

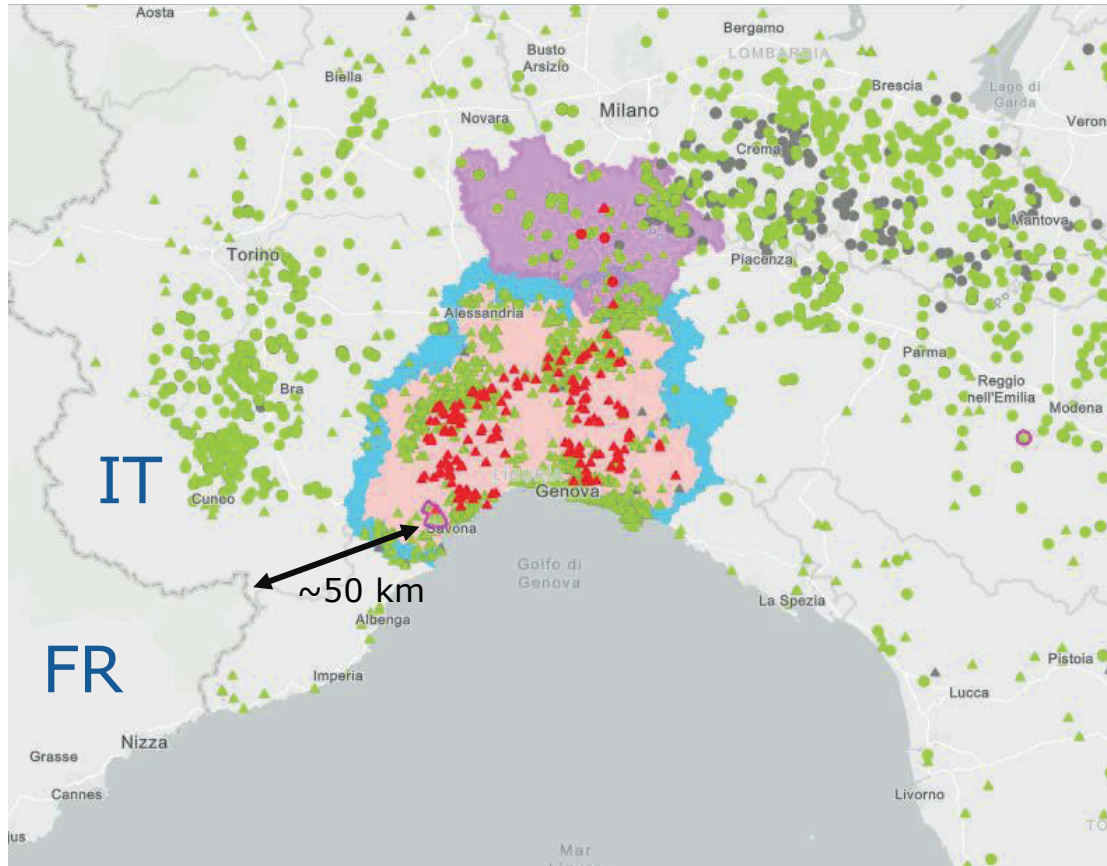


20.10.2023

African swine fever EUVET joint mission to France and Italy

(11-13 October 2023)

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ASF in wild boar and domestic pigs in
Liguria and Piemonte in 2023

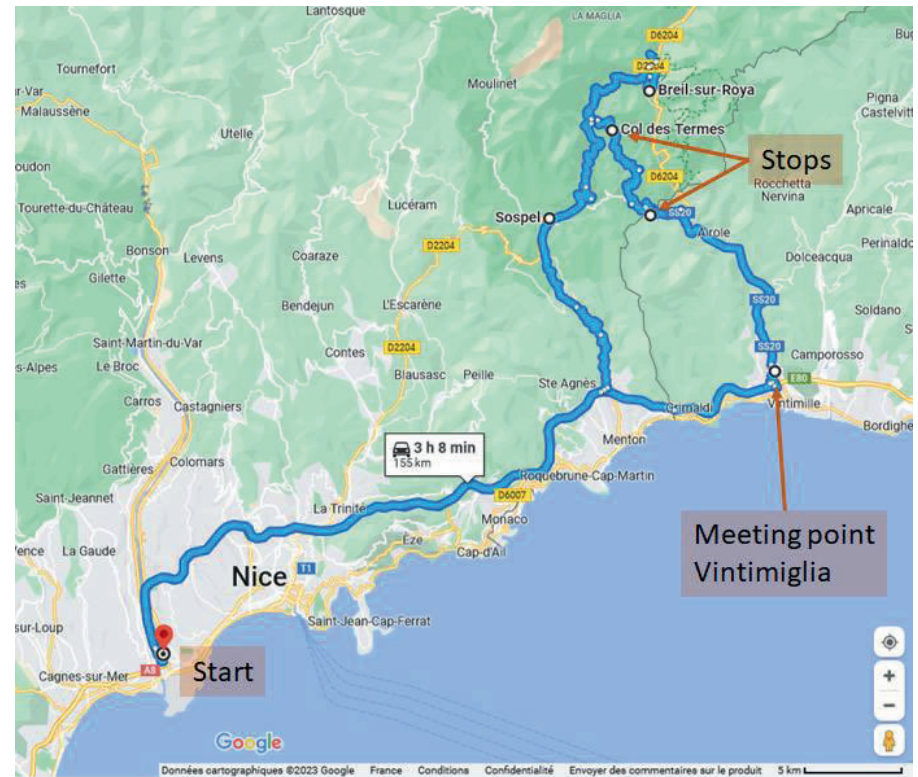
Places visited:

France

Nice, local veterinary
administration of the Alpes
Maritimes (administration
centre - CADAM)
Roya valley, Col des Termes

Italy

Vintimiglia
(Roya valley, Liguria)





Providing on-the-spot assistance

- most suitable ASF eradication measures
- scientific, technical, managerial aspects
- preparedness and surveillance in wild boar
- preparedness and surveillance in domestic pigs

Specific questions

Are the ASF disease control measures that are applied on the French side sufficient and what can be done more?

How can the risk of ASF introduction be reduced?

How can the efficiency of hunting and carcass search be improved and what is the role of dogs and drones in carcass searches?

How can the perimeter of an infected area be defined after the first positive case is detected?

What is the risk of heaving zones where carcasses are not removed?

What is the role of wild boar killed in road accidents (road kill) in the context of ASF?

What to do with the domestic pigs when the disease is diagnosed in wild boar?

Are the ASF disease control measures that are applied on the French side sufficient and what can be done more?

Early detection is the key to successful ASF control.

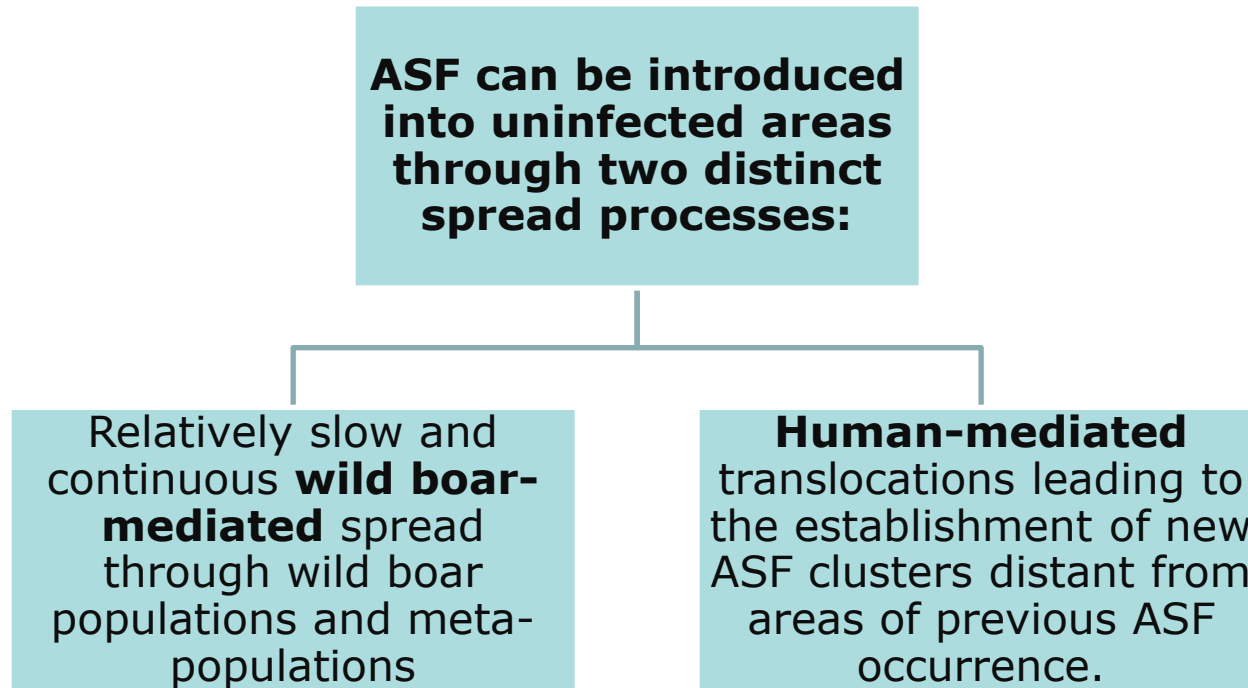
The earlier ASF will be detected, the smaller the affected area will be. The larger the affected area, the smaller the chances of eradication.

Two simple rules:

- 1) The expected number of carcasses found should be 1% of the hunting bag (excluding road kills)
- 2) All wild boar found dead (including road kills) should be tested for ASF

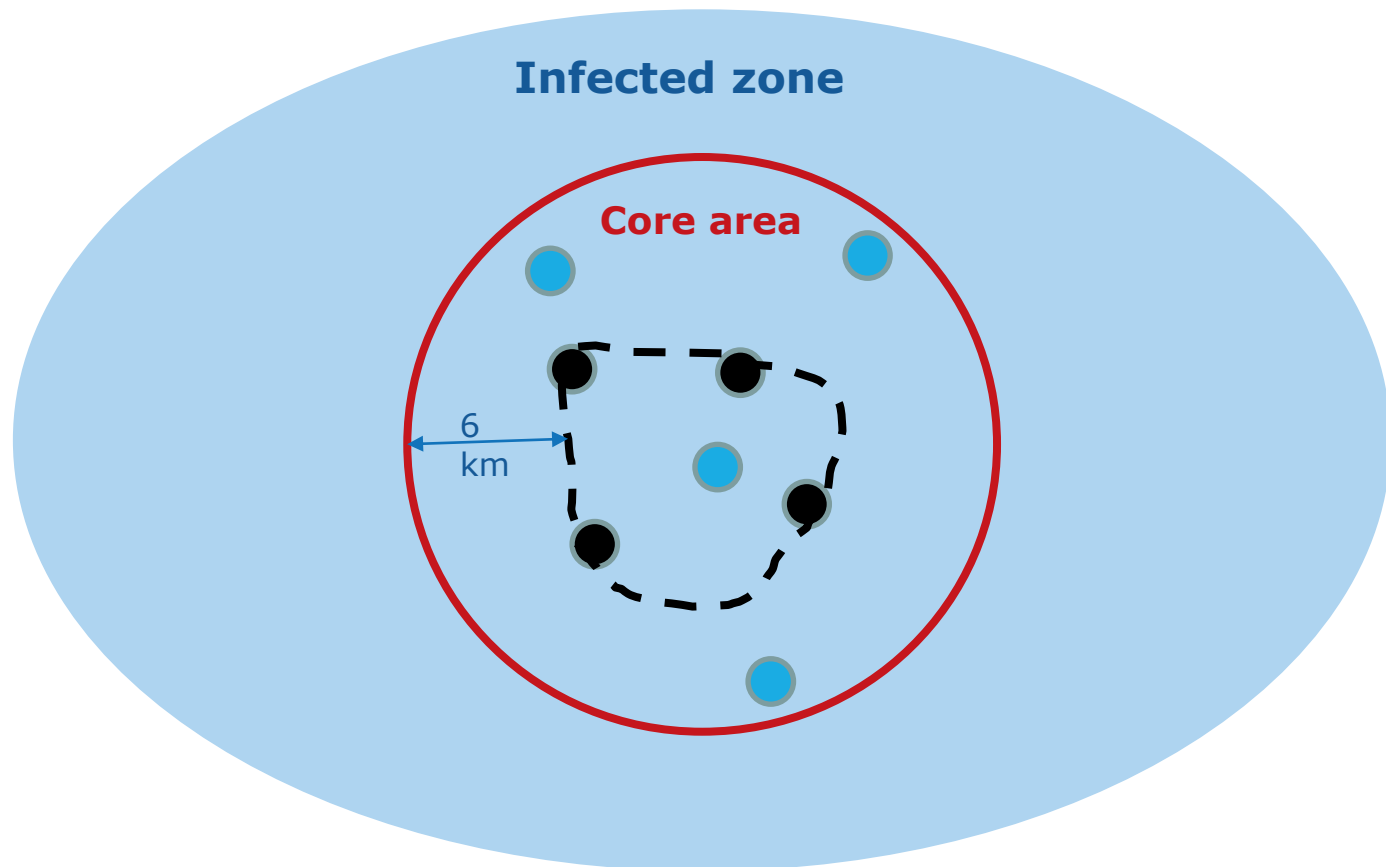
For example, in the Department of Alpes Maritimes, 6726 wild boars were shot in the last hunting year. This would mean that about 67 wild boar carcasses (1%), should be found and tested for ASF.

How can the risk of ASF introduction be reduced?



- Good cooperation between FR and IT, especially at local level
- Local risk assessment to identify critical human-wild boar interface sites

How can the perimeter of an infected area be defined after the first positive case is detected?



The core area can be defined only after 2 to 4 weeks of intensive carcass searching.

The prevention and control measures for domestic pigs

Preventive slaughter of all domestic pigs

(about 500 pigs in 65 small farms) to avoid potential outbreaks

Preventive slaughter only of pigs on farms with insufficient biosecurity,
followed by restocking only under adequate biosecurity measures

No slaughter but enhancing biosecurity and monitoring *all pig farms more efficiently to detect and stamp out an ASF outbreak in an early stage of infection.*

Imposing minimum biosecurity requirements *that must be met within a certain period of time. Farms that do not meet these should be closed accordingly and the pigs slaughtered.*

Farms with insufficient biosecurity should be tackled first

Main conclusions and recommendations

The central aspect in the control of ASF in wild boar is early detection.

The expected number of carcasses found should be 1% of the hunting bag. All wild boar found dead should be tested for ASF.

A very harsh geographic landscape complicates the control measures, e.g. the carcass search or the erection of fences.

A good and intensive cooperation between the local Italian and French authorities, in particular concerning the exchange of information, is crucial.

Strong consensus with hunters is needed. Financial support could be given for searching wild boar carcasses, particularly in the regions bordering infected areas.

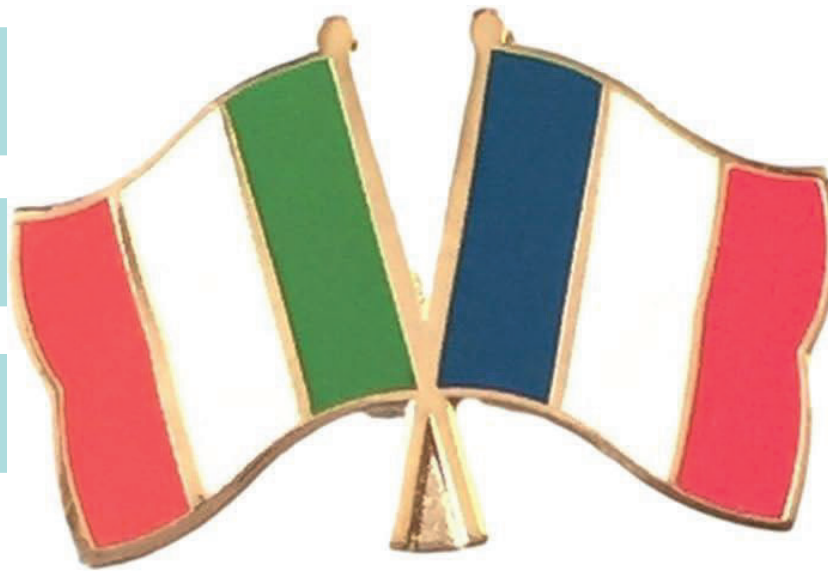
Measures to prevent the disease in domestic pigs (biosecurity) should be introduced without delay.

Main conclusions and recommendations

Biosecurity measures on domestic pig farms have to be reinforced and verified regularly. In particular, the "software" aspect of biosecurity needs to be strengthened.

On farms where biosecurity is inadequate, a temporary ban on pig farming should be considered until biosecurity is restored.

Considering the potential role of seasonal workers in spreading ASF, target awareness and information campaigns for this group of people should be conducted.





The EU-VET team would like to thank all French and Italian colleagues for their support and help

The working atmosphere during the mission was very good. The colleagues gave us all their support and help to make the mission fruitful.