



African Swine Fever in wild boars in Italy

SCOPAFF – 10-11/02/2022

F. Calvetti – Ministry of Health – Directorate General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicinal Products

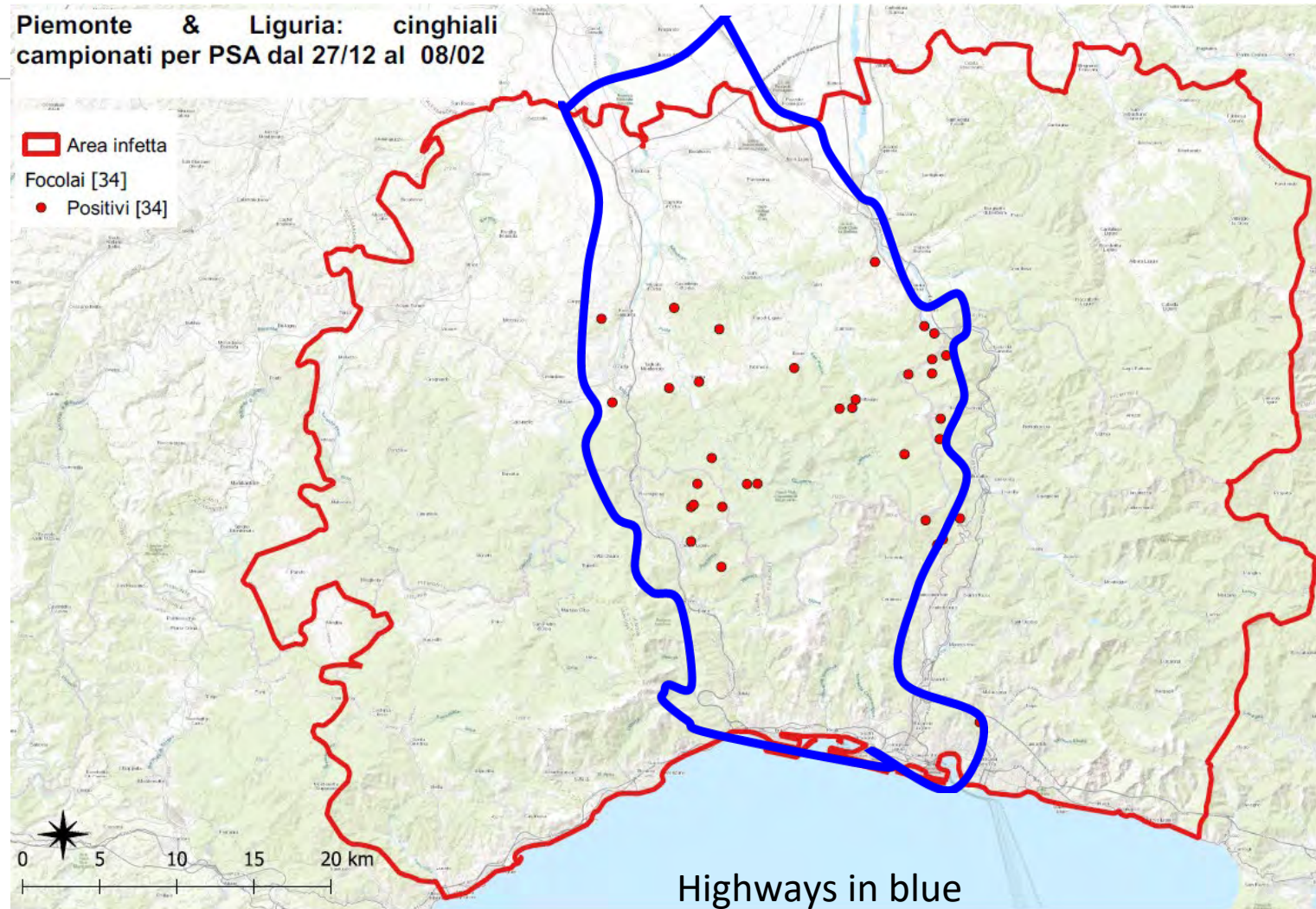
ASF disease
in North –
West Italy
Piedmont and
Liguria regions



Cases detected (as at 08/02/2022)

34 cases

- all from infected zone
- By Region:
 - ✓ 17 from PMT, prov AI
 - ✓ 17 from LIG, prov Ge
- By sex: 19 F vs. 15 M
- By age (months):
 - ✓ 0-6 1
 - ✓ 7-18 11
 - ✓ 19-30 14
 - ✓ >30 8
- Road killed: 5/34



Controls by zone

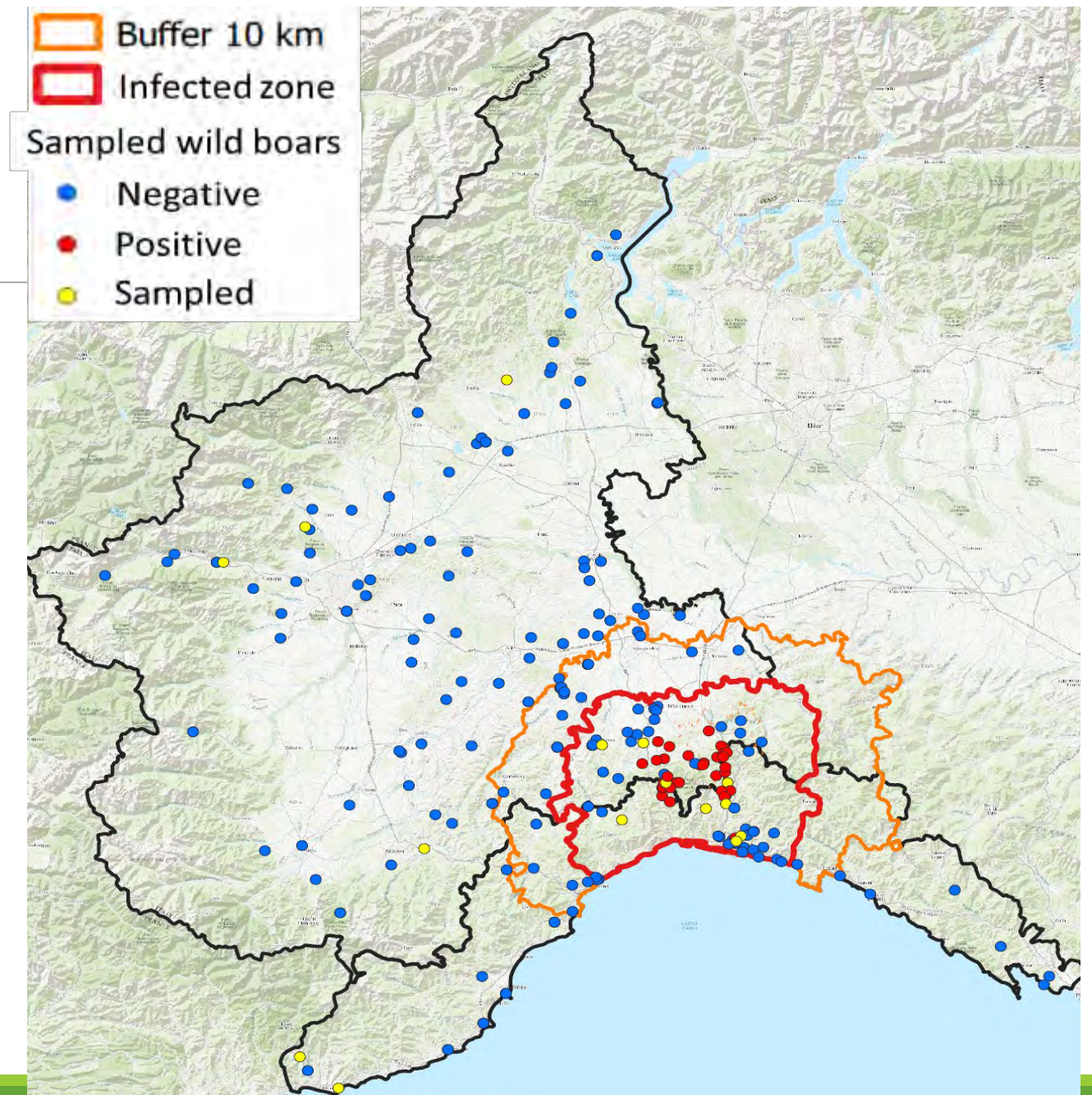
PCR analyses on wild boar carcasses Piedmont + Liguria

79 infected zone

30 Buffer 10km (PMT+LIG)

109 free (PMT+LIG)

(as at 08/02/2022)



Measures taken

In accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605; Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687; Prevention and surveillance ASF National Plan; Manual of ASF emergency in wild population

- Institution of Central Crisis Unit
- Ministerial Provision 11/01/2022: Establishment of the enlarged Infected Area
- Order of Ministry of Health in agreement with Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry policies 13/01/2022: Prohibition of hunting and other activities in the infected area
- Regional orders (Emilia Romagna and Lombardia): Prohibition of hunting and other activities in neighboring areas



Ministerial Provision 18/01/2022

Infected zone

- Hunting and other outdoor activities prohibition
- Active wild boars carcasses searching starting from borders
- Management and disposal of carcasses
- Pig farm census
- Depopulation of at-risk farms, included industrial farms and backyard farms, in the infected area and 6 months stop of reproduction and restocking
- Stop of live pigs, pig meat products and ABPs movements
- Virological test in pigs found dead (art. 9, paragraph 1, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689)

Neighbouring zones (10 km)

- Enhancement of passive surveillance
- Virological test in pigs found dead
- Regulation of hunting and outdoor activities
- Census of pig farms and immediate update of National Database
- Enhancement of biosecurity measures (Annex II Implementation Regulation (EU) 2021/605), and checks starting from semi-wild farms by specific checklist filled out in ClassyFarm system
- Prohibition of movement of wild boars caught in protected areas and other wildlife establishments other than that aimed at slaughtering;
- Enhancement of checks on pigs movements

Other regions

- Census of pig farms and immediate update of National Database
- Prohibition of movement of wild boars caught in protected areas and other wildlife establishments
- Enhancement of biosecurity measures at pig farms
- Checks of biosecurity measures, starting from semi-wild farms
- Obligation of fences in semi-wild farms and individual identification of all breeders present there

Ministerial Provision 18/01/2022



Regional and local Authorities in Infected Zone

Are responsible to apply the measures and controls, also involving private vets, Police Forces, hunting and volunteers organizations and other formally appointed figures.

In IZ any wild boar carcass found has to be classified as suspect in the veterinary informative systems for animal diseases SINVSA and SIMAN.

Out of the IZ only carcasses of wild or domestic pigs showing symptoms or lesions suggesting ASF has to be classified as suspected.

Weekly report on carcasses searching.

Other measures

- Letter to Region Authorities to temporarily suspend the health certifications of slaughtered pork and pork-based products, if these are intended for third countries with which there is a health agreement and/or a health certificate that provides ASF free recognition of the whole country, with effect from 7 January 2022
- MoH and CEREP Mission to Piedmont and Liguria (11-13 January) as support to define main points and activities to be implemented
- EUVET Mission 07-11 February in Piedmont and Liguria Regions

Manual of ASF Emergency in wild boars population

Last update 21/04/2021

Objectives:

- Definition of suspected case
- provide guidance on proper management of a suspected case in free territory
- illustrate strategies for virus containment to avoid further spread of virus
- outline the information to develop the eradication plan, in case of outbreak confirmation

Manual of ASF Emergency in wild boars population



Crisis Unit

- Central
- Regional
- Local



Technical basis

- General disease information
- Passive surveillance



Procedure to be adopted in case of suspect

- Sample transport
- Carcasse management



Measures in case of confirmation

- Measures in Infected Zone
- Measures in buffer zone
- Management of carcasse and killed animals both in IZ & BZ
- Fences
- Management of carcasse and killed animals outside BZ

Wild boars management and ASF

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies and Ministry of Ecological Transition, with the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research technical support



Technical Document for boars management and ASF

Essential elements for drawing up a management plan

21/04/2021

Technical Document for boars management and ASF

Passive
surveillance

Reduction of wild
boars density

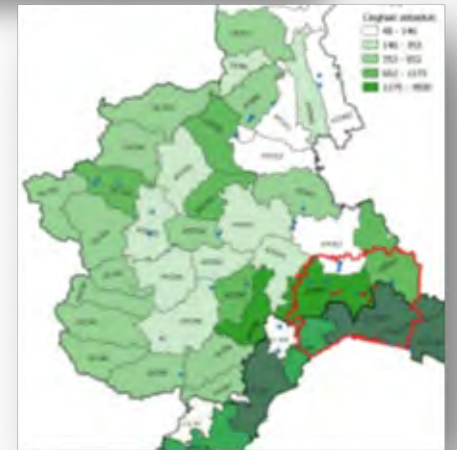
Hunters Training
and information

Application of
Manual of ASF
Emergency in wild
boars population

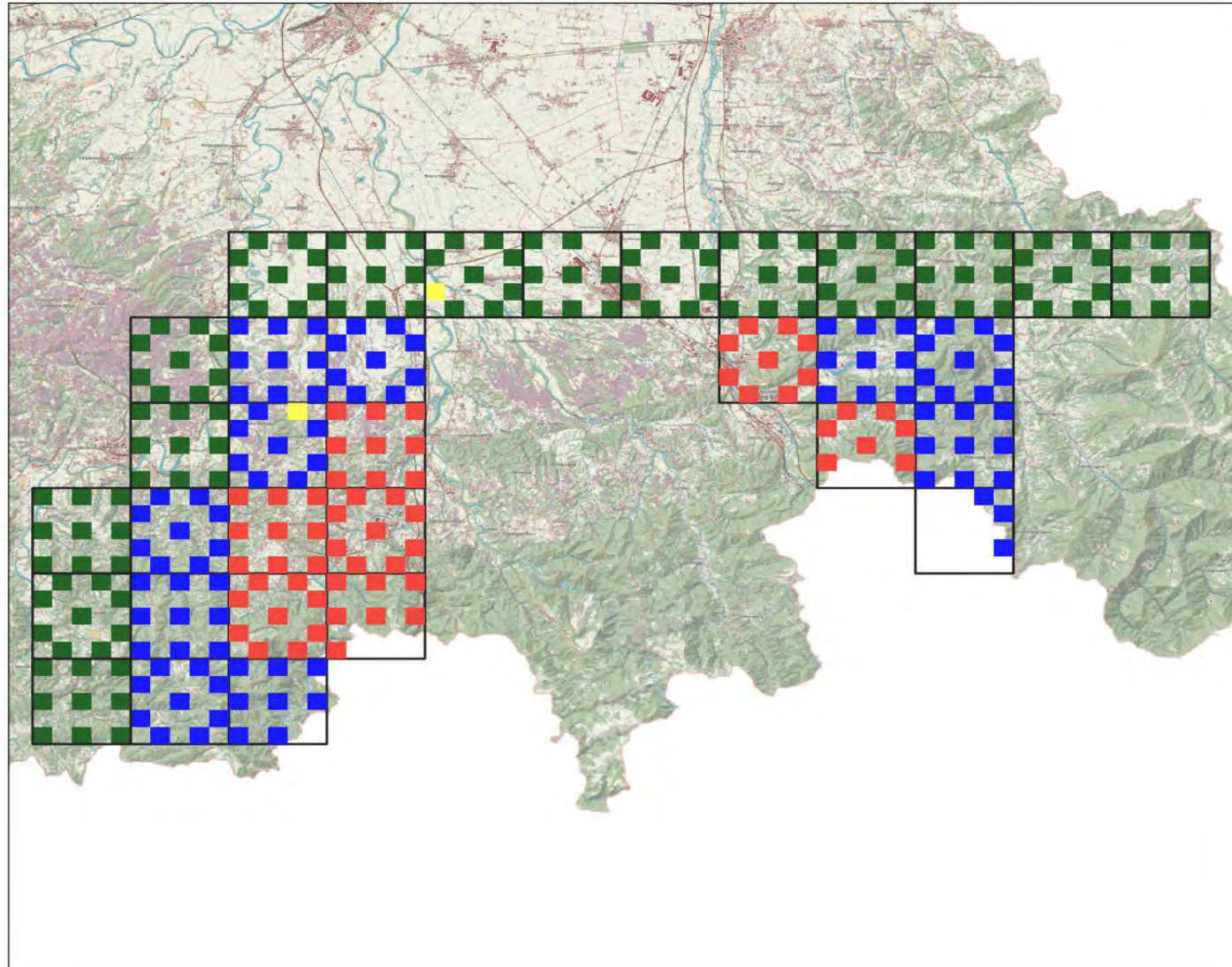
Integrated
biosecurity plans

Start of systematic campaign to collect wild boar carcasses

- 13 January: meeting in Alessandria with hunting associations to organise the systematic collection of wild boar carcasses within the infected area
- Main objective: defining the boundaries of the virus circulation area (core area) within the infected area
- 14-15 January: launch of the carcass collection campaign, both regional sides included, with beating from outside to inside.



Research of carcasses in Piedmont and Liguria



**PIANO MONITORAGGIO
CARCASSE RINVENUTE**

Celle monitorate 1°Sett.
■ Nessuna carcassa
■ Carcasce trovate: 1

Celle monitorate 2°Sett.
■ Nessuna carcassa
■ Carcasce trovate: 1 animale abbattuto
■ Celle da monitorare 3°Sett.

□ settori

Base Cartografica di Riferimento Anno 2021
1:50.000



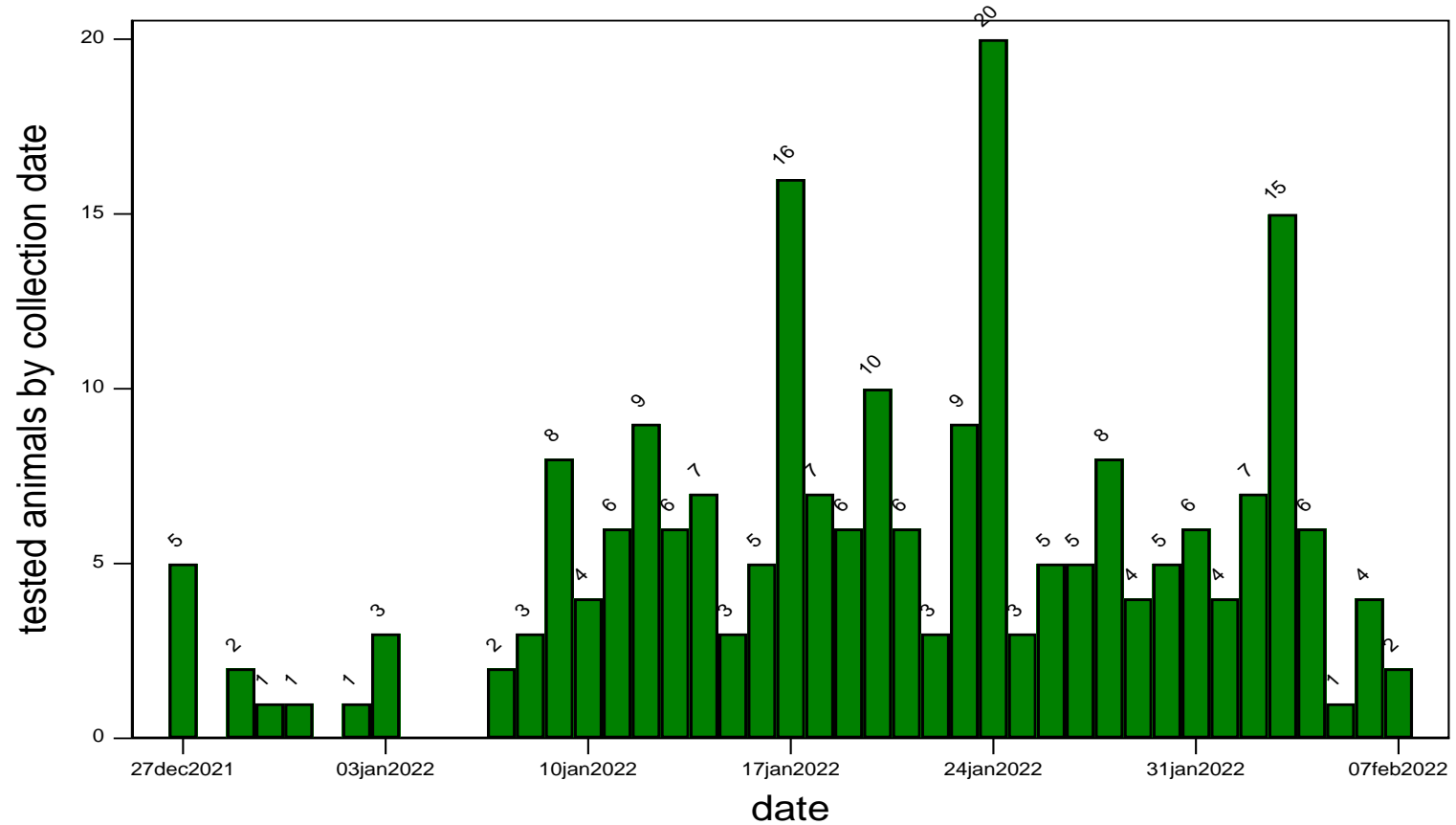
Scala - 1:200.000

Update on controls carried out so far

Trend of controls (passive surveillance)

PCR analyses on wild boar carcasses by date of collection in Piedmont + Liguria

a total of 218 analyses completed as at 08/02/2022

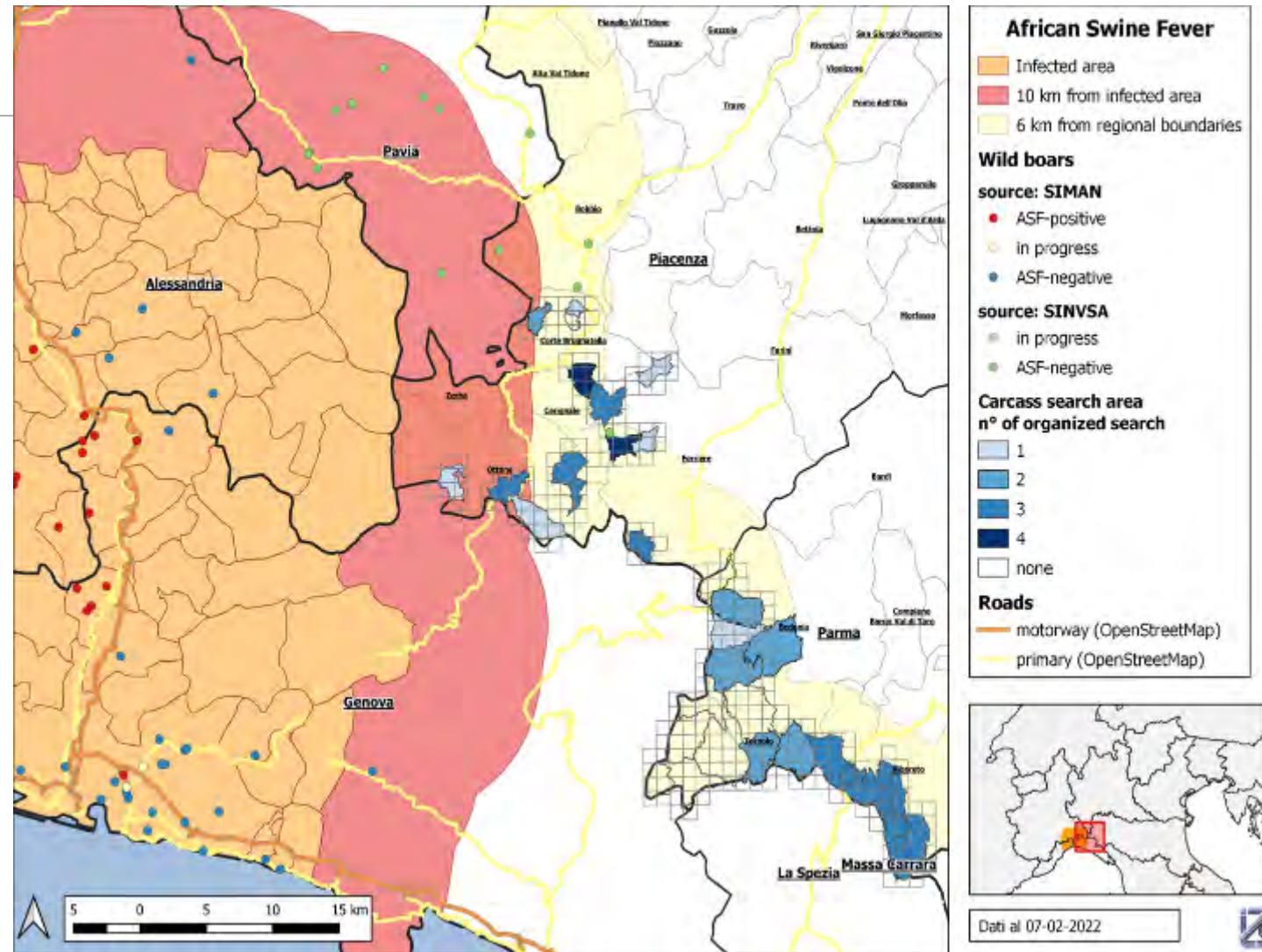


Research of carcasses in Emilia Romagna

The research areas were selected on the basis of the presence of wild boar and the walkability and accessibility of the territory.

We have involved the local hunters, both for the definition of the areas and for the searches of the carcasses (hunting, in the meantime, has been suspended).

Strong involvement of hunters in the first weeks, but over time their participation is not guaranteed.



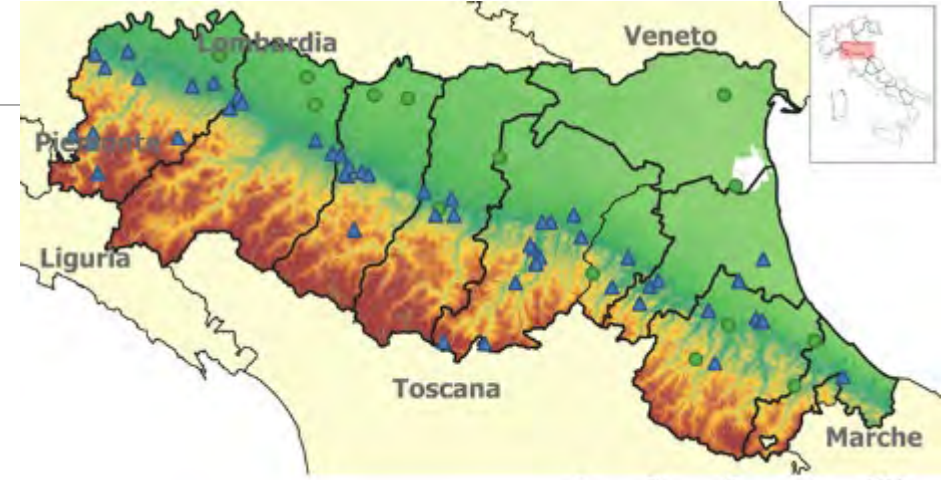
Wild boars control measures

Risk area (10 km from the border of infected area):

- Total ban of hunting activities
- Ban of dog training and competition
- Ban of mushroom collection

Piacenza and Parma Provinces (remaining territories)

- «Only hunt» without dogs is allowed
- Dog training and competition are allowed only in fenced areas

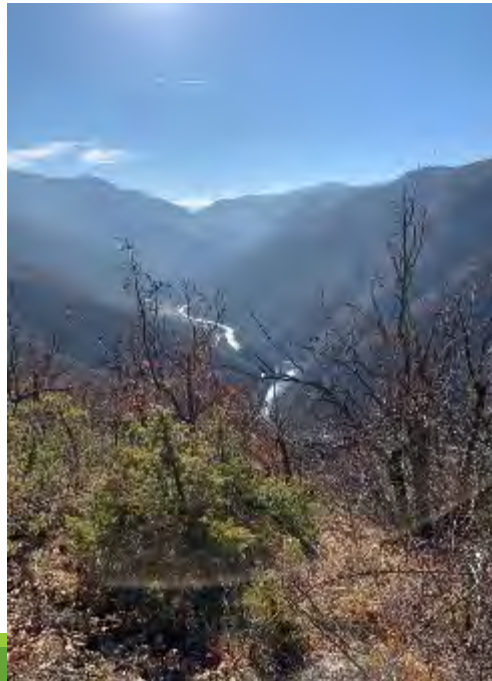


Critical issue

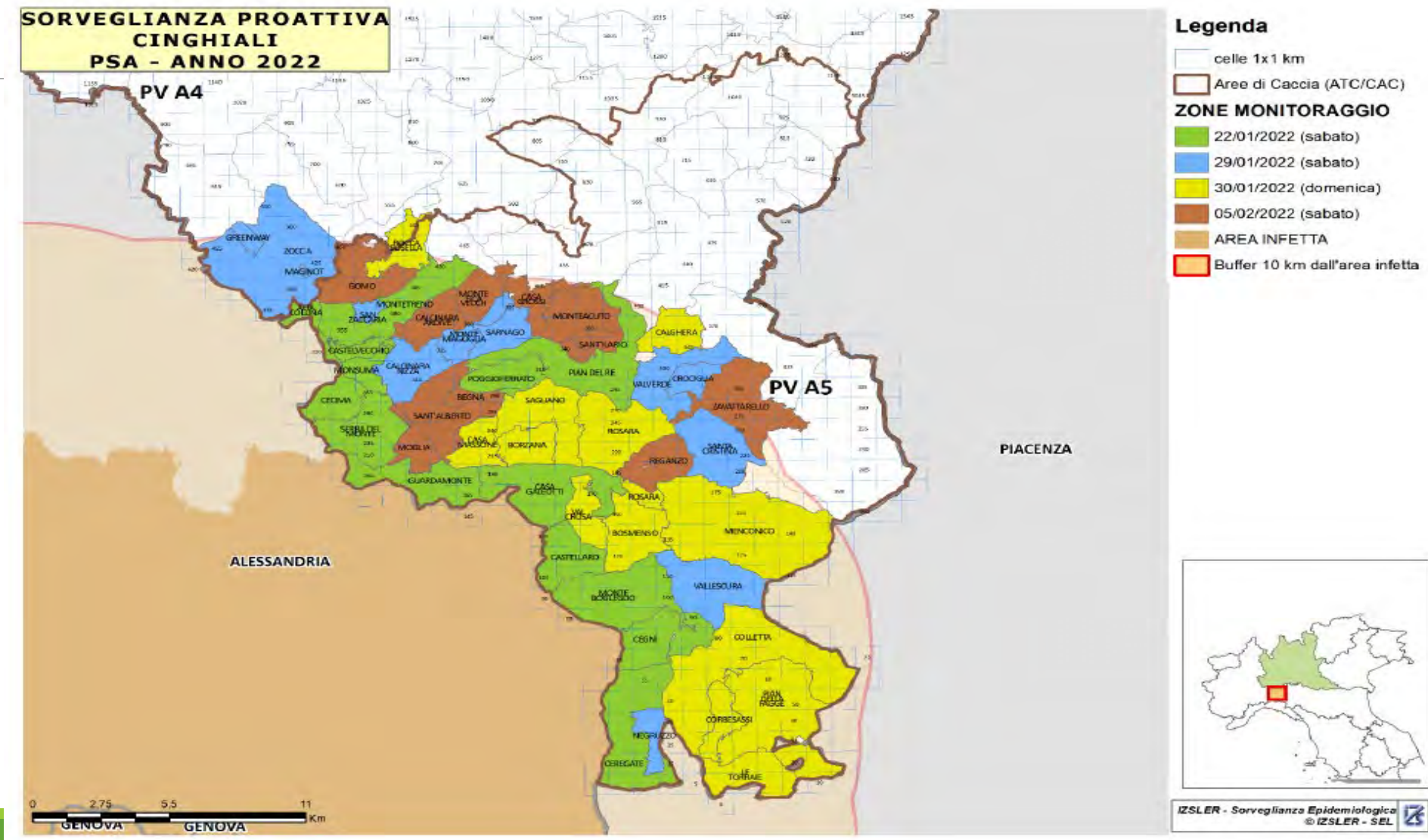
The "grid" search method is not applicable in ER territory due to the presence of:

- large inaccessible areas (crevasses, ravines)
- low visibility of any carcass due to dense forest and dense undergrowth, or snow.

Mountainous area, uphill and downhill trails, slow down the search effort and only small areas are explored in the available time (3-4 h per search session).



Research carcasses in Lombardy



Buffer area

Active research by Volunteer Staff

Data	Area (km ²)	Area (ha)	Volunteers involved	N. Wild Boars remains
22/01/2022	97,9	9786,9	122	11
29/01/2022	62,3	6234,1	139	7
30/01/2022	115,4	11538,1	84	7
05/02/2022	55,0	5499,8	87	3 (2 ongoing tests)
TOTAL	330,6	33058,9	432	28

The whole territory of the buffer area was patrolled

General surveillance of the buffer area:

Carcasses / wild boar remains (bones, skin): 28 (7 suitable for analyses)

9 wild boar carcasses (6 cars incidents, 4 in the field)

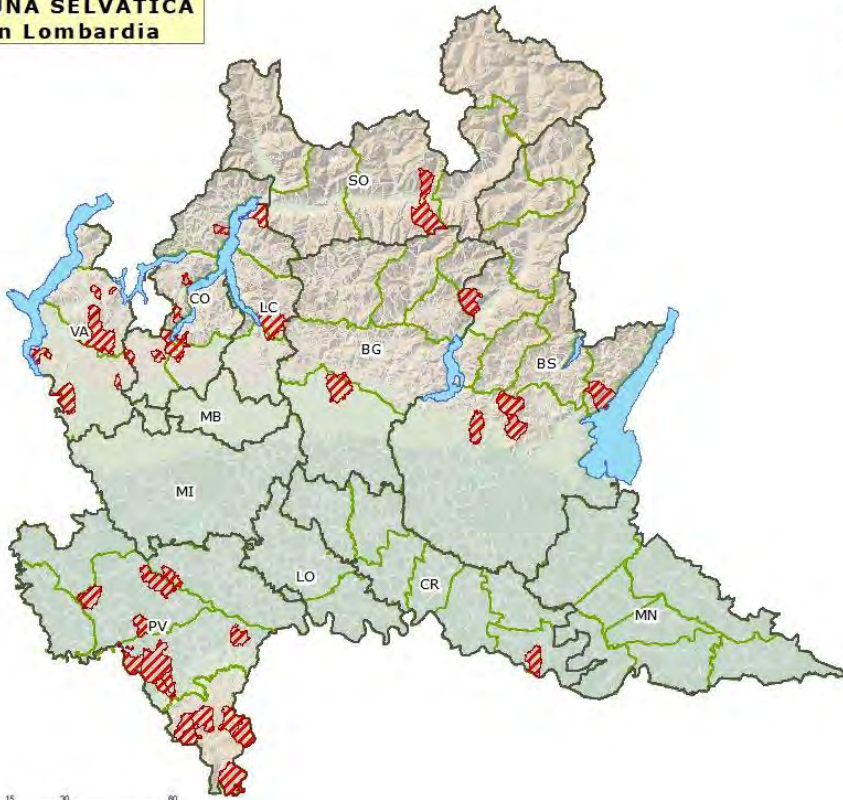
All laboratory tests gave negative results

Regional health monitoring plan

FAUNA SELVATICA in Lombardia

Legenda

- Comuni con selvatici rinvenuti morti
- Aree di caccia ATC/CAC



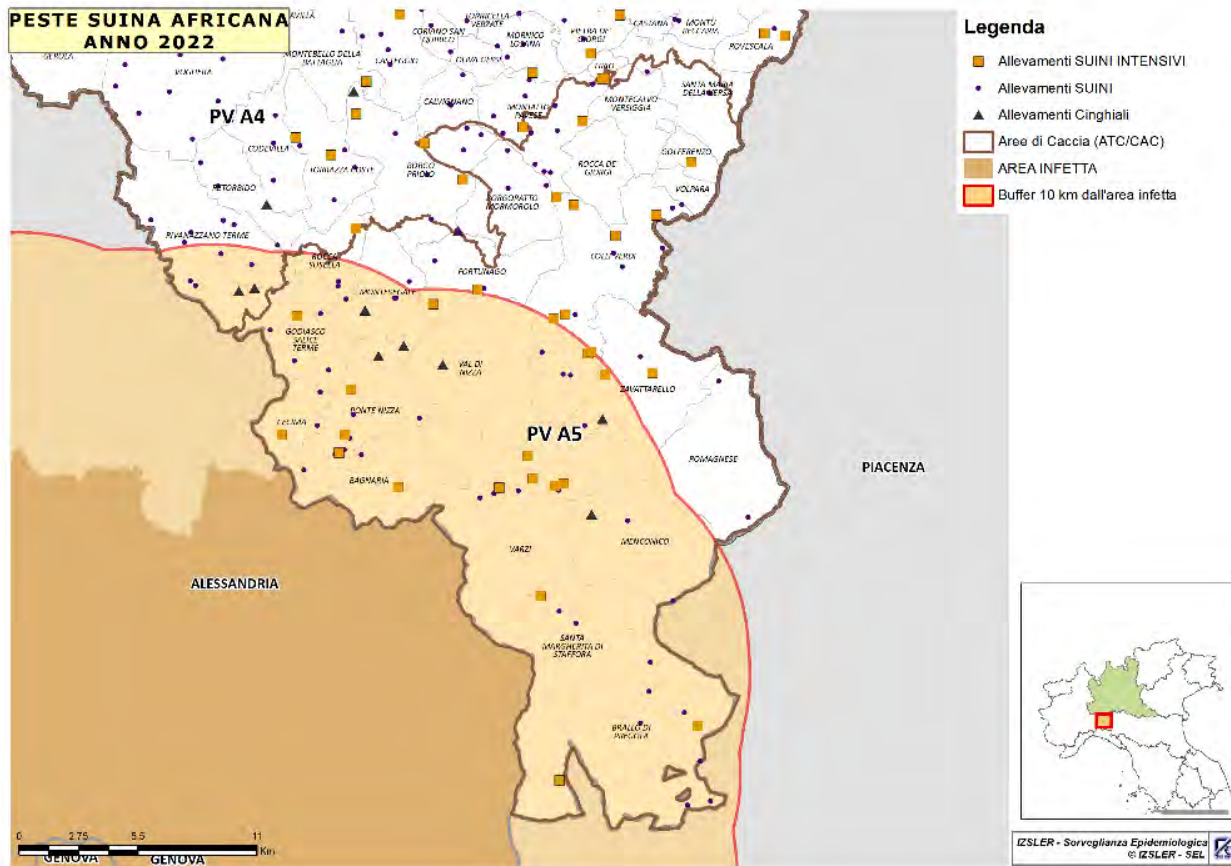
Lombardy Region (1/1/22 - 6/2/22)

59 wild boar found dead (8 ongoing tests)

24 of these from PS (7 due to specific surveillance)

Year	Active Surv.	Passive Surv.
2021	14.345	133
2020	8.773	66
2019	9.176	44

Domestic/farmed pig



Buffer area of PV	N. of farm	N. of animals
Backyard farms	11	12
Industrial farms	7	142
semi-free range farms	2	0

Biosecurity control: all commercial farm (buffer + at risk farms PS)

ASF survey: all dead pigs (>20Kg) analyzed (buffer + at risk farms PS)

In addition, in buffer area:

- Intensify the vigilance on movements of animals
- Ensure, as far as possible, the immediate slaughter of pigs from family farms
- Strengthen the control of biosecurity in pig farms (guarantee no contacts with wild boars)

Research of carcasses in Tuscany

7 January – 7 February 2022 Province of Massa Carrara

Implementation and Surveillance Design starting from already structured management and research activities

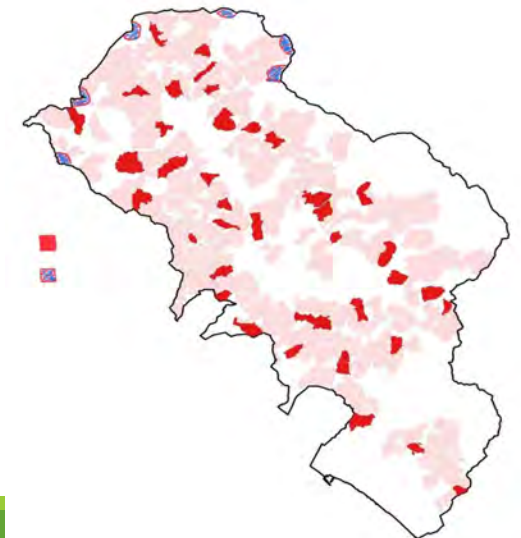


1) Method used to determine research areas «One per stratum sampling»(O.P.S.S Chosen on the basis of a research project developed and implemented for the estimation of wild boar density in the territory of the Province of Massa Carrara [Fattorini et al 2022

- Total area of 53 795 hectares
- 294 hunting areas
- 39 hunting teams
- 6 private game reserves
- The dark red areas represent the areas randomly assigned to the 39 teams, the red and blue areas are the private game reserves
- The collected data will be stored regional hunting digital platform “TOSCACCIA”(includes wild boar density, sampling plan, etc)

2) Techniques and operators - Integration of two research methods:

- Search activities with operators of wild boar hunting teams
- Search activities with tracking dogs Dog hunting units for the recovery of wounded or dead animals in hunting actions





Thanks for your attention

CVO meeting 24-25/01/2022