

Updated Outbreak Assessment #16

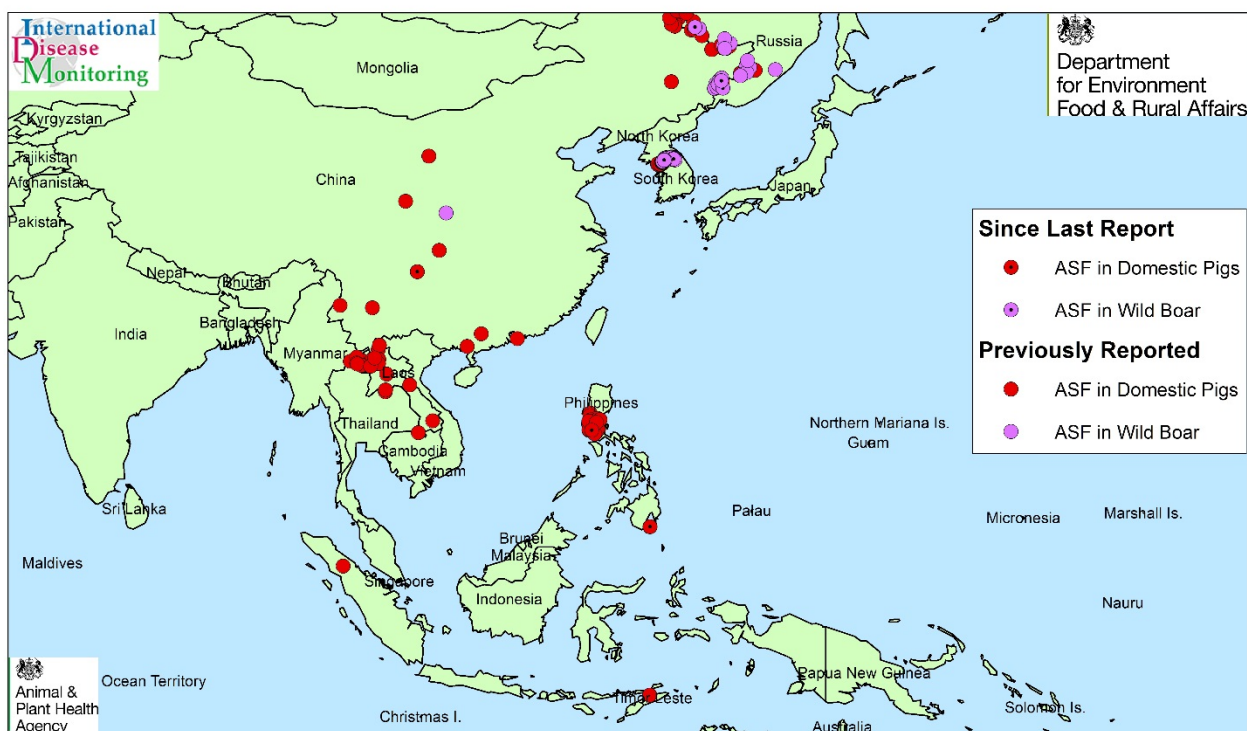
African Swine Fever (ASF) in South East Asia

13 February 2020

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in South East Asia

Disease report

Since our last report on 18 December, African Swine Fever (ASF) has been unofficially reported in domestic pigs in Bali (Jakarta Post, 2020; FAO, 2020). There have been further reports of ASF in the Philippines, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, China, and South Korea (OIE, 2020; FAO, 2020).



Map prepared by IDM
Date: 13/02/2020
Absolute scale: 1:42,000,000

African swine fever in south-east Asia
since September 2019

0 290 580 1,160 1,740 2,320 Km

The map shows the ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar reported since September 2019.

Situation assessment

Indonesia confirmed ASF in December 2019, and since our last report on 18 December, a further 465 outbreaks in backyard holdings have been reported in the North Sumatran Province (locations unknown, not shown on map), affecting approximately 38,000 animals.

There has now been a total of 857 outbreaks across 18 out of 33 districts in North Sumatra. According to a rapid risk assessment, transportation of live pigs from another area, and, contaminated fomite from animal handlers, vehicles and animals still remain the main risk identified for disease spread (OIE, 2019). Disposal of the dead pigs, cleansing and disinfection have been implemented.

The virus was unofficially reported on the Indonesian island of **Bali** via The Jakarta Post on 5 February (Jakarta Post, 2020), following the death of almost 1,000 pigs since mid-December (not shown on map). The majority of the outbreaks have occurred in the south of the island, in the Badung (598) and Tabanan (219) regions. Swill feeding has been suspected as the source of infection. The outbreaks have been reported by the FAO (FAO, 2020) but are yet to be reported to OIE.

Since our last report on 18 December, **China** has reported one new outbreak in domestic pigs, at a road checkpoint for animal health in the Sichuan Province affecting 465 animals and demonstrating the illegal movement of infected pigs across the country. ASF has decimated the Chinese pig population, with over 1 million pigs culled. The huge loss in the pig population has resulted in a reduced pork output of 42.5 million tonnes in 2019, down 21.3% on 2018 (Reuters, 2020). The resulting spike in pig prices surged to a 116% increase in January 2020 (compared to January 2019) around Lunar New Year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBC, 2020).

Since our last report, **The Philippines** has reported a further 169 outbreaks in domestic pigs, dating back from August 2019 and affecting approximately 155,000 pigs. All but one of the outbreaks occurred in the north of the country. On 3 February, one outbreak affecting 1,000 domestic pigs was reported in the south of the country in Mindanao, approximately 1,000 km away from previous outbreaks. The source of infection in Mindanao has not yet been confirmed, though human-mediated translocation is likely. On 5 February, the Philippines signed an administrative order to introduce a nationwide zoning and movement plan, to better control and contain the disease (PigProgress, 2020).

There have been a further 107 reports of ASF in wild boar in **South Korea** and no new outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last report. All cases in wild boar have been in close proximity to the border with North Korea, where robust control measures are being conducted to prevent further disease spread (Kim Tong-Hyung, Hyung-Jin Kim, 2019).

Although no official outbreaks have been reported by OIE, the FAO has reported further outbreaks in **Timor-Leste** (East Timor), in nine new districts, affecting roughly 1,600 pigs (FAO, 2020).

Since our last report on 18 December 2019, there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported in **North Korea, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Vietnam** or **Mongolia**, though it is likely that the virus is still circulating in these areas. **Taiwan** remains officially free from ASF.

The confirmation of African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) in China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, North Korea, South Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, East Timor, Indonesia and the wide geographic range within these countries, demonstrates the potential for further spread into and within the domestic pig and wild suid populations in south-eastern Asia.

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 could access them. With regular direct flights to the EU and UK, there is a risk of entry of ASFV in products of animal origin (POAO) from the affected regions in eastern Asia.

Publicity campaigns are in place in the UK to inform the public and discourage individuals from bringing pork products into UK, including targeted messages to key stakeholders 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.

The current risk of ASF introduction to the UK is still considered to be **medium**, despite the spread of ASF to China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, North Korea, South Korea, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, East Timor, and Indonesia. The situation is being kept under review. Illegal importation of pork meat from affected parts of Asia presents a significant route of entry of ASFV to the UK.

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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All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

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