

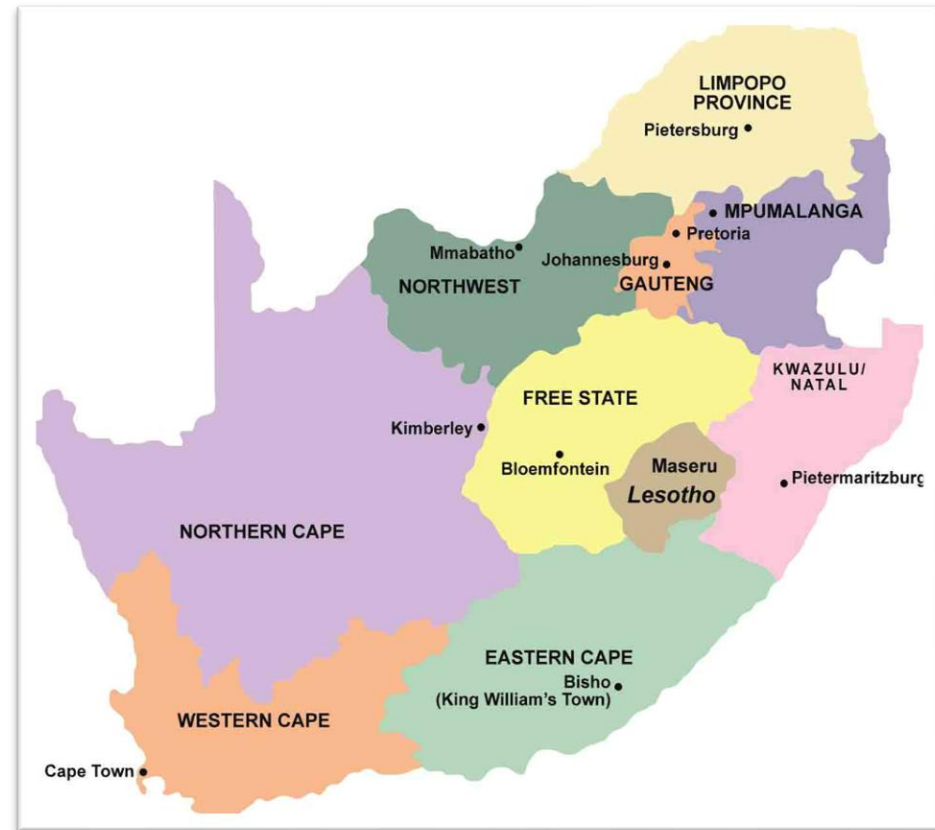
Presented by: Dr Abongile Balarane

CEO: South African Poultry Association



Small footprint. Big impact.

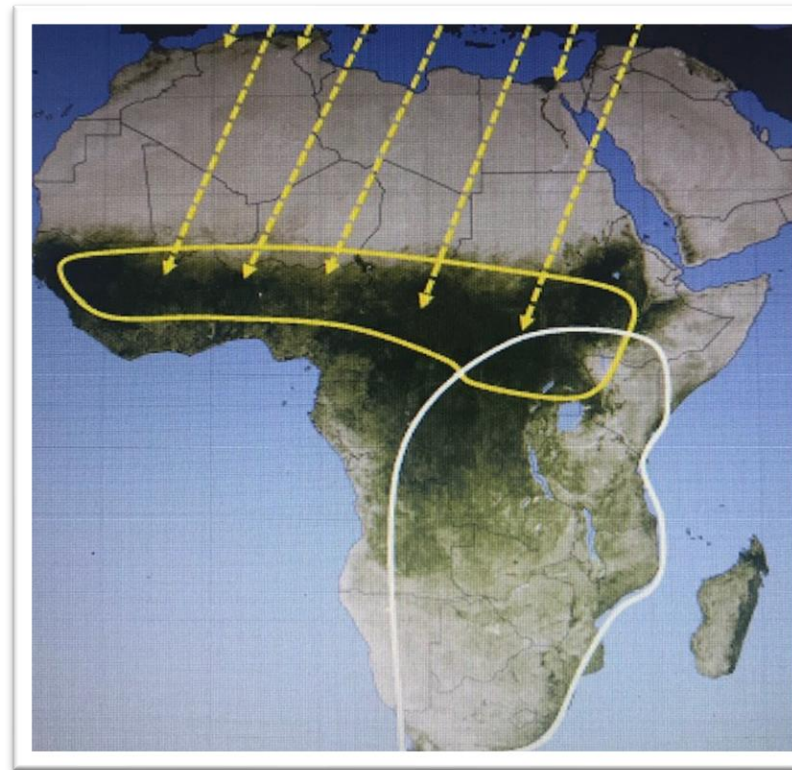
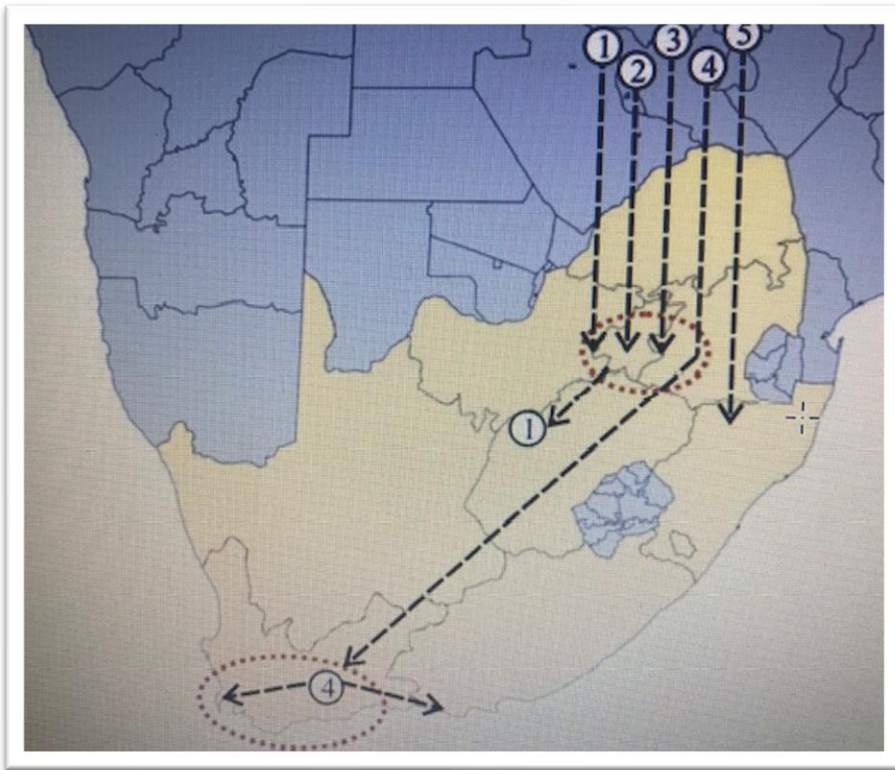
- The first case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) **H5N8** was **first detected** in the Mpumalanga province in South Africa in **June 2017**
- A total of 5.4 million commercial birds died / culled



Small footprint. Big impact.

Strains and Spread of H5N8 in South Africa

- **Six (6) variants** of the H5N8 were introduced in 2017/2018
- Migratory dabbling ducks in contact with Afro-tropical ducks



Small footprint. Big impact.

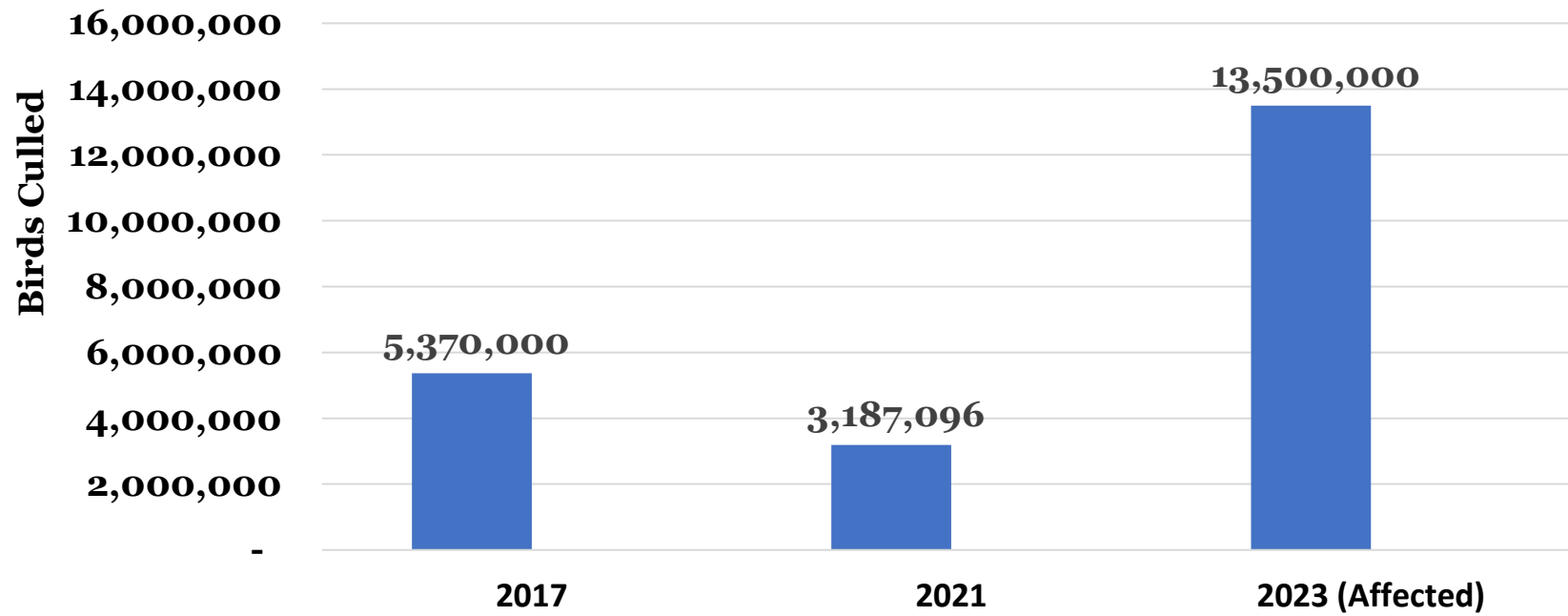
Wild Bird Cases of HPAI in South Africa

- From December 2017 to May 2018, fifteen (15) sea bird species were confirmed positive over thirty-one (31) locations along the Southern coast
- African penguins, Cape gannets, Cape cormorants, swift and common terns



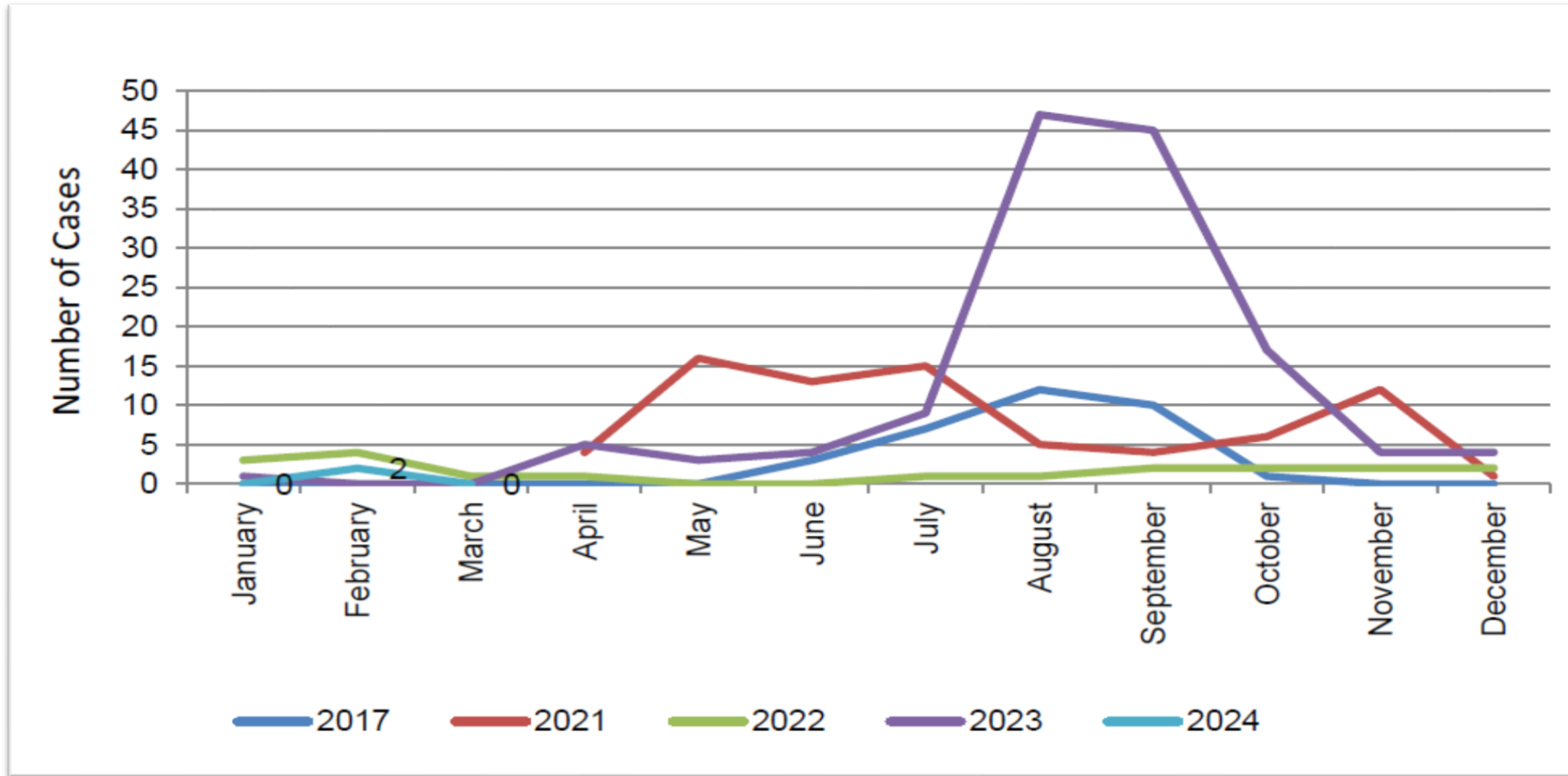
H5 / H7 HPAI Cases in South Africa: 2017-2024

- Long-lived birds are more infected
- Over the years, commercial layers were more affected / infected compared to broiler breeders
- In 2024, only two (2) commercial farms were affected



Seasonality of HPAI in South Africa

- Seasonality seems to have changed over the years



Small footprint. Big impact.

Minister of Agriculture announcement of mass vaccination in June 2025.

- After 19 months of negotiations between the Industry and the state vet on the amendment of the existing stringent vaccination protocol.
- The Minister of Agriculture at AVI Africa conference in June announced that we will embark on mass vaccination in South Africa.
- To date only 1 broiler breeder company that has been able to reach the vaccination requirements.



Latest update on vaccines

Vaccine monitoring protocol:

- Still onerous and no material changes published – **Same.**
- **DoA continues to argue that biosecurity is the only way to go, despite mounting evidence to the contrary.**

Vaccine Permits:

- Only 1 approved to date - **No change**
- **One applicant has been rejected multiple times and is busy with the 9th attempt.**
- **DoA cannot accept the variances between planned numbers and actual numbers**



Conclusion

The monitoring system adopted by the EU and as shown by the IABS Conference, (included in the EFSA document) has been shown to work well. It is more accurate and far less costly than the DoA document. The DoA document fails to consider the economy, the cost, the welfare of the population plus solely looks at science! It disregards our own laws and the WOAHI regulations, which directs Governments to look at the local circumstances and adapt accordingly.



Thank You

South Africa Poultry Association

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**"Yes, eggs could be eaten daily.
An egg a day is OK" (SA Food Based Guidelines)**

