



Federal Agency
for the Safety of the Food Chain

GF-TADs ASF12 steering group of experts

“Keeping ASF under control in Belgium”

Prague, 11 March 2019

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1. Intro – Belgium, Federal State

Distribution of powers

Federal



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- Food chain safety
- Agriculture - Sanitary (Domestic animal health etc.)
- Exports (sanitary aspects - SPS)
- EU and third country relations



Regions



- Management of wild fauna, including animal health
- Hunting, Nature and Forests, Tourism
- Agriculture - Other than sanitary (Economy etc.)
- Animal welfare



2. ASF strategy - Preparedness

Last 2 years increase multiple collaboration initiatives were taken beforehand between the different ASF (potential-) concerned partners



Operational preparedness

Strong network between ASF (potential-) partners

=> RAPID DETECTION – RAPID RESPONSE



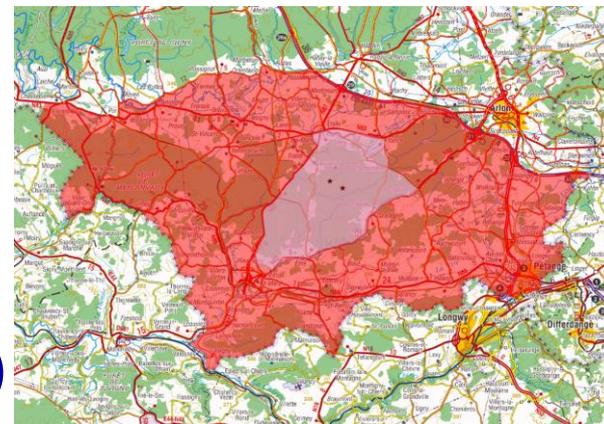
3. Chronology

- ✓ 09/09/2018: 3 adult boars found dead in the town of Etalle
- ✓ 10/09: sick young boar slaughtered in the town of Etalle

"Passive surveillance"
=> Wild fauna surveillance service - LAB



- ✓ 12/09 in the evening
 - Info by LNR (Sciensano) to CVO, FAFSC and Region: PCR PPA positive => confirmation tests scheduled for the next day
 - Internal info, Ministers, EU Commission, neighbouring countries etc.
- ✓ 13/09 at 9.30 a.m.: crisis meeting of FAFSC-Region, in touch with the EU Commission and Ministers
=> Delineation of **"infected zone"** (63,000 hectares)
(Provisional => 30/11/18 + Formalised by EU Decision)

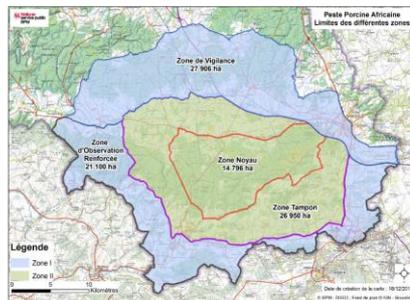
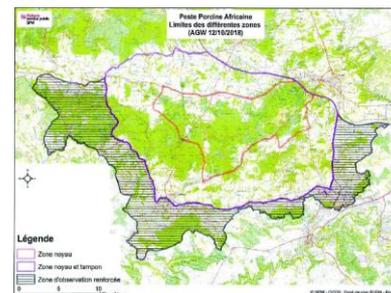


- ✓ 13/09 at 4 p.m.: Confirmation by Sciensano



3. Chronology

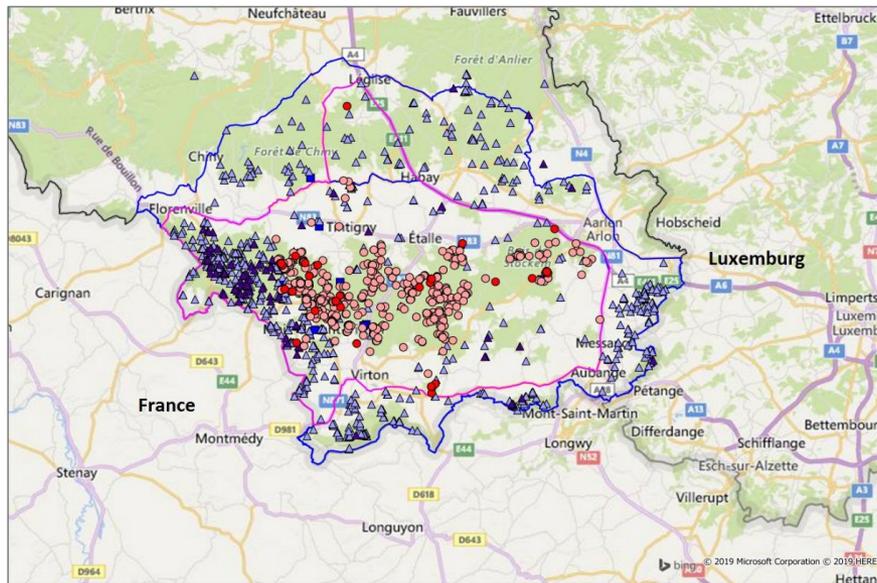
- ✓ **26/09 - 03/10/18: preventive culling of pigs in the infected zone**
- ✓ 12/10/18: delineation by the Walloon Region of 3 "operational" zones within the infected zone, with a view to the management of wild boars
 - kernel zone
 - buffer zone
 - reinforced observation zone
- ✓ 23/11/18: Adaptation European zoning
 - Delineation of zone I (buffer) and zone II (infected)
 - Region: delineation of a vigilance zone



4. Current situation

As at 01/03/2019

- 1,851 wild boars found dead or shot were tested and analysed
 - 1,754 in the "infected zone"
 - 640 positive



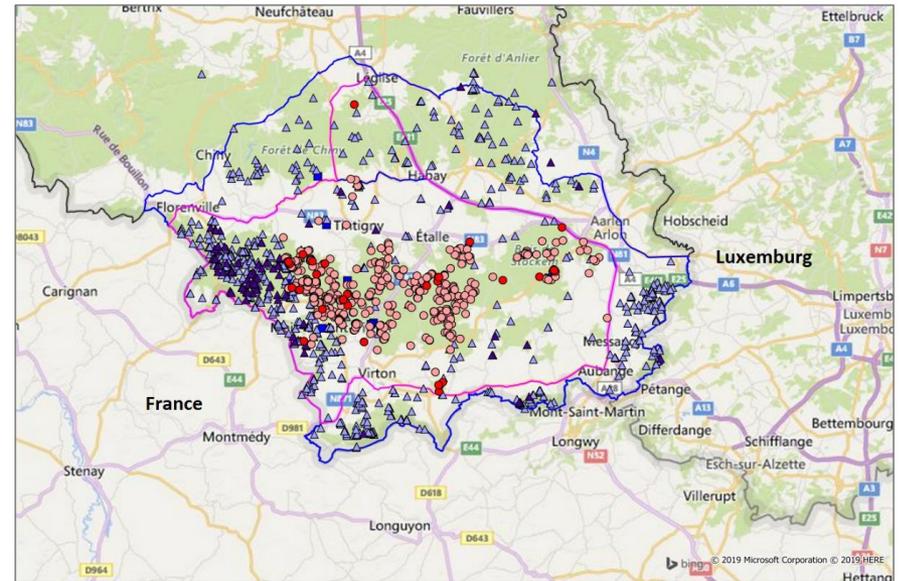
● positive (new) ● positive ▲ negative (new) ▲ negative ● in progress ■ zone I ■ zone II



4. Current situation

- Different evolution in the different sub-zones
 - centre and east: transition in endemic situation
 - west: active circulation with virus at the level of the fencing installed in October

- Cases in Zone I
 - West (08/01/2019)
 - North (16/02/2019)
- Adaptation of the **zones**,
additional new **measures**:
Fences

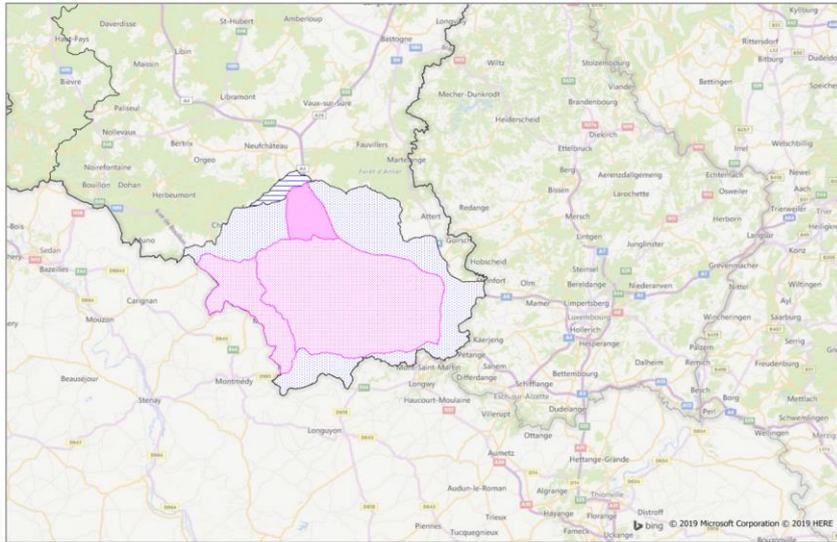


- Domestic pigs: enhanced vigilance
cf. measures for domestic pigs: 3,606 analyses, all negative/compliant

No outbreak in domestic pigs

4. Current situation

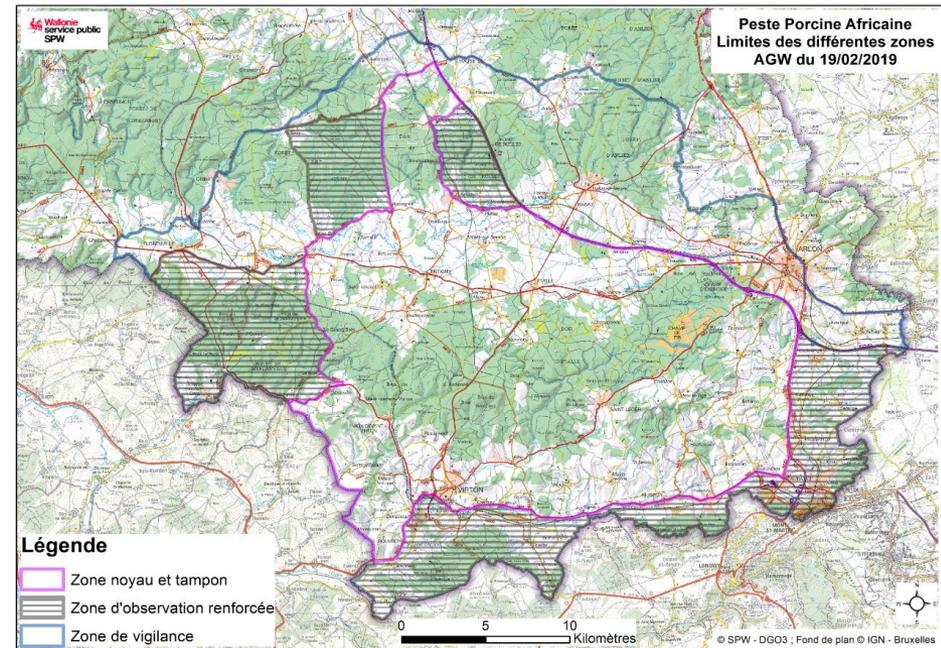
EU Zones



old zone II new zone II old zone I new zone I



National Operational Zones



Légende

- Zone noyau et tampon
- Zone d'observation renforcée
- Zone de vigilance



5. Eradication strategy - Measures

Strategic committee (CVO, official veterinarians, scientists, wild boar specialists etc.)

Objectives:

1. **Ultimate: Eradication of the disease**
2. **Short term:**
 - I. **Prevent introduction of African swine fever into Belgian pig farms**
 - II. **Prevent spread of the disease among wild boars**

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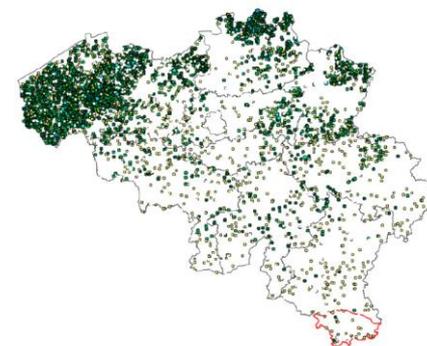
.be Pigs: Preventive measures in the "infected zone"

NB: At all times: Mandatory registration of all pig farms

- Number of pig farms in Belgium: +- 7,200
- Number of pigs in BE: 6.2 million (94% in Flanders)
- Number of pigs slaughtered per year: 11 million
- Turnover from exports: €1.3 billion (~ 90% intracommunity, 10% to third countries)
- Direct jobs: 15,000

In the original infected zone

- 67 farms
- +- 5,000 pigs
- The majority of these farms (+- 60) are individual owners raising pigs perfectly legally for their private use, and owning fewer than 10 pigs.



Pigs: Preventive measures in the "infected zone"

< 27/09/2018 *(date of culling of pigs)*

- Inventory of number of pigs
 - within 72h, to be sent to FAFSC
 - including the observations of the VT concerning biosecurity
- Check of all farms (Biosecurity, etc.) & info
- In particular, checking on separation of pigs - boars
 - if external trajectory - enclose or double fence (electric)
 - place all equipment, food, straw etc. out of reach of boars
 - special attention to the equipment used on the fields!
- Entry/exit of pigs
 - forbidden, except with FAFSC authorization (=> slaughterhouse)
 - no EIC live pigs, sperm, embryos, ova
- Strengthen biosecurity
- Examine all illness/mortality



Pigs: **Preventive** measures in the "infected zone"

27/09 – 03/10/2018

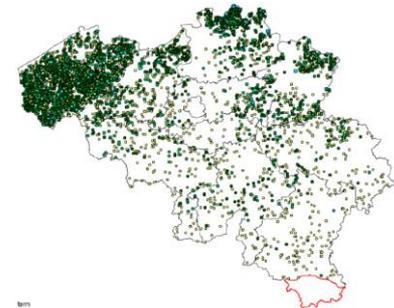
Eliminate the risk of introducing African swine fever to pig farms:

Culling of all domestic pigs in the infected zone:

Ban on repopulation

Compensation

1. Federal: Sanitary fund (animals + food)
2. Walloon region: Immediate economic losses and compensation for loss of activity



Pigs: Preventive measures on the entire territory

1. Ban on Gathering pigs together.
2. Limited access to each pig farm: only those people who are essential for good farm management.
3. Ban on entering a farm or having contact with pigs in the first 72 hours after contact with a wild boar.
4. Equipment, machines and devices likely to be contaminated by the African swine fever virus cannot be used with a herd of pigs.
5. Ban on taking dead or slaughtered boars, or parts thereof, to a pig farm or a place where pigs are kept.
6. If new pigs are brought into a herd, → the new pigs must be housed separately + during the first four weeks may be transported only to the slaughterhouse.



Pigs: Preventive measures on the entire territory

6. Enhanced vigilance: If any clinical symptoms are detected in a group of pigs, the breeder must always consult a veterinarian. **Even if the veterinarian can rule out ASF, he or she must always conduct a sampling of 3 pigs for a differential diagnosis.**

Applicable at all times

8. Ban on feeding kitchen waste to animals.
9. **Strict application of all biosecurity measures.**

Tool: <http://www.biocheck.ugent.be/>



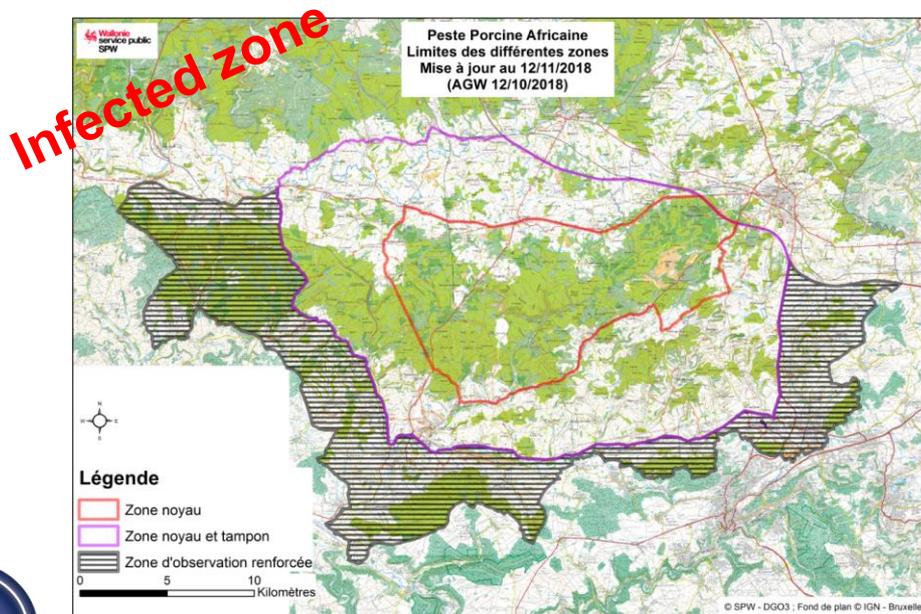
10. Means of transport used for pigs: cleaning and disinfection after each transport.



Wild Boar: Measures in the "infected zone"

Strategic objectives for eradicating the disease

- Knowledge of the situation & its evolution
- Limiting & preventing spread among wild boars
- Eliminating contaminated carcasses (= removing the source of infection)
- Progressive and adapted elimination of all wild boars



Basis for the definition of zones

1. Presence of the ASF virus
2. Boars' habitat & forested areas
3. Existent natural or artificial barriers

Wild Boar: Measures in the "infected zone"

Phase I (13/09 – 15/10) – in the entire zone

- Searching for carcasses => monitoring => knowledge of the true situation (extent of the disease)
- Ban on feeding wild boars in order to limit contacts between groups of boars.
- Total ban on activities in forests (hikers, forestry works, hunting etc.) => not to disturb the boars (= limiting contamination among them and the geographical spread of the contamination via movement)



Wild Boar: Measures in zones I and II

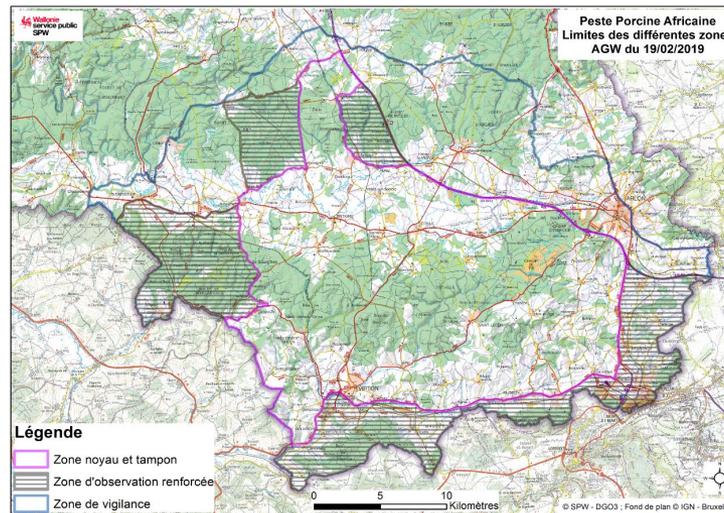
Phase II: 15 October 2019 – EU "infected zone" divided into 3 separate operational zones:

1/ Kernel – 2/ Buffer – 3/ Reinforced Observation Zone (ROZ)

Phase III: 23 November 2019 – "zones I and II" divided into 4 distinct operational zones:

1/ Kernel – 2/ Buffer – 3/ Reinforced Observation Zone (ROZ) – 4/ Vigilance

Zones adjusted twice following the discovery of sporadic cases on 8 January and 16 February 2019



Wild Boar: Measures in zones I and II

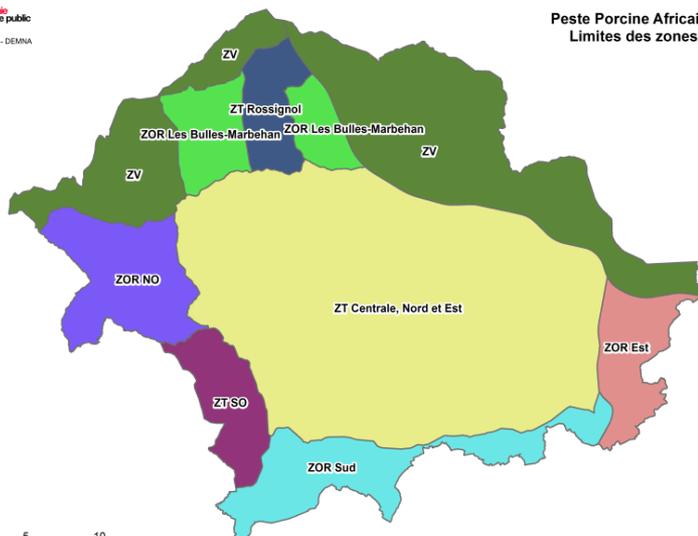
Measures	Kernel zone (infected zone)	Buffer zone	Reinforced Observation Zone	Vigilance zone
Feeding	Forbidden	Forbidden	Forbidden	Forbidden
Circulation	Forbidden	Forbidden	Allowed	Allowed
Forest works	Forbidden only exception possible with authorization of DNF	Forbidden only exception possible with authorization of DNF	Allowed	Allowed



Measures	Kernel zone (infected zone)	Buffer zone	Reinforced Observation Zone	Vigilance zone
Search for dead wild boars	Intensive All dead wild boar analysed	Intensive All dead wild boar analysed	Intensive All dead wild boar analysed	Active All dead wild boar analysed
Analyses				
Hunting (with dogs) Analyses	Forbidden	Forbidden	All wild game except the wild boars	All wild game and destruction of the wild boars Minimum 20% analysed
Food Chain				
Destruction of the wild boar	Forbidden (Traps are allowed)	Some ways of killing are allowed (Traps, silent shooting)	Some ways of destruction are allowed (Intensive hunting without dogs, traps, silent shooting)	All possible ways of destruction are allowed Minimum 20% killed wild boars analysed and all killed wild boar are destroyed
Analyses				
Food Chain				

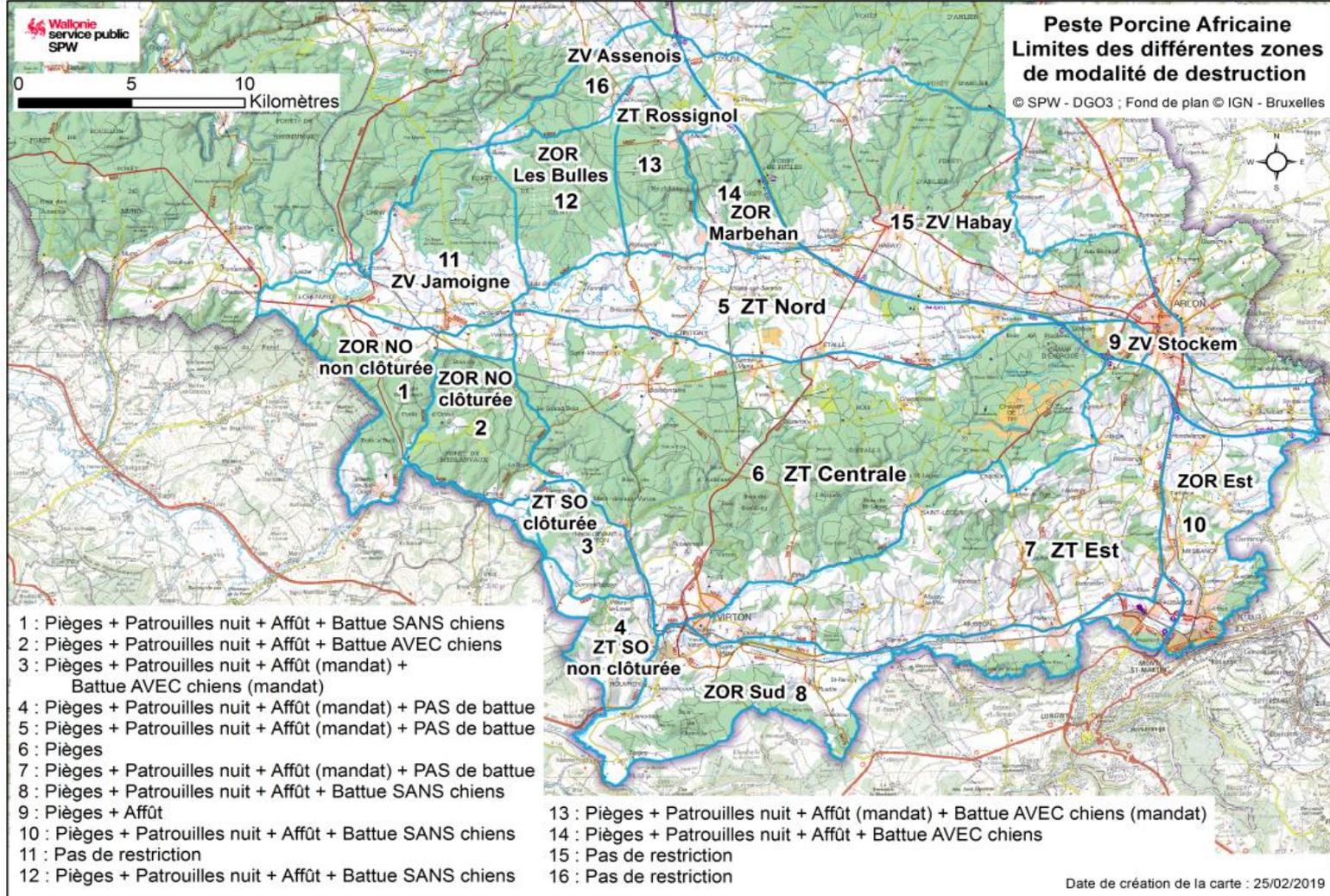
Wallonie
Service public
SPW - DG03 - DENNA

Peste Porcine Africaine
Limites des zones

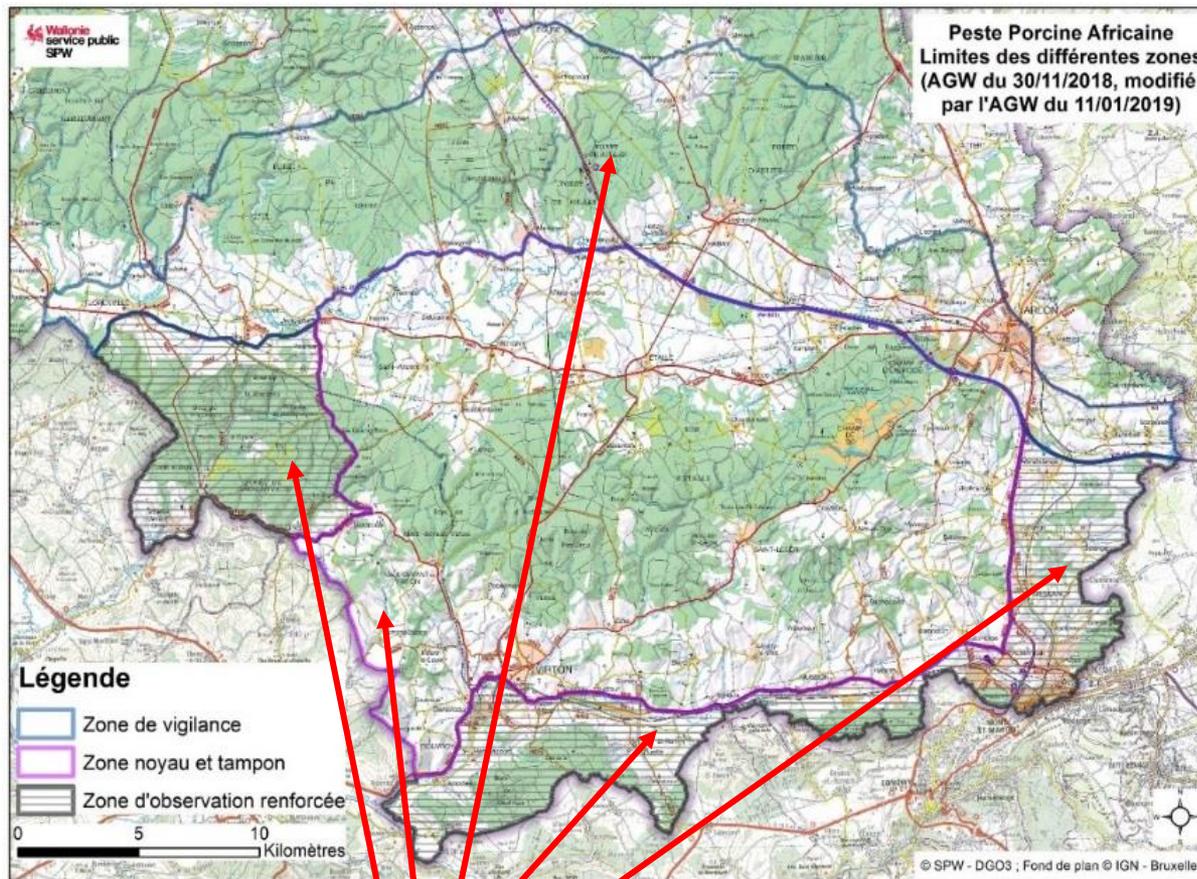


Date de création de la carte : 25/02/2019

Wild Boar: Measures in zones I and II

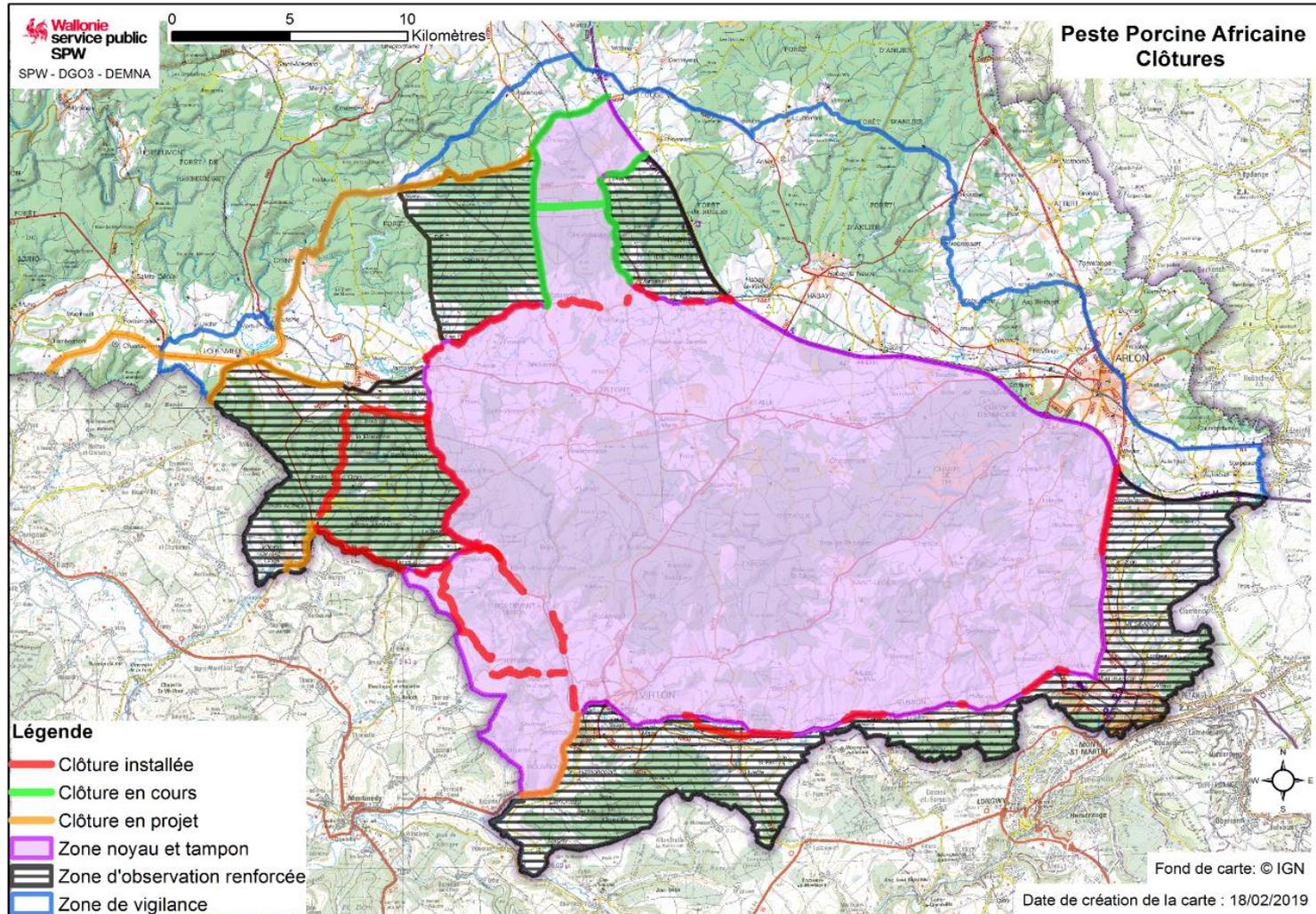


Wild Boars: Measure in zones I and II



Destruction objective: 0 wild boar = "depopulation zone"

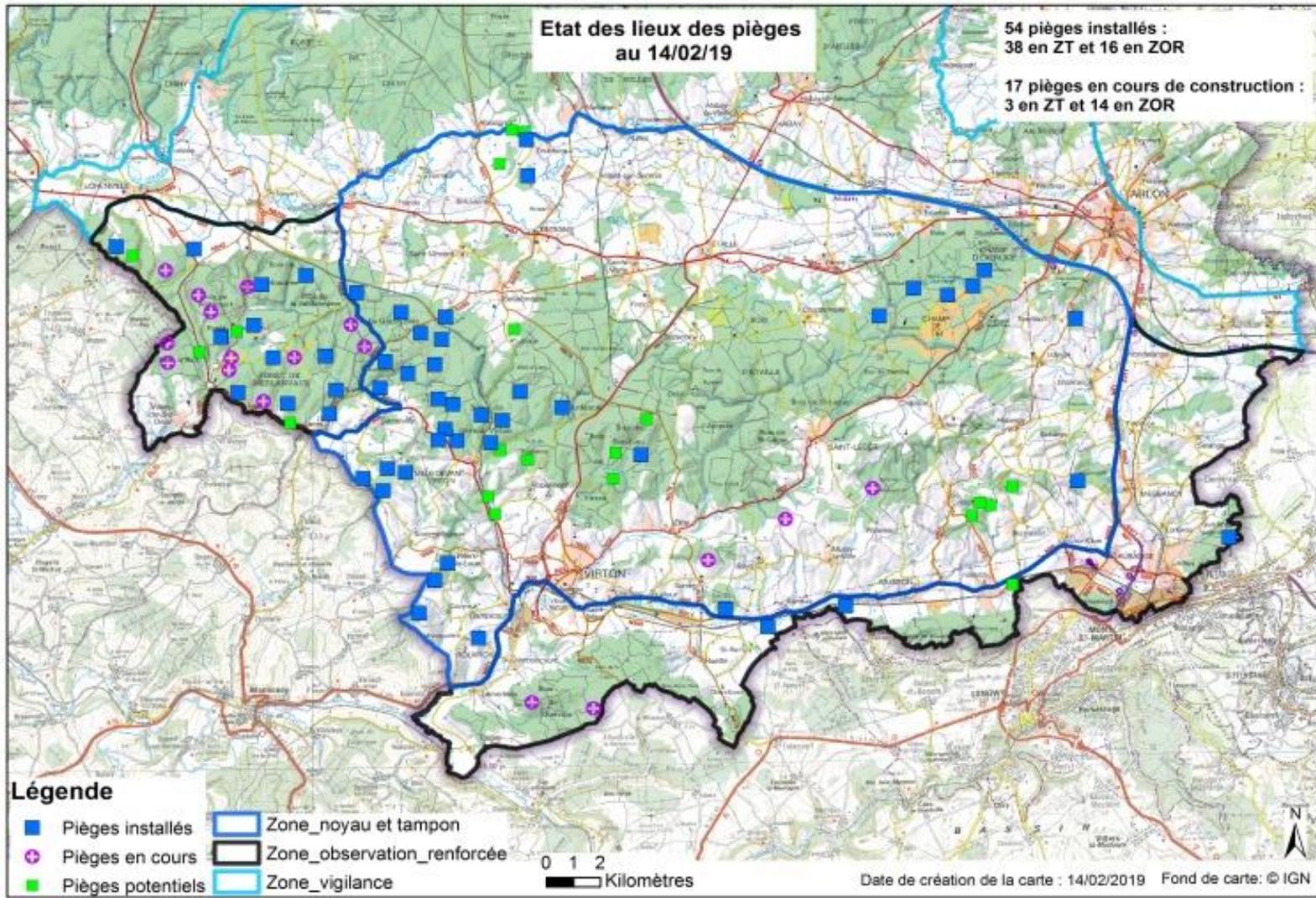
Fences



Fences



Traps



Traps



Enclos de 0.3 à 1 ha



Piège INBO démontable 3x3



Piège coral



Collection of the dead wild boars

A partnership established among the Public Service of Wallonia, the Federal Civil Protection and the faculty of Veterinary medicine at the University of Liège:

- Active search by the agents of Public Service Wallonia, the army and the hunters
- Collection of the dead wild boars by the Civil Protection
-> collection centre
- ASF sampling by the approved veterinarians of University of Liège
- Samples are sent to NRL Sciensano
- All wild boars carcasses are sent to the rendering plant for destruction

...



Collection of the dead wild boars



Wild Boars: Measures in the rest of Belgium

Active surveillance + reduction of the wild boar population



Preparation in case of an outbreak in domestic pigs



Conclusion measures

Domestic pigs

- Enhanced passive surveillance in pig holdings is maintained and awareness among different stakeholders (farmers, vets, ..)
- Biosecurity !
- (Preparation in case of an outbreak)



Wild boar

In order to contain & eradicate the disease:

- Intensive search & Removal of carcasses (source of infection)
- Intensive destruction of the wild boar population is ongoing specifically in the western part of zone I
- Different fence networks put in place as a tool to slow down the spread of the disease



Cooperation with neighbouring countries



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Agriculture,
de la Viticulture et de la
Protection des consommateurs

Administration des services vétérinaires



Bundesministerium
für Ernährung
und Landwirtschaft



Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and
Food Quality of the Netherlands

- ✓ Consultation, cooperation and permanent information exchange
- ✓ Harmonized and consistent cross-border measures
- ✓ Ministerial level, CVOs, local level



Information – Links to websites



- AFSCA/FAFSC FR - ENG

<http://www.afsca.be/ppa/>

<http://www.afsca.be/businesssectors/animalproduction/animalhealth/africanswinefever/>

- Walloon Region

<http://www.wallonie.be/fr/actualites/mesures-de-lutte-contre-la-peste-porcine-africaine>

- EU Commission & OIE

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en

<http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/african-swine-fever/>

- EU Commission educational film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyQ4t1wHI2M&feature=youtu.be>

- Scientific Committee's opinions

<http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/ppa/publications/avis/>





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Thank you for your attention



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