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Editorial Note

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Editor-in-Chief

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It is with immense pleasure and professional pride that I present to you the inaugural issue of the *African Journal of Veterinary Science, Biotechnology and Wildlife Research (AJVSBWR)*. This first volume marks the beginning of what we envision as a dynamic platform for critical, creative, and cutting-edge scholarship at the intersection of veterinary science, biotechnology, and wildlife research in Africa and globally.

This moment offers a perfect opportunity to reflect on the bold journey we've embarked upon and to celebrate the depth and rigour of the work presented here. The body of work published here represents months of diligent research, review, and refinement, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to all authors and reviewers whose contributions have brought this journal to life.

The establishment of AJVSBWR comes at a time when Africa faces complex interlocking challenges: rising zoonotic threats, the intensification of livestock farming, biodiversity loss, food safety risks, and the dual burden of promoting innovation while safeguarding indigenous knowledge systems. Against this backdrop, the journal provides a much-needed interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to share evidence-based knowledge that is both locally grounded and globally relevant.

This first issue opens with a paper by **Innocent Chabanga, Angeline Mujeyi, and Lovemore Musemwa**, who examine the *prevalence of antibiotic residues in livestock products* sold in Zimbabwe's informal markets. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining field surveys, interviews, and laboratory analyses to highlight the scale of tetracycline and penicillin residues in meat and milk. The findings expose systemic gaps in biosecurity practices and regulatory enforcement. Importantly, the authors offer practical recommendations for improving residue monitoring and building farmer awareness. Their work is a timely reminder of the food safety risks faced by millions across the continent.

Next, **Leslie Goredema** presents a forward-thinking paper on *CRISPR/Cas9-mediated gene editing for trypanotolerance in indigenous African cattle breeds*. Framing the discussion around both ethical and practical considerations, the study explores the potential of using cutting-edge genetic technologies to address African animal trypanosomiasis (AAT). Goredema navigates the intersection of bioscience, bioethics, and governance, proposing a tripartite framework of technological validation, regulatory adaptation, and community engagement. The paper offers a model for how Africa can leverage biotechnology responsibly, without compromising indigenous values or biodiversity.

In their comparative study, **Barbara Kayondo and Moses Tuhambe** turn the spotlight on the *economic consequences of mandatory animal welfare standards* in global livestock industries. Drawing from secondary data across North America, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia, the authors show how such regulations disproportionately burden smallholder farmers in developing regions. Their analysis calls for context-sensitive policy measures to ensure that sustainability standards do not reinforce structural inequalities. This paper adds critical nuance to current debates about the ethics and economics of global trade and animal production.

The issue continues with a comprehensive review by **Friday Attah and colleagues**, who explore the impact of *foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Nigeria*. The paper interrogates the institutional weaknesses, including porous borders and fragmented veterinary infrastructure, that allow the disease to persist. Highlighting both direct losses in productivity and indirect impacts on trade, the authors make a compelling case for prioritising FMD control in national development agendas.

Leslie Goredema's second paper in this issue shifts focus to the *role of ecological restoration in peacebuilding*. Drawing on case studies from

Gorongosa and Akagera National Parks, the paper demonstrates how rewilding and land rehabilitation can support both environmental and social recovery in post-conflict regions. By framing nature as an active agent in peacebuilding, the paper expands our understanding of conflict transformation and ecological resilience.

The final contribution by **Egwunatum, Emilimor, and Osibe** investigates the *influence of combusted plant litter on effluent-contaminated soils*, using *Ceiba pentandra* as a test species. Their experimental design compares various ash amendments and finds that combusted teak significantly improves germination rates and early growth. The study offers promising implications for land restoration and sustainable forestry in polluted environments.

Taken together, the six papers in this issue reflect the core vision of AJVSBWR: to foster high-quality, interdisciplinary scholarship that informs policy, advances science, and drives sustainable solutions in veterinary science, biotechnology, and wildlife research. Our editorial board is committed to upholding rigorous peer review standards while remaining inclusive and supportive of early-career researchers across the continent.

As Editor-in-Chief, I extend my deep appreciation to the contributors of this first issue, the reviewers who generously offered their time and expertise, and the entire editorial team for their dedication to building this platform. I also wish to acknowledge the support of institutions, partners, and mentors who have championed this vision from the beginning.

We invite researchers, professionals, and students to engage with the journal, submit their work, and help us shape future editions. Feedback and constructive dialogue are always welcome as we continue to improve the quality and reach of AJVSBWR.

This is only the beginning. We look forward to growing with you.