

Updated Outbreak Assessment #15

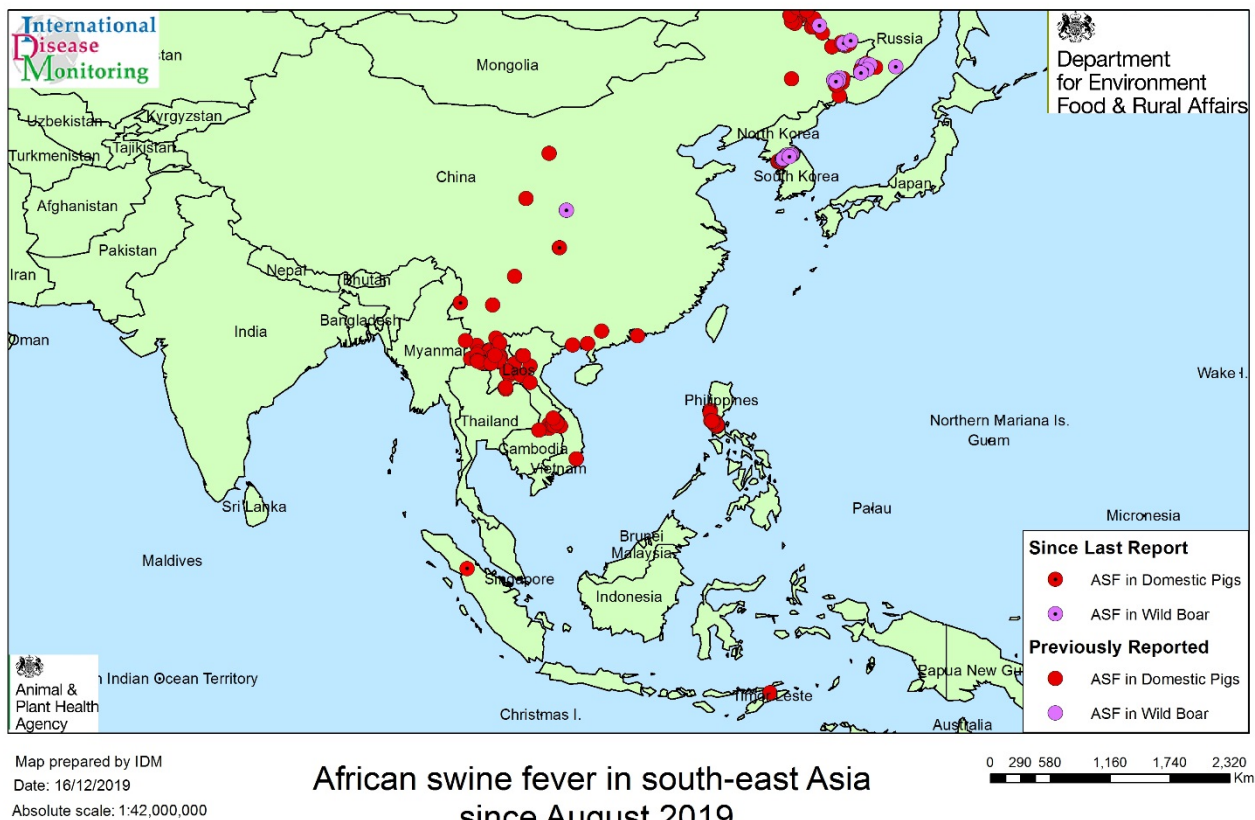
African Swine Fever (ASF) in South East Asia

18 December 2019

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in South East Asia

Disease report

Since our last report on 12 November, African Swine Fever (ASF) has been confirmed in domestic pigs in the North Sumatra province of Indonesia (FAO, 2019; OIE, 2019). There have been additional reports of ASF in China, and South Korea, with China reporting its second case in wild boar, the first since November 2018 (OIE, 2019).



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

Situation assessment

Indonesia

The FAO originally confirmed the presence of ASF in domestic pigs on 13 December, following unofficial reports of suspected disease since September (FAO 2019; ProMed 2019). This was subsequently confirmed by OIE on 17 December, with 392 outbreaks in backyard farms reported. Sixteen of the 34 districts are infected and over 28,000 of the 1.2 million domestic pig population have died or been culled. The source of infection is not currently known, though rapid risk assessment has suggested live pig transportation and contaminated fomites may be responsible (OIE, 2019). Disposal of pig carcasses and cleansing and disinfection controls are being implemented, and the FAO is working with the Indonesian government to draft appropriate control recommendations. Following confirmation of the disease, Malaysia has added Indonesia to their list of countries from which the import of pork products is banned, and confirm that more enforcement checks will be conducted to discourage smuggling of illegal products (MalayMail, 2019). We will continue to monitor the situation.

China

China has reported its second outbreak of ASF in wild boar, in three of nine boar found dead in the Shaanxi Province. Local government has implemented control measures, strengthening checks on wild boar and inspecting nearby domestic pig holdings. Wild boar are present across most of China, with the exception of unsuitable regions in the north and west. There have been three new reported outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since our last report. In Chongqing region, disease was found in 25 transported pigs at a highway checkpoint for animal health supervision. In the southwestern province of Yunnan, disease was confirmed on a farm with 261 pigs. In the central Gansu region, ASF was confirmed on a farm with 265 pigs. The huge loss in the pig population has resulted in reduced supply and a spike in pig prices, which are expected to rise further over Chinese New Year on 25 January 2020 (ProMed, 2019(2)).

On 4 December, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) released a three-year plan to accelerate the recovery of pig production (FAO, 2019). They aim to control the decline of the pig population and stop the observed increases in pig price before the end of 2019, to ensure a stable market by Chinese New Year (25 January 2020), and full recovery by 2021.

South Korea

There have been a further 12 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).

Elsewhere in SE Asia

Since our report on 16 November 2019, there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported in East Timor, North Korea, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, The Philippines or

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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).

The confirmation of African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) in China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, North Korea, South Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, East Timor and now Indonesia demonstrates the potential for further spread into and within the domestic pig and wild suid populations in south-eastern Asia, including to Taiwan, where there have been several reports of ASF infected pig carcasses washing up on to the shore. Additionally, 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.

Nearly half of the 32 tonnes of pork products taken from air travellers arriving in Australia have tested positive for ASFV (Canberra Times, 2019).

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, East Timor, and Indonesia, 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

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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.

Authors

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All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

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