

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: Representatives of Governments and Administrations of the NO. : 25/74  
Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa,  
Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

FILE REF.: PRO 127/2/1

DATE: 12/08/2025

SUBJECT: **THE PACIFIC ONE HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE PLAN TO AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI), October 13-17, 2025, NADI, FIJI**

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### Pacific One Health Emergency Preparedness & Response to Avian Influenza Workshop

#### PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. I am pleased to advise the conduct of the Pacific One Health Emergency Preparedness & Response plan for the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Workshop that is scheduled to take place in Nadi, Fiji from the 16th of June 2025. This Regional workshop has the following objectives:
  - a. Increase awareness and understanding of zoonotic Influenza, with emphasis on Avian Influenza, its eco-epidemiology and its potential impact on public health, animal health, and the environment in the Pacific region.
  - b. Equip participants from the PICTs with the knowledge and skills needed to conduct risk profiling, surveillance/early detection, prepare for and respond to Avian Influenza outbreaks in a timely and appropriate manner.
  - c. Foster collaboration between different sectors (health, agriculture, wildlife, and environment) to create a coordinated and effective response plan.
  - d. Engage community leaders and stakeholders in developing culturally appropriate communication, preparedness and response strategies.
  - e. Conduct simulation exercises (SIMEX) on HPAI in different settings in a Pacific Island context.
2. The Pacific Community (SPC) requests that Governments and Administrations nominate three participants per country with a One Health focus, preferably including one representative each from

Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters: Noumea (New Caledonia). Regional offices: Suva (Fiji); Micronesia Regional Office: Pohnpei (Federated States of Micronesia); Melanesia Regional Office: Port Vila (Vanuatu); Polynesia Regional Office: Nuku'alofa (Tonga)

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Siège de la Communauté du Pacifique (CPS) : Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie). Antenne régionale : Suva (Fidji) ; Bureau régional pour la Micronésie : Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie) ; Bureau régional pour la Mélanésie : Port-Vila (Vanuatu) ; Bureau régional pour la Polynésie : Nuku'alofa (Tonga).

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animal health, the public health sector, and the environment sector. However, countries may consider alternate expertise essential to a multisectoral emergency response to Avian influenza especially if likely to lead the response. Hosts from Fiji and FSM may help facilitate the SIMEX. The meeting is being conducted in collaboration with our partners: (i) the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); (ii) the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and (iii) the Burnet Institute.

## BACKGROUND

3. At a recent regional meeting, scientists warned that Pacific Island Countries & Territories face an imminent threat from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, now detected in local wildlife. Many countries around the World are experiencing issues with multiple highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) strains, which has had a significant impact, causing widespread outbreaks in poultry and wild birds, and posing a threat to biodiversity and human life. The follow-on effect on food security and health & well-being of Pacific Island can be catastrophic.
4. The Regional One Health Meeting and Workshop is organized by SPC's One Health team, in partnership with Public Health and Animal Health focal points, and representatives from SPC's Land Resources and Public Health Divisions. The purpose of this workshop is to invite representatives from key One Health sectors: Public Health, Environment, and Agriculture, including auxiliary units such as Biosecurity for Animal Health. Technical agencies including Quadripartite, ACDP, MPI, and DAFF are participating as co-facilitators and planners for this event.

## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

5. The purpose of the Workshop is to strengthen PICTs Emergency Preparedness and Response plans to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the Pacific Region through capacity building and simulation exercises using a multisectoral approach (One Health).

See Annex 1 for details about this meeting.

## PARTICIPANTS

6. This meeting specifically invites representatives from the Agriculture, Environment and the Public Health Sector for each country, that are likely focal points or designates for a multisectoral (One Health) approach and/or responsible for the implementation of the Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) for HPAI in their respective countries.
7. We extend the invitation to 3 senior participants from each country sectors for the Environment, Agriculture and Public Health Sectors, preferably the focal persons or coordinators for One Health in the country. The invitation to the Environment sector focal points will be initiated by SPREP. **Submit the nomination (see Annex 2) to the SPC One Health secretariat by 30 August 2025.**

8. Participants must join discussions, share country experiences, receive technical guidance, and apply their Avian Influenza or Pandemic Response Plans. SPC will share a template ERP to assist countries that do not have one. Participants will acquire knowledge and tools to similarly organize an in-country meeting/workshop with SIMEX for HPAI with support from SPC and partners.

#### **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

9. The Pacific One Health Emergency Preparedness & Response to Avian Influenzae (PREVAIL/POHPERAI) Workshop will be held over 5 days and a provisional agenda is provided under Annex 3.

#### **LANGUAGE**

10. The Pacific One Health Emergency Preparedness & Response to Avian Influenzae (PREVAIL/POHPERAI) Workshop will be conducted in English.

#### **TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

11. A return ticket in economy class on the most cost-effective route will be provided to all funded representatives. If representatives select a different route than the one proposed, they are responsible for any additional expenses. Travel orders will only be issued after official nominations have been received. Representatives are required to keep all boarding passes and hotel receipts while traveling. SPC will need this documentation to verify travel.
12. Per diem will be provided to official representatives. Hotel accommodation will be arranged and paid for directly for the duration of the stay, either at the workshop venue or at the nearest available lodging. Representatives who choose to stay with family or friends should notify them upon confirmation of the itinerary. In such cases, a per diem covering meals (not supplied by SPC) and incidentals will be paid. If overnight transit is required, a full per diem (covering hotel, meals, and incidentals) will be paid; however, representatives must make their own hotel arrangements. Submission of hotel receipts will be required as proof of accommodation.

#### **VISA REQUIREMENTS**

13. Representatives are required to ascertain visa entry requirements to Fiji and to ensure passports are valid for at least 6 months after the return flight from Fiji.
14. All travel visas to the host country are the responsibility of the delegates. However, SPC may be able to assist, through a letter of introduction, if required.
15. To facilitate administrative arrangements, we require the passport details of each representative

## INSURANCE

16. SPC does not ensure representatives while attending meetings or during travel to and from Fiji and will not be responsible for any expenses arising out of loss, sickness, injury, other disability, or loss of life. It is the representatives' responsibility to ensure that their travel or health is covered by insurance.

## MEETING CONTACTS

17. Official nominations need to be sent directly to Dr. Eric Rafai [ericr@spc.int](mailto:ericr@spc.int), Dr Chaminda Dissanayake: [chamindad@spc.int](mailto:chamindad@spc.int) or Ms Sandhya Devi: [sandhyad@spc.int](mailto:sandhyad@spc.int)
18. The organizers and co-sponsors of this workshop will be in contact with confirmed participants over the ensuing weeks to share further information about the meeting and logistical details (flight, accommodation, and meals).
19. Please do not hesitate to contact the following staff if you need further information:

Dr. Eric Rafai, One Health Coordinator, Land Resources Division E: <a href="mailto:ericr@spc.int">ericr@spc.int</a>	Dr Chaminda Dissanayake, Animal Production Advisor, Land Resources Division, E: <a href="mailto:chamindad@spc.int">chamindad@spc.int</a>	Ms. Elenoa Salele PHOVAPS Coordinator Land Resources Division E: <a href="mailto:elenoas@spc.int">elenoas@spc.int</a>	Ms. Sandhya Devi Finance & Administration Land Resources Division E: <a href="mailto:sandhyad@spc.int">sandhyad@spc.int</a>
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The Pacific Community expresses its gratitude to the member countries for their kind assistance and avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.



**Dr Paula Vivili**

Deputy Director-General, Science and Capability

Attach: Annex 1 – Information Sheet  
Annex 2 – Participant Nomination Form  
Annex 3 -Provisional Agenda

Original Text: English

## ANNEX 1

### THE PACIFIC ONE HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE PLAN TO AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI), 13 – 17 October 2025, NADI, FIJI (venue tbc)

#### **INFORMATION SHEET**

##### BACKGROUND

Avian influenza, also known as 'bird flu', is a highly contagious disease that affects domestic poultry and wild birds which can cause serious illness and many deaths in flocks of infected poultry and infected wild birds. There are several strains of avian influenza that are categorised based on the level of disease severity in poultry. The most serious strains are known as high pathogenicity (or highly pathogenic) avian influenza (HPAI) and cause severe clinical signs and possible high mortality rates.

HPAI is of major concern globally, including to the Pacific region, and has a major impact on the trade of live poultry and poultry products. Whereas most PICTs rely on the importation of 1-day chicks for egg-laying hens and farms, most countries in the world restrict the entry of live poultry or poultry products from countries where avian influenza is present.

Avian influenza occurs throughout the world. In the Pacific region, various HPAI strains have been reported in Australia and most recently in New Zealand where actions have been taken to stamp out the disease in poultry, but the risk likely higher for PICTs who with less resources and capability to tackle a disease outbreak. Hawai'i recently reported its first occurrence of the globally spread HPAI H5N1 strain. The Pacific region, including Australia and New Zealand, currently remain free from H5N1, but have faced outbreaks of HPAI from other Influenza A viral strains. Reports received this year from Antarctica indicate that no place on earth is safe<sup>1</sup>.

To limit the risk of HPAI introduction into the Pacific, the PICTs will have to implement and enforce strict quarantine rules and preparedness plans in place. In countries where avian influenza is not present, it is essential to use strict quarantine measures and surveillance methods to detect early and to prevent introduction of the disease. To minimise the impact of HPAI to Pacific Island Country populations, there is a real need to build local capacity, capability and facilitate appropriate information to enable PICTs government departments to detect, contain, manage/treat and respond to any incident where H5N1 and/or other HPAI is suspected. This disease is zoonotic in nature and therefore is properly addressed through a multi-disciplinary (One Health) approach.

As HPAI strains can be carried via wild birds, including some migratory species, and it is also important to assess risks to investigate suspected cases of HPAI and to decide on appropriate actions such as reducing contact between farmed birds and wild birds and other potential carriers of the virus and more importantly properly investigate any wild bird mortality outbreaks.

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## RATIONALE

Avian influenza is a significant concern for several reasons. Its high contagion rate can lead to devastating effects on poultry farms, causing substantial economic losses. Additionally, the disease can spread to wild bird and mammal populations, disrupting ecosystems. Transmission to humans can occur, posing a potential public health risk and the threat of pandemics – ultimately increase mortality. Biosecurity limitations may lead to severe shortages in poultry, eggs and egg products in PICTs jeopardizing food security in some Pacific Island settings.

The multisectoral coordination and collaboration within Countries can be achieved through the combined effort and resources of partners that are committed to the One Health approach in the Pacific, through SPC partnerships with the Quadripartite, Burnet institute, ACDP, etc.

## GOAL

The goal of this meeting/workshop is to strengthen the PICTs capacity and capability to effectively detect, investigate and respond to any HPAI event in the country and region.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Pacific One Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan to Avian Influenza are:

1. Increase awareness and understanding of zoonotic Influenza, with emphasis on Avian Influenza, its eco-epidemiology and its potential impact on public health, animal health, and the environment in the Pacific region.
2. Equip participants from the PICTs with the knowledge and skills needed to conduct risk profiling, surveillance/early detection, prepare for and respond to Avian Influenza outbreaks in a timely and appropriate manner.
3. Foster collaboration between different sectors (health, agriculture, wildlife, and environment) to create a coordinated and effective response plan.
4. Engage community leaders and stakeholders in developing culturally appropriate communication, preparedness and response strategies.
5. Conduct a simulation exercise (SIMEX) exercise on HPAI in a Pacific Island context.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Increased Awareness: Participants will gain a deeper understanding of Avian Influenza, its impacts, and the importance of a One Health approach in managing such pandemics.
2. Enhanced Preparedness: Public health officials, veterinary and agriculture professionals, and community leaders will be better equipped to develop and implement effective (surveillance? and) preparedness plans.
3. Improved Response Capabilities: Participants will acquire the skills needed to detect or collect samples to be referred for diagnosis collect samples for referral and respond to Avian Influenza outbreaks swiftly and effectively.

4. Strengthened Collaboration: Increased coordination and collaboration between different sectors and stakeholders, leading to a more unified and robust response to potential outbreaks.
5. Community Engagement: Empowered community leaders and stakeholders will be more engaged in preparedness and response efforts, ensuring culturally appropriate and community-specific strategies.
6. Action Plans and Commitments: Participants will leave with actionable plans and commitments to enhance their local and regional preparedness and response strategies.
7. Resource Accessibility: Access to valuable resources, such as training manuals, toolkits, and contact information for regional experts and organizations.

Overall, the workshop aims to build a resilient and well-prepared Pacific community capable of undertaking surveillance of poultry diseases, effectively detecting early, managing and mitigating the impacts of an Avian Influenza outbreak.

ANNEX 2

**PARTICIPANT NOMINATION FORM**

<b>Title</b>	<b>The Pacific One Health Emergency Preparedness &amp; Response Plan to Avian Influenzae (HPAI)</b>
<b>Venue</b>	Nadi, FIJI (venue to be confirmed)
<b>Date</b>	13-17 October 2025
<b>Participants</b>	One Health representatives for countries; Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
<b>Organizers &amp; Funders</b>	SPC One Health Team, Suva

<b>PART 1:</b>	<b>To be completed by or on behalf of Governments – Administrations and/on Organisations – A country representative from each of the sectors (Environment, Agriculture, Public Health)</b>
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**Name & title/designation of Manager: (*endorsing nomination*)**

Name & Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval & Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Department – Ministry – Organisation:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name & title of Representative/Participant attending the workshop**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**PART 2: To be completed by Representative/Participant**

**Personal Details:** [A copy of your passport bio-data page is required for airline booking, please send e-copy]

Full name on passport \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Person to contact in case of any emergency** (please give full details: name, phone no., email)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please send the completed Nomination form to the SPC One Health Secretariat  
by 30 August 2025

Dr. Eric Rafi ([ericr@spc.int](mailto:ericr@spc.int))

Dr Chaminda Dissanayake ([chamindad@spc.int](mailto:chamindad@spc.int))

Ms Sandhya ([sandhyad@spc.int](mailto:sandhyad@spc.int))

### ANNEX 3

**The Pacific One Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan to Avian Influenzae (HPAI),  
13<sup>th</sup> October 2025, Novotel Hotel, Nadi, Fiji**

### AGENDA

<b>Day 1 : Introduction</b>		
	<b>Monday 13th October 2025</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
8.30 – 9.00	Registration	SPC
9.00 – 9.10	Prayer & Welcome Address	Host Country
9.10 – 9.20	Host country remarks	PS Health, PS Agriculture, PS Environment
9.20 – 9.30	Opening remarks	Director NDMO
9.30 – 9.40	Group Photo	SPC
9.40 – 10.00	Introduction & Overview workshop objectives & Agenda	SPC
<b>10.00 – 10.30am Morning Tea break</b>		
10.30 -11.00	Overview of the Avian Influenzae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Epidemiology and transmission</li> <li>- Impact on Animal Health &amp; Wildlife perspective</li> <li>- Impact on Human Health perspective</li> </ul>	Quadripartite
11.00-11.30	One Health approach in Emergency response to Infectious diseases	SPC
11.30-12.00	Case Studies of Past Outbreak: Antarctica	SPC
12.00 – 1.00	Introduction to 7-1-7	Burnet Institute
1:00 - 2.00	LUNCH BREAK	
2.30 – 3.00	Preparedness planning - Concepts	BAF, MoH, MAF
3.00 - 3.30	Joint Risk assessment and surveillance	Quadripartite
3.30 - 3:45	Break	
3:45-4.30	Communication & Response Strategies: Detection & Diagnosis	NDMO & Ministries
4.30 -5.00 pm	Q & A	
<b>END OF DAY ONE</b>		

<b>Day 2: Partnerships &amp; Networks</b>		
	<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b><u>Facilitator</u></b>
08.30 – 9.00am	Day 1 – RECAP	Country participant
09.00 -10.00	Introduction to 7-1-7 (Early Action Review)	Burnet Institute
<b>10:00 -10.15</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
10.15-11:00	7-1-7 Tabletop exercise	Burnet Institute
11:00 -11:30	Containment and Control measure	BAF
11:30 – 12:00	Developing Resource mobilization and logistics, communications	Partners
12.00—1pm	Building Partnerships and Networks	Quadripartite
1:00-1:45pm	LUNCH BREAK	
1:45- 2:15	Summary of tools & templates & guidelines	Quadripartite
2:15 – 3.00	Roles and Responsibilities of different sectors	National OH
3.00 – 3.15	Afternoon Tea	
3:30 – 5:00	Develop Country emergency response plans – group work sessions for participants to evaluate current response plans and level of preparedness.	NDMO
<b>END OF DAY TWO</b>		

<b>Day 3: Regional &amp; Country Planning</b>		
	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
08.30 – 9.00am	Day 1 – RECAP	Regional Participant
09.00 -10.00	Response Strategies: Detection & Diagnosis	
<b>10:00 -10.30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
10:30 -11:00	Containment and Control measure	WOAH
11:00 – 11:30	Developing Resource mobilization and logistics, communications	WHO
11.30-12.00pm	Building Partnerships and Networks	WHO
12.00 – 1.00	Summary of tools & templates & guidelines	WOAH, WHO, SPC
1:00 – 2.00	LUNCH BREAK	
2:00 – 3.00	Roles and Responsibilities of different sectors	Fiji One Health
3.00 – 3.30	Afternoon Tea	
3:30 – 5:00	Review Country emergency response plans – group work sessions for participants to evaluate current response plans and level of preparedness.	NDMO, MoH, MOA, BAFF
<b>END OF DAY 3</b>		

<b>Day 4: Simulation exercise in the <sup>2</sup>field</b>		
	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
08:30-08:45	Recap of Day 3	Regional
08:45-09:15	Multisectoral collaboration in Emergency	SPC
09:15-09:45	Planning & Logistics Discussions	WOAH, BAF, MOA
<b>09:45-10:00 break</b>		
10:00-10:30	Conduct of SIMEX – Animal/Wildlife Scenario	BAF, MOA
10:30-11:00		

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/MM/DD\\_OIE\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Simulation\\_Exercises.pdf](https://www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/MM/DD_OIE_Guidelines_for_Simulation_Exercises.pdf)

11:00 – 11:30		
<b>11:30 – 12:00 Lunch break</b>		
13:00-14:00	Conduct of SIMEX – Human Health Scenario	Quadripartite, MoH
14:00-15:00		
15:00-15:30		
15:30-16:00		
16:00-17:00	Report back from group work and close for day	
<b>END OF DAY 4</b>		

<b>Day 5: Evaluation</b>		
	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
08:30-08:50	Recap	SPC
8:50 – 9:00	Questionnaire feedback	Participants
9:00 – 9:30	Group Feedback (Animal Health, Public Health, Environment	Participants
9:30 – 10:00	Discussions	
<b>10:00 – 10:30 Tea break</b>		
10:30 – 11:30	Observers/Evaluators Feed back	Quadripartite
11:30 – 12:00	Q&A	participants
10:40-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-12:00	Group work – Revisit workplans, ERPs, SOPs	Quadripartite
12:00 – 12:30	Concluding remarks	SPC
<b>12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break</b>		
13:30 – 14:00	Q&A	Participants
14:00-15:00	Workshop evaluation	SPC
15:00-15:30	Coffee break	
15:30-16:00	Post workshop assessment	SPC
16:00-17:00	Summary & Closing of Workshop	NDMO