

Updated Outbreak Assessment #11

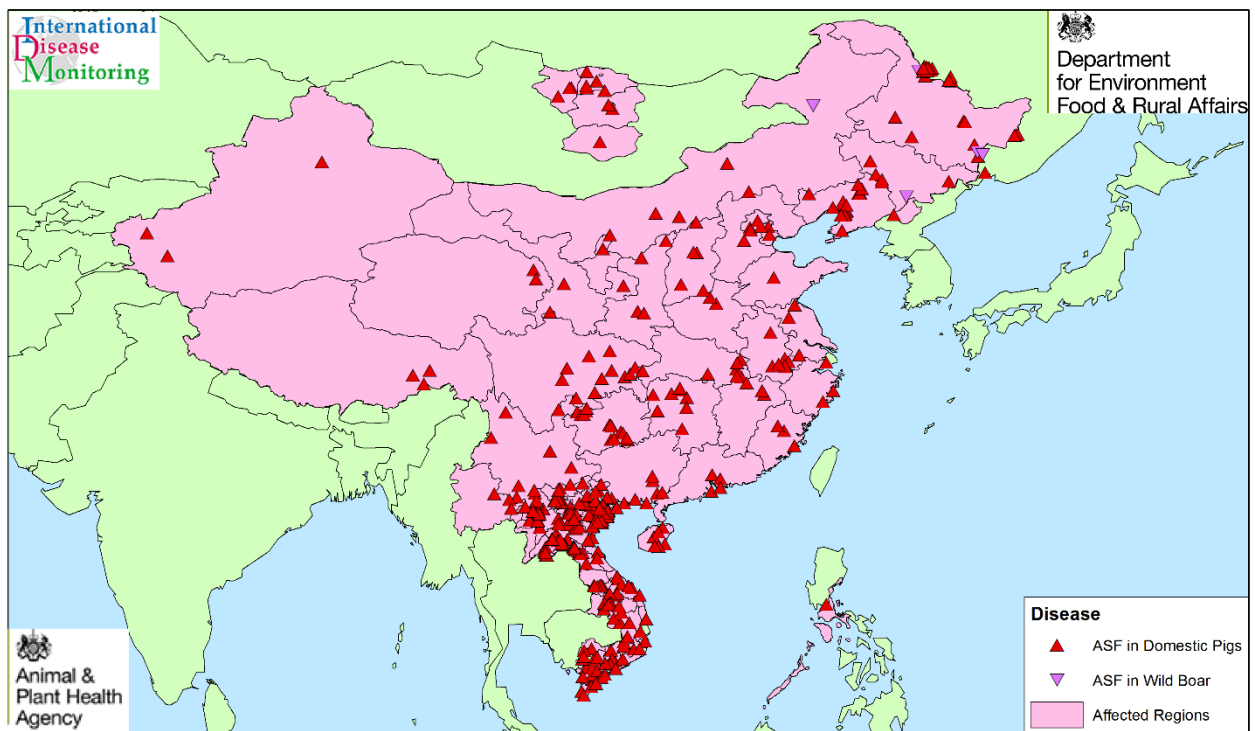
African Swine Fever (ASF) in South East Asia

12 September 2019

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in South East Asia

Disease report

Since our last report on 15 August, China, Hong Kong, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam have reported more outbreaks in domestic pigs. Outbreaks of ASF have been reported in the Philippines for the first time. In total, more than 10% of the total pig population in each of China, Vietnam and Mongolia have died or been culled. This has resulted in severe economic losses to the pig sector in these countries.



Map prepared by IDM
Date: 10/09/2019
Absolute scale: 1:32,000,000

African swine fever in south-east Asia
since August 2018

0 220 440 880 1,320 1,760 Km

The map shows the ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar since August 2018.

Situation assessment

Philippines

ASF has been reported for the first time in domestic pigs in the Philippines on 09 September. Seven outbreaks in domestic pigs were reported. More than 7,000 pigs have been culled in the affected areas. Spread has been attributed swill feeding and animal movements. According to The Pig Site (2019), in July 2019 the Philippine domestic pig population was estimated at 12.7 million, including about 8 million pigs in backyard farms and 4.7 million in commercial farms, according to government data.

China

The Chinese authorities reported the first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs on 3 August 2018. Since then, a total of 152 outbreaks in domestic pigs have officially been reported. Since our last report on 15 August, one new outbreaks have been reported in domestic pigs. Though the number of outbreaks reported since our last report on the 15 of August continues to be low, movement of diseased animals appears to be occurring in the country, which could contribute to further spread.

Vietnam

The first case of ASF in Vietnam was reported in early February 2019; since then over 2,700 outbreaks have been reported. ASF outbreaks have now been reported in all provinces and the majority of municipalities across the country, resulting in the culling of more than 3 million pigs (OIE, FAO). Since our last report on 15 August, one new outbreaks has been reported in domestic pigs, a sharp decrease from the previous month.

Laos

Laos reported its first outbreaks of ASF on 20 June 2019, since then a total of 94 outbreaks have been reported in domestic pigs, including 84 outbreaks since our last report on 15 August.

Cambodia

Cambodia reported its first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs 23 March 2019. Since our last report on 15 August, there have been no new outbreaks reported.

Myanmar

We have previously reported the detection of ASF virus in dead pigs in Myanmar and in close proximity to the Thai border, The Authorities had concluded that the import of infected pigs and pork products had likely occurred, rather than a wild boar source of infection. Since our last report on 15 August, two new outbreaks have been reported.

Hong Kong

Since our last report on 15 August, Hong Kong has reported an outbreak of ASF, at a slaughter house. An ASF surveillance system is in place for local pig farms, slaughterhouses, and wild boars in Hong Kong. The virus was detected in tissue samples collected as part of the surveillance system from three imported pigs that died in the slaughterhouse. Since then, a daily clearance arrangement has been implemented in the slaughterhouses. Lairages in different areas of the slaughterhouse are cleared out with thorough cleansing and disinfection every day. Cleaning and disinfection of vehicles transporting pigs have also been enhanced.

Since our last report on 15 August, there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported in: North Korea, Cambodia or Mongolia, though the virus is likely still circulating in these areas. Taiwan remains officially free from ASF. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Other factors

The confirmation of African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) in China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, North Korea, Laos, Myanmar and now the Philippines, shows the potential for further spread into the domestic pig and wild suid populations in south-eastern Asia, where the presence of soft-bodied argasid ticks could also hinder eradication if found to be able to transmit ASFV. Furthermore, there is currently no vaccine available against ASF.

The epidemiological situation of ASF across South East Asia remains of concern; new outbreaks continue despite the control campaigns implemented, which are possibly a reflection of illegal movements of both animals and pork products.

The overall risk to the UK given the current distribution of ASF in Belgium, Eastern Europe and neighbouring countries is still **medium**. There are ongoing concerns around pork products from non-EU countries entering the EU in passenger luggage and then being discarded in areas where wild boar or domestic pigs are present. With regular direct flights to the EU and UK from China and eastern Asia, there is a risk of entry of ASFV in products of animal origin (POAO) from Asia.

Publicity campaigns are in place to inform the public and discourage individuals from bringing pork products into UK, with targeted messages to key people such as road hauliers, hunters, pig keepers and veterinarians. See: http://web.oie.int/rr-europe/eng/regprog/en_asf_depository.htm, and, <https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/health-welfare/health/emerging-diseases/african-swine-fever/>

Conclusion

The risk of ASF introduction to the UK was raised to **medium** in August 2018 as a result of the number of outbreaks of ASF being reported in Eastern Europe, and subsequent detection of ASF in wild boar in Belgium in September 2018. Despite the spread of ASF to China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong and North Korea, Laos, Myanmar, and the Philippines, the current risk of ASF introduction to the UK is still considered to be **medium**, although the situation is being kept under review.

We would like to highlight to all pig keepers and the public to ensure pigs are not fed catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products, thereby observing the swill feeding ban. All pig keepers should be aware that visitors to their premises should not have had recent contact with pigs and pig premises in the affected regions. Anybody returning from any ASF-affected area should avoid contact with domestic pigs, whether commercial holdings or smallholdings, areas with feral pigs or wild boar, until they are confident they have no contaminated clothing, footwear or equipment. Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF. Any suspect cases must be reported promptly. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever> for more information.

We would like to remind the public that any feeding of meat products, including the feeding of swill, kitchen scraps and catering waste, to wild boar or feral pigs is also illegal. A poster reminding pig keepers of this is available:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/surveillance/diseases/african-swine-fever-poster.pdf>

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

The Pig Site, 2019 (<https://thepigsite.com/news/2019/09/philippines-confirms-pig-deaths-are-result-of-african-swine-fever>)



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