



AOB
EUVET ASF

EUVET mission in Italy (Rome and Rieti)

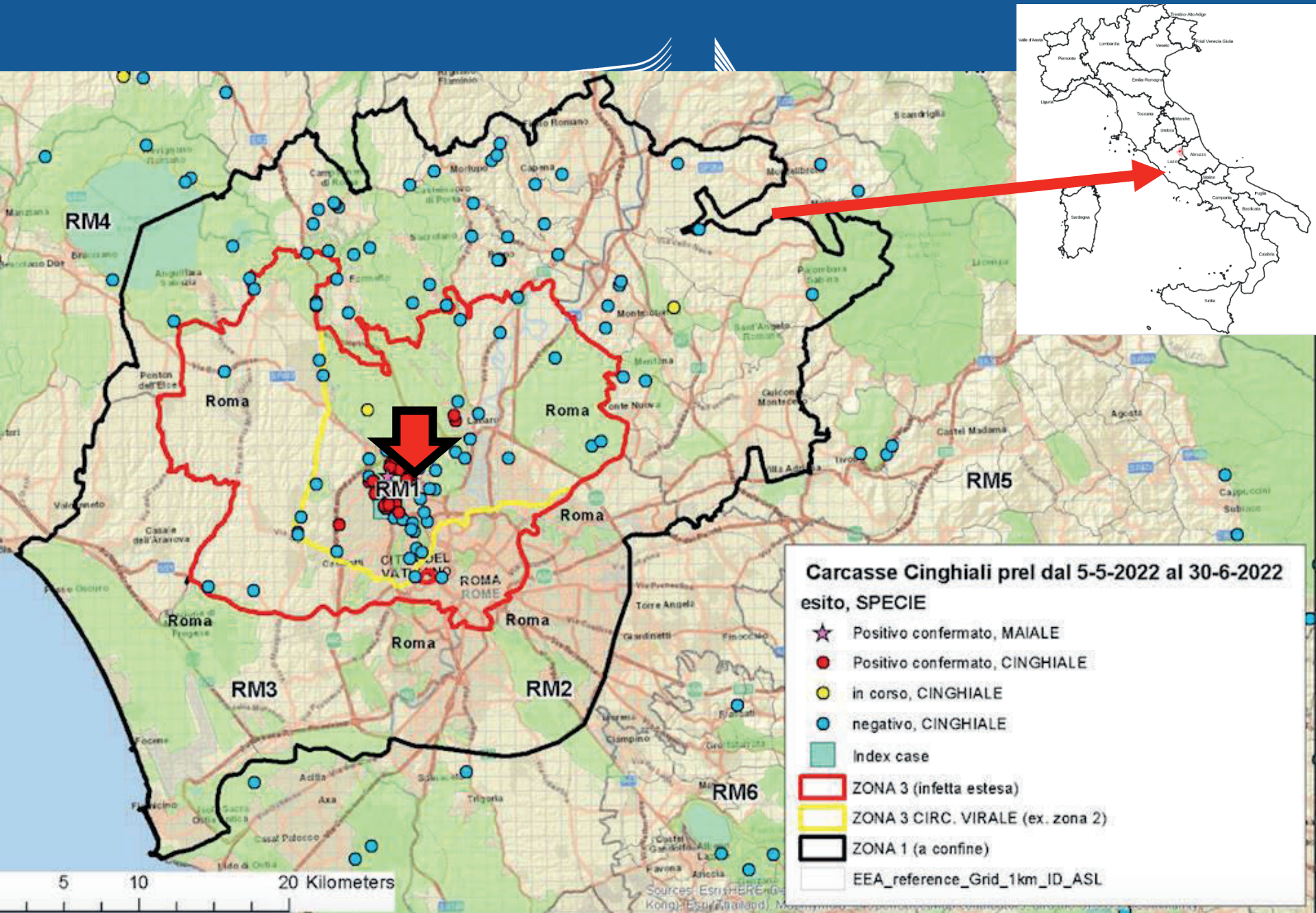
(27-29 June 2022)



ToR:

1. The experts should provide scientific, technical, managerial and practical assistance on the spot on the refinement of the most suitable control and eradication measures for African swine fever (ASF) under local conditions, especially as regards preparedness, surveillance and coordination efforts in domestic pigs and in wild boar.
2. The experts should report exclusively to the Commission services and the authorities of Italy. Continuous contact should be guaranteed between the team, the Commission services and authorities of Italy.
3. The experts should provide a written report with conclusions and recommendations aimed to the competent authority. A report to the Commission and the Member States in the framework of the Standing Committee on Plant, Animal, Food and Feed should be delivered.
4. The experts shall operate under the provisions laid down in Commission Decision 2007/142/EC and in particular based on the standard rules of procedure for groups of experts.

Experts: Anna Zdravkova (Bulgaria) Alain Licoppe (Belgium);
Vittorio Guberti (Italy)



Short history

Mid-end April first case in wild boar (but detected on 10 May)

28 April (4 may confirmed) official index case

21 May: first case outside the Motor Ring

31 May: second and last case outside the motor Ring

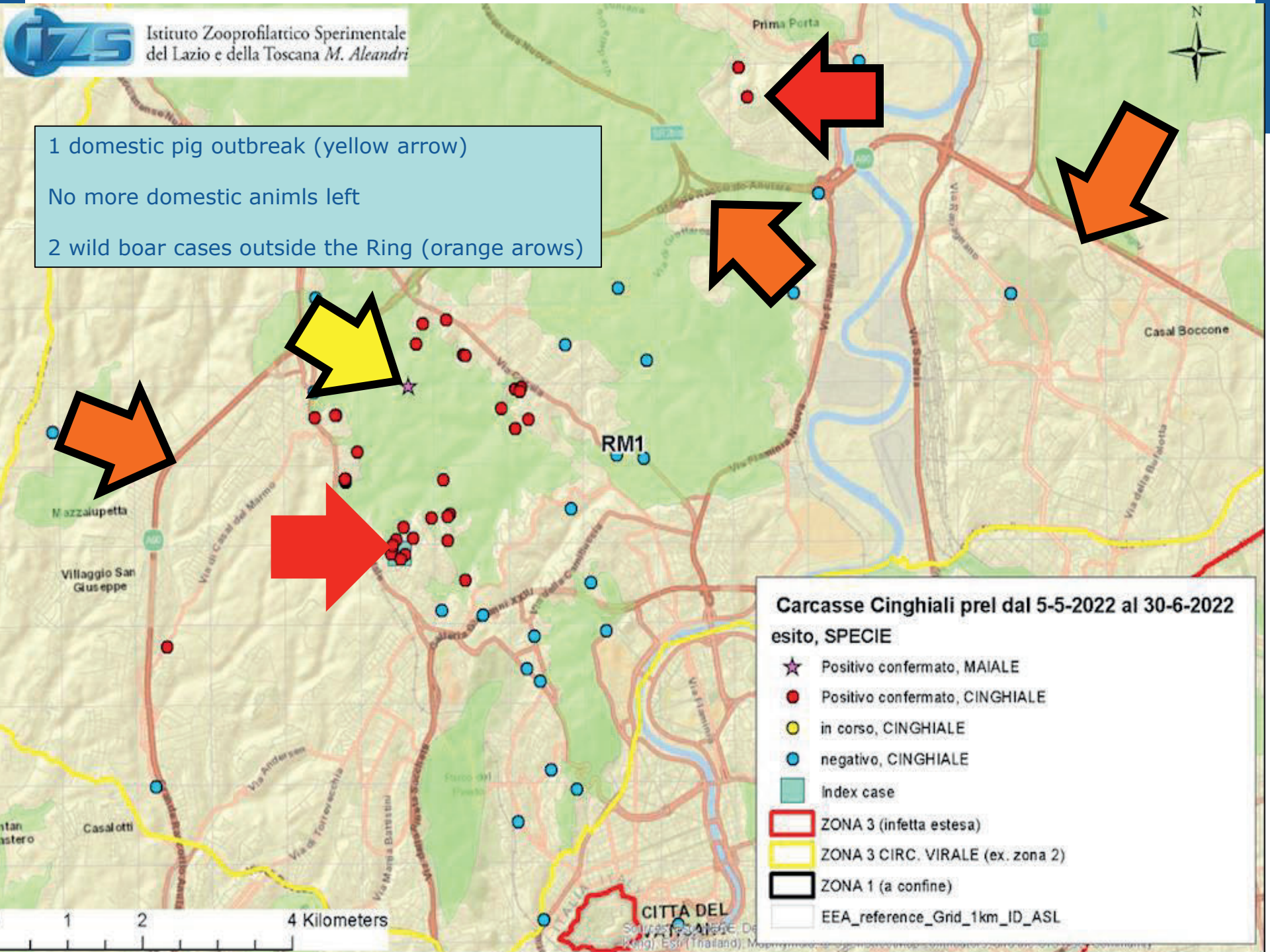
10 June: outbreak in domestic pigs (8)

19 June: all domestic pigs inside the 10 km culled (1290)

1 domestic pig outbreak (yellow arrow)

No more domestic animals left

2 wild boar cases outside the Ring (orange arrows)

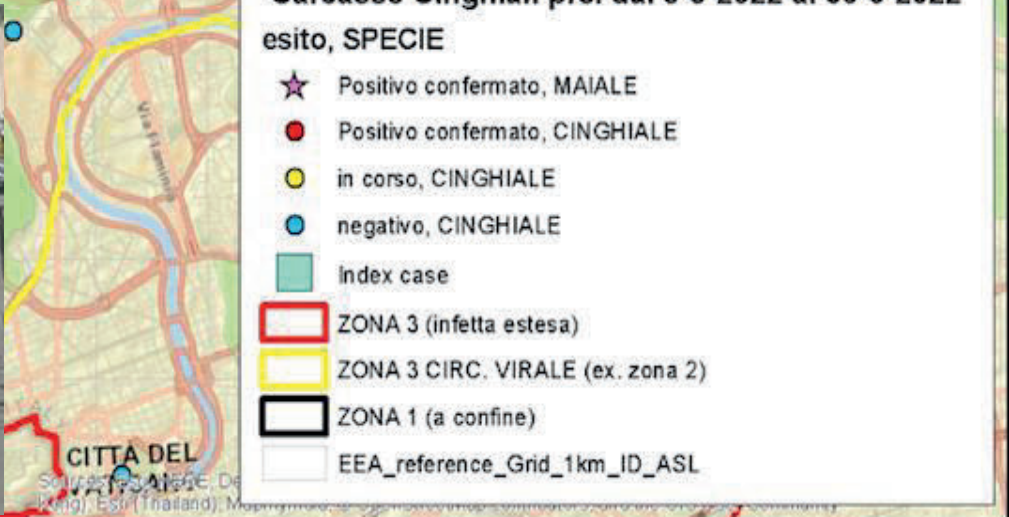
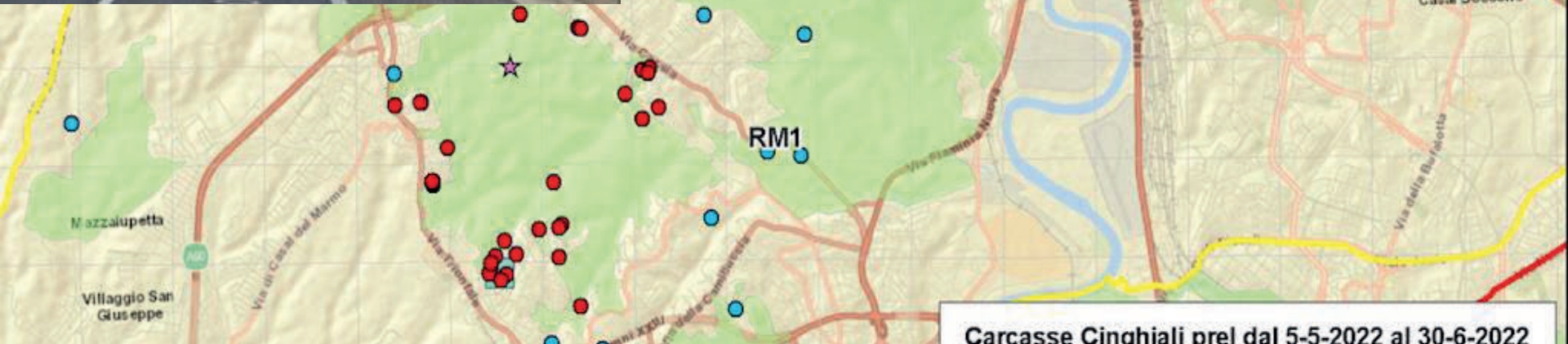
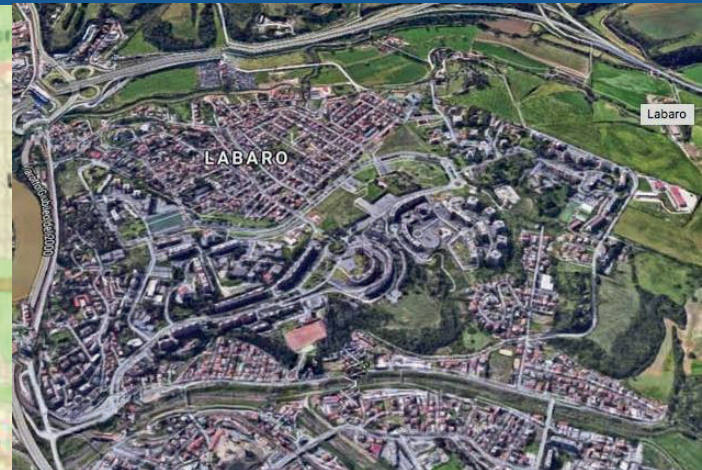
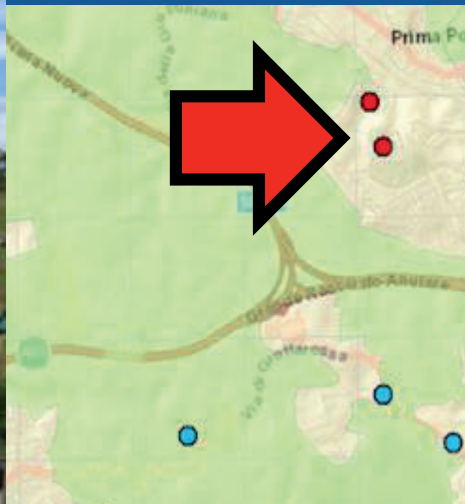


Carcasse Cinghiali prel dal 5-5-2022 al 30-6-2022 esito, SPECIE

- ☆ Positivo confermato, MAIALE
- Positivo confermato, CINGHIALE
- in corso, CINGHIALE
- negativo, CINGHIALE
- index case
- ZONA 3 (infetta estesa)
- ZONA 3 CIRC. VIRALE (ex. zona 2)
- ZONA 1 (a confine)
- EEA_reference_Grid_1km_ID_ASL

1 2 4 Kilometers

CITTA DEL
VATICA



Wild boar: from 5^o May to 24^o June

	Tested (passive)	Positive
Infectd area	81	37
Neghbouring areas	42	0



Rome: recommendations

The proposed strategy and the consequent activities that should be carried out at the times and in the ways below described is based on two assumptions:

- a. the epidemiological **reservoir** of the virus is still represented by the wild boar population living within the GRA, while the two cases found outside represent an **epiphenomenon** of it;
- b. the Mediterranean climate substantially **reduces the environmental persistence of the virus** and therefore its transmission occurs mainly (if not exclusively) through direct contact between infected and susceptible wild boar;

The first assumption must be systematically confirmed through passive surveillance, while the second must be verified with a careful analysis of seasonal temperature trends, linking them to the data available in the literature on virus viability.



RECCOMANDATIONS

1. It is essential to close the gates of the motor Ring allowing the wild boar in and out movements. The team saw the fence recently set up by ANAS; it has not the adequate technical features. It is necessary to identify a technical figure who will continuously monitor fences, their adequacy and their state of maintenance.
- 2 Within the RING the habitat suitable for wild boar is particularly fragmented, this fragmentation slows down the spread of the virus hence viral circulation is limited to the Insugherata reserve; it is now important to reduce the wild boar population in the neighbouring -still free - protected areas. The aim of such captures is to decrease the probability of encounters between infected wild boars (already decimated by the virus in the area of viral circulation) and those still present in the neighbouring protected areas. In this context, careful management of urban waste would also play a key preventive role.



RECCOMANDATIONS

3. At least once a month, passive surveillance must cover the areas outside the GRA (4 km buffer), and maintain a high awareness among ordinary citizens, from which the greatest number of reports are coming. FOR BOTH AREAS: (INSIDE and OUTSIDE RING)
4. A trap system should be designed and made operational in the wooded areas that connect the inside and outside of the GRA.
5. In October, an active search for carcasses in the area of viral circulation should be carried out; found carcasses should be sampled, tested and safely removed. During this period the removal of carcasses is aimed at reducing the possible indirect transmission (carcass to susceptible individuals) responsible for the endemic evolution of the virus during winter;
6. In February/March, a further active search for carcasses in the area of virus circulation should be carried out; again carcasses should be sampled tested and safely removed. The removal of carcasses in this period will reduce the likelihood of wild boar new-borns becoming infected with infected carcasses in which the virus has remained viable due to winter temperatures.

Rieti epidemic – 20 May 2022

(at 53 km from Rome - linear distance)



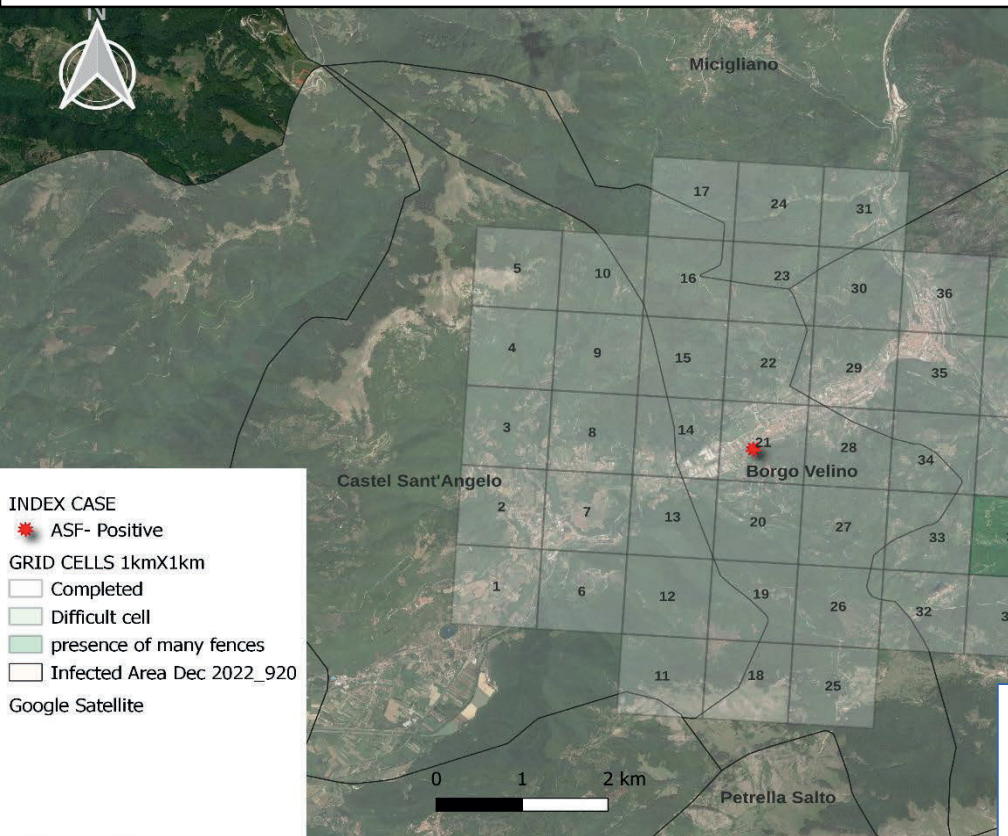
	Municipality of Infected Area	Total cullings
ATCRI2	Antrodoto	36
	Borgo Velino	31
	Castel S. Angelo	29
	Cittaducale	81
	Fiamignano	43
	Micigliano	20
ATCRI1	Petrella Salto	85
	Posta	63
	Borbona	68
Total		456

Hunted wild boar (2020-2021)

Total estimate= 900-1000

EFSA standards: about 1 dead/month should be found

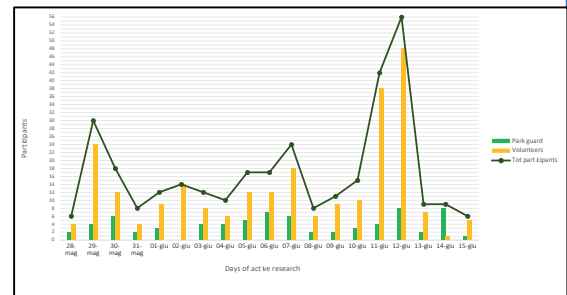
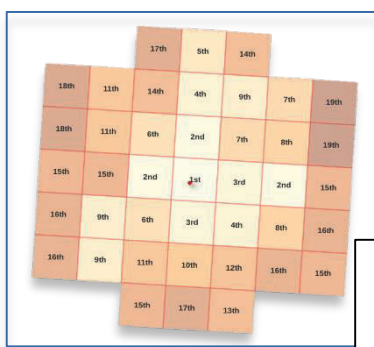
Grid cells 1kmX1km for active search of dead wild boar



INDEX CASE
 * ASF- Positive

GRID CELLS 1kmX1km
 [White box] Completed
 [Light green box] Difficult cell
 [Green box] presence of many fences
 [Red outline box] Infected Area Dec 2022_920
 Google Satellite

Since 20 may 2022	Carcasses	ASF-NEG	ASF-POS	Ongoing
Car accident	9	7	1	1
Other causes	5	5	0	0
Total	14 (2)			

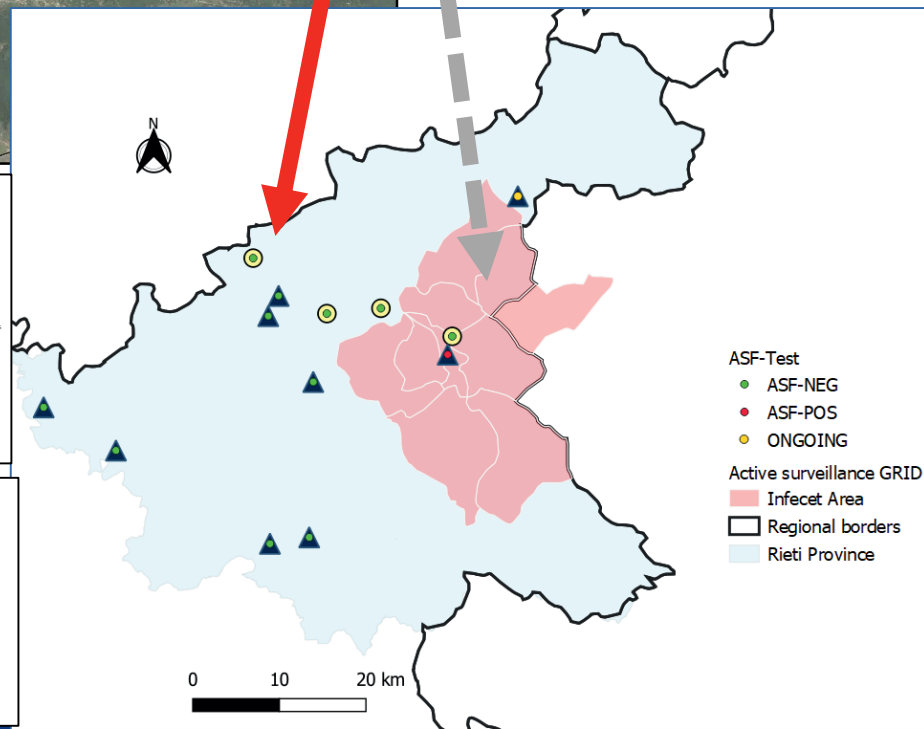


19 days of active research

39/41 Total of cells: Cell 38 Presence of many fences - Cell 41 Difficult due to orography (crevasses, ravines)

Zero carcasses detected in active surveillance

N. 326 total participants





Rieti recommendation

The proposed strategy and the consequent implementation of activities in the times and ways described are aimed at:

- a. define the spatial distribution of the virus and the consequent necessary actions should other positive animals be detected in the area.
- b. re-acquire free status in the area should the case of 23 May 2022 be an epidemiological epiphenomenon of an undetermined infected area;

1. Pursue an active search for carcasses until the end of September. The overall search area should be enlarged and focus rivers, streams, watering and feeding points. Searching in mountain areas with steep slopes and xerophilous flora is not recommended. The minimum number of carcasses to be found should be a priori estimated, considering the wild boar's natural mortality rate, its local abundance and the parameters required by EFSA to demonstrate the disease-free status.

If the virus is detected, it will be necessary to redesign the infected area and almost all the measures listed below to manage the new epidemiological situation.

RECCOMANDATIONS

2. In the event that active search of carcasses will not detect the virus till the **end of September**, specific biosecurity courses can be organized during **October** to allow wild boar hunting (to begin 1.11. 2022) to be conducted in a strictly regulated manner, aimed at the active surveillance of the African swine fever virus and exclusively by trained hunters residing in the restricted area (Infected Area or Part I and Part II).
3. Given the undefined epidemiological situation and the limited number of positive animals till now detected (just one), the **planned slaughter** of domestic animals in the infected area can be **postponed** for the time being; however, any restocking operations shall be prohibited until the end of **February 2023**.
4. The **biosecurity of farms** in the infected area should be carefully monitored promoting the immediate slaughter of animals living in farms with insufficient biosecurity levels.



RECCOMANDATIONS for BOTH the areas

In the infected areas it is necessary to facilitate the procedures for the culling of captured wild boars;

In neighbouring free areas – since it has been requested to double the number of hunted wild boars – it is important to facilitate the marketing of the wild boar meat. At present it lacks a system that allows the sale of the animals.

For every wild boar found dead - regardless of the cause - in addition to the sample for virus detection, a tissue sample (muscle, internal organ) should be taken and kept frozen for possible genetic investigations on the animals (group genotyping) to be added to those conducted on isolated viruses.



Thank you for your attention!

The working atmosphere during the mission was very good. The colleagues from Italy gave all their support and assistance to facilitate a fruitful mission. The EUVET rapporteurs wish to thank all colleagues for their support and help given during the whole mission.