

# Animals in Disaster Response: The Role of iNGOs in support of competent authorities

## Considering Animals in Disasters

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More Humanity towards Animals



# Just a little about myself

- Paramedic & Red Card Wildland Fire Fighter
- Disaster Rescue Technician/SAR/USAR
- Past AW Advisor to local county EM office
- PhD & BVSc
- UNISDR Science and Tech Advisory Group
- EFDRR & APRCEM/ADPC



# Four Paws International



# Four Paws History

- Darfur Conflict
- Myanmar Floods
- South Africa Fires
- Bulgaria Floods
- Balkan Floods
- Romania Floods
- Philippines Floods
- Sri Lanka Tsunami
- Chennai Floods
- Borneo Fires
- Indonesia Earthquake/Tsunami
- US Hurricane Florence/Michael
- Puerto Rico Hurricane Maria
- Western Australia Bushfires
- And many...



# Strategy Map



# Global Strategic Focal Regions

- South East Asia
- North America & English Speaking Caribbean
- South Eastern Europe
- Western and Central Europe
- Southern Africa
- Middle East
- Australia and Oceania
- South America



# DRU Core Philosophy

**The Strategic Mission of Disaster Relief Unit is to:**

## **Disaster Relief Mission**

- assist communities with animals affected by disasters through.
  - direct animal rescue
  - provisioning of public health services for animals
  - protection of livelihoods with animals
  - support civil protection efforts for communities with their animals

## **Disaster Risk Reduction**

- build resilient communities through disaster risk reduction policies and practices that are inclusive of animals.



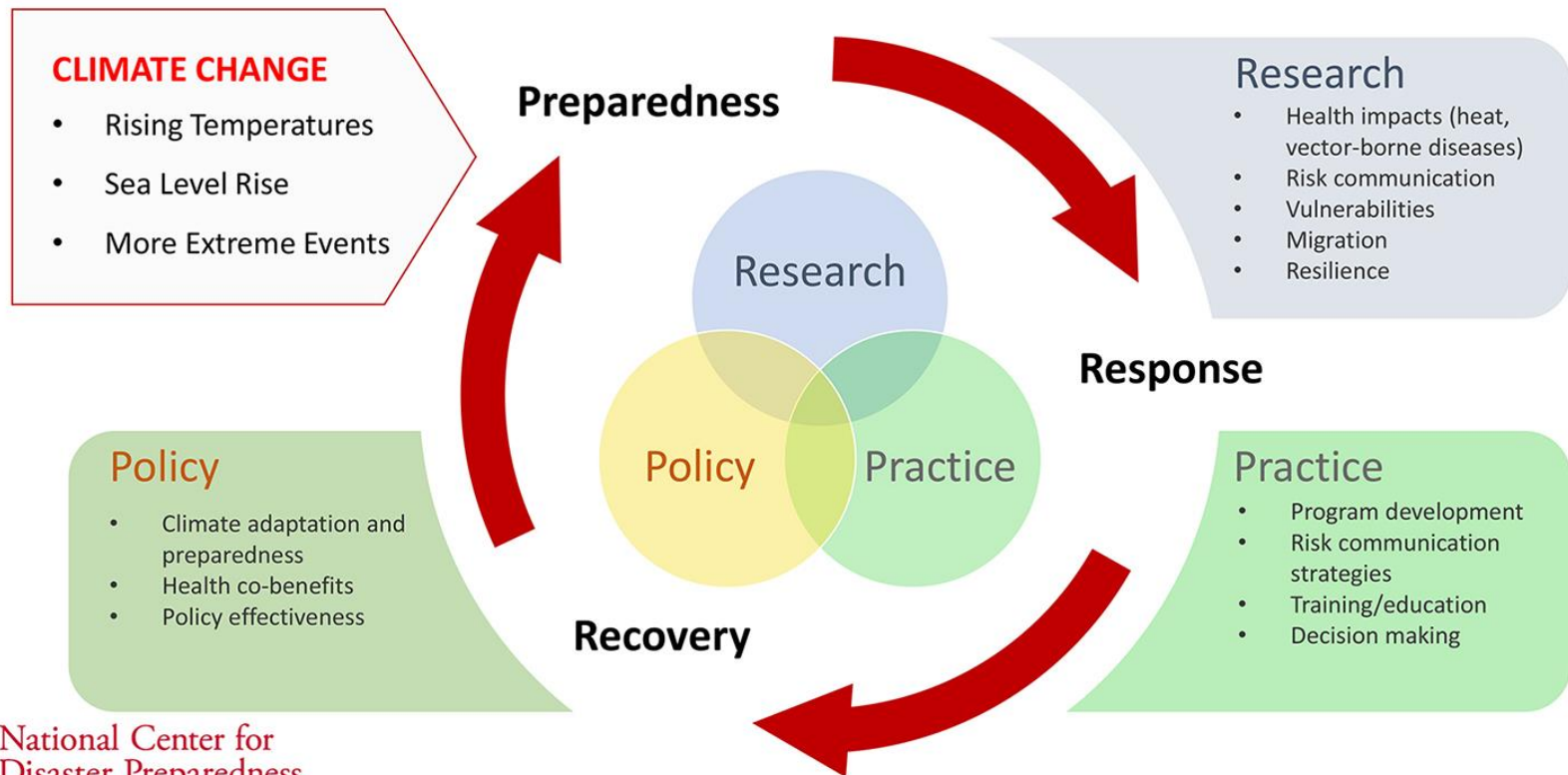
# Cycle of Animal Disaster Work





# Climate Change and Disasters

## Climate Change, Health and Disaster Preparedness



# One Welfare

Human  
Welfare

Animal  
Welfare



One  
Welfare



Environmental  
Aspects



# Animals in Disasters

- Public Health
- Sustainable Economic Livelihood
- Public Safety & Civil Protection
  
- Community Resilience
- Animal Welfare
- One Welfare



# Content

- Why Non-Governmental Organisations?
- How can Non-Governmental Organisations support the competent authorities?
- When can Non-Governmental Organisations support the competent authorities?



# Why Non-Governmental Organisations? How can NGOs support the competent authorities?

- **NGOs are close to the operational ground.** As civil society organisations, they are well connected to the citizens and are agile in their communication – especially with the social media. They can be a good relay for the Competent Authorities
- **NGOs are specialist of their topic.** They have specific knowledge which can be recognised and used as role model or fully integrated in the response mechanism e.g. Fire Brigades, Red Cross are recognised – Animal Specialists Organisations still need to gain this level of recognition
- **NGOs have supporters.** They can coordinate them and make them contribute to the response.
- **NGOs are often working global.** They are more flexible in working across border and fundraise from different sources



# Non-Governmental Organisations support during Preparation Phase

- **Most NGOs are advocacy groups.** They can suggest and push the boundaries and ask for legislative change. Problem: suggestions can be non priority for policy makers and can conflict with other interests.
- **NGOs bring a different specialist point of view.** They can be reliable partners to be consulted for the development of plans, guidelines and other non-binding documents.
- **Some NGOs are used to support communities during disasters.** As it became « business as usual » for these NGOs, they developed own systems, guidelines and standards which are used globally and which can complement the local plans. These process show transparency. Because they have to train their staff, they can provide Trainings to CA.
- **Plan & institutionalise your relations** before the disasters by signing Mutual aid agreements & MoU



# Non-Governmental Organisations support during Response Phase

- **Countries generally grant only little money for animals.** CA are under staffed, under resourced and sometimes under trained.
- **Local NGOs are on the ground.** Often they want to help. They can be a relay between CA and Citizens (know the needs of the citizens) coordinate help, etc. depending on their competence.
- **Some NGOs (local and international) are specialised in disaster situations.** They have trained technician groups, animal shelter groups, etc. They can apply guidelines that they previously defined (e.g. for triage).
- **They can alert the public.** They can ask for more transparency and respect of the legislations and guidelines.
- **They can help tell a positive story.** They have a very active communications and social media and media relations department.



**Important that CA acknowledge them and work with them, integrate them in the response mechanism rather than fight them. Do not underestimate their power of communication!**

# Non-Governmental Organisations support during Recovery Phase

- **Animal response is special.** Helping animals during disaster is helping the community they are part of. It helps falling into poverty, avoid psychological and to support public health consequences post disaster.
- **NGOs can help rebuild** and where possible, build better. They can be integrated in thinktanks to improve the building and the systems.





# Non-Governmental Organisations support during Mitigation Phase

- **As part of the civil society**, NGOs will point out at what has not worked, in order to avoid that disasters strikes the community again. Call for improvement, legislative changes that might not anymore be the priority for CA.
- **NGOs can prevent long term impact and limit that the disaster moves into multi hazard.** In Italy after the earth quake NGOs have done disease prevention and control: re-vaccination of animals, as they have been in contact with other animals outside the community to avoid that they bring in diseases in the community.





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**QUESTIONS?**





**Thank you  
for your attention!**