

WILDLIFE DISEASES

Situation Report 02/25

Period covered: Jul – Sep 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, **37 countries and territories** reported **1,458 outbreaks** and **2,785 cases** of **WOAH listed diseases** in wildlife. Cases related to **8 diseases** were reported in **105 different wildlife species**, **10%** 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 **10 threatened species** have been reported, representing **1% of the total number of cases** notified during the period. 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, **three other diseases** played an unexpectedly significant role in terms of impact on biodiversity: **Anthrax**, which affected one species with 'Near threatened' (African buffalo) and 'Vulnerable' (Hippopotamus) status in Congo (Dem. Rep. of the); **New world screwworm (NWS)** which affected one species with 'Near threatened' (Black Howler Monkey) status in Belize and one species with 'Vulnerable' (Lion) status in Guatemala; and finally **West Nile Fever (WNF)**, which affected one species with 'Near threatened' status (Chilean Flamingo), in Germany.
- From a public health perspective, it is important to highlight that during the period, six out of

the eight diseases reported are classified as zoonoses.

Recent updates (July – September 2025)

In total 1,458 new outbreaks with 2,785 cases of [exceptional disease events](#) in terrestrial wildlife (based on the criteria listed in Article 1.1.3. of WOA *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* - Figure 1) were notified to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) 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* and they are available in the [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 among WOA-listed diseases.

Outbreaks were reported in Africa, in the Americas, in Asia, and in Europe (see Figure 1 and 2). Specifically, Members reported infection with African swine fever virus (ASF), Anthrax, infection with classical swine fever virus (CSF), infection with foot and mouth disease virus (FMD), infection of birds other than poultry—including wild birds—with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity (HPAI), New world screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) (NWS), infection with rabies virus (rabies), and West Nile Fever (WNF).

As shown in Figure 2, most outbreaks (94%) were reported in Europe, possibly because of more extensive wildlife surveillance and/or reporting activities. Most of the outbreaks reported in the Americas and Europe were associated with the presence or spread of HPAI in these regions, while in Asia the outbreaks were mainly associated with Classical Swine Fever. Most of the outbreaks reported in the Americas, Asia and Africa were associated with the spread of HPAI.

The diseases with the highest global number of outbreaks reported were, as in previous reports, ASF (1,130 outbreaks) and HPAI (270 outbreaks).

Cases of these diseases were reported in 105 different wild species belonging to 19 orders (see Table 1 and Table 2).

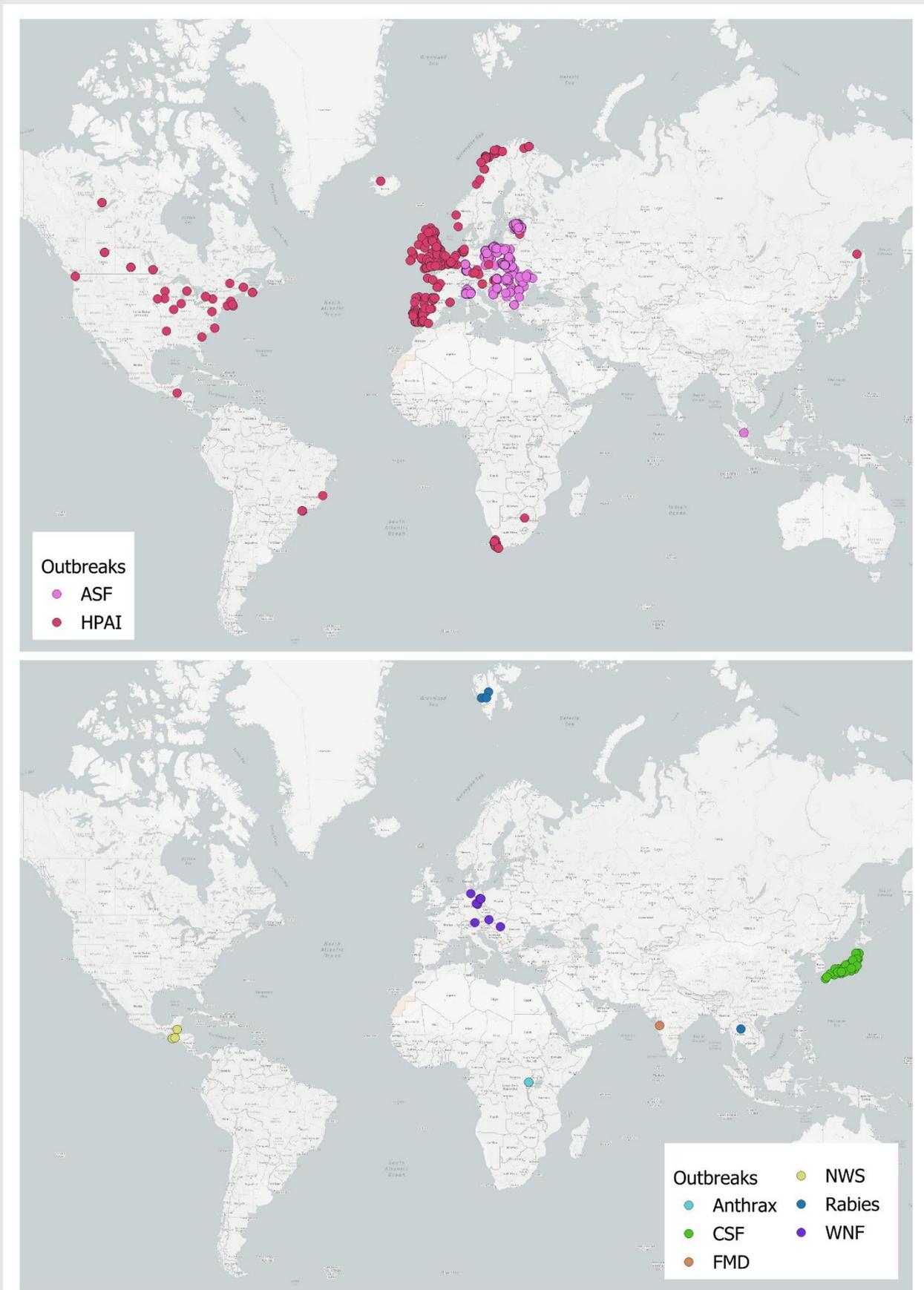


Figure 1. New outbreaks of exceptional disease events reported during the period in terrestrial wildlife. Due to the large number of their outbreaks, ASF and HPAI are presented in a separate map. ASF = infection with African swine fever virus; CSF= infection with classical swine fever virus ; FMD = infection with foot and mouth disease virus; HPAI = Infection of birds other than poultry, including wild birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity; NWS= New world screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*); WNF = West Nile fever.

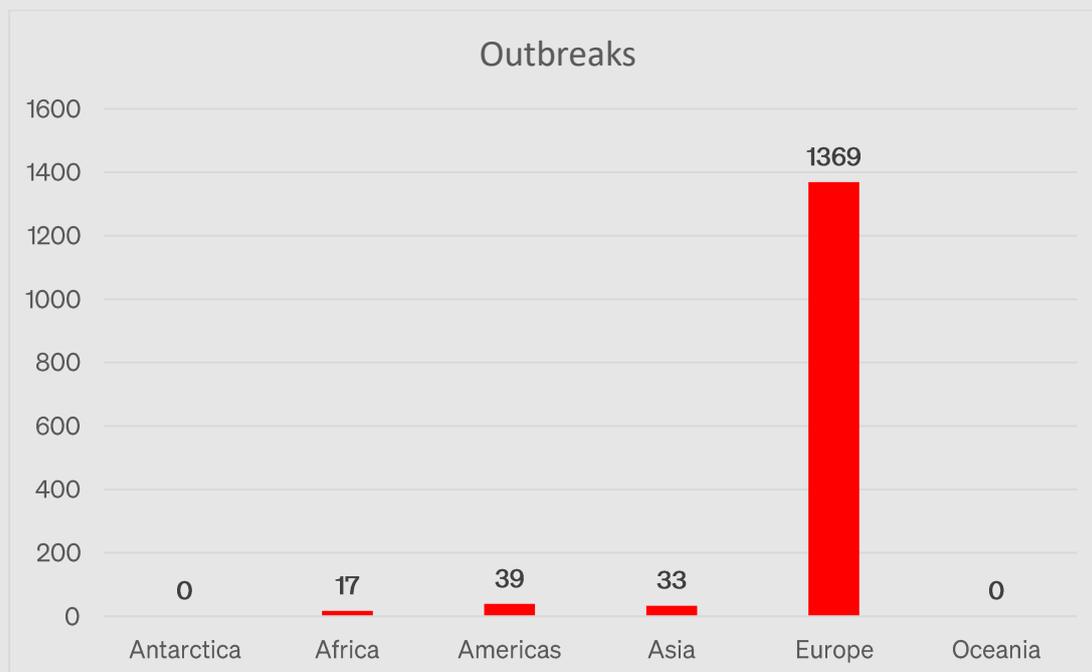


Figure 2. Number of outbreaks reported during the period by world region.

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

Disease	Outbreaks reported	Zoonotic disease
ASF	1375	No
Anthrax	3	Common
CSF	115	No
FMD	3	Minimal
HPAI	1257	Common
NWS	4	Common
Rabies	2	Common
WNF	26	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	1	Artiodactyla	Hippopotamus	Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)	VU
Anthrax	2	Artiodactyla	African buffalo (Cape buffalo)	Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)	NT
HPAI	1	Suliformes	Snowy Owl	United States of America	VU
HPAI	2	Charadriiformes	Atlantic Puffin	United Kingdom	VU
HPAI	1	Anseriformes	Marbled teal	Spain	NT
HPAI	3	Trogoniformes	Cape cormorant	South Africa	EN

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	15	Charadriiformes	Black-legged Kittiwake	Belgium, Ireland, United Kingdom	VU
NWS	2	Primates	Black Howler Monkey	Belize	NT
NWS	1	Carnivora	Lion	Guatemala	VU
WNF	2	Piciformes	Chilean Flamingo	Germany	NT

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

Global and regional impact

Reporting and impact on biodiversity

Out of the 105 species for which cases were reported, 10 (10%) have a threatened status according to the IUCN classification. They constitute 1% of cases reported in wildlife over the period. Species threatened with extinction are less numerous and rely on a limited geographic distribution. One species is classified as “Endangered” (EN), five as “Vulnerable” (VU), and four 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 (5 out of 10), Anthrax and NWS affected two each, while WNF affected one species.

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.

New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is endemic to the Americas and can pose a threat to animal and human health by causing aggressive myiasis -an infestation by fly larvae- that rapidly destroys living tissue, leading to pain, secondary infection and mortality. In wildlife, neonates, slow-moving species and animals with routine wounds from mating, territorial fights or ectoparasites are particularly at risk. Beyond direct mortality, NWS alters behaviour and welfare, increases susceptibility to other diseases, and can shift predator-prey dynamics by weakening both predators and prey. Wildlife with chronic wounds can also act as reservoirs, sustaining fly populations.

The disease was eradicated from some part of the New World but remain under surveillance due to impact on human, domestic animals and wild species some of which being threatened; potential reintroduction, and potential evolution in a changing climate. **This disease poses challenges that need to be solved through with One Health approach.**

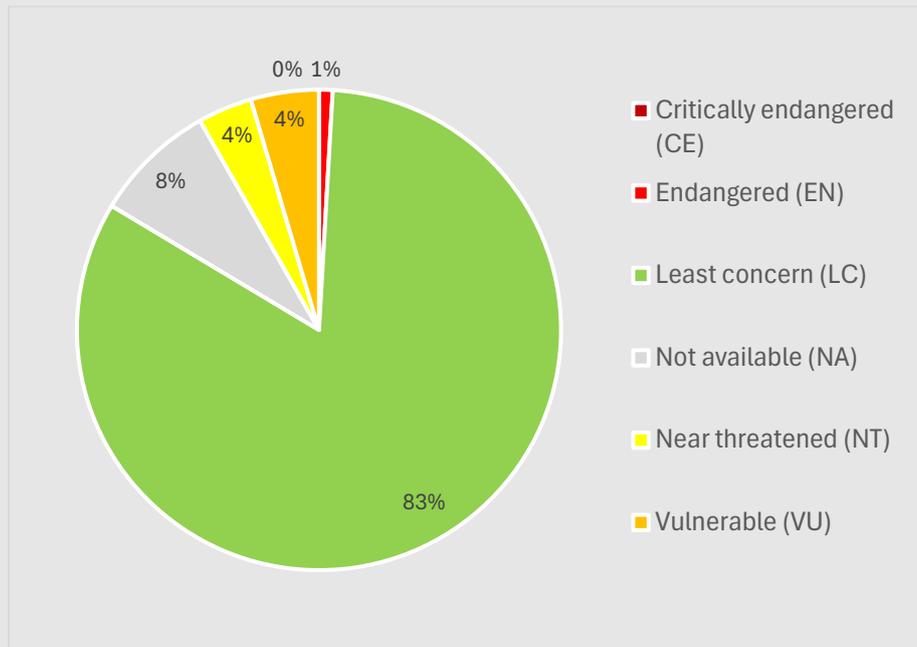


Figure 3. Percentage of reported species falling under the different IUCN categories

Just considering only species with “Endangered” (EN) IUCN status, HPAI was detected in three wild Cape cormorants in South Africa. To provide an idea of the potential impact of HPAI occurrence in this species, it is relevant to highlight that:

- [Cape cormorant](#) has a decreasing population estimated at 234,000 mature individuals. *Phalacrocorax capensis* is endemic to southern Africa, with a non-breeding range from Angola to Mozambique. Its breeding is mostly confined to the Benguela Current Commission area, with only one historical record outside it. Breeding distribution has shifted north and south, declining in the centre, partly due to eastward shifts of key prey species.

Relevant mortality events were reported in the “Near Threatened” Black-legged Kittiwake (15 cases) due to HPAI in Belgium, Ireland, and United Kingdom. Regarding these species:

- [Black-legged Kittiwake](#) has a global population of about 14.6–15.7 million individuals, with Europe holding over half of it. European populations have declined sharply since the 1980s and are projected to drop by over 40% in 39 years. Trends in North America are mostly stable or show only small declines, though Alaska saw reduced breeding success. Overall, global data suggest a long-term decline of around 30–49% over three generations. In particular, trophic shifts in the Atlantic appear to have removed the prey base for a large proportion of the population over a relatively short timeframe.

Reporting and impact on public health

HPAI has a recognised zoonotic potential. The number of cases in mammals has increased in the past months meaning the virus has adapted to infect mammals more efficiently. This situation is worrying from a public health perspective. HPAI was reported in **3 mammal species**, belonging to **Carnivora orders**: Striped Skunk, Raccoon (Northern raccoon), and Red Fox in this reporting period. Other mammalian species are reported through article 1.1.5 dedicated dashboard [here](#). 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 the other four common zoonoses (anthrax, NWS, Rabies, WNF) were reported in 8 countries (Austria, Belize, Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Norway, Thailand).

From a public health perspective, it is worth mentioning that [New World Screwworm](#) was reported in a new area of Belize. The disease was reported in several domestic species and one wild species: the Black Howler Monkey, which has a Near Threatened conservation status.

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 Asia, 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.

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 this report is available on demand at epi@woah.org.

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