



Outcome of the ASF Forum, Ottawa and progress on recommendations

**10th Meeting of Regional Steering
Committee, GF-TADS for the Americas**

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Background: ASF Forum, Ottawa



- The African Swine Fever (ASF) Forum was held in Ottawa, Canada, on April 30 and May 1, 2019.
- The objective of the Forum was to advance regional cooperation in the prevention and mitigation of the impact of ASF in the Americas.
- *A Draft Framework for the Prevention and Control of African Swine Fever* was a starting point for building an enhanced understanding of the issues related to ASF.
- The Forum included panel presentations and discussions by ASF and animal health experts, industry, academia, regulators and other stakeholders.
- Table discussions were designed to elicit recommendations toward finalizing the Framework, as well as to strengthen and develop opportunities for collaboration.





Framework ASF Forum, Ottawa, April 2019

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER FORUM
FORUM DE LA PESTE PORCINE AFRICAINE
FORO DE LA PESTE PORCINA AFRICANA
 | 30 april · avril · abril · 1 may · mai · mayo 2019 |
 OTTAWA, CANADA

REVISED FRAMEWORK FOR THE PREVENTION & CONTROL OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER



OBJECTIVE: To prevent entry and mitigate the impacts of ASF in the Americas

FOUR PILLARS FOR ACTION BASED ON A FOUNDATION OF SCIENCE ▼

PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

1

Expected outcome: Countries have a high state of readiness to swiftly control ASF should it enter the Americas region.

ENHANCED BIOSECURITY

2

Expected outcome: Key biosecurity measures are in place to prevent the entry of ASF into the domestic and wild swine populations of the Americas, and mitigate its spread within these populations.

ENSURE BUSINESS CONTINUITY

3

Expected outcome: Mitigate the trade impacts of ASF on the swine sector, both nationally and internationally, while controlling and eradicating the disease.

COORDINATED RISK COMMUNICATIONS

4

Expected outcome: Effective risk communication on ASF with target audiences to encourage informed decision making, behaviour modification, and trust in governments and industry.

AREAS FOR ACTION

- Increase readiness by validating ASF preparedness plans and testing response capabilities through exercises involving all stakeholders.
- Find solutions to deficiencies in ASF response capabilities and planning gaps.
- Optimize rapid ASF detection in the Americas by ensuring capacity for surveillance.
- Develop the appropriate process and capacity for rapid risk assessment to identify risks for ASF and inform policy decision as situations evolve.
- Continue to collaborate internationally on critical ASF research with particular attention to the development of vaccines and other tools to prevent or respond to an ASF outbreak.

AREAS FOR ACTION

- Identify key threats, gaps, and best practices in national border biosecurity, including establishment of appropriate level of activity, informed by risk assessment.
- Establish coherent collaboration to ensure border authorities share intelligence and best practices to mitigate the entry.
- Foster collaboration and compliance to address biosecurity ensuring responsibilities of all stakeholders are identified.
- Involve stakeholders in government, industry, and academia to gain an understanding of the wild swine populations, and share best management practices at borders and the interface with domestic pigs.

AREAS FOR ACTION

- Ensure risk based movements of animals and animal products domestically to keep industry viable in the face of an outbreak.
- To provide guidance and technical support for the development of common standards for zone establishment to gain wider acceptance.
- Proactively negotiate the recognition of zoning approaches with trading partners to reduce impediments to trade.
- Work with international partners and the OIE to develop globally recognized and accepted guidance on the application of compartmentalization for ASF to gain wider acceptance, both in infected and uninfected countries.

AREAS FOR ACTION

- Develop a consistent approach and strategies to communicating risk, adapted to the specific needs and circumstances, including disease status, of various countries.
- Identify or develop platforms and mechanisms for ongoing coordination of messaging and for sharing of communications-related information between countries.
- Establish mechanisms for monitoring public narrative on ASF to ensure information in media and social media is accurate.
- Develop notification protocols to update partners on disease status.



PARTNERSHIPS

Leverage existing partnerships or build new ones to engage stakeholders in areas which require collaboration to attain expeditious and responsive solutions to manage ASF. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the partners in accordance with their respective mandate.



GOVERNANCE

Optimize the potential of existing governance mechanisms at international, regional, sub-regional and national levels to ensure effective coordination and co-operation among all parties to implement appropriate measures to achieve common objectives for the prevention and control of ASF.

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Key messages

- ✓ Americas countries are currently free of ASF, we have a **window of opportunity to act decisively in coordinated manner.**
- ✓ The **spread of this disease is human driven**, therefore, need engagement and **increased awareness among all stakeholders.**
- ✓ The **epidemiology of this disease is complex and unique** with persistence of the virus in pork meat products and survival in carcasses of wild pigs in the environment- **requires rigorous approaches to preparedness, biosecurity and environmental decontamination.**
- ✓ Need to **gain a much better understanding of the wild pig populations** in our countries and the Americas region as a whole.
- ✓ **Zoning and compartmentalization** are key tools to minimize trade disruptions and require **strong partnership between industry and veterinary services to implement**, ideally in peace time.
- ✓ The **real game changer** for control and eradication would be a **vaccine**. We need more investment to support research to get a vaccine to market for ASF.
- ✓ Use **existing partnerships and governance** to advance work on ASF **nationally, regionally and globally.**





- Countries should develop a **national action plan** for ASF prevention and control reflective of their pork sector and risk pathways.
- Under GF-TADS Americas Committee, **establish a Standing Group of Experts on ASF for the Americas** to build closer cooperation among countries to address preparedness and response to the disease in a collaborative and harmonized manner.
 - The multidisciplinary group requires expertise in: communications, biosecurity, destruction, disposal and decontamination, wild pig control, arthropod vectors, border security, epidemiology, disease modelling and laboratory science.





- **Promote a regional partnership** to share reference material, laboratory services, transfer diagnostic capacity to facilitate early detection of ASF in the Americas, and to advance the development of new rapid diagnostics, including field testing.
- **Conduct sub-regional exercises to test country preparedness plans for ASF** and share lessons learned across the region.
- **Request the OIE to develop specific guidance on the implementation of zoning and compartmentalization for ASF** and how to adapt these measures to different production systems.
- **Support and invest in the Global ASF Research Alliance to continue to coordinate international research efforts** to address gaps, in particular for the development a vaccine for ASF virus.





Key activities since the ASF Forum

- Shared the outcome of the ASF Forum with G7 CVOs, SGE-ASF Europe and meeting of OIE Delegates of the Americas in Paris, May, 2019
- Working with all stakeholders in Canada to develop a pan-Canadian National ASF Action Plan
- Initiated the development of a North American Strategy on ASF at North American Animal Health Committee meeting in August, 2019





Pan-Canadian National ASF Action Plan

- Executive level committee of leaders from all involved federal government departments, industry and provinces are developing a comprehensive plan for Canada.

Covers:

- Enhancing biosecurity
 - Strengthen import controls
 - Enhance on farm biosecurity
 - Wild Pig control plan
- Preparedness planning
 - Regional and international partnerships
 - Response plans and exercises
 - Surveillance for rapid detection, eradication, business continuity
 - Plan for humane depopulation and disposal
- Ensuring Business Continuity
 - Zoning recognition agreements in place with key partners
 - Developing process to approve compartments
 - Support to maintain a functional market
- Coordinated risk communication
- Research needs





North American Strategy on ASF

- Established a North American Working Group on ASF under the NAAHC
- Focus is on 4 main areas which reflect the framework developed in the ASF Forum which can be addressed on a sub-regional level:
 - Prevention planning and response
 - Harmonized surveillance
 - Improved surge capacity
 - North American exercise
 - Enhanced biosecurity
 - Border security
 - Wild pig management
 - Ensuring business continuity
 - Ensure risk-based movements of pigs and products
 - Coordinated risk communication
 - Develop consistent communication approach, strategies and plans





Next Steps

- This meeting and the formation of a SGE is an important next step to strengthen prevention efforts in the Americas
- We need to identify the activities which require a regional vs sub-regional vs national approach
- We should optimize our efforts by building on existing initiatives to address the emerging threats of ASF

We are all in this together!





**THANK YOU
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GRACIAS**

