

*Monthly global update on exceptional disease events of terrestrial wildlife reported to WOA  
Situation report period covered – January 2023*

Wildlife co-exists alongside humans and domestic animals around the world. Each species contributes to the careful balance of the ecosystems in which they live. The health of wildlife is deeply entwined with the health of other animals, the environment and humans. By protecting wildlife health, we safeguard biodiversity and invest in a healthier, more sustainable future.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) closely monitors the situation of select diseases in terrestrial wildlife, based on reports provided by Members. They are legally bound to provide disease information when they become members of the Organisation. This includes about 80 diseases listed by WOA, as well as emerging diseases<sup>1</sup>. Members can also send, on a voluntary basis, information to WOA on relevant events for other diseases.

The objective of the monthly situation report is to provide a better visibility to exceptional disease events in wildlife for communication purposes through mandatory reporting to WOA for listed and emerging diseases and voluntary reporting of any other relevant information<sup>2</sup>. The events highlighted in this report represent exceptional changes in global disease dynamics in wildlife, that have been detected and reported by National authorities. Stable situations of wildlife diseases are not in the scope of this report. This data may have some bias, by being either incomplete or presenting variations in data granularity (depending on the Member reporting). However, it is the official global reference of animal health information reported by national authorities, using a standard template and a standard data format.

### **Surveillance activities in wildlife**

Accurate reporting on disease situation in wildlife relies on a proper surveillance system in place at country level. National resources allocated to surveillance of diseases in wildlife is sometimes limited and this has an impact on the accuracy of the information reported. To provide background information on surveillance in wildlife and enable a better understanding of the quality and gaps in reporting, a map showing the number of diseases listed by WOA for which surveillance is reported in wildlife among the 81 diseases listed in 2019, is provided in figure 1. In 2019, 165 Members and non-Members have reported surveillance

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<sup>1</sup> means a new occurrence in an animal of a disease, infection or infestation, causing a significant impact on animal or public health resulting from: a) a change of a known pathogenic agent or its spread to a new geographic area or species; or b) a previously unrecognised pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time.

<sup>2</sup> Although Member Countries are only required to notify listed diseases and emerging diseases, they are encouraged to provide the OIE with other important animal health information.

activity in wildlife for at least one listed disease. On average countries report surveillance for 19 listed diseases in wildlife (minimum = 0; maximum = 81) with significant differences among and within regions.

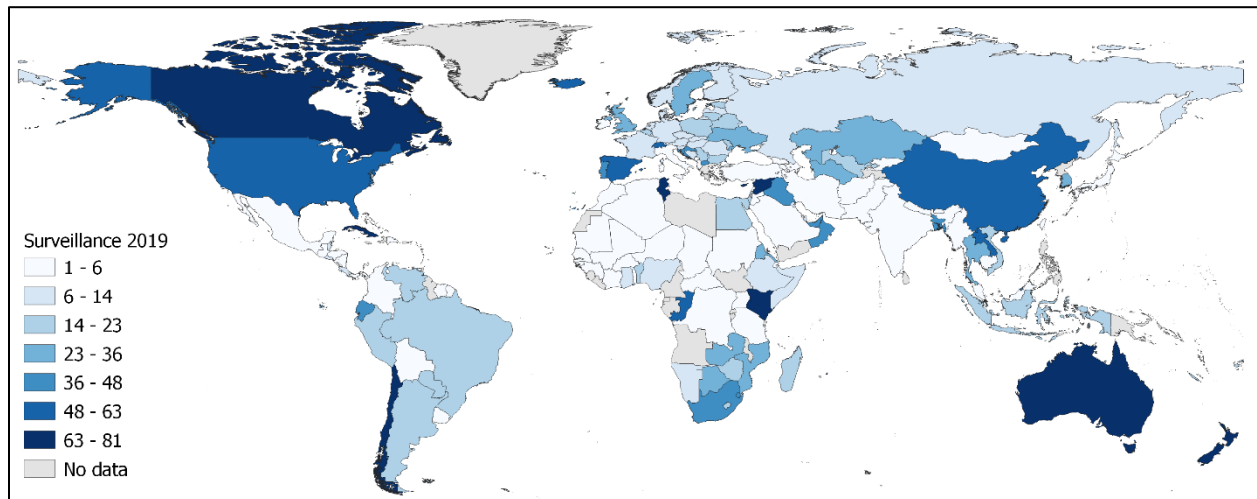


Figure 1. Number of diseases listed by WOA for which surveillance is reported in terrestrial wildlife (data referring to situation reported by countries to WOA in 2019 – being the most complete year for wildlife disease reporting).

### Recent exceptional disease events in terrestrial wildlife (which were reported for the month covered by this report)

In total **1,340 new outbreaks** with **3,090 cases** of [exceptional disease events](#)<sup>3</sup> (Figure 2 ) were reported in terrestrial wildlife during the month, through WOA's early warning system.

<sup>3</sup> Based on the criteria listed in Article 1.1.3.1 of the WOA Terrestrial Animal Health Code

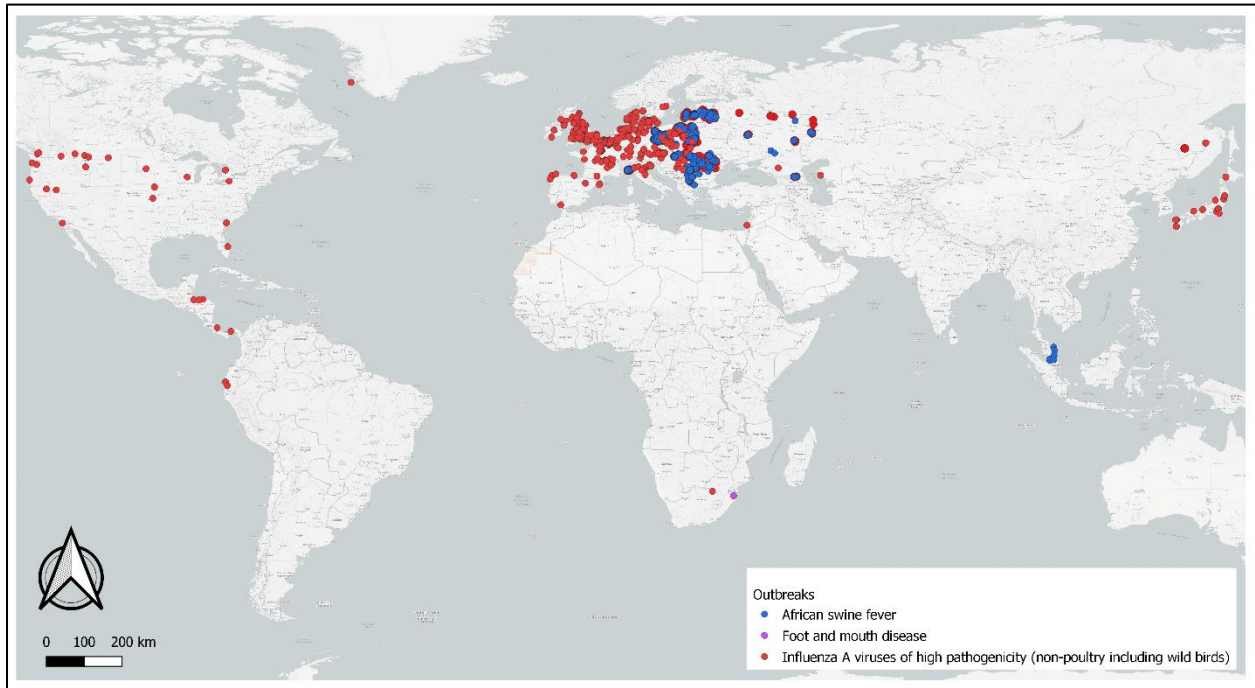


Figure 2. New outbreaks of exceptional disease events reported during the period in terrestrial wildlife

Outbreaks were reported in countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe (Figure 3), specifically of **African swine fever (ASF)**, **Foot and mouth disease (FMD)**, and **HPAI in non-poultry (HPAI)**. A higher density of outbreaks can be observed in the Europe Region, potentially linked to more extensive surveillance in place in wildlife. Cases have been reported in 70 different wild species belonging to 12 orders (Table 1, Table 2, and Annex 1).

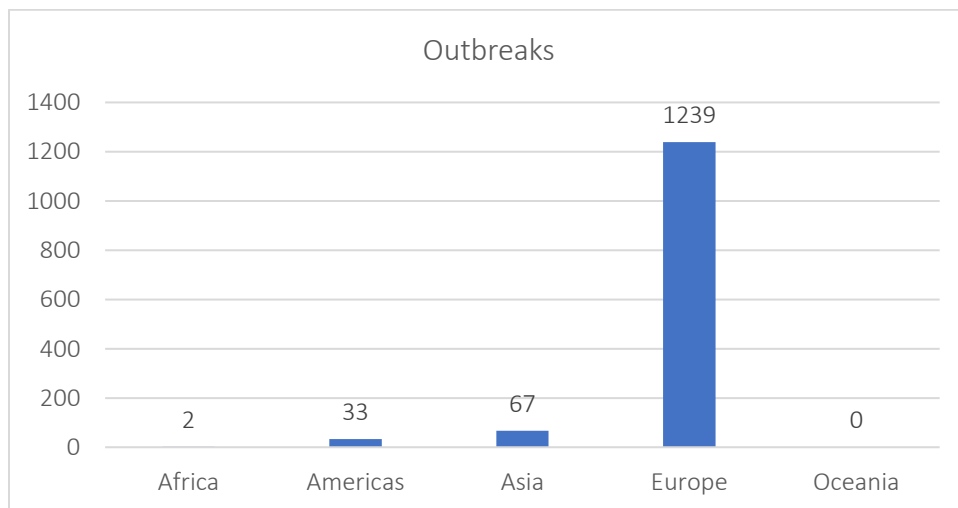


Figure 3: Number of outbreaks reported during the period and split by world region

Table 1 – Number of outbreaks reported by disease and information on zoonotic potential of the disease.

Disease	Outbreaks reported	Zoonotic disease
African swine fever	891	No
Foot and mouth disease	1	No
HPAI non-poultry	448	Yes

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 9 March 2023) This table provide the list of species with threaten status. The full list of species reported is provided in annex 1.

Disease	Cases	Order	Species	Endangered status*
ASF	5	<i>Cetartiodactyla</i>	<i>Sus barbatus</i>	VU
FMD	55	<i>Cetartiodactyla</i>	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	NT
HPAI non-poultry	1	Anseriformes	<i>Branta sandvicensis</i>	NT
HPAI non-poultry	566	<i>Gruiformes</i>	<i>Grus monacha</i>	VU
HPAI non-poultry	26	<i>Gruiformes</i>	<i>Grus vipio</i>	VU
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	NT
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Carnivora</i>	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	EN
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Accipitriformes</i>	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	EN
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	NT

\*NT=Near threatened; VU=vulnerable; EN: endangered

## Global and regional impact

### Reporting and impact on biodiversity

Out of the 70 species for which cases were reported, 9 of them (13%) have a threaten status according to the IUCN classification. In particular, four are classified as “Near threaten” (NT), three as “Vulnerable” (VU), and two as “Endangered” (EN) (figure 4). All the three reported diseases impacted at least on one species with threaten status, highlighting the impact of animal diseases on biodiversity conservation.

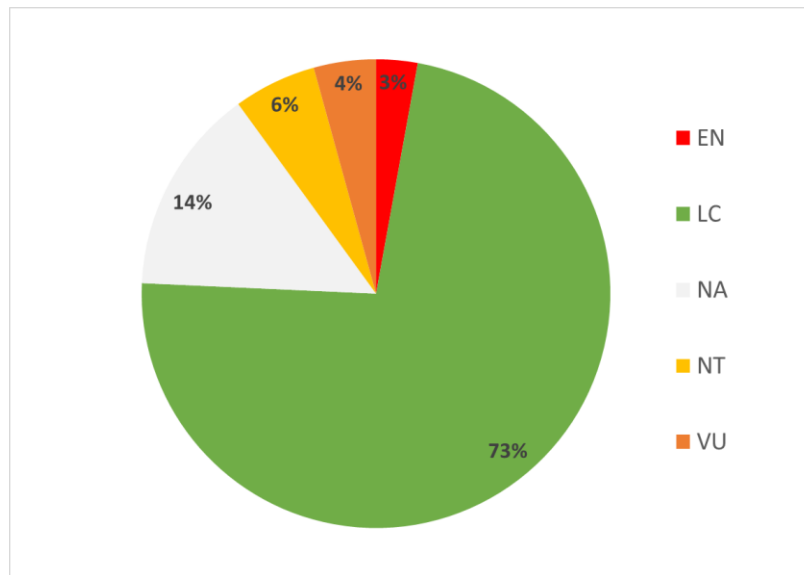


Figure 4: percentage of reported species falling under the different IUCN categories

In particular, regarding the species with endangered status, the Tiger, *Panthera tigris* has a global estimated population of 3,726 and 5,578 individuals that is constantly declining. This population estimate is the first reasonably rigorous census of worldwide Tiger populations, based on capture-recapture and occupancy methodologies. Based on IUCN definitions of mature individuals, this gives an estimated range of between 2,608 and 3,905 mature individuals, with a best estimate of 3,140<sup>4</sup>. The dead tiger in this case was a captive wild animal from the United States of America.

On the other hand, the Secretary bird, *Sagittarius serpentarius* has a global population estimation ranging from 6,700 to 67,000 individuals. The Sahel region of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Botswana, Eswatini and South Africa have all seen significant decline in their populations. The species is thought to be rapidly declining<sup>5</sup>.

The Hooded crane, *Grus monacca* is ranked as vulnerable by IUCN with an estimated population size of 6000-15000 individuals<sup>6</sup>. With 566 individuals affected by AI, the toll of the disease on this species can be considered as significant (4 to 9% of the population died).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/15955/214862019>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22696221/173647556>

<sup>6</sup> [Grus monacha \(Hooded Crane\) \(iucnredlist.org\) acceded on 14/03/2023](https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22696221/173647556)

Although not affecting endangered wild species in this report, African Swine fever could potentially threaten endemic wild pig species and lead to local population extinction, and cause generate tension for top predators that rely on wild boar as a main source of food.

#### Reporting and impact on Public health

Among the disease reported this month, only HPAI has a zoonotic potential. In particular, the report of HPAI cases in “unusual hosts” (*Lynx rufus*, *Mephitis mephitis*, *Panthera tigris*, *Procyon lotor*, *Puma concolor*, *Ursus arctos*, *Vulpes vulpes*), highlights the increased risk of transmission to mammals (including humans). This confirms a trend (increased number of HPAI cases reported in unusual hosts) observed since 2021 (for additional information please see also the [Highly pathogenic avian influenza situation reports](#)). This trend has led to a statement of WOAHA on avian influenza in mammals to increase awareness, monitoring and analysis of wild mammals<sup>7</sup>.

#### Reporting and impact on domestic animal’s health and welfare

During the period most of the outbreaks of non-zoonotic diseases reported were related to the occurrence of African swine fever in wild boar in Europe. African swine fever represents one of the main animal diseases that threaten to livestock and food security at global level (for additional information please see also the [African swine fever situation reports](#)). The major impact of African swine fever is linked to the establishment of a wildlife cycle that makes disease eradication challenging. Reduction of wild boar density may have indirect effects also on increase predation of livestock<sup>8</sup>.

Regarding the occurrence of HPAI it is relevant to highlight also in this case the dynamics of the disease at the poultry/wildlife interface with impacts on food security, and biodiversity conservation, (for additional information please see also the [Highly pathogenic avian influenza situation reports](#)).

### **Key messages**

For a century, WOAHA has managed repositories for animal health disease monitoring data from its Members. By providing a common tool through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), that is homogenous across countries, and founded on a basis of shared definitions and standards, we ensure that reporting is standardised and centralised. The information provided in this report on surveillance implementation in terrestrial wildlife shows major gaps in several parts of the world, which suggests that

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<sup>7</sup> [Statement on avian influenza and mammals - World Organisation for Animal Health \(woah.org\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X21010840>

the number of cases reported to WOAAH is significantly under-detected and underestimated. This summary however provides a picture of what has been detected and is useful to the international community.

The information provided in this monthly situation report highlights that:

- Surveillance activities reported in wildlife is largely variable among countries and regions.
- The reporting of exceptional events affecting wildlife in January concerned mainly ASF and HPAI in several regions.
- Several countries reported outbreaks for ASF and HPAI, which shows the widespread existence of surveillance activities for these two diseases.
- Several species with critical conservation status have been reported by countries, highlighting the importance of sharing this information for disease events that can threaten the conservation of biodiversity.
- The widespread detection of ASF and HPAI in wildlife represent a threat to livestock and food security at global level.

#### ***More information and resources***

- [Statement on avian influenza and mammals](#)
- [African swine fever in wild boar ecology and biosecurity](#)
- [Take action](#)
- [General resources](#)
- [Join our World Wildlife Day Webinar on March 3](#) (register here)

For any press inquiry on diseases in wildlife, you can email us at [media@woah.org](mailto:media@woah.org)

**Annex 1**

Complete list of species for which cases were reported in January 2023. The number of cases are reported by order, and animal species; conservation status of each species, based on IUCN red list of threatened species (database accessed on 9 March 2023).

Disease	Cases	Order	Species	Endangered status*
ASF	5	<i>Cetartiodactyla</i>	<i>Sus barbatus</i>	VU
ASF	1314	<i>Cetartiodactyla</i>	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	LC
FMD	55	<i>Cetartiodactyla</i>	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	NT
HPAI	1	<i>Accipitriformes</i>	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	4	<i>Accipitriformes</i>	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	5	<i>Accipitriformes</i>	<i>Accipitridae ( unidentified)</i>	NA
HPAI non-poultry	2	NA	<i>Species unknown</i>	NA
HPAI non-poultry	5	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	2	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Anas acuta</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	4	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Anas penelope</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	14	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	51	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Anatidae (unidentified)</i>	NA
HPAI non-poultry	6	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	85	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Anser anser</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	21	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	3	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	19	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Anserinae (unidentified)</i>	NA
HPAI non-poultry	4	<i>Pelecaniformes</i>	<i>Ardea alba</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	10	<i>Pelecaniformes</i>	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	4	<i>Pelecaniformes</i>	<i>Ardeidae (unidentified)</i>	NA



Disease	Cases	Order	Species	Endangered status*
HPAI non-poultry	3	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	46	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	21	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Branta sandvicensis</i>	NT
HPAI non-poultry	3	<i>Pelecaniformes</i>	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	35	<i>Accipitriformes</i>	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Accipitriformes</i>	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	212	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Columbiformes</i>	<i>Columba livia</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	4	<i>Passeriformes</i>	<i>Corvidae ( unidentified)</i>	NA
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Passeriformes</i>	<i>Corvus corax</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	3	<i>Passeriformes</i>	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	10	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Cygnus ( unidentified)</i>	NA
HPAI non-poultry	34	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	175	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	2	<i>Pelecaniformes</i>	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	3	<i>Pelecaniformes</i>	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	15	<i>Falconiformes</i>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Falconiformes</i>	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	2	<i>Falconiformes</i>	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	LC

Disease	Cases	Order	Species	Endangered status*
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Gruiformes</i>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Gaviiformes</i>	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	566	<i>Gruiformes</i>	<i>Grus monacha</i>	VU
HPAI non-poultry	26	<i>Gruiformes</i>	<i>Grus vipio</i>	VU
HPAI non-poultry	12	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Laridae ( unidentified)</i>	NA
HPAI non-poultry	14	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	2	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	3	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	4	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Carnivora</i>	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	7	<i>Carnivora</i>	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	NT
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Carnivora</i>	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	EN
HPAI non-poultry	196	<i>Pelecaniformes</i>	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	2	<i>Suliformes</i>	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	40	<i>Galliformes</i>	<i>Phasianidae (incognita)</i>	NA
HPAI non-poultry	2	<i>Carnivora</i>	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	6	<i>Psittaciformes</i>	<i>Psittacidae (incognita)</i>	NA
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Carnivora</i>	<i>Puma concolor</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Accipitriformes</i>	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	EN

Disease	Cases	Order	Species	Endangered status*
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Scolopacidae (incognita)</i>	NA
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Anseriformes</i>	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	NT
HPAI non-poultry	1	<i>Suliformes</i>	<i>Sula neboxii</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	2	<i>Charadriiformes</i>	<i>Uria aalge</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	4	<i>Carnivora</i>	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	LC
HPAI non-poultry	3	<i>Carnivora</i>	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	LC

\*LC= Least concern; NT=Near threatened; VU=vulnerable; EN: endangered