

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*  
4<sup>th</sup> edition

Handbook 4  
**Avian influenza and wetlands**



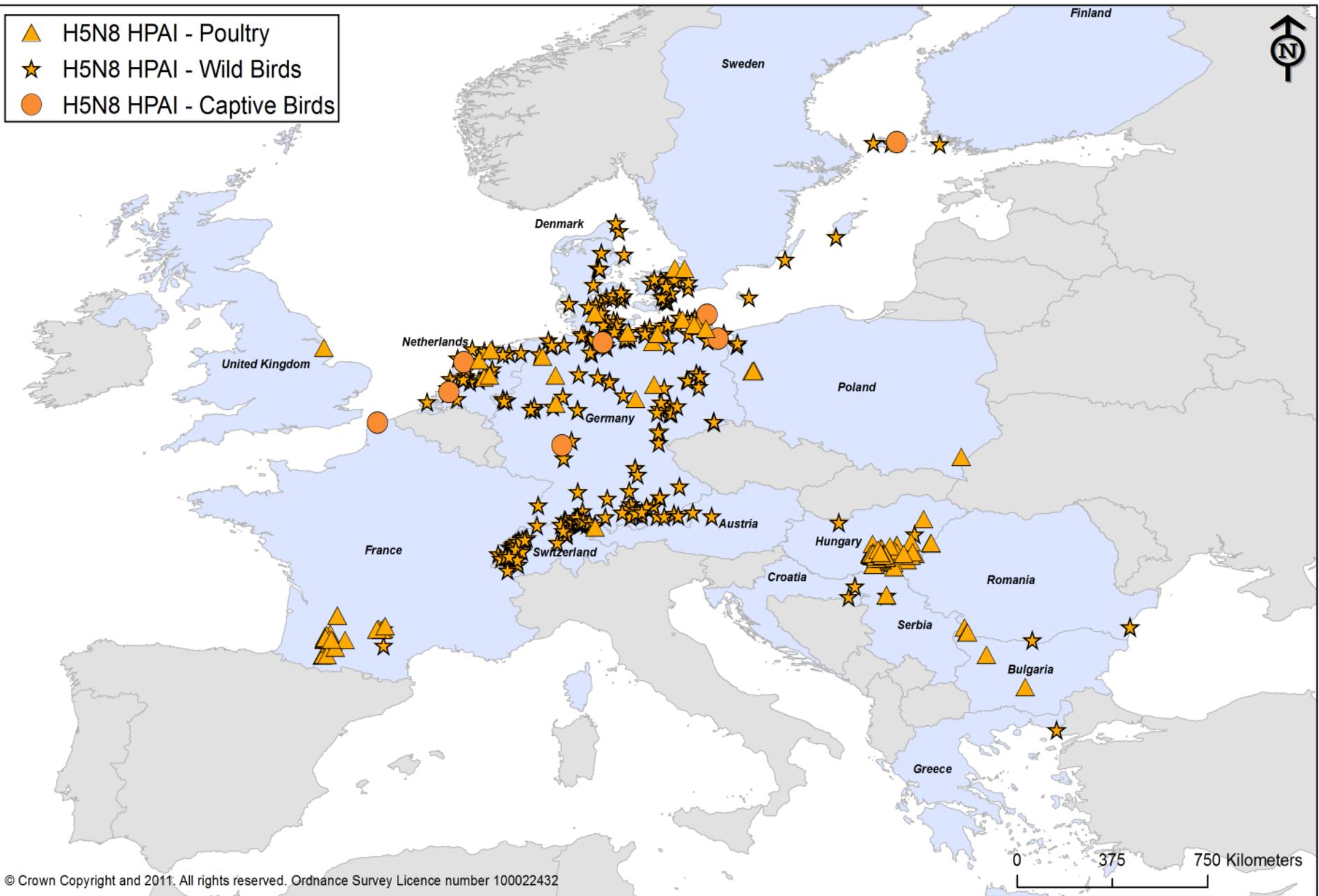
# FAO Surveillance Program: 2006 Campaign

Built capacity in Africa



Sampling Sites

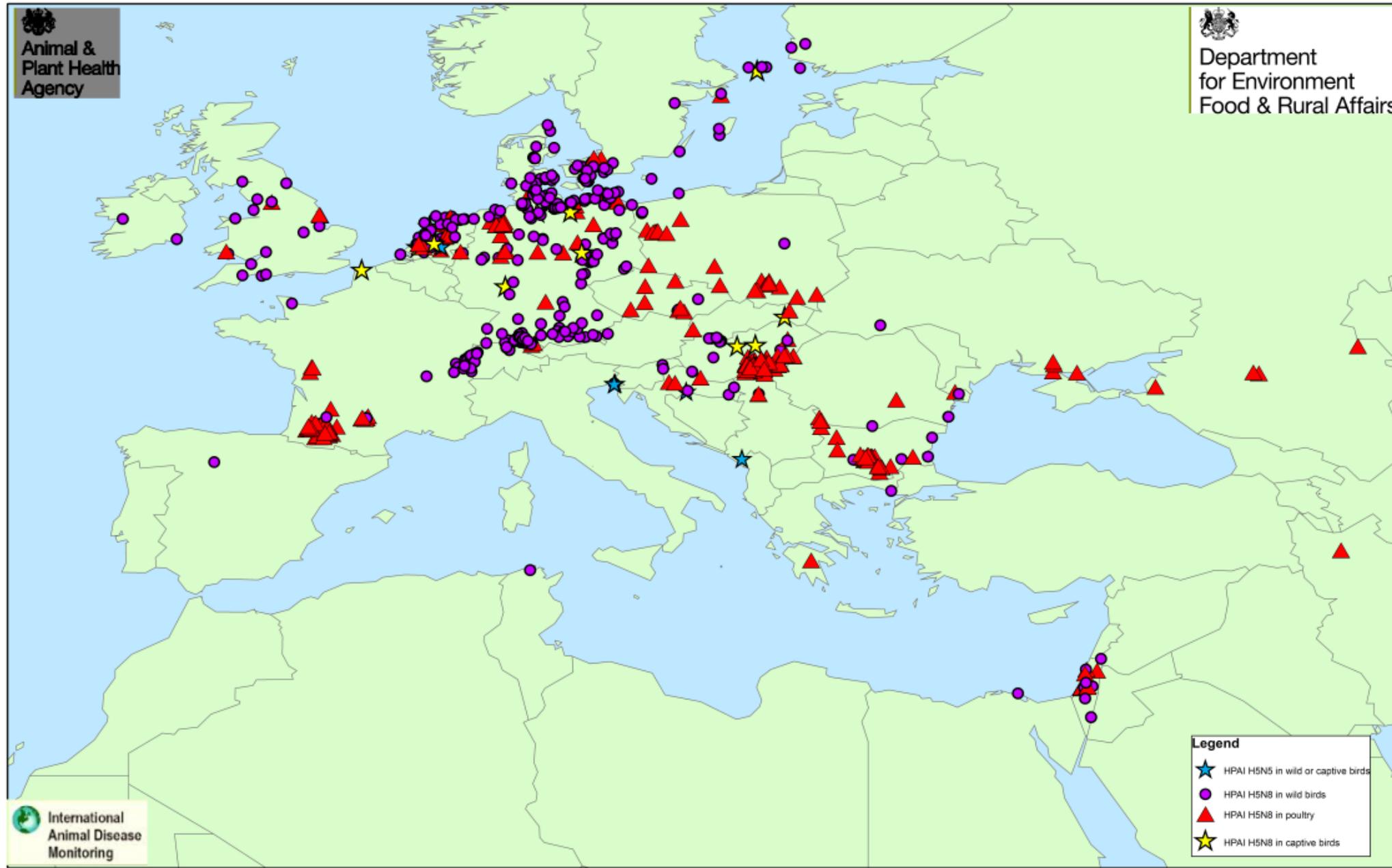




CREATOR:  
 EU Reference Laboratory  
 DATE: 21/12/2016

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks in October-December 2016





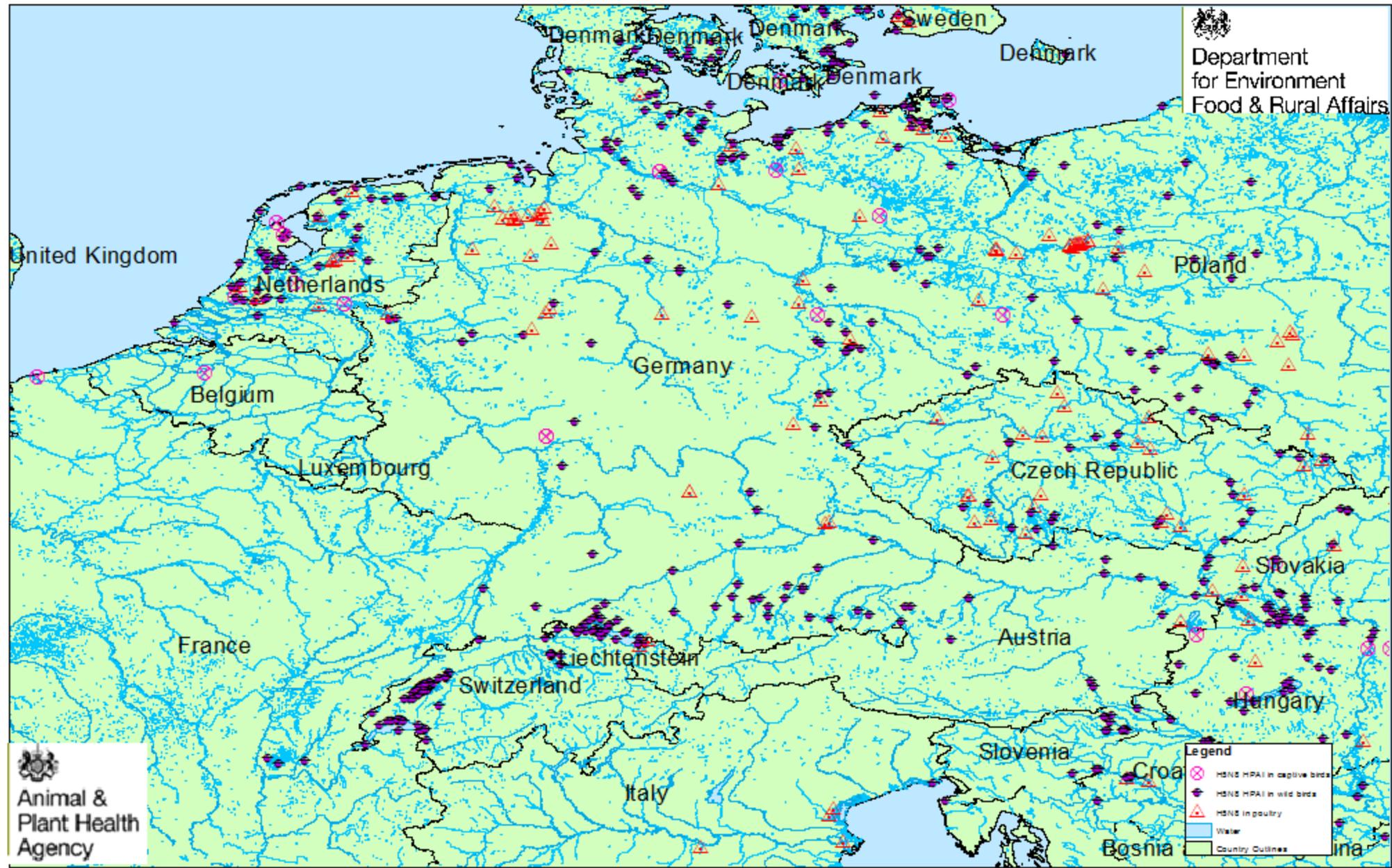
Date Prepared 17/01/2017

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

Actual Scale 1:25,000,000

Overlay the wild bird migration fluxes

0 170 340 680 1 020 1 360

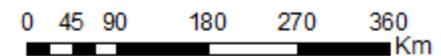


Date Prepared 14/02/2017

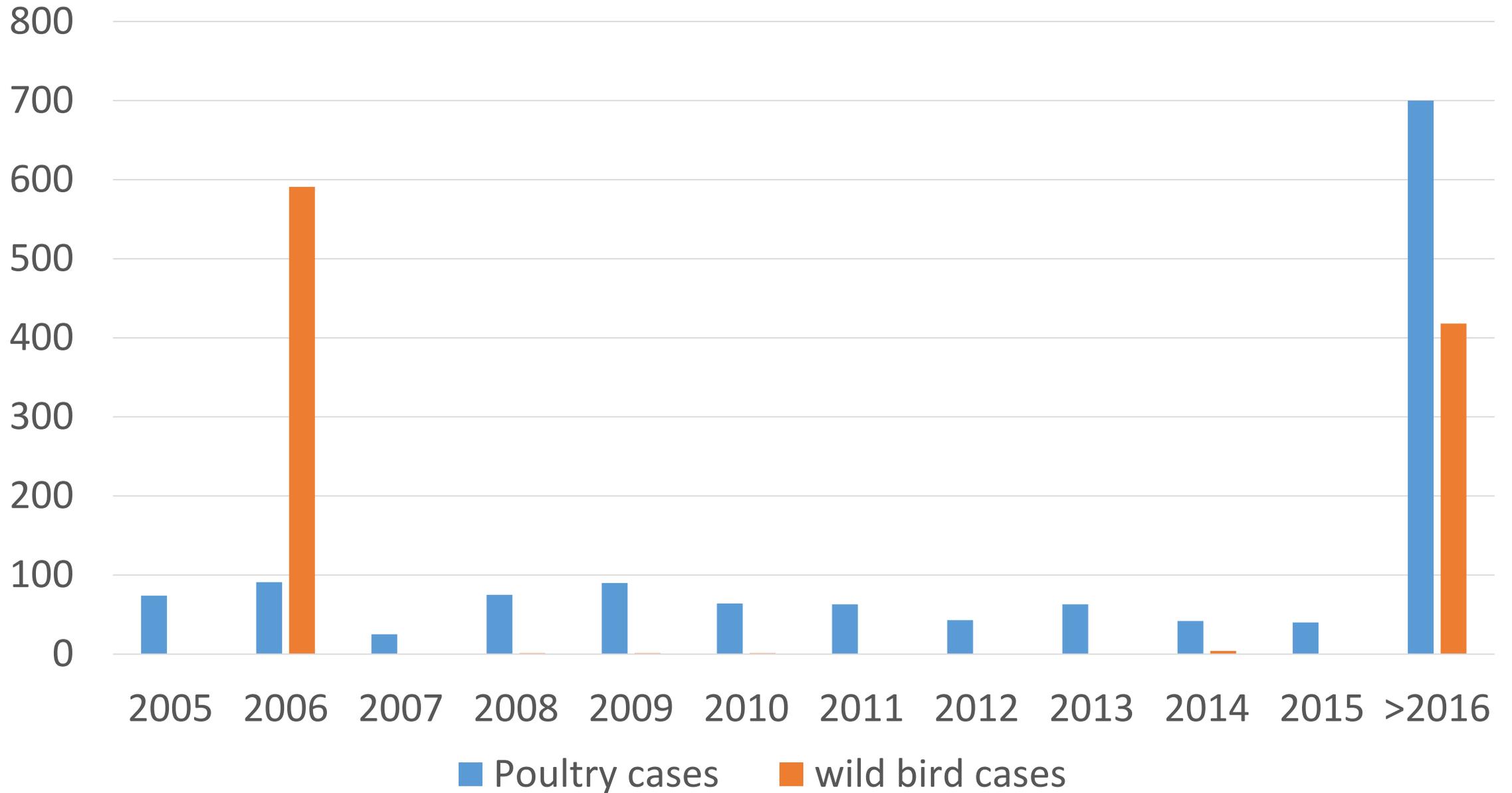
### Outbreaks of H5N8 HPAI in poultry, captive and wild birds October - February 2017

Actual Scale 1:7,000,000

Map prepared by IDM



# 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

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Francis Bacon  
The Three Figures  
1966