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**Animal Health Situation Worldwide**

*Technical Working Document*



World Organisation  
for Animal Health

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# 1. General introduction

The aim of this report is to highlight the value of information provided by Members to WAHIS and to raise awareness of important developments in the animal health situation of Members from January 2024 to February 2025.

This report begins with a description of the reporting behaviours of our Members, listing some conclusions and recommendations. The reporting of foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, bluetongue and New World screwworm, is described by region, to highlight important occurrences of disease events. Finally, the report provides a global disease situation overview on African swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza, as well as an update on diseases in wildlife and in aquatic animals.

## 2. The value of information provided to WAHIS

### 2.1 Introduction

Since its creation, WOAAH has had a mandate to promote transparent and timely communication of the animal health situation of Members for prioritised animal diseases. This information is key to supporting Members in risk management and for monitoring progress of coordinated global and regional control and eradication efforts. It is also key to informing experts on the animal health challenges faced by countries and to guide the updating and development of WOAAH standards and guidelines.

To achieve this, the Organisation has developed standards, published in Chapter 1.1. of the WOAAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* and *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)*, for notifying listed and emerging diseases and for providing relevant epidemiological information. Compliance with these standards is an obligation for each WOAAH Member. The Organisation coordinates the sharing of information collected from its Members and several non-Members on listed diseases of terrestrial and aquatic animals (123 listed diseases in 2025), as well as on emerging diseases (5 in 2025).

In addition, WOAAH coordinates the voluntary exchange of information on 53 other diseases and syndromes deemed important by WOAAH's wildlife experts. This is described in the notification procedures shared with WOAAH's national Focal Points on Wildlife.

Finally, WOAAH coordinates the voluntary exchange of additional information that Members consider important and wish to share with others concerning information beyond the scope of the official notification procedure. This information sharing is done by e-mail and published on disease-specific pages on the WOAAH website.

WOAH's World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) is the primary tool for users to report animal disease surveillance information and occurrence of exceptional animal disease events. In 2024, the system's major renovation was finalised, making reporting and data consultation more -user-friendly and efficient.

The addition of the new Annual Reporting module on animal population figures provides useful contextual information for risk assessment and these data will be used to inform biomass calculation in ANIMUSE, the WOAAH system for recording and monitoring antimicrobial use in animals. Interconnection between the European Union (EU) Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) and WAHIS has been fully established for several Members in Europe and will be finalised for the remaining EU Member States over the next few months. The availability of this one-portal reporting has already greatly reduced the overall reporting burden, decreased transcription errors and speeded up the reporting and

publication of important animal disease event information for European Members. Further investment will be needed to continue evolving WAHIS in alignment with future user needs and digital advances. WOAAH believes that continuing improvement to WAHIS is essential to maintain the highest standards in global animal health reporting. As such, additional enhancements are currently under consideration while the platform is stabilising. This ongoing commitment to refining and upgrading WAHIS underscores its critical role in supporting timely and accurate disease reporting worldwide. WOAAH understands that in the dynamic field of animal health, the work of improving information systems never truly stops.

WOAAH provides continuous support to its Members to ensure that they can fully utilise WAHIS and interpret its data effectively via the dedicated WAHIS Support Desk and the provision of one-on-one training. Additionally, regional training sessions are regularly delivered to assist Members in addressing regional disease concerns and learning how to report in WAHIS.

The value of information in WAHIS has been enhanced by adopting a more rigorous approach to the verification of reports and by implementing housekeeping activities to ensure reporting users regularly update ongoing events so that information transferred from the early warning module to the -six-monthly reporting module is as aligned as possible, reducing the need for manual data entry and editing of six-monthly reports. Some historical discrepancies are corrected during verification. Links between control measures and disease occurrence codes are verified in a meaningful manner reflecting surveillance activities at national level. While the power of WAHIS is based on the official nature of its published information, it relies on the transparency, quality and accuracy of the data provided, and the timely reporting of confirmed events by our Members. WOAAH's Active Search activities detect relevant-but-unreported events, which can then be brought to the attention of the relevant Veterinary Services, accompanied by a request for reports or updates as appropriate, which WOAAH publishes once the events are confirmed by the official Veterinary Services.

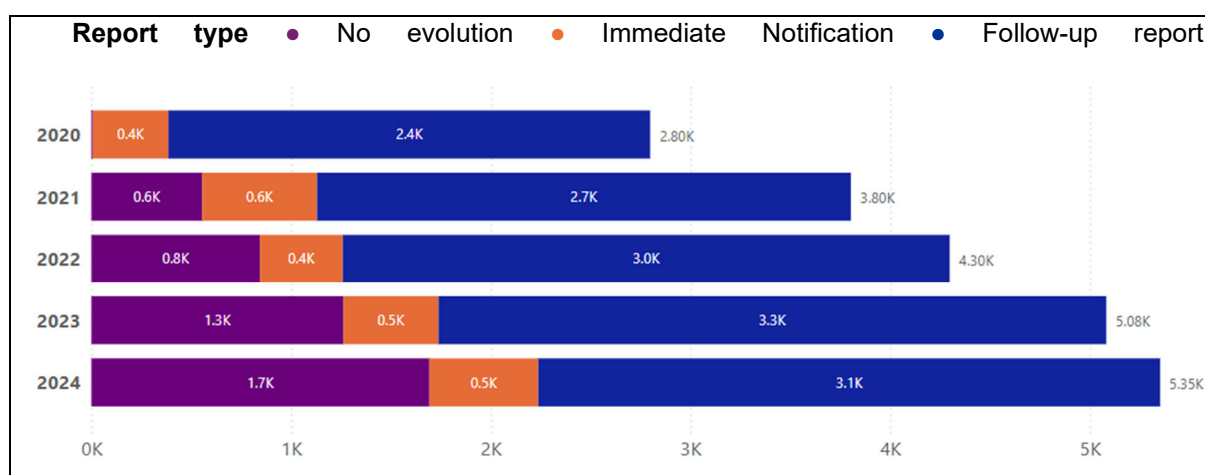
## 2.2 Analysis of Members' reporting through WAHIS

### 2.2.1 Early Warning module

The WAHIS Early Warning module ('animal disease events', or EW module) is a crucial component of the WOAAH animal disease reporting system and enables WOAAH Members to comply with their reporting obligations as described in Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.4. of the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code* for WOAAH-listed and emerging diseases. The EW module accepts immediate notifications, as well as follow-up reports to provide updates on the evolution of notified animal disease events. Since 2021, the EW module has allowed submission of 'no-evolution' follow-up reports, which enables countries/territories to fulfil their reporting obligations and provide weekly updates on disease events without the need to submit detailed information when there are no substantial changes. This helps maintain an up-to-date record of the disease situation worldwide and promotes transparency while reducing the reporting burden on national authorities when the situation remains unchanged.

The EW module shows the evolution of animal disease events worldwide until the reported diseases have been eradicated, or until the incidence or geographical spread has been contained and the Members are not actively targeting eradication (indicated in the EW module as 'stable events'), after which the diseases are reported only in the six-monthly reports (SMRs). By facilitating this rapid and structured reporting process, the EW module plays a crucial role in global animal health surveillance, enabling timely dissemination of critical official information and allowing Members and non-Members to take swift preventive actions when necessary.

Overview of the number of immediate notifications and follow-up reports submitted in the last 5 years



**Figure 1.** Number of Early Warning reports published in the last 5 years, in thousands (K)<sup>2</sup>

The total number of early warning reports published through WAHIS increased steadily from 2020 to 2024, rising from 2.8K to 5.35K (see Figure 1). Immediate notifications remained relatively stable, fluctuating between 0.4K and 0.6K throughout this period. The numbers of follow-up reports have been relatively constant for the most recent three years, averaging around 3.1K. The most notable trend was the increase in the number of no-evolution reports, which increased almost threefold, from 0.6K in 2021 to 1.7K in 2024. This demonstrates Members' commitment to meeting their notification obligations and suggests that this WAHIS feature is effective in reducing the reporting burden involved in updating events.

Overview of the diseases with the highest number of outbreaks reported in the EW module, globally and by region

In 2024, as in each year since 2020, the diseases with the highest numbers of events and outbreaks reported globally through the early warning module were African swine fever (ASF), high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses in poultry (HPAI [poultry]) and high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses in non-poultry including wild birds (HPAI [non-poultry birds]).

In Africa, in 2024, foot and mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease (LSD) were the leading diseases, with 161 and 120 outbreaks, respectively. In the Americas, the highest number of outbreaks reported in 2024 was for New World screwworm as a result of its spread from South America (where it is endemic) to Central America and Mexico, where a total of 3303 outbreaks were reported by 7 countries. HPAI (non-poultry) was also reported by 9 countries across the Americas, with over 1200 outbreaks.

In Europe, the spread of ASF and HPAI continued across the region. Importantly, the number of bluetongue events and outbreaks increased in 2024 due to the re-emergence of serotype 3. In 2024, a total of 3481 outbreaks were reported and 82% of these were caused by serotype 3. In Asia and the Pacific, LSD was one of the most reported diseases after ASF and HPAI, with 125 outbreaks being

<sup>2</sup> Reports in the figure include the 'no-evolution' follow-up reports, which are those submitted in the absence of substantial changes in the epidemiological situation of the animal disease event (without any additional detailed information) and thus the number of reports exceeds those reported elsewhere, such as in the WAHIS periodical extraction, and those made available on request as an extraction from the EW module.



reported by 6 countries. Finally, in the Middle East, rabies and FMD were the most frequently reported diseases but in each case involved only a few outbreaks.

Detailed information on the number of outbreaks by region is shown in Table 1 and a review of the emergence or re-emergence of selected diseases in the regions can be found in Section 1.3.

**Table 1.** Number of outbreaks starting in 2024 for the top five diseases reported through the EW module, by region

Region	Disease	No. of events (events could have started before 2024)	No. of outbreaks (starting in 2024)	No. of countries/territories reporting
<b>Africa</b>	FMD	11	159	7
	LSD	3	120	3
	ASF	5	41	3
	Rabies	4	28	3
	HPAI (poultry)	5	10	4
<b>Americas</b>	New World screwworm	8	3303	7
	HPAI (non-poultry birds)	21	1266	10
	HPAI (poultry)	9	307	6
	Turkey rhinotracheitis	1	44	1
	Eq. encephalomyelitis (Western)	2	39	2
<b>Asia and the Pacific</b>	ASF	14	740	8
	HPAI (non-poultry birds)	18	198	9
	HPAI (poultry)	27	178	10
	LSD	7	125	6
	Classical swine fever	1	136	1
<b>Europe</b>	ASF	83	6026	19
	Bluetongue	52	3481	20
	HPAI (non-poultry birds)	116	1080	34
	HPAI (poultry)	79	442	22
	West Nile fever	27	470	9
<b>Middle East</b>	Rabies	1	4	1
	FMD	1	3	1
	HPAI (non-poultry birds)	1	1	1
	Glanders	1	1	1
	Bluetongue	1	1	1

### *The link between the EW and SMR modules*

The link between the EW and SMR modules in WAHIS is crucial for maintaining coherent and up-to-date global animal health information. The status of EW events directly impacts the occurrence codes describing the disease situation in SMRs. Therefore, keeping EW events up to date is crucial for accurately representing the disease situation in a country/territory, for the following reasons:

- Compliance with WOAAH standards: Keeping data on EW events up to date helps Members fulfil their reporting obligations under WOAAH's *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code*.
- Data continuity: Information from EW events is automatically transferred to SMRs when the latter are created. If EW events are not up to date, incomplete transfer of information or inaccurate occurrence codes for the disease situation in SMRs may result.
- Accurate representation: Timely updates to EW events ensure that the disease situation reflected in WAHIS dashboards is current and accurate, providing a true picture of the animal health situation in the country.
- Trade implications: Accurate disease situation events are critical for international trade, as they inform trading partners about the current animal health situation.
- Global health awareness: Up-to-date EW events support global animal health surveillance and response efforts.
- Risk-based decision making: Assessing risk in the animal health situation requires dynamic and continuous information on evolving disease situations.
- Indication that reporting has been transferred to SMRs: When the decision is made that the incidence or geographical spread has been contained and the Member is not necessarily actively targeting eradication and will subsequently be providing updates on the disease situation only in the SMR, it is useful to indicate this in the EW module by closing the relevant event and reporting the situation as stable, as discussed below.

By ensuring EW events are regularly updated, reporting countries/territories contribute to the integrity and reliability of WAHIS, supporting informed decision-making in global animal health management.

### *The value of stable events and an overview of these events in 2023 and 2024 at the regional level*

In accordance with Article 1.1.3. and Article 1.1.4. in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Aquatic Code*, Members should send to WOAAH “*weekly reports [...] to provide further information on the evolution of the event [...]. These reports should continue until the [listed disease](#) has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the Member Country[...]*”. This implies that the reported disease will subsequently be reported via SMRs and that this will be reflected in the EW module by a final report declaring the disease situation stable.

As of 15 February 2025, a total of 218 events were currently recorded as stable in the EW module, with 34% of these having been declared since the start of 2023. The diseases with the highest number of stable events declared in 2023 were ASF and LSD in the Asia and the Pacific region (4 events each), and *Aethina tumida* in the Americas region (2 events). In contrast, in 2024, 25 events were declared stable for bluetongue in the Europe region and 3 events were declared stable for New World screwworm in the Americas region.

Regarding aquatic diseases, in 2023 one stable event was declared, for infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus (in the Europe region); in 2024, three stable events were declared in the Americas region, one for Tilapia lake virus and two for *Gyrodactylus salaris*.

Veterinary Services may wish to declare an event as stable and continue reporting only in SMRs when the disease's incidence, its geographical spread or impact is controlled and the reporting Member is not actively targeting eradication. Members choosing to do this should note that although their routine reporting burden is reduced, disease information will not be available to consulting users of WAHIS until the publication of the relevant SMR. In all cases where Members report a disease situation only through SMRs, WOAAH recommends that this is reflected by the presence of a corresponding event marked as stable in the EW module to maintain coherence with the SMR module.

Factors to be considered in deciding to declare an event as stable:

- Accurate representation of diseases present: By declaring a disease as 'sufficiently stable', countries can indicate that a disease is present, reflecting its persistent presence without the need for weekly reporting through the EW module.
- Consistency in reporting: The stable event status ensures that the disease will continue to be reported as present in subsequent SMRs, maintaining consistency between the EW and SMR modules.
- Flexibility for changing situations: If a country has progressed to eradication and wishes to report a previously stable disease as absent, there is a clear process to change the status through official communication with the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD).
- Improved user experience and data accessibility: The WAHIS Public Interface features a filtering option for stable diseases, thereby enhancing data retrieval. Maintaining stable events in the EW module for diseases that are present, means that users can easily identify whether to consult the EW or SMR module for specific information. This approach also provides a clear overview of the most prevalent diseases in a country, facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of the national animal health landscape.
- Delayed access to the data reported: The decision to declare a disease situation stable and report it in SMRs instead of through the EW module means the associated data will be only available after the relevant six-month period and detailed data such as precise outbreak location will no longer be available.
- Disease situations considered stable for specific zones or serotypes: To ease outbreak management and avoid unjustified bans on trade, diseases can be considered stable in the whole country or for one or several zones and for all or some disease serotypes, resulting in a more accurate picture of the disease situation.

By adhering to this process, countries can ensure that their disease reporting is accurate, consistent and provides a comprehensive picture of their animal health situation across both the EW and SMR modules. This approach enhances the overall quality and utility of WAHIS for all stakeholders.

### 2.2.2 Six-monthly report module

The SMR module is a key component of WAHIS, designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the presence or absence of each WOAAH-listed disease in each country over a six-month period. This module enables countries to fulfil their international reporting obligations, in accordance with Article 1.1.3. of the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code*, by submitting consolidated data on the disease situation, eradication efforts and surveillance activities.

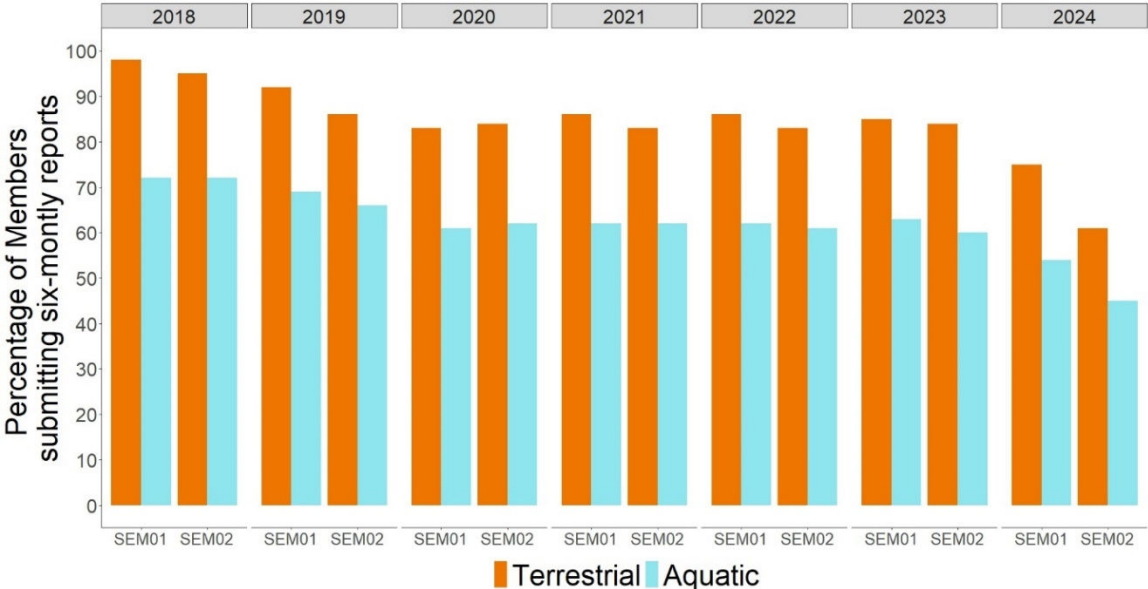
Unlike the EW module, which focuses on immediate notifications, the SMR module ensures systematic long-term monitoring which contributes to global animal health transparency. It also facilitates the classification of a country’s situation in respect of a given disease, thus supporting risk assessments and trade decisions. By standardising disease reporting at regular intervals, this module plays a crucial role in maintaining an accurate global epidemiological picture while minimising the administrative burden on national authorities.

It is important to note that classifying the situation of a disease in a country or territory as ‘absent’ or ‘never reported’ based on six-monthly reporting does not automatically classify the country or territory as having a free status for the disease. There are specific provisions in the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code* that Members should follow, including providing documentary evidence, in order to be granted an officially recognised animal health status for African horse sickness (AHS), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), classical swine fever (CSF), foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or peste des petits ruminants (PPR), or for publication of a self-declaration of animal health status for any other disease. Nevertheless, Veterinary Services’ compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1.1. ‘Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information’ in the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code* is a prerequisite for both procedures.

*Overview of the SMR reporting situation at the regional level*

Although WOA is pleased to observe that the percentage of Members submitting SMRs is no longer declining and indeed has slightly increased since the launch of the newly optimised SMR module in June 2024, there are still significant gaps in reporting, particularly for the period from 2019 up to and including the first semester of 2024. Since the launch of the new WAHIS in 2019, the percentage of Members submitting SMRs has decreased by up to 30% (See Figure 2). For instance, (as of 1 April 2025) 96% of Members had submitted their SMRs for terrestrial animal diseases for 2018 compared to 75% and 61% for the first and second semester of 2024, respectively. Similarly, for SMRs for aquatic animal diseases (as of 1 April 2025), 72% of Members had submitted their reports for 2018 compared to 54% and 45% for the first and second semester of 2024, respectively.

WOAH encourages Members to make progress with their six-monthly reporting in order to meet their notification requirements.



**Figure 2.** Percentage of Members having submitted their SMRs for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases, by semester, during the period 2018–2024

To accompany the launch of the newly optimised SMR module on 4 June 2024, WAHIAD implemented a novel support and communication strategy with Animal Disease Notification Focal Points to improve situation reporting. A key goal of this strategy is to improve the publication time of submitted six-monthly reports, the objective being to (on average) publish them within 30 working days from the date of submission. One of the key factors in helping achieve this objective is the response time from Members to queries regarding their SMRs. WOAHA encourages Delegates and Animal Disease Notification Focal Points to respond promptly to any requests for clarification.

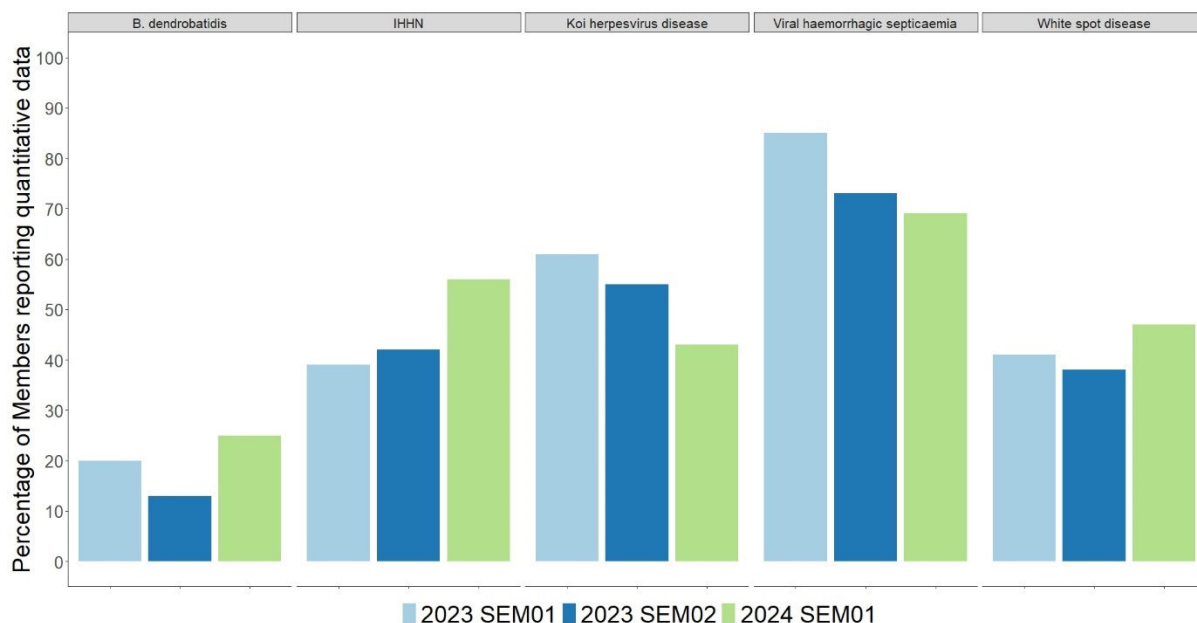
#### *The reporting of control measures via six-monthly reporting and its impact on occurrence codes for disease situation*

Another important change in the past year has been the new verification strategy focused on diseases reported in SMRs as 'absent' or 'never reported'. Implemented from the first semester of 2024 onwards, this strategy aims to enhance the quality and value of the information that Members submit to WOAHA. As part of this approach, WOAHA has engaged with Members during the verification process, encouraging them to review and accurately report any control measures in place (disease notification, general surveillance, etc.) for diseases reported as 'absent' or 'never reported'. Members that have confirmed the absence of any surveillance, notification or control measures for a given disease have been encouraged to use the more appropriate occurrence code of 'no information', to ensure transparency and accuracy in their disease situation.

WOAHA commends its Members and particularly their Animal Disease Notification Focal Points for their efforts and collaboration throughout this process. However, WOAHA strongly encourages the ongoing review of information reported in SMRs to ensure that they transparently and accurately reflect the disease situation. Conducting this review prior to submission will also help prevent delays in the publication process. For Members that have not yet submitted their six-monthly reports for the first semester of 2024, WOAHA recommends that Animal Disease Notification Focal Points carefully review the 2024 Notification Procedures for six-monthly report submissions. Should further guidance or support be needed, we encourage them to reach out to us directly.

#### *Reporting of aquatic animal diseases in SMRs*

Regarding aquatic animal diseases, the number of Members reporting quantitative information for diseases reported as present remains extremely limited. An analysis of the top five diseases reported as present over three semesters (first and second semester of 2023, and first semester of 2024) shows that the percentage of Members providing quantitative data ranged from 13% to 25% for *B. dendrobatidis*, 39% to 56% for infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis (IHHN), 43% to 61% for koi herpesvirus disease, 69% to 85% for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia, and 38% to 41% for white spot disease (see Figure 3). WOAHA reminds its Members that although reporting quantitative information in SMRs is not compulsory, these are valuable data that can be beneficial for other stakeholders. WOAHA acknowledges that one of the potential reasons for the limited reporting of quantitative information may be the time required to compile and enter the data in WAHIS. However, every effort was made during the optimisation of the SMR module to improve the user experience and streamline data entry. Also, WOAHA has developed templates to help collect this information, supporting Animal Disease Notification Focal Points during data entry in WAHIS. These templates have been shared through official channels and are available on the WAHIS Support Desk and the Delegate's Portal.



**Figure 3.** Percentage of Members reporting quantitative information for aquatic animal diseases in their SMRs for 2023 and 1st semester 2024

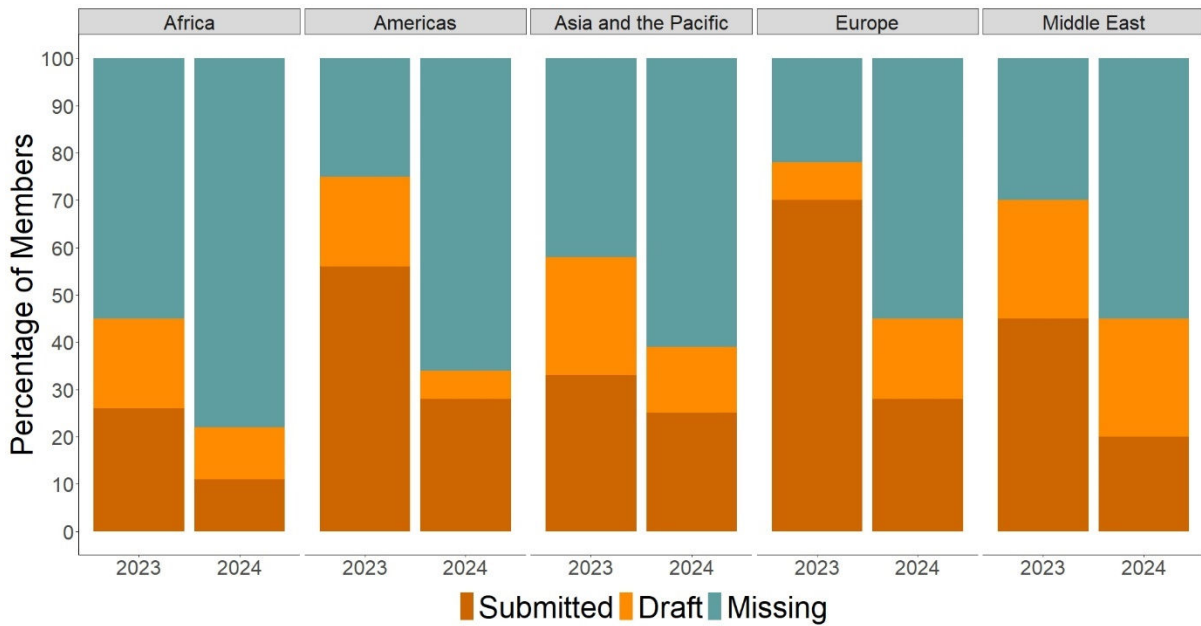
### 2.2.3 Annual Report module

Launched on 4 June 2024, the new WAHIS Annual Report module (AR module) provides Members with the opportunity to fulfil requirements of Article 1.1.3. of the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code*. Currently, the AR module consists of a single section, for animal population data. Additional sections, including veterinary capacity and emergency preparedness, are being considered for future development. Every year the animal population information captured relates to the previous year(s) starting with 2023.

The animal population information captured in this module has many uses relevant to both WOH and the global community. For example, when provided in its contextual detail, this information can be used in tracking trends in antimicrobial resistance. By integrating detailed data provided via the Annual Report with data submitted in the WOH Animal Antimicrobial Use (ANIMUSE) database, global experts are able to conduct quantitative risk modelling to predict the direction of antimicrobial resistance, and they can also carry out food safety risk assessments by monitoring antimicrobial residues in targeted foods of animal origin.

#### *Overview of submission of Annual Reports, by region*

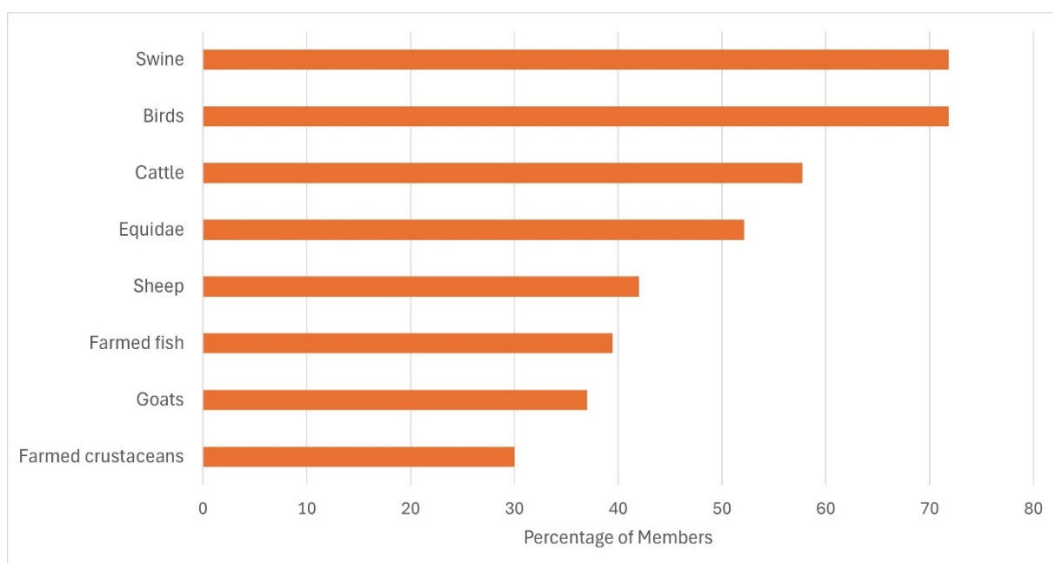
Since the launch of the new AR module, the submission rate of ARs has been low. As of 1 April 2025, the region with the highest submission rate was Europe, which had contributed for 35% of all the reports received (see Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Percentage of Members by region that have submitted ARs, created ARs but not yet submitted them (draft) or have not yet created an AR (missing)

Submitted reports varied in completeness, with some Members providing no information on the population of some categories (species) of animals and subcategories.

From the analysis of the provided subcategory data, over 70% of those Members provided data regarding the subcategories of swine and birds, compared to between 50% and 60% for cattle and equidae and less than 45% for the remaining species (see Figure 5). It is important to note that completeness of the data in the subcategories is essential for biomass calculations used to monitor antimicrobial resistance. In addition, the availability of complete data on animal subcategories informs the global community in matters relating to disease risk assessment, food security analysis, planning for food safety interventions, biodiversity conservation, climate change, and assessment of livestock capacity in trade agreements, and also informs policy development for safe trade.



**Figure 5.** Percentage of Members that provided population data on animal subcategories for selected categories of animals as of 1 April



While WOAHA acknowledges the difficulties for Veterinary Services to record data in the animal subcategories specified in the annual report, WOAHA encourages Members to provide data at the greatest possible level of detail. WOAHA has developed templates to support Veterinary Services in the collection of this data<sup>3</sup>.

#### 2.2.4 *Conclusions and recommendations*

- The new EW, SMR, and AR modules allow Members to comply with their reporting obligations and thereby ensure transparency regarding the animal health situation worldwide.
- The significant increase in the number of no-evolution reports shows the reporting countries/territories' commitment to keep data updated even in the absence of changes in the disease situation. WOAHA commends its Members for the efforts made in timely reporting of disease events but also encourages them to periodically review their ongoing events to ensure that in each case the data reflect the current disease situation.
- To avoid any misinterpretation of WAHIS published data, reporting countries/territories should bear in mind that the EW and SMR modules complement each other and so should be aligned. The consistency of information between modules promotes transparency, facilitates trade and fosters stakeholder trust in the information displayed. This approach enhances the overall quality and utility of WAHIS for all stakeholders. WOAHA has procedures in place to support reporting users and ensure data consistency.
- With regard to SMRs and ARs, WOAHA notes that there are still significant gaps in the numbers of submitted reports. WOAHA reminds its Members of their notification requirements and encourages them to keep progressing in the submission of their pending reports.
- WOAHA commends Animal Disease Notification Focal Points for their efforts made in responding to requests for clarification on their reports submitted as this reduces the delay before reports can be published in WAHIS.
- WOAHA encourages its Members to submit complete, accurate and detailed data in a timely manner through WAHIS reports as this provides valuable information for partners and stakeholders. In addition, it provides an accurate representation of the disease situation, thereby supporting the work of the WOAHA Specialist Commissions in developing or reviewing standards. Similarly, the reporting of complete data on animal populations through the annual report allows the integration of this data in the ANIMUSE database to estimate relevant indicators regarding antimicrobial use.

#### 2.3 *Situation of selected diseases in the regions*

As noted above, HPAI (poultry and non-poultry) and ASF have for several years been the two most frequently reported diseases in WAHIS, and these diseases are covered in greater detail in the second part of this report. Other diseases that are currently of global importance include New World screwworm in Central America, bluetongue in western Europe, LSD in northern Africa and Asia, and FMD in Germany and northern and southern Africa. The sections below provide an overview of the situation of each of these diseases during the period from 1 January 2024 to 1 April 2025 in countries/zones that were previously free from infection. Please note that this section does not cover the situation in countries or zones where the disease is endemic.

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<sup>3</sup> Available at: [WAHIS Support Desk](#)



### 2.3.1 Infection with foot and mouth disease virus

A total of 336 FMD outbreaks were reported to WAHIS by 18 countries during the period under study, involving 29 exceptional epidemiological events. Sixty-seven<sup>4</sup> percent of the outbreaks reported were caused by serotype O and 16%<sup>5</sup> by serotype SAT 1 or SAT 2. Outbreaks caused by serotypes SAT 3 and O were reported as ‘first occurrence in a zone’ in South Africa and China (People’s Rep. of), respectively. New strains were detected in a country/zone in South Africa (SAT 1), Palestine (O), and Comoros (SAT 1). Lastly, a recurrence of the disease was reported by 15 countries, including Germany, Hungary, and Slovakia (see below). Detailed information is given in Table 2 and the geographical distribution of the outbreaks reported during the period is shown in Figure 6. In four of the exceptional epidemiological events (20 outbreaks), the serotype was not confirmed. Considering that there is no cross-protection between serotypes and even within serotypes<sup>6</sup>, WOAAH highlights the importance of typing strains for vaccine development and to inform global strategies on the distribution of circulating strains.

**Table 2.** Summary of FMD outbreaks that occurred between 1 January 2024 and 1 April 2025 and were reported through the EW module

Reason for notification	Serotype	No. of countries	No. of outbreaks	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. killed and disposed of	No. vaccinated
<b>First occurrence in a zone</b>	O	1	1	10	1	9	0
	SAT 3	1	38	2208	0	177	342
<b>New strain in the country</b>	O	1	3	155	61	0	0
	SAT 1	1	1	4	0	0	0
<b>New strain in a zone</b>	SAT 2	1	2	425	0	0	0
<b>Recurrence of disease</b>	O	10	218	9674	1448	2154	8889
	SAT 1	2	25	477	0	0	0
	SAT 2	2	25	239	0	0	0
	Untyped	4	20	893	4	79	31,972
<b>Recurrence of a strain</b>	A	1	1	3	0	0	14,875
	O	1	2	11	0	0	0

The disease re-occurred in Europe after 14 years of absence when it was last reported by Bulgaria in 2011. Germany, Hungary, and Slovakia reported outbreaks of serotype O. As of 1 April 2025, the outbreaks in these 3 countries are still ongoing<sup>7</sup>.

At the date of publication of this report, 180 outbreaks of FMD reported through 19 exceptional epidemiological events in WAHIS were still ongoing globally. Six of these events, reported by Comoros, Mozambique, South Africa and Palestine had last been updated in WAHIS between February and

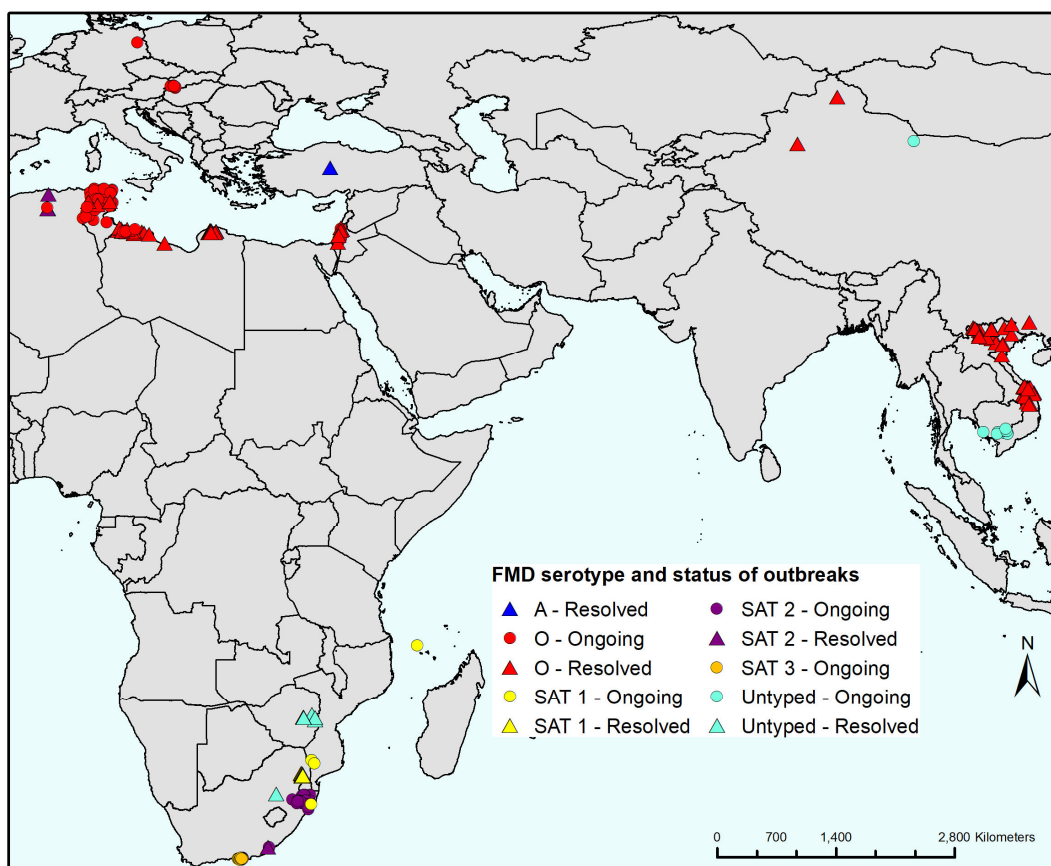
<sup>4</sup> Percentage has been modified from 63% to 67%.

<sup>5</sup> Percentage has been modified from 17% to 16%.

<sup>6</sup> Paton, D.J. et al., 2002. Selection of foot and mouth disease vaccine strains – a review. Rev. sci. tech. Off. int. Epiz., 2005, 24 (3), 981-993

<sup>7</sup> Link to WAHIS: <https://wahis.woah.org/#/home>. Event ID: 6177, 6359, and 6317.

December 2024; consequently, the disease situation for these events was unknown as of the date of publication of this report.



**Figure 6.** FMD outbreaks that occurred between 1 January 2024 and 1 April 2025 and were reported through the EW module

### 2.3.2 Infection with lumpy skin disease virus

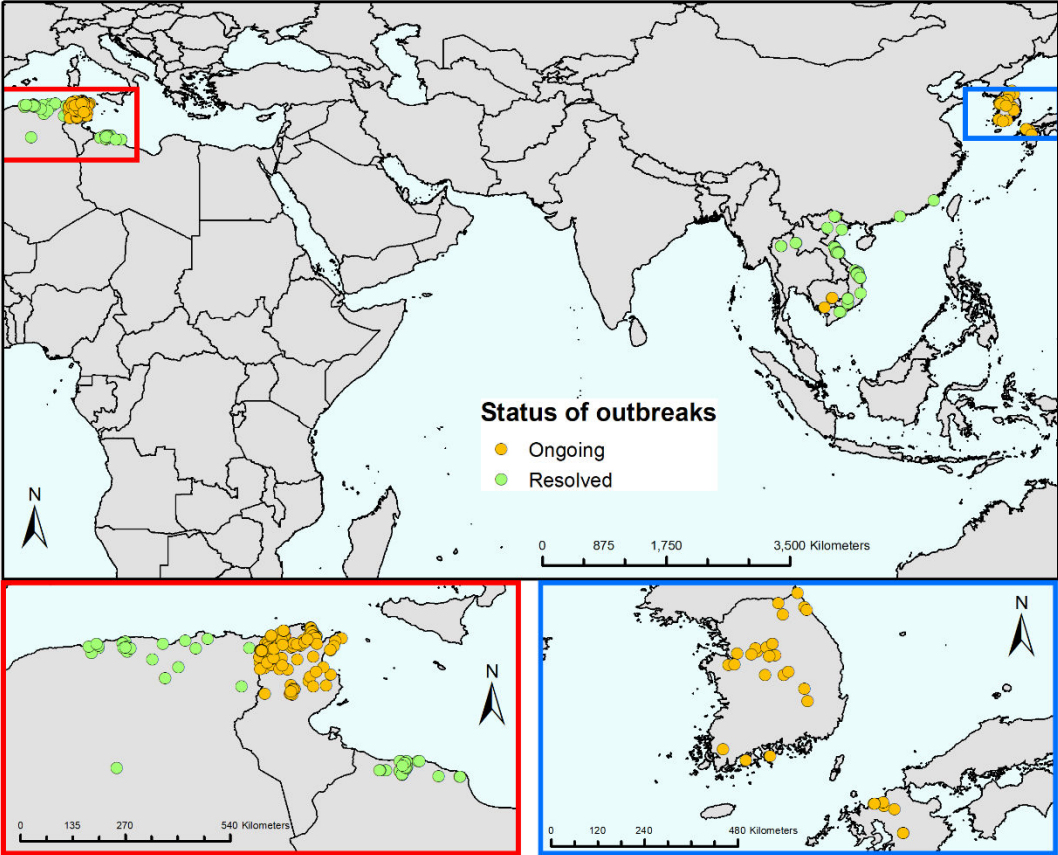
A total of 319 LSD outbreaks were reported to WAHIS by 11 countries during the period under study, involving 12 exceptional epidemiological events. The disease was detected for the first time in northern Africa (Algeria, Libya and Tunisia) and Japan, while it reoccurred in Eastern and Southern Asia. Detailed information is given in Table 3 and the geographical distribution of the outbreaks reported during the period is shown in Figure 7.

**Table 3.** Summary of LSD outbreaks that occurred between 1 January 2024 and 1 April 2025 and were reported through the EW module

Reason for notification	No. of countries	No. of outbreaks	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. killed and disposed of	No. vaccinated
<b>First occurrence in a country</b>	4	212	455	47	86	1399
<b>Recurrence of a disease</b>	7	107	796	94	270	506

In Libya, the outbreaks were reported between April 2023 (when the event started) and June 2024 and the event has since been resolved. In Algeria and Japan, outbreaks were reported from June 2024 and from December 2024, respectively. The event reported by Japan was still ongoing at the date of publication of this report. In the areas where the disease had reoccurred, all events were resolved by

the date of publication of this report, with the exception of Korea (Rep. of) and Cambodia. In 80% of the events reported through WAHIS during the period, vaccination in response to the outbreak was implemented as a control strategy.



**Figure 7.** LSD outbreaks that occurred between 1 January 2024 and 1 April 2025 and were reported through the EW module

**2.3.3 Infection with bluetongue virus**

A total of 3626 outbreaks were reported to WAHIS by 24 countries during the period under study, involving 58 exceptional epidemiological events. Serotype 3 was responsible for most of the outbreaks (87%<sup>8</sup>) followed by serotype 8 (11%). In the Europe region, outbreaks caused by serotype 3 were reported by Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Serotype 12 was reported for the first time in the Netherlands and serotype 8 for the first time in Portugal and North Macedonia (Rep. of). Elsewhere, serotype 4 reoccurred in Cyprus, and Libya and Peru detected the disease although the serotype had not been determined by the date of publication of this report. Detailed information is given in Table 4 and the geographical distribution of the outbreaks reported during the period under study is shown in Figure 8.

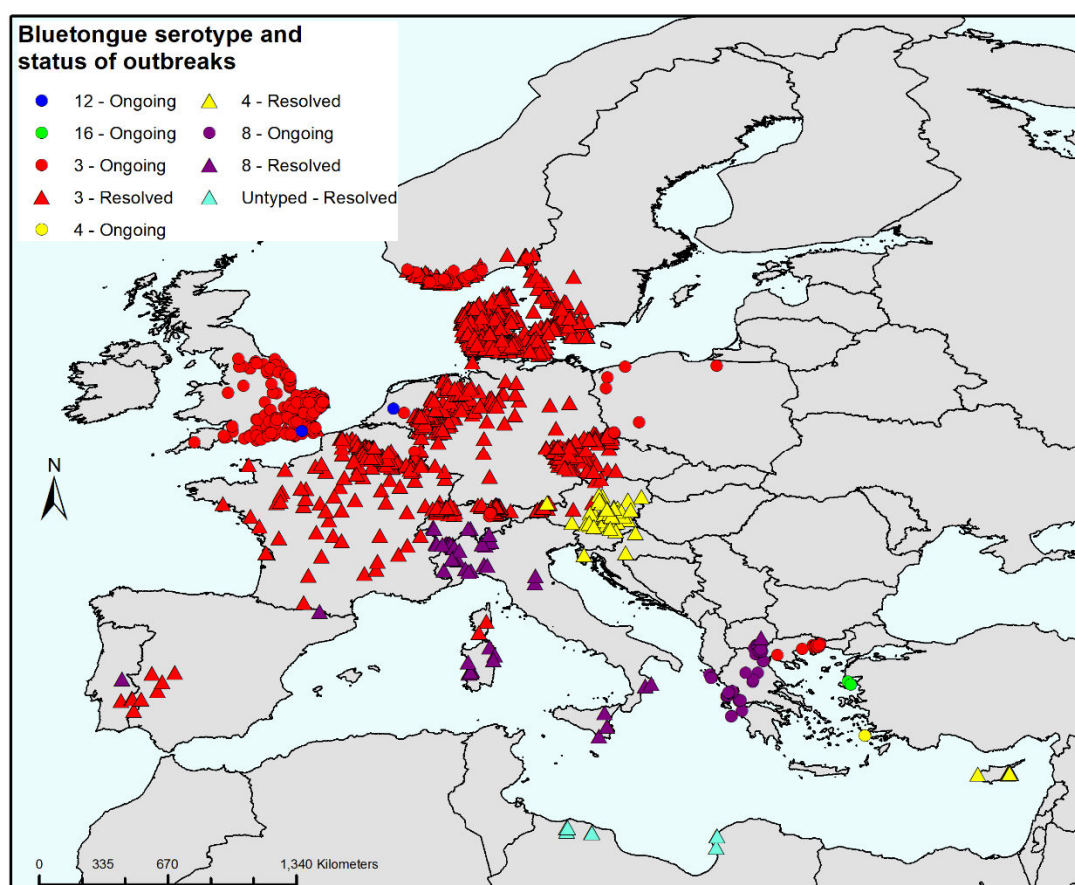
**Table 4.** Summary of bluetongue outbreaks that occurred between 1 January 2024 and 1 April 2025 and were reported through the EW module

<sup>8</sup> Percentage has been modified from 88% to 87%.

<b>Reason for notification</b>	<b>Serotype</b>	<b>No. of countries</b>	<b>No. of outbreaks</b>	<b>No. of cases</b>	<b>No. of deaths</b>	<b>No. killed and disposed of</b>	<b>No. vaccinated</b>
<b>First occurrence in a country</b>		3	3	40	57	2	0

<b>First occurrence in a zone</b>	3	2	5	24	0	0	0
	8	2	18	56	3	0	172
<b>New strain in a country</b>	12	1	1	1	1	0	0
	3	7	1425	3564	261	31	0
	8	2	2	8	7	0	0
<b>New strain in a zone</b>	12	1	1	1	0	0	0
	3	2	245	581	25	0	0
<b>Recurrence of a disease</b>	16	1	2	49	18	0	0
	3	7	1423	3916	164	41	3770
	4	3	6	8	0	26	0
	Untyped	2	14	115	56	0	0
<b>Recurrence of a strain</b>	4	2	83	175	0	0	0
	8	3	361	6717	1101	1	0

Considering the widespread presence of serotype 3 and the burden of reporting for Animal Disease Notification Focal Points, some European countries have closed the events as stable, meaning that reporting will continue in their respective SMRs. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Sweden, and Switzerland have declared the disease situation as stable in the entire country while France, Germany, Portugal, and Spain have done so for zones.



**Figure 8.** Bluetongue outbreaks that occurred between 1 January 2024 and 1 April 2025 and were reported through the EW module

### 2.3.4 New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*)

New World screwworm is an endemic disease in some countries in the Caribbean and in South America, with the exception of Chile where it last occurred in 1947. It was eradicated in Central America in the early 2000s, the United States of America in the 1960s and Mexico in the 1970s<sup>9</sup>.

A total of 8363 outbreaks were reported to WAHIS by 7 countries during the period under study, involving 13 exceptional epidemiological events. The disease was detected for the first time in a zone in Mexico and Belize in December 2024 and February 2025, and reoccurred in Nicaragua, which was the most affected country with over 60% of the outbreaks reported, Costa Rica, Honduras Guatemala, El Salvador. Detailed information is given in Table 5 and the geographical distribution of the outbreaks reported during the period is shown in Figure 9.

**Table 5.** Summary of New World screwworm outbreaks that occurred between 1 January 2024 and 1 April 2025 and were reported through the EW module

Reason for notification	No. of countries	No. of outbreaks	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. killed and disposed of	No. vaccinated
<b>First occurrence in a zone</b>	2	118	128	1	0	9
<b>Recurrence of a disease</b>	7	8245	9647	40	1	0

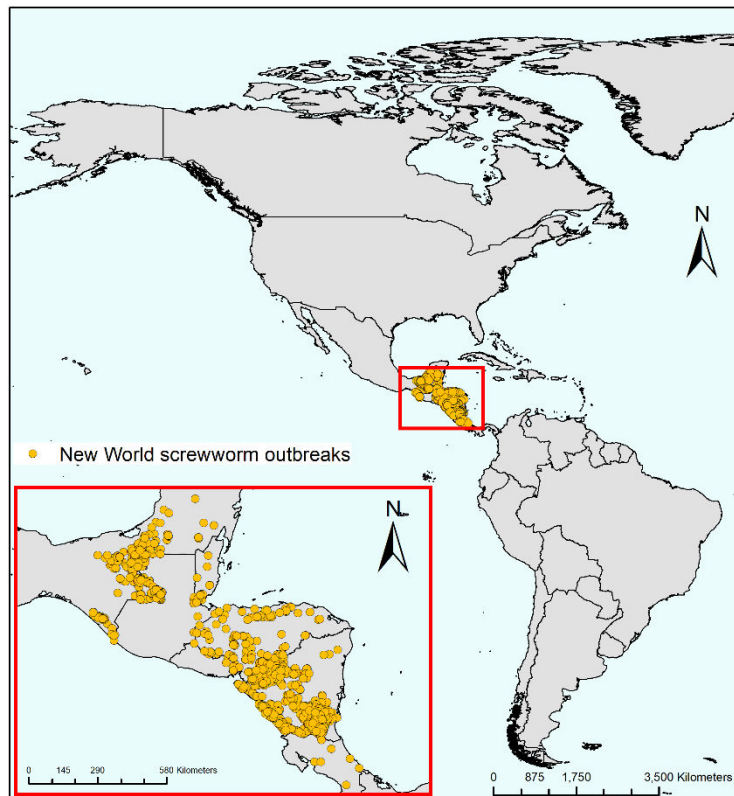
As of the date of publication of this report, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua had closed their events as stable in WAHIS and will subsequently provide updates on the disease through six-monthly reporting. The remaining countries have periodically updated their events in WAHIS, with the exception of Guatemala which last updated its event in October 2024, which means that their disease situation was unknown at the date of publication of this report.

The emergency response strategy in the affected areas is based on the production of sterile flies and their aerial and ground release, coupled with surveillance and the control of animal movements. Raising awareness among producers and the application of good livestock practices are crucial to control the spread of the disease and prevent any incursion in North America<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> A review of the situation of the disease in South América and Central America, in Spanish, can be found at: <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/21/03/situacion-del-gbg.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> More information about current control strategies can be found at: <https://copeq.org/en/producer-resources/>





**Figure 9.** New World Screwworm outbreaks that occurred between 1 January 2024 and 1 April 2025 and were reported through the EW module

### 2.3.5 Conclusions and recommendations

- The data for bluetongue and New World screwworm for the period under study show the rapid spread of these two diseases from endemic to previously free areas. WOAHP highlights the importance of countries in close proximity to infected areas strengthening their awareness and surveillance activities and promoting good livestock practices to prevent the potential introduction of these diseases. WOAHP also recommends continuous cooperation between neighbouring countries on coordinating their surveillance and control activities and communicating with relevant stakeholders.
- FMD and LSD continue to pose a risk to disease-free areas even where the disease has been absent for prolonged periods, as exemplified by the recent FMD incursion in Germany. WOAHP recommends that FMD-free countries/zones remain vigilant and maintain good levels of surveillance to prevent a potential incursion of the virus and to detect it quickly if introduced.
- WOAHP wishes to point out that many of the events documenting the evolution of these fast-moving and important diseases have not been regularly updated with the required follow-up reports, and certainly not within one week. WOAHP reminds its Members of their notification obligations in accordance with Article 1.1.3. of the *Terrestrial Code* and encourages Members to take the necessary actions. Updating these events is important as it allows other Members to take any necessary mitigation strategies.
- WOAHP acknowledges the burden of notification in WAHIS for diseases widely occurring in countries or zones and encourages Members to consider using the tools in WAHIS that can facilitate reporting. For example, reporting outbreaks as clusters within an administrative division can significantly ease reporting. Another option could be to declare an event as stable and continue reporting in six-monthly reports. Nevertheless, when Members declare an event

as stable, WOAAH suggests they should consider the potential impact on trade due to the perception of trade partners, as reporting is done only every six months.

- For diseases that can be caused by multiple serotypes/strains, WOAAH acknowledges the resources needed to determine the serotype/strain; nevertheless, it is important to type the causal agent in view of the importance of this information for vaccine development and to inform expert groups in charge of global strategies.
- WOAAH reminds its Members that unjustified trade barriers should not be imposed as part of strategies to prevent pathogen introduction from non-free areas. WOAAH recommends consulting the relevant standards for recommendations on the safe importation of animals and animal products from non-free countries/zones in the disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* to ensure that only appropriate and sufficient measures are imposed.
- Finally, WOAAH encourages its Members to consult the available documentation on the WOAAH website for the latest scientific information regarding the four diseases described in this section. Similarly, WOAAH recommends regular use of the WAHIS dashboards as well as inspection of the detailed EW and six-monthly reports to monitor the situation of these diseases based on official data published in WAHIS.

### 3. Global situation overview, as described in WOAAH's 2024 situation reports

#### 3.1 Introduction

As part of its mission to ensure transparency and raise awareness about animal diseases worldwide, WOAAH regularly publishes periodic situation reports to provide up-to-date information on emerging and evolving diseases that affect animals across the globe. These reports cover diseases of global concern, such as infection with [ASF](#) and infection with [HPAI](#), and are released on a monthly basis due to the widespread impact and rapidly changing epidemiology of these diseases. Additionally, WOAAH produces quarterly reports on [wildlife](#) and [aquatic animal](#) diseases, aligning with global frameworks and strategies. These reports help support the Organisation's broader mission of improving animal health and disease management. Feedback from key users gathered through a consultation in 2024 confirmed the value of these situation reports in raising awareness. Users highlighted their usefulness, particularly in keeping the public informed, and they suggested improvements. In response, WOAAH implemented many of these recommendations in the most recent editions, further enhancing the utility of these reports for stakeholders across the globe. This section outlines the key elements of these reports for the year 2024.

#### 3.2 Infection with African swine fever virus

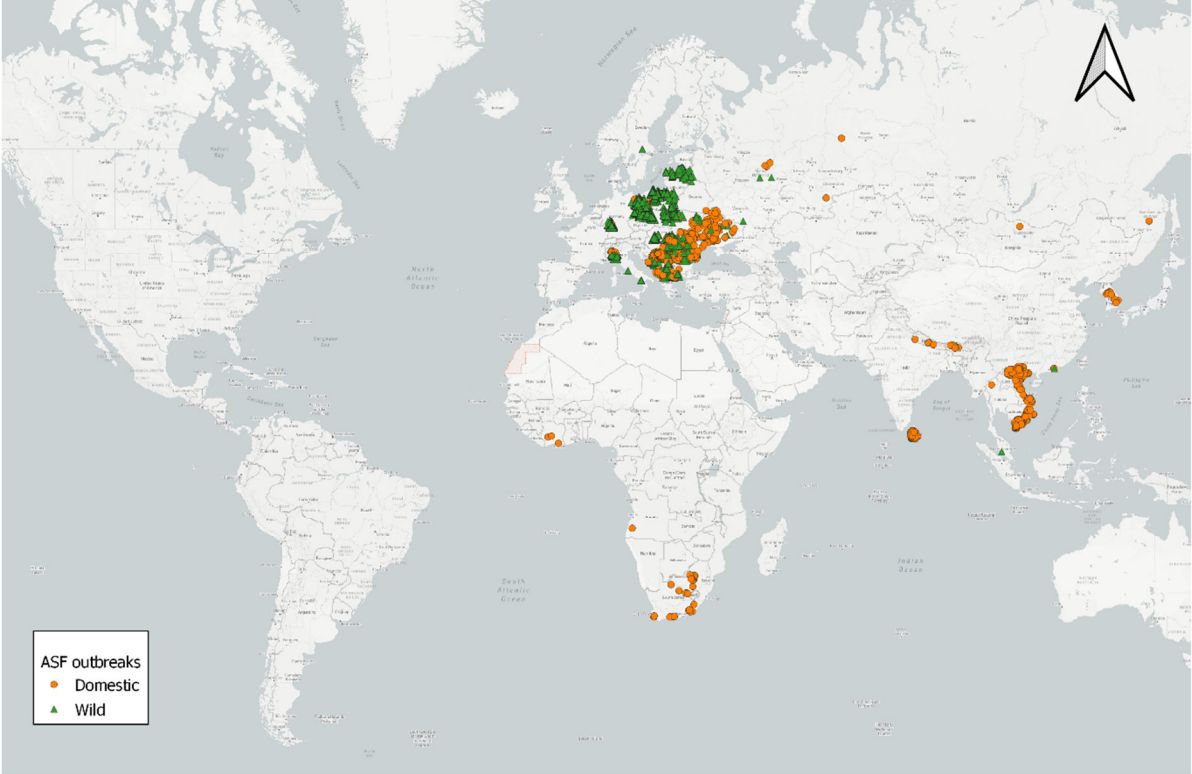
African swine fever (ASF) has never been so widespread, and its geographical range has expanded relentlessly. Controlling and eradicating ASF has become increasingly challenging but, despite this context, global control of the disease is possible with a sustained effort and collaboration at national, regional and international levels. WOAAH and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have developed a joint initiative for the Global Control of ASF. This initiative, launched under the umbrella of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), brings together governments, industry and specialists to support our Members in their efforts to control this devastating pig disease.

#### *Key figure and highlights for 2024*

Sixty-eight immediate notifications (INs) were received in 2024, from 16 countries and territories, relating to events that started during the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024. During this period,



information through INs or follow-up reports (FURs) was reported by 31 countries and territories, which declared a total of 6807 outbreaks (1532 in domestic pigs and 5275 in wildlife), 195,191 cases (187,398 in domestic pigs and 7,793 in wildlife), and 222,174 losses (dead animals and animals killed and disposed of) in domestic pigs. Figure 10 presents the spatial distribution of outbreaks that started in 2024.



**Figure 10.** Global distribution of ASF outbreaks that started in 2024

In 2024, three countries reported the first occurrence of the disease: Montenegro in January, Albania in February and Sri Lanka in October. In addition, countries already affected reported the spread of the disease to new areas: Bhutan (May, June and July 2024), Côte d’Ivoire (March 2024), Germany (June and July 2024) and Poland (May 2024).

Based on these findings, the most significant disease ‘jump’ of the year was the spread of ASF to Sri Lanka, with a jump of more than 1,800 km from the nearest reported ASF outbreaks.

The largest number of outbreaks reported in a single event in domestic pigs during the year was reported by Vietnam (573 outbreaks), while the largest number of outbreaks in a single event in wildlife was reported by Italy (1149 outbreaks).

From a biodiversity conservation perspective, it is important to highlight the report of ASF in the Visayan Warty Pig (*Sus cebifrons*) in the Philippines, a species listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as ‘Critically Endangered’, with potentially viable populations now present only in the last remaining forest fragments on Negros and Panay Islands<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> Visayan Warty Pig - <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21175/44139575#population>

## ASF vaccination

The continuing spread of ASF is a global concern for the pig industry, as no region is left unaffected. For many years, the lack of a vaccine or effective treatment has made it very difficult to control the disease. The research community has been working to develop an effective vaccine, and recent announcements of modified live vaccines being approved or tested in some countries have raised hopes for the availability of new effective tools to contain the current ASF epidemic. Many countries are interested in using these candidate vaccines to help control ongoing outbreaks on their territory. With this in mind, WOAAH has worked with experts to develop standards for ASF vaccines for inclusion in the *WOAH Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* and warns Veterinary Authorities and the pig industry against the use of sub-standard vaccines, as these may not confer protection and might also increase the risk of spreading vaccine viruses that could undergo recombination with field strains or result in acute or chronic disease<sup>12</sup>.

### Main recommendations on ASF provided in 2024

Among the most relevant recommendations provided on ASF in the situation reports in 2024, we wish to remind Members of the following:

- WOAAH highlights the importance of implementing strict biosecurity and an early reporting and response system, while maintaining a high level of awareness about the disease among all actors involved in the value chain.
- WOAAH stresses the importance of using only high-quality vaccines with demonstrated effectiveness and safety, in accordance with standards in the *Terrestrial Manual*, and this includes those that have been drafted for ASF vaccines. WOAAH urges Members that have a vaccination programme in place to share the information with WOAAH and the international community on their experience. Any vaccination strategy for ASF should be undertaken as part of a well-designed vaccination programme that considers factors including the local epidemiology of ASF, the circulating strains, the expected objectives and the adequacy and sustainability of the relevant technical, financial and human resources.
- WOAAH urges its Members to continue to promptly notify the occurrence of ASF and to share relevant epidemiological information, including information on any newly detected recombinant strains and vaccination trials, to facilitate transparency and assist the global control of the disease.

### 3.3 Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza virus

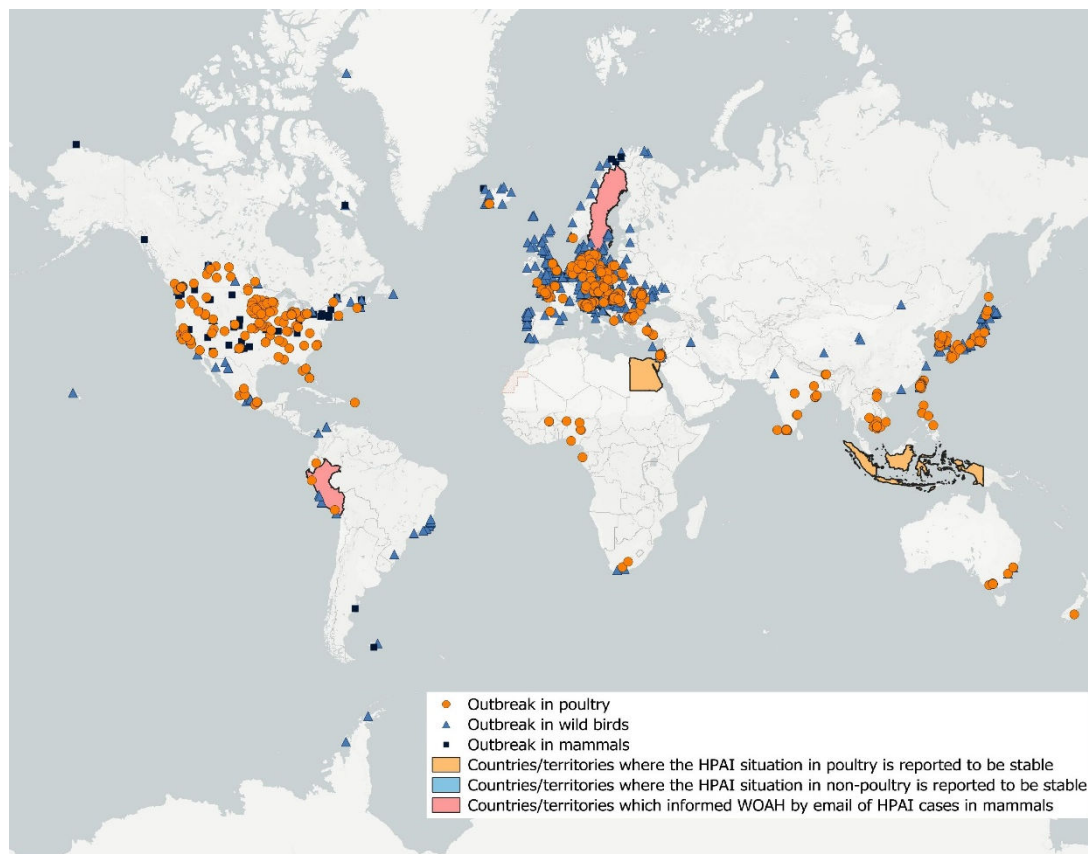
High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) viruses are a global concern and many countries have been tackling HPAI. In 2024, FAO and WOAAH launched the [Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza \(HPAI\)](#), aimed at preventing HPAI and protecting poultry value chains and livelihoods. This strategy consists of the following strategic approach: enhanced surveillance, biosecurity measures, vaccination strategies, public awareness and education, policy and regulatory frameworks, research and development and a One Health approach. WOAAH is closely monitoring the evolution of avian influenza in the above-mentioned areas and communicating on developments in the global situation and the risks identified by experts, on the basis of information provided by Members and the scientific community.

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<sup>12</sup> WOAAH position paper - <https://www.woah.org/en/document/african-swine-fever-woah-warns-veterinary-authorities-and-pig-industry-of-risk-from-use-of-sub-standard-vaccines/>

### Key figures and highlights for 2024

In 2024, a total of 42 countries/territories reported new outbreaks of HPAI in poultry, and 55 countries/territories reported new outbreaks of HPAI in non-poultry including wild birds and mammals. A total of 943 new outbreaks of HPAI in poultry were reported. In non-poultry, 2570 new outbreaks of HPAI were reported, including 1548 outbreaks in wild birds and 1022 new outbreaks in mammals. There were 6.18 million cases in poultry and 82.1 million losses in poultry reported through WAHIS. There were also 11,866 cases in wild birds and 325 cases in mammals reported through WAHIS. Figure 11 shows the worldwide distribution of new outbreaks of HPAI in poultry and non-poultry including wild birds and mammals in 2024.



**Figure 11.** Global distribution of HPAI outbreaks in poultry and non-poultry, including wild birds and mammals, that started in 2024

As of 31 December 2024, there were 19 countries<sup>13</sup> with active self-declarations of freedom from HPAI in poultry, 2 countries<sup>14</sup> with active self-declarations of HPAI-free zones in poultry, and 3 countries<sup>15</sup> with active self-declarations of HPAI-free compartments in poultry. Details are available on the [WOAH website](#).

<sup>13</sup> Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Honduras, Ireland, Malaysia, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine.

<sup>14</sup> Türkiye (Rep. of), United Kingdom.

<sup>15</sup> Egypt, India, Indonesia.

### *Cases in mammals*

Since the first report of cases in dairy cattle, which occurred in the United States of America in March 2024<sup>16</sup>, subsequent outbreaks in cattle in that country contributed to the increase in the number of outbreaks in mammals in 2024, which exceeded the number of outbreaks in 2023. In 2024, WOAHA recorded an increased number of outbreaks in mammals (1022 outbreaks in 2024 vs 459 in 2023), with 926 of the outbreaks in 2024 having occurred among cattle in the United States of America.

In 2024, 11 countries and territories in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific and Europe informed WOAHA of cases in 28 different mammal species: 1 species of farmed fur-bearing mammals, 5 species of wild marine mammals, 2 species of companion animals (cats and dogs), 16 species of terrestrial wild mammals, and 4 species of terrestrial or marine mammals in captivity.

### *An unprecedented spread to Antarctica*

The global spread of HPAI has been affecting an increasing number of countries/territories as well as continents that were previously unaffected. HPAI reached Latin America and Antarctic islands in 2023. Moreover, an unprecedented spread of HPAI to mainland Antarctica (an area previously largely historically free of HPAI) was reported in March 2024, the virus being identified in South polar skua. Experts consider the spread to mainland Antarctica a serious concern, due to the highly probable negative impact that HPAI could have on Antarctic wildlife and biodiversity. In addition to the outbreaks published in WAHIS, information on HPAI occurrences in wildlife in and around Antarctica is also available at <https://scar.org/library-data/avian-flu>.

### *Recommendations*

WOAHA advises its Members to maintain their surveillance activities, enforce biosecurity protocols, adopt preventive strategies at farm level and ensure prompt reporting of avian influenza outbreaks in both poultry and non-poultry species. Given the current situation in mammals, WOAHA also emphasises the importance of safeguarding people in close contact with or handling infected animals, including livestock and their products, while avoiding implementing unjustified trade restrictions.

Furthermore, generic and/or disease-specific national contingency plans can be a useful tool for Members to prepare for and respond to disease incursions; those shared by WOAHA Members can be seen on the webpage of [Simulation Exercises](#). In 2024, seven countries informed WOAHA of simulation exercises due to take place (Australia, China [People's Rep. of], Colombia, Czech Republic, Guatemala, New Zealand and Singapore).

### *3.4 Diseases in wildlife*

In 2020, WOAHA expanded its work in wildlife health and invested itself in promoting the growth of surveillance systems for wildlife health at regional, national and international levels, and advocating Members to re-evaluate the importance and visibility given to wildlife health in their countries. Essentially, through its strategic vision outlined in the Wildlife Health Framework, the Wildlife Health Programme promises to: i) guide Members in their use of One Health strategies at national level to help manage the risk of disease emergence at the human–animal–ecosystem interface, while uplifting the value of wildlife, and the need to protect, rather than vilify, wildlife in disease emergence scenarios; ii) support the growth of political, policy and scientific enabling environments, so that Veterinary Services

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/news/agency-announcements/federal-state-veterinary-public-health-agencies-share-update-hpai>

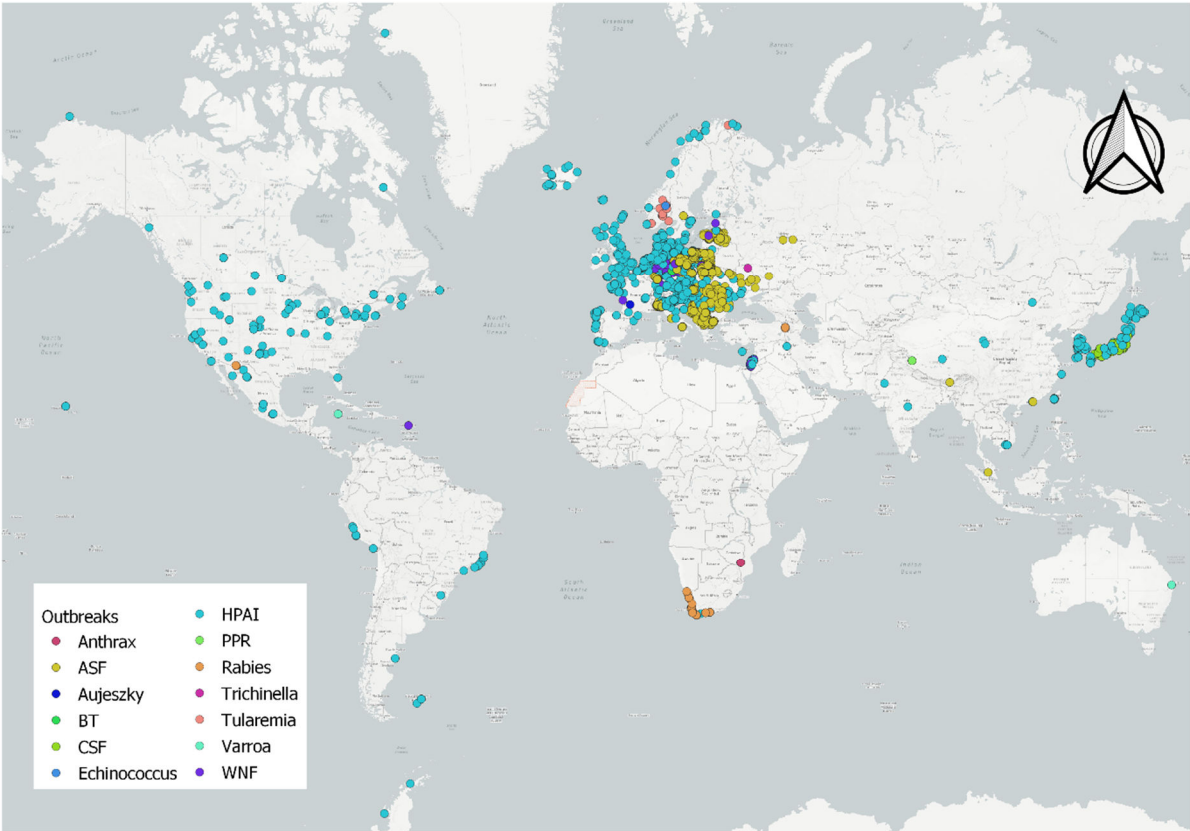
can effectively run wildlife health monitoring, surveillance and management systems in collaboration with their institutional partners.

*Gaps in global wildlife disease surveillance*

Accurate reporting on disease situations in wildlife relies on a proper surveillance system in place at country level. One way to provide background information on surveillance in wildlife and enable a better understanding of the quality and gaps in reporting is the evaluation of the number of diseases for which surveillance is reported in wildlife among the 81 diseases listed by WOA. Based on a study carried out in 2019, 165 Members and non-Members reported surveillance activity in wildlife for at least one listed disease. On average, countries reported surveillance in wildlife for 19 listed diseases (minimum = 0; maximum = 81), with significant intra- and inter-regional differences. This imbalance in surveillance activity is also highlighted by the imbalanced distribution of outbreaks reported in wildlife at global level (see next section).

*Key figures and highlights for 2024*

In 2024, disease outbreaks in wildlife species were reported in 238 events by 64 countries and territories: 2 countries in Africa, 10 in the Americas, 15 in Asia and the Pacific, 36 in Europe, and, lastly, Antarctica, where 1 event was reported. In total, 6917 outbreaks in wildlife were reported during the year. Most of the outbreaks were reported in Europe (90.6%; 6337/6917), followed by Asia and the Pacific (5.8%; 402/6917), the Americas (2.2%, 151/6917) and Africa (0.4%; 25/6917). In these outbreaks, a total of 15,855 cases were reported, with a similar balance in terms of regional distribution (Europe: 9843 cases; Asia and the Pacific: 3008 cases; the Americas: 2729 cases; Africa 272 cases) (Figure 12).



**Figure 12.** Global distribution of reported outbreaks in wildlife that started in 2024, by disease. (ASF = African swine fever; BT = Bluetongue; CSF = Classical swine fever; HPAI = Highly pathogenic avian influenza; PPR = Peste des petits ruminants; WNF = West Nile fever)



In 2024, 13 different listed terrestrial diseases were reported in wildlife through immediate notifications and follow-up reports.

The most relevant reported diseases of significant public health importance were HPAI in non-poultry including wild birds (1312 outbreaks), West Nile fever (138 outbreaks) and rabies (39 outbreaks).

In terms of importance for livestock health and food security, ASF was the most frequently reported disease (5276 outbreaks), followed by HPAI (1312 outbreaks) and CSF (131 outbreaks).

Finally, several of the reported diseases were highly relevant from a biodiversity conservation perspective. Out of the 260 species in which outbreaks were reported, 33 species (13%) were classified as 'Near threatened' (12 species) 'Vulnerable' (16 species) or 'Endangered' (5 species), based on the IUCN classification.

Among the most relevant recommendations relating to wildlife health provided in Wildlife Diseases Situation Reports in recent years, we wish to remind Members of the following:

- WOAHA recognises the value of the information provided by Members on wildlife health, considering its potential beneficial impact on livestock health, public health and biodiversity conservation.
- WOAHA recognises the importance of supporting Members with improving their surveillance systems at country level, thereby enhancing the quality of the data they provide. This is one of the objectives of the Wildlife Health Programme.
- WOAHA encourages Members to keep up the good work done to promptly notify the occurrence of significant epidemiological events in wildlife and to share the relevant epidemiological information.
- WOAHA is committed to using, analysing and disseminating data collected by Members to maximise disease surveillance efforts in wildlife and their use for decision-making.

### 3.5 Diseases in aquatic animals

In 2021, WOAHA launched the Aquatic Animal Health Strategy, which aims to improve the health management of aquatic animals globally. As a contribution to this initiative, WOAHA has published situation reports on aquatic animals' health status since 2023. These reports focus on four categories of aquatic animals, in line with the classification used in the [WOAHA Aquatic Code](#): fish, molluscs, crustaceans and amphibians. Each issue of the situation report highlights one of these categories, providing detailed insights into its current health status.

Via WAHIS, WOAHA Members are required to notify information on stable diseases on a six-monthly basis and are required to notify information on exceptional events through immediate notifications, followed by weekly follow-up reports. Thus, for 2024, 26 disease outbreaks were notified via immediate notifications and follow-up reports to share information on exceptional events. Of these, 17 were for fish diseases, 5 were for mollusc diseases, 2 were for crustacean diseases and 2 were for amphibian diseases. Details of the geographical distribution of these outbreaks and the diseases concerned are shown in Figure 13.



**Figure 13.** Distribution of aquatic animal disease outbreaks in 2024 notified through WAHIS in immediate notifications and follow-up reports

When interpreting the health data presented in Members’ reports, it is crucial to consider production disparities across countries. According to [FAO data](#) from 2022, there are notable differences in the production of aquatic animals worldwide. For example, only 38 countries reported amphibian production. In contrast, the production of crustaceans, molluscs and fish was reported by much larger numbers of countries. Fish production was reported by 219 countries and territories, crustacean production by 159 countries, and mollusc production by 140 countries. There are also considerable geographical disparities. For example, China (People’s Rep. of) is the leading producer in all four categories, with the country reporting for 2022 nearly 600,000 tonnes of amphibians, 8 million tonnes of crustaceans, nearly 16 million tonnes of molluscs and more than 33 million tonnes of fish. These production figures highlight the need to take into account production levels when analysing the health data of aquatic species globally and when considering reporting from Members.

It is also important to consider the surveillance gaps. Table 6 displays the percentage of WOAH Members that notified surveillance measures through WAHIS for each animal category and type. The data reveal significant disparities between the different categories.

**Table 6.** Percentage of reporting WOAH Members which notified surveillance measures through WAHIS by animal category and type of aquatic animals

	Farmed	Wild
<b>Fish</b>	85%	54%
<b>Crustaceans</b>	76%	53%
<b>Molluscs</b>	66%	37%
<b>Amphibians</b>	53%	34%

To support its Members in their surveillance efforts, WOAAH standards and guidelines are regularly updated, and training courses are organised for the WOAAH network of national Focal Points for aquatic animals.

### *3.6 Conclusions*

WOAH's situation reports are valuable tools for scientific communication, playing an important role in the Organisation's commitment to ensuring transparency concerning the status of animal diseases worldwide. These reports provide essential information for a diverse range of stakeholders, supporting the global effort to monitor, manage and prevent the spread of animal diseases. Feedback from key users is crucial in shaping these reports, ensuring they remain relevant and effectively meet the needs of all those who rely on them for up-to-date information. The consultation process helps WOAAH refine and improve these resources, making them even more useful and accessible. As the landscape of animal health continues to evolve, WOAAH expects further advancements in 2025. These changes will likely build on the feedback received and the aim is to enhance the impact and accessibility of the reports, ensuring that they continue to serve as essential tools in global animal health management. These ongoing improvements will contribute to WOAAH's continuing to promote transparency and awareness of animal diseases worldwide.