When FMD goes wild…

Developing strategy and building capacity to holistically address animal health issues at the wildlife-livestock-human interface in Eastern and Central Europe

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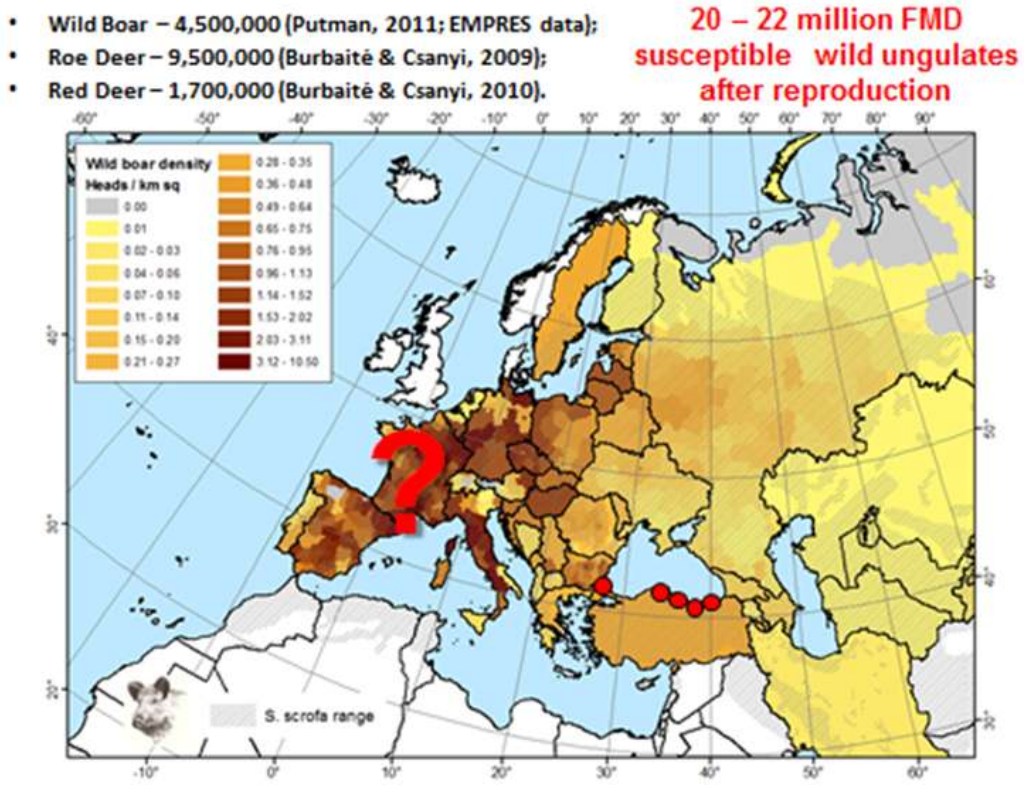
Background

- remarkable increase in Europe of wild boar, as well as other wild ungulate populations
- significantly increased epidemiological role (particularly that of wild boar), as actual (e.g. CSF, *trichinellosis*) or potential (e.g. ASF, FMD) host species for a range of important livestock and human pathogens

- threat for re-emergence, spread and maintenance of some endemic and exotic diseases



Recent examples

- FMD incursion to Bulgaria (2011),
- ASF epidemic in the Caucasus and Russian Federation (2007-2013),
- CSF outbreaks in Latvia and Lithuania and other European countries (2011-2013).

Radical solutions to these problems?

- Local extermination of wild boar as a species (Russia, Belarus), or
- building fences to create ecological barriers to discontinue wildlife populations, thus preventing spread of disease (Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland), seriously considered by the governments.

- unacceptable from ecological and economical standpoint these “simple” solutions do not solve the problem, but **rather create new ones**.

Instructions available

- EU legislation ???
- Scientific Opinion /Statement /Guidance of the Panel on AHAW on a request from Commission on “Control and eradication of Classical Swine Fever in wild boar”. The EFSA Journal (2009) 932, 1-18
- Guidelines on surveillance/monitoring, control and eradication of classical swine fever in wild boar European Commission, 2010 Document SANCO/7032/2010 (EC Homepageaddress: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/csf_en.htm)

Aims and objectives

- a comprehensive, holistic approach to address the “wild boar/wildlife problem”.
- Scientifically sound population management and wildlife health status control strategies, based on the best available knowledge, standardized and officially accepted on the pan-European scale (both in EU and non-EU countries);
- practical solutions to the disease surveillance, prevention and control efforts, including use of innovative techniques, methods and management options that are to be disseminated and incorporated into the routine work of wildlife/hunting communities

Experience so far….

- Plan for FMD control in wildlife/ BG
- Surveillance for FMD in wild boar in Thrace and Anatolia /BG,TUR
- Laboratory trials for FMD surveillance in wild boar/FLI
- Wild boar telemetry study /BG
- Trials on NI sampling /BG, SER, FLI, Nepal
- Game collection centers in case of epidemics in wildlife/GER, BG
- Trapping as alternative method to eradicate disease /BG
- Data on wildlife attendance at feeding sites and salt licks/BG

Issues addressed

- Early detection
- Standardized baits for NI sampling
- How often samples have to be recovered? (Daily/weekly/monthly)
- Evaluate the virus resistance in baits by different climates (cold vs hot temperature)
- What type of data do we need to create a database?
- Role of the WB population density
- Studying in detail the movements of each single tracked WB and its home range analysis

- interactions between different WB social groups
- interaction between wildlife population and livestock
- monitoring FMD antibody titers in wildlife
- training courses on wildlife management for farmers, hunters, veterinarians
- training courses for detection of FMD clinical signs for farmers, hunters, veterinarians
- more investigations to define the nature of FMD-like lesions in wildlife

Do we need an EuFMD adhoc group for Wildlife diseases?

Possible activities:

- NI surveillance – compile and compare
- Design and review studies on NI surveillance and wild boar/wildlife ecology/interactions
- Perform statistical analyses on the data already collected on wild boar tracking and ecology
- Publish all results

Wildlife Manual

Collate available knowledge based on the experience with disease control in wildlife in Europe into a **comprehensive manual**, including:

- host species distribution and ecology relevant to selected diseases;
- population monitoring techniques;
- surveillance protocols and recommendations;
- options for control/management/prevention of specific diseases;
- wise wildlife population management options and solutions;
- food safety, socio-economical, legal, cultural, animal welfare aspects etc.

Training activities

trainings to build up capacity and expertise among veterinary specialists, wildlife professionals, forestry/hunting authorities and on how to detect and deal with wildlife health issues

- *theoretical and practical issues in disease and disease ecology,*
- *outbreak management*
- *wildlife management,*
- *non-invasive surveillance*
- *bio-security etc.*