



## I. INFLUENZA STATUS (UE/OIE)

On 16 November 2020, France confirmed an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza (HPAI) in Corsica, even though the country had been free of the disease for 3 years.

This first case was detected in the « animal » department of a garden centre near Bastia. The outbreak was notified in compliance with article 1.1 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the OIE on November, 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the epidemiological investigation conducted by the French veterinarian services allowed to trace the set of stakeholders involved in the animal flows, upstream and downstream of the outbreak. This investigation allowed to identify the source of contamination and the outbreaks epidemiologically linked, and to stabilize the French situation.

Supposedly, the origin of the contamination was identified at a private owner's located in the Nord department (59) who held a herd of 22 geese, nearby wet areas. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the private owner sold all his geese to a dealer in the same department (59) who immediately sold those geese (November, 4<sup>th</sup>) to the 3 "outbreak pet stores" (2 in Corsica (first and third outbreak notified), and the other one located in the Yvelines department (78), second outbreak to be notified).

The private owner located in the "Nord" department (59) doesn't have any more birds since November, 3<sup>rd</sup>, when he sold all his geese. Samplings were done on November, 24<sup>th</sup> in the environment (swabs) on site, permitting to validate the assumption of a common contamination from this area. An active monitoring of the farms located within a radius of 10km from the private's housing has been implemented : sanitary visits in all sites of detention of poultry and serological and virological analysis in farms holding palmipeds, at higher risk.

Results are good and proven of absence of viral circulation. Furthermore, reinforced monitoring of wild birds in this area by the *Office français de la biodiversité (OFB)* has not found abnormal mortalities.

**Those epidemiological elements and the fact that there is no birds left allows to confirm that this site is not to be considered as an outbreak.**

The downstream epidemiological links also allowed to trace all the private owners who bought birds in the pet stores contaminated. All the birds belonging to establishments identified as outbreak were slaughtered and cleaning and disinfection were done. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 40 sites had to proceed to virological analysis, with negative result, as part of epidemiological investigations. Outbreaks are closed, according to point 2 of article 10.4.4 of the OIE code and will be subjected to a follow up report.

Besides those investigations, strengthened monitoring implemented among the wild birds in the whole French territory allowed to detect a H5 HPAI case in wild fauna on December, 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. A barnacle goose was tested positive in "Morbihan" department (56). No professional farm is located within a radius of 5km from the area where this goose has been found and no contamination has been found either. This finding has been notified on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, in compliance with point 8 of article 10.4.1 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the OIE.

**At this day, no professional poultry farm has been contaminated.**

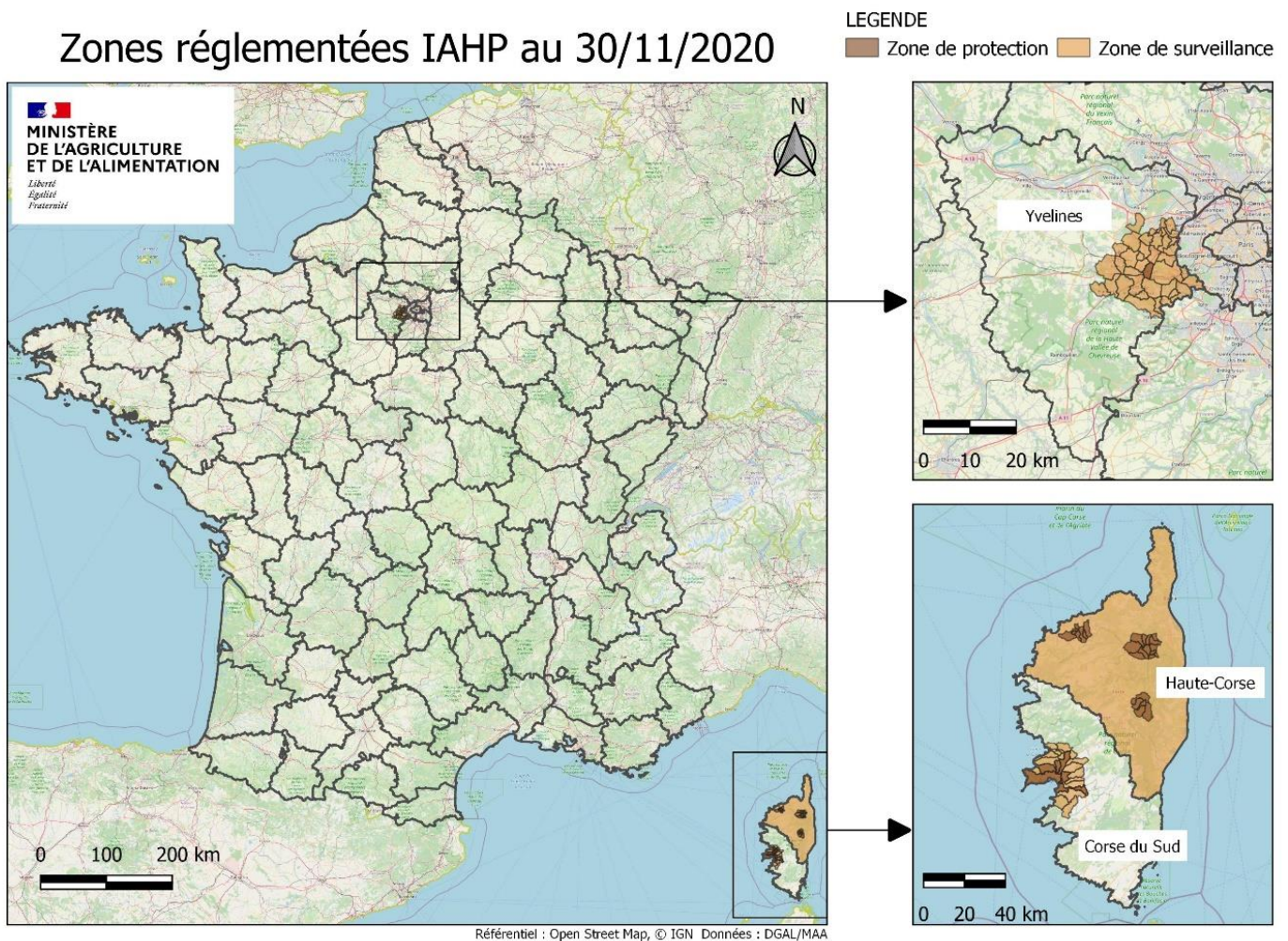
## 1. Protection and surveillance zones set in place in the 3 infected departments

Within department of "Corse du Sud (2A) and Yvelines (78), The French authorities have set up a 3 km **protection zone** (PZ) and a **surveillance zone** (SZ) with a radius of 10 km, in accordance with European regulations in the event of the detection of an outbreak of HPAI (Council Directive 2005/94/EC of 20 December 2005).

Considering the dissemination of infected sites within Haute-Corse (2B), it was decided for this department to extend the surveillance zone to the whole department.

### Map of the regulated zones

#### Zones réglementées IAHP au 30/11/2020



## 2. Zoning measures

**Table 1: Implementation of measures in the PZ and SZ:**

<b>Measures in the PZ and SZ</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Identification</b> of all commercial farms.</li><li>• Implementation of <b>protective</b> and <b>biosecurity</b> measures on farms</li><li>• Implementation of measures for <b>cleaning, disinfection and rest periods</b></li><li>• Priority deployment of <b>epidemiological investigations</b> to detect potential new cases and to understand the spread and origin of the disease</li><li>• <b>A ban on the movement</b> of poultry and bird gatherings</li></ul>
<b>Additional measures in PZ</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Identification</b> of farmyards and health visits to all commercial farms and non-commercial farmyards</li><li>• <b>Prohibition</b> of placing on the market of any non-plucked poultry that is to be sold to the consumer in its unplucked state</li><li>• Recommendation to confine all farmyard poultry.</li></ul>

## III. OTHER MANAGEMENT MEASURES

### 1. Risk level:

In light of this event, the risk of introduction of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus originating from wildlife has increased to a "high" level in metropolitan France since 16 November 2020 ([Ministerial decree of 16 November 2020](#)).

### 2. Biosecurity

Throughout the country, the following measures have been implemented:

- The confinement or enclosure of poultry farms by a net with a limit on outdoor spaces for the animals;
- The prohibition of bird gatherings (e.g. competitions, fairs or exhibitions); the prohibition of the transport and release of game birds;
- The prohibition of the use of decoys.

Each commercial farm is required to have a biosecurity plan. The French health authorities have published two decrees on biosecurity, one that applies to poultry farms (8 February 2016, amended in June 2019), and one that applies to the transport of live birds (14 March 2018). The implementation of these measures is subject to official inspections and is combined with specific training and awareness-raising measures.