



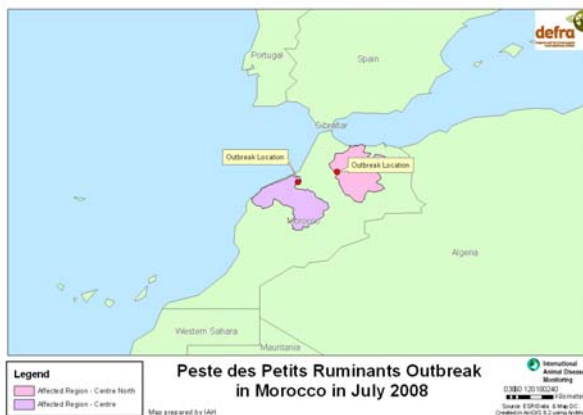
Ref: VITT 1200/PPR - Morocco
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Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Morocco

Note: Defra's International Animal Health (IAH) monitors outbreaks of specified animal diseases around the world. Peste des petits ruminants is among those diseases of major concern that would have a significant impact if introduced into the UK.

Introduction

The Moroccan veterinary authorities reported that Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) has been detected in sheep in the centre and centre-north provinces of Morocco (OIE, 2008) (see map 1). This is the first recorded outbreak of PPR in the country. Control measures are in place and apply to the whole of the country (OIE, 2008).

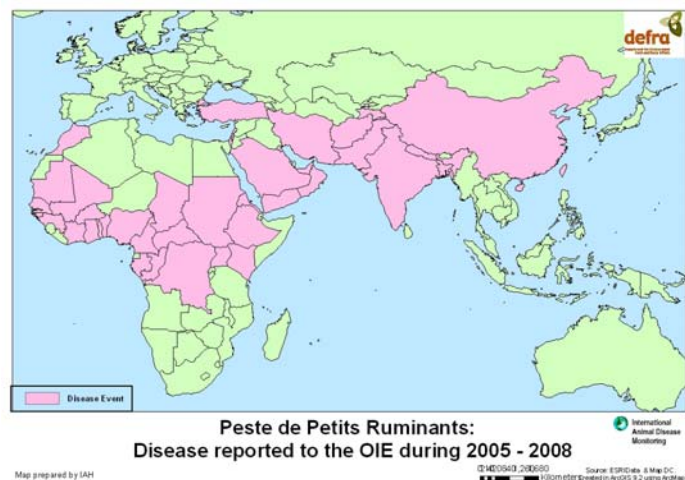


Situation Assessment

PPR is a disease of domestic and wild goats and sheep. The virus is transmitted through close contact between animals. The virus may be spread through contaminated bedding, food and equipment, although this is considered unlikely as the virus is inactivated quickly in the environment (OIE 2002).

PPR has been reported from parts of sub-Saharan Africa and in the Middle East and southern Asia (OIE 2008a) (see map 2).

Morocco is not on the EU approved list for importation to the EU of live ruminants or their products. Personal imports of meat of ruminants or meat products are not permitted from Morocco.



Conclusion

Based on the disease report and situation assessment, the likelihood of the introduction of PPR by legal trade from Morocco to the UK before and after this outbreak is considered to be negligible. Nevertheless, this emphasises the importance of implementing and maintaining appropriate control measures with regard to illegal imports to mitigate potential risks. Currently, we do not intend to carry out and publish a full risk assessment on this outbreak and will continue to monitor the situation.

References

- OIE (2008) Peste des petits ruminants, Morocco. OIE Alert Message MAR 23-07-08. Received by e mail Wednesday 23/07/08.
- OIE, (2008a). Disease Timelines: Peste des petits ruminants. http://www.oie.int/wahid/prod/public.php?page=disease_timelines. Accessed 24 July 2008.
- OIE. (2002). Technical Disease Card. Peste des petits ruminants. http://www.oie.int/eng/maladies/fiches/a_A050.htm. Accessed 24 July 2008.