



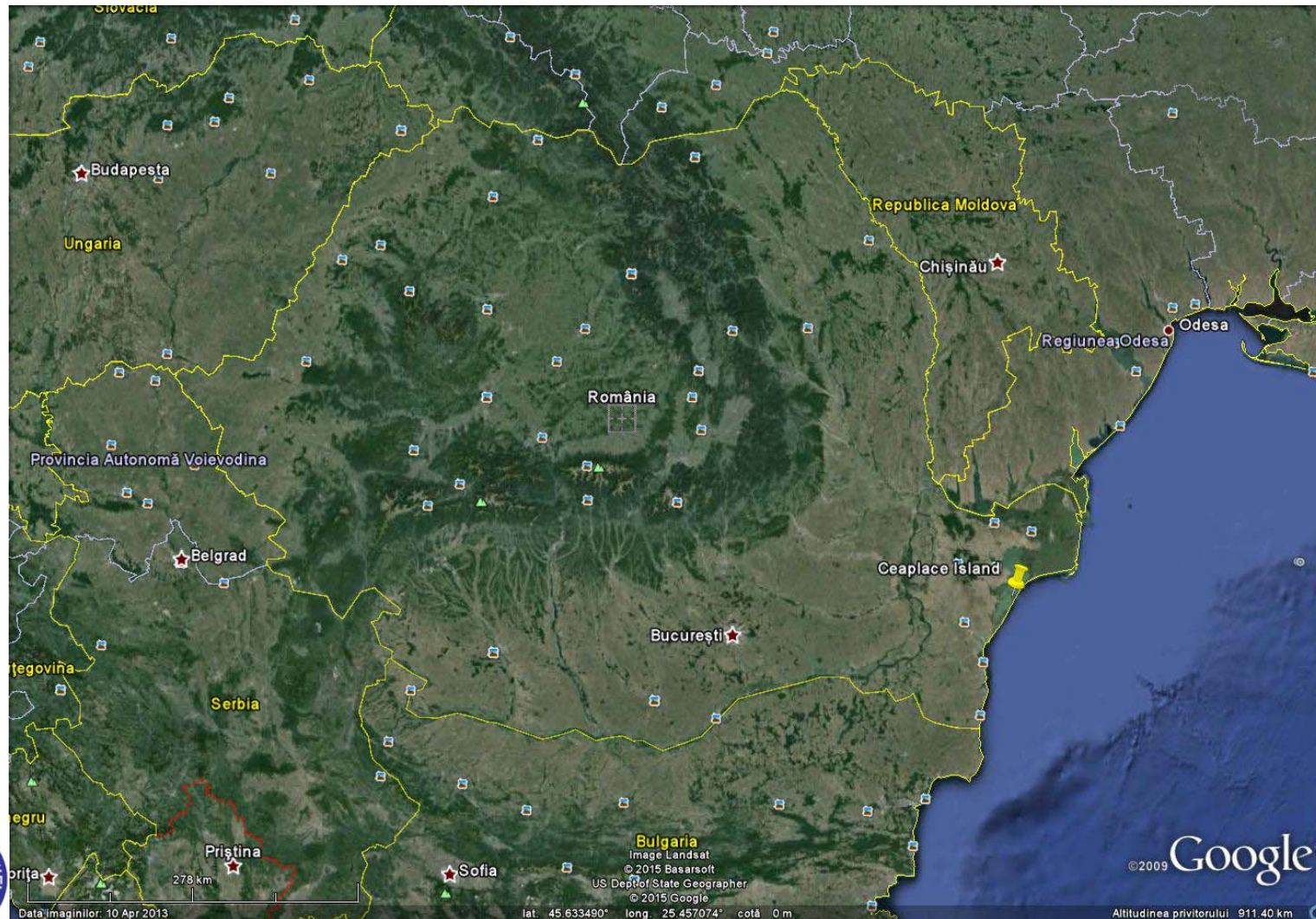
NSVFS
ROMÂNIA

**SCOPAFF meeting
16-17 April 2015, Brussels**

**Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 in
wild birds, in the Danube Delta Biosphere
Reservation - România**



Inspectors of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation observed on 25 March 2015 high mortality of pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) on Ceaplace island, a protected area on Sinoe lake; they immediately alerted the CSVFSD Tulcea.
64 pelicans found dead initially.





Location: Sinoe Lake, Ceaplace island:
one of four habitats existent in the
Danube Delta Biosphere
Reservation for pelicans.

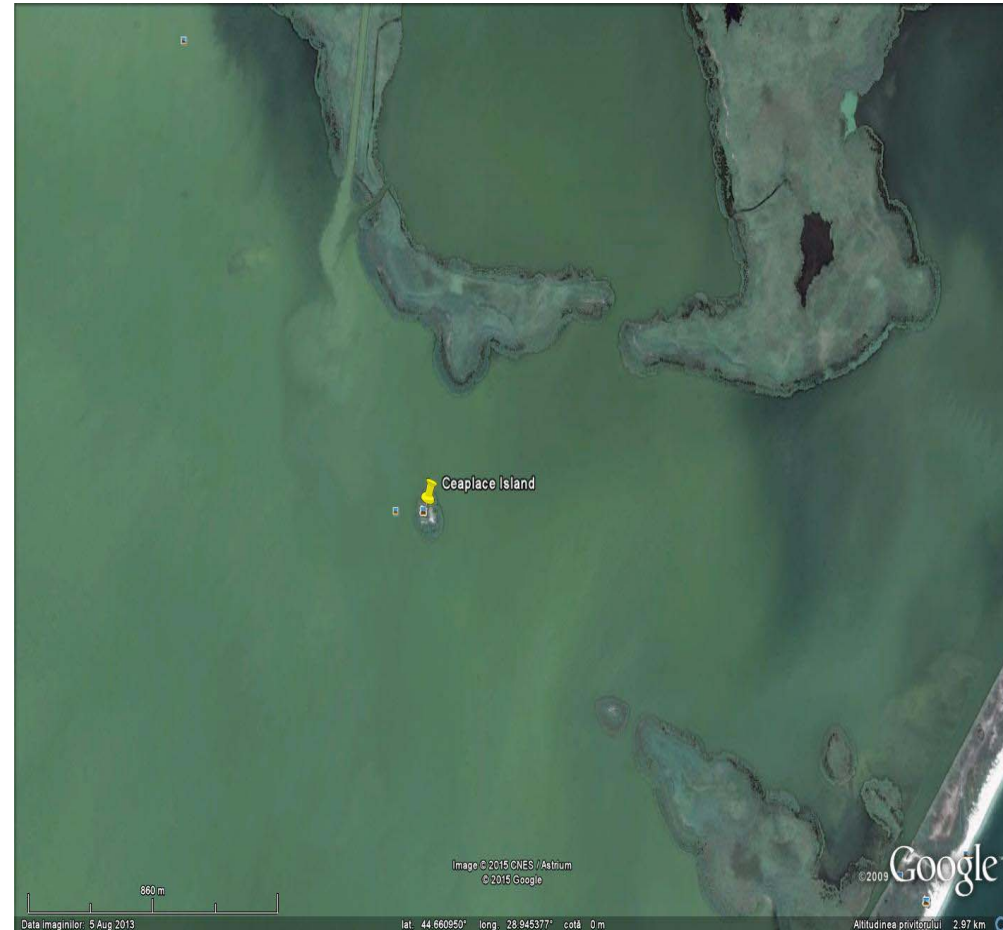
Latitude: 44°39'37.2"

Longitude: 28°56'30"

Initial population of habitat was of
around 250 pelicans (*Pelecanus
crispi*), 100 cormorants
(*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and some
seagulls. 116 pelicans found dead
since suspicion, so far.

**Very important mortality percent of
about 46 %!!!**

Small risk for public health and for
poultry, but an important risk for
the wild birds which populates the
DDBR



HPAI H5N1 in pelicans in Ceaplace island, Sinoe lake

Date of suspicion and sampling : 25 March 2015, DDRB+SVFSD Tulcea

Date of first testing: 26 March 2015, SVL Tulcea: detection of the AI genome

Date of confirmation: 27 March 2015, IDAH – NRL

Tests used:

- virus isolation by inoculation on embrionated eggs,
- identification of virus genome IA protein Matrix by Real Time RT-PCR test,
- identification of hemaglutinine subtype H5 of IA, by Real Time RT-PCR,
- identification of neuraminidaze subtype N1 of IA virus by Real Time RT-PCR.

Strain sent to EU-RL Weybridge for molecular epidemiology studies: 2-nd April 2015





- CCA of Romania ordered control measures accordingly to the Commission Decision 2006/563/EC concerning certain protection measures in relations to HPAI subtype H5N1 in wild birds in the Community and repealing Decision 2006/115/EC.
- For the disease control, the Romanian veterinary competent authority cooperates with the experts and rangers of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation, and with the hunters, in monitoring the area.
- A helicopter monitored the four habitats with pelicans in the Danube Delta. Also, more monitorings actions with a drone follow to take place, in order to observe the habitat.



0 6,500 Meters

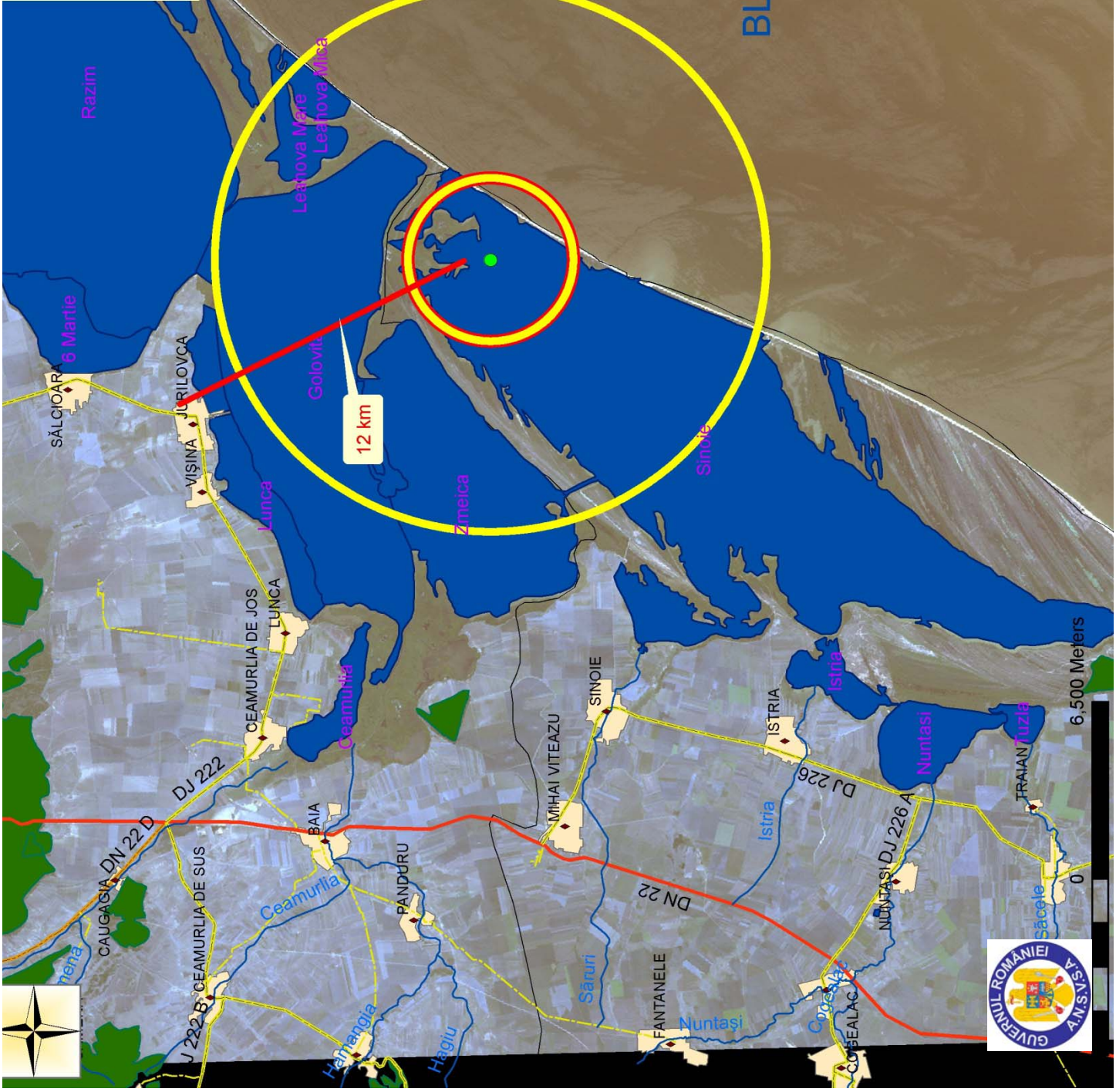


Legend

- Al_outbreak_Ceaplace_Tulcea_25.03.2015
- 3km_10km_AI_Ceaplace_25.03.2015
- <all other values>

distance

- control zone
- monitoring zone



- Have been met the LDCC 's of the Constanta and Tulcea Counties;
- Have been established the control zone (3 km) and the monitoring zone (7 km);
- The isle have been demarcated and the fisherman were advised to not trespass the interdiction of entering the isle;
- Have been ordered inspections in non-commercial and commercial holdings with poultry in localities around Sinoe Lake, and along the Black Sea Shore, in order to identify eventually new cases in poultry and wild birds;
- Have been informed all the Local Support Units in the two counties about the confirmation of the HPAI H5N1 and about the necessity of raising awareness among farmers and general public regarding the disease;



- Obligation to keep the poultry inside, in backyards and commercial holding;
- No poultry or birds expositions, show and fairs;
- Hunting forbidden
- Intervention teams are vaccinated against AI and wear special protection suits; their state of health is strictly monitored
- Have been informed the poultry farmers in order to increase the biosecurity measures



Mortality rate on the pelicans habitat so far

Crt. no	Date	Nr. dead birds
1	25-29. 03.2015	108
2	30. 03.2015	3
3	01.04.2015	3
4	03.04.2015	2
5	07.04.2015	2
Total		118



Inspections in backyards, around restriction area (20 km)

Nr. Crt.	County	Localities	No. backyards with poultry	Nr. poultry
1.	CONSTANTA	ISTRIA	32	2024
		NUNTASI	39	2382
		MIHAI VITEAZU	47	1504
		SINOE	50	2194
		TOTAL	4	168
2	TULCEA	JURILOVCA	26	649
		SALCIOARA	38	1039
		VISINA	10	336
		CEAMURLIA DE JOS	189	4026
		LUNCA	198	3383
		TOTAL	5	461



Epidemiological investigation: inconclusive

The cases of mortality in birds stopped on the Ceaplace island.

Cannot be ruled out a link with the case in pelicans from Bulgaria - Silistra and those from the Danube Delta.

Cannot be ruled an infection brought from Africa in the migration process.

Continuing monitoring of the wild bird populations for understanding the dynamics of disease in wild bird populations, and for defining the risk for other areas in the DDBR and in the neighboring areas.



Thank you for your attention!

