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.


Guidance synthesised in Avian Influenza and wetlands handbook
FAO Surveillance Program: 2006 Campaign

Built capacity in Africa
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks in October-December 2016

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

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Animal & Plant Health Agency
Outbreaks of H5N8 HPAI in poultry, captive and wild birds

October - January 2017

Legend:
- HPAI/H5N8 in wild or captive birds
- HPAI/H5N8 in wild birds
- HPAI/H5N8 in poultry
- HPAI/H5N8 in captive birds

Date Prepared 17/01/2017

Actual Scale 1:25,000,000
H5/H7 avian influenza in Europe

Poultry cases vs. Wild bird cases

- 2005: 10 cases (Poultry)
- 2006: 100 cases (Poultry)
- 2007: 10 cases (Poultry)
- 2008: 20 cases (Poultry)
- 2009: 30 cases (Poultry)
- 2010: 40 cases (Poultry)
- 2011: 50 cases (Poultry)
- 2012: 60 cases (Poultry)
- 2013: 70 cases (Poultry)
- 2014: 80 cases (Poultry)
- 2015: 90 cases (Poultry)
- >2016: 700 cases (Poultry)
- 2005: 10 cases (Wild bird)
- 2006: 200 cases (Wild bird)
- 2007: 300 cases (Wild bird)
- 2008: 400 cases (Wild bird)
- 2009: 500 cases (Wild bird)
- 2010: 600 cases (Wild bird)
- 2011: 700 cases (Wild bird)
- 2012: 800 cases (Wild bird)
- 2013: 900 cases (Wild bird)
- 2014: 1000 cases (Wild bird)
- 2015: 1100 cases (Wild bird)
- >2016: 1200 cases (Wild bird)
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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