



MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ
ALIMENTAIRE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



ASF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

BELGIUM - LUXEMBURG - FRANCE 2018/2020

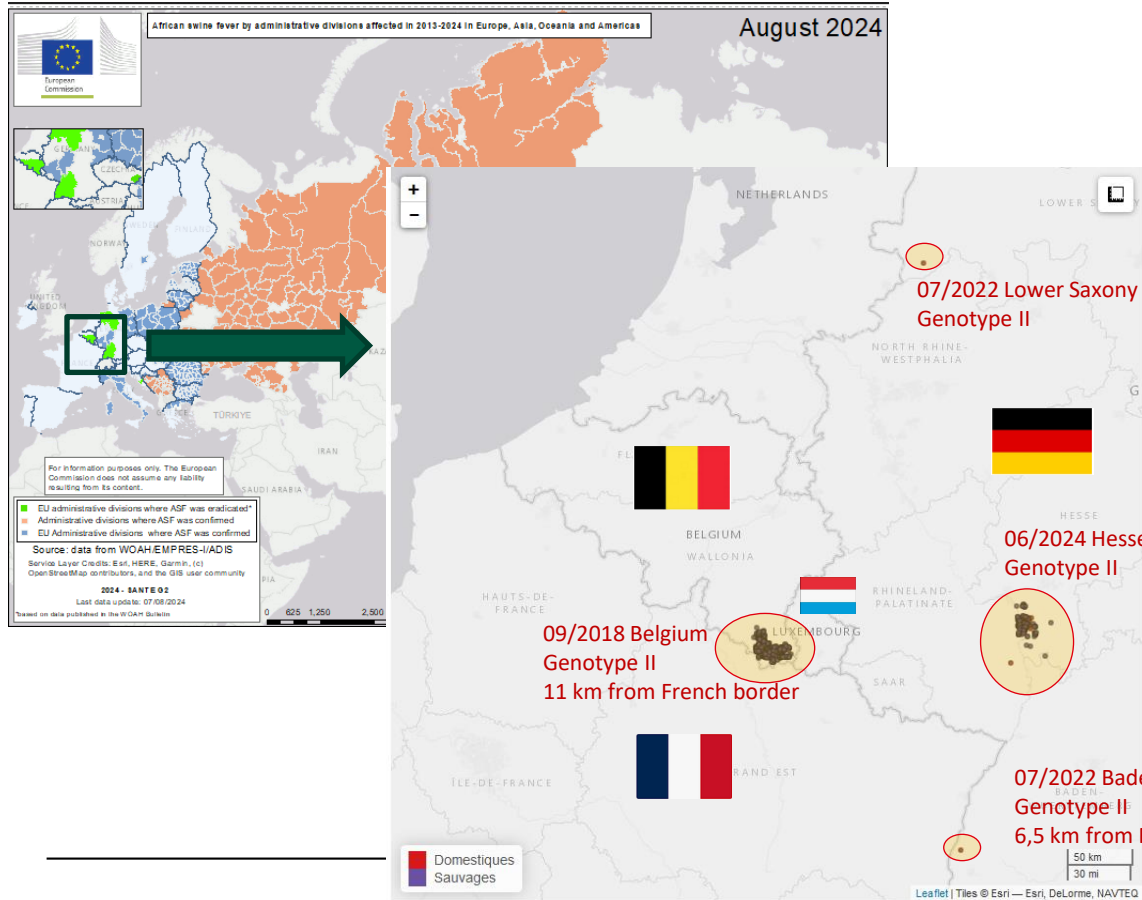
Guillaume GERBIER French Ministry of Agriculture
Alain LICOPPE on behalf of the Strategic Committee for ASF in
Belgium



BTSF

Based on BTSF
presentation 25/09/2019

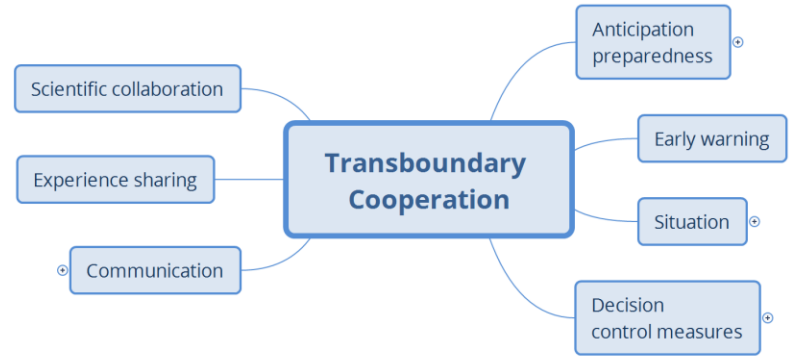
ASF around Belgium – Luxemburg - France



- ASF is present in French neighborhood since 1978 in Sardinia (genotype I)
- ASF came closer
 - In Sept 2018 in Belgium (Wallony) on wild boar
 - In July 2022 in Western Germany (Bade-Wurtemberg) in a outdoor farm
 - In June 2024 Wild boar cases in Germany (Hesse) 80km

Plan

1. Political & administrative framework
2. Anticipation & Preparedness
3. Management measure coordination
4. Sharing information
5. Sharing experiences / methods
6. Scientific research



1. Political framework of collaboration (peace time)



Belgium (Wallonia)
Luxemburg
Germany (Saar – Rheinland Pfalz)
France (Grand –Est)



Switzerland (bordering cantons)
Germany (Bade-Wurtemberg - Rheinland Pfalz)
France (Grand –Est)



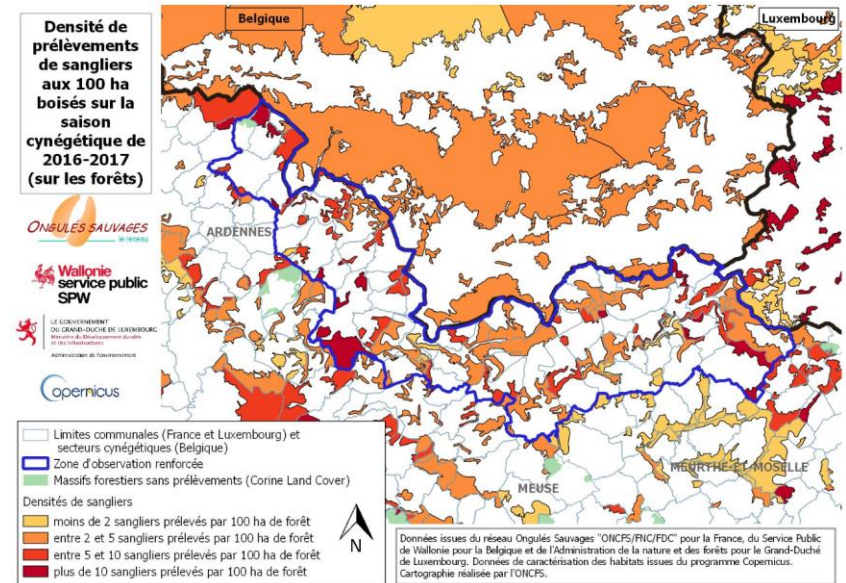
Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg (legal aspects on hunting)
Colleagues from Germany or France may be invited

Organisation in crisis time and after

- Designation of crisis manager at local level + liaison officers in each country (task force)
 - Liaison officers in charge to disseminate information in their own country
 - From January 2019 to June 2021 (after freedom recovery) :
 - First weekly meeting
 - Then monthly (teleconference + several face to face meetings)
 - Topics
 - Surveillance : planning, effort, results
 - Wild boar depopulation
 - Fencing
 - Forest activities
 - Derogations
 - Communication
- + COVID in 2020...
-

2. Preparedness

- Trans-boundary collaboration (Dec 2017) ONCFS (France) - SPW (Belgium)
 - Police,
 - Diseases
 - Wolf, ...
- Scientific network
 - Euroboar
 - Wildboar symposiums
 - Common publications...
- EnetWild initiative
- + Experience in France facing Classical swine fever



Nobody anticipated ASF in Belgium...

3. Management measure coordination

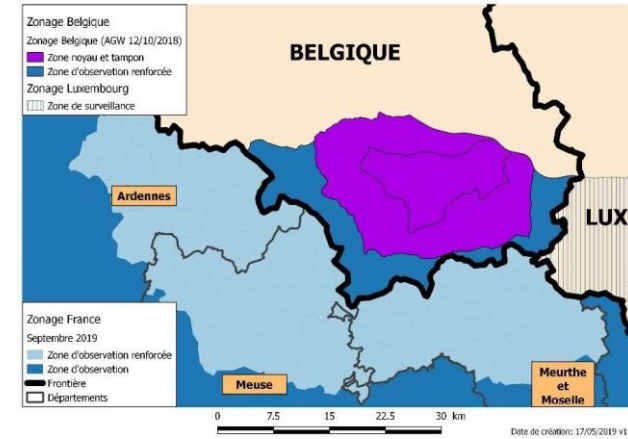
In this context of border epidemic :

the main purpose of this coordination is to inform each other about the measures adopted, zones and others, in order to ensure maximum coherence

1. Outbreak and standstill
2. After one month survey
3. ASF jump to the south-west
4. ASF jump to the north
5. Opening of the forest
6. Fencing
7. Depopulation

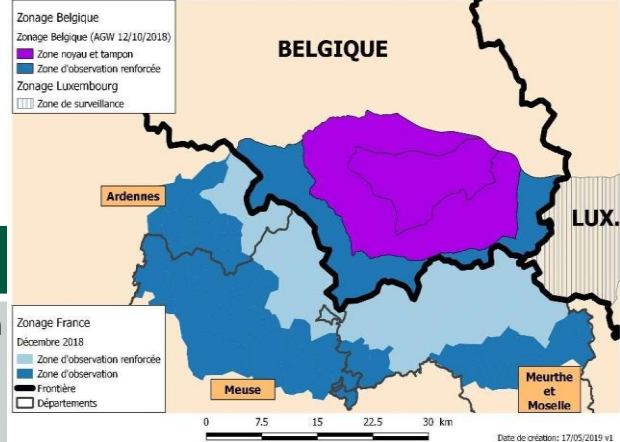
Outbreak and standstill

	BE	FR	LUX
Sept 12, 2018		Informal contact about suspicion btw CVO's	Informal contact about suspicion btw CVO's
Sept 13, 2018	Official notification Infected zone 630 km ²		
Sept 14-16, 2018	UE experts guidelines		
Sept 17, 2018	Debriefing of the mission of the UE experts in Brussels		
Sept 17-18, 2018	Ban on hunting, feeding & any other activity on the Infected zone	Ban on hunting & any other activity on a Re-inforced observation Zone (113 municipalities)	Ban on feeding: in place since 2011 Creation of a ASF Task Force, delineation of a Prevention Zone



After one month survey

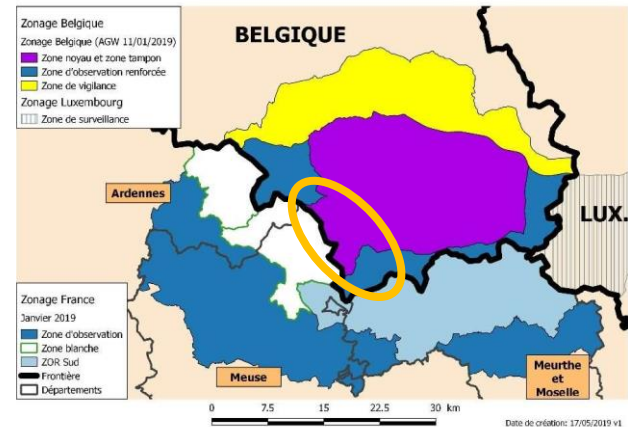
	BE	FR	LUX
Oct 12, 2018	<p>Management zones (kernel, buffer & re-inforced observation) No change in kernel & buffer, ZOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culling without dogs (+ biosecurity), - definition of the allowed methods of culling (baiting, trapping,...), - Other activities allowed in the forest 		<p>No ban on hunting with dogs: distance to infected zone estimated far enough. Lookout-hunting with baits already legal & practiced.</p>
Oct 19, 2018		<p>Resizing of the ZOR (60 municipalities) hunting without dogs (+ biosecurity) and other activities allowed</p>	
Dec 12		<p>Hunting with dogs except in</p>	



ASF jump to the south-west

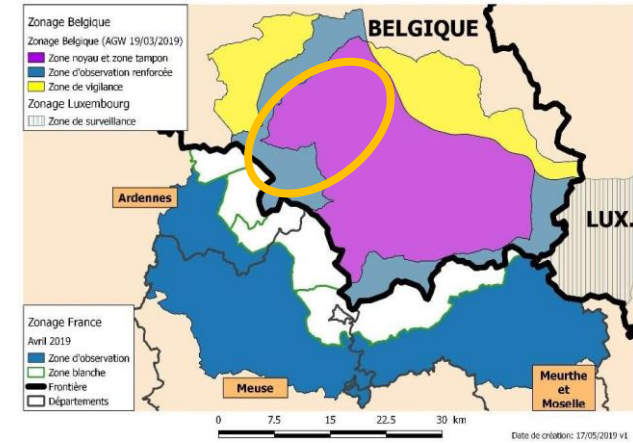
(1.5km from FR)

	BE	FR	LUX
Jan 11, 2019	Adaptation of the kernel-buffer zone (along French border)		
Jan 18, 2019		Creation of a white zone (area cleared from WB) No other activity in the forest than ASF management	
Jan 23, 2019		Hunting dogs allowed everywhere Definition of alternative methods of hunting (baiting)	



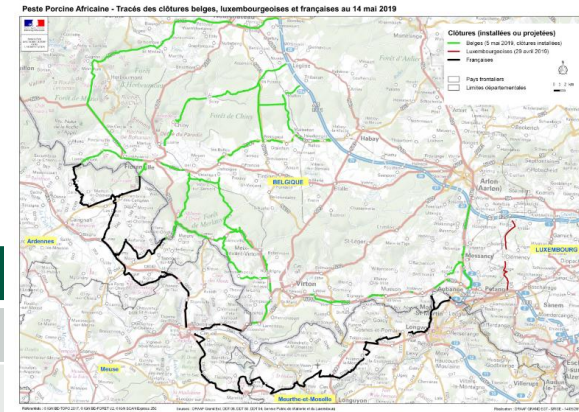
ASF jump to the north (Belgian Ardenne)

	BE	FR	LUX
Feb 19, Mar 19, 2019	Adaptation of the kernel-buffer zone		
Feb 15, 2019			<p>Creation of a white zone</p> <p>Intensification of hunting: 6 week hunting ban in forests was abolished in prevention zone.</p> <p>Destruction legalized: night shot & trapping</p>



Fencing

	BE	FR	LUX
When ?	October 2018	January 2019	February 2019
Motivation ?	Part of the management strategy	Jump to the South-West	Jump to the East & anticipation (porosity of the highways)
How ?	Along state roads with wire fence by private companies	Along state and municipal roads with burrowed wire fence by private companies	Along a bike path with wire fence by the army
	Shared specification for tender to the fencing companies		
	Coherent network with...	6 connexions	1 connexion



Fences



Source : A Licoppe
BTSF course sept 2019

Opening of the forest

	BE	FR	LUX
Outside the infected zone	ZOR no restriction	Zone blanche - Access for State authorities and hunters - no access for walkers and forest work since Jan 2019	Zone blanche no restriction - WB culling allowed (including night shot & trapping)
Inside the infected zone	Infected zone : - Access for State authorities - Access for walkers on paths in certain areas (according to the epidemiological status) since April 2019 - No access for forest works - Restricted access for hunters since May 2019		

Depopulation

- Field coordination during driven hunts along the border (avoid « safe haven »)
- Direct coordination between officers in charge of culling (night shots, security)
- Sharing local information about wild boar presence along the border (sounders detected from one side to the other, fleeing wild boar to the other side after shooting,...)
- Mixing administration teams for special operations (e.g. driven hunts organised by the Authorities)



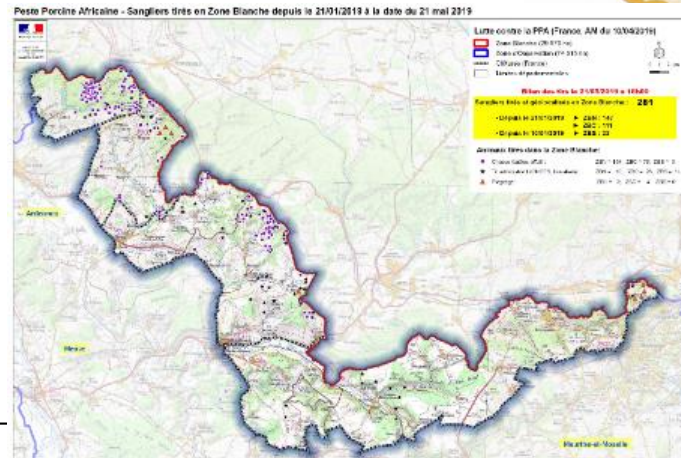
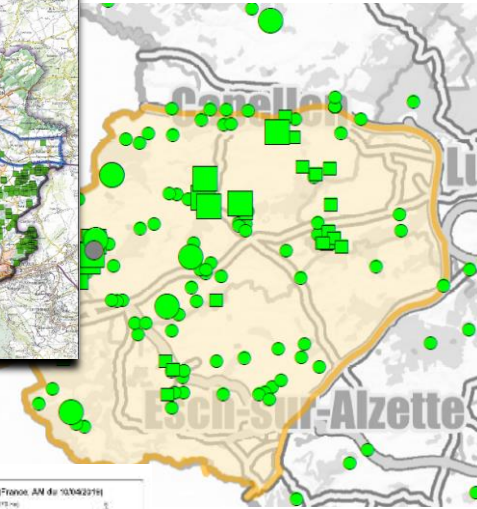
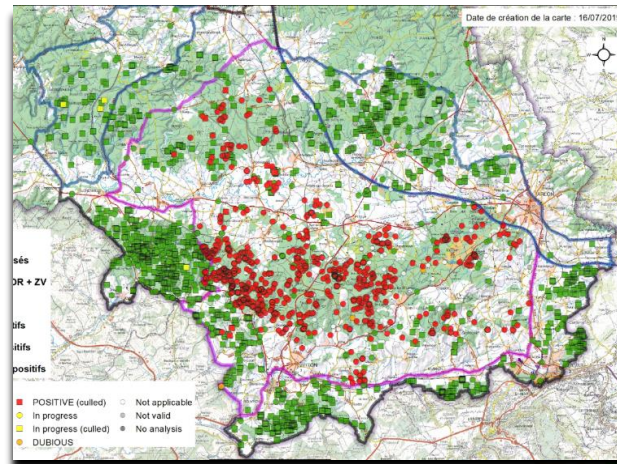
4. Sharing information

Communicate to share information and data is the key to ensure transparency and building or maintaining a relationship based on a mutual trust

- *French colleagues (free of ASF) were more under pressure than Belgian ones (Brittany farmers...)*
- *Need for a lot of time and energy to fully and accurately communicate*
- *On an official way to avoid rumours*
- *Based on validated data only*

Data

- ASF test results :
 - Maps and summaries
 - Passive surveillance
 - map of carcasses
 - Map/report of searching effort
- Results of depopulation
 - Maps and summaries
- Maps of the fence network



GIS platform of the Greater Region

The screenshot displays the GIS platform interface for the Greater Region. The main map area shows a geographical view with various colored overlays representing different agricultural layers. The left sidebar is titled "COUCHES" and contains a search bar with "Europe" selected. Below it, there are sections for "MES COUCHES (2)", "CATALOGUE", and "THÈME: AGRICULTURE". Under "PESTE PORCINE AFRICAINE", there are three checked items: "Paste porcine africaine: clôtures", "Paste porcine africaine: sangliers", and "Paste porcine africaine: zonage". Other categories include "AGRICULTURE BIOLOGIQUE", "DENSITÉ DE BOVINS ET PORCINS", and "ORIENTATION TECHNOICO-ÉCONOMIQUE". The bottom navigation bar includes icons for "COUCHES", "MY MAPS", "INFOS", "LÉGENDES", "DESSIN", "MESURER", "IMPRIMER", and "PARTAGER". The top right corner features a search bar with the text "Recherche adresse, parcelles, couches" and a user profile icon. The bottom right corner contains links for "FEEDBACK", "A PROPOS", "AIDE", "CONTACT", "ASPECTS LÉGAUX", and "SIG-GR".

Communications to neighbouring hunters

Contribution of the Authorities of the infected country to meetings/conferences in order to inform local hunters of the free neighbouring countries:

- No intermediary (trust)
- Bidirectional discussion
- Same issues in each country (use of dogs, hunting leases, damages to agriculture,...)



5. Sharing experience / methods

The effectiveness of cross-border management depends on the rapid availability of newly acquired knowledge and best practices

This local experience is more relevant than experiences from different landscape, population density, hunting cultures and climate contexts.

Active search of carcasses



COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE – 16 OCTOBRE 2018

DES BRIGADES FRANCO-BELGES POUR RENFORCER LA SURVEILLANCE DE LA PESTE PORCINE AFRICAINE

1. Pourquoi réalise-t-on des prospections de sangliers morts ?

Depuis la confirmation du 1^{er} cas de **peste porcine africaine (PPA)** chez deux sangliers trouvés morts en Belgique le 13 septembre, à moins de 15 km de la frontière française, des **prospections pour recherche active de cadavres ont été organisées en Belgique et en France**. Ces prospections visent à augmenter l'efficacité de la détection de cadavres de sangliers, très difficile en milieu naturel. La PPA est en effet une maladie hautement létale chez l'animal en question, et sa **surveillance repose principalement sur l'analyse d'animaux trouvés morts**. En Belgique ces prospections sont principalement conduites par les agents du Département de la Nature et des forêts (DNF) du Service public de Wallonie (SPW) sur l'ensemble de la zone infectée historique (63,000 ha, zone délimitée en rouge sur la Figure 1). En France, les prospections aussi appelées « patrouilles » sont organisées au niveau des communes situées en frontière du périmètre d'intervention belge (zone colorée en vert sur la Figure 1). Elles impliquent des chasseurs connaissant particulièrement bien les zones concernées, des lieutenants de louveterie et des agents de l'Etat de l'Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage (ONCFS) et de l'Office



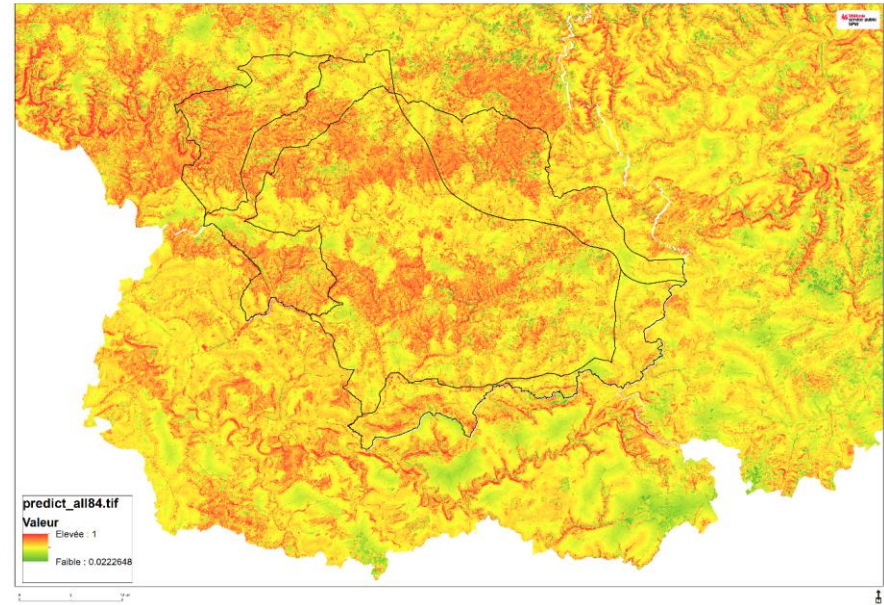
Use of dogs

Testing a trained dog in the
infected zone –Laëtitia
PARROU : maître chien
(Ecolo Dogs-Chiens
Conservation Nature) in
collaboration with
Stéphanie Desvaux ONCFS
(photo Luc Baufay)



ASF carcass model

- Model predicting the presence of ASF-positive dead wild boar based on the first 200 detected Belgian carcasses and on environmental variables (Morelle et al. 2019)
- Most of these variables derived from Copernicus available for Europe
- The model has been shared with FR & LU



Morelle et al Deathbed choice by ASF-infected wild boar can help find carcasses June 2019. Transboundary and Emerging Diseases

Night shooting

Breux Jan, 2019
Training with the
Wolf Team from
ONCFS (France)



Trapping

Visits of the French and
Luxemburg administrations
(ONCFS & ANF) of some traps
and sharing of experience and
best practices

Circulaires

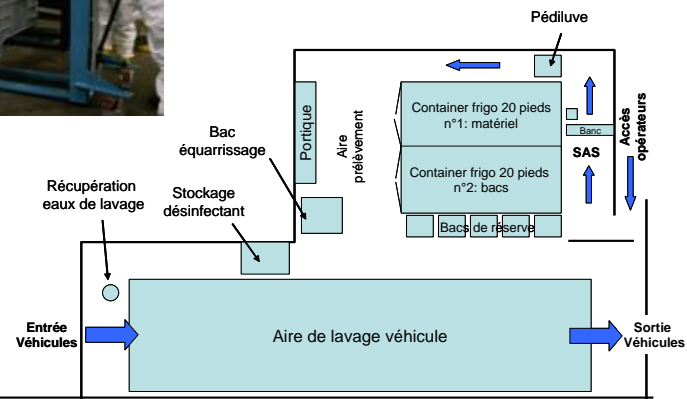
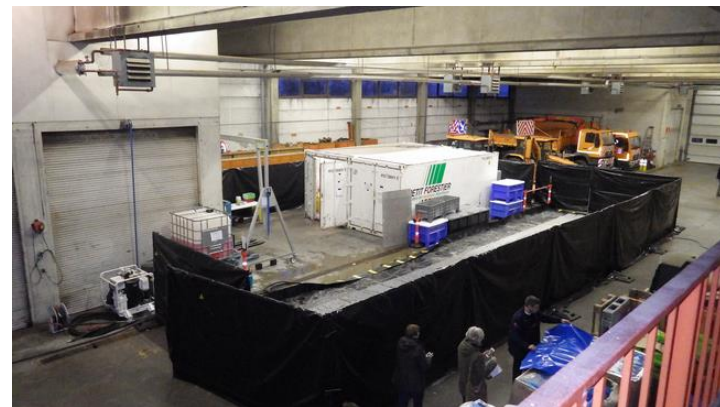
Treillis soudé ou Ursus lourd (doublé)



Collection centres

Visits of the French and Luxembourg administrations in the collection center in Virton :

Temporary crisis center for collecting and sampling dead WB specially designed for biosecurity



6. Scientific collaborations

Take the opportunity to improve our knowledge in topics weakly explored :

- ASF spread model : need for WB densities
- Passive surveillance : efficiency of the methods used in the 3 countries
- Movement ecology : efficiency of the fences, seasonal home ranges, impact of hunting,... (Euroboar collaboration)
- Culling methods : comparison of the efficiencies

After action review

Methodology

Phase I : Preparation



Presentation
Meetings

Phase II : Data collect & analysis



Internet

Phase III



Mirror Meetings

Phase III : Report



Good practices
Dysfunctions

Devote time to action plans

Plan d'action

ATTENTION
PESTE
AFRICAINNE



New French ASF action plan
in 2022

Conclusion

- Lessons learnt in 2018/2020 useful for other situations
 - Germany : Bade-Wurtemberg 07/2022, Hesse 2024
 - Italy January 2022

THANKS TO THE BELGIAN LUXEMBURGESE
COLLEAGUES FOR THE GREAT JOB

