



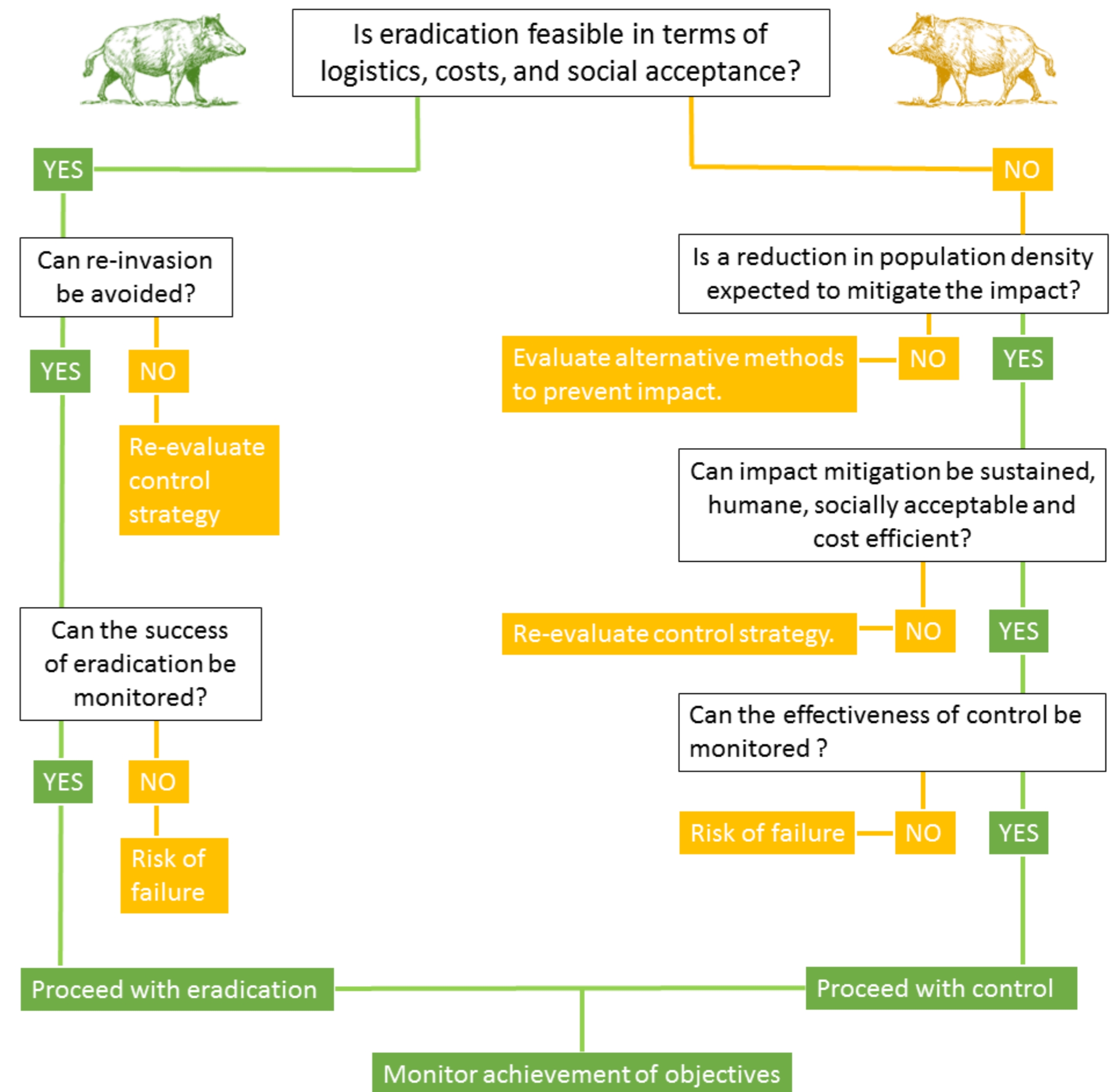
Challenges to wildlife management and conservation due to spread of ASF

Sergei Khomenko, Disease Ecology Expert

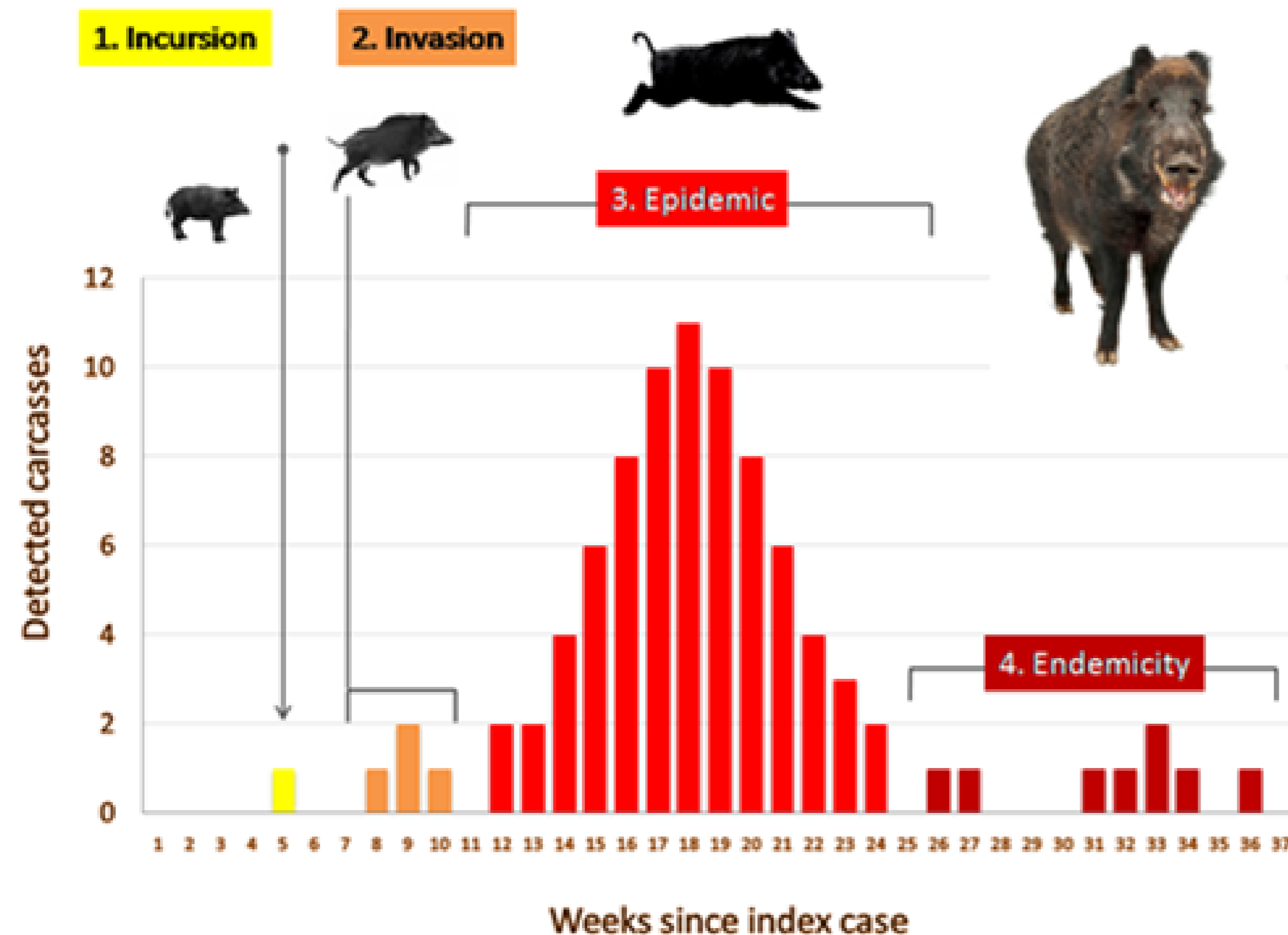
FAO

Challenges of wild boar population management

- Population estimates - ?
- Control of effectiveness - ?
- Feasibility - ?
- Sustainability - ?
- Time frame - ?
- **Effect on the disease - ?**



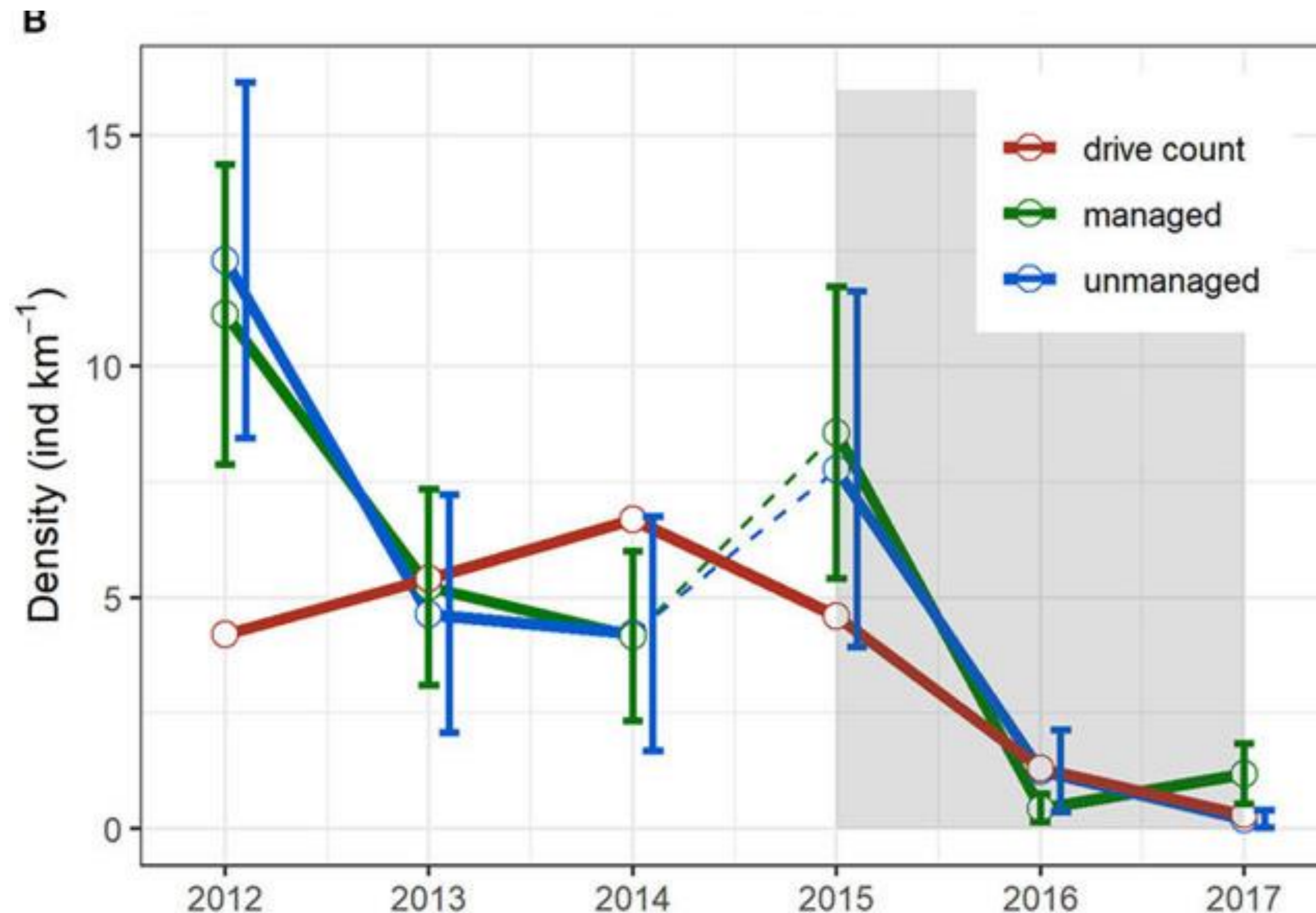
Epidemiological context should be accounted for



- Disease free areas
- Focal introduction and incursion phases
- Active epidemic phase
- Endemicity phase
- Post-eradication phase?

ASF kills wild boar a way more effectively compared to hunting ...

Morelle et al, 2020



- 84 % reduction of wild boar numbers in the protected area
- Contribution of hunting to mortality is estimated at only 10-22%
- It is too late to hunt during an ASF epidemic ...

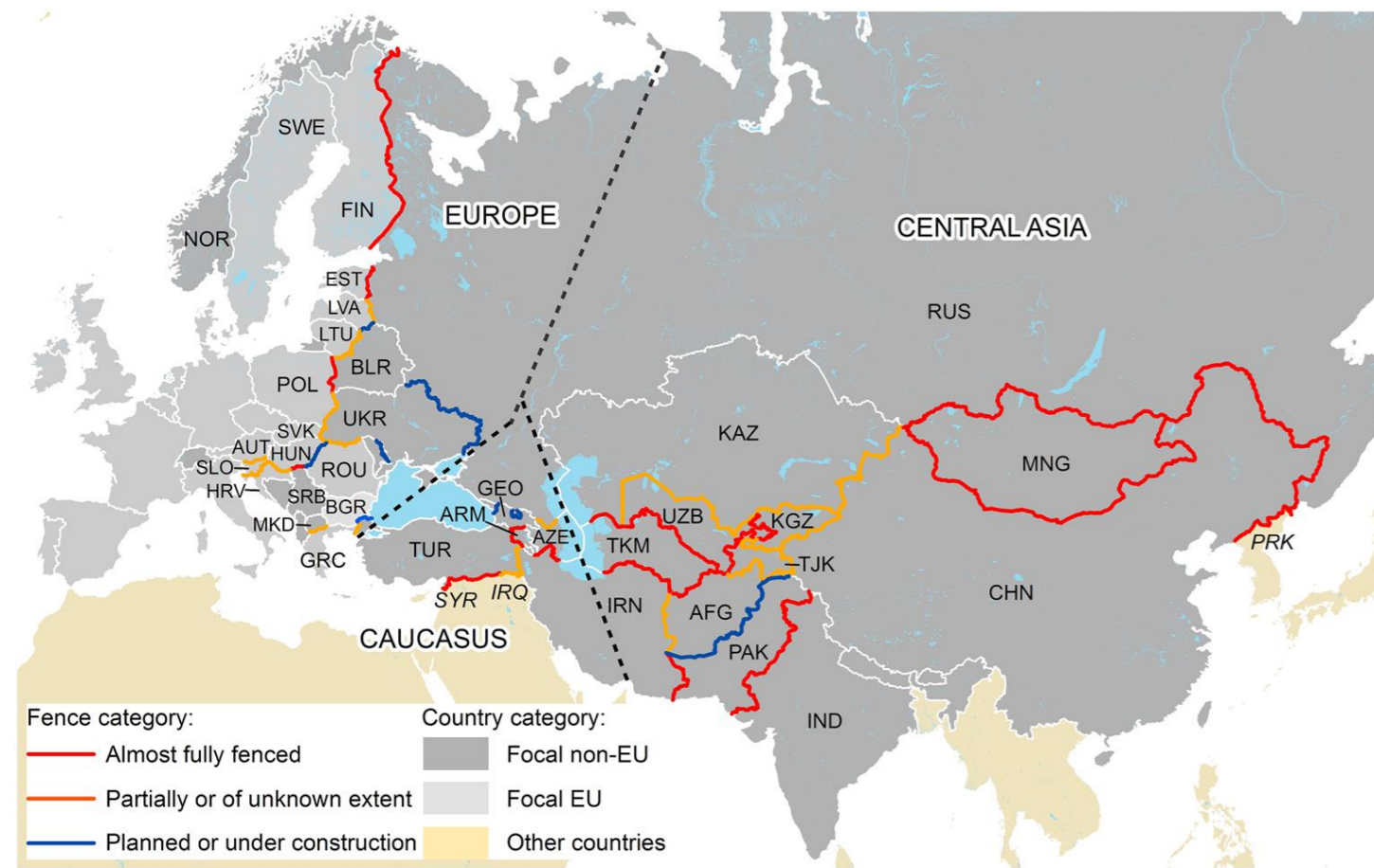
Management options

- **Movement restriction** (**boar proof fences**, electric or odor fences, deterrents)
- **Non-lethal methods** (regulation of supplementary feeding, ban hunting and feeding, *contraception*)
- **Lethal methods** (more intensive hunting, targeted hunting, trapping, *poisoning*)
- **Removal of infected carcasses**

Fencing - scale matters



Linnell et al, 2016



- Does not solve problem on large spatial scales, expensive
- Reasonable as temporary solution on **incursion** or **invasion** phases
- Long lasting negative implications for wildlife conservation

Immun contraception - requirements yet to meet

- be effective when orally administered;
- be strictly species specific;
- high efficacy (70 to 80 percent);
- prevent reproduction in both sexes;
- environmentally safe;
- remain stable and effective within a wide range of environmental conditions

Could be a “silver bullet”, but still requires years of research and experiments

Poisoning - very risky and totally illegal in Eurasia !

- needs to species specific and highly attractive for the wild boars
- antidote should be available both for humans and domestic animals
- cause minimal pain and suffering
- safe for people involved in the field operations.
- Biodegradable
- Poison and delivery system cost-effective

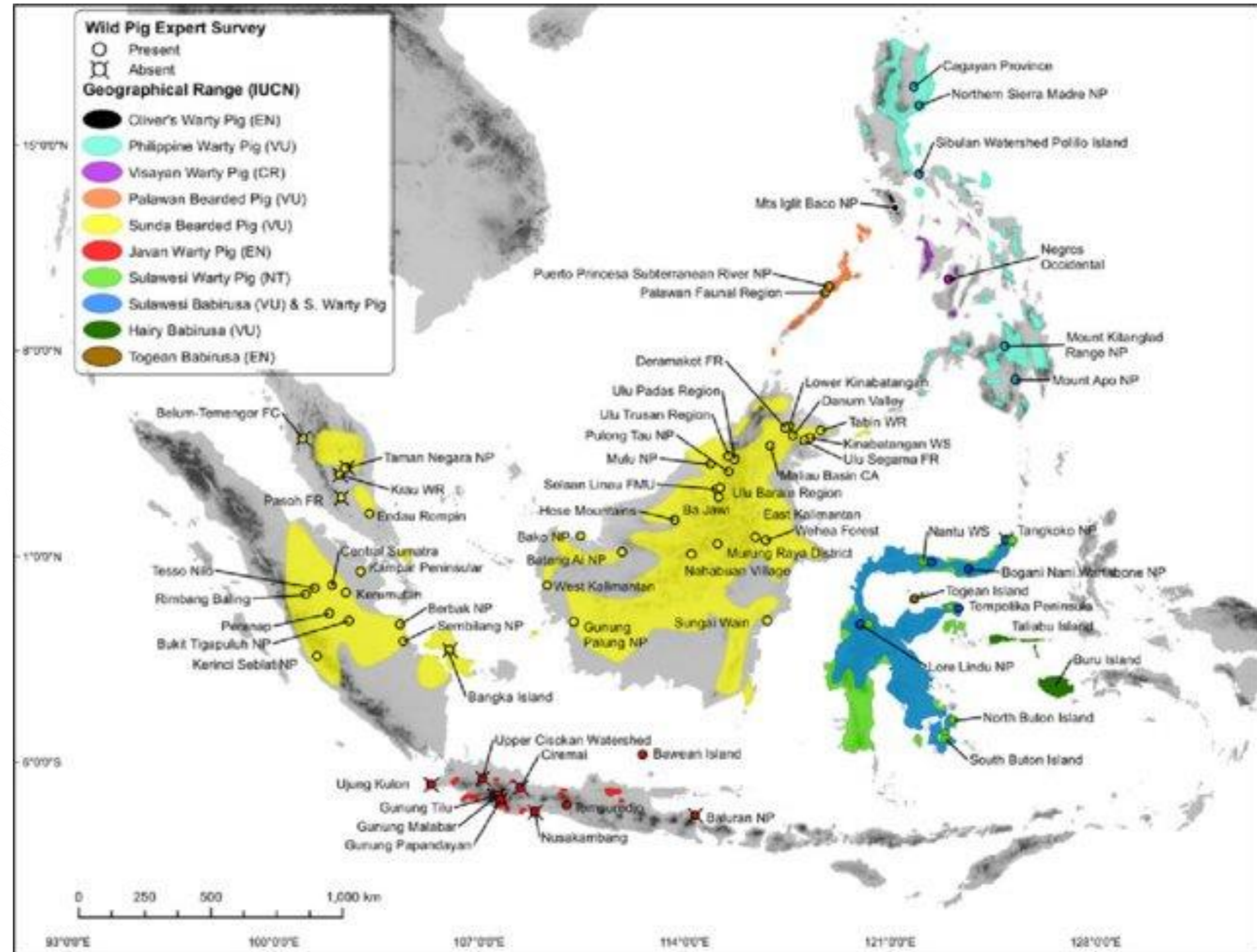
The requirements are far from being fulfilled yet. The approach is premature and potentially very dangerous for wildlife and environment

Some implications of drastic reduction of wild boar numbers



- Important and characteristic part of the ecosystem within native range - what about strictly protected areas?
- Valuable game trophy - backbone of recreational hunting
- Locally important food for highly protected species (e.g. Amur tiger)

Threat of extinction for several endemic SE Asian suids



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Pygmy hog *Porcula (Sus) salvania* would be grateful for your attention to the risk of its extinction too



250 individuals left only in India