

Mr Goliath Tujendapi  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Livestock and Livestock Products Board  
Agricultural Boards Building  
30 David Hosea Meroro Road,  
PO BOX 38 Windhoek, Namibia



**BAN LIVE  
EXPORTS**

22 April 2026

Dear Mr Tujendapi,

### **Export of live cattle from Namibia to Mauritius**

I am writing to express concerns about the recent export of 2,700 live cattle from Namibia to Mauritius. Our understanding is that further such exports are planned.

We urge the Livestock and Livestock Products Board to halt these exports of live cattle. Long sea journeys involve great suffering for the animals involved.

The immense suffering experienced by farmed animals during long sea journeys is widely recognised. Australia, which used to be the world's largest exporter of live animals has banned the export of sheep by sea from 2028. New Zealand has banned live animal exports by sea. Great Britain used to export over two million live farmed animals per year but banned live exports in 2024.

The problems are also recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). WOAH's Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) provides in Chapter 2 on transport by sea that "The amount of time animals spend on a journey should be kept to the minimum".

Investigations into the conditions on livestock vessels undertaking lengthy sea journeys have identified the following problems:

- The immense amount of urine and excrement produced leads to a large build-up of slurry in the cattle pens and so to extremely slippery floors. This can cause animals to fall and so sustain injuries.
- The ammonia on the floors can make it difficult to breathe.
- Inadequate space results in the movement of the animals being seriously compromised; they are unable to properly rest or walk.
- The way they are transported subjects the animals to intimate contact with their own waste and the waste of other animals.
- High temperatures and extreme humidity clearly compromise the welfare of the animals particularly if they are kept in crowded pens which have high stocking densities. Such crowded pens are common on livestock vessels.
- Malnutrition, even starvation is common as some animals do not recognise the pelleted feed provided on ships as being edible.
- Many animals will experience thirst as the water troughs often become fouled with faecal matter.

A Brazilian veterinarian who examined conditions on a livestock vessel transporting cattle for a Court case concluded: "the practice of maritime transport of animals over long distances is intrinsically and inherently related to the causation of cruelty, suffering, pain, indignity and corruption of animal welfare in various forms".

The veterinarian's account is backed up by a report published by Dr Lynn Simpson, an Australian veterinarian who accompanied around 50 shipments of animals from Australia to the Middle East.

Dr Simpson's report states that during the long sea journey animals often become enveloped in a faecal jacket – they are covered in faeces. This is highly unpleasant and unhygienic and makes it very difficult for animals to lose heat in hot weather.

She describes how some cattle develop leg abrasions from lying for days on the hard deck surface. In some cases, abrasions become deep enough to abrade the bones within the joint. These abrasions result in animals that cannot stand, and so cannot reach the feed and water troughs. As a result, they either die of dehydration or starvation or have to be euthanised.

## Conclusion

In light of the great suffering involved for cattle in long sea journeys, we urge Namibia to end this inhumane trade as a matter of urgency. Animals should be humanely slaughtered in Namibia with Namibia's exports being in the form of meat and carcasses.

Yours sincerely,

**Alexis Olds,**

Head of CIWF Africa, Compassion in World Farming

**On behalf of 13 global animal protection organisations**

