

WILDLIFE DISEASES

Situation Report 01/25

Period covered: Jan – Jun 2025

This report provides an update of wildlife disease situation, according to the information submitted on listed diseases through the World Animal Health Information System of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

A general introduction of the scope and objective of this report as well as global level of wildlife disease surveillance activities can be found on [Wildlife Health - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health](#).

Key messages and Recommendations

- During the reporting period, **58 countries and territories** reported **7,062 outbreaks** and **14,757 cases** of WOAH listed diseases in wildlife. Cases related to **14 diseases** were reported in **244 different wildlife species**, 13% of which are classified as being at risk of extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- The reporting of exceptional events affecting wildlife during the period mainly concerned **African swine fever (ASF)** and **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** in several regions. This is a common situation also observed in previous situation reports and it indirectly shows the widespread existence of surveillance activities in WOAH members on these two specific diseases, not to mention their extensive distribution worldwide. In this report also **Classical Swine Fever (CSF)** recorded a significant number of outbreaks.
- Deaths and cases in **33 threatened species** have been reported, representing 8% of the total number of cases notified during the period, and highlighting the impact of animal diseases on biodiversity conservation. The spread and persistence of ASF and HPAI in wildlife pose a threat not only to biodiversity (especially when the diseases are reported in fragmented and threatened avian and mammal populations), but also to livestock health, food security, and human health at a global level.
- During this period, two other diseases played an unexpectedly significant role in terms of impact on biodiversity: Anthrax, which affected two species with 'Near threatened' (African buffalo) and 'Vulnerable' (Hippopotamus) status in Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), and Bluetongue (BT), which affected a species with 'Near threatened' status (Mouflon), in Andorra.
- From a public health perspective, it is important to highlight that during the period, eight out of the 14 diseases reported are classified as zoonoses.

Recent updates (January – June 2025)

In total 7,062 new outbreaks with 14,757 cases of [exceptional disease events](#) (based on the criteria listed in Article 1.1.3. of WOAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* - Figure 1) were notified in terrestrial wildlife during the reporting period, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). Other cases in wildlife have been reported during the period via email according to the provision of [article 1.1.5](#) of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (although Members are only required to notify listed diseases and emerging diseases, they are encouraged to provide WOAH with other important animal health information), specifically in relation to infection of birds other than poultry, including wild birds for HPAI cases (see [dedicated dashboard](#)). This report does not include cases in wild animals from areas where the disease situation is stable as well as diseases that do not appear on WOAH-list.

Outbreaks were reported in Africa, in the Americas, in Asia, and in Europe (Figure 2). Specifically, infection with African swine fever virus (ASF), Anthrax, infection with bluetongue virus (BT), Brucellosis (*Brucella suis*), infection with swine fever virus (CSF), Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), infection with Epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus (EHD), infection of birds other than poultry, including wild birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity (HPAI), infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTB), New world screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) (NWS), infection with rabies virus (rabies), Tularemia, and West Nile Fever (WNF).

As shown in Figure 2, most outbreaks (93%) were reported in Europe, possibly because of more extensive wildlife surveillance and/or reporting activities. Most of the outbreaks reported in the Americas were associated with the spread of HPAI in the region, while in Asia the outbreaks were mainly associated with HPAI and CSF. The majority of outbreaks reported in Africa were associated with anthrax.

The diseases with the highest global number of outbreaks reported were, as in previous reports, ASF (5,645 outbreaks) and HPAI (1,246 outbreaks). Cases of these diseases were reported in 244 different wild species belonging to 23 orders (see Table 1 and Table 2).

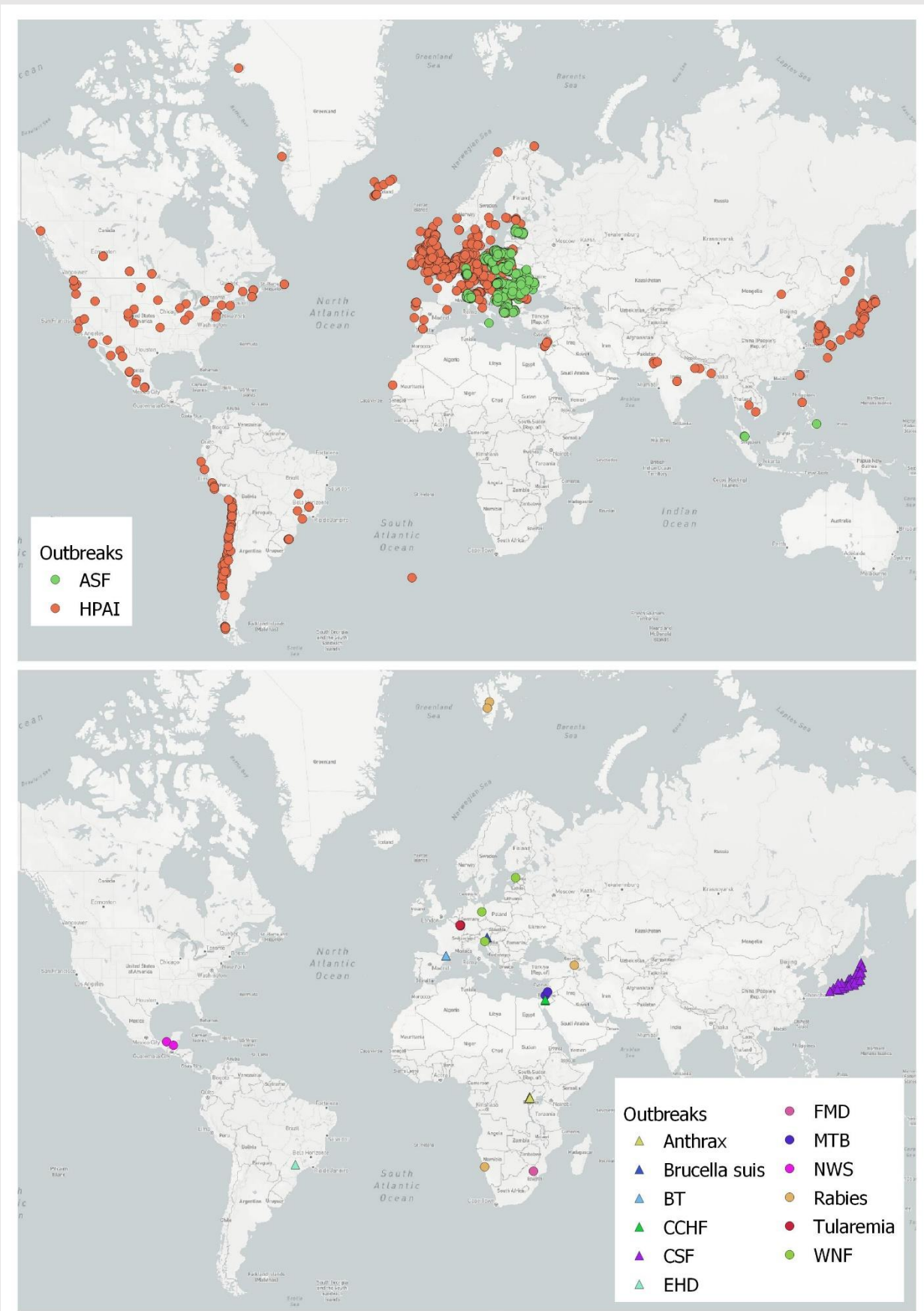


Figure 1. New outbreaks of exceptional disease events reported during the period in terrestrial wildlife. Due to the large number of their outbreaks, ASF and HPAI are presented in a separate map. ASF = infection with African swine fever virus; BT= infection with bluetongue virus; CSF= infection with African swine fever virus ; CCHF= Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever; EHD=infection with Epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus; HPAI = Infection of birds other than poultry, including wild birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity; MTB= infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex; NWS= New world screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*); WNF = West Nile fever.

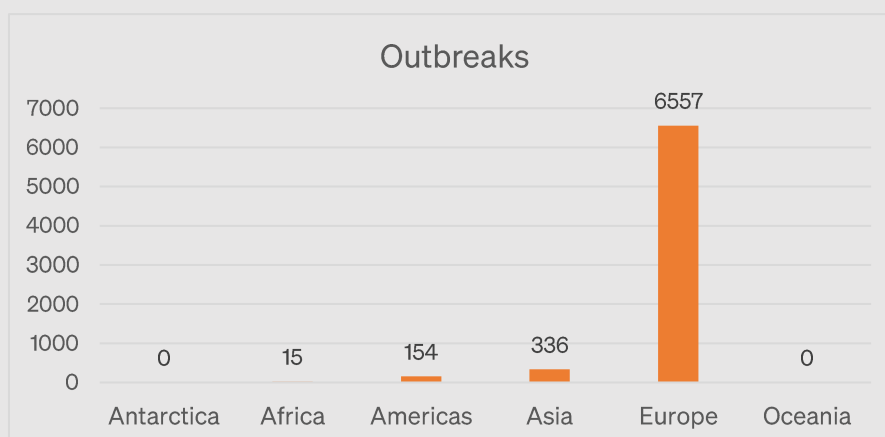


Figure 2. Number of outbreaks reported during the period and split by world region.

Table 1. Number of outbreaks reported by disease and information on zoonotic character of the disease¹.

Disease	Outbreaks reported	Zoonotic disease
ASF	5645	No
Anthrax	11	Common
BT	1	No
<i>Brucella suis</i>	3	Common
CSF	137	No
CCHF	2	Common
EHD	1	No
FMD	1	Minimal
HPAI	1246	Common
MTB	2	Common
NWS	2	Common
Rabies	4	Common
Tularemia	4	Common
WNF	3	Common

Table 2. Number of cases reported by order, and animal species; conservation status of each species, based on IUCN Red List of threatened species ([database accessed on 06 July 2025](#)). This table provides the diseases that affected species with threatened status. The full list of species reported is available on demand.

Disease	Cases	Order	Species (common name)	Reporting countries/territories	Conservation Status *
Anthrax	62	Artiodactyla	Hippopotamus	Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)	VU
Anthrax	28	Artiodactyla	African buffalo (Cape buffalo)	Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)	NT
ASF	141	Artiodactyla	Philippine warty pig	Philippines	VU
BT	1	Artiodactyla	Mouflon	Andorra	NT
HPAI	1	Accipitriformes	Cinereous Vulture	Korea (Rep. of)	NT

¹ This assessment is based on the definition of zoonosis documented in the Tripartite Guide to Addressing Zoonotic Diseases in Countries: “infectious diseases that can be spread between animals and humans; can be spread by food, water, fomites, or vectors.”

Disease	Cases	Order	Species (common name)	Reporting countries/territories	Conservation Status *
HPAI	1	Anseriformes	Lesser white-fronted goose	Austria	VU
HPAI	1	Psittaciformes	Sooty Shearwater	Chile	NT
HPAI	2	Anseriformes	Common Pochard	Korea (Rep. of) and Switzerland	VU
HPAI	5	Suliformes	Snowy Owl	Canada	VU
HPAI	1	Charadriiformes	Red Knot	Netherlands	NT
HPAI	1	Anseriformes	Long-tailed Duck	Canada	VU
HPAI	3	Carnivora	Sea otter	Japan	EN
HPAI	18	Gruiformes	Hooded crane	Japan	VU
HPAI	2	Gruiformes	White-naped crane	Japan	VU
HPAI	6	Charadriiformes	Inca Tern	Chile	NT
HPAI	1	Carnivora	Otter	Norway	NT
HPAI	3	Anseriformes	White-winged Scoter	Canada	VU
HPAI	5	Charadriiformes	Eurasian Curlew	Netherlands and United Kingdom	NT
HPAI	1	Carnivora	Lion	United States of America	VU
HPAI	1	Carnivora	Leopard	India	VU
HPAI	8	Carnivora	Tiger	India and United States of America	EN
HPAI	2	Procellariiformes	Peruvian diving-petrel	Chile	NT
HPAI	3	Phaethontiformes	Dalmatian pelican	Greece	NT
HPAI	762	Phaethontiformes	Peruvian pelican	Chile and Peru	NT
HPAI	123	Trogoniformes	Guanay Cormorant	Chile and Peru	NT
HPAI	2	Trogoniformes	Red-legged Cormorant	Chile	NT
HPAI	2	Phaethontiformes	Black-faced spoonbill	Chinese Taipei	EN
HPAI	6	Charadriiformes	Black-legged Kittiwake	Canada, Iceland, Netherlands and United Kingdom	VU
HPAI	5	Anseriformes	Common Eider	Netherlands and United Kingdom	NT
HPAI	1	Strigiformes	Humboldt Penguin	Chile and Peru	VU
HPAI	1	Charadriiformes	Elegant Tern	Chile	NT
HPAI	1	Charadriiformes	Northern Lapwing	Sweden	NT

*NT=Near threatened; VU=vulnerable; EN= endangered; CR= critically endangered

Global and regional impact

Reporting and impact on biodiversity

Out of the 244 species for which cases were reported, 33 (13%) have a threatened status according to the IUCN classification. They constitute 8% of cases reported in wildlife over the period. Species threatened with extinction are less numerous and rely on a limited geographic distribution. Four species are classified as “Endangered” (EN), 13 as “Vulnerable” (VU), and 16 as “Near threatened” (NT) (see Figure 3 and Table 2), and the fact that they are affected by animal disease is extremely concerning

Of the 14 diseases reported, HPAI is the one that affected the highest number of threatened species (29 out of 33), Anthrax affected two, while Bluetongue and ASF affected one specie each.

The detection of HPAI in species with a vulnerable conservation status is a common and consistent finding in our analysis, highlighting the potentially detrimental impact of this disease on biodiversity conservation. Further scientific studies, such as a longitudinal wildlife population assessment, would be needed to measure the impact of the disease.

Bluetongue was known in tropical regions but nowadays, it also affects domestic and wild ruminants in septentrional areas, causing clinical signs depending on the host species and breed. It can directly or indirectly affect wildlife and biodiversity conservation.

Protected **European** ungulate species, such as European Bison and Mouflon, are severely affected by the disease while indirect effects affect predators, such as Iberian Lynx, whose food supply might be affected. Bluetongue has also been detected in the **Americas** with little knowledge on its impact on wild hosts. It was however suggested that endangered species such as the Brazilian dwarf brocket deer (*Mazama nana*) may show deadly haemorrhagic bluetongue disease. In **Asia and Oceania**, the disease was reported in domestic host species, while serosurveillance has detected positive wild mammals in India with uncharacterised clinical manifestations.

Reporting is crucial because information on the disease's effects in the wild is lacking.

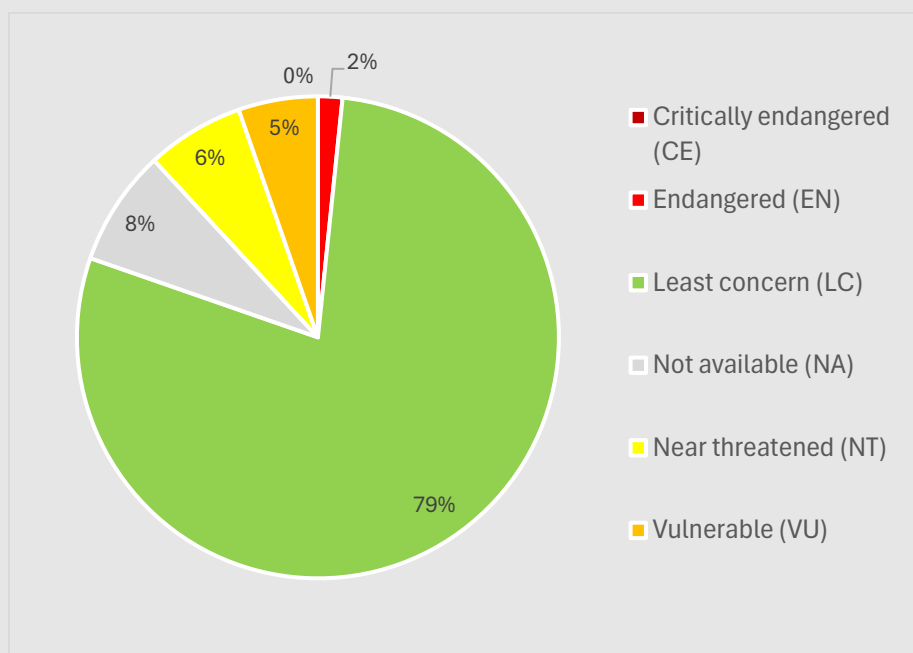


Figure 3. Percentage of reported species falling under the different IUCN categories

Just considering only species with “Endangered” (EN) IUCN status, HPAI was detected in three wild sea otters in Japan, eight tigers in India and in the United States of America, and two Black-faced spoonbills in Chinese Taipei. To provide an idea of the potential impact of HPAI occurrence in these species, it is relevant to highlight that:

- [Sea otter](#): Sea Otters currently have established populations in parts of the Kuril Islands, the Russian east coast, and throughout coastal Alaska to California. Population estimates from 2000–2018 estimate the global population at ca. 129,000 Sea Otters as stated by the IUCN Red List.
- [Tigers](#) have an estimated population of 2608-3905 (best estimate: 3140) mature individuals, with a decreasing population according to IUCN Red List. The population is considered resident in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation and Thailand.
- [Black-faced spoonbills](#) have an estimated population of 2,250 mature individuals, with an increasing population as per IUCN Red List. They breed on islets off the west coast of the Korean peninsula, and offshore islets in Liaoning province in mainland China. Birds have been reported in the Tumen estuary of Russia.

Finally, important mortality events were reported in the “Near Threatened” Peruvian pelican (762 cases) due to HPAI in Chile and Peru, and in the “Vulnerable” Philippine warty pig (141 cases) due to ASF in the Philippines. Regarding these species:

- According to IUCN Red List, precise data on [Philippine warty pig](#) population is lacking for most islands, particularly the smaller ones. Hunting pressure and other affecting their habitats factors have left populations highly fragmented and declining.
- [Peruvian pelican](#) has an estimated population of 100,000-1,000,000 individuals. The species could have been affected by the El Niño event of 1998, and population declines over 36 years (three generations) are thought to have been of 10-19% based on the IUCN Red List.

Reporting and impact on public health

HPAI has a recognised zoonotic potential. In the current situation, it is worrying to observe that the number of cases in mammals has increased and that the virus has adapted to infect mammals more efficiently. Just in this situation report HPAI was reported in **24 mammal species**, belonging to **Carnivora, and Rodentia orders**: American Mink, Arctic Fox, Bobcat, Canadian lynx, Domestic cat, Ermine, Eurasian Lynx, Felidae (unidentified), Geoffroy's cat, Gray squirrel, Harbor Seal, House mouse, Leopard, Leopard Cat, Lion, Otter, Puma, Raccoon (Northern raccoon), Red Fox, Sea otter, Serval, Striped Skunk, Tiger, and Wild cat. This might indicate ongoing adaptation to new mammalian hosts and potential future risks for human health, although currently, the human infections are still sporadic. The increased number of HPAI cases reported in mammals is a trend observed since 2021 (for additional information, see the [HPAI situation reports](#)). This trend has led to a [statement of WOA](#) on avian influenza in mammals to increase awareness, monitoring and analysis of wild mammals, acknowledging the risk that H5N1 avian influenza may increasingly adapt to mammals.

Several outbreaks of eight common zoonoses (anthrax, *Brucella suis*, CCHF, MTB, NWS, Rabies, Tularemia, WNF) were reported in 12 countries (Armenia, Austria, Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Estonia, Germany, Guatemala, Israel, Luxembourg, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, and Slovenia).

From a public health perspective, some events are relevant to be mentioned:

- [*Brucella suis*](#) was reported in an unusual host, three European Hares in Austria
- In Israel, an ongoing assessment of [Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever virus \(CCHF\)](#) allowed detection of the virus for the first time in the country. Herds of beef, cattle, sheep and goats were sampled for serological screening. Additionally, ticks were used for direct PCR screening of the CCHF virus. While all serological screenings of small ruminants returned negative, some herds returned serologically positive and CCHF genetic material was identified from several ticks collected (confirmed by the Central Virology Laboratory of the Israeli Ministry of Health, sequencing ongoing). Additional ticks collected from wild animals were also found PCR-positive (golden jackals, dog, fox and wild boars). Hence, the virus circulation in nature is confirmed, while no human cases have been identified in Israel till now.
- [New World Screwworm](#) was reported in a new area of Mexico. The disease was reported in several domestic species and one wild species: the Eurasian Sparrowhawk
- [Rabies](#) was reported in Namibia in a quite unusual host species: a Cape fur seal. Cases of rabies in Cape fur seals have been previously reported as well in South Africa, but this remains a unique situation, as rabies was not previously found to be endemic in a marine mammal population. Rabies in seals is rare: cases were reported in Svalbard in the 1980s. While the risk to humans can be managed through effective risk communication, the potential for spread within the seal colonies (two million seals across 30 colonies in Angola, Namibia, and South Africa, where close proximity and territorial fights are common) still needs assessment.
- [Tularemia](#) was reported for the first time in the country in Luxembourg in three European Hares.
- [West Nile fever](#) was reported for the first time in the country in Estonia a Northern Goshawk.

Reporting and impact on domestic animal health and welfare

During the reporting period, most of the outbreaks of non-zoonotic diseases were related to the occurrence of **ASF in wild boars** in Europe, and **CSF in wild boars** in Japan. ASF is one of the major animal diseases currently threatening global livestock and food security (for more information see the [African swine fever situation reports](#)). The main challenge of ASF is its sylvatic cycle, which makes the disease hard to eradicate. Reduction of wild boars density due to the disease may have indirect effects also on increased predation of [livestock](#).

Regarding the occurrence of **HPAI**, the dynamics of the disease at the poultry/wildlife interface can also impact food security (for additional information see the [HPAI situation reports](#)).

More information and resources

- [Statement on avian influenza and mammals](#)
- [Avian Influenza and Wildlife: Risk Management for People Working with Wild Birds](#)
- [Continued expansion of HPAI H5 in wildlife in South America and incursion into the Antarctic region \(OFFLU statement\)](#)
- [Considerations for emergency vaccination of wild birds against high pathogenicity avian influenza in specific situations](#)
- [African swine fever in wild boar ecology and biosecurity](#)
- [African swine fever awareness and technical resources](#)
- [In-country wildlife disease surveillance report 2021](#)
- [In-country wildlife data management survey dashboard 2023](#)

For any press inquiry on diseases in wildlife, you can email us at media@woah.org

Complete list of species for which cases were reported in December 2023 is available on demand at epi@woah.org.

To contact the wildlife team at WOAHP use wildlife@woah.org.