

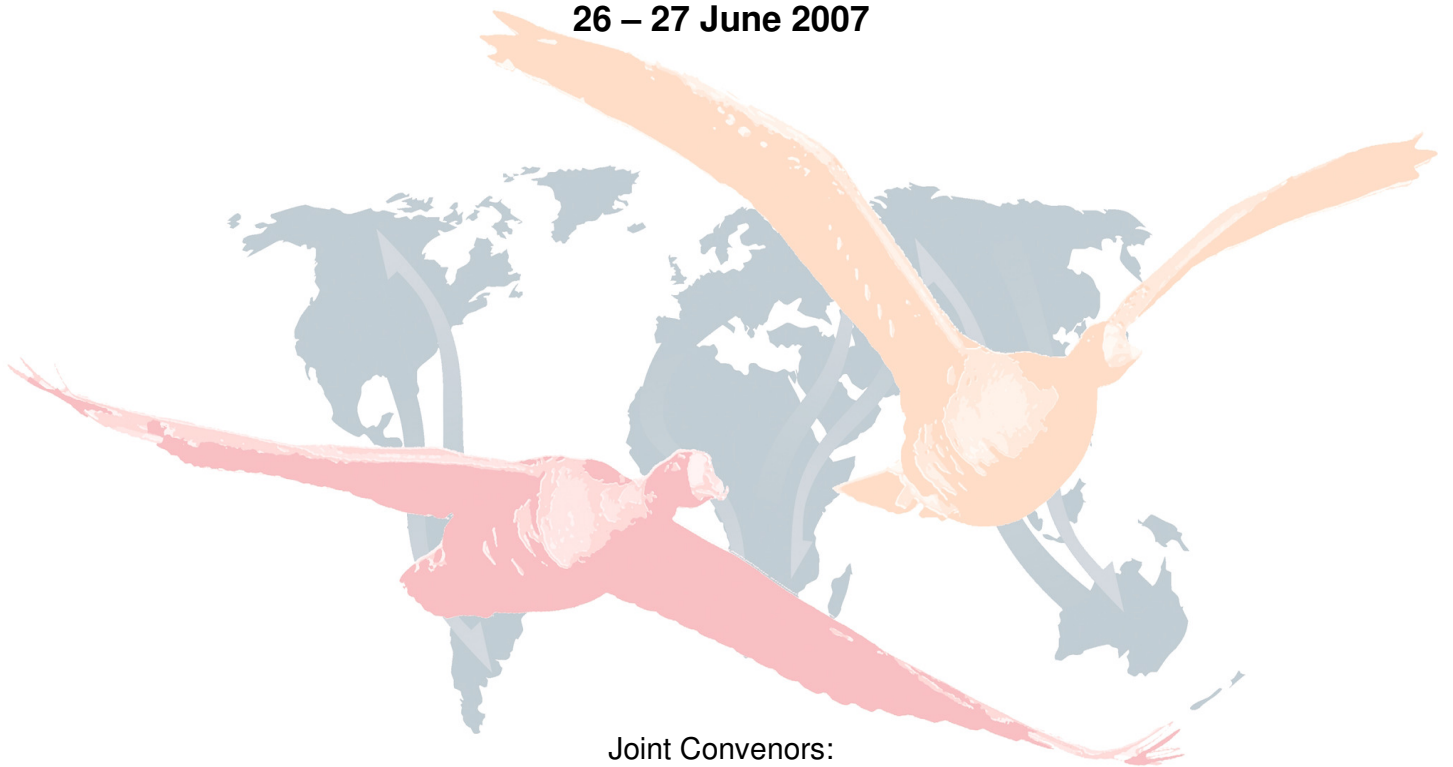


2nd Technical Meeting of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza & Wild Birds

Avian Influenza & Wildlife Workshop on 'Practical Lessons Learned'

Aviemore, Scotland

26 – 27 June 2007



Joint Convenors:
UNEP/CMS, SNH



Co-Sponsors:

SNH, FAO, WCS & USAID





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**Avian Influenza & Wildlife Workshop
on 'Practical Lessons Learned'**

Aviemore, Scotland; 26 – 27 June 2007

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide a platform for discussion and information sharing on practical responses to Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N1) for members of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds and for invited experts.
- Carry out a review of recent experiences of handling outbreaks dealing with cases of Avian Influenza oriented towards wildlife experts, with special attention to those aspects relevant to scientific evaluation, communication with the media, response strategies in the field, epidemiology and coordination at the international level.
- Discuss the progress in establishing surveillance of the spread of the virus in the natural environment and early warning schemes in relation to increasing preparation in the field for reactivity to outbreaks.
- Issue guidelines on the possible direct responses and measures to be taken in cases of infection from and to wildlife in relation to the aspects mentioned above.
- Production of an information guide including the seminar guidelines to enable wildlife experts and managers to have a practical information tool at their disposal when responding to future AI outbreaks.

JOINT CONVENORS:

UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS)
 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
*on behalf of the Scientific Task Force
 on Avian Influenza & Wild Birds*



SPONSORS:

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
 Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
 Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) & USAID



OTHER SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

BirdLife International, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), Ramsar Convention, Wetlands International, Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

DURATION & VENUE:

2 full days (26 - 27 June 2007), Aviemore Conference Centre, Scotland, UK.

FORMAT:

The first half of day 1 of the workshop should serve to review the situation in the countries from which delegates are present. To get an overview, the situation in each region will be explained in the form of a short presentation followed by discussion. The second half of day 1 as well as day 2 should consist of a series of discussions structured into thematic sessions. Some of the issues for discussion during these sessions should also be introduced through short presentations and case studies at the beginning. After such an introduction the main focus of each session should be on active debate and exchange of experiences by all participants. At the end of session 5, practical guidelines flowing from the previous discussions should have been compiled. The following sessions are intended to be used to then agree and adopt the overall guidelines, which will be published as 'Practical lessons Learned' and to speak about international coordination in this context. The presentations as well as the guidelines will constitute the bulk of the proceedings.

OUTPUTS:

1. Proceedings of the Workshop, to be published in the form of an Information Guide
 - Guidelines about how to deal with outbreaks and die-out events in wild birds.
 - Summaries of the presentations given at the Workshop.
2. Workshop summary
3. Press release

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 TUESDAY 26 JUNE

- 09.00 - 09.30 **Formal opening by Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Executive and the Convention on Migratory Species**
- Outline of objectives of meeting
- 09.30 – 11.00 **1. Review of the situation in individual countries and recent related outbreaks (Chair: Rob Hepworth, CMS)**
- 09.30 – 10.00 Current overview of situation and developments since Nairobi (including development of NewFluBird European surveillance (Ward Hagemeijer, Wetlands International))
- Country case-studies**
- 10.00 – 10.20 Russia and Ukraine (Evgeny Kuznetsov & Sergei Khomenko)
- 10.20 – 10.40 Scotland (Ian Bainbridge, Scottish Executive)
- 10.40 – 11.00 Africa (John Mshelbwala, Nigeria & Ibrahim Hashim, Sudan)
- 11.00 – 11.25 **Tea or coffee**
- 11.25 – 12.05 East Asia (Lew Young, Hong Kong with inputs from Tan Setha, Cambodia & Exploitasia Semiawan, Indonesia)
- 12.05 – 12.20 Brief review of progress in implementing the main recommendations from the 2006 Nairobi Seminar (Rob Hepworth, CMS & David Stroud, JNCC)
- 12.20 – 12.40 Establishment of a national programme of targeted surveillance on wild birds (John Wilesmith, DEFRA & Ruth Cromie, WWT)
- 12.40 – 13.00 Round-table discussion and reflection on issues raised
- 13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch**
- 14.00 – 15.40 **2. Epidemiology – Tracing the sources of outbreaks (Chair: Ward Hagemeijer)**
- 14.00 - 14.25 An Example of an Inter-Disciplinary Approach from the Epidemiological Investigation of an Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in Great Britain (John Wilesmith, DEFRA)
- 14.25 – 15.45 Split in two groups (Europe [Chair: Ward Hagemeijer] & Asia/Africa/South America [Chair Taej Mundkur]) for round-table discussion and conclusions, including consideration of the following issues for which groups should aim to draft responses:
- **Protocols**
What, if any, current guidance exists to help guide epidemiological investigations?
 - **Species identification**

Are there still problems with the identification and correct reporting of species
a) near outbreaks; and/or b) in the context of surveillance?

[Possible analysis of quality of ornithological data reported to OIE over last
two years. Rebecca Lee & Ruth Cromie, WWT; 5 mins]

What can be done to improve this?

- **Understanding movement patterns**

What data and information is needed to understand potential infection routes
and further local spread?

Who can supply? Links to ornithological organisations and other data
holders

- **Local assessments**

How useful is the rapid assessment tool¹ developed by Wetlands
International for the European Commission? Has it been used? How to
further improve? Are there other examples?

- **Data and information exchange**

How adequate are international mechanisms to exchange and share data
related to outbreaks?

What (simple) things can be done to improve international data and
information exchange?

15.45 – 16.05 **Break**

16.05 – 17.30 **3. Two breakout groups (Europe and Africa/Asia/South America) to brainstorm the top ten future (regional) needs to aid preparation for further HPAI outbreaks (Facilitators: Taej Mundkur (Asia/Africa/South America) & Ruth Cromie (Europe))**

{Post-It Notes on the wall-type exercise involving all participants}

20.00 **Formal Dinner**

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/focus_wild_birds/avian_influenza/pdf/3.pdf and
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/focus_wild_birds/avian_influenza/pdf/site_assessments.pdf

**DAY 2
WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE**

- 09.00 - 10.45 **4. Handling the media (Chair: John Mshelbwala)**
- 09.00 – 09.20 Presentation on media-handling issues (Martin Fowlie, BirdLife International)
- 09.20 – 10.40 Round-table discussion of issues, including
- Proactive messages (what should these be?)
 - Reactive strategies (how to stay ahead of the press pack?)
- 10.40 - 11.00 *Tea or coffee*
- 11.00 – 13.00 **5. Contingency planning for and response strategies to outbreaks (Chair: William Karesh)**
- Three short presentations that will outline key issues for subsequent discussion:*
- 11.00 -11.15 Contingency planning for protected areas and wetland sites (Crawford Prentice, International Crane Foundation) including:
- Presentation of the International Crane Foundation's *Guidelines for Reducing Avian Influenza Risks at Wetland Protected Areas of International Importance for Migratory Waterbirds*
- 11.15 – 11.30 Contingency planning for captive collections/zoos (Ruth Cromie, WWT)
- 11.30 – 11.40 Implications of ecosystem breakdown for the spread of HPAI and intervention strategies (David Rapport, EcoHealth Consulting)
- 11.40 – 12.30 • Round table discussion of issues raised
- 12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch**
Circulation of draft guidelines and workshop summary
- 13.30 – 13.40 **Brief plenary presentation of key issues raised in the draft guidelines and workshop summary**
- 13.40 - 14.40 **6. Two breakout groups (Europe [Chair: Colin Galbraith] and Africa/Asia/South America [Chair: Rob Hepworth]) to read through and discuss the draft workshop summary and guidelines**

The aim of the session is to identify issues not included and other considerations to raise in the final session

14.40 – 15.20 7. **Joining it all up: between country and within country coordination (development of best practice guidance) (Chair: Scott Newman, FAO)**

Guided discussion of issues raised in integrating responses both *within* countries and *between* countries

- What good examples are there of the different sectors (including within government and between government and NGOs) working together?
- What needs to be done nationally to encourage greater collaborative working?
- What needs to be done internationally to encourage greater collaborative working between countries in response to regional AI outbreaks?

15.20 - 15.50 ***Tea or coffee***

15.50 - 17.00 8. **Discussion and adoption of guidelines & workshop summary (Chairs: Colin Galbraith)**

17.30 - 19.30 **Guided evening excursion to Insh Marshes Ramsar site, Scotland's largest unregulated flood-plain wetland**

20.00 ***Dinner***