

Assessing stakeholder inclusion within high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) risk governance strategies in the UK and USA

Kimberly Lyons^{1*}, Darrell R. Kapczynski², Samantha Lycett³, Paul Digard³, Lisa Boden⁴

¹Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Systems, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

²Exotic and Emerging Avian Diseases Research Unit, U.S. National Poultry Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Athens, Georgia, USA

³Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

⁴Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Objectives & Methods

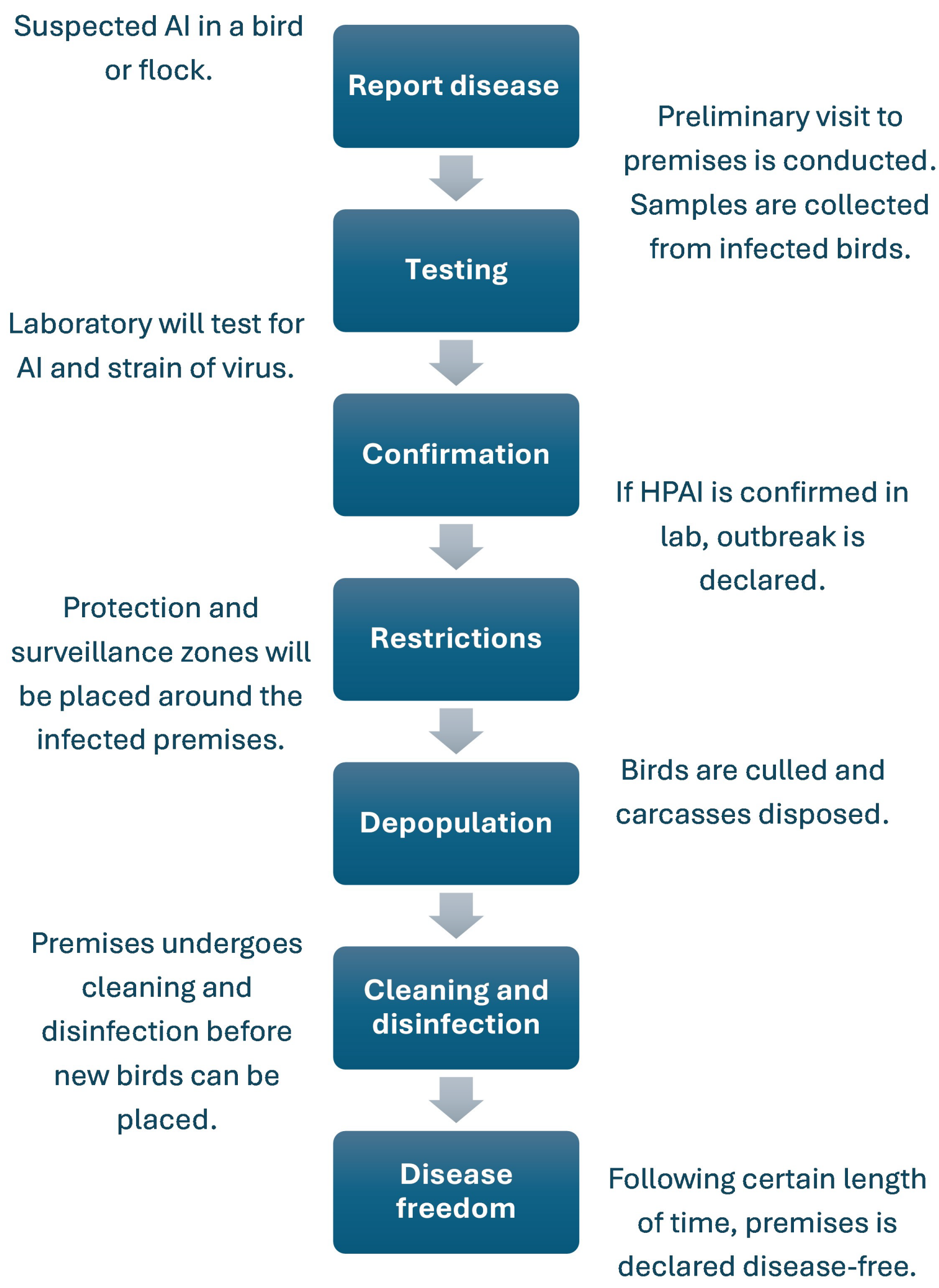
Objectives

- To **identify** key actors, institutions and infrastructures within the process of detecting avian influenza, declaring an outbreak, and implementing risk mitigation strategies
- Outline **communication pathways** between stakeholders within this process
- Summarize **key gaps and opportunities** within the decision-making, response, and risk mitigation process

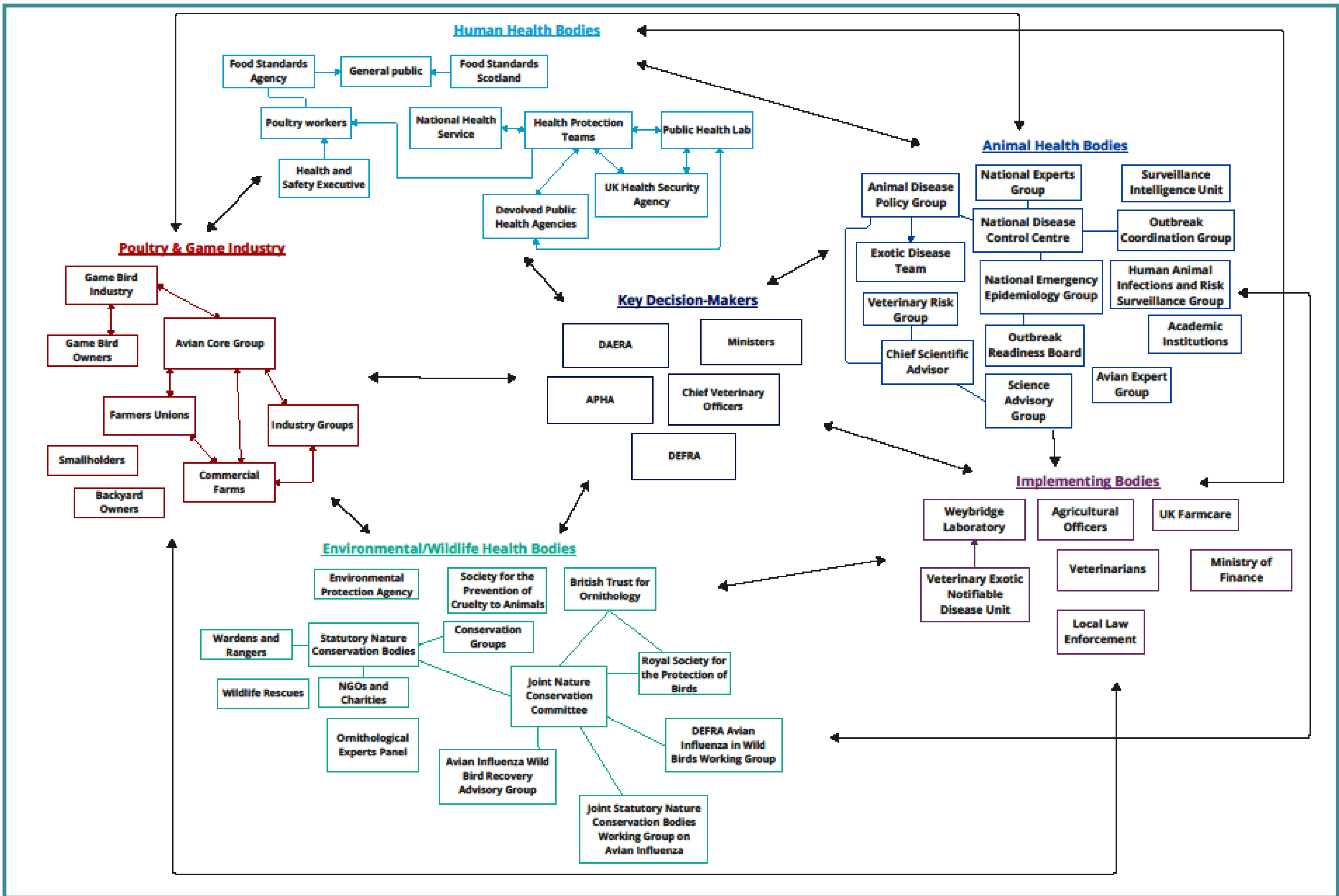
Methods

- In-depth qualitative interviews conducted with 12 UK and 8 USA stakeholders involved in high pathogenicity avian influenza outbreak decision-making and response

Steps Taken During a HPAI Outbreak



UK Stakeholder Map



Areas for Improved Risk Governance

Strengths:

- Improved relationships at policy-industry interface, strengthening communication pathways
- Active wild bird surveillance to provide insight on incoming pathogens
- Clear, transparent policies publicly available online by USDA APHIS
- Incorporation of ornithological expertise into epidemiological tracing activities
- National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) brings together government and industry to combat disease
- Avian Core Group connects those enacting policy with industry members implementing response activities

Weaknesses:

- Difficult user experience on GOV.UK and USDA platforms for laypeople
- Delays in data sharing at science-policy interface
- Complex communication pathways with numerous steps between decision-makers and response implementers
- Loss of expertise within governmental departments
- Length of time it takes to enact proposed changes
- Lack of poultry-specific knowledge in general veterinarian practices

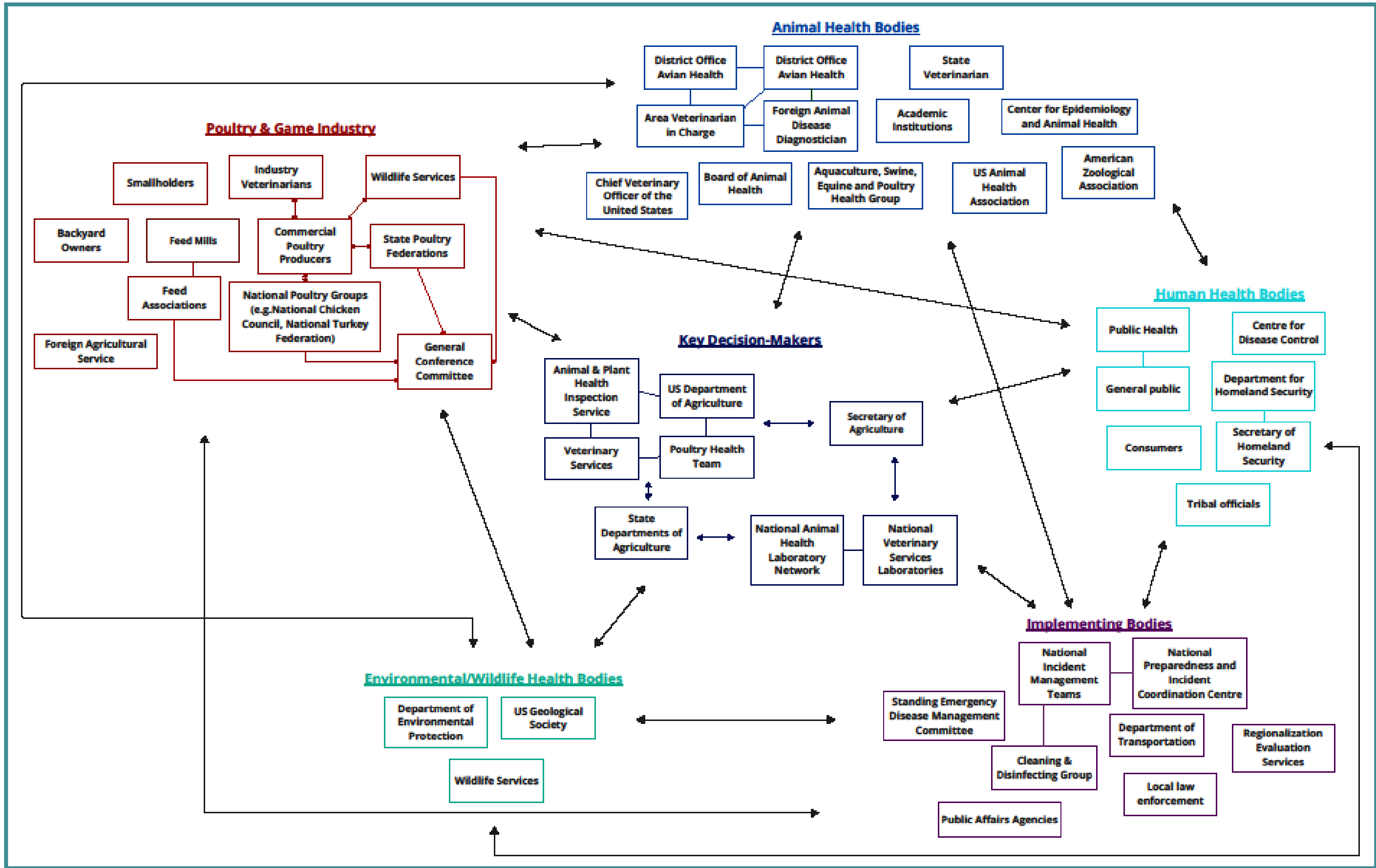
Opportunities:

- Continued outreach to underrepresented stakeholders, including through local media sources
- Collaboration at the science-industry interface to better understand production data and farm-level activities
- Follow-up research to determine effectiveness of programs such as 'Defend the Flock' and 'Stop the Spread'

Threats:

- Limited resources to respond to HPAI in remote areas
- Individual compliance with recommended biosecurity measures may differ from assumed compliance
- Concern over the ability to manage multiple diseases at once
- Financial, emotional, and mental health toll of HPAI outbreaks on bird owners
- Impact of climate and winter conditions on equipment usability and response time

USA Stakeholder Map



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies

Global Agriculture and
Food Systems

