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DISEASE INFORMATION

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RIFT VALLEY FEVER IN SENEGAL

(***Date of previous reported outbreak:*** November 1999).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of information received on 11 and 13 December 2002 from Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, Director of Animal Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Dakar:

Report date: 12 December 2002.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.
Date of initial detection of animal health incident: beginning of November 2002.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Galoya Peul village, Podor district, Saint-Louis region (16,051189 N – 13,8993 W), in the north-western part of the country	1
Dabia Oledji village, Matam district, Matam region (16,00640 N – 13,95185 W), in the north-eastern part of the country	1

Description of affected population: sheep and goats.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

Location	*species*	*susceptible*	*cases*	*deaths*	*destroyed*	*slaughtered*
Podor	ovi	99	37	...	...	...
Matam	ovi	94	55	...	...	...
	cap	89	15	...	...	...

In Galoya, the affected farm comprised 99 sheep including 79 females: 43 adult females and 36 young females, some of which were pregnant. Thirty-seven cases of abortion have been recorded.

In Dabia Olédji, 89 goats and 94 sheep were counted. Among the sheep, there were 42 adult females and 20 young females, with 55 abortions having been recorded. Among the goats, there were 40 adult females and 14 young females, with 15 abortions having been recorded.

Diagnosis: suspicions were raised by the heads of the veterinary offices in Galoya and Thilogne on 14 and 16 November 2002, respectively, following a series of abortions in flocks/herds at the beginning of November 2002.

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: National Laboratory for Animal Production and Veterinary Research in collaboration with the Pasteur Institute in Dakar.

B. Diagnostic tests used: ELISA[1] serum neutralisation test. Virus isolation in progress.

After confirmation of the diagnosis, a central joint mission from the Animal Production Directorate and the National Laboratory for Animal Production and Veterinary Research visited the affected areas from 2 to 4 December, to conduct further investigations and take samples (sera, blood and organs) within the confirmed outbreaks and from flocks/herds in the surrounding area.

Epidemiology:

A. Mode of spread: vectors (*Aedes* mosquitoes).

B. Other epidemiological details:

- This year there has been no record of heavy precipitation or flooding in the affected area.
- On 22 October 2002, the presence of the disease was suspected in the localities of Nioro Katim, Pata and Sinthioutamba.

Control measures:

- increased vigilance by field workers to detect new outbreaks;
- awareness campaign for animal farmers in the area aimed at reducing the risks of contamination and limiting animal movements;
- the health services have been alerted so as to detect any human cases.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

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MALIGNANT CATARRHAL FEVER (WILDEBEEST ASSOCIATED) IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in a safari park

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 12 December 2002 from Dr Peter Fernandez, Associate Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington, DC:

Report date: 12 December 2002.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical, post-mortem and laboratory.
Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 27 October 2002.
Estimated date of first infection: 16 July 2002.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Ocean County, State of New Jersey	1 exotic wildlife theme park

Description of affected population: three Ankoli cattle (mother/calf and bull), out of a herd of 31, died after showing clinical signs consistent with the wildebeest-associated form of malignant catarrhal fever. No other Ankoli cattle are exhibiting clinical signs.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	*susceptible*	*cases*	*deaths*	*destroyed*	*slaughtered*
bov	31	3	3	0	0

Diagnosis: clinical signs in the first animal began around 27 October 2002.

Clinical findings: corneal edema and crusty exudate from the nose and mouth.

Macroscopic findings: gross lesions included a thick ropy exudate lining the area from trachea to lung and a very hyperemic trachea.

Histopathology findings: broncho-interstitial pneumonia and fibrino-necrotic pneumonia.

- ***A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:*** National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL), Plum Island, New York.
- ***B. Diagnostic tests used:*** MCF-PCR(1), immunoperoxidase test.
- ***C. Causal agent:*** alcelaphine herpesvirus-1 (AHV-1).

Epidemiology:

- ***A. Source of agent / origin of infection:*** on 16 July 2002, one Ankoli cow was observed licking fetal fluids from a wildebeest calf. The cattle herd had been commingled in a pasture where the wildebeest [*Connochaetes* sp.] had calved).
- ***B. Mode of spread:*** direct contact with infected cow and calf.
- ***C. Other epidemiological details:***
  - The wildebeest herd (14 white-bearded gnu, 11 white-tailed gnu) has been a closed herd since at least 1990.
  - The wildlife park is closed to visitors during the winter.

Control measures: quarantine.

(1) MCF-PCR: malignant catarrhal fever - polymerase chain reaction

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN BELIZE
Invalidation of diagnosis

Information received on 12 December 2002 from Dr Victor Gongora, Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Belmopan:

Report date: 12 December 2002.

On 6 December 2002, Belize reported a suspected outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF) to the OIE (see *Disease Information*, **15** [50], 260, dated 13 December 2002). The diagnosis was based on direct immunofluorescence (polyclonal conjugate) test results received from the Central and Reference Laboratory (*Laboratorio Central y Referencia*) in Managua, Nicaragua. Even though these results required confirmation, an emergency report was submitted to the OIE pending confirmation so as to be transparent.

The USDA-APHIS(1) Foreign Animal Disease Laboratory in Greenport, New York, United States of America, issued negative results, as follows: direct fluorescent antibody test, immunoperoxidase test and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) were performed all with negative results for CSF and African swine fever. The tests were carried out on serum, tonsils, spleens, kidneys and lymph nodes.

In addition to the above negative results:

- no macroscopic signs of CSF were seen at post-mortem examination. Swill feeding has been practised on the farm; farm management is reported to be poor; the pigs are of poor genetic quality and are possibly suffering from vitamin E / selenium deficiency;
- in the focal and perifocal areas no evidence of disease was found; pigs tested (30 per farm) were negative for CSF by ELISA(2).

Virus isolation results are still pending but were negative at 48 hours.

Given the negative results for CSF, all emergency measures are being lifted and the country goes back on regular surveillance for CSF. Belize is free from CSF.

Note by the OIE Central Bureau: In accordance with the provisions of the *International Animal Health Code*, Belize most appropriately submitted an emergency report on the suspicion of CSF, even before all the laboratory results had been received. This is a good example of transparency and should be followed by all OIE Member Countries to comply with the obligations to which they have subscribed and to improve the OIE early warning system.

(1) USDA-APHIS: United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
(2) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

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RINDERPEST IN KENYA
Laboratory results invalidate rinderpest diagnosis (additional information)

Information received on 18 December 2002 from Dr William K. Toroitich Chong', Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing, Nairobi:

End of previous report period: 18 November 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [47], 244, dated 22 November 2002).
End of this report period: 13 December 2002.

The 21 sera collected from buffaloes (1 to 10 years old) in Laikipia district, were submitted to the Kenya National Veterinary Research Centre (Muguga), the Central Veterinary Laboratory (Kabete) and the OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for rinderpest at Pirbright (United Kingdom) on 20 November 2002.

All sera tested negative for rinderpest virus neutralising antibodies (Muguga laboratory). All the serum samples tested at Pirbright were sero-negative for rinderpest virus by cELISA(1).

These results indicate that there has been no circulation of rinderpest virus in the buffalo herds in the areas sampled.

Conclusion:

To date, laboratory evidence from samples collected from wildlife populations (buffaloes) and from cattle still negates a diagnosis of rinderpest.

(1) cELISA: competitive ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay)

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SYRIA

(***Date of previous outbreak reported to the OIE:*** January 1999).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 18 December 2002 from Dr George Khoury, Director of Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Damascus:

Report date: 17 December 2002.

There were some suspected cases of foot and mouth disease (FMD) at the beginning of February 2002 in two outbreaks in Damascus province. At the end of November 2002, the number of cases was 11. Strict quarantine procedures have been applied in the area.

A prophylactic vaccination campaign against FMD is implemented twice a year and there have been no cases in any other areas in Syria.

Note by the OIE Central Bureau: The report of the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, United Kingdom (OIE Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease) dated November 2002 indicates that, of the samples submitted by Syria (collected from cattle between 9 February 2002 and 11 November 2002), six samples were positive for FMD serotype O and three were positive for FMD serotype A. The complete report will be published in the OIE *Bulletin* in early 2003.

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HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN CHILE
The Delegate declares his country free from this disease

Translation of information received on 19 December 2002 from Dr Hernan Rojas Olavarria, Director, Department of Animal Protection, Department of Agriculture and Animal Production (SAG), Ministry of Agriculture, Santiago:

End of previous report period: 24 September 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [39], 186, dated 27 September 2002).
End of this report period: 19 December 2002.

With reference to the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza notified in the municipality of San Antonio in Chile's Fifth Region, caused by avian influenza virus H7N3, we wish to report that no outbreak has occurred since June 2002.

Epidemiological surveillance activities in the infected zone, as well as in the rest of the country, have confirmed that there have been no new outbreaks of the disease since 19 June 2002, the date when the last remaining birds to suffer from the disease were slaughtered and buried.

The two disease outbreak areas were subjected to strict sanitation and clean-out measures, ending on October 2002. These were followed by a process of sentinelisation using susceptible birds, which yielded negative results to the series of tests (four series of serological tests on 30 consecutive days).

There have been 13 reports of suspected avian influenza between June 2002 and now. In addition, two nationwide serological sample collections were carried out (around 150,000 samples) in all commercial poultry farms and backyard poultry at risk, with negative results in both cases.

The poultry industry has significantly increased biosafety in commercial farms and has also recognised the importance of maintaining the country's status as "free from highly pathogenic avian influenza".

The eradication strategy did not involve the use of vaccination to control the disease.

In view of all the above-mentioned sanitary measures for controlling avian influenza, coupled with the fact that six months have elapsed since the last affected animal was slaughtered in a quarantained establishment, and since no highly pathogenic avian influenza virus or clinical case of the disease has been detected, the Chief Veterinary Officer reports that Chile now complies with the provisions of Article 2.1.14.2. of the *International Animal health Code*, and the entire national territory is therefore declared free from highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The final report of this health event is available for distribution to OIE Delegates upon request.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN BULGARIA
Follow-up report No. 1

Information received on 19 December 2002 from Dr Nikola T. Belev, Delegate of Bulgaria to the OIE:

End of previous report period: 2 December 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [49], 253, dated 6 December 2002).
End of this report period: 19 December 2002.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Haskovo, Haskovo region	3

Description of affected population in the new outbreaks: animals in small private pig farms.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

species	*susceptible*	*cases*	*deaths*	*destroyed*	*slaughtered*
sui	1,537	11	3	1,534	0

Diagnosis:

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Institute, Sofia.

B. Diagnostic tests used:

- enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA);
- direct immunofluorescence test.

Epidemiology:

A. Source of agent / origin of infection: non-sterilised slaughterhouse waste.

B. Mode of spread: contact with the first outbreak.

Control measures during reporting period:

- control of wildlife reservoirs;
- quarantine and movement control inside the country;
- stamping out;
- screening;
- surveillance and monitoring.

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Disease Information on the Web:
http://www.oie.int