

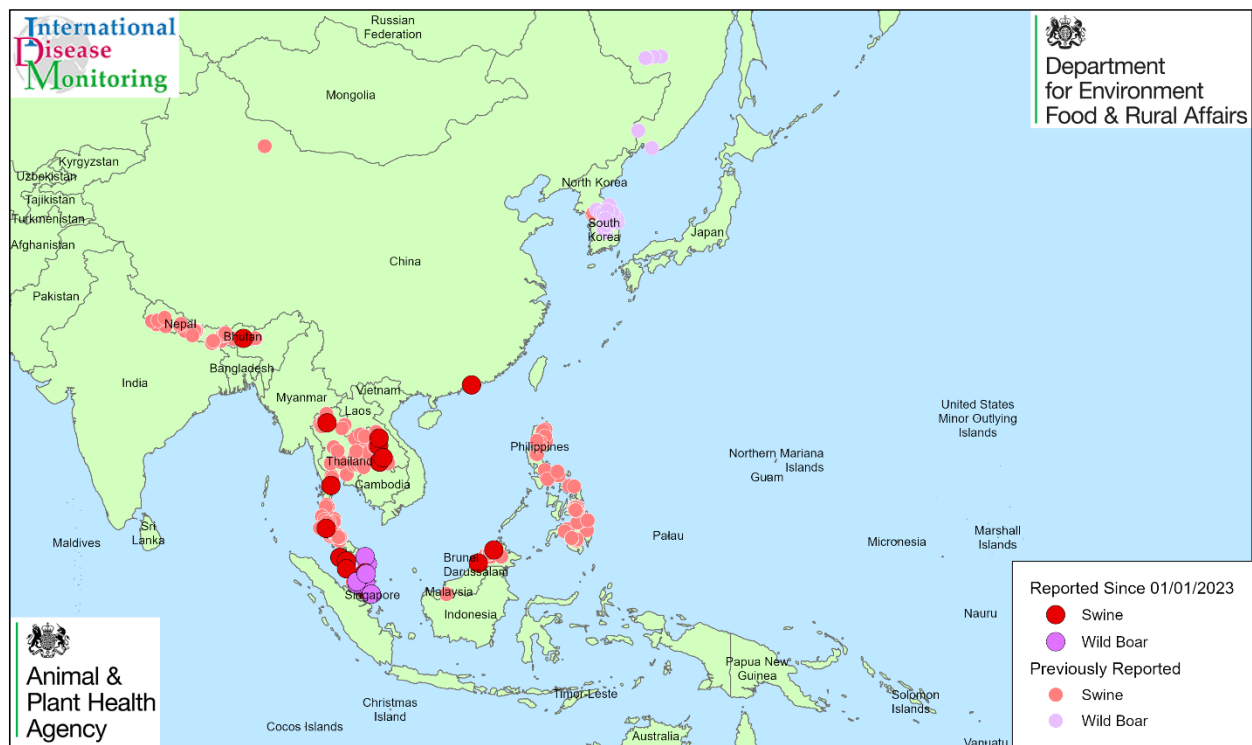
Updated Outbreak Assessment #24

African swine fever (ASF) in Asia and Oceania

13 February 2023

Disease report

Since our last report on 17 January 2022, African swine fever (ASF) has continued to be reported in domestic pigs and wild boar across Asia. In February 2023, Singapore reported ASF for the first time, in a wild boar carcase. There are no kept domestic pigs in Singapore. There have also been further reports of ASF in domestic pigs in Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and South Korea, and ASF in wild boar continues to be reported in Hong Kong and the Malaysian peninsula. Since our last report, two ASF vaccines developed in Vietnam have been approved for national circulation and are the first ASF vaccines to be commercialised.



African Swine Fever
February 2022 to February 2023
(WOAH Data Only)

Map 1 Showing ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar across Asia from February 2022 to February 2023

Situation assessment

Singapore

In February 2023, Singapore reported ASF for the first time, in a wild boar carcass found in a nature reserve in the north-west of the country. Wild boar are native to Singapore and live in nature reserves and parks in the country. Singapore has no domestic pig production, nor are pigs kept as pets. Captive pigs are held within a zoological collection and these animals are being monitored.

Hong Kong

In February 2023, Hong Kong reported the first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs in two years. Following reports of pig carcasses being disposed at a carcass collection station, the Hong Kong government inspected farms nearby and identified one farm premises as positive for ASF. The farm was located close to the border with mainland China. Since our last report on 17 January 2022, Hong Kong has also reported two cases of African swine fever in wild boar to WOAHA in May and June 2022.

Vietnam

Since our last report in January 2022 to early November 2022, a total of 1,132 outbreaks were reported in 51 provinces/municipalities of Vietnam, with 51,729 pigs culled to stop the spread of the disease; in October alone, 22 outbreaks were confirmed in 18 districts in 11 provinces, according to media (FAO 2022). All provinces and municipalities have now been affected. A vaccine for ASF called AVAC ASF LIVE, produced by AVAC Vietnam, is expected to be distributed nationwide from February 2023 (SGGP News, 2023). The vaccine has also received government authorisation for export and an exclusive distributor for the vaccine has been identified in the Philippines (Manila Bulletin, 2023). This is the second vaccine to be developed and approved for commercialisation in Vietnam. Rollout of the first vaccine, NAVET-ASFVAC developed by Navetco, started in June 2022 and was temporarily suspended in August 2022 following improper use of the vaccine leading to mortalities (Feed Strategy, 2022).

Bhutan

Since our last report, Bhutan has reported eight outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs. One outbreak was reported to WOAHA in April 2022, on a semi-commercial pig farm containing 136 animals, which was close to the border with India. This outbreak was reported as resolved in June 2022.

In November 2022, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) reported two outbreaks of ASF in Bhutan, again close to the border with India. These were on backyard premises containing 750 and 230 domestic pigs, respectively. The ASF-affected pigs were between four and six months old and were found to have been imported illegally from

neighbouring Assam State, India on 1 November. Since then, there have been a further five outbreaks of ASF in Bhutan on premises with between 318 and 1,651 pigs.

India

Since our last report, WOAAH has reported eleven further outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in India. All of these were on backyard premises with fewer than 25 pigs located in Sikkim state in the north-east of the country. At the time of our report in December 2021, following the first outbreak in Assam in early 2020, ASF outbreaks had been reported in other States in the north-east of the country, across the Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland States, between Bhutan and Myanmar (FAO 2023). In addition to the WOAAH reports from Sikkim, ASF outbreaks have also been officially reported in Bihar, Punjab and Haryana in the north and Kerala in the south with many other states affected across the country according to media reports (FAO 2023). In December 2022, the first cases of ASF in wild boar in India were reported in two contiguous tiger reserves spanning the boundary between the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in southern India (FAO 2023).

Thailand

Our last report in January 2022 detailed the first outbreak of ASF in Thailand. Since then, outbreaks in domestic pigs have continued to be reported to WOAAH. There have been 111 outbreaks on village premises, seven of which have been reported since the start of 2023. Most premises contained fewer than 20 pigs, although the largest affected premises contained 654 pigs.

South Korea

Since our last report, WOAAH has reported six outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in South Korea. One outbreak was in May on a farm premises containing 1,175 pigs. The remaining five outbreaks occurred in August and September on farm premises with between 700 and 8,243 pigs. According to media reports, there have been four outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in South Korea since the start of 2023, in Gangwon, Pocheon, Cheorwon and Gimpo provinces (The Korea Herald, 2023). South Korea has also reported 80 cases of ASF in wild boar to WOAAH, affecting over 1,000 individual wild boar between August 2021 and May 2022.

Malaysia

Since our last report WOAAH has reported a further 55 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Malaysia. Thirteen of these outbreaks occurred between October and December 2021, on four farm premises, eight village premises and one backyard premises. In 2022, there were 33 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs. Of these, 29 were on commercial premises containing over 23,000 pigs between them, and four were on backyard premises. Malaysia also reported 22 cases of ASF in wild boar involving 39 individual animals on the Malaysian peninsula. Malaysia also reported one case of ASF in bearded pigs involving five individual animals.

Indonesia

Since our last report there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported to WOAHA in Indonesia. However, the Integrated real-time animal health and production information system (iSIKHNAS) recorded ASF outbreaks in 2022, affecting domestic pigs in West Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo (FAO, 2023). Since December 2022, there have been ASF outbreaks in eight districts in East Nusa Tenggara including Sumba and Timor (FAO, 2023).

China

Since our last report on 17 January 2022, China has reported only one outbreak of African swine fever in domestic pigs to WOAHA. The outbreak occurred in February 2022 on a farm premises containing 150 pigs.

Nepal

Since our last report, ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported by WOAHA in Nepal. There have been 33 outbreaks on farm premises between March and December 2022, the largest of which contained over 8,000 pigs.

The Philippines

Since our last report, there have been 86 reports of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs reported to WOAHA by the Philippines, all of which occurred on backyard premises between March and April 2022. These outbreaks were in Luzon and Mindanao island groups where ASF has previously been reported, but there have also been reports of ASF outbreaks in the Visayas which were previously unaffected.

Russia

Since our last report, there have been a further ten reports of ASF in wild boar in eastern Russia, involving 46 individual animals.

Elsewhere

Since our last report on 17 January 2022, there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported in Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste or Vietnam according to WOAHA. It is likely that the virus is still circulating in these areas, and for some countries such as Vietnam, is evidenced by reports to other disease surveillance databases, media reports and annual reports submitted to WAHIS.

Conclusion

The continued detection of ASF in multiple countries across Asia, 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.

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The observed spread of ASF within Asia, and the reincursion of the virus into areas where the disease has been reported as resolved, such as Bhutan, highlights the influence of transmission through human-mediated illegal movements. ASF is still present in domestic pigs across Eastern Europe, and is still circulating in wild boar across much of Eastern Europe, and in Germany (Brandenburg and Saxony) and Italy (Piedmont and Liguria). Therefore, there remains a medium risk (occurs regularly) of incursion of ASF virus to the UK.

More information is available on the situation in Europe (see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/african-swine-fever-in-pigs-and-boars-in-europe>)

The countries listed in this assessment are not approved for exports of live pigs to the UK. Illegal importation of infected pork meat from affected parts of Asia, 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.

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/>

It remains a critical time for the spread of the virus throughout Europe as well as into other regions through human-mediated routes such as introduction from personal imports (including illegal imports) or fomites. On 1 September 2022, strict new controls were introduced restricting the movement of pork and pork products into Great Britain from the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association states. It is no longer legal to personally import pork or pork products weighing over two kilograms, unless they are produced to the EU's commercial standards. This does not apply to commercial imports, which remain unaffected by the control, but Great Britain will be bringing in further controls in late 2023. Although this legislation does not currently apply to personal imports of pork products less than 2 kg from the EU, all travelers are strongly advised to avoid bringing, buying, ordering on the internet, or requesting any pork products – for example, fresh or frozen meat, dried or cured meats, sausages, salamis, or pâté – back to the UK from affected parts of Europe. It remains illegal for travellers to import meat or dairy products from Asia and other third country areas. We would like to highlight to all pig keepers, pig producers, smallholders and general public to ensure that 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.

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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.

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