

Updated Outbreak Assessment #14

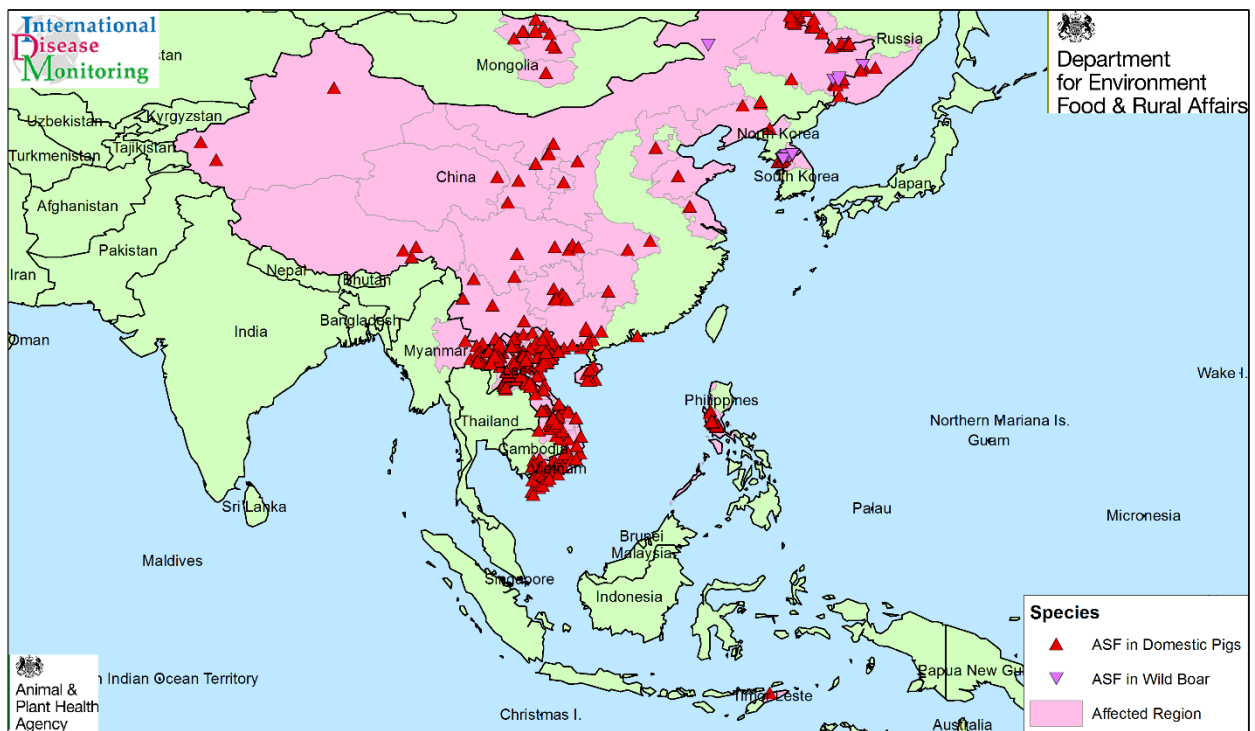
African Swine Fever (ASF) in South East Asia

12 November 2019

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in South East Asia

Disease report

Since our last report on 02 October, there have been additional reports of African Swine Fever (ASF) in China, Laos, the Philippines and South Korea (OIE, 2019). According to FAO (2019) which is producing a weekly update of the ASF situation in Asia, there have also been several unconfirmed reports of outbreaks in the North Sumatra province of Indonesia.



Map prepared by IDM
Date: 12/11/2019
Absolute scale: 1:42,000,000

African Swine Fever in South-East Asia 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 January 2019.

Situation assessment

China

There have been two new reported outbreaks since our last report. In Guangxi region, disease was found in 48 transported pigs at a highway checkpoint for animal health supervision. In the southwestern province of Yunnan, disease was confirmed on a farm with 15 pigs.

Laos

In the first half of October, 47 outbreaks were reported in a number of regions, the most significant in terms of numbers were Oudomxay (16 outbreaks), Bokeo (12 outbreaks) and Luangnamtha (5 outbreaks). All of these were backyard village domestic pigs. There were two outbreaks of unidentified suidae in the forests of Huaphanh region.

Philippines

Since our last report, the Philippines has reported 33 outbreaks in domestic pigs. These have been reported in the regions of Bulacan (13 outbreaks), Pampanga (9 outbreaks), Manila (9 outbreaks) and Pangasinan (2 outbreaks). Manila region has reported approximately 500 individual backyard holdings being affected, while outbreaks in Bulacan region include both commercial and backyard farms.

South Korea

South Korea have reported a further five outbreaks in domestic pigs in Gyeonggi (4 commercial farms and one backyard holding). There have also been reports in wild boar in forested areas in Gangwon province (6) and Gyeonggi province (10).

Concern in South Korea is reported to be such that they are deploying a number of techniques to reduce the possibility of ASF crossing the border from North Korea. These include the search for wild boar with snipers and civilian hunters, working continuous shifts and using night-vision goggles. Drones are also being used, equipped with thermal cameras, and the use of helicopters to speed carcass transportation for laboratory investigation. (Kim Tong-Hyung, Hyung-Jin Kim, 2019).

Elsewhere in SE Asia

Since our report on 02 October 2019, there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported in East Timor, North Korea, Cambodia, or Mongolia, though it is likely that the virus is still circulating in these areas. Taiwan remains officially free from ASF. Japan, also officially free from ASF, has reported 77 confirmed incidents of ASF pork products confiscated from airports around the country since last year (Fang, 2019).

There are unconfirmed reports of the death of pigs in Indonesia, cause unknown, in North Sumatra and in Nusa Tenggara Timur (FAO, 2019). FAO is liaising with the Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services in Indonesia to confirm the cause and explore needs.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Advice Services - International Disease Monitoring

The confirmation of African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) in China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, North Korea, South Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, and East Timor demonstrates the potential for further spread into and within 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. The epidemiological situation of ASF across South East Asia remains of concern. New outbreaks continue despite the control campaigns implemented, which is possibly a result of illegal movements of both animals and pork products (FAO, 2019).

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 from China and eastern Asia, there is a risk of entry of ASFV in products of animal origin (POAO) from Asia.

According to a ProMED source in November (Anon, 2019), pork products from China hidden in two containers that were seized at Manila in the Philippines in October 2019, tested positive for ASFV. The pork products were disguised as tomato paste. Nearly half of all pork products taken from air travellers arriving in Australia have tested positive for ASFV.

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, although the situation with ASFV in wild boar in Belgium appears to be improving. Despite the spread of ASF to China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, North Korea, South Korea, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, and East Timor, the current risk of ASF introduction to the UK is still considered to be **medium**, although 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.

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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.

Authors

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References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

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ProMED (2019) ASF Asia, North Korea, South Korea. (<http://www.promedmail.org/post/20191013.6725083>)



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