

Emerging issues:
highly pathogenic avian influenza
H5N8

Why an issue for Ramsar?

Spread of HPAI H5N1 >2005

Pandemic fears

Media misrepresentation

Actual and potential 'unwise-use' policies
drainage of wetlands
culling of wild waterbirds



Ramsar's previous

2005 - Ramsar Resolution IX.23 [Managing wetlands and waterbirds in response to highly pathogenic avian influenza.](#)

2008 - Ramsar Resolution X.21. [Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1.](#) 62 pp.

Guidance synthesised in [Avian Influenza and wetlands](#) handbook

*Ramsar
Handbooks*
4th edition

Handbook 4
Avian influenza and wetlands



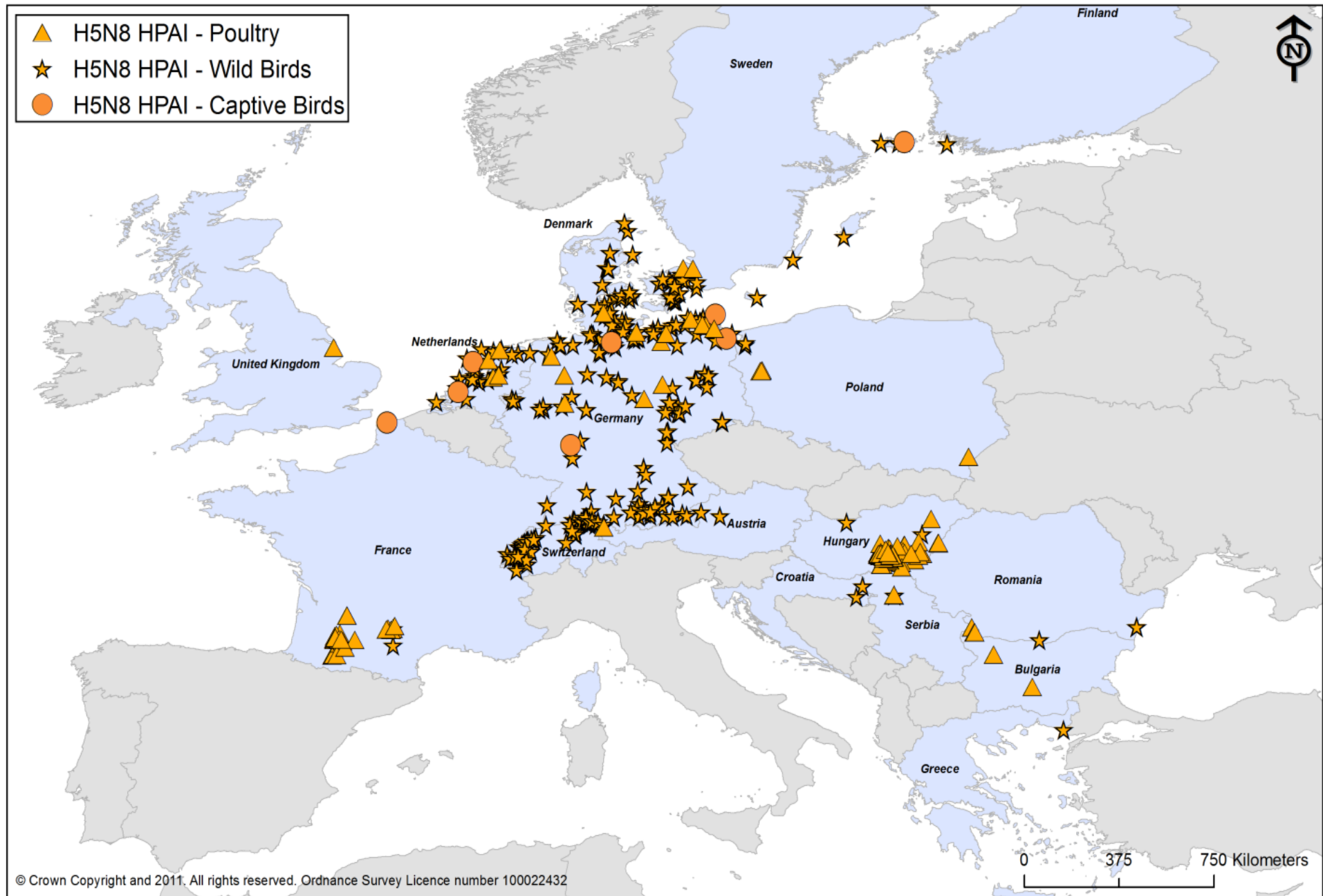
FAO Surveillance Program: 2006 Campaign

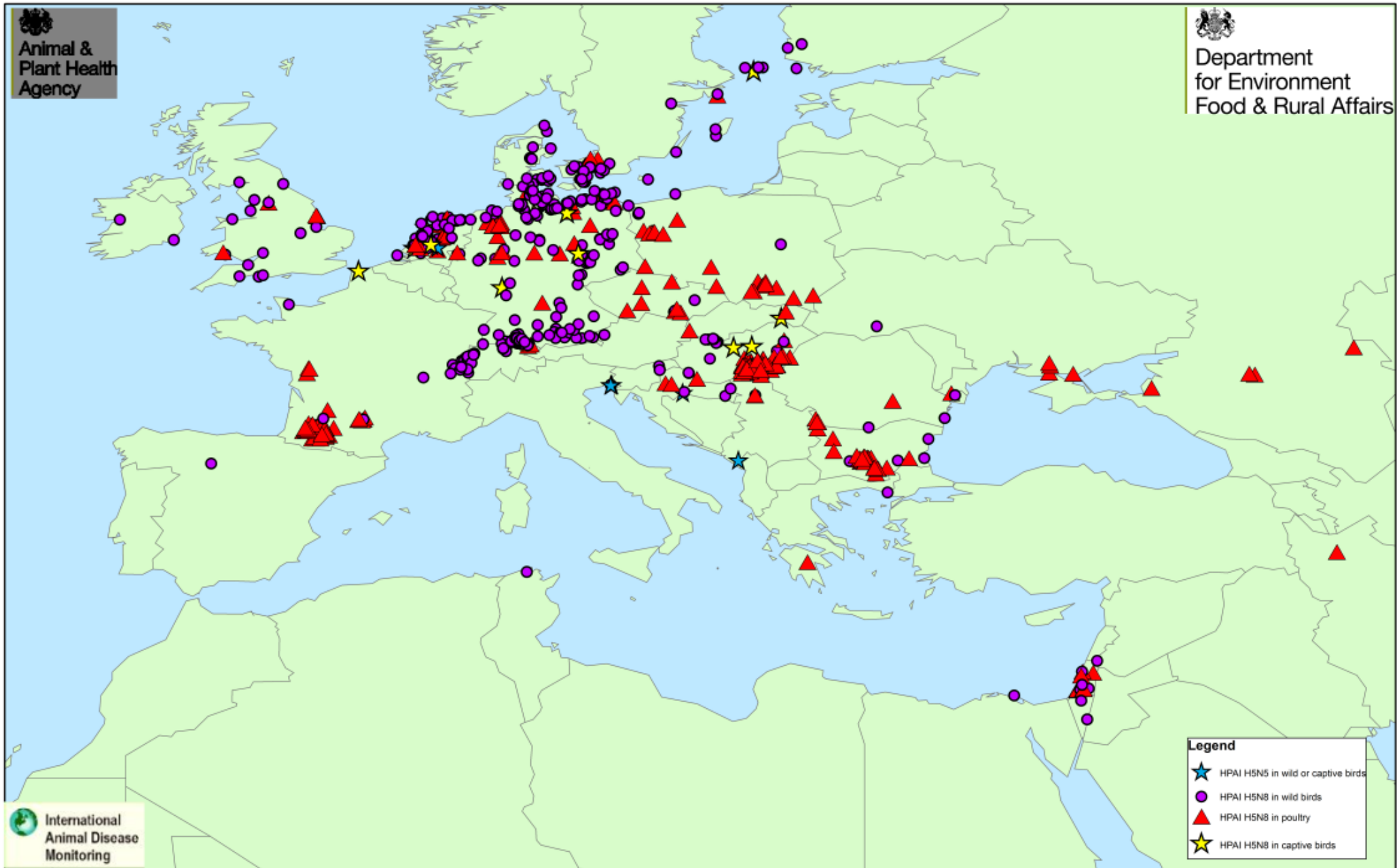
Built capacity in Africa



Sampling Sites







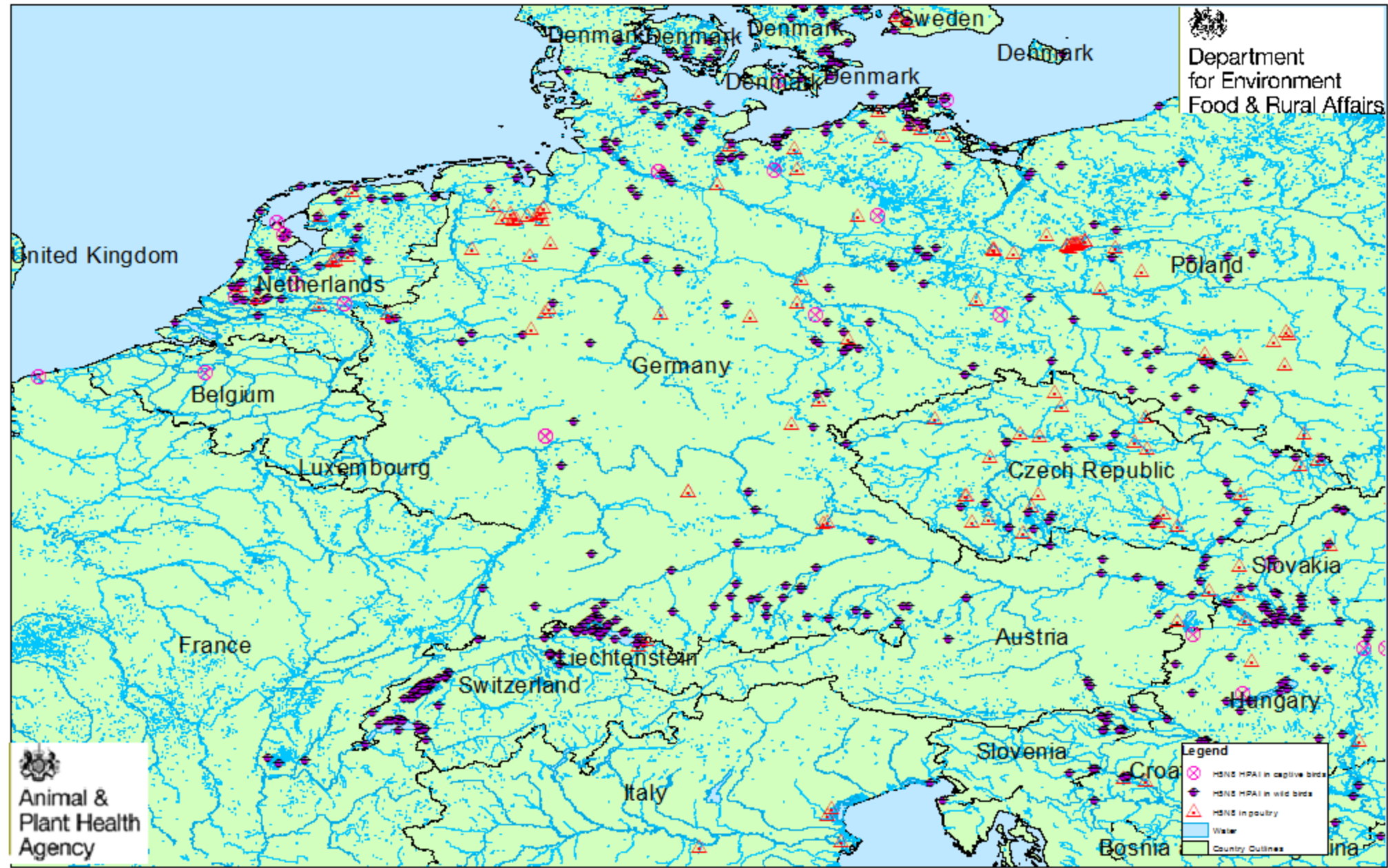
Date Prepared 17/01/2017

Outbreaks of H5N8 HPAI in poultry, captive and wild birds October - January 2017

Actual Scale 1:25,000,000

Overlay the wild bird migration flyways

0 170 340 680 1 020 1 360



Date Prepared 14/02/2017

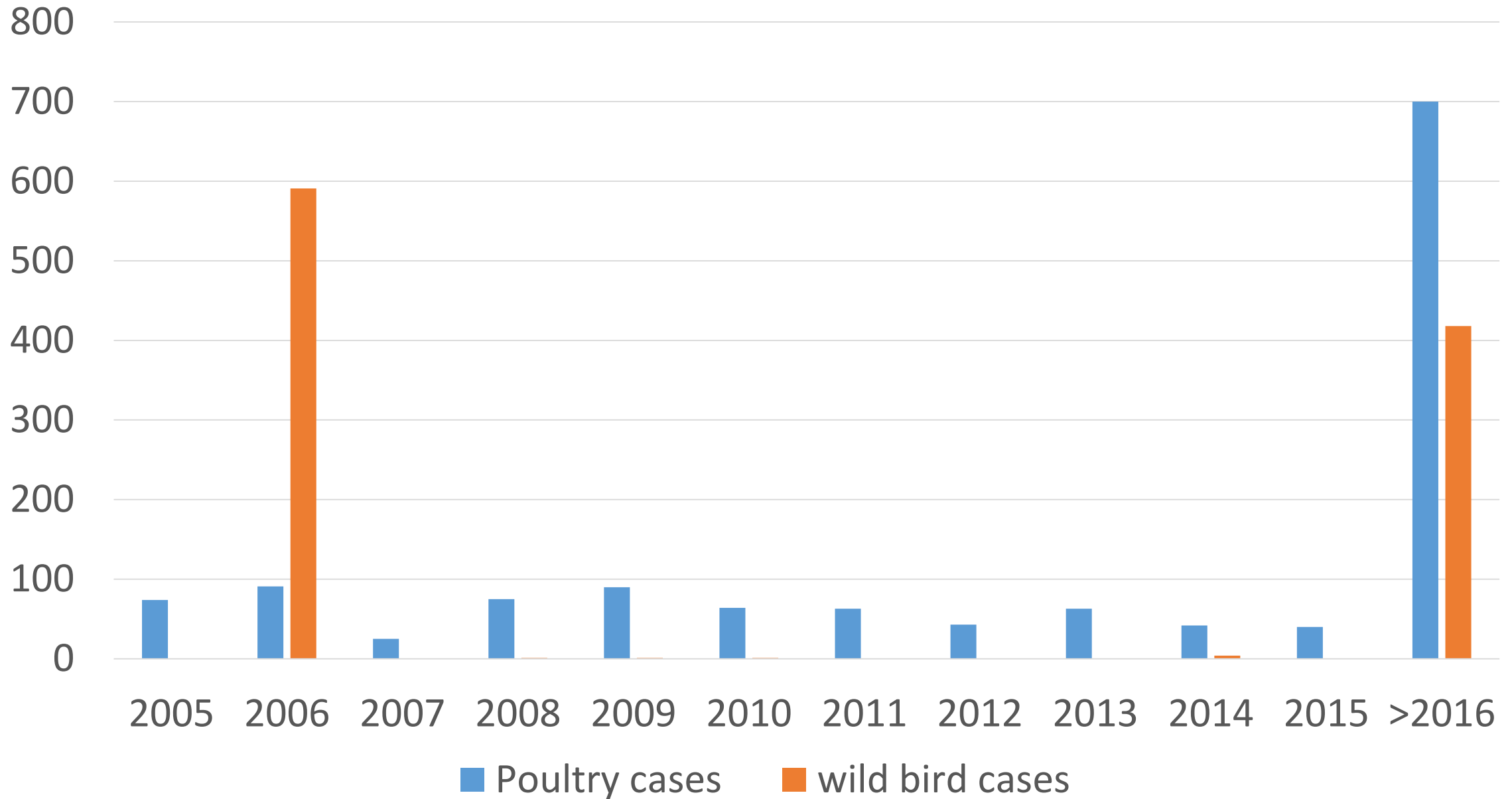
Outbreaks of H5N8 HPAI in poultry, captive and wild birds October - February 2017

Actual Scale 1:7,000,000

Map prepared by IDM

0 45 90 180 270 360
Km

H5/H7 avian influenza in Europe



Key elements of Ramsar's AI guidance

- CALLS for **fully integrated approaches**, at both national and international levels, to address HPAI by bringing ornithological, wildlife, and wetland management expertise together with those traditionally responsible for public health and zoonoses, including veterinary, agricultural, virological, epidemiological, and medical expertise;
- STRONGLY ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and other governments to establish emergency response measures that **involve those with specialist ornithological expertise** and ensure the provision of timely advice to governments on the gathering, use, and interpretation of relevant data and information in **developing risk assessments**, wild bird surveillance strategies and programmes, appropriate response strategies, and the implementation of epidemiological investigations in the event of outbreaks of HPAI, so that these responses are made on the basis of best available information;

Key elements of Ramsar's AI guidance

- SUPPORTS the conclusions of WHO, FAO and OIE that attempts to eliminate HPAI in wild bird populations through lethal responses such as culling are not feasible and may exacerbate the problem by causing further dispersion of infected birds;
- EMPHASISES that destruction or substantive modification of wetland habitats with the objective of reducing contact between domesticated and wild birds does not amount to wise use as urged by Article 3.1 of the Convention, and also may exacerbate the problem by causing further dispersion of infected birds;

Key elements of Ramsar's AI guidance

- NOTES the essential need for adequate standards for farming and aquaculture, and the need to develop strategies that limit the risk of disease transmission between wild and domestic birds through enhanced biosecurity;

Annex

Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza

Contents

Introduction and mandate	6
1) Guidance related to preparing for and responding to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza, especially at wetlands	9
1.1) Introduction	9
1.2) A guidance framework.....	9
1.3) A directory of good practice guidance concerning highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1	14
2) Guidelines for reducing avian influenza risks at Ramsar sites and other wetlands of importance to waterbirds.....	24
2.1) Summary	24
2.2) Introduction	25
2.3) Risk assessment.....	27
2.4) Risk reduction measures	31
2.5) Wild bird surveillance	38
2.6) Outbreak response planning.....	39
3) Recommended ornithological information to be collected during surveillance programmes or field assessment of wild bird mortality events, especially at wetlands	44
3.1) Recommended information to be collected	44
3.2) Guidance on taking photographs of dead birds for identification purposes.....	45
4) Ornithological expert panels	47
4.1) Composition.....	47
4.2) Establishment.....	47
4.3) Scale and federal states	47
4.4) Mode of working.....	47
4.5) Emergency ornithological field assessments	48
4.6) International networking.....	48
4.7) Lessons learnt.....	48
4.8) References.....	48
Appendices.....	49
Appendix 1. Scientific summary of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1: wildlife and conservation considerations	49
Appendix 2. Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds.....	60
Appendix 3. Terminology.....	61



Robert Rauschenberg
Landscape with a Human Figure
1965
Oil on canvas
100 x 100 cm
The Museum of Modern Art, New York