

# Kenchic Animal Welfare Reporting For 2022-2023

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For the year 2022-2023, ending in March, Kenchic has continued to set milestones on animal welfare standards with the intention of adhering to the highest international standards as well as bringing along the rest of the industry. The following summary highlights our 2022-2023 performance measured against our animal welfare commitments:



## 1. Providing birds with enough space

100% of our breeder flocks were housed in our open-sided units with stocking densities not exceeding 25kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

82% of our broiler flocks were housed in open-sided units with stocking densities that did not exceed 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

Our target is to progressively work towards having a maximum stocking density of 30kg/m<sup>2</sup> by 2030 for the remaining 20% our environmentally controlled broiler production.

2022-2023 was another year where Kenchic maintained its proud tradition of running 100% cage free operations both in the breeder and broiler operations. We are also engaged in disseminating cage free practices through seminars and sharing of trial data with key stakeholders with the intention of changing perceptions and attitudes.

## 2. 0% thinning of flocks in all our operations

No thinning of either broiler or breeder flocks was carried out in 2022-2023.

## 3. Ensuring Suitable Environment for all our birds

Since the introduction of perches and pecking objects 3 years ago, we have sought to continuously improve our enrichment options to improve the positive animal welfare of our birds. In 2022-2023, 100% of our breeder flocks were provided with perches at a ratio of 2 meters of perching space for 1000 birds and 1 pecking object for 500 birds. In our broiler operations 60% of our contract farms and 70% of our in-house broiler farms provided perches at the ratio of 2 meters of perch space for every 1000 birds. In addition, 60% of contract farms and 80% of the in-house broiler farms provided 1 pecking object per 500 birds. We intend to ensure full compliance to our enrichment guidelines by the time we are presenting our next report.





100% of our breeder units and 82% of our broiler units provided access to natural light with at least 8 hours of continuous darkness per 24-hour period in our open-sided houses. The remaining 18%, which consist of Environmentally controlled units ensured at least 50 lux of light and a similar period of darkness as in the open-sided houses.

All our units ensure good air quality by managing Ammonia and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration to be below 20ppm and 3,000 ppm respectively. Our farms are equipped with lux meters, CO<sub>2</sub> meters and ammonia meters among other relevant gadgets to ensure the measurements stay within our acceptable limits.



With the view of improving the adoption of better animal welfare breeds in the country, slower growing birds made up 8% of our breeder flocks in 2022-2023. We look forward to reporting higher percentages in our next animal welfare report.



## Kenbro, our slow growing breed

While recognizing that cannibalism is still one of the pressing challenges in the tropics due prevailing weather conditions and the need to avoid manipulations that create negative welfare, the company introduced infra-red treatment to provide a solution that minimizes negative welfare (at the farm due to cannibalism and during manual debeaking). We are happy to report that 100% of our breeder chicks and commercial layer chicks sold to our customers underwent infrared beak trimming in 2022-2023.

### Measurable outcomes and external compliance

We have also implemented measurements for animal welfare outcomes at our processing plant with the following 2 parameters being the most used:

- a. Hock burns 2021- 2022- 0.08% 2022-2023 0.05%**
- b. Breast blisters 2021-2022 - 0.51% 2022-2023 - 0.56%**

While there is a slight increase in the breast blister cases, the ranges are still well below industry limits.

As is the case annually, we underwent rigorous third-party auditing by our clients with the results showing continuous improvement.

## Quotes

### 1. Jim Tozer, MD

We made the conscious decision to adhere to these high international standards and best practices in animal welfare despite the cost involved because we believe that animal welfare is such a great cause that should not be tied to business returns. What this report shows is that our initial small steps are progressively leading us down the path we envisioned for Kenchic when we started this journey. This is our small contribution to society and we hope that some of the initiatives that we have started can help the rest of the industry in Africa operate at the best possible international animal welfare standards.

## 2. Dr Watson Messo, Company Vet

The introduction of enrichment options is one of the few updates to our operations that we are most proud of. This shows Kenchic recognizes the importance of animal welfare in poultry production- we know that good welfare equals better performance and health, but we also know that we owe animals a life worth living. This is the reason why Kenchic has invested in innovative solutions to allow our birds exhibit their normal behaviours. This is our promise to society, and we will keep aligning our operations towards better animal welfare as we go on.

## 3. Dr Kelvin Osore, Team Leader, Compliance

We know that we still have a lot of work to do to get to the point where we feel we are providing our chicken with the best environment to achieve positive animal welfare. Nonetheless, we are convinced that we are on the right track. Guided by the science around sentience and general animal welfare, we intend to move forward with other changes acknowledging that success won't come without changing the animal welfare culture not just at Kenchic but in Kenya. That is why we hope sharing our story will inspire someone else out there.



Our processing plant uses blue light to limit distress to our birds.