

## PRESS RELEASE

### THE WORLD ANIMAL DAY (WAD) ON 4<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER

#### A WORD FROM THE WORLD ANIMAL DAY AMBASSADOR FOR TANZANIA MAINLAND ON MARKING THE WAD IN 2008



The World Animal Day (WAD) standing for the celebrations of animal life in all its forms and acknowledging their diverse roles in enhancing better human life was first held in 1931 at a convention of ecologists in Florence. Initially a way of highlighting the plight of endangered species the day since 2001 has grown and is widely celebrated in many countries throughout the world. October 4 was chosen as World Animal Day as it is the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

The World Animal Day global coordinating organ based in the United Kingdom has selected World Animal Day Ambassadors in 2007 throughout the world, seeking committed individuals to help spread the message of the World Animal Day. In Tanzania Dr. Mohammed Msigara Bahari -Director of Livestock Identification and Registration responsible for Animal Welfare matters in the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries was selected by the WAD Coordinating Centre in UK as the WAD Ambassador for Tanzania Mainland while Mr. Ally A. Juma Executive Director of Zanzibar Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ZESPA) serves for Tanzania Zanzibar.

The World Animal Day is intended to be a celebration for anyone in the world who cares about and benefits from animals and thus is not restricted to any one nationality, creed, religion, political belief or ideology. Nor is it linked to any one individual, organisation or campaign, but belongs to everyone. The World Animal Day is a wonderful initiative for uniting the animal welfare movement – and something that everyone, everywhere, can get involved in whether as a member of a large organisation, small grass-roots group or as an individual.

Animals touch our lives in so many ways and our treatment of them says so much about the sort of person we are.

Tanzania is endowed with many kinds of animals from wildlife, marine and domestic animals that are contributing greatly to the socio-economic well-being and development thus has every reason to mark the WAD.

The Tanzania Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TSPCA) is coordinating the 2008 WAD in Dar es Salaam where Animal Welfare Advocacy Groups including Dar es

Salaam Animal Haven (DAH), John-Goodall Roots and Shoots, Sea Sense, Tanzania Animal Protection Organization (TAPO), Tanzania Animal Welfare Society and the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA) Africa Region Office are planning various activities to commemorate the day with treatment camps, radio talk show, livestock markets cleaning, public awareness campaign in bio-diversity conservation in particular the need to protect endangered animals , campaign against illegal fishing and hunting. Other institutions including Central Ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperative, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism), Municipal Councils in Dar es Salaam (Livestock, Fisheries and Natural Resources Units) and all Regions in Tanzania Mainland have been sensitized and some have committed themselves will observe the WAD this year.

On behalf of all animal lovers, on behalf of the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries and on behalf of Animal Welfare Advocacy Forum may at this juncture extend my vote of thanks for all who will do anything even small to acknowledge the existence and beneficial role of animals in Tanzania.

Internet browsers are invited to browse the WAD website –[www.worldanimalday.org.uk](http://www.worldanimalday.org.uk) to see and follow how the WAD is marked in the world in 2008 as well as visit the Animals Matter to Me website [www.animalsmatter.org](http://www.animalsmatter.org) to sign on line a global campaign in support of the call to the United Nations Organization to have the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW). As of now September 2008 nearly 43,000 Tanzanians including about 3 Cabinet Ministers, 2 Members of Parliament, 1 Zanzibar Revolutionary Government Minister have already signed UDAW.

Dr. Mohammed Msigara Bahari



Tanzania Mainland WAD Ambassador