

Control of African Swine Fever in Wild Boar in Belgium (2018_2020), the network of communication

A. Linden

The WOAHA 6th cycle of the regional training seminar for WOAHA National Focal Points on wildlife for Europe
Warsaw, Poland, 27 - 29 June 2023



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Dpt of Infectious Diseases
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Belgium



Federal Agency for the Safety
of the Food Chain¹



1. Before the outbreak of ASF
2. During the crisis
3. After the crisis
4. Key points

1. BEFORE THE OUTBREAK



- Meeting group of experts « wildlife » federal + regions : a meeting / year
- Communication platform « Plasur » : epidemiologic surveillance
- March 2018 : National Taskforce ASF : preventive measures, economic impact, ..
- Dpt of Environmental and Agricultural Studies, Public Service of Wallonia
- Dpt of Infectious Diseases, Wildlife Diseases Unit, Fac Vet Med, University of Liege

Department of Infectious Diseases - Veterinary Faculty Wildlife diseases Unit (Liege University)



Réseau de Surveillance Sanitaire
de la Faune Sauvage
en RW

Wallonie
service public
SPW

LIÈGE
université



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Contact



DÉPÔT D'UN ANIMAL SAUVAGE (trouvé mort)

Voici la [marche à suivre](#) pour nous le transmettre

Informations nécessaires à fournir

(en ligne) > [Formulaire de dépôt](#)

ou

(à imprimer) > [Fiche de renseignements](#)

June 2018 : seminar for the forest rangers to inform and to train them to collect dead WB with respect to traçability and biosecurity measures

just in case 😊

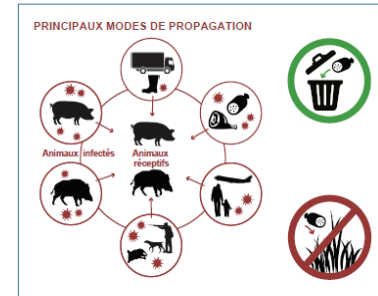


How to package a dead wild boar if infected



ASF Conferences for → hunters - April and June 2018
→ vets - April 2018 - Belgium and GDLux

before September 2018 - « Peace time »



Conferences/brochures/publications



Awareness of the rangers /hunters



CONTROL OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN THE EU

The key role of forest rangers and hunters

September 2018 - notification of the outbreak

10/09 Buzenol area : rangers detected a dead adult WB + dying juvenile → **Vet Faculty**

11/09 n = 2 : necropsy + sample collection in the Vet Faculty

12/09 samples to the ref lab (Sciensano, NRL) : 2 viropositive (qPCR)

13/09

Brussels: crisis meeting (federal + region) : first infected zone

NRL : diagnostic confirmation

CVO → EU commission

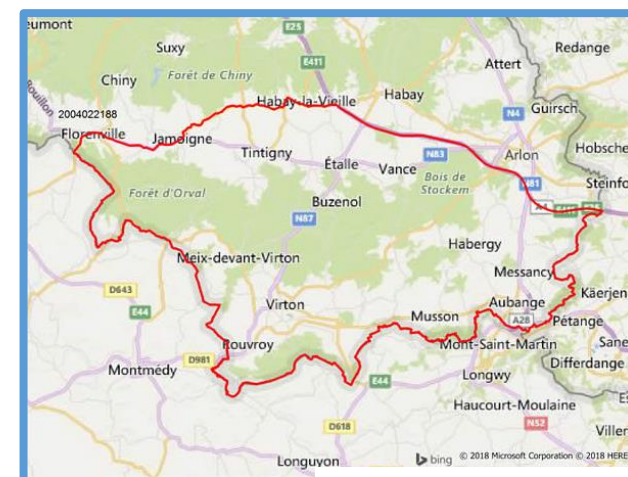
Official notification : ADNS, WOAH and press

14/09

First EU Vet mission



Buzenol - Prov. Lux
South-east of Wallonia
France 12 Km / GD Lux 17 Km





World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

Terrestrial Animal Health Code

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PDF

CHAPTER 15.1.

INFECTION WITH AFRICAN SWINE FEVER VIRUS

General criteria for the determination of the ASF status of a country (Art 15.1.3 Health Code)

BELGIUM

- ASF-free status for all *suidae*: Lost (Recovery 1 year after last case)
- ASF-free status for domestic pigs/swine: Maintained



MAIN GOAL - Eradication of the disease in the country



1. Prevent introduction of the disease into **pig farms**



2. Prevent spread of the disease among **wild boars population**



1. Before the outbreak of ASF

2. During the crisis ←

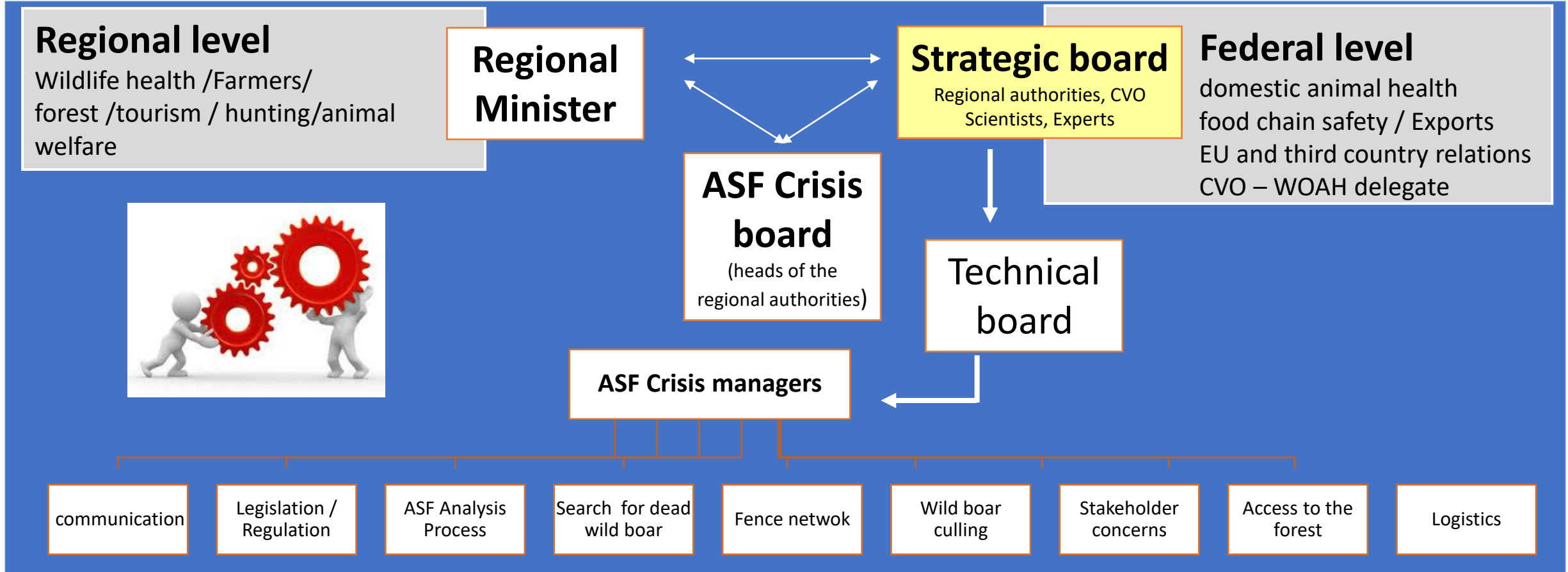
2.1. Strategic board and Authorities

2.2. Communication from the field / lab → Strategic board

2.3. Communication with stakeholders

2. DURING THE CRISIS

European Commission
WOAH





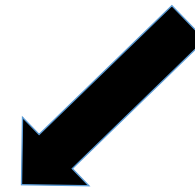
1. Before the outbreak of ASF

2. During the crisis

2.1. Strategic board

2.2. Communication from the field / lab → Strategic board

2.3. Communication with stakeholders



CONTROL MEASURES IN WILD BOAR IN BELGIUM (2018_2020)



Goal → to prevent spread of the disease among WB population outside the infected zone



Zoning and restrictions



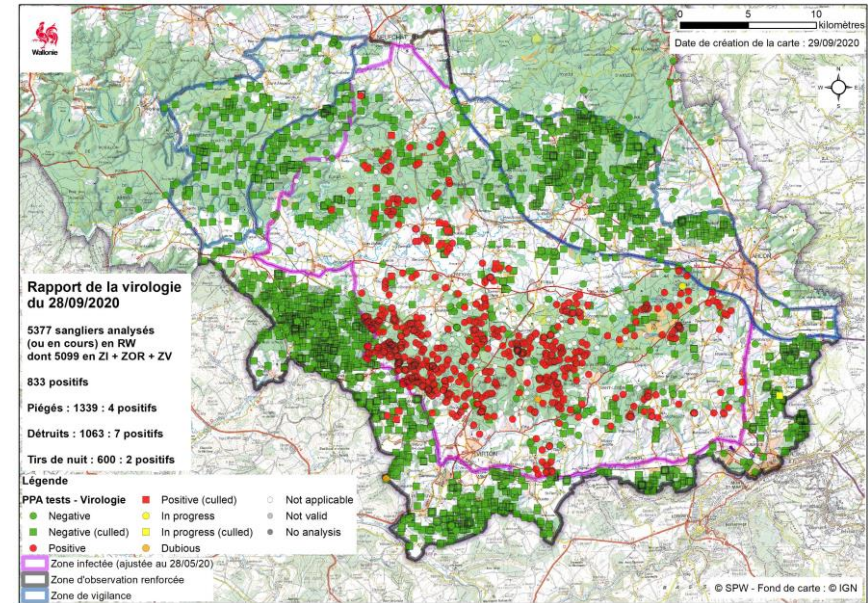
Carcass search and removal



Fencing



Depopulation (culling / trapping / night shooting / single hunting on baiting points)

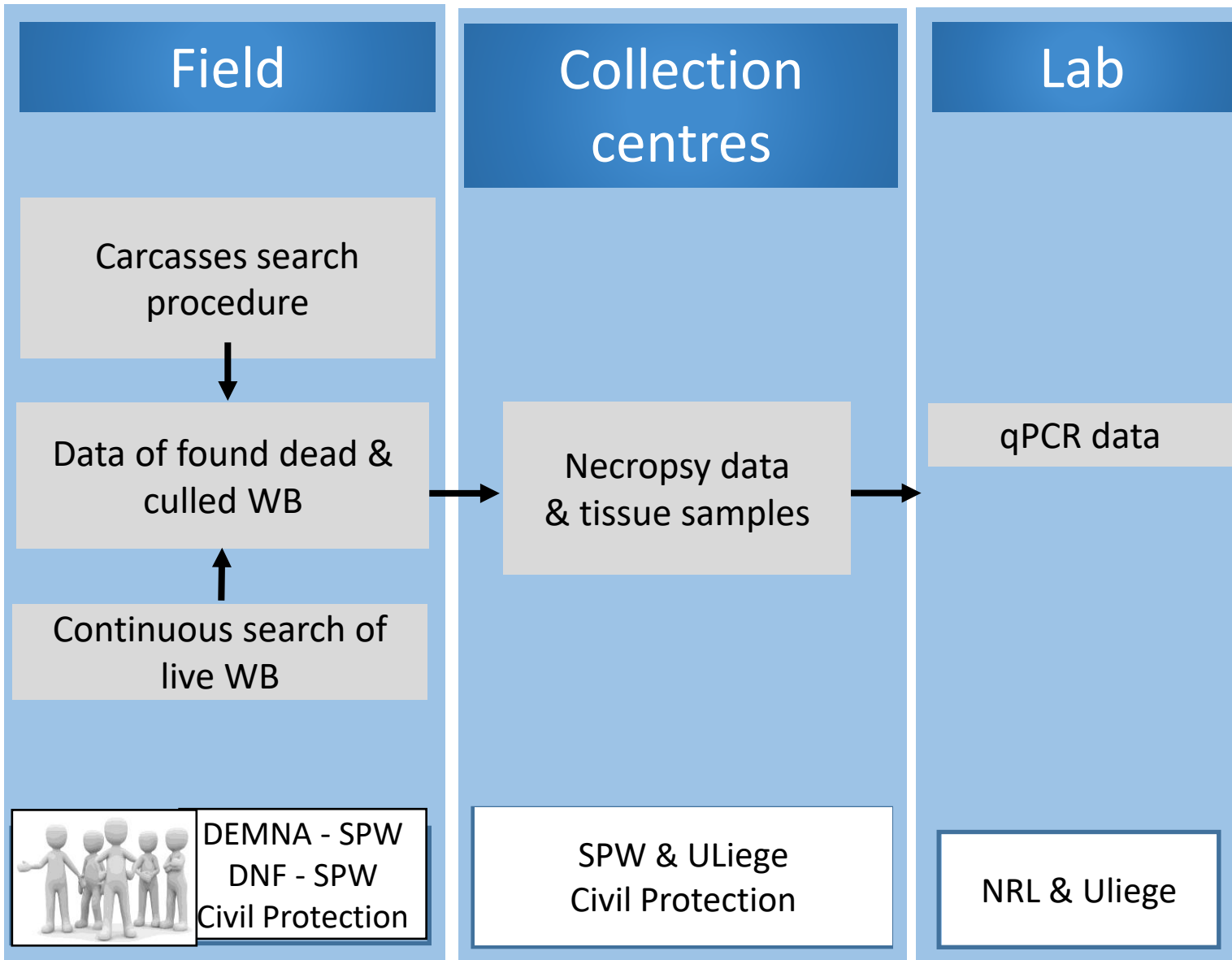


ZONES II + I ~ 1106 km²

Zone II ~ 572 km² = infected zone

Zone I ~ 534 km² = white zones

Communication from the field/lab → Strategic board



Communication (1) in the field / found dead



when a carcass was detected by the **carcass search teams**

→ **GPS location** and beaconing - shot/death certificate

→ **ID tag**

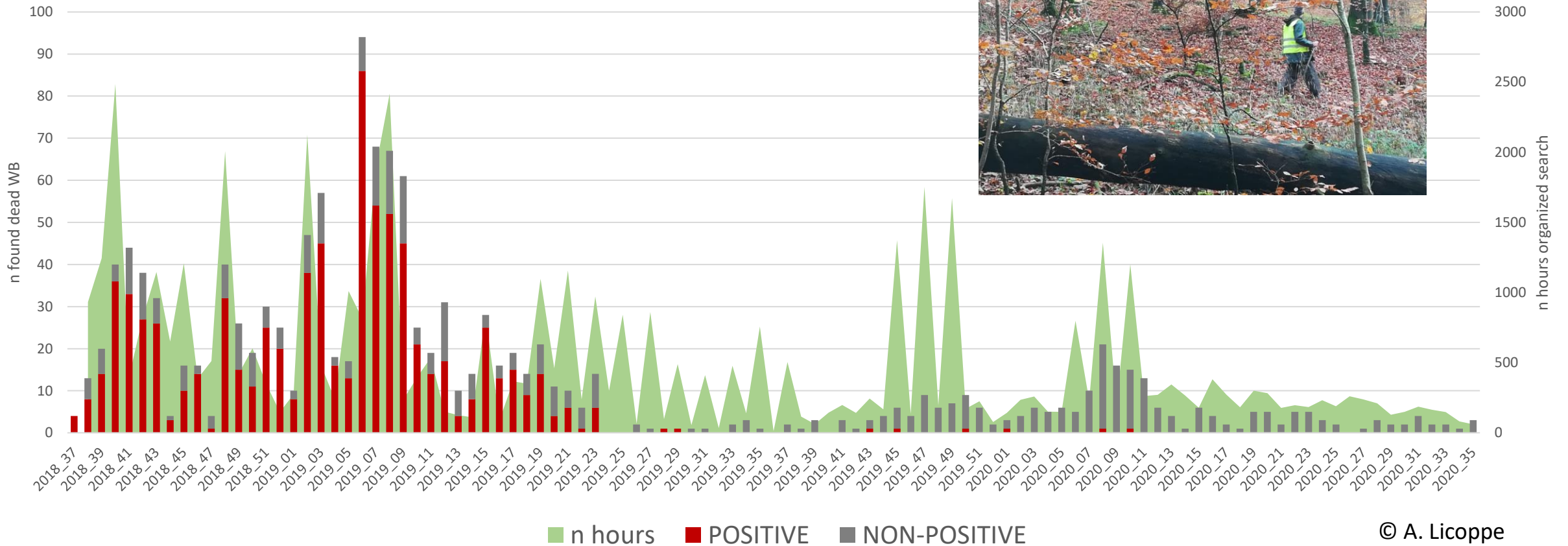


→ **quick call to the carcass removal teams (a unique mobile n°)**

→ **quick call to the vets (WhatsApp)**



The carcass removal teams were immediately alerted and moved the same day to extract the carcasses from the forest



© A. Licoppe

Active search of carcasses carried out by the administration (> 56.000 hours of searching)
1151 carcasses found in the infected zone (Sept 2018 → August 2020) including 801 ASFV+

Communication (1) in the field / culled or trapped WB



when a WB was culled or trapped

→ **GPS location**

→ **ID tag**



→ **shot/death certificate** (by forest ranger)

→ **packaging** (by trained hunters or forest rangers)

→ **transport to the collection center**

| Département de la Nature et des Forêts | | Identification de l'animal 111939 | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Constant de titre de mortalité | | | |
| 1.1. Lieu où l'animal a été tué ou retrouvé | | | |
| Commune: <u>FORVILLE</u> | | | |
| Type: <u>43</u> | | | |
| Nom de l'animal: <u>BOURBON</u> | | | |
| Nom de l'exploitant: <u>BOURBON</u> | | | |
| N° de permis: <u>BOURBON</u> | | | |
| Lieu de capture: <u>BOURBON</u> | | | |
| 1.2. Cause de mort | | | |
| 1.1. Cause: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> blessé | | | |
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| 1.100. Cause: <input type="checkbox"/> mort-né | | | |



Communication (2) in the collection centres



Collection Center of Virton - opening in 2018 - October 8th





1 technical sheet /wild boar



Plan de lutte - Peste porcine africaine - Zone PPA

Doc. 2

Sangliers trouvés morts ou détruits
Centre de collecte : Virton

Date / n° du prélèvement :

27-06-2019 / 4



Numéro de BRACELET : 196455

RÉFÉRENCE ULIÈGE : A19-3083



Poids : 37,5 kg
Gestante : O/N
Allaitante : O/N
Foetus n =
Taille Foetus : cm

Prélèvement(s) effectué(s) :

Bate (2) / Os long / Rein /
Sang / Amygdales / Swab Nasal /
Diaphragme /

DATE DE DÉCOUVERTE : 26/06/2019

CIRCONSTANCES DE DÉCOUVERTE : Trouvé mort / Tir Sanitaire / Accidenté /
Tir Nocturne / Piégé / Tir de Destruction /

INFORMATION SUR LE LIEU DE DÉCOUVERTE :

ZONE DE DECOUVERTE : ZI / ZOR / ZV /

LOCALITÉ / LIEU-DIT : Chasse 912 24

COMMUNE :

CANTONNEMENT et TRIAGE DNF : HABAY (10-MARBEHAN)

COORDONNÉES GPS : 49,75505
5,55988

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------|--------|------------------|
| GENRE: | Mâle | Femelle | Non déterminable | | |
| ÂGE ESTIMÉ: | Marcassin | Bête rousse | Bête de compagnie | Adulte | Non déterminable |
| CARCASSE: | Intacte | Démembrée | | | |
| ODEUR CARCASSE: | Absente | Légère | Forte | | |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| MEMBRES RAIDES: | Oui | Non | Non Applicable | |
| TRACES MORSURES (CHAROIGNARDS): | Oui | Non | Non Applicable | |
| ASTICOTS: | Absents | Infestation locale | Infestation régionale | Infestation générale |

Catégorie : Etat de la carcasse en dehors des plaies de charognage :

| Cat. 1 | Cat. 2 | Cat. 3 | Cat. 4 | Cat. 5 |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|--------|
| Peau intacte, cavités corporelles closes, rigidité cadavérique | Peau intacte, cavités corporelles closes, absence de rigidité cadav. | Peau déchirée, cavités corporelles exposées, avec ou sans viscères | Fragment de peau/chair et os | Os |

NOM DÉCOUVREUR : ADRIENS

NOM AGENT DNF (si différent) :

NOM "RÉCOLTEUR" :

VÉTÉRINAIRE PRÉLEVEUR : Christophe

REMARQUE(S) : Splénomégalie, Reins congestifs

-> PRIORITAIRE

Priority cases quickly transmitted to lab and analysed

What's App between vets

Direct contact by mobile phone vet in the center ↔ vet in the lab



Communication (3) in the lab



Sciensano Animal Health - NRL

M. Tignon, B. Cay, T. van den Berg

qPCR ASFV on different matrices

internal control beta-actin

> 5 500 qPCR realised



| | | | | | |
|----|-----|------------|-------------|-------|----------|
| ad | 100 | 180924 D86 | Spleen | 24,94 | POSITIVE |
| A | 101 | 180924 D86 | Buccal Swab | 36,81 | POSITIVE |
| Bl | 102 | 180924 D86 | Spleen | 23,55 | POSITIVE |
| C | 103 | 180924 D86 | Buccal Swab | 32,17 | POSITIVE |
| C | 104 | 180924 D86 | Spleen | 25,97 | POSITIVE |
| E | 105 | 180924 D86 | Buccal Swab | 40 | POSITIVE |
| Fa | 106 | 180924 D86 | Bone Marrow | 28,62 | POSITIVE |
| Fa | 107 | 180924 D86 | Spleen | 24,06 | POSITIVE |
| G | 108 | 180924 D86 | Nasal Swab | 27,64 | POSITIVE |
| IC | 109 | 180924 D86 | Buccal Swab | 34,97 | POSITIVE |
| IP | 110 | 180924 D86 | Spleen | >45 | Negative |
| IP | 111 | 180924 D86 | Swab 1 | >45 | Negative |



Dpt of Infectious Diseases and

Dpt of Pathology – Pr. D. Desmecht - Fac Vet Medicine

qPCR ASFV for C/D check, sequencing, serology



Communication from the field/lab → Strategic board

Data processing & analysis


Decision-making & communication

Field

Carcasses search procedure

Data of found dead & culled WB

Continuous search of live WB



DEMNA - SPW
DNF - SPW
Civil Protection

Collection centres

Necropsy data & tissue samples

SPW & ULiege
Civil Protection

Lab

qPCR data

NRL & Uliege

DATABASES

Wild boar data

Carto data
Zoning, fences & traps

RESULTS

Decisions for control measures

Adaptation of carto' Data
European Commission

Communication to
reg/fed/EU authorities
neighboring countries
operational actors & media

DEMNA
ULiege, ULB
NRL, FASFC

ASF strategic board



Wild Boar database

| REF ULier | Tracabil ity | Age category | Sex | Discovery date | Sampling date | Zone | Place of discovery | Village | ZIP | Forest district | X Longitude | Y Latitu | Context of discove | Postmo rtem deca | Samplac | Contact (DNF) | qPCR beta-actin Res (Sciensar) | qPCR ASFY Result (Sciensar) | REF ScienSo | Date Confirma tion | REF Notificat ion |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----|----------------|---------------|------|-----------------------|-------------|------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| A19-3302 | 190242 | BR | M | 15/07/2019 | 15/07/2019 | ZV | Piège 116 (Eplatis 2) | Florenville | 6823 | Florenville | 5,306448 | 49,764199 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | BAUDE | positive | Negative | U1907233 | 18-07-2019 | |
| A19-3303 | 190243 | BR | M | 15/07/2019 | 15/07/2019 | ZV | Piège 116 (Eplatis 2) | Florenville | 6823 | Florenville | 5,30645 | 49,764199 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | BAUDE | positive | Negative | U1907233 | 18-07-2019 | |
| A19-3304 | 190244 | BC | M | 15/07/2019 | 15/07/2019 | ZV | Piège 116 (Eplatis 2) | Florenville | 6823 | Florenville | 5,306445 | 49,764198 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | BAUDE | positive | Negative | U1907233 | 18-07-2019 | |
| A19-3305 | 190245 | BC | M | 15/07/2019 | 15/07/2019 | ZV | Piège 116 (Eplatis 2) | Florenville | 6823 | Florenville | 5,306454 | 49,764204 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | BAUDE | positive | Negative | U1907233 | 18-07-2019 | |
| A19-3306 | 190246 | MA | M | 15/07/2019 | 15/07/2019 | ZV | Piège 115 (Eplatis 1) | Florenville | 6820 | Florenville | 5,311155 | 49,770948 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | BAUDE | positive | Negative | U1907233 | 18-07-2019 | |
| A19-3307 | 189279 | AD | M | 13/07/2019 | 15/07/2019 | ZV | Piège 108 (Moleu) | Herbeumont | 6887 | Neufchâteau | 5,262822 | 49,767943 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | COOMANS | positive | Negative | U1907233 | 18-07-2019 | |
| A19-3308 | 100541 | BR | nd | 16/07/2019 | 17/07/2019 | ZT | Toernich (Hirzenber | Arlon | 6700 | Arlon | 5,78606 | 49,66089 | Found dead | Bones only | Long bone | FRASELLE | positive | POSITIVE | U1907233 | 18-07-2019 | ASF111 |
| A19-3309 | 189951 | AD | F | 16/07/2019 | 17/07/2019 | ZOR | Piège 99 (Fontaine | Chiny | 6810 | Florenville | 5,333187 | 49,764049 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | COLLIGNON | positive | Negative | U1907324 | 19-07-2019 | |
| A19-3310 | 189950 | AD | F | 16/07/2019 | 17/07/2019 | ZOR | Piège 99 (Fontaine | Chiny | 6810 | Florenville | 5,333187 | 49,764153 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | COLLIGNON | positive | Negative | U1907324 | 19-07-2019 | |
| A19-3311 | 189957 | MA | F | 16/07/2019 | 17/07/2019 | ZOR | Piège 99 (Fontaine | Chiny | 6810 | Florenville | 5,333112 | 49,764153 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | COLLIGNON | positive | Negative | U1907324 | 19-07-2019 | |
| A19-3312 | 108031 | MA | M | 16/07/2019 | 17/07/2019 | ZOR | Piège 67 (La Houdré | Chiny | 6810 | Florenville | 5,373199 | 49,667279 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | BAUDE | positive | Negative | U1907324 | 19-07-2019 | |
| A19-3313 | 108033 | MA | M | 16/07/2019 | 17/07/2019 | ZOR | Piège 67 (La Houdré | Chiny | 6810 | Florenville | 5,373124 | 49,667293 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | BAUDE | positive | Negative | U1907324 | 19-07-2019 | |
| A19-3314 | 108037 | MA | F | 16/07/2019 | 17/07/2019 | ZOR | Piège 67 (La Houdré | Chiny | 6810 | Florenville | 5,373092 | 49,667307 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | BAUDE | positive | Negative | U1907324 | 19-07-2019 | |
| A19-3315 | 108035 | MA | F | 16/07/2019 | 17/07/2019 | ZOR | Piège 67 (La Houdré | Chiny | 6810 | Florenville | 5,373092 | 49,66737 | Trapped | Fresh | Spleen | BAUDE | positive | Negative | U1907324 | 19-07-2019 | |

Communication to EU authorities



Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS)



World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



Communication from the field/lab → strategic board

Data processing & analysis

Decision-making & communication

Field

Collection centres

Lab

Carcasses search procedure

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neighboring countries
operational actors & media

DEMNA - SPW
DNF - SPW
Civil Protection

SPW & ULiege
Civil Protection

NRL & Uliege

DEMNA
ULiege, ULB
NRL, FASFC

ASF strategic board



Quick communication between operators and decision-makers



- Detection of a carcass / removal / analysis (2-3 days)
- If new positive case detected outside the infected zone
- Urgently reported to the Strategic board (1 day – meeting on demand)
- Decision-making process (regional/federal authorities and EC)
- Strategic board
- Technical board
- ▼ Quickly measures in the field (fences or night shots)



1. Before the outbreak of ASF

2. During the crisis

2.1. Strategic board

2.2. Communication from the field / lab → strategic board

2.3. Communication with stakeholders ←

Communication ↔ Authorities

- Federal and regional Ministers in Belgium
- European Commission and WOAH (CVO)
- Neighbouring countries (1 meeting / week)

Communication ↔ Press

Communication ↔ Field operators in the infected zone

- Forest rangers (regional service)
- Hunters
- Tourism associations
- Forestry workers (logging)
- Vets, farmers, village residents

Communication with hunters - seminars



Chasseurs - Règles de biosécurité pour la prise en charge d'un sanglier détruit en zone infectée - Plan de lutte PPA - Responsable A. Linden 00 32 478 280590

❖ **Objectif** : diminuer les risques de dissémination du virus PPA si un sanglier détruit est infecté



Ne pas pénétrer dans une porcherie ou entrer en contact avec des porcs dans les 72 h qui suivent un contact avec un sanglier

❖ **Matériel** (fourni par l'Administration et disponible au centre de collecte de Virton, sur RDV)

- bracelets - carnet - bic
- salopettes* et gants* jetables, une paire de bottes
- bâches* (3 X 4 ou 5 m) et sacs* (marcassins et bêtes rouges), colisons, et ruban adhésif
- pulvérisateur* contenant un virucide agréé (VIRKON*)
- gel hydro-alcoolique* (éthanol 70%) pour les mains
- bidon d'eau savonneuse et brosse dure pour nettoyer les bottes
- sacs poubelle (30 L) avec lien de fermeture pour les déchets de classe B2 (salopettes et gants)

❖ **Procédure** : sanglier emballé obligatoirement entier, tête comprise

- (1) Emballage du sanglier entier sur le lieu de tir et pose du bracelet**
- noter dans carnet : date / coord XY / lieu-dit / n°poste/piège / n°bracelet / âge / sexe
 - s'agenouiller pour procéder à l'emballage : salopette jetable, bottes, 2 paires de gants
 - disposer la bâche à côté du sanglier (le long de la ligne du dos)
 - saisir les pattes et faire basculer l'animal sur la bâche
 - enlever la première paire de gants souillée (la jeter dans la bâche)
 - continuer l'emballage sans toucher la carcasse puis fermer la bâche (2 colisons + ruban adhésif)
 - fixer le bracelet de traçabilité au colison et transporter le colis à côté du véhicule
 - désinfecter la bâche (pulvériser dos au vent)
 - déposer le colis désinfecté dans le véhicule ou la remorque

- (2) Désinfection sur site**
- désinfecter l'emplacement de la carcasse (pulvériser dos au vent)
 - élargir la zone de désinfection (30 cm autour de l'emplacement initial)
 - insister sur les supports proches (branchages) souillés par du sang/tissus/os

Voir verso



Incentives (50 or 100 € per WB) for approved hunters who have received specific training on biosecurity procedures

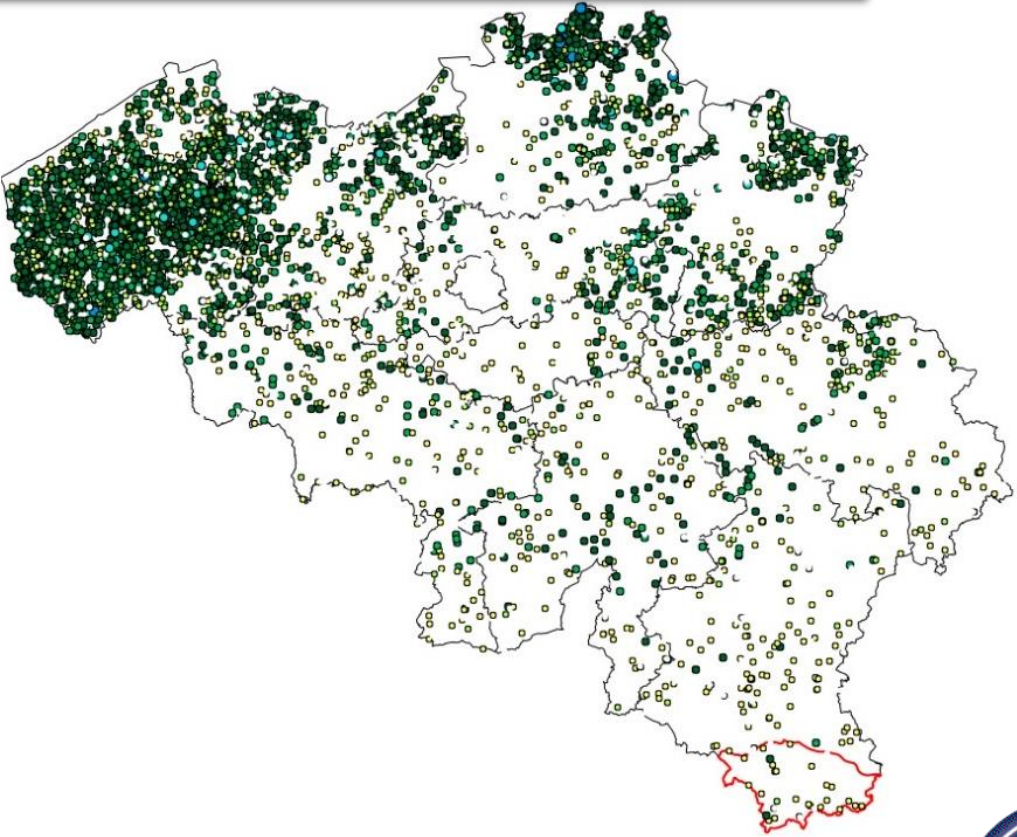
Communication with tourism associations and forestry workers (logging)



... and Press

> 5000 pigs were culled in the former 'infected zone'

*There are no outbreaks in domestic swine.
No domestic and captive swine remain in the initial infected zone
(decision of the Federal minister of Agriculture to eradicate all domestic swine by 2 October 2018).
Strict measures have been taken for the whole country to prevent contamination of domestic swine.*



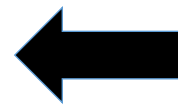


- ASF in Belgium : First detection in WB in Sept 2018
- EU zoning removed in Nov 2020 (+26 months)
- Recovery of the free status (WOAH) in Dec 2020

1. Before the outbreak of ASF

2. During the crisis

3. After the crisis



Strategic Board → Monitoring committee


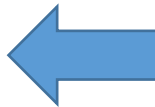
Enhanced Passive surveillance is maintained :

Information to hunters (e-mail, brochures, seminars)
regional Hot line (1718) for carcass notification

4. Key points

4. KEY POINTS



- **Before a crisis**, potential actors must be identified and communication networks must be functional
- **During a crisis :**
 - Establish user-friendly & instant networking capacity gathering field operators 
 - Interconnection & and responsiveness between field / collection centres / lab
 - Make results available asap for decision-making and fast implementation (*WB database*)
 - Maintain contacts between reg & federal authorities and neighbouring countries
 - Maintain contact with all the field stakeholders
- **Systematize regular feed-back communication towards field actors (!)**
- **Devote time and energy to build & maintain trust between all the actors** 
- **After the crisis**, monitoring committee and enhanced passive surveillance

Thanks for your attention