This report provides an update of the African swine fever (ASF) situation, according to the information submitted through the World Animal Health Information System of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WAHIS) between 13 May and 26 May 2022.

The information included in this report was reported by countries through Immediate notifications (IN), follow-up reports (FUR) and six-monthly reports (SMR). More details on the data collection for listed diseases is available on our website[1].

This report will cover: (1) ASF distribution and the situation in 2020-2022 (based on INs, FURs and SMRs) and (2) the recent updates that occurred during the 2-week period of 13 May – 26 May 2022 (based on INs and FURs).

ASF distribution and the situation in 2020 - 2022 (based on INs, FURs and SMRs)

ASF has traditionally been present in the African continent, where since 2005 the disease has been reported in 32 countries. In 1978, the disease was introduced to the Italian island of Sardinia and has since become endemic. In 2007, the disease was confirmed in the Caucasus region of Georgia. From there, the ASF virus gradually spread to neighboring countries (i.e., Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Belarus) affecting domestic pigs and wild boar. The first occurrence of ASF was reported in the European Union (EU) in 2014 and since then, numerous EU countries have been affected by this devastating pig disease that continues to be reported in 16 countries (during 2020 / 2022). Two European countries have managed to eradicate the disease: Belgium (event resolved in March 2020) and Czech Republic (event resolved in April 2018).

In August 2018, the virus leapt to China (People's Rep. of), which represented the first occurrence of ASF in Asia. Since then, the disease continued to spread in the Region, affecting 16 countries as of 2021.
In September 2019, the first occurrence of ASF in Oceania was reported by Timor-Leste, followed by Papua New Guinea (March 2020). In July 2021 the disease reappeared in the Americas after an absence of almost 40 years, having been introduced in Dominican Republic and later in Haiti. In January 2022, ASF genotype II was notified on the Italian mainland after around 40 years of absence. Two new countries reported the first occurrence of the disease in January as well: North Macedonia and Thailand. In March 2022, ASF has been reported for the first time in Nepal.
Globally, since 2005 ASF has been reported in a total of 74 countries.

[1] https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/disease-data-collection/

ASF distribution in 2020-2022 (as of 27 May 2022) is shown in Figure 1.

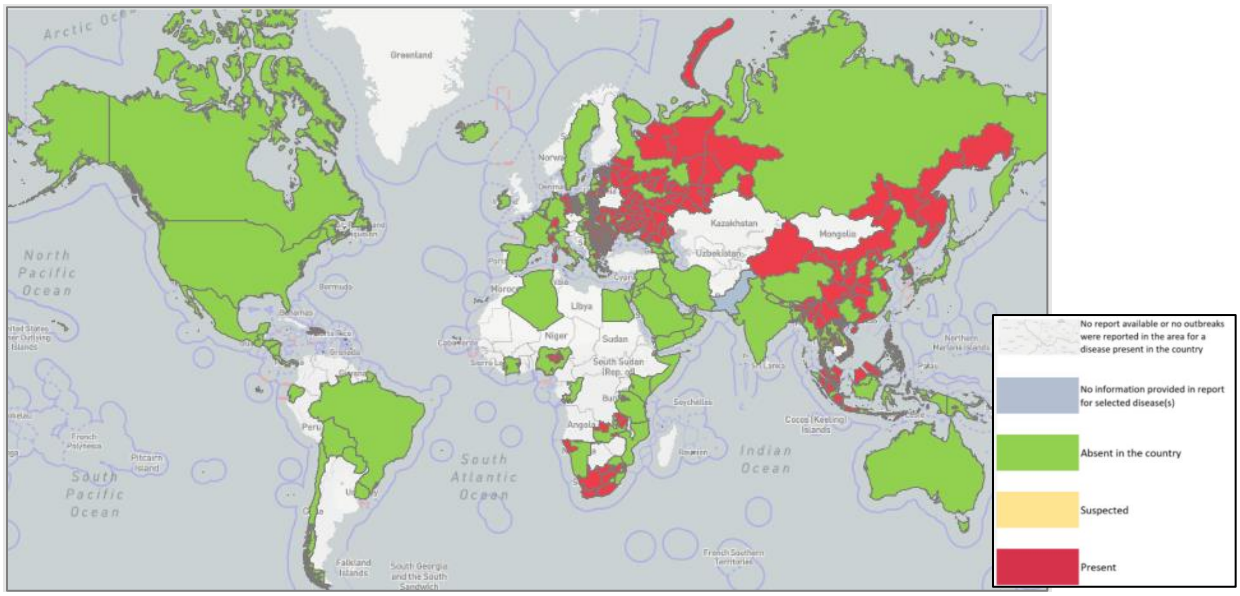

Figure 1. Map of the world displaying the presence of ASF by Administrative divisions (2020 – 27/05/2022)

Summary of the ASF situation by world region (2020-2022)

In total, since January 2020 ASF has been reported as present in five different world regions in 39 countries, affecting more than 1,115,000 pigs and more than 35,000 wild boars (data reported through INs and FURs), with more than 1,845,000 animal losses. Further details, split by world region are included in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of the number of outbreaks, cases and animal losses caused by ASF in the different world regions since January 2020 (data reported through INs and FURs – these figures cover only epizootic situations while additional information reported through SMR for enzootic situations are not included here because of submission delays).

	Outbreaks		Cases		Losses*
	Domestic pigs	Wild boar	Domestic pigs	Wild boar	Domestic pigs
Africa	173		13,614		20,586
Americas	255		9,567		17,766
Asia	1,176	2,097	94,267	2,756	431,416
Europe	3,517	19,349	997,836	32,346	1,376,017
Oceania	4		500		397
Total	5,125	21,446	1,115,784	35,192	1,846,227

*Losses (deaths + animals killed and disposed of): this figure refers to losses in the establishments affected by the outbreaks and it does not include the animals culled in areas around the outbreak for controlling the disease.

Summary of the global situation and recommendations

Since January 2020, 10 countries have reported ASF as a first occurrence in the country, while 13 countries reported its spread to new zones. In 2022 alone, 4 countries reported the first occurrence of ASF and 4 countries reported the first occurrence in a zone. This highlights a continuous spread of the disease into new countries, and new zones in countries already affected.

As observed in Europe and in some regions of Asia, the short-distance transmission of ASF seems to depend largely on the wild boar population density and their interaction with low-biosecurity pig production systems. Good knowledge and appropriate management of the wild boar population, as well as a strong coordination among the Veterinary Services, wildlife and forestry authorities are required to successfully prevent and control ASF.

The long-distance transmission may be associated with human activities. It is important to maintain a high level of disease awareness among the general public and all the actors involved in the value chain, including border control, to prevent the movement of ASF-infected commodities entering new areas.

Members are called to implement strict biosecurity measures, strengthen their early disease detection systems, and promptly notify any case of the disease to WOAH. Reinforced measures should be implemented when there is circulation of low virulent strains of the virus, or transmission among wild pig populations.

Recent updates (13/05/2022 – 26/05/2022)

To describe the current disease situation of ASF, this section covers: (a) a list of new events which started during the 2-week period (reported through INs); (b) information on events that started before the 2-week period but were still ongoing during the period (reported through FURs); (c) new events which started before the 2-week period but were reported through INs during the 2-week period and (d) the geographic distribution of new outbreaks that started during the 2-week period. This information is based on INs and FURs received by WOAH.

New events by world region (reported through INs)

Africa, Americas, Asia, Oceania

No new events reported

Europe

First occurrence in a zone in Germany (Baden-Württemberg) started on 24 May

On-going events for which there were new outbreaks, by world region (reported through FURs):

Africa, Americas, Oceania

No ongoing events updated

Asia

One country updated its ongoing event: Korea (Rep of)

Europe

Four countries updated their ongoing events: Hungary, Italy, Latvia, and Romania.

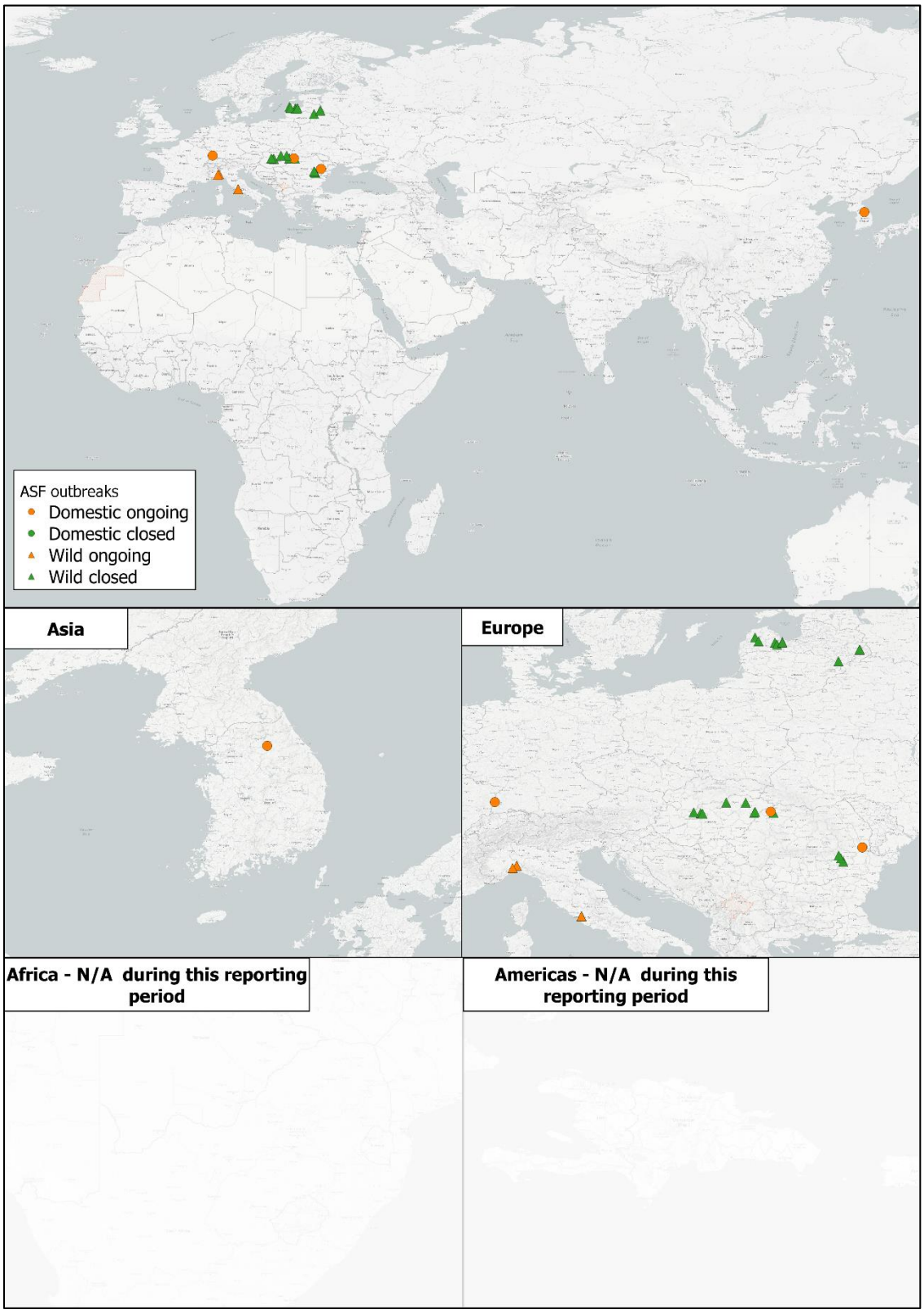

Figure 2: Map of ASF outbreaks which started during 13 May – 26 May 2022 in domestic animals and wildlife. Zoomed views of areas where updates occurred in the last period are provided as well.

New events by world region (reported through INs) which started before the reporting period

Africa, Americas, Oceania

No new events reported

Asia

First occurrence in the country in Nepal started on 30 March

Europe

Recurrence of the disease in Russia started on 07 May

Discussion

The events reported in the last year confirm the global threat of ASF, which continues to spread in several regions, reaching new territories, with serious impacts on pig production systems, animal health and welfare, as well as on livelihoods, national food security and international trade.

The detection of ASF in new territories poses a risk of spreading to neighbouring areas. Therefore, we encourage Veterinary Services to remain vigilant, and implement science-based international standards and guidelines in their national disease prevention and control programmes

In particular, an early detection system for ASF could facilitate early reporting and response, limiting the spread of the disease. ASF surveillance needs to be adapted to the local epidemiological context, considering the presence of low virulent strains that could preclude clinical surveillance. Surveillance programmes should also cover wild and feral suid populations, where they are involved in the epidemiology of the disease. Members should also ensure access to quality laboratory diagnosis for ASF, capable of identifying the virus in accordance with the standards published in the *Terrestrial Manual*. Notwithstanding, noting that the ability to test for ASF at the point of disease allows for rapid response to outbreaks and control of spread in endemic situations, the ASF Reference Laboratory Network has also put together a summary of available PoC kits to guide field workers, practitioners and decision-makers in their use.

Biosecurity is still the most important and effective measure available to prevent and control ASF. Rigorous and continuous implementation of key biosecurity principles, and maintaining a high level of disease awareness, can prevent the virus from entering pig herds.

The control of ASF requires sustained commitment and resources, and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Public-private partnerships are in this regard instrumental in leveraging the respective strengths, knowledge, expertise, and resources of both, public and private sectors, allowing ASF control to be achieved more rapidly and efficiently.

Members are also reminded that there is no authorised ASF vaccine with proven effectiveness and safety available. Therefore, any type of ASF vaccine sold on the market is either a fake vaccine or contains poorly attenuated strains of the virus, posing serious safety risks and has the potential to spread between pigs, causing chronic disease.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) urges its Members to continue to promptly notify the occurrence of ASF and to share the relevant epidemiological information that can facilitate transparency and assist the global control of the disease.

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