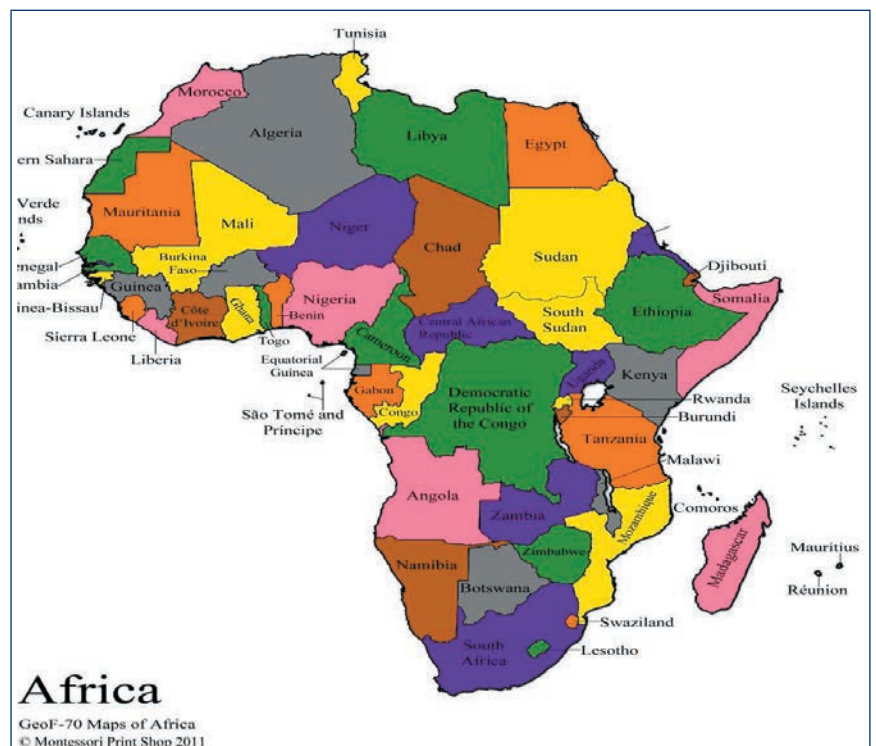


Figure 1. Countries of Africa.

Legislation relating to animals use for scientific purposes

Of the countries surveyed only Uganda had specific legislation relating to the use of animals in experiments. The Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Act 1957,¹ combines aspects of the English Protection of Animals Act 1911,² and the now defunct Cruelty to Animals Act 1876.³ In addition to defining cruelty, etc., in a similar way to the 1911 Act,² (this aspect will be reviewed at a later point) the Act prohibits the use of live animals in experiments calculated to cause pain, the exception to this being the use in experiments performed with a view to the advancement, by new discovery, physiological knowledge or of knowledge that will be used in saving or prolonging life or alleviating suffering. These uses of animals are only permitted after the issuance of a licence to those concerned. The performance of experiments on animals without the use of anaesthetics is strictly controlled and the use of animals in experiments as part of a lecture is prohibited. However if in the opinion of the lecturer, such experiments are necessary to enable the students to gain physiological or life-saving knowledge then this condition is waived. Using animals in experiments to acquire manual skills is also prohibited. Provision is made for the destruction of animals if pain inflicted during the experiment is likely to continue following recovery from anaesthesia. Revocation of the licences in the instance of contravention of the Act is provided for.

Other legislation affecting the scientific use of animals relates to conservation. where the capture, etc., of animals is permitted if it is for scientific purposes. Algeria,^{4,6} prohibits the taking of protected species except for scientific purposes and then only after the award of a permit. A Statutory Instrument (S.I.),⁷ issued by Benin as part of the Protection of Nature and Hunting Act 1980,⁸ regulates the issuance of Scientific Purpose permits. Passed in connection with the Wildlife Conservation and Hunting Act 1919,⁹ Burkina Faso establishes conditions for the issuance of Scientific Purpose Permits in a S.I.¹⁰ Further legislation enacted in 1977,¹¹ permits the capturing in exceptional circumstances even fully protected species. An Act and S.I.^{12,13} passed in 1985 re-opening hunting also established additional conditions for the issuance of scientific permits.

The United Republic of Cameroon^{14,15} permits the taking a fully protected and partially protected species for scientific purposes. Similar legislation¹⁶ enacted by the Central African Republic establishes conditions for the issuance and validity capturing permits scientific or commercial purposes.

The position regarding Ethiopia is somewhat confusing, the ambassador to the United Kingdom Ethiopian and the Eritrean United Nations representative both informed

the author that there is no legislation pertaining to animals Ethiopian or Eritrean (personal communication 1992). However library sources reveal a statutory instrument issued in 1972¹⁷ in accordance with the provisions of the Forest and Wildlife Conservation and Development Proclamation 1980¹⁸ designating certain species as specially protected except for important scientific research. Provision for Ethiopian authorities to undertake scientific research with regards to forests and wildlife resources is also made under this Act.

Ghanaian legislation¹⁹ empowers the Minister to authorise the taking of protected species for scientific purposes. Similar legislation enacted by Guinea-Bissau regulates the taking of wild animals for scientific purposes.²⁰

The transport of trophies of totally protected animals in the Ivory Coast is prohibited under a Statutory Instrument²¹ issued under the Wildlife and Hunting Act 1965²² except by holders of scientific permits. A further S.I.²³ regulating the issuance and validity of game licences in the Ivory Coast issued in 1966, includes regulations for the issuance, validity and use of scientific licences, etc.

Much of the legislation of Nigeria was enacted during colonial rule and was incorporated into Federal Law on independence. This includes legislation concerning the areas of Anambra, Imo Rivers and Cross Rivers,²⁴ which permits the hunting of protected animals for important scientific purposes under a permit issued by the Minister of State. This waiver was extended in 1985 to include additional species and other areas.²⁵⁻²⁸ Similar legislation exists for Senegal.²⁹

Conservation legislation

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna, Washington 1973, often referred to as CITES or the Washington Agreement, was ratified by several of the countries reviewed here. The terms of the convention are put into effect by each country's national legislation with the intention of regulating the trade in endangered species.

In addition to legislation regulating the hunting of protected species,⁴ including the establishment of game reserves and the spraying of pesticides which may be harmful to game species, Algeria passed in 1983 legislation,^{5,6} to protect the environment. This deals with all aspects of environmental conservation including the control of air, freshwater and marine pollution, waste, radioactive substances, chemical substances, noise and the preparation of impact assessment studies. With regards to species and ecosystems it provides for the establishment of river reserves and the protection of animals and plant species.

Benin's conservation legislation,⁸ protects all free-living mammals (except bats, rats and mice), all birds and crocodiles, monitor lizards, pythons, turtles and fishes. The Act provides for the designation of species according to the degree of protection afforded them. Types of hunting weapons and methods of hunting are regulated. Provision for the establishment of game reserves is also made and for the killing of protected animals in self-defence or in the defence of crops. The Act also provides for enforcement measures and penalties. A Statutory Instrument issued under this legislation provides for a register for Ivory workers,⁷ a further S.I. passed in ratification of CITES provides that no hunter may kill more than one elephant and one hippopotamus in any one year.³⁰

Also a signatory to CITES, Burkina Faso passed in its main conservation legislation in 1968,^{9,10} defining wildlife as including all mammals, birds, crocodiles, chelonians, monitor lizards and pythons and vests ownership of defined wildlife with the State. The Act prohibits certain hunting methods, protects females, juveniles, eggs and nests of species and, establishes protected areas and several categories of hunting licences.

Provision for the enforcement measures and penalties is also made. A further S.I. provides complete protection for the Golden Cat.¹¹ Hunting was once again authorised by an S.I. which regulates hunting for the 1985-1986 season,¹² lists fully and partially protected species and restricts the hunting of said species to the areas of Gourma and Tapoa. This S.I. sets bag limits and royalties in respect of the taking of such species. A fishing ordinance,¹³ regulates fishing gear and prohibits the use of certain nets, explosives, toxic substances, electric devices or firearms and prohibits, except under licence, the release of chemical substances into aquatic environments with the proviso that licences shall not be granted if such release is harmful to aquatic animals or plants. The introduction of exotic fish species is also banned, except under permit. Provision is made for enforcement measures and penalties.

While not appearing to be a signatory to CITES, the United Republic of Cameroon has comprehensive legislation,¹⁴ regulating hunting, possession of and trade in wild animals and trophies. In addition the Act provides protection for certain species, restricts the importation of exotic animals and plants (dead or alive) and the export of protected animals. Animals protected include all terrestrial and aquatic animals. Fishing is regulated as are methods of fishing and fishing gear. Provision is made for enforcement measures and penalties. A decree passed in 1983,³² regulates traditional hunting and certain methods of hunting are prohibited. The trade in live animals is also regulated by this decree and enforcement measures and penalties are provided for. A Statutory Instrument,¹⁵ lists protected and partially protected species and permits the taking of protected

species for game management and the protection of human life. The taking of other species is regulated through bag limits and seasons. The young of all species are protected, as are the eggs of fully protected species of birds.

Originally passed in 1955 when Cape Verde was a province of Portugal, the conservation legislation of this group of islands covers nature conservation in general, soils, fauna, hunting and flora. The S.I. was adopted into the law of the now independent state.³³ The legislation establishes rules for the preservation of soils, flora and fauna, it regulates hunting and hunting methods and establishes the requirement for hunting permits including conditions for their issuance and validity. Trade in trophies is regulated as is fishing in inland waters. Enforcement measures are also established.

The Central African Republic establishes that wild animals form an integral part of the national heritage of the State in an ordinance concerning protection of wildlife and regulating hunting passed in 1984.³⁴ The legislation defines various categories of protected areas and lays down rules for their management. Species are classified as protected, partially protected and game species. The taking of fully protected species is completely banned, partially protected species may only be taken under permit. Customary hunting is regulated together with hunting methods and the Act establishes conditions for the issuance of licences. Game species may be taken by customary hunters or under a small game licence but the principle of taking only male animals is established. The Minister is empowered to establish open and close seasons and to regulate the trade in trophies. A further Act issued in connection with CITES,³⁵ regulates the capture of live wild animals- fully protected species as listed in the previous Act may only be taken with the express permission of the Head of State and trade in such species is not permitted. Other species may be captured only by the Wildlife Department or under its control, a permit being required if capture is by an organisation other than the Wildlife Department. The definition of live wild animals includes the eggs of birds and reptiles. Additionally an Act passed in 1995 prohibits the hunting relevance throughout the territory of the Republic.³⁶

Egyptian conservation legislation,³⁷⁻⁴⁰ covers particular areas of the State and prohibits the taking of animals and birds in certain parts of these areas. In Sinai the fishing for all species of coloured fish is prohibited in Ras Mohammed area as is the removal of special specimens from the coral reefs.⁴¹

Legislation providing for conservation in Equatorial Guinea,⁴² was passed by the Spanish Administration in 1953 but it is unclear if legislation is still in force. And S.I. It established protected areas and provided for the necessity of hunting licences. Species were

classified according to their degree of protection with the females of all species being singled out for special protection. Traditional hunters were not required to hold hunting permits providing that traditional methods and weapons were used.

Similar confusion exists over conservation legislation in Ethiopia and Eritrea (see scientific legislation). A Statutory Instrument (S.I.),¹⁷ passed in 1972 classified as game, all wild animals including birds and reptiles which are not vermin. Full protection was given to females and their young. Specially protected species were listed and these could not be taken except for important scientific research. It has not been possible to ascertain if this legislation is still valid in any part of Ethiopia or Eritrea.

In 1981, Gabon passed an S.I.⁴³ suspending all big game and tourist hunting licences and banned the capture of certain species including the Mountain Gorilla, Chimpanzees, Elephants and Hippopotamus. A subsequent S.I.⁴⁴ reopening hunting for small game and renewed the provisions concerning the species listed in the previous S.I.⁴³ Protected areas were established in The Waters And Forest Act 1985,⁴⁵ which additionally regulated activities in such areas, hunting methods and possession and, domestic or international trade in wildlife and trophies. Enforcement measures and penalties are specified.

All vertebrates, except fish, are protected in the Gambia under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1977.⁴⁶ It provides for the development of wildlife management plans together with the establishment of protected areas. Certain hunting methods are banned as is the trade in wild animals, meat and trophies with the exception of legally hunted Bush pig. An enabling act, it empowers the Minister to authorise trade in other species and to make regulations to further the implementation of the Act. In 1977 an S.I. prohibits the sale of wild animals and of meat and trophies except in respect to the sale of game meat by Indigenes (Indigenies are Gambians citizens, members of tribes indigenous to Gambia and the inhabitants of villages in the provinces). Vermin species are listed in a further S.I.⁴⁸

The Wild Animals Preservation Act 1961 of Ghana lists species in five schedules.¹⁹ It empowers the president to amend these schedules. Hunting using motor vehicles or aircraft is prohibited as is the surrounding of animals by fire. The Act empowers game officers to arrest without warrant. It prohibits the import into Ghana, except with certification of lawful export, of trophies exported from territories to which the Convention on the Protection of Fauna and Flora of 1933 applies. The 1971 Wildlife Conservation,⁴⁹ regulations completely replace the list of protected species which appeared in the previous Act. It prohibits the hunting, capture or destruction or possession of protected species. Also prohibits the hunting, capture or destruction of young

or animals accompanied by their young of partially protected species. It prohibits the export, alive or dead, of animals listed as protected, partially protected or game species.

Hunting Regulations (Statutory Instrument) 1980 issued by Guinea Bissau prohibited capturing, collection, destruction or sale of birds, bird nests and eggs of protected species listed in the regulations.²⁰ The State Commission for National Resources is empowered to prohibit the taking of any species throughout the national territory or any part of it. Certain hunting methods are banned under the S.I. Females of game animals when accompanied by their young are protected and hunters are required to generally avoid shooting female game animals.

Bats, rats and mice are excluded from the provisions of the Ivory Coast conservation legislation.²² All other mammals, birds, crocodiles, monitor lizards and pythons are protected. The legislation deems species listed as being fully or partially protected or as game species. Licences are required for the taking of, in limited numbers, of partially protected species and game species.

The only piece of legislation relating to animals that the author of this review has been able to find from Mauritania is the Hunting and Wildlife Protection Act 1975.⁵⁰ Backed by enforcement measures and penalties, this Act provides for the requirement of a licence for hunting of wild animals. It empowers the appropriate government departments to make regulations regarding the issuance of licences, to declare open and close seasons and to designate totally or partially protected species. Commercial capturing, etc., is regulated. Certain hunting methods are prohibited under the Act as is the trade in game and game meat. Young animals and females accompanied by their young are afforded full protection, similarly wild birds and the eggs of wild birds (particularly the ostrich) which are not listed as pest species are also protected. However the taking of a protected wild animal in order to protect human life is authorised and the Act empowers the Minister to authorise the taking of a protected animal when they are causing damage.

Several Acts and subsequent amendments and Statutory Instruments regulate hunting in Morocco. The main legislation, Hunting Act 1923,⁵¹ amended 17 times between 1932 and 1969, establishing conditions under which hunting rights may be exercised by private persons. Conditions for the issuance and validity of hunting licences are established by the Act as are enforcement measures and penalties. Protected and harmful species are listed and the Act empowers the competent authority to make regulations for hunting seasons, bag limits, the trade in game meat and the regulation of the hunting methods. An S.I.,⁵² enacted in 1962, authorises the destruction of pest species by landowners at any time,

except by fire or bacteriological methods. It also regulates the destruction of wild boar when they are causing damage to crops. Other aspects of the S.I. concern regulation of bag limits for species, the trade in game meat, etc. A second S.I. regulates the 1985 to 1986 hunting season.⁵³ It lays down additional rules for the hunting of wild boar, prohibits the trade in certain types of game meat and provides that the sale of other types of game meat must be authorised by the Director of Waters, Forestry and Soil Conservation. Protected species on this and prohibits the taking and trade in such species.

The conservation legislation of Niger,⁵⁴⁻⁵⁷ provides for the regulation of hunting and prohibition of the sale of game meat. Further regulations are to control such aspects of conservation as the possession, sale, importation and exportation of wild animals and trophies or products. Females of game species are fully protected.

In addition to implementing CITES, the Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Decree 1985,⁵⁸ of Nigeria also implements the African convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the Agreement on the Joint Regulation of Fauna and Flora on the Lake Chad Basin. It prohibits the hunting, capture or trade in animal species threatened with extinction. The Act provides enforcement measures and penalties and empowers the Minister to make regulations to effect the provisions of the Act. As mentioned previously much of the legislation relates to specific areas of Nigeria,^{24-28,58} but generally applies to all animals whether vertebrate or invertebrate, normally found in the wild state or to any part, nest, eggs, eggshells and young thereof. Prohibited animals are listed in three schedules – prohibited, specially protected and protected animals. The hunting of females is given special consideration. All categories of animals may be killed if considered to be a threat to life or property. The Act also provides for enforcement and penalties. The oldest legislation relating to conservation in Nigeria dates back to 1916.⁵⁹ Amended in 1976 the list of fully protected species is directly derived from the appendix to the London Convention of 1933 and contains several species not native to Nigeria. It requires game licences for hunting and regulates the trade in trophies. It specifically prohibits the sale of powdered rhino horn but makes provision for the granting of special licences to kill rhino or elephants. Enactment of this legislation was divided into several areas of Nigeria.⁵⁹

Conservation in Senegal is provided for by the Hunting of Wildlife Protection Code (Statutory Part) 1967.⁶⁰ The Act provides for the regulation of hunting through licences with the exception of hunting on enclosed property by the owner of that property. Wild animals may be killed in defence of life or property. Infractions of the regulations are to be enforced and penalties are provided for. Species and numbers of animals which may be taken

by hunters under a hunting licence are specified in an S.I., enacted in 1967 with further amendments made in 1969, 1973 and 1980.²⁹ In order to hunt lion and hippopotamus a permit from the President is required. Human activities in protected areas are prohibited or regulated. Certain hunting methods and weapons are prohibited as is the trade and export of game meat.

Legislation regarding the conservation of wild animals appears to be limited in Sierra Leone, rules passed in 1950,⁶¹ provide that no animal may be exported from Sierra Leone except through Freetown and regulate the conditions of transport and confinement of wild animals pending export. A further Act, The Wildlife Conservation Act 1972,⁶² provides for the establishment of protected areas and also the issuance of hunting licences and permits. It empowers the Minister to make regulations to give effect to the provisions of the Act and provides for enforcement measures and penalties. No further regulations seemed to have been enacted.

Dated 1969, the Somalian Law on Fauna (Hunting) and Forest,⁶³ provides for the establishment of game reserves, lists various categories of species protected by the Act and provides for requirement of hunting licences. The killing of protected animals is authorised if in defence of life or property and the hunting of young and females, with the exception of vermin species, is prohibited. Trade in trophies is closely regulated. The Minister is empowered to make regulations to implement the Act and to enforce it.

The original Act to conserve wildlife in the Sudan was passed in 1935 and was still valid as of 1983.⁶⁴ It lists protected species with specially protected species being listed in Schedule one to the Act; these species may only be taken by special permission of the Minister. Other schedules list different degrees of protection and include species which may not be hunted with firearms except under licence, the Minister is empowered to amend schedules as required. The hunting of young and females is given special consideration. The establishment of National Parks and other protected areas is provided for. Export of animals and trophies is regulated by permit, unusually permits are not required for the export of articles made from parts of elephant or hippopotamus but the sale of protected animals is prohibited. Elephant tusk and rhino horn must be marked before export. The Minister is empowered to make regulations for the carrying out of the Act.

Generally applying to all animals (exceptions being bats, rats and mice), all birds, crocodiles, turtles, monitor lizards and pythons, the main Act relating to conservation in Togo,⁶⁵ lists species as protected, predatory and game. Ownership of wild animals is vested with the State. Hunting licences are required except by customary hunters or in the case of defensive life or property. Customary hunting is regulated and the use of certain

weapons is prohibited. The Act provides for the establishment of protected areas and for enforcement measures and penalties. Implementation regulations,^{66,67} deal with trade in export and import of trophies in addition to other aspects of hunting such as totally prohibiting night hunting.

Tunisia deals with conservation under the Forest Act 1966.⁶⁸ Whilst mainly dealing with the conservation of forest and the exploitation of timber, the Act also provides for the requirement of hunting licences and for the declaration of hunting seasons. Certain hunting methods are prohibited, as is the trade of game animals and game meat during the close season. Trade in eggs, nests and broods of wild animals is prohibited. The Act lists certain protected mammals and provides for the establishment, by the Minister, of a list of protected birds.

The Fish and Crocodiles Act 1950 regulates fishing and the taking of crocodiles in Uganda.⁶⁹ The use of poison, explosives or electrical devices is prohibited. Taking, and trade in crocodiles or crocodile skin is regulated. The Minister is empowered to control fishing methods by making regulations. The introduction of exotic fish species is prohibited except under permit. Enforcement measures and penalties are provided for and conditions are established for the issuances of licences. Protection of other species is provided for in the Game (Preservation and Control) Act 1959.⁷⁰ Protected species are listed as game species and the Act provides for the requirement of different categories of hunting licences. The legislation empowers the Minister to declare hunting seasons and to protect or restrict the hunting of certain species. Import and export of animals and trophies are regulated. An amendment to the Act adopted in 1970,⁷⁵ provides that all domestically produced ivory belongs to the State and that all ivory in private hands was to be surrendered. Enforcement measures and penalties all provided for.

Animal Welfare legislation

The majority of North African legislation protecting animals is related to conservation. The only Act relating specifically to protecting animals from cruelty that the author of this review could find listed, is the Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Act 1957 of Uganda.¹

As discussed previously the Act combines provision against general cruelty to animals and to restrict the use of live animals in experiments. The Act makes various definitions, in addition to terms relating to enforcement of the Act such as 'authorised officers', it also defines the offence of cruelty. As in the UK 1911 Act,³ it is considered an offence for any person to cruelly beat, kick, ill-treat, over-ride, over-drive, overload, torture or infuriate any animals or to cause, procure or if the owner permits any animal to be so used. The killing

of an animal in an unnecessarily cruel manner is also considered to be in offence as is the performance of any operation on an animal performed without due care or humanity. The administration of drugs without reasonable cause or excuse is considered to be an act of cruelty and therefore an offence.

An owner is considered under the Act to have permitted cruelty if he fails to exercise reasonable care and supervision in respect to the protection of the animal from cruel acts. The slaughter of animals or the preparation of animals for slaughter, if for human consumption, is not covered by this legislation providing that unnecessary suffering is not inflicted. Where an owner is convicted of cruelty, the Court may order the destruction of the animal if it is considered cruel to keep the animal alive. There is no appeal against a destruction order. If an owner is convicted of cruelty under the Act the Court is empowered to deprive the owner of the animal and may dispose of the animal as it thinks fit.

The sale, use, etc., of poisons (including poisoned grain) in connection with animals is an offence under this Act unless it was for the purpose of destroying insects or vermin and providing that sufficient care was taken to prevent access to the poison by dogs, cats, fowls and other domestic animals.

Authorised officers are empowered to slaughter without the owner's consent, any animal considered to be so diseased or injured that to move it would be cruel. If an animal can be moved without suffering then the Act deems it to be a legal responsibility of the owner to move it with as little suffering as possible and without delay. The Act also provides for the recovery of Court costs from animal owners convicted under this Act.

The Sudan regulates the export and import of animals via the Animals Export and Import Act⁷¹ which prohibits the export from Sudan of camels, horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, sheep or goats unless they have been purchased in a public market and a market certificate of sale obtained or unless an export permit has been obtained. Quarantine prior to export is provided for under the Act. The responsibility of owners to provide water and forage for animals in quarantine is also established.

Somalian ships and vehicles carrying animals must possess a special permit from the Secretary of State for livestock, stating the maximum numbers of animals that may be carried by that particular vehicle, etc. The provision for this is made under the Veterinary Code.⁷² Import and export of animals is also controlled under this Code although the provisions are generally in connection with animal health and consequently this aspect will be discussed elsewhere in this review. However special provisions are made for ensuring the Welfare of Animals during transport and the code generally prohibits the export of female animals.

Legislation relating to animals in agriculture

Several countries permit the killing of protected animals in defence of crops.^{8,24,25,50} The Statutory Instrument passed in the Ivory Coast,⁷³ specifies the conditions under which harmful animals may be destroyed. It requires the weight and length of the tusks of an animal which is killed in defence of crops to be reported.

Egypt specifically protects birds used in agriculture under the Protection of Birds Beneficial to Agriculture and Protection of Wild Fauna Act.⁷⁴ Open seasons for Quail are established in a subsequent S.I., which also protects animals beneficial to agriculture.³⁹

The Liberian National Livestock Artificial Insemination Act 1956,⁷⁵ defines Artificial Insemination (AI) and lists the aims of the Act as an establishment of a National Livestock Bureau which is to establish contact with Institutions already familiar with AI practices in tropical countries. The Act provides for the development of regional AI programmes, the enforcement of sanitary measures and the provision of training in AI techniques and practices.

Included in the remit of the Nigerian National Animal Production Research Institute established under the Agricultural Research Institute's Decree 1973,⁷⁶ is the genetic and nutritional improvement of livestock of economic importance, the improvement of livestock management and husbandry practices, the economies of meat production, the integration of livestock in farming systems and the effects on rural populations and any other problems related to animal production. Also established under this Act is the National Veterinary Research Institute. The remit of this establishment includes conducting research into all aspects of animal disease, all aspects of animal nutrition, the introduction of exotic stock to improve meat, milk and egg production and the standardisation and quality control of manufactured animal feeds.

Somalian legislation,⁷⁷ recognises the growing importance of livestock in the country's economy and establishes a national livestock development agency. The original I.S. legislation passed in 1966 was superseded by Law number 34 in 1970.⁷⁸ The agency's function covers all aspects of the development of livestock production and marketing. In addition to disease control measures which will be discussed in the section of this review concerning animal health, the agency's function is to establish a regular flow of graded cattle for the national canning factories, the enforcement of quality control and the rationalisation of the marketing of livestock.

Agricultural animals in Uganda are protected via the Cattle Grazing Act, 1918.⁷⁹ The Act defines cattle as bulls, cows, oxen, calves, sheep and goats. It establishes the powers

of Veterinary Officers to declare areas as controlled and Veterinary Officers are empowered to set the number allowed to graze. The impounding of animals found grazing in contravention of the Act is permitted. Animals found straying may be seized under the provisions of the Animals (Straying) Act 1922.⁸⁰ The eventual disposal of such animals is provided under the Act and lays down penalties for owners convicted of allowing the animals to stray. Zebra are included in the provisions of the Branding of Stock Act 1918 and a multitude of terms, including brand, cattle, etc., are defined.⁸¹ The Act provides for a National Brand Register and makes provision for the transfer of brands. It establishes the offence of brand defacement and lays down penalties for the same. The Trout Protection Act 1936,⁸² would appear to be more concerned with the protection of trout as a food source. This Act establishes that this is unlawful to fish for, capture or kill any trout in any water unless authorised by licence.

Whilst not relating specifically to animals in agriculture it is appropriate to include legislation concerning the destruction of locust in this section. Both Sierra Leone,⁸³ and the Sudan,⁸⁴ have legislation which provides for the declaration of locust areas and to provide for their destruction.

Many African countries have legislation connected with animals, such as Hide and Skin Acts but as these are generally related to the marketing or the production of animal products, they have been excluded from this review.

Animal health legislation

Under Gambian legislation⁸⁵ the import or export of cattle from the Gambia without the permission of the principal Veterinary Officer is prohibited. Measures for the control of Rabies in the Gambia are established in the Dogs (Prevention of Hydrophobia) Order 1975.⁸⁶ This declares various areas as rabies infected areas and empowers the police to destroy all dogs found at large, other than those found on private premises.

Provisions for the control of rabies are contained in The Animal Health Regulations of the Ivory Coast.⁸⁷ Special measures for quarantine periods of animals are established as is the wearing of muzzles by dogs. These regulations also contain provisions for the control of other contagious diseases including Cattle Plague or Rinderpest, Tuberculosis, Glanders, Brucellosis, Epizootic Lymphangitis, Plague, Swine Salmonellosis and Swine Pasteurellosis.

Liberia via its Plant and Animal Quarantine Act 1956,⁸⁸ provides for the prevention of entry into Liberia of injurious plant and animal pests and diseases. Provision under the Act is made for the prevention of the spread of

such pests and diseases should they become established. Nigeria has several acts concerned with animal health enacted during colonial rule which appear to have been adopted into Federal Law on independence. The Animals (Diseases) Act 1917,⁸⁹ makes provisions for preventing the introduction and spread of infectious or contagious diseases amongst animals. Animals for the purposes of the Act are defined as stock, camels, dogs and ostriches and includes any animals or birds which the Governor may by notice in the North Nigerian Gazette, declares to be included in the term animal for the purpose of this Act. (Sic. 'Gazette' does not mean the local newspaper. The 'Gazette' was an official publication containing official notices, orders, etc, which was posted in the District Offices during the colonial era.) The Act also defines the term disease and includes such infections as Rinderpest, Foot and Mouth Disease, Rabies and Swine Fever together with 14 others by notice from the Governor in the North Nigerian Gazette. The Act provides for examination, testing, isolation, inoculation. Slaughter of animals, etc. and, regulates the movement of infected or suspected infected animals. Methods of disposal of carcasses are established. The Diseases of Animals Act 1962,⁹⁰ regulates the importation and exportation by air of animals, animal products and 'things' which may cause disease. It provides for restrictions of the import and export of animals including the importation and exportation, by any means, of animal vaccines and similar substances and animal semen. A Veterinary Council was established by Nigeria for the purpose of determining standards for registration for veterinary surgeons. The Council maintains a register of vets and publishes periodical lists of registered veterinary surgeons. The Veterinary Surgeons decree, 1969,⁹¹ by which The Veterinary Council was established, empowers the Council to approve courses and to supervise instruction and examinations leading to approved qualifications.

Sierra Leone makes provision against dangerous dogs in legislation, The Dogs Act enacted in 1900.⁹² The Act defines dangerous to mean savage, vicious or likely to spread rabies, distemper, mange or any kind of disease. The licensing of dogs is ordered and penalties for keeping a dog without license are established. The police are empowered to seize dangerous dogs and to destroy them. The Act defines the term animal to mean all stock and ruminating animals, cats and dogs but it does not include any other animals except as may be declared in the 'Gazette'. Diseases are listed and provision is made for additions to the list to be made via the 'Gazette'. It establishes steps which are to be taken for checking the spread of disease e.g. compulsory slaughter, isolation, disinfection, etc., and provides for compensation in the event of compulsory slaughter.

Somalia enacted a Veterinary Code⁷² which governs matters such as the prevention of notifiable diseases of animals, the transport of animals, exportation and

importation of animals and the production of animal products. The code casts a duty on owners, veterinarians and police officers to report if there is any outbreak of notifiable disease. The Secretary of State for Livestock may declare any area as infected by new notifiable disease and movement and restriction, etc., may be imposed. Slaughter of infected animals and the disposal of carcasses may be ordered by the Director of Livestock. Inspection of buildings, vehicles, ships or aircraft for infected animals may be ordered. If a notifiable disease is prevalent, the importation of any specified type of animal may be prohibited. Preventative vaccination against infectious and contagious diseases of livestock is compulsory and free of charge. Provision is made for the establishment of regulated markets for animals and animal products exported from the Republic. No camel, cattle, sheep, goats or any other kind of animal may be exported unless they have previously been brought into a quarantine station or holding ground and detained there for a specified period for the purpose of vaccination or treatment. If free of disease on inspection by a Veterinary Officer a Certificate of Health will be issued. The Code also restricts the movement of animals released from quarantine until they are exported and prescribes that animals for export must only travel to quarantine stations via certain authorised routes and must be checked at certain check points.

For both animals and humans, protection from rabies is made through the Sudanese Rabies Act 1948.⁹⁴ It establishes a duty to notify cases of suspected animals and the need for confinement or destruction of any suspected rabid animal. Destruction of in-contact animals is also provided for under the Act. Measures for carcass destruction are established by the Act, as is the provision for the declaration of infected areas. The Act also established penalties for failure to comply with the provision against rabies. The Diseases of Animals Act 1901,⁹⁵ was enacted to deal with Cattle Plague and other diseases of animals. It establishes the duty of an owner or carer to declare any incidents or suspected case of Cattle Plague or other contagious disease. Isolation, disposal and prevention of movement of infected, suspected or in-contact animals is provided for in this Act. The practice of Veterinary Surgery in the Sudan is controlled through the Veterinary Council Act of 1954.⁹⁶

The responsibility of owners or carers in terms of notification of disease incidence and for isolation of an affected animal is established in Uganda by the Animal Disease Act 1918.⁹⁷ This is an enabling act (section 2) and defines animals to mean all stock, camels and other ruminating animals, cats and dogs but does not include any other animal, except those as may be declared by the Minister by Statutory Instrument to be included in the term animals for the purpose of this Act. It empowers Veterinary Officers, etc., to direct burial, destruction of carcasses of infected animals, etc., and prohibits the exhibition of animals. The Act also gives officers power

of entry into premises etc., suspected of containing animals. It establishes the right to compensation for compulsory slaughter and empowers the Minister to declare 'infected areas' and lays down rules for such areas. The Rabies Act 1935,⁹⁸ establishes the power of Veterinary Officers, police, etc., to seize and detain any stray dog in a proclaimed district with the term 'stray' being defined. Veterinary Officers may dispose of any stray dog after three days if unclaimed. The Act sets down the duties of owners in the event of a dog becoming rabid or suspected of being infected and imposes penalties for breaches of these duties. Provision for the restriction of imports of animals from countries where rabies is known to exist is also made.

Conclusions

It is often imagined by some, that animals are given little attention in less developed countries and even less protection in law. However it can be seen from the legislation reviewed here that in fact comprehensive legislation exists in several states, particularly in respect to the conservation of animals, although how much is still valid in 2023 has been impossible to ascertain. The rapidly changing political situation in several states adds to the confusion with legislation changing each time the Government changes.^{12,13,18}

Understandably perhaps there appears to be little concern for the protection of animals used in science and one would imagine that this is due to scientific use being of little economic importance. The exception to this rule is to be found in Uganda,¹ which dates back to colonial administration but appears to have still been valid in 1964 which was post-independence (1962). The issuance of scientific capture permits is a feature of much of the conservation legislation and this would appear to be the only other reference to scientific use made in any of the legislation.^{7,10,17,19} etc

Although most states have conservation legislation the degree of enforcement of these Acts is also unknown. It should be noted that much of the conservation legislation provides for the issuance of scientific permits and hunting licences in return for fees or royalties and several Acts rest ownership of wild animals with the State.^{8,9,29} The majority of conservation legislation affords special protection to the females and the young of the species.

It is interesting to note that the legislation of many countries surveyed have an extremely realistic approach to animals, many Acts removing protection afforded to animals if they are deemed to pose a threat to human life, either in a direct form or an indirect way through damage to crops.^{8,15,46,72} This practical approach to animals is also reflected in the legislation relating to animals in agriculture, appearing to be aimed more at

protecting important economic reserves than protecting animals in their own right. Several Acts,^{8,17,22,48} excludes rats, mice, rats and other vermin from protection and usually the only reptiles that are listed in schedules of protected animals are monitor lizards and pythons, often receiving special mention in the body of the legislation,^{8,9,22,65} and only The Gambia appears to protect amphibians.⁴⁶

The special needs of native hunters are recognised in much of the conservation legislation and special provision is often made.^{27,32,42} Traditional hunting methods are often regulated and the use of fire is specifically prohibited by some Acts.^{19,42} The control of pest species is recognised,^{46,49,53} with Morocco uniquely prohibiting bacteriological methods for this purpose.⁵² Understandably colonial administration has had a great deal of influence on legislation relating to animals and several former English colonies demonstrate this for example Uganda¹ and Nigeria.⁹⁰

There is little legislation specifically aimed at preventing cruelty to animals the exception to this, being Ugandan law.¹ Where regulations regarding the transport or importation/exportation of animals exist these appear to be more as a means of protecting valuable economic resource or for the prevention of the entry of disease into a country than for the protection of animals in their own right.

Where animal health legislation exists it is often aimed as much as protecting human health as it is the health of the animals. Rabies is of particular concern in many states,^{86,94,98} and comprehensive measures are on the statute book in several countries. Economically, diseases for example, Rinderpest and Swine Fever, are often subject to control measures and are specifically mentioned in several of the Acts.^{86,90,93}

Many of the Acts reviewed here were enacted at an early date,^{59,84,92} although according to the most recent sources available they are still valid, where particular doubt exists this has been indicated. The scarcity of up-to-date information regarding legislation pertaining to animals in the African states of north of the Equator has been particularly frustrating.

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