

Updated Outbreak Assessment #22

African swine fever (ASF) in South East Asia

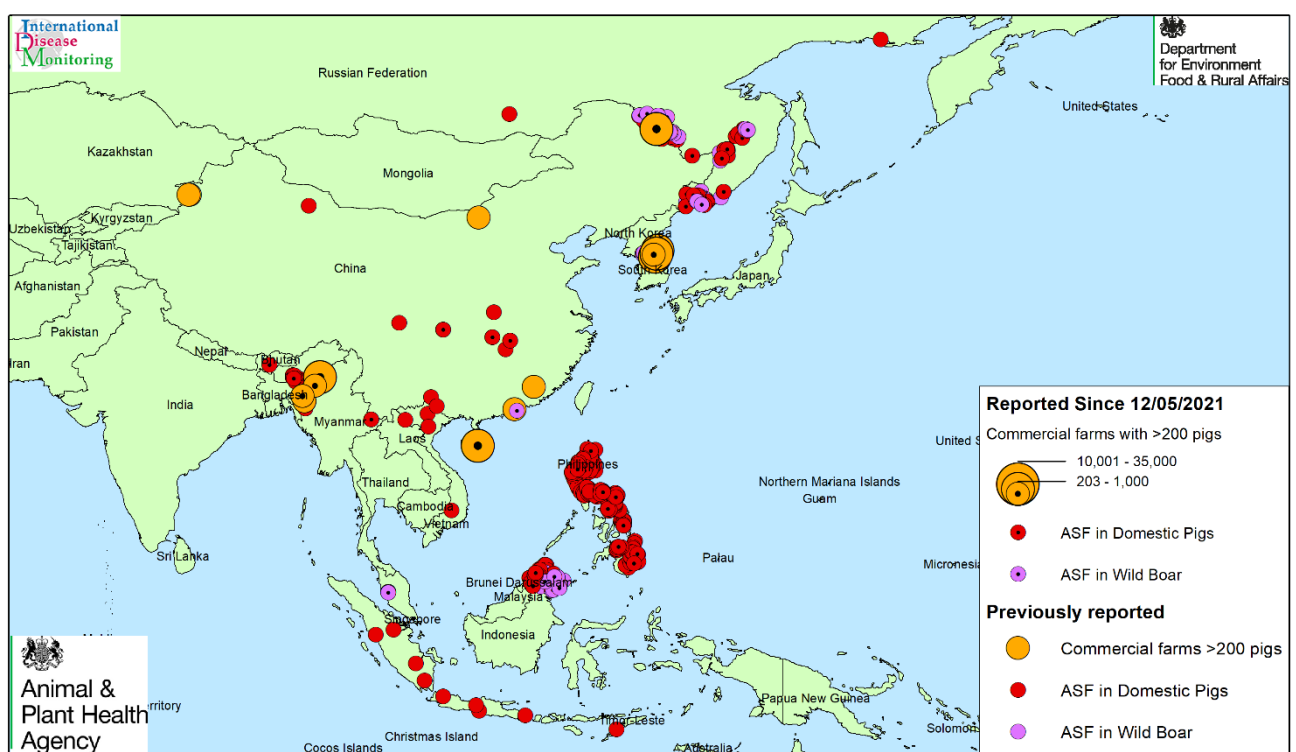
14 December 2021

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF Asia

Disease report

Since our last report on 12 May 2021, ASF has been reported in domestic pigs and wild boar in Bhutan for the first time. There have been further reports of ASF in domestic pigs in China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and South Korea. ASF in wild boar continues to be reported in South Korea and Malaysia, with the first reports from the Malaysian peninsula.

Map of OIE reports of ASF in South East Asia



Map prepared by IDM
Date: 14/12/2021
Absolute scale: 1:50,000,000

African Swine Fever
January - December 2021
(OIE Data Only)

0 345 690 1,380 2,070 2,760 Km

Situation assessment

In May 2021, **Bhutan** confirmed its first ASF outbreak in Phentshogling town, Chhukha district which borders the West Bengal State of India. The virus was detected in a group of 30 scavenging, stray pigs underneath a sewerage plant ([OIE WAHIS](#)). These pigs move across the Bhutan-India border uncontrolled. Since then, a total of 2,035 scavenging pigs have been reported as infected with ASF during this outbreak ([Feed Strategy, 2021](#)).

Since our last report, OIE has reported five further outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in **China**. In November 2021, ASF was confirmed on a pig farm in Taiyang Village, Liji Township, Hainan Island where 1,063 pigs were subsequently culled. More recently, in December 2021 the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) reported a detection of ASF in illegally transported pigs on a vehicle intercepted at a checkpoint in Zhanqiao Township, Hunan Province. At the time of inspection, a total of 12 pigs were found dead ([FAO, 2021](#)).

Since May 2021, pig movement in China has been restricted by dividing the country into five regions, allowing movement within these regions. Within the regions, ASF-free zones have been created and only pigs from free zones, breeding pigs and piglets are allowed to move beyond their respective regions ([FAO, 2021](#)).

According to OIE, there have been no further outbreaks in domestic pigs in **Hong Kong** since our last report. The Hong Kong government has established a surveillance system for ASF, and there have been recent reports of abnormal deaths in wild pigs in the Siu Sai Wan area of Hong Kong island, with one confirmed [ASFV-infected carcass in September 2021](#).

In **India**, 25 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs have been reported in early November by FAO, though the majority of these occurred between June to August. All of the outbreaks were in the north east of the country, across the Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland States, between Bhutan and Myanmar. Sixteen of these were backyard premises, seven were in commercial farms (including one breeding unit) and two were village outbreaks, with almost 11,000 animals culled in total. Media reports state that nearly 30,000 pigs died from ASF in Mizoram State since March 2021 ([FAO 2021](#)).

In **Indonesia**, there have been no further outbreaks reported by OIE since our last report, when ASF had spread to 10 out of 34 provinces in February 2021, including the West Papua province ([FAO 2021](#)). Previous outbreaks range from the western Sumatera Barat province to Nusa Tenggara Timur province, over 3,000km away. According to the FAO, ASFV positive pig deaths have also been reported in West Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo ([FAO 2021](#)) though these are yet to be reported by OIE.

Outbreaks of ASF have been reported from **Laos** in all 18 provinces since its first outbreak in 2019. In November 2021 ASF was confirmed in sick pigs in Xanakham district, Vientiane province ([FAO, 2021](#)), this is yet to be reported by OIE and there is no further information currently available.

Since our last report in May 2021, OIE has reported further ASF outbreaks in **Malaysia**, affecting 17 domestic pig farms (three commercial premises and 14 backyard herds) and 10 cases in wild boar in Sabah state in the north of East Malaysia on the island of Borneo,

which it shares with Brunei and Indonesia. The first case of ASF in Peninsular Malaysia was confirmed in wild boar in December 2021 in the District of Batang Padang, Perak state. Following the first case in the sub district of Bidor, the disease investigation was extended to the neighbouring sub district, Sungkai, where mortality involving wild boar was reported. Epidemiological investigation is ongoing to identify the source of infection on the peninsula and surveillance continues to be conducted across the whole country.

In **Myanmar**, one outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs has been reported by OIE since our last update. This outbreak occurred on a farm comprising 153 animals and was reported on 9 June 2021. Fomite transmission and the introduction of new live animals have been implicated as the most likely sources of infection

In **Papua New Guinea**, ASF spread was confirmed in the Western Highlands, Jiwaka and Simbu Provinces in January 2021 ([FAO 2021](#)). There have been no further reports of ASF in Papua New Guinea by OIE or FAO since our last report. The National Agriculture Quarantine & Inspection Authority (NAQIA) have conducted value-chain and behaviour change communication strategy workshops in several communities across the Western Highlands, Southern Highlands, Jiwaka, and Enga to communicate the importance of good biosecurity, hygiene and pig husbandry practices ([FAO 2021](#)), demonstrating continued outbreak response efforts for ASF.

ASF continues to circulate across the **Philippines**, with 125 further outbreaks in domestic pigs reported by OIE since our last report. The majority of these were in backyard holdings, though there were three reports in commercial holdings. The first ASF outbreak in Marinduque province was confirmed in October 2021, and in November 2021 ASF was confirmed in North Cotabato province and Lanao del Norte province, both on Mindanao Island. The Department of Agriculture (DA) reports that ASF has spread across 50 provinces in the Philippines, causing a loss of over 3 million pigs since the beginning of the outbreak in 2019 ([FAO 2021](#)). The DA has implemented a National Zoning and movement plan depending on the level of ASF risk and begun a pig re-population programme.

In April 2021, the Philippines announced that it had started vaccine trials in collaboration with Zoetis in areas previously affected by ASF, with 10 commercial farms participating. Though results are yet to be publicly released, [there has been interest from two firms to develop the vaccines](#). Currently, field trials of first generation live-attenuated ASF vaccines are being conducted in **China, Philippines** and **Vietnam**. Widescale adoption of ASF vaccines in Asia is unlikely in the short term.

For **South Korea**, OIE continues to report ASF in wild boar frequently. Since our last report in May 2021, 174 ASF infected wild boar have been reported by OIE, bringing the total number to 1,772 confirmed wild boar cases as of December 2021. ASF has been confirmed for the first time in Chungcheongbuk-do, in a wild boar carcass in Woraksan National Park, Danyang-gun, and in Jecheon-si ([FAO 2021](#)). In November 2021 the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) announced plans for additional designation of ASF Key Control Areas; besides the existing ASF key control areas designated in November 2020. A total of 17 cities and counties in Gangwon-do, Gyeonggi-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, and Gyeongsangbuk-do were additionally selected based on the risk factors of ASF spread. Previously, central and local governments have fielded joint task forces to inspect and ensure biosecurity in farms nationwide, with 5,529 households visited prior to our last report ([FAO 2021](#)). Four outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in

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

South Korea have been reported by OIE since our last report, with three in August and one in October. All outbreaks were in commercial farms with over 7,000 animals culled. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing.

Since our last report, no new outbreaks of ASF in **Vietnam** have been reported by OIE. Since the first cases of ASF in Vietnam were reported in February 2019, all 63 provinces in the country have been affected, and more than 200,000 pigs are thought to have died or been destroyed in 2021 due to ASF ([FAO 2021](#)). A directive was signed in November 2021 requesting relevant agencies and local authorities to take drastic measures to prevent and control ASF in order to mitigate ASF spread and ensure the supply of pork during the Lunar New Year ([FAO 2021](#)).

Since our last report on 12 May 2021, there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported in **Cambodia, Mongolia, North Korea and Timor-Leste** according to OIE, though it is likely that the virus is still circulating in these areas. In April 2021, media reported that ASF was detected in illegally transported pigs that were intercepted at two Cambodian border checkpoints in Banteay Meanchey and Takeo Provinces, ([FAO 2021](#)), suggesting that ASF is still present.

Taiwan remains officially free from ASF and remains on high alert for the disease, conducting ongoing surveillance. [Tougher measures were announced in September 2021](#), with plans to inspect each item from high-risk ASF countries sent via freight, including express mail, at its point of entry from the beginning of next year.

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.

As part of ongoing surveillance, Australia have been testing pork products seized at International Mail Centres in Brisbane, Perth, Sydney and Melbourne. [Results found ASF virus fragments in 24% of products](#), and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) virus fragments in 1% of products. These findings highlight the need to maintain high biosecurity standards, and the potential illegal practices (such as swill feeding) have to bring diseases to farms.

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.

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 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, may be cancelled or running a very limited schedule. Nevertheless, there still remains a risk of entry of ASFV in products of animal origin from affected countries via other pathways, including from illegal imports.

All travellers are strongly advised to avoid bringing, ordering or requesting any pork products – for example, dried or cured meats, sausages, salamis or pâté – back to the UK from affected parts of Europe. Travellers from Asia and other third country areas who bring meat or dairy products can also face prosecution and a large fine.

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 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 [Government guidance pages](#) for more information.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Authors

Dr Sonny Bacigalupo

Dr Lorna Freath

Dr Lauren Perrin

Tony Pacey



© Crown copyright 2020

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.2. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

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

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring>

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at iadm@apha.gov.uk