



WAAVP-AN Newsletter Q1 2026



WAAVP-Africa Network Newsletter

WAAVP-AN looks back on 2025 as a year defined by growth, strengthened partnerships, scientific engagement, and an increasingly visible African voice in the global parasitology landscape. Across the continent, livestock remain central to livelihoods, food security, and rural resilience. Yet parasitic diseases continue to undermine these systems, underscoring the need for coordinated, sustainable, and African-led solutions. Over the past year, WAAVP-AN has positioned itself as a unifying force connecting science, people, and practical action to address parasitic diseases of animals and zoonotic threats, and to carry this momentum forward into the year ahead.

As we turn to 2026, we invite you to read through this newsletter to gain insight into how these achievements are shaping our priorities for the year ahead. The stories, reflections, and updates shared here highlight opportunities to engage more deeply with WAAVP-AN's work through collaboration, knowledge sharing, active participation in network activities, and championing African-led science and solutions. Your continued involvement will be essential as we collectively strengthen animal health, livelihoods, and regional resilience across the continent.

Message from the Co-chairs

As we reflect on 2025, we are pleased to present the latest edition of the WAAVP-AN biannual e-newsletter, which captures a year defined by consolidation, growth, and deepening impact. The World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology – Africa Network (WAAVP-AN) has continued to build on its foundation, strengthening its role as a continental platform for scientific exchange, collaboration, and leadership in veterinary parasitology. Over the past year, the network has focused on translating vision into action, ensuring that research, dialogue, and partnerships respond directly to Africa's evolving animal health and zoonotic disease challenges.

Following its formal establishment, WAAVP-AN has made deliberate progress in advancing evidence-based approaches to the control of animal parasitic diseases. Through strategic engagements, knowledge-sharing forums, and targeted capacity-building initiatives, the network has fostered stronger connections among researchers, practitioners, institutions, and policy-shaping partners across the continent and beyond. These efforts reflect a growing recognition that sustainable parasite control in Africa must be locally grounded, scientifically robust, and collaboratively driven.

Our commitment remains clear: to champion innovative research in veterinary parasitology, to strengthen professional and institutional capacity in animal disease management, to nurture inclusive collaboration within the scientific community, and to advocate for the central role of parasitology in safeguarding animal and public health. Community engagement has continued to guide our work, ensuring that diverse perspectives inform solutions that are practical, relevant, and responsive to real-world conditions.

In 2026, WAAVP-AN will fuse visibility and demonstrated impact. The network will focus on amplifying African-led science and elevating the voices of farmers, students, researchers, and practitioners whose lives and work are shaped by parasitology. Priority will be given to strengthening the Community of Practice as a dynamic space for learning, collaboration, and professional growth, with deliberate attention to engaging young scientists and emerging leaders. WAAVP-AN will also work to deepen trust with donors and partners, enhance its digital presence as a credible knowledge and engagement platform, and consolidate its role as Africa's most trusted, human-centered voice in veterinary parasitology. Collectively, these efforts will make 2026 a year of consolidation, connection, and measurable progress for animal health and livelihoods across the continent.



WAAVP-AN on the International Stage:

WAAVP-Africa Network Shone at 30th WAAVP Biennial Conference in Brazil: Curitiba, Brazil – August 2025

The World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology - Africa Network (WAAVP-AN) successfully participated in the prestigious 30th WAAVP Biennial Conference, held from 17-21 August 2025. The conference served as a dynamic platform to advance the network's mission of promoting best practices for managing animal parasites in Africa.

Under the leadership of Co-chairs Patrick Vudriko and Sibeko-Matjila Kgomotso, and a dedicated mission team, WAAVP-AN achieved significant milestone. The network's participation was made possible through the generous funding of The Gates Foundation and administrative support from the African Capacity Building Foundation.

Key Highlights and Achievements:

Strategic Partnerships Strengthened: The team held pivotal side meetings with global leaders, securing collaborative pathways with:



FAO & WOAH: For implementing acaricide resistance guidelines, capacity building, and technical review of animal health standards.



GALVmed & Clinglobal: To co-develop guidelines, knowledge products, and foster clinical research and training.



Tropical Council for Companion Animal Parasites (TroCCAP): To advance training on companion animal parasites and secure a nomination for an African female parasitologist on their council.



Elsevier: Exploring special journal issues, sensitization workshops on publishing, and support for African researchers.



Showcasing African Expertise: The network engaged deeply in conference sessions, including the launch of new FAO guidelines on management of acaricide resistance of livestock ticks—a document developed with contributions from WAAVP-AN steering committee member.



Future Symposium Secured: Plans were solidified with the Berlin 2027 conference organizers for WAAVP-AN to host a special symposium, showcasing African research milestones.

A Message from the Leadership

In a statement, the Co-chairs expressed profound gratitude to all partners, emphasizing that “collaboration is key in finding local solutions to the current challenges of animal parasite control in the tropics.” They reaffirmed the network's commitment to strengthening these newfound and existing partnerships to build a robust framework for sustainable veterinary parasitology in Africa.

WAAVP-AN returned from Curitiba energized and with a clear action plan. Focus areas included fast-tracking ongoing projects, and activating the numerous collaborative agreements established. The network was poised to play an even greater role in shaping the global agenda for veterinary parasitology, with a firm anchor in Africa's needs and expertise.

WAAVP-Africa Network Highlights One Health at the 5th International Congress on Parasites of Wildlife:

Skukuza, South Africa – September 2025

The World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology - Africa Network (WAAVP-AN) strengthened its continental profile through a featured participation at the 5th International Congress on Parasites of Wildlife (ICPOW), held from 14-18 September 2025 in Kruger National Park.

Attending by special invitation, the delegation led by Co-chair Patrick Vudriko and Secretariat Donald Mukolwe used the platform to underscore the critical intersection of wildlife, livestock, and human health in parasite management.

Key Highlights and Achievements:

Featured Information Session: WAAVP-AN hosted a dedicated 30-minute session, presenting its history, milestones including the establishment of its Community of Practice (CoP) platform and research grants and issuing a call to action for new members and expert collaboration.

Strategic Regional Partnership: A pivotal side meeting was held with the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa (PARSA). Discussions identified concrete areas for future collaboration, including:

- Joint capacity-building programs for parasite diagnosis and management.
- PARSA's expert review of WAAVP-AN research proposal.
- Co-hosted webinars and continental conferences.
- Enhanced Continental Visibility: The congress provided an ideal stage to promote the network's mission and activities to a key audience of African and international parasitologists focused on wildlife, a crucial component of the One Health ecosystem.

A Message from the Leadership

The Co-chairs expressed sincere gratitude to ICPOW for the special invitation and to PARSA for facilitating the connection. They reaffirmed that “engaging with other societies for possibilities of collaboration” is vital for driving the sustainable management of animal parasites across Africa.

Looking Ahead

The network returned from Skukuza with a clear action plan to formalize the new partnership with PARSA through a detailed framework and official correspondence. This collaboration marks a significant step in uniting regional expertise to advance veterinary parasitology and wildlife health research across the continent.



Growing Our Digital Footprint & Community Engagement

WAAVP-AN's digital ecosystem expanded significantly in 2025:

520

Community of Practice
(CoP) active members

463

Newsletter Subscribers
and growing

681 to 1,264

LinkedIn Growth in followers

The CoP's monthly webinars including sessions on acaricide resistance, wildlife parasitology, and companion animal parasites created a dynamic space for learning and networking across regions.

Visual storytelling continued to strengthen the network's online identity, with 27 bespoke graphics and campaign materials developed this year to engage researchers, students, vets, policymakers, and the wider public.



Youth & Early-Career Engagement

A key achievement of 2025 was deeper engagement with young scientists and students. Through targeted social media posts, mentorship content, and direct messaging, WAAVP-AN created spaces for early-career professionals to connect, ask questions, and engage with the parasitology community.

These efforts reinforced the network's commitment to nurturing the next generation of African parasitologists supporting their journey through research opportunities, exposure to global conversations, and professional growth pathways.

Research Support & Grant Opportunities

The Second Call for Innovations & Capacity Building Grants, launched in July 2025, built on the success of the first round, which funded 10 groundbreaking projects across Africa. The 2nd call encouraged regional collaboration, interdisciplinary approaches, and innovative solutions to parasite management.

Grant information sessions and open Q&A webinars equipped applicants with the clarity needed to develop strong proposals. With heightened interest from universities, research institutes, and veterinary practitioners, the grant programme continues to serve as a cornerstone of WAAVP-AN's contribution to scientific advancement.

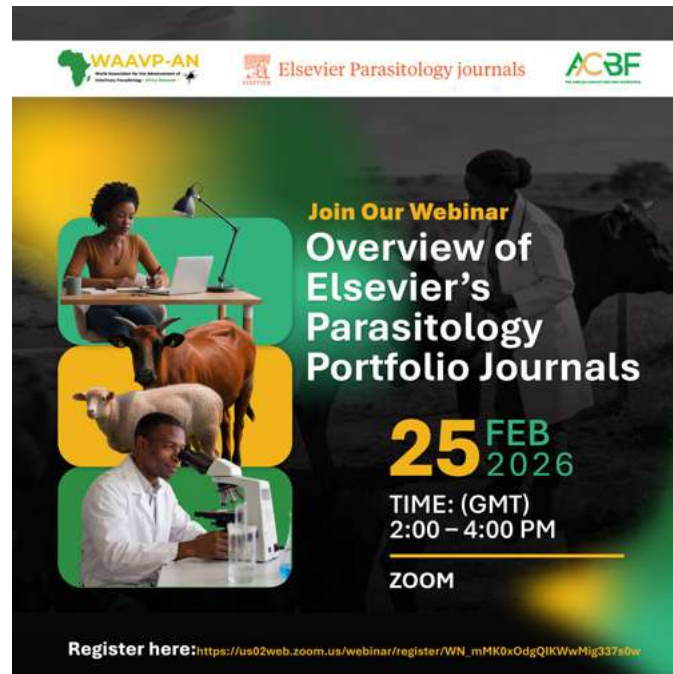


Regional Knowledge Exchange and One Health Advocacy

Throughout the year, WAAVP-AN promoted the One Health approach, drawing attention to the interconnected impacts of parasitic diseases on animals, human health, and ecosystems. A newly launched concept paper further explored how climate change, agricultural transitions, and environmental shifts make parasitology central to resilience across Africa.

Guided by partnerships with FAO, WOAH, and TroCCAP, the network is also deepening its involvement in training, guidelines development, and collaborative surveillance of parasite threats.

Webinar: Scientific Publishing in Parasitology!



As part of its 2026 priorities, the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology – African Network (WAAVP-AN) continued to strengthen the capacity and visibility of African parasitology research within global scientific platforms. Recognizing that high-quality publishing remains a critical pathway for translating research into policy, practice, and improved animal and public health outcomes, the network convened a targeted webinar on Scientific Publishing in Parasitology in February 2026.

The webinar brought together Editors-in-Chief and Executive Publishers from leading journals published by Elsevier, who shared practical guidance on navigating the scientific publishing landscape. The session provided participants with insights on journal selection, editorial expectations, the peer-review process, and emerging publishing trends in veterinary parasitology. Particular emphasis was placed on equipping African researchers with the knowledge and strategies required to increase the visibility and impact of their work within reputable international journals.

Open to researchers, academics, and early-career professionals across the continent, the webinar attracted strong participation and engagement. Discussions addressed common challenges faced by African scientists in the publishing process while highlighting opportunities for strengthening research dissemination and collaboration.

The event formed part of WAAVP-AN's broader commitment to building a dynamic Community of Practice that amplifies African scientific voices and strengthens pathways for African research to contribute meaningfully to global scientific dialogue and impact.



Looking Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

As WAAVP-AN moves into the new year, several priorities stand out:



Deepening regional engagement and expanding membership



Formalizing partnerships with FAO, WOA, TroCCAP, Clinglobal, and GALVmed



Scaling CoP webinars and practitioner-focused training sessions



Amplifying digital storytelling and scientific communication



Advancing African-led parasite research through grants and mentorship

With continued collaboration and community engagement, WAAVP-AN is poised to lead even more transformative initiatives in the coming year.

Join the Conversation

Stay connected with WAAVP-AN through our digital platforms:



Website: www.waavpafrika.org



LinkedIn: WAAVP-Africa Network <https://bit.ly/WAAVPANLinkedIn>



X: <https://bit.ly/WAAVPANX>



Community of Practice: Register via our website: <https://www.waavpafrika.org/cop/>



Newsletter: Subscribe through our homepage: <https://www.waavpafrika.org/>

Together, we are shaping a future where healthier animals strengthen families, economies, and communities across Africa.