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

ASF control in wild boars in Belgium

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ASF outbreak in wild boars - Sept 2018

- 2 wild boars (1 found dead and 1 sanitary shot)
- ASFV confirmed cases 13/09/2018 – NRL Sciensano
- South-east of Wallonia - Prov. Lux
- France 12 Km and GD Lux 17 Km
- Origin of the outbreak is unknown
- Belgium - OIE ASF Status :
  - ASF-free status for all suidae : LOST
  - ASF-free status for domestic pigs/swine : maintained

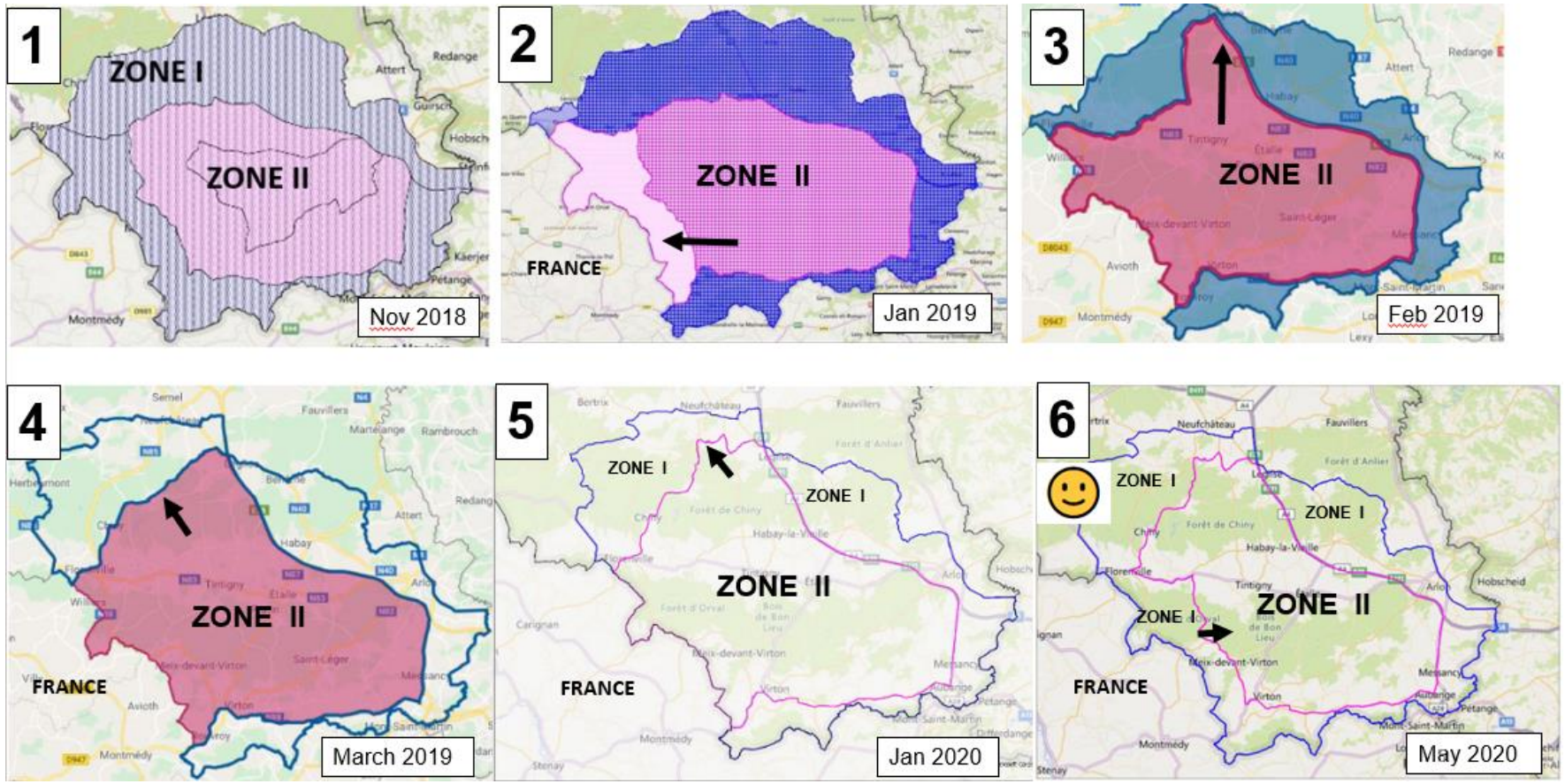
MAIN GOAL : eradication of the disease in the country

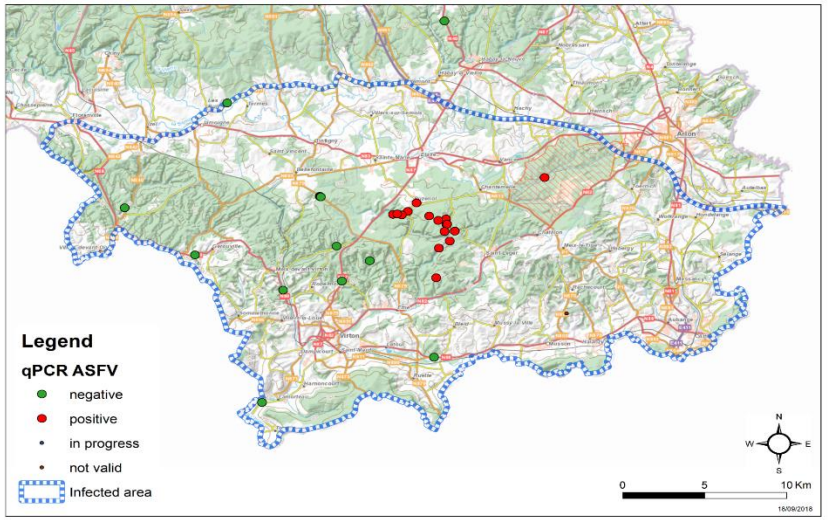
- Prevent introduction of the disease into **pig farms**
- Prevent spread of the disease among **wild boars population**

Control measures in wild boars

1. Zoning and restrictions
2. Passive surveillance
3. Fencing
4. Depopulation
5. Analysis process

1. Adaptation of EU Zoning





1. Adaptation of EU Zoning and restrictions

Oct 2018

- Restrictions measures to respect **a complete standstill** in the provisional infected zone
- Objective : decrease the risk of spreading ASF virus
  - -avoid disturbing wild boar
  - -avoid any passive virus dissemination
- Method : regional legislation adapted
  - -ban on feeding and hunting
  - -ban on circulation in the forest (for tourist and forestry activities)
- Only active search/removal/analysis of carcasses with biosecurity

April 2019 → August 2020

- Restrictions measures adapted according to the epidemiological situation for tourism, forestry and hunting activities
- Disinfection measures always maintained

2. Passive surveillance

Active search, removal with biosecurity and analysis of the carcasses :

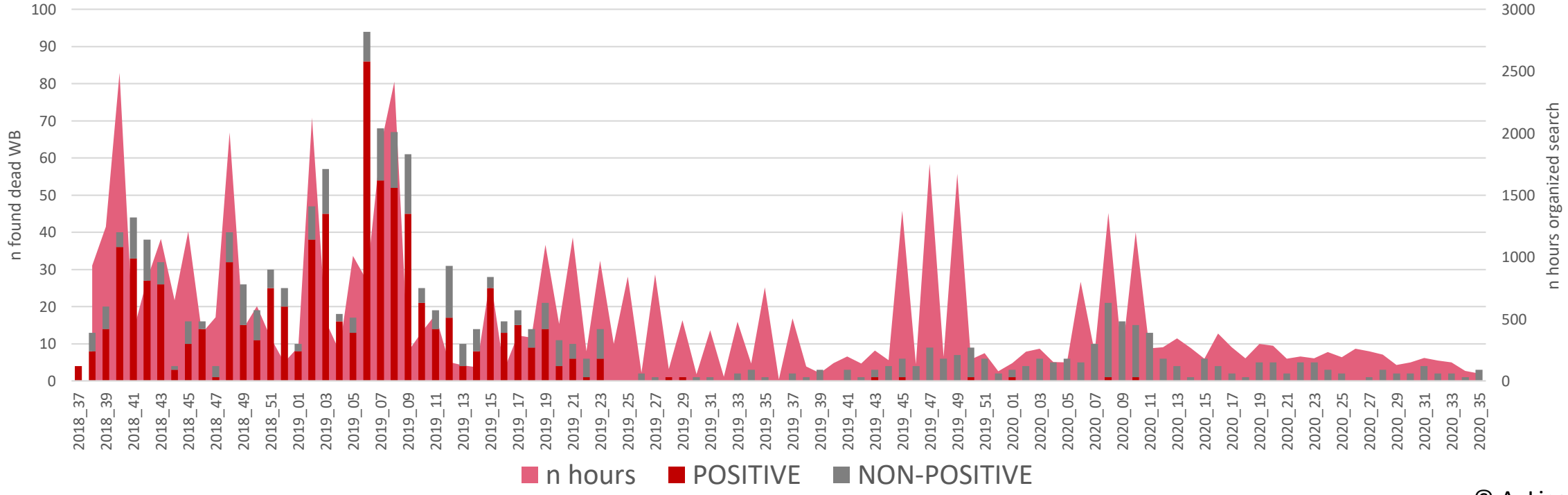
In infected zone :

→ to decrease the viral load in the environment
→ to delimit the real infected zone
→ to follow the epidemic phase

In non infected zone :

→ to detect new cases as quickly as possible

Weekly evolution of the effort of organized search of carcasses (hours) together with the number of found dead WB, positive to ASFV or not (~ 50.000 hours of searching by the regional administration and support (army, team of sniffing dogs)



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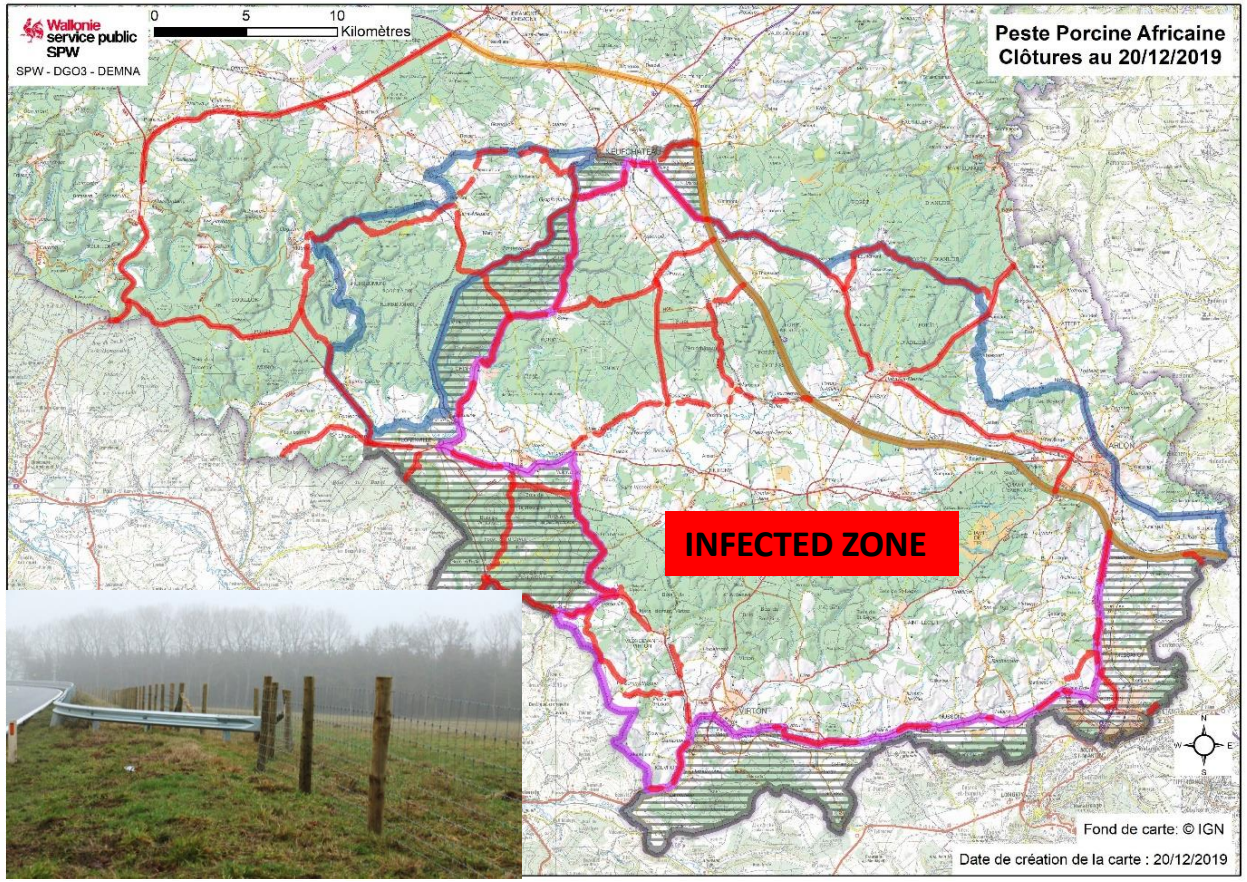

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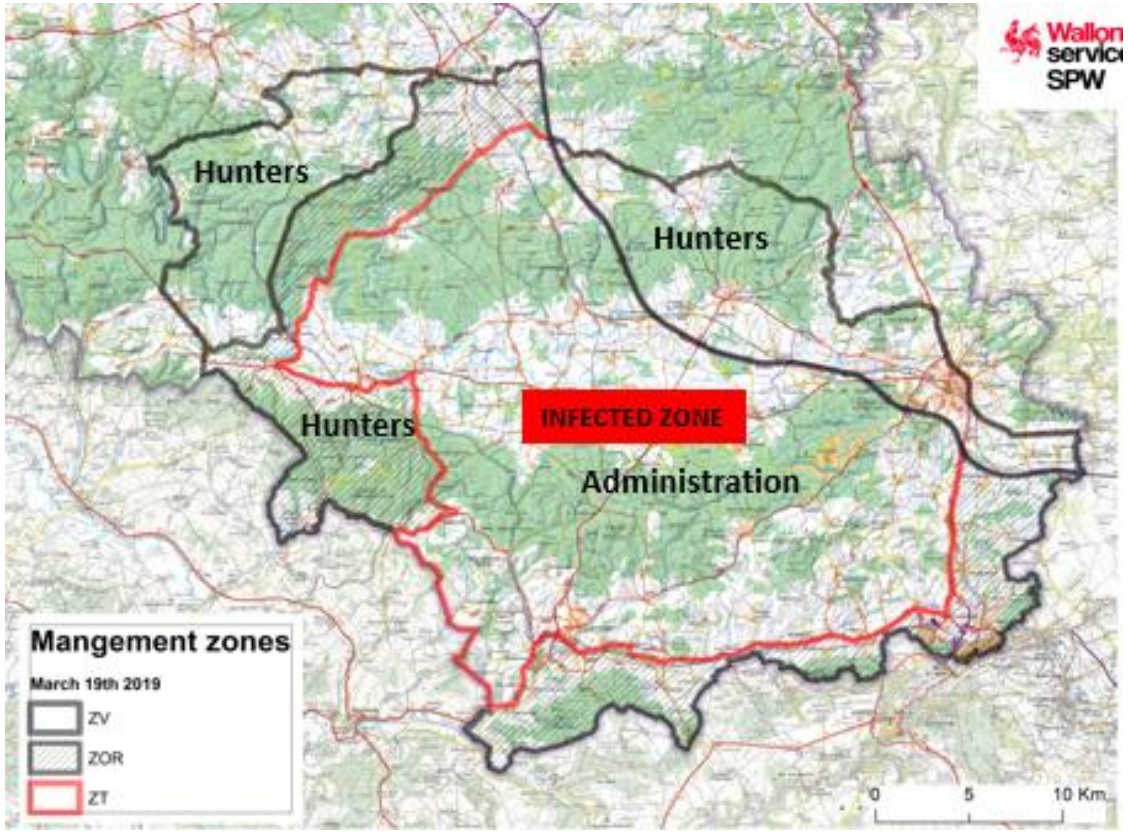
3. Fences

a network of concentric fences (~ 300 Km)
within and around the regulated zones II & I
connected ↔ France (120 Km) and ↔ GD Lux (40 Km)

Objectives :

- To slow down the progression of the disease
- To have « a fence-in-advance » on the disease
- To create corridors in which depopulation is facilitated



4. Depopulation

- Combination of different tools : culling / trapping / night shooting / single hunting on baiting points / driven hunts with or without dogs

- Specific restrictions according to epidemiological situation and fences

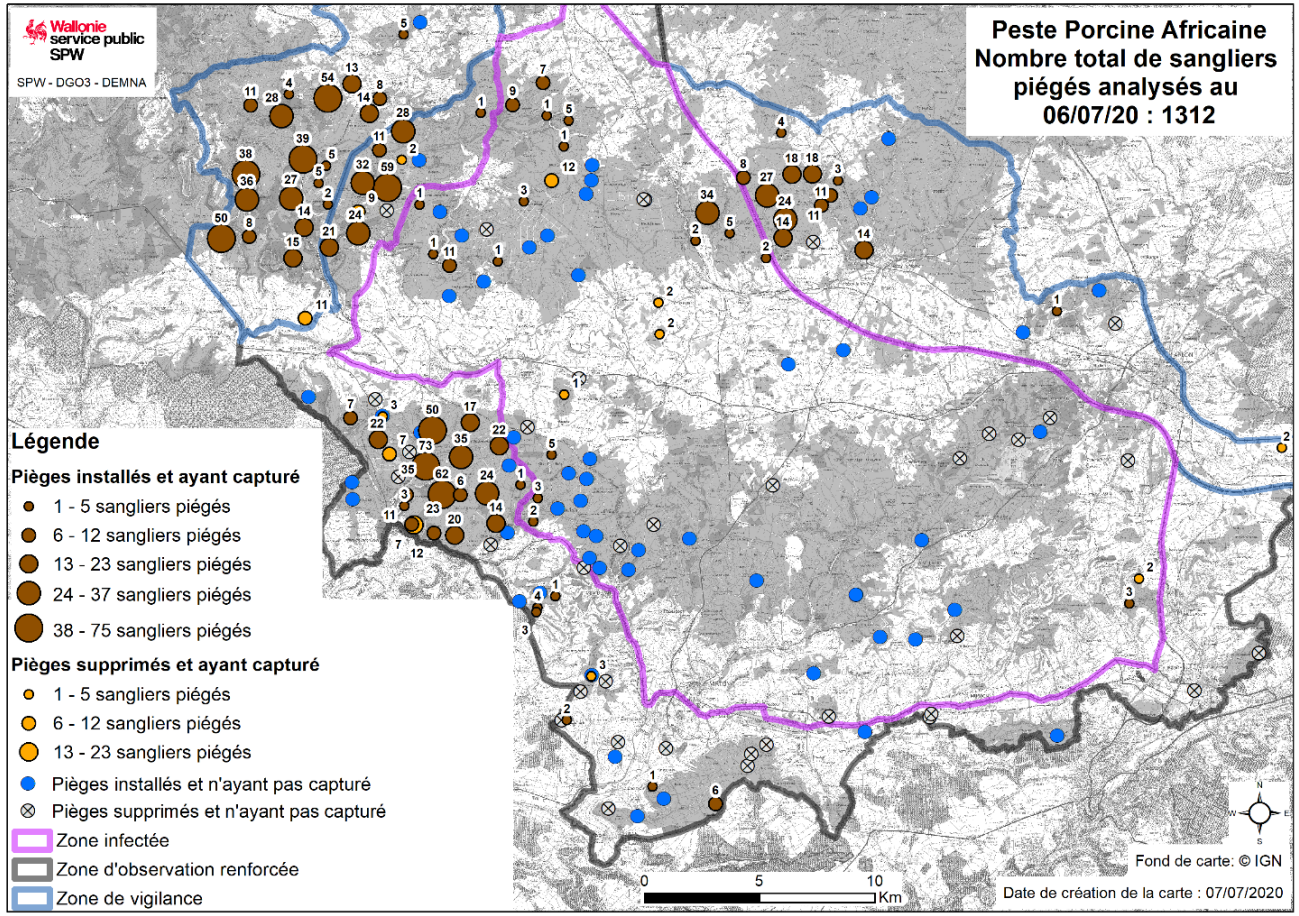
Objectives :

- Depopulation in the regulated EU Zones II & I
- 1106 km² including 517 forested km²

4. Depopulation

Night shots : > 600 night shots in zones II et I

- carried out by the regional administration
- strategic tool in post-epidemic phase in infected zone



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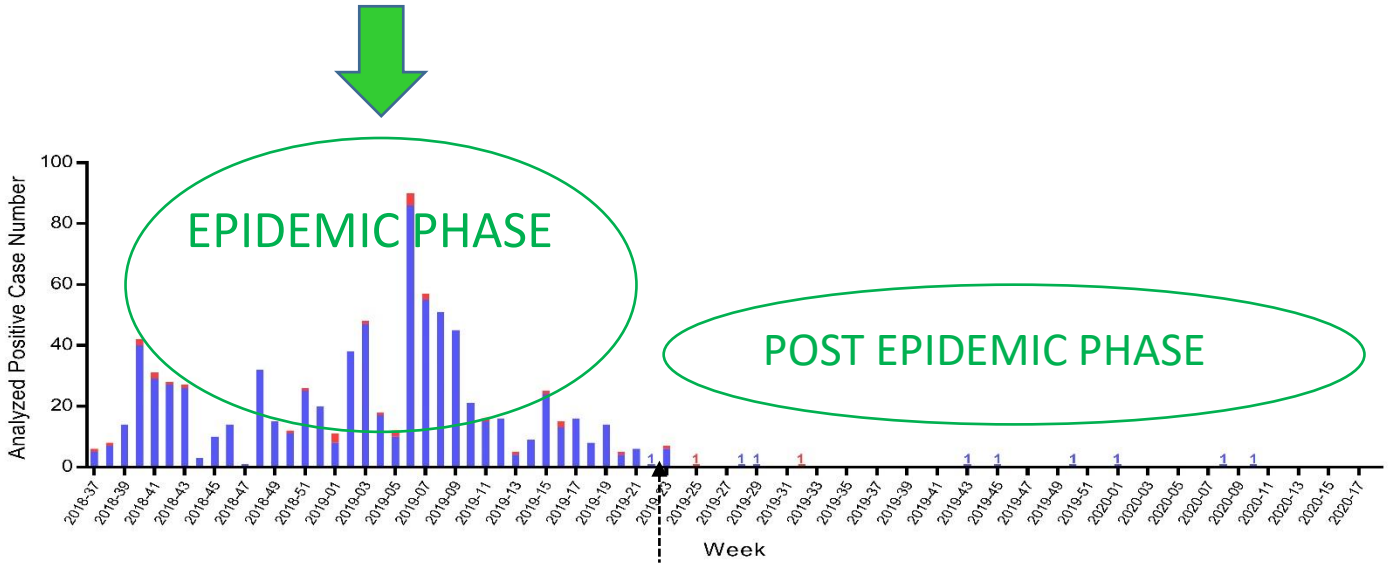
4. Depopulation

- Trap network (~ 160)
- 1339 WB trapped up to now (oct 2020)

4. Depopulation - strategy adapted to epidemiological situation



EPIDEMIC PHASE - Sept 2018 → April 2019

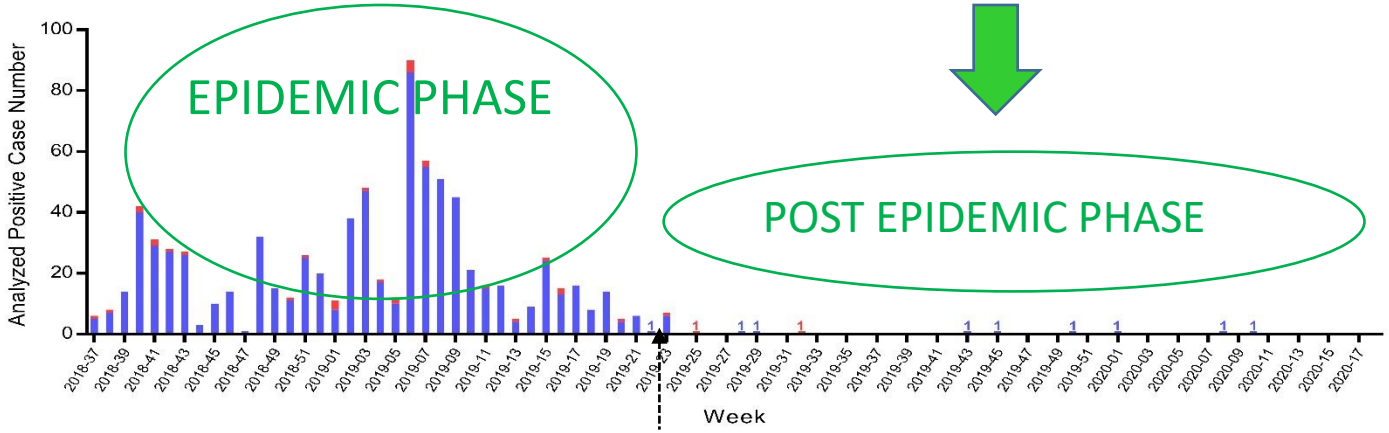
- infected zone (zone II)

Sept → Dec 2018 - total ban on hunting
Jan 2019 → - first night shots (inside fences)
- trapping

- non infected zone (zone I)

Nov to Dec 2018 : - driven hunts +/- dogs
- first trapping
Jan 2019 → mandatory driven hunts
- trapping

4. Depopulation - strategy adapted to epidemiological situation



POST EPIDEMIC PHASE - May 2019 → March 2020

- infected zone (zone II)

May → Dec 2019 - night shots everywhere including ZI

Jan → March 2020 - night shots stepped up

- non infected zone (zone I)

May → Sept 2019 - intensive trapping,
- night shots

Oct → Dec 2019 - driven hunts with dogs

Jan → March 2020 - night shots stepped up
- trapping

3 collection centres (1 in Zone II and 2 in Zone I)
the principal is in Zone II

5. Analysis process

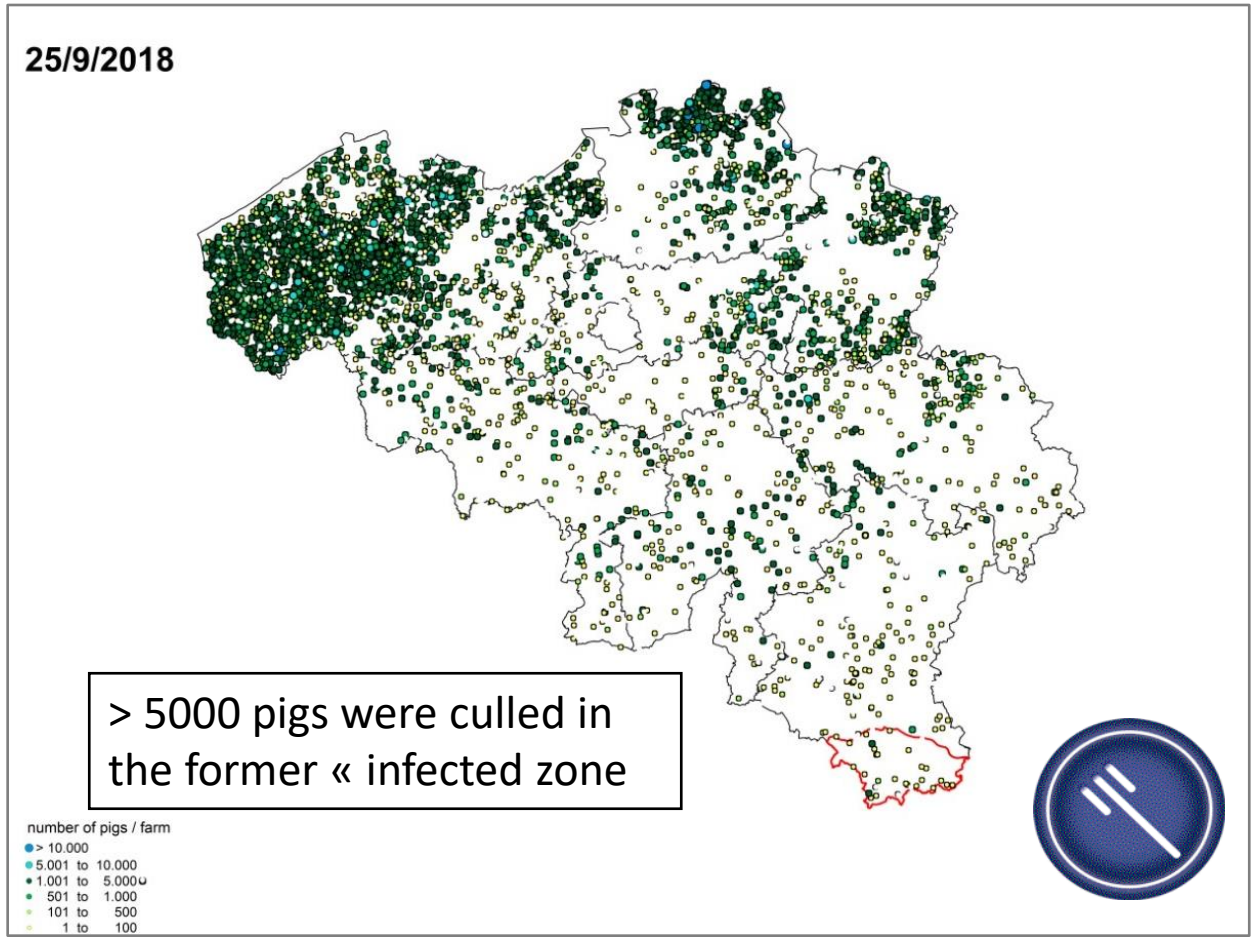
Zones II & I
Found dead/road killed/killed for sanitary reasons
Culled/trapped/night shot
100 % ASFV tested, 100 % to the rendering plant

Zone I
Hunted WB
20 % ASFV tested, 100 % to the rendering plant

Control strategies and adaptations
are based on virological results (qPCR ASFV from NRL)

Biosecurity measures respected

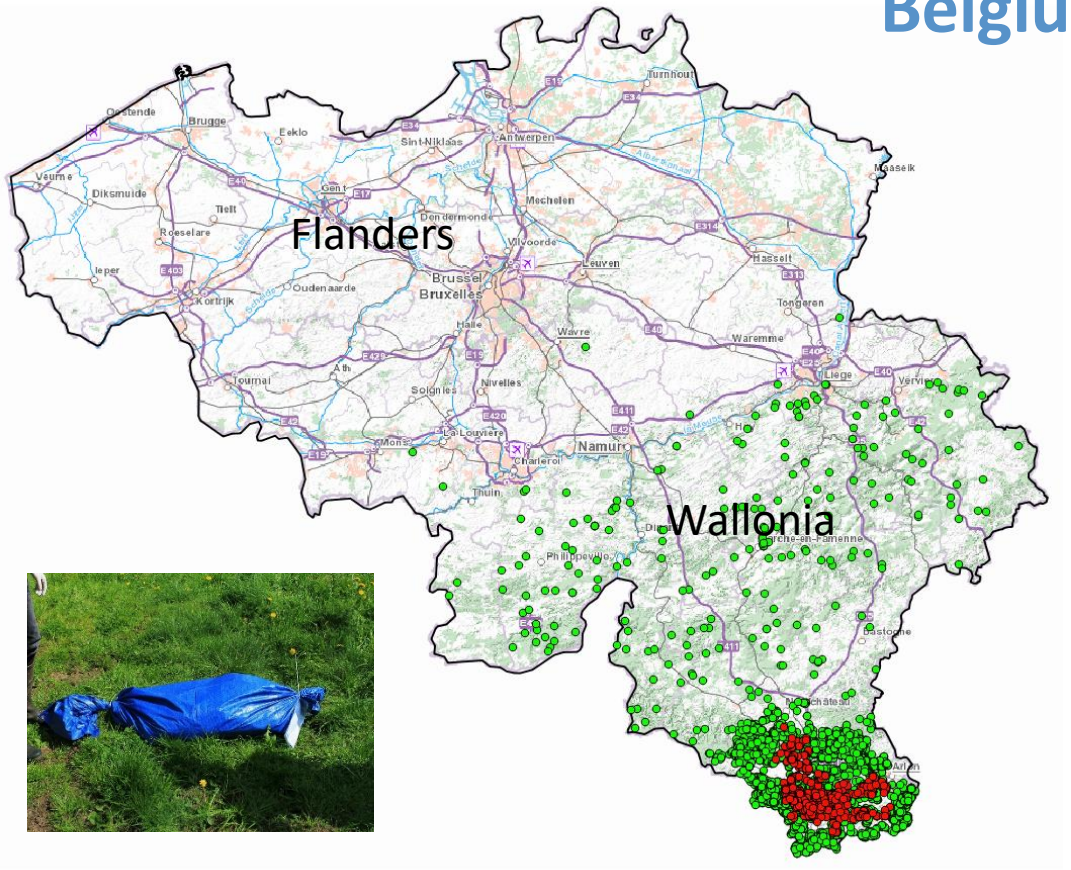
- Carcass removal
- Culling and trapping (incentives for hunters)
- Collection centres
- Forestry activities
- Transport of samples
- Transport of carcasses



There is no cases among domestic pigs in Belgium

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.
http://www.afsca.be/businesssectors/animalproduction/animalhealth/africanswinefever/#news

Belgium - surveillance in WB outside zones II & I



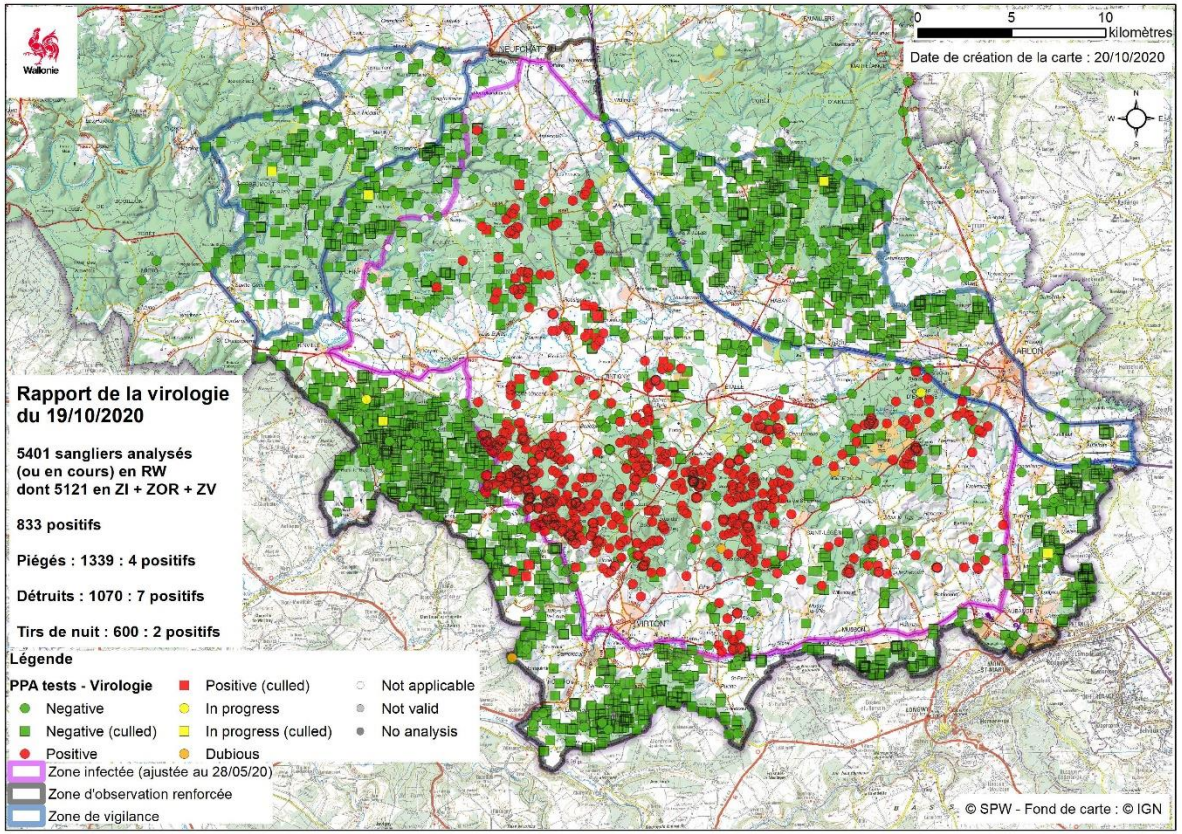
Flanders

all ASFV negative, source M. Vervaeke, ANB
Active surv : qPCR and ab Elisa

Wild boar	1/09/2018-31/12/2018	1/1/2019-31/12/2019	Total
Active surveillance	292	687	**979**
Passive surveillance	4	7	**11**

Wallonia

passive surveillance outside zones II & I
regional Hot line (1718) for carcass notification
team of 15 vets and forest rangers (biosecurity measures)
Samples to the NRL and packed carcass to the rendering plant
Up to now (oct 2020) : 280 found dead outside zones II & I and analysed all ASFV negative



Current situation in WB (oct 2020)

833 ASFV + cases in zone II

5401 qPCR analysis

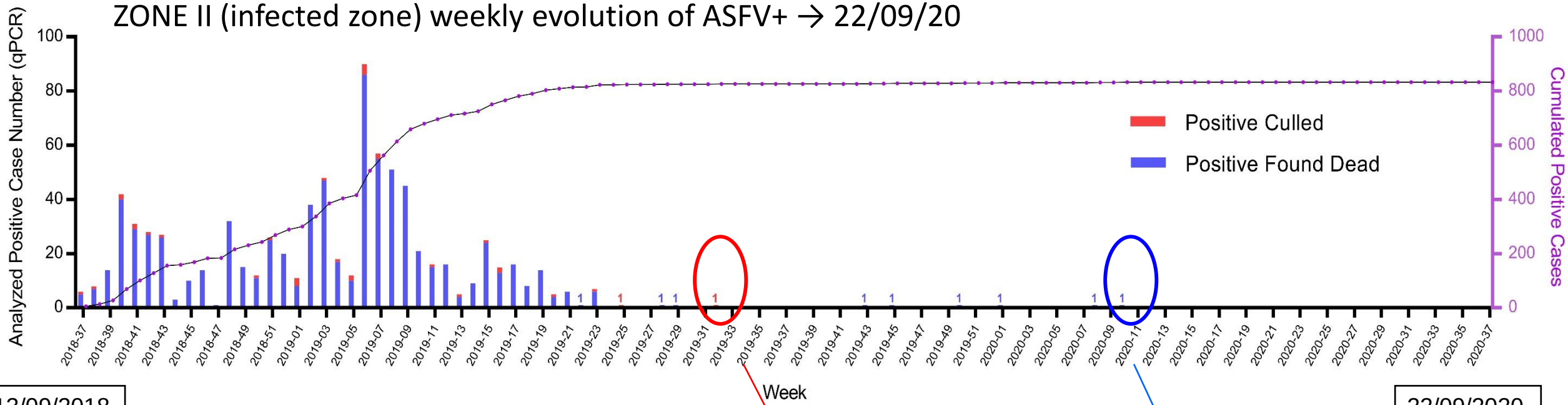
including 5121 in ASF zone (zones II & I)

Zone	qPCR ASFV	Context of death								Total
		Culled	Found dead	Hunted	Night shot	Poaching	Road casualty	Sanitary shot	Trapped	
ZONE II (May 2020)	Dubious	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
	In progress	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Negative	77	80	53	165	1	46	6	111	539
	not applicable - not valid	0	270	0	0	0	3	0	0	273
	POSITIVE	7	801	0	2	0	3	16	4	833*
	Total	84	1155	53	167	1	52	23	115	1650

96 %

- Since May 2020, the regulated zones were adapted (Zone II reduced)
- 833 : global result including 5 positive cases in ex zone II and now zone I

ZONE II (infected zone) weekly evolution of ASFV+ → 22/09/20



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Last fresh ASFV + August 2019

Last bone ASFV + March 2020

KEY POINTS

- **No cases in domestic pigs in Belgium**
- ASF-WB : up to now > 5400 WB ASFV qPCR analysed in Wallonia (oct 2020)

- **833 ASFV positive cases : all from the infected zone (EU zone II ~ 662 km^2)**
- Last fresh ASFV positive case (August 2019) and last ASFV positive bones (March 2020)
- Last active viral circulation estimated for September 2019

- Prevention (in pigs) and Control (in WB) strategies have so far proved effective in the medium term :
  - to maintain ASFV in WB and inside the infected zone
  - to prevent the introduction of ASFV into pig farms
- Control strategies in WB are a combination of tools adapted to the epidemiological situation and fences

- Active search/removal of carcasses (zone II) and depopulation (zones II & I) are maintained
- The authorities are keeping up the pressure to eradicate the disease and avoid an endemic situation
- Perspectives of eradication and free status recovery could be planned for the end of 2020

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Thank you for your attention