

## Updated Outbreak Assessment #18

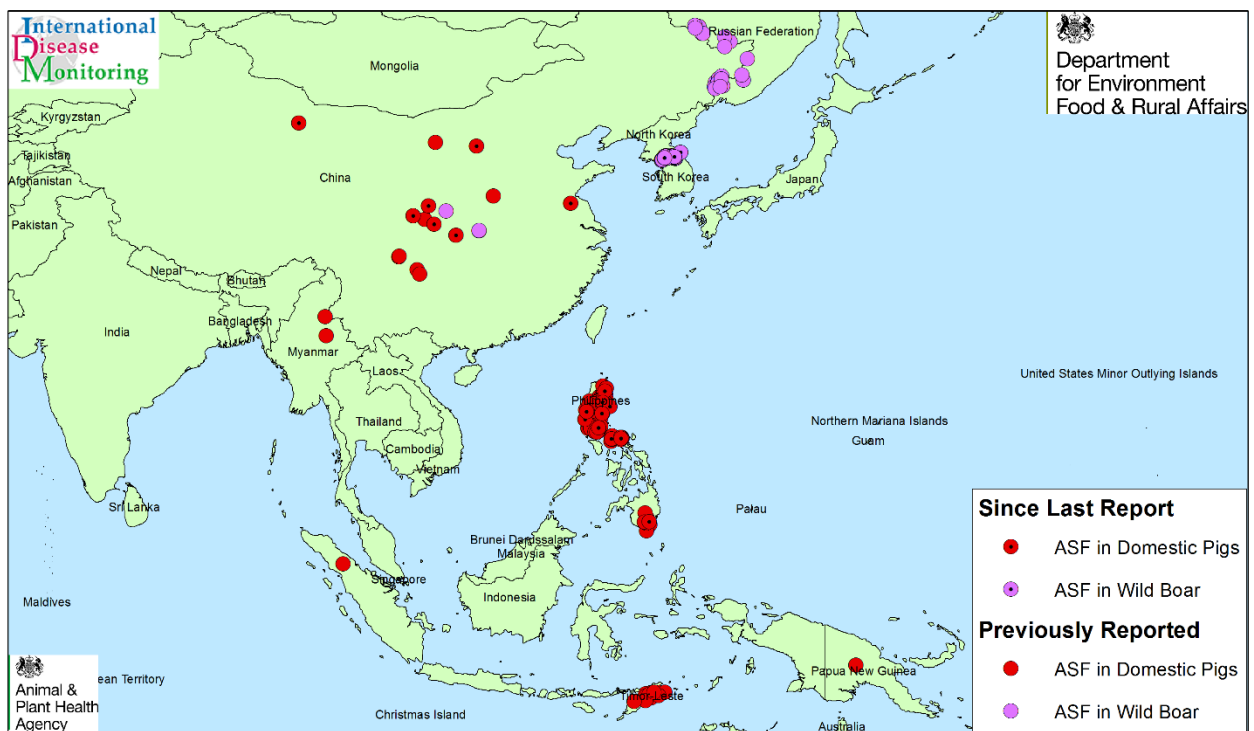
# African swine fever (ASF) in South East Asia and Oceania

20 May 2020

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in South East Asia

### Disease report

Since our last report on 03 April, there have been new outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) in domestic pigs in China and in the Philippines. Cases of ASF among wild boar have also been reported in South Korea. In India, there have been unofficial reports of outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs, as well as cases of ASF in wild boar. However, to date, nothing has been reported to the OIE.



Map prepared by IDM  
Date: 19/05/2020  
Absolute scale: 1:42,000,000

### African swine fever in south-east Asia, December 2019 - May 2020

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

### Situation assessment

Since our last report on 03 April, the **Philippines** has reported a further 55 outbreaks in domestic pigs. 54 of these were in the north, and all were reported on the same date (11 May). The other outbreak was in the south of the country, in Davao Oriental. Since the

initial outbreak in August 2019, over 280,000 pigs have now been culled. The government continues to apply disease control measures, including zoning (with respective movement controls) and tracing. On 21 February the President signed an Executive Order to create a national task force to prevent and control animal diseases (FAO, 2020). This has resulted in seizures of pork and other processed meat products (MindaNews, 2020). A Davao City task force is also in operation, with strategies to prevent incursion of ASF into the city (GOV.PH, 2020).

There have been 128 new reports of ASF in wild boar in **South Korea**, with no new outbreaks in domestic pigs. All cases in wild boar remain close to its border with North Korea, and robust control measures continue to prevent further disease spread (Kim Tong-Hyung, Hyung-Jin Kim, 2019). South Korea has recently developed its own testing kits to improve speed of diagnoses (Inquirer.net, 2020).

In **China** there have been seven new outbreaks in domestic pigs. Three of these were among pigs seized at highway checkpoints for animal health supervision. The remainder were in farms or backyard premises in Gansu, Chongqing and Shaanxi provinces (all of which have reported previously).

In **India**, although there has been no official report to the OIE, unofficial, unsubstantiated reports have emerged of outbreaks of ASF among domestic pigs, as well as suspected cases in wild boar. Within these reports, ASF is said to have caused the deaths of 15,000 pigs in Assam (it is unclear as to what proportions are thought to be due to disease or culling measures) and, despite preventative measures, is continuing to spread to new areas. Preparations are said to now being made for mass culling (ProMED, 2020). In Arunachal Pradesh, six carcasses of wild boar were unofficially reported to have been found in a community forest, with additional unverified reports of carcasses in East Siang and Upper Siang districts (The Hindu, 2020). Testing or reporting of results also remains unverified.

Since our last report on 03 April, there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported in **Cambodia, Hong Kong, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Papua New Guinea** or **Timor-Leste**, though it is likely that the virus is still circulating in these areas. **Taiwan** remains officially free from ASF.

The confirmation of ASF in Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Korea and Timor-Leste, and ASF's 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 and Oceania.

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](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 Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Korea and Timor Leste.

Illegal importation of pork meat from affected parts of Asia and Oceania, presents a significant route of entry of ASFV to the UK. 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. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, direct flights to/from the EU and UK, and internationally, are either cancelled or running a very limited schedule. There is a risk of entry of ASFV in products of animal origin (POAO) from the affected regions in Asia, however current travel restrictions may make introduction less likely.

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 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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[http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/ASF/Situation\\_update.html](http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/ASF/Situation_update.html)

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