

BIOSECURITY CEO FORUM PRESENTATION

19 August 2021



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CONTENTS

The presentation provides the status report on the following:

- 1) RSA Animal Disease Situation
- 2) Plant Pests and Diseases Situation
- 3) The outbreak of brown locust
(*Locustana pardalina*) in RSA

RSA Animal Disease Situation August 2021



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Outbreak in KZN: Background

- The outbreak was confirmed on 27 May 2021
- SAT 2 FMD strain
- A standstill was declared by Minister on 28th May In Municipal Districts :
 - King Cetshwayo and
 - Umkhanyakude,
- as well as certain Local Municipalities in the Zululand District Municipality:
 - Nongoma,
 - Ulundi and
 - uPhongolo
- Movement of live animals, full and half carcasses were controlled (roadblocks, education and inspection)



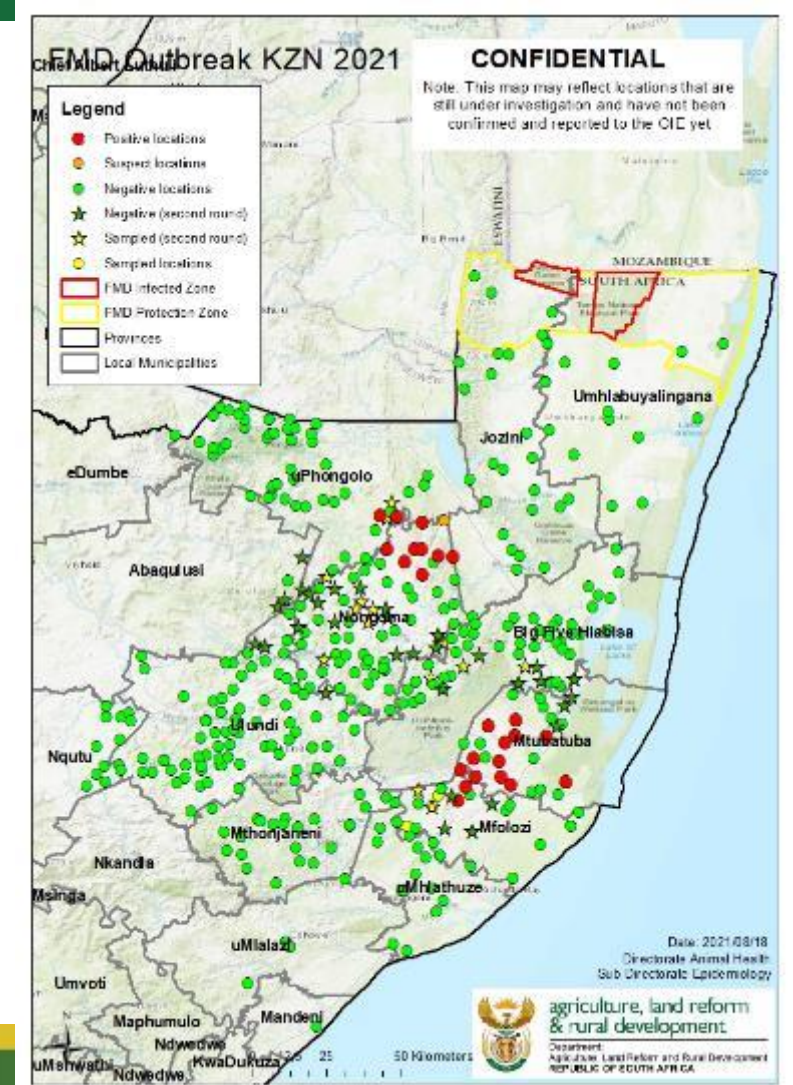
Outbreak in KZN: Investigation and control measures

- The affected diptanks were placed under quarantine.
- Investigations and collection of samples were immediately initiated with the aim to determine the extent of the outbreak and speed of spread of disease
- A Disease Management Area (DMA) was declared
- Movement control protocol was implemented.



Outbreak in KZN: Surveillance

- Up to date 26, locations were detected (two feedlots and 24 diptanks)

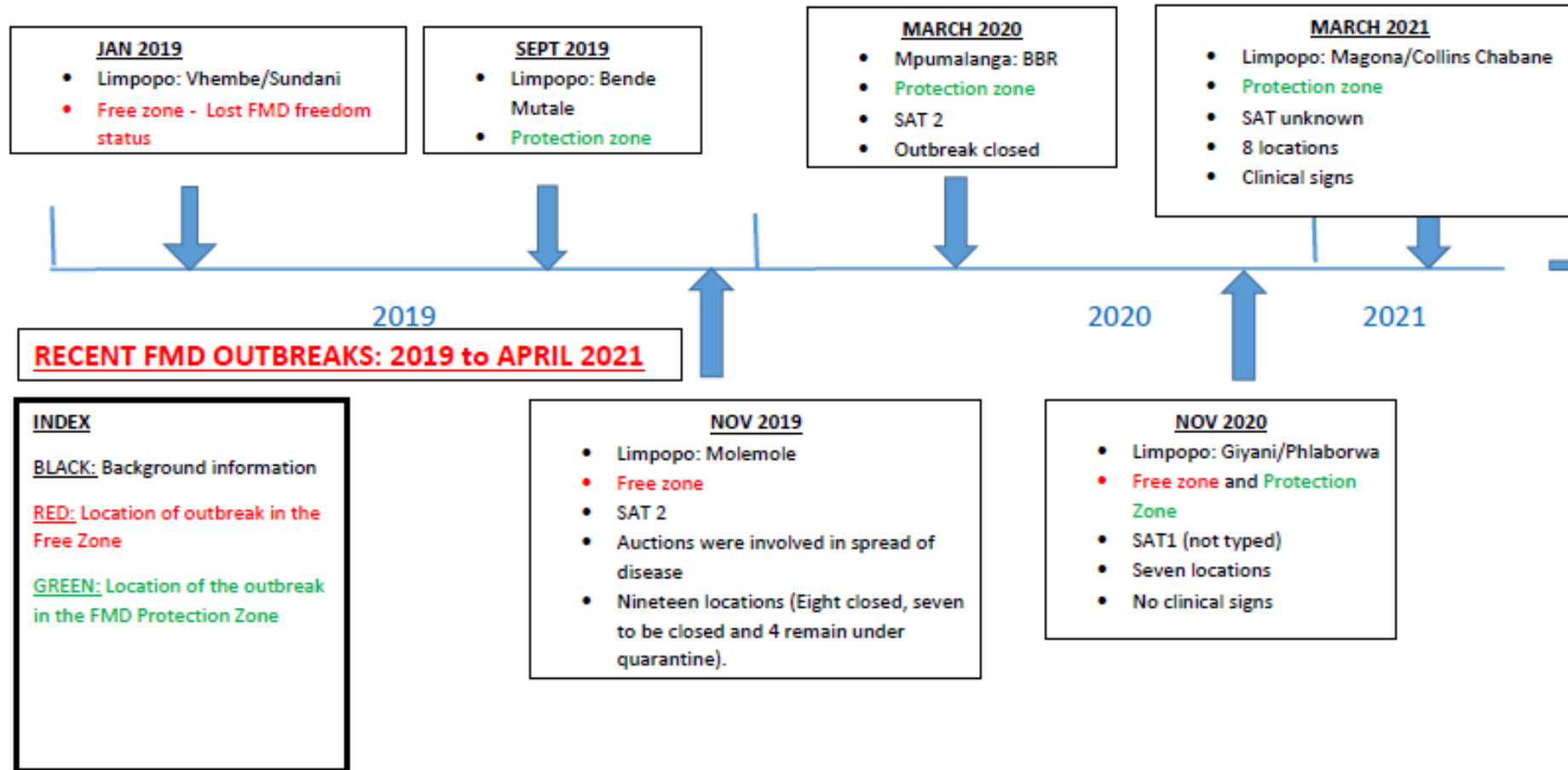


Outbreak in KZN: ongoing measures

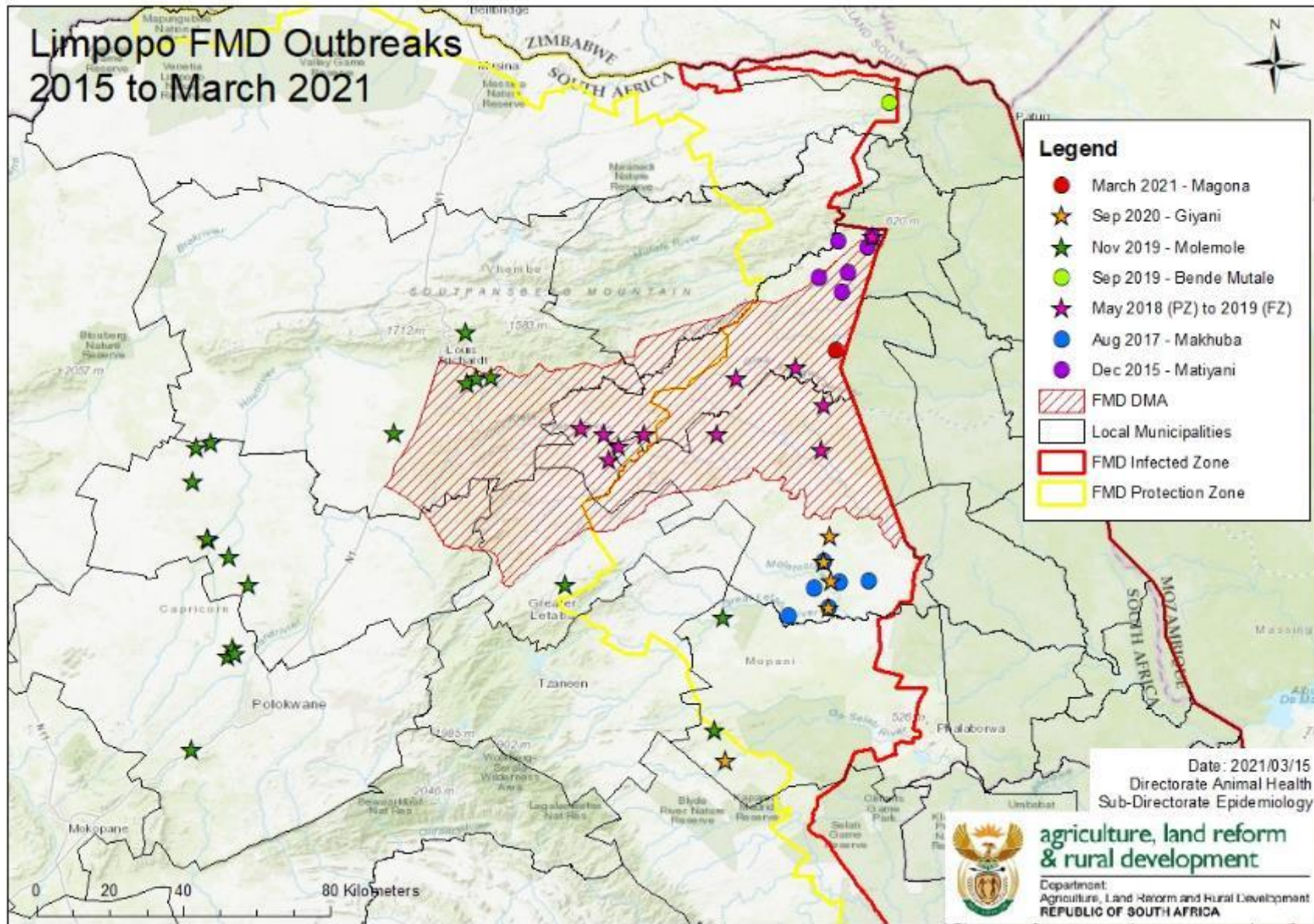
- Applications to move animals out of, into, within and through the DMA are evaluated by the KwaZulu-Natal Veterinary Services with regards to risk on a case-by-case basis.
- Numerous permits have been granted for movement and slaughter of animals from locations that are of low risk for spreading the disease and that are practicing adequate biosecurity and caution.
- Roadblocks and Visible Veterinary Patrols ensure that animals that are transported in the DMA have valid permits issued by the movement control officials of the province.
- Margins of the DMA will be reconsidered as certain areas are not affected by the outbreak
- The slow spread of disease up to so far informed the decision to not implement vaccinations



FMD outbreaks in Limpopo and Mpumalanga



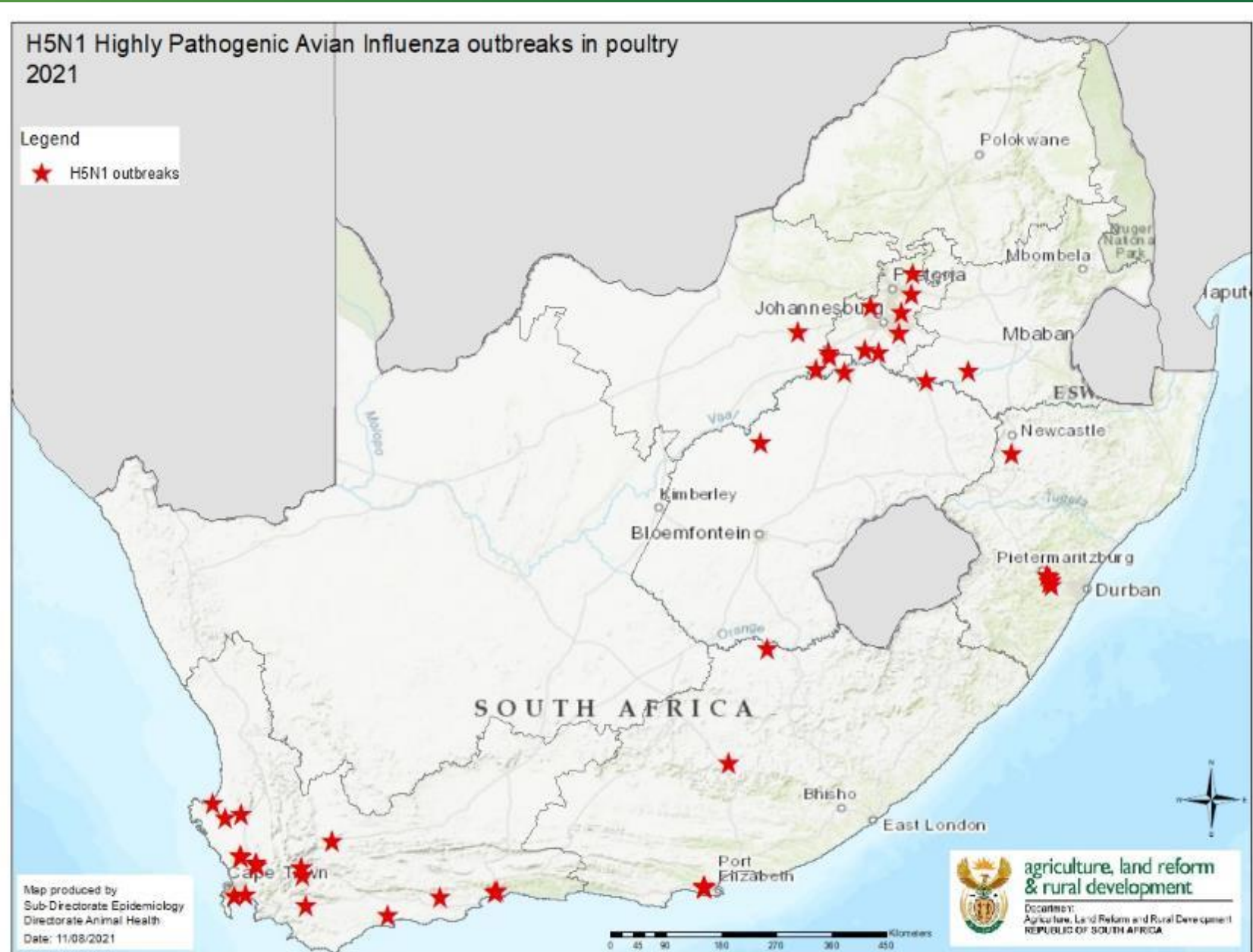
Limpopo FMD outbreaks



Avian Influenza

- In 2017 the first case of H5N8 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) was confirmed in commercial chickens in South Africa.
- No new HPAI outbreaks were reported in commercial and backyard chickens since June 2018 until the recent detection in April 2021 of a HPAI H5H1 in commercial chickens.
- Up to date, a total of forty eight (n=48) H5N1 HPAI outbreaks were reported across Gauteng, North West, Western Cape, Mpumalanga, Free State, KwaZulu Natal and Eastern Cape Provinces.
- These outbreaks occurred mostly in commercial chickens but also in backyard chickens and ostriches.

H5N1 HP Avian Influenza outbreaks



Other confirmed AI outbreaks

- Other confirmed Avian Influenza outbreaks since 2017 (no outbreaks in chickens)
 - H5N8 HPAI in ostriches (outbreak has been closed)
 - Low Pathogenic (LP) AI H7 in ostriches
 - LPAI H5 AI in ostriches
 - Undefined H7 (treated as if it is a HPAI) in ostriches



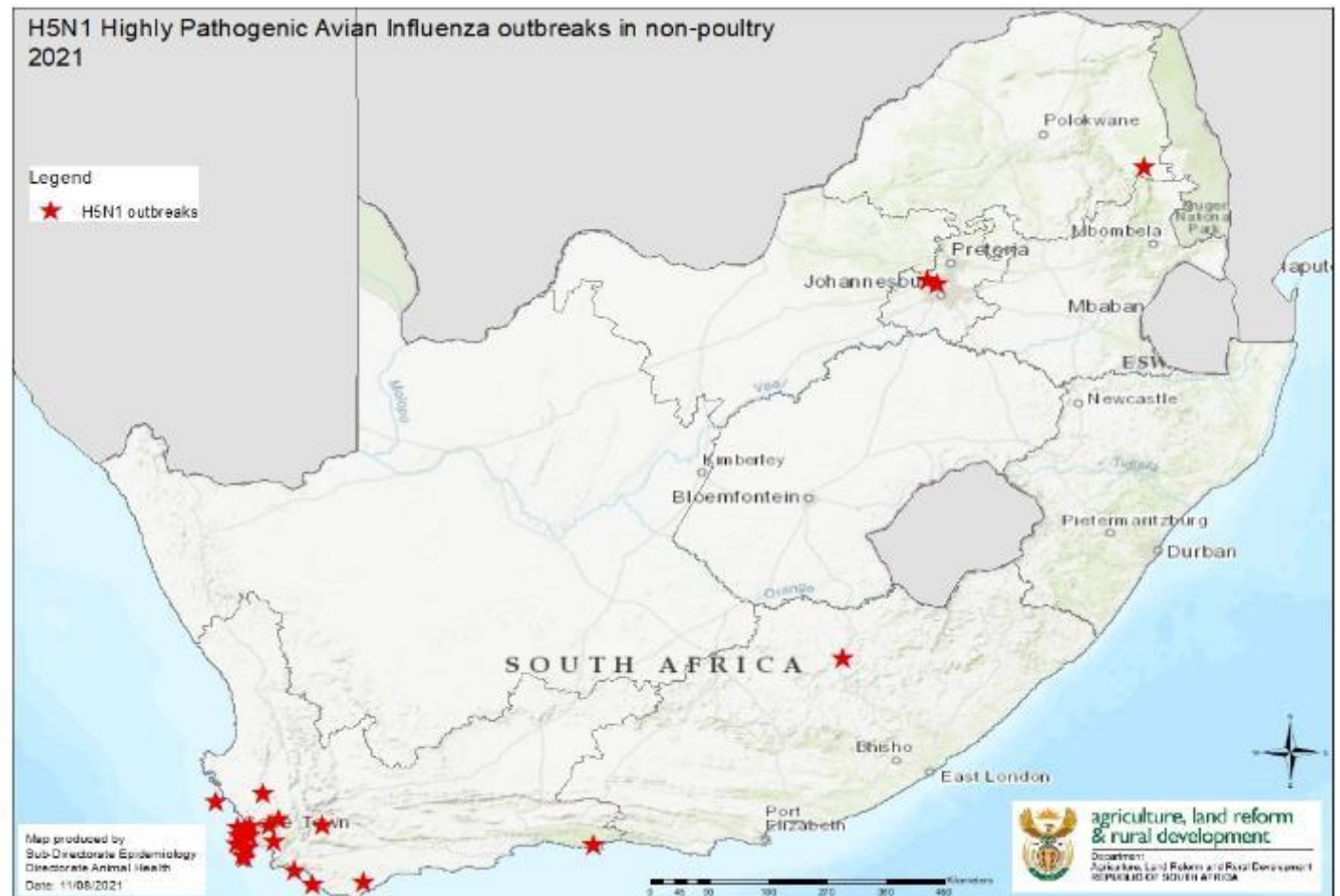
Control measures

- Farms are put under quarantine.
- Biosafety and biosecurity have to be stepped up and surveillance performed (clinical and samples for diagnostics)
- Disease investigation and forward and backward tracing are performed.
- Chickens in infected houses are destroyed and carcasses safely removed.
- Poultry farmers are encouraged to be on the lookout for signs of disease that may indicate AI and report any suspicion to the nearest State Veterinarian for immediate investigation.
- Backyard poultry has to be fed indoors or under cover to prevent contact with wild birds.

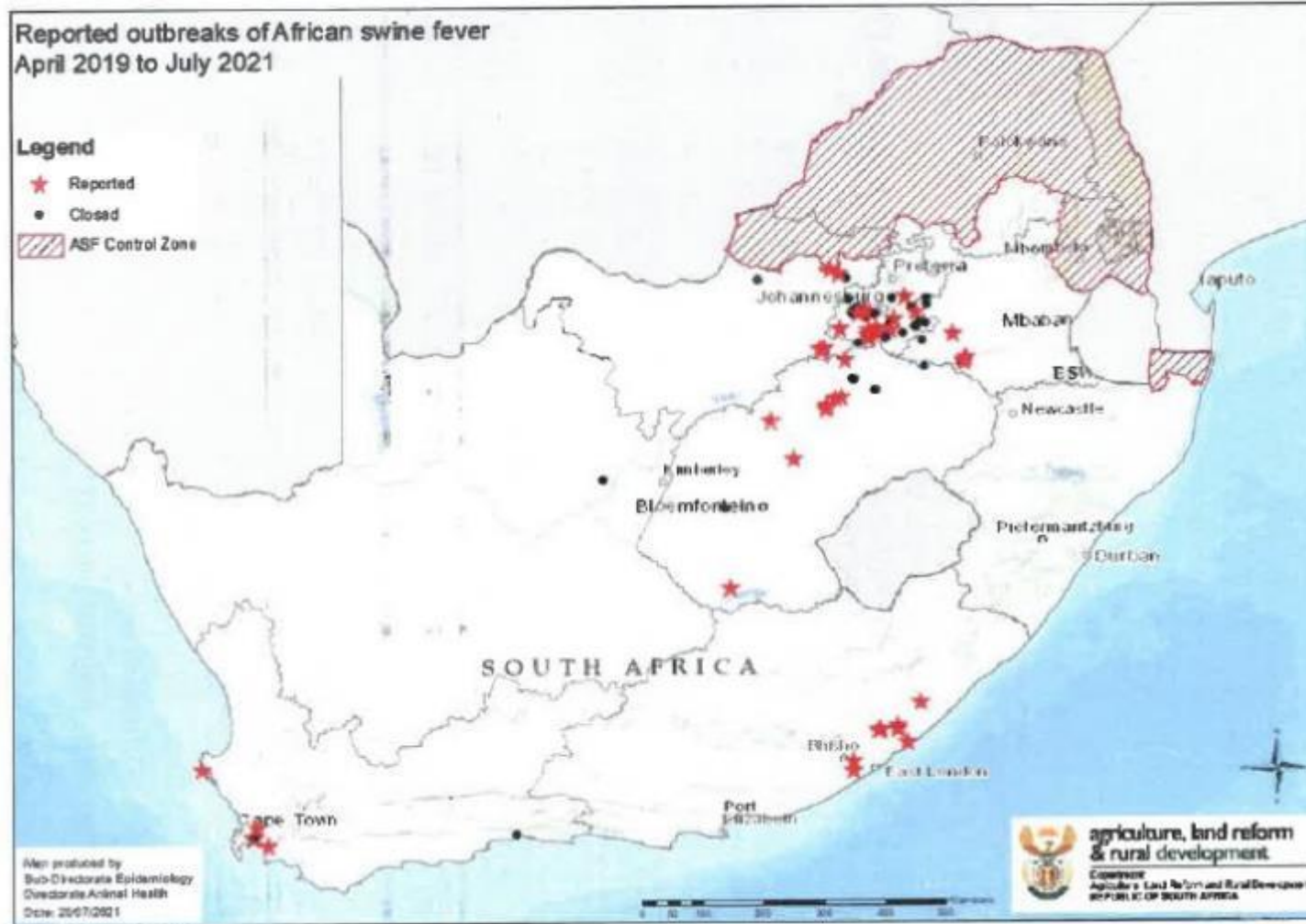


H5N1 in wild birds

- The general public reported mortalities in wild birds in several provinces and samples were collected and tested.



African Swine fever



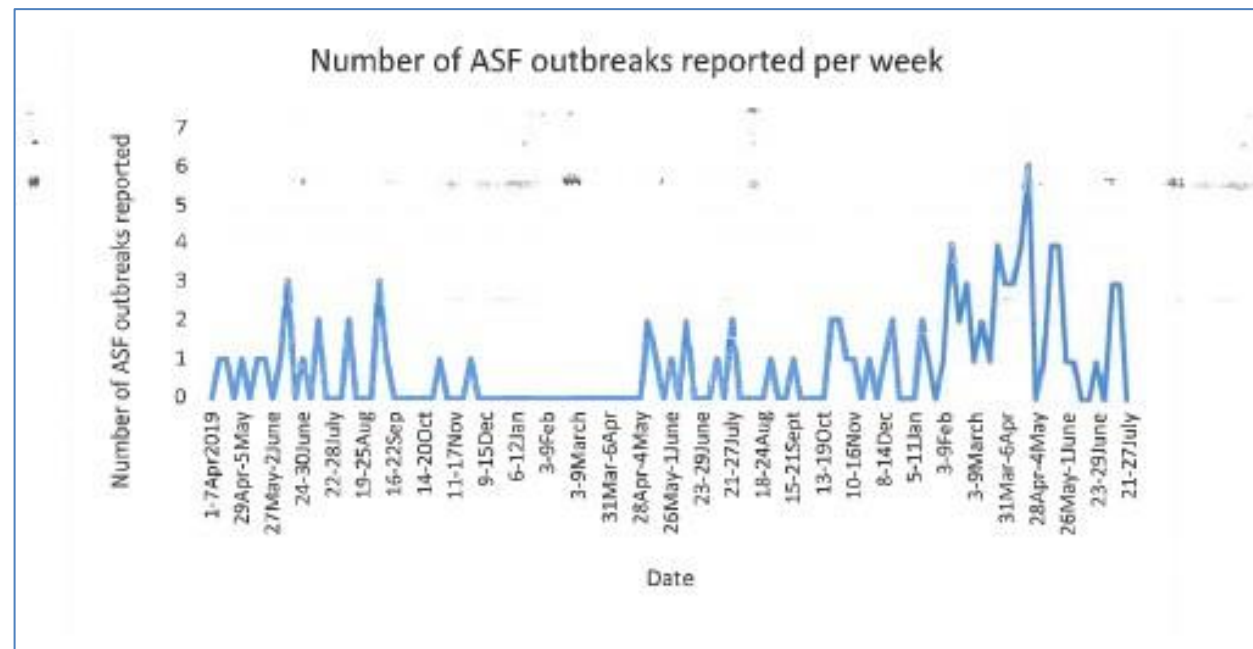
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ASF epidemic since 2019

- Since April 2019 reported 101 individual outbreaks outside the controlled area
- 49 have been closed and 52 are still open
- Open outbreaks in Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West and Western Cape Provinces
- Genotypes I and II isolated
- Mostly communal, subsistence, speculative and smallholder farms affected
- **2 big commercial farms affected, one in Gauteng and one in North West**



Plant Pests and Diseases Situation



Legislation

Plant Health Bill

- The Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill: approved by DG's Cluster in Nov 2021
- Was considered by Cabinet Committee on 05 May 2021.

Control Measures

- The Control Measure relating to Asian citrus psyllid and citrus greening R.121 of 12 February 2021 was Gazetted, GG No. 44188.
- The submission to request the Minister to approve the proposed Control Measures relating to Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) has been published in the Government Gazette for public comments and comments were received from the stakeholders. Currently, the Directorate has initiated the submission of regulation to the Minister for promulgation.
- The amendment to Control Measures R.110 under the Agricultural Pests Act is ongoing.

Bactrocera dorsalis (Oriental Fruitfly/ OFF)

National surveillance is continued for exotic fruit flies as part of the APP

1. Northern Cape

Lower Orange River (LOR) is still under eradication

The Jan Kempdorp area is still under eradication

2. Free State

The pest was detected in the Free state in April 2021.

3. Eastern Cape

New specimens were detected in the Patensie area in March 2021

4. Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, North West and parts of KZN

The pest is always present and removal control permits are required to remove host fruit to areas where the pest is not present. Very high numbers detected in Limpopo in April 2021

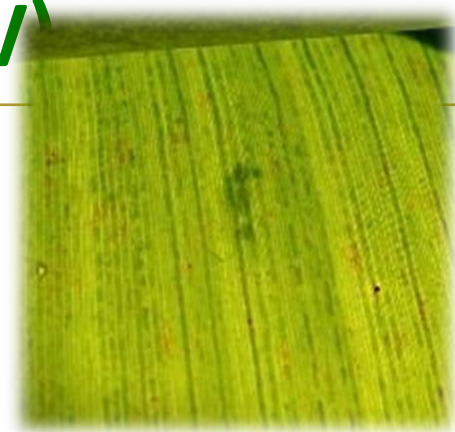


Photo JH Venter



Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV)

- Surveillance is continued
- BBTV occurs in the **Hibberdene area, Ugu District in KZN and is causing severe damage**
- It continues to spread in the Ugu District
- 6000lt of pesticides were procured to control the insect vector to slow down the spread in Ugu
- The roll out of the chemicals are still having some challenges
- A research project with the ARC is in progress to optimise surveillance and control actions



Polyphagous shot hole borer (PST)



<https://sustainability.uci.edu/pshb-uci/>

Polyphagous shot hole borer (PSHB) (*Euwallacea fornicatus*) is a beetle which carries a fungal symbiont (*Fusarium euwallaceae*)

- This pest is present and spreading in all the provinces except the Limpopo Province.
- This pest has the **highest impact currently on urban trees in bigger cities** but also on indigenous trees and may have an impact on agriculture and forestry.
- It is now present in Pretoria and several trees in Hamilton street is severely affected.
- Therefore draft regulations in terms of the Agricultural Pests Act as well as the National Environmental Biodiversity Act are in the



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Citrus Greening Asian Strain

- ❑ This is a **critical pest of concern as it has destroyed citrus production a large extent in all the countries it has spread to.**
- ❑ The pathogen as well as the insect vector is now occurring in Kenya which poses a major threat to the SA citrus production.
- ❑ If establishing in SA it will also impact on our ability to export citrus due to loss of production
- ❑ The pathogen as well as vector forms part of a surveillance programme in terms of the APP
- ❑ DPH has initiated a collaboration program between Kenyan scientists and SA scientists to assist Kenya to try and control the pest.
- ❑ Regulations in preparation to a possible detection in SA has been completed and promulgated



New pest detections

- ❑ **Pepper ringspot virus was detected from a potato field in the Free state province** and reported to DALRRD by industry. This is not officially confirmed yet. The matter is therefore sensitive and confidential.
- ❑ ***Phytophthora palmivora* was detected from Papaya trees in Mpumalanga** and reported to the DALRRD by the ARC. This is not officially confirmed yet. The matter is therefore sensitive and confidential.
- ❑ ***Ceratocystis fimbriata* was detected from Kiwi fruit in Mpumalanga and Kwazulu Natal provinces** and reported to the DALRRD by the ARC and industry members. This is not officially confirmed yet. The matter is therefore sensitive and confidential.



Joint cooperation

- Provincial support (all provinces) Support Towards Operationalization of SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR) wrt to the surveillance and participation to execute the regional control strategy against five transboundary plant pests namely:
 - Oriental fruit fly,
 - Tuta absoluta,
 - Fall Armyworm,
 - Maize Lethal Necrosis and
 - Fusarium wilt of bananas the Tropical race 4 strain.

- Continued support to roll out an area wide control program for BBTV in the Ugu district with participation of the provincial and district officials

- Support with the early detection of the Asian strain of citrus greening mainly in households and small scale farmers (all provinces).

- Support with awareness and notification of new pests in new areas (all provinces)



Status report on the outbreak of brown locust (*Locustana pardalina*) in RSA

OUTBREAK REPORT (LOCUSTS)

The locust outbreak control continued in Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Western Province and Free State provinces. Almost 600 000 litres of insecticides were used as well as 750 bags of powder to control the locust outbreak. The department appointed the aerial spraying to assist the ground team as the outbreak was huge. The locust control continued into winter, early August.

Two helicopters were hired and almost 1056 locust contractors were appointed in controlling the outbreaks. The locust outbreak was mainly on grazing land and also on crop lands with lesser impacts observed. . . . Almost 55 locust district in the four province experience the outbreak.



CHALLENGES

- **Unoccupied farms with no immediate report of the outbreak**
- **Late identification and reporting of the outbreak** from the farm owners who own larger areas of land
- **Refusal** by some land owners for locust to be controlled on their farms
- Locust infestation in **mountains and dunes which are inaccessible**
- Locust plague **migrating from** Namibia



Recommendations

- The CEO Forum, to take note of the current Biosecurity situation in the country and actions and concerns



Thank You



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