



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Managing large-scale highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in wild birds

Webinar

10 February 2022

Agenda



Wild birds are the natural reservoir for avian influenza viruses and constitute a driver for the long distance spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Since the start of the current epidemic in July 2020 in Central Asia, H5 HPAI viruses have been introduced through wild bird migrations into Eurasia, Africa, and more recently into the Americas. H5 HPAI has had significant impacts on the poultry industry and farmer livelihoods as well as on wild bird populations. Indeed, massive mortalities in wild birds have been recorded over the past years including in South Africa, Namibia, and more recently in Senegal, Israel, or the United Kingdom, all caused by H5 HPAI viruses. The management of such disease events in wild birds can be challenging, and conservation of endangered species, the environment and prevention of further virus spread are the goal. Access to wetlands can be difficult, options for carcass removal and disposal depend on prevailing conditions. FAO is organizing this webinar so affected countries and international experts can share their experiences and lessons learnt with the global community.

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Time (CET)	Topics	Speakers
13:00 - 13:05	Welcome and opening remarks	<i>Keith Sumption, FAO</i>
13:05 - 13:15	Short introduction to avian influenza in wild birds	<i>David Swayne, USDA</i>
13:15 - 14:05	Management of large-scale HPAI outbreaks in wild birds – field examples	<i>Moderator: Eran Raizman, FAO</i>
	Israel – cranes, December 2021 (20 min)	<i>Tamir Goshen, CVO Roni King, Nature and Parks Authority</i>
	Senegal – pelicans, January 2021 (10 min)	<i>Speaker tbc</i>
	Namibia – penguins, 2019 and sea birds, 2022 (10 min)	<i>Jessica Kemper, tbc</i>
	South Africa – sea birds, January 2018 (10 min)	<i>Laura Roberts, Western Cape Department of Agriculture/University of Pretoria</i>
14:05 - 14:15	Recommendations for wild bird carcass removal in field locations that are difficult to access	<i>Richard Kock, RVC</i>
14:15 - 14:30	Questions and Answers	<i>Moderator: Sophie von Dobschuetz, FAO</i>
	Webinar closure	<i>Madhur Dhingra, FAO</i>