

# Bluetongue S4 detection in Balearic Islands



Subdirectorate of Animal Health, Hygiene and Traceability  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Spain)

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# Serological surveillance in 2021

## RISK-BASED

- Virus detection in previous 2 years (restriction zones) and adjacent areas, as well as Balearic Islands
- Restriction zones subject to compulsory Vaccination for BTV-1, BTV4 and BTV8



## HIGH-RISK AREAS

Monthly sampling from May to December  
Objective: early detection

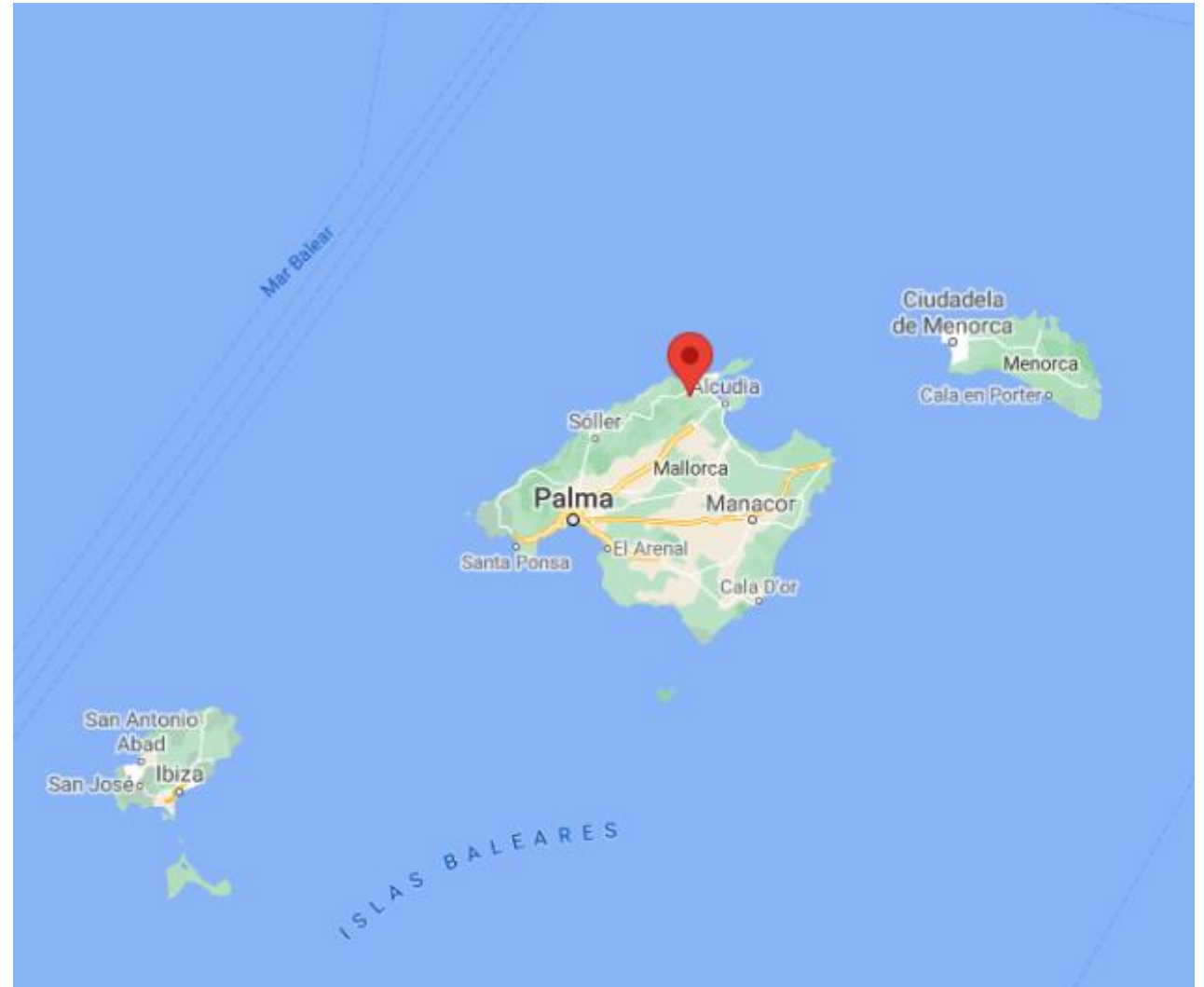
## LOW-RISK AREAS

2 samplings a year before and at the end of the vector-activity period  
Objective: seroconversion detection



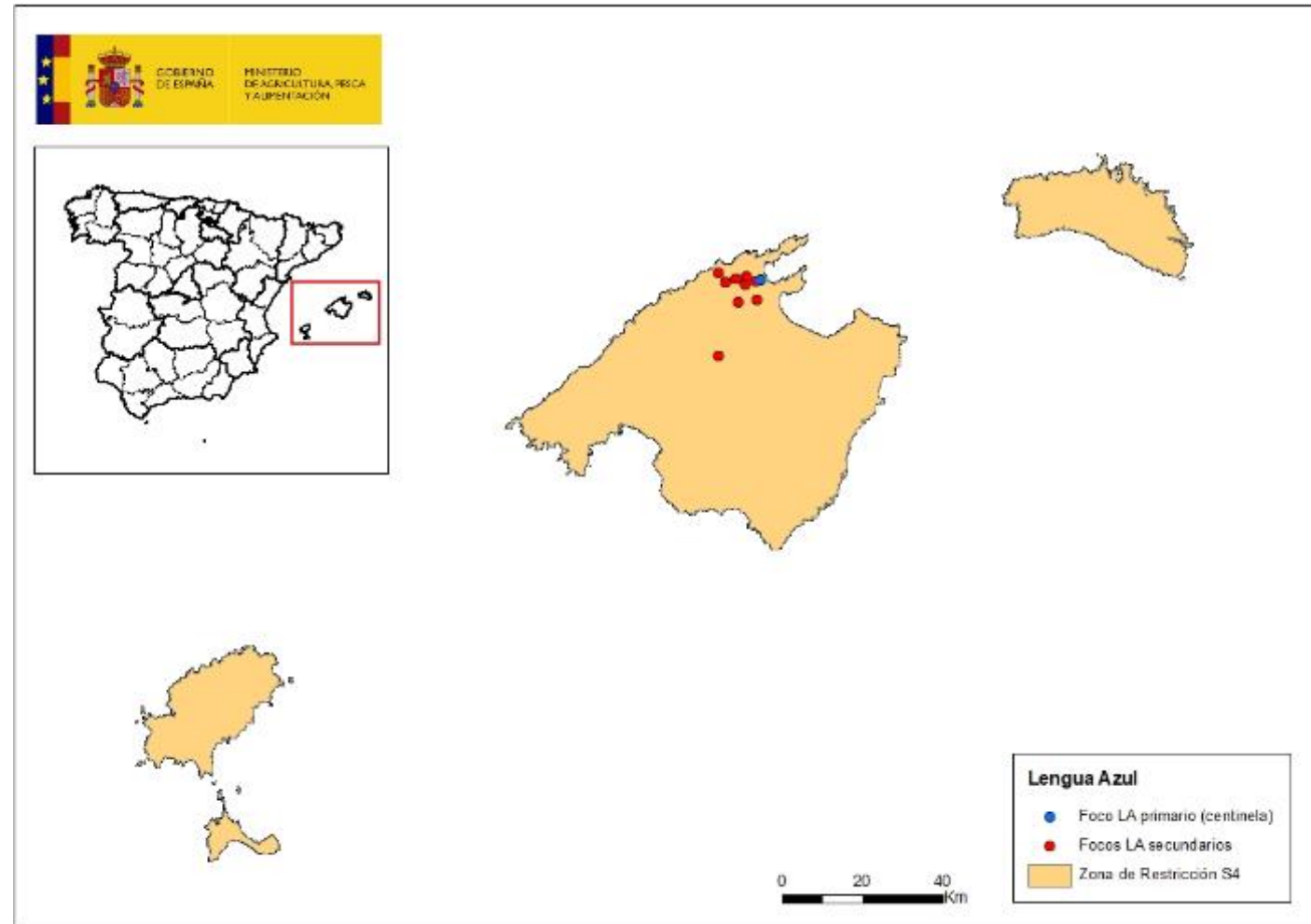
# Primary outbreak in a sentinel holding in Mallorca

- Census of 4 bovines and 19 ovine
- No clinical signs detected
- Included in the National Surveillance Program
- Last outbreak in the Balearic Islands in November 2003 in Menorca
- Balearic Islands regained freedom after 2 years without outbreaks after last notification related to 2003 outbreak



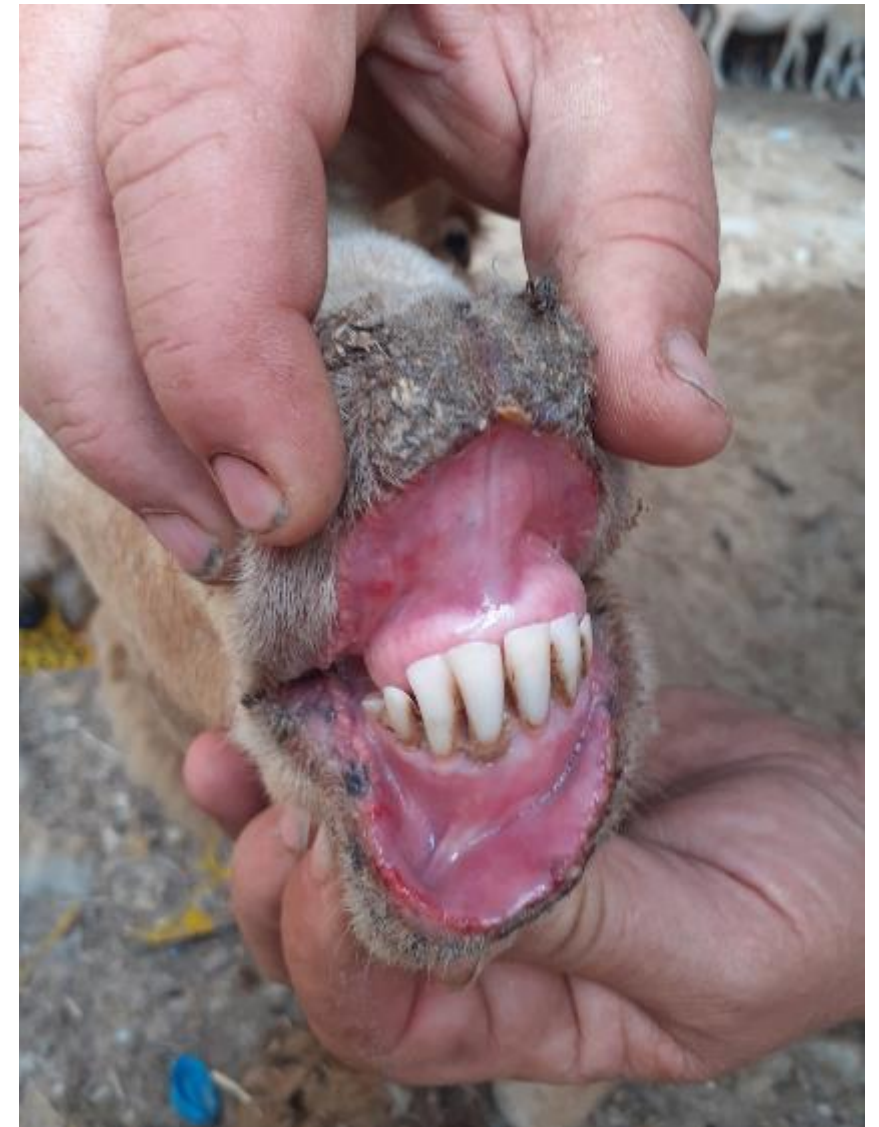
# Secondary outbreaks in Mallorca

- 9 additional ovine holdings with clinical signs (ptyalism, glossitis, hyperthermia, apathy, oedema,..)
- All in Mallorca Island and in the proximity of the primary outbreak.
- Preliminary molecular studies carried out in NRL indicate that this strain shows higher homology with BTV-4 strain that has been circulating in recent years in the Balkans (France, Italy, North Africa?), and thus different to the S4 currently present in the Iberian peninsula.

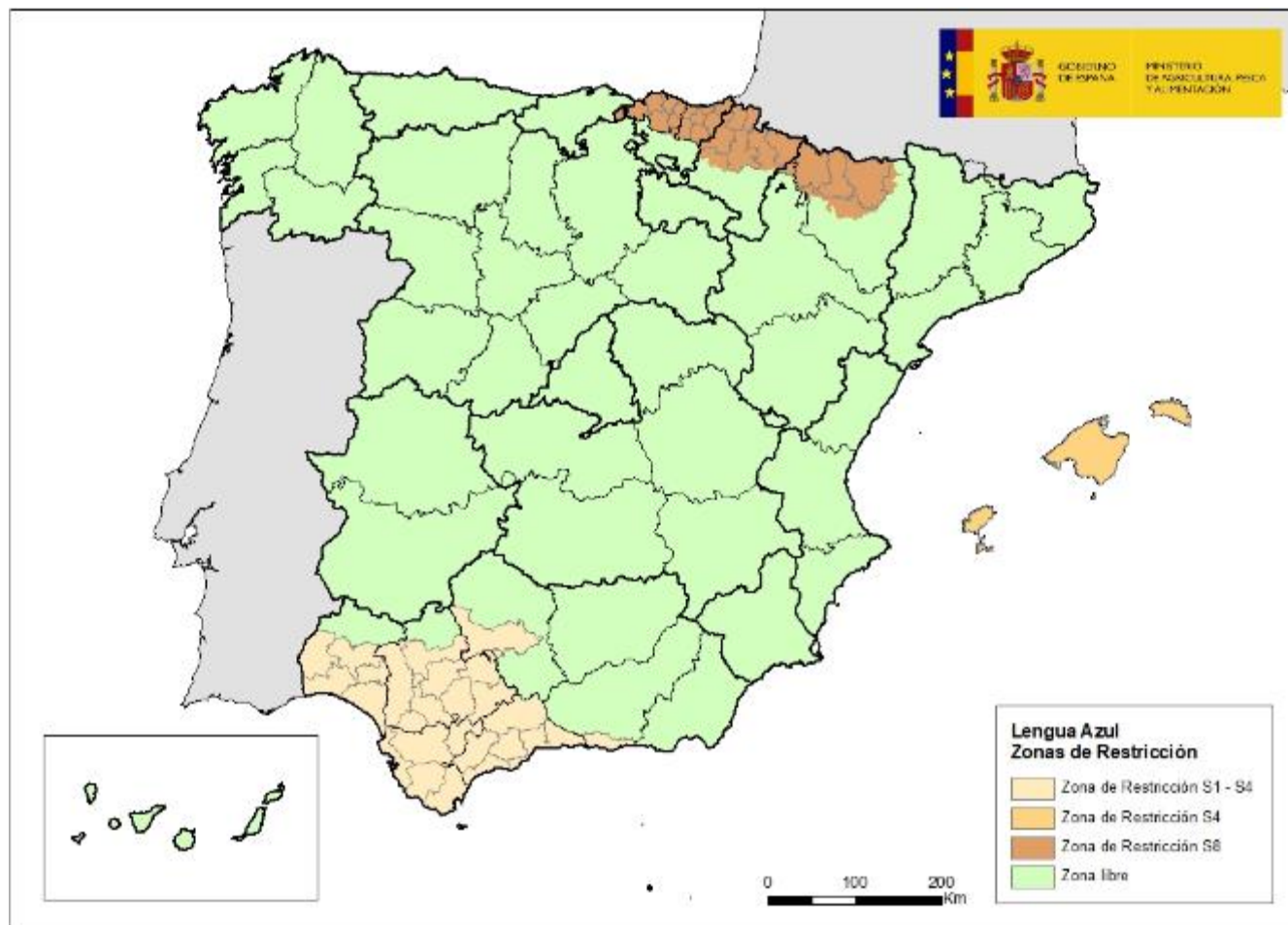




# Clinical signs in ovine



# Prevention and control measures adopted by OVS

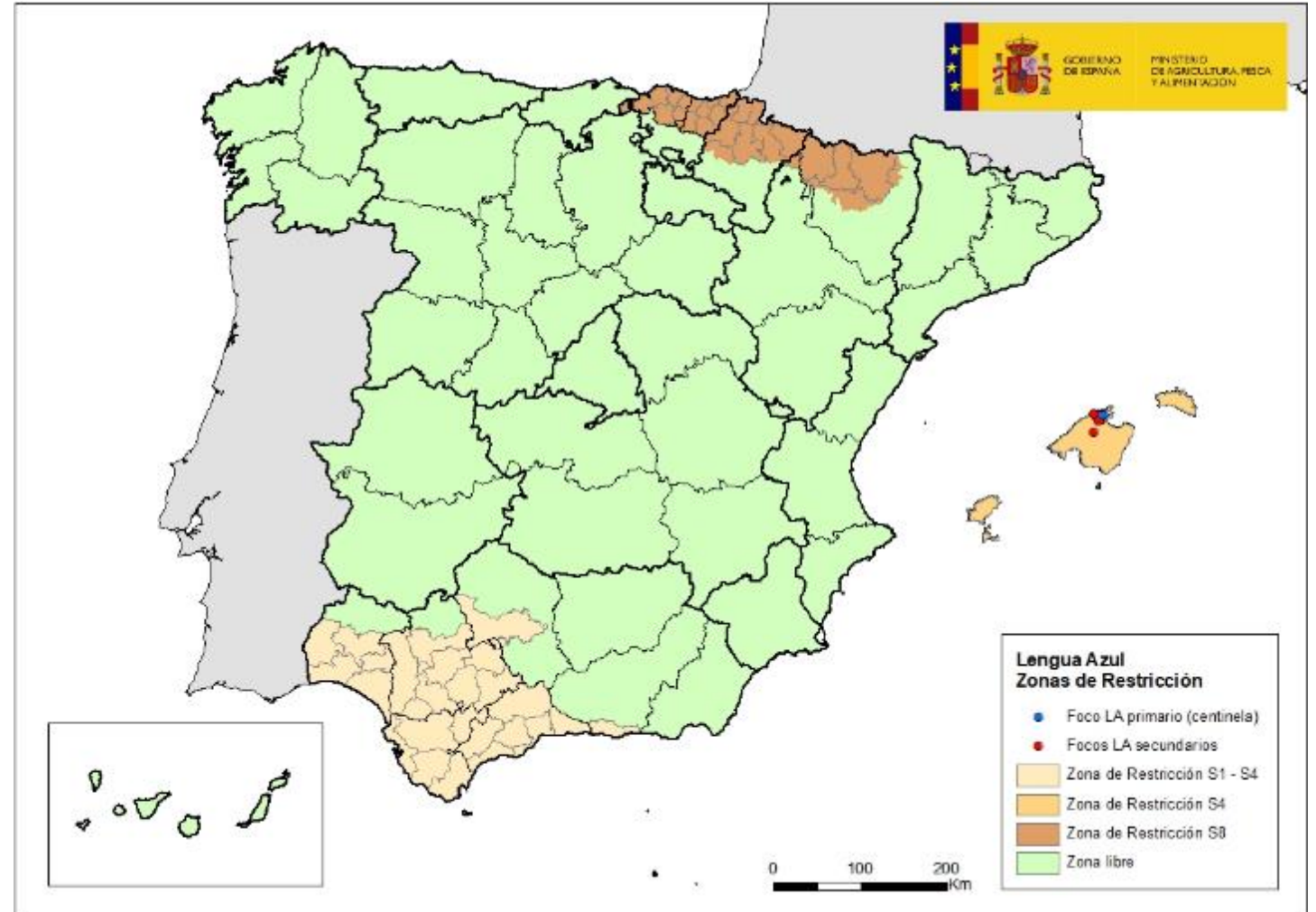


- A RZ has been established including all Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza y Formentera).
- Traceability of movements over last 2 months (all negative by now).
- Enhancement of prevention, control, eradication and surveillance activities are undergoing.
- Disinsectation of holdings.
- Enhanced passive surveillance to ensure early detection and communication.



# Prevention and control measures adopted by OVS

- Movement restriction on susceptible animals moving from RZ:
  - Prevention from vector attack 14 days + PCR negative (until 30<sup>th</sup> September)
  - Vaccinated or from a vaccinated mother, and vaccinated holding after 1st October.
- Compulsory vaccination S4 (bovine and ovine animals over 3 months in RZ).  
Census: 208.000 bovine; 22.500 bovine.
- Compliance with Delegated Regulation (UE) 2020/688 and 2020/689 (Annex V) for animals intended for intracommunity movement to other MMSS.



# Conclusions

- Serotype 4 of BT virus detected in Balearic islands after 16 years of freedom.
- First case detected and confirmed in a sentinel holding followed by confirmation of secondary outbreaks detected by passive surveillance all in the same area of Mallorca – possible recent incursion.
- Ovine animals showing typical signs of the disease.
- Phylogenetic analysis of isolates shows higher relation to serotype 4 originally detected in the Balkans.
- Regional CA applying very strict prevention and control measures in the whole archipelago to avoid further spread of the disease to free areas of Spain and other MMSS.
- Compulsory vaccination of all susceptible animals over 3 months of age undergoing in the whole archipelago.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

