GF-TADs
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in Europe

under the GF-TADs umbrella

Twenty first meeting (SGE ASF21) – 28/29 September 2023

Following the discussions, after reviewing the reports on the current epidemiological situation from the SGE Members[1],

The SGE ASF 21 recommends that:

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Kosovo[2] and Sweden should become full members of the SGE ASF, and as such participate in future SGE ASF meetings to share their experience and receive relevant guidance.
2. Field missions should continue. Interested countries should contact the SGE ASF secretariat.
3. Martins Seržants and Gunda Lubek should be added to the list of experts for GF-TADs missions. The list of experts for GF-TADs missions on ASF attached as Annex 1 is approved.
4. The correct management of wild boar populations, in particular of infected wild boar, and the reduction of the environmental viral load due to infected wild boar carcasses is key to prevent and control ASF. Therefore, wild boar carcass search and safe disposal must be considered a cornerstone for ASF control. Best practices conductive to safe carcass management are described in Annex 2 of these recommendations. They should be duly followed.
5. Awareness campaigns should be carried out using all possible information modalities (e.g. face-to-face meetings, mass media, posters, leaflets, radio and TV shows). Different actors should be informed, including hunters and hunting associations, the general public through municipalities and non-governmental organizations, veterinary practitioners, forest workers and forest management bodies, to increase the reporting of dead wild boar findings.
6. All countries should implement previous SGE ASF recommendations to prevent, control and eradicate ASF.
7. The twenty-second meeting (SGE ASF22) of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella should be held **in face-to-face format in Skopje**, in September **2024**.

Annex 1 – list of experts for SGE GF-TADs missions.

[1] Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo*, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine

2 This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on Kosovo Declaration of Independence

* This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Name	Approval	Country of origin
Silvia Bellini	SGE ASF2, Tallinn, Estonia - February 2015	Italy
Klaus Depner	SGE ASF2, Tallinn, Estonia - February 2015	Germany
Vittorio Guberti	SGE ASF2, Tallinn, Estonia - February 2015	Italy
Sergei Khomenko	SGE ASF2, Tallinn, Estonia - February 2015	Ukraine
Konstantin Gruzdev	SGE ASF2, Tallinn, Estonia - February 2015	Russian Federation
Marius Masiulis	SGE ASF6, Vilnius, Lithuania - November 2016	Lithuania
Edvīns Oļševskis	SGE ASF6, Vilnius, Lithuania - November 2016	Latvia
Ago Partel	SGE ASF6, Vilnius, Lithuania - November 2016	Estonia
Alexey Igolkin	SGE ASF8, Chisinau, Moldova – September 2017	Russian Federation
Krzysztof Jażdżewski	SGE ASF12, Prague, Czech Republic – March 2019	Poland
Petr Šatrán	SGE ASF12, Prague, Czech Republic – March 2019	Czech Republic
Annick Linden	SGE ASF 20, Catania, Italy – October 2022	Belgium
Maxim Sirbu	SGE ASF 20, Catania, Italy – October 2022	Moldova
Martins Serzants	**SGE ASF 21, Bruxelles, Belgium – September 2023**	**Latvia**
Gunda Lubek	**SGE ASF 21, Brussels, Belgium – September 2023**	**Germany**

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Annex 2 – carcass search and carcass removal best practices

1. Any individual who could potentially find a dead wild boar should know the basic rules on how to behave around the carcass:
    a. Do not touch the carcass.
    b. Ensure that the spot where the carcass has been found is clearly visually identified or communicate exact coordinates of its location (any smartphone can be used).
    c. Inform the authority in change of carcass management, without delay.
2. In each infected territory, the active search for carcasses should be intensified during the periods when it can be most productive in terms of effort/benefit. In particular, considering wild boar population dynamics (preferring periods of low density) and climatic conditions (cold periods.
3. Any methodology applied to the search for carcasses (people, molecular dogs, drones, etc.) must be used and planned appropriately in advance, above all assessing its feasibility and quantifying the effort in relation to the extent of the infected area.
4. In large, infected areas, it is necessary for the competent authorities to maintain an effective system of notification, testing and safe disposal of every carcass found in the territory (including through economic incentives, where relevant).
5. In small, infected areas, especially where eradication is attempted in the short term, a careful active search for carcasses must be planned taking into account the size of the infected area and the biological cycle of the disease.
6. Specific carcasses collection points should be set up within the infected area for sampling, and after the carcasses should be sent rendering plants.
7. If it is not possible to send the carcasses to rendering plants, different methods of disposal should be available and authorised by the competent authority to reduce the viral load of the environment.
8. On-site burial of carcasses has several advantages (cost, reduced likelihood of contamination of non-infected areas, effective destruction of the virus) and can be practised with attention to the amount of soil covering the carcass (80-100 cm) to avoid scavengers, and the possibility of leachates contaminating groundwater.
9. On-site incineration of carcasses by fire should be banned to protect the environment.
10. The use of carcasses for composting and biogas production has yet to be fully developed, however, their application must be perceived as a resource to be promoted especially considering the protection of the environment.
11. All countries, including free countries, should plan a system for searching for, collecting and disposal of carcasses considering the availability of rendering plants, the hydro-geological characteristics of the different areas and their ecology.
12. Logistics and biosecurity measures should be identified and implemented to ensure the safe removal of carcasses from the infected area. The movement of carcasses within the infected area, from the spot they are found to a designated carcass collection point, must be carried out to prevent further spread of the virus. Vehicles (particularly the underside or the bed, if carcasses are transported in the cab) and personnel (shoes, equipment) should be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the infected area. An easy and likely already largely applied measure is the use of different clothes and boots while visiting an infected or at-risk area that should be changed before leaving the area. Boots should be placed in a robust plastic bag to avoid any contamination of cars while driving home and then brushed and washed with soap and hot water until the soles are clean.
13. The carcass and the spot where the carcass was found should be disinfected to minimize the ASF viral load. These procedures are easy to implement in all seasons with the exception of winter

when carcasses are frozen, are often covered with snow and temperatures are below 0 °C and the disinfectant freezes. In such situations, anti-freezing agent is added to the disinfectant to stop it from freezing. Propylene glycol can be used as a diluent. Each country has approved and/or authorized a list of biocides that are effective against ASFV; only these authorized biocides should be used and in accordance with the producer's instructions.

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