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## Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in China

**Note:** Defra's International Trade Core Function (ITCF) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) is among those diseases of major concern.

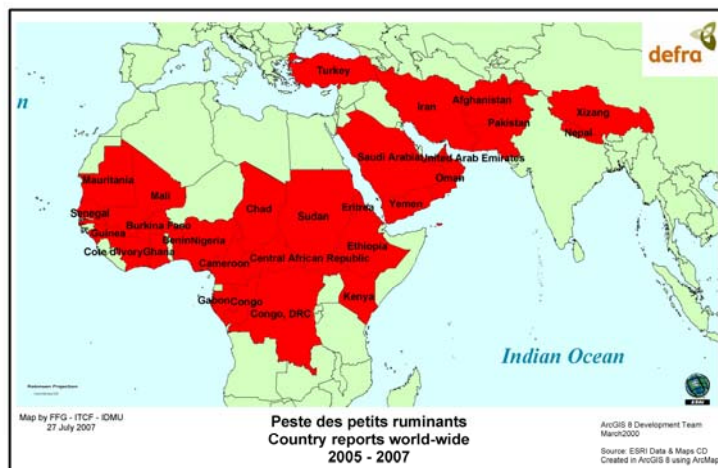
### 1 Disease Report

China has reported an outbreak of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in goats in Longmenka, Ritu, Xizang (Tibet, see map 1). The outbreak was first suspected on 20 July 2007 and confirmed on 25 July. This is the first recorded outbreak of PPR in China (OIE, 2007).



### 2 Situation assessment

PPR is widespread in parts of Africa, the Middle East and parts of Western Asia (see map 2 for countries affected since 2005). This new development is not surprising in view of the current distribution of affected countries in the Middle East and Asia. The location of the outbreak is near the eastern part of the 'Eurasian ruminant street', a narrow corridor with dense populations of ruminants that extends from south Asia, south of the Caspian Sea and to the Mediterranean region (Slingenbergh and others, 2004). This forms a suitable pathway for the dispersal of ruminant diseases such as sheep pox and goat pox, PPR and foot and mouth disease.



### 3 Conclusions

PPR is transmitted through close contact between animals. PPR may be spread through contaminated bedding, food and equipment but this is considered unlikely as the virus is quickly killed in the environment. The legal import of live ruminants from China into the UK is not permitted under EU rules.

### 4 References

- OIE. (2007). Peste des petits ruminants, China (People's Rep. of). OIE Alert Message CHN 27-07-07. Received by e-mail Friday 27/07/2007 at 09:59.
- Slingenbergh, J., Gilbert, M., de Balogh, K., & Wint, W. (2004). Ecological sources of zoonotic diseases. Scientific and Technical Review, World Organisation for Animal Health, 2004, 23 (2): 467-484.