

## Updated Outbreak Assessment #19

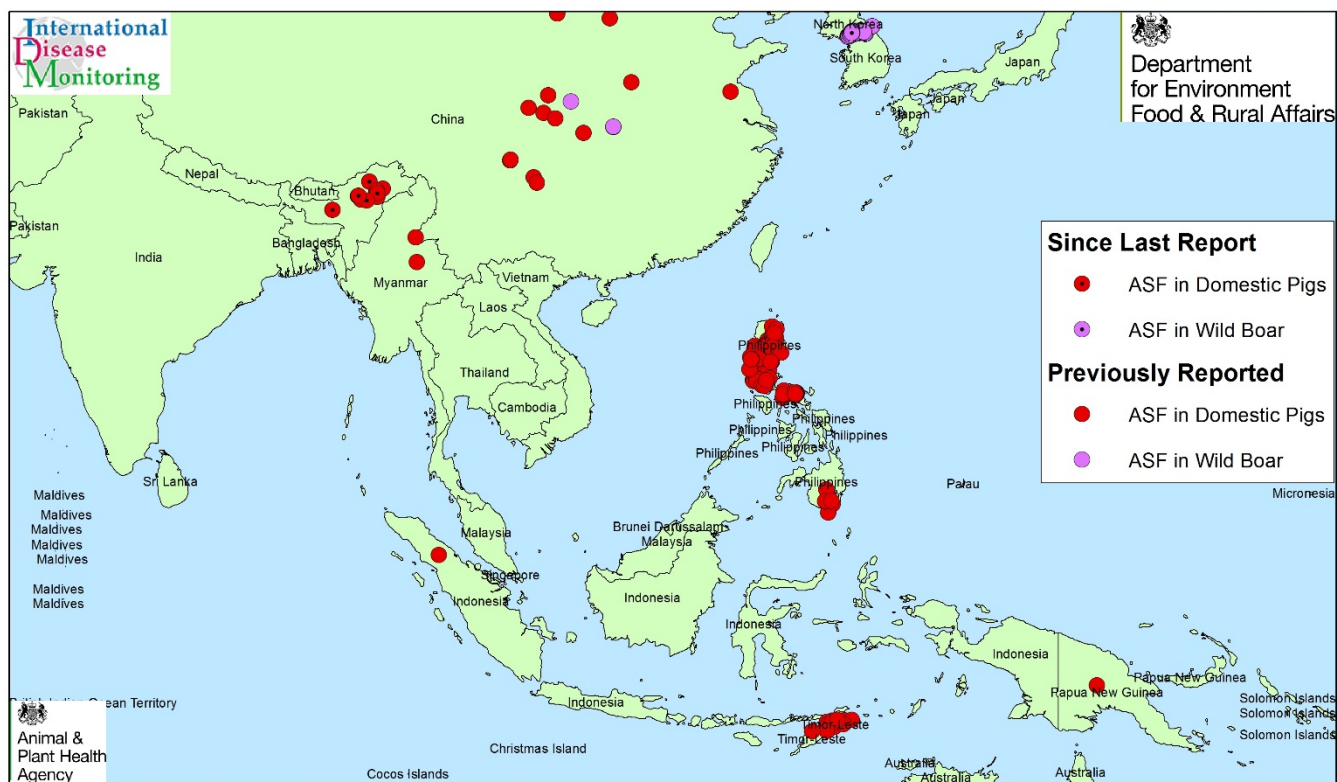
# African swine fever (ASF) in Asia and Oceania

28 May 2020

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF Asia

### Disease report

Since our last report on 20 May, India has officially reported eleven outbreaks of ASF in domestic pig populations. There have also been reports of ASF cases in wild boar in India, however these have not been officially reported to the OIE. Cases of ASF among wild boar have also been reported in South Korea.



Map prepared by IDM  
 Date: 28/05/2020  
 Absolute scale: 1:35,000,000

African swine fever in Asia,  
 December 2019 - May 2020

0 240 480 960 1,440 1,920 Km

### Situation assessment

**India** has now reported eleven outbreaks of ASF, all in domestic pigs in the north-east of the country, dating back to the end of January (OIE, 2020). This information is summarised in the table below.

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The first three outbreaks were reported as starting on the 26 January across three districts in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Of the 2,623 pigs involved in these outbreaks, there were 444 cases and 271 deaths.

From the end of February, through to mid-April, there were a further seven outbreaks in the neighbouring state of Assam. These outbreaks affected five different districts within the state, and a total of 7,534 pigs were involved, of which there were 3,743 reported cases and 3,421 pigs died.

At the end of April, there was another outbreak in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. This involved 763 pigs, of which 12 were cases and nine died.

In all cases, disease control measures have been applied including movement restrictions, surveillance and culling of all susceptible pigs within a 1km radius of the epicentre.

Table 1: ASF outbreaks reported in domestic pigs since January 2020 in India. All data from OIE.

Outbreak start date	State	Number susceptible	Number of cases	Number of deaths
26/01/20	Arunachal Pradesh	419	156	103
26/01/20	Arunachal Pradesh	653	123	67
26/01/20	Arunachal Pradesh	1551	165	101
24/02/20	Assam	2450	1897	1803
07/03/20	Assam	289	163	117
20/03/20	Assam	689	317	283
23/03/20	Assam	731	326	298
02/04/20	Assam	153	22	22
02/04/20	Assam	642	62	45
10/04/20	Assam	2580	956	853
23/04/20	Arunachal Pradesh	763	12	9

Although not officially reported to the OIE, there have also been reports in the media suggesting that wild boar deaths have been linked to these outbreaks. In Arunachal Pradesh, six carcasses of wild boar were reportedly found in a community forest, with

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additional unverified reports of wild boar carcasses found in East Siang and Upper Siang districts (The Hindu, 2020).

In **South Korea**, cases continue to be reported in wild boar, but no new cases in domestic pigs. On 27 May, eight new cases were reported in the province of Gyeonggi-Do, which surrounds the country's capital and borders North Korea (OIE, 2020). After detecting wild boar cases outside their initial wide fenced area, South Korea have implemented third stage wide fences to try and contain the spread of ASF through wildlife. In addition, surveillance is being conducted by weekly sampling and testing of domestic pig farms within a 10km radius of each wild boar case detected (FAO, 2020).

Since our last report on 20 May, there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported in **Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Philippines** or **Timor-Leste**, though it is likely that the virus is still circulating in these areas. **Taiwan** still remains officially free from ASF.

The confirmation of ASF in multiple countries across Asia and Oceania, and the wide geographic range of infection found within these countries, demonstrates the potential for further spread of ASF into and within the domestic pig and wild suid populations in this part of the world.

Publicity campaigns are in place in the UK to inform the general public and discourage individuals from bringing pork products into UK. This includes targeted messages to key stakeholders such as road hauliers, hunters, pig keepers and veterinarians. See: <https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/health-welfare/health/emerging-diseases/african-swine-fever/> and a central depository for information has been created [http://web.oie.int/rr-europe/eng/regprog/en\\_asf\\_depository.htm](http://web.oie.int/rr-europe/eng/regprog/en_asf_depository.htm).

## 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 maintained as **medium**, despite the spread of ASF within Asia and Oceania.

Illegal importation of infected pork meat from affected parts of Asia and Oceania, presents a significant route of entry of ASF virus into the UK. There are also ongoing concerns around infected pork products originating from affected non-EU countries entering the EU in passenger luggage and the subsequent waste 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 ASF virus in products of animal origin (POAO) from affected regions in Asia, however current travel restrictions may make introduction less likely.

We would like to highlight to all pig keepers, pig producers, smallholders and general public to ensure pigs are not fed catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products, thereby

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observing the swill feeding ban. All pig keepers should remain vigilant and ensure that any visitors to their premises have not had any recent contact with pigs or pig premises in the affected regions.

People returning from any ASF-affected areas of the world should avoid any contact with domestic pigs in commercial holdings, smallholdings or even household pet pigs. Habitats where feral pigs or wild boar exist should also be avoided. All clothing, footwear or equipment should be disinfected before entering pig areas.

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

Charlotte Coxon

Dr Francesca Gauntlett

Joe Bowen

Dr Levon Stephan

## References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

FAO (2020)

[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)

The Hindu (2020)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/wild-boars-die-in-arunachal-as-african-swine-fever-kills-15000-pigs-in-assam/article31590372.ece>



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at [iadm@apha.gov.uk](mailto:iadm@apha.gov.uk)