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## MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP) REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

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Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional  
Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre  
for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.41/INF.10

Date: 24 April 2017

Malta, 23-25 May 2017

Original: English

Agenda Item 15

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN OILED WILDLIFE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

#### Note by the Sea Alarm Foundation

#### SUMMARY

**Executive Summary:** This document is an information paper summarising recent developments in international oiled wildlife preparedness and response, prepared by the Sea Alarm foundation (a member of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit).

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 15

**Related document:** REMPEC/WG.41/4

#### Background

1 REMPEC and the Sea Alarm Foundation have in place a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which allows Sea Alarm to participate in the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) on request of a Contracting Party. Sea Alarm's membership in the MAU is to help in enhancing the capability of the Contracting Parties in responding to oiled wildlife incidents. The objective of the MoU is to facilitate the mobilization of wildlife response expertise in case of the activation of the MAU by REMPEC following a request for assistance by a Contracting Party to the Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention.

2 The MoU also allows for Contracting Parties to seek Sea Alarm's expertise in the development of national contingency plans, particularly regarding protection of sensitive species, and related operational procedures to be implemented in cases of emergency. The MoU also allows for Sea Alarm to support and participate in relevant training activities organised by REMPEC in the Mediterranean region. In the interests of visibility and sharing of information, Sea Alarm has linked its Country Wildlife Response Profiles providing national data on oiled wildlife response to the corresponding Country profiles of REMPEC's website (sections response strategy and expertise). Sea Alarm's country profiles are available at <http://www.sea-alarm.org/publications/country-wildlife-response-profiles/>.

3 This information paper provides an update on recent international developments in oiled wildlife preparedness and response, namely:

- .1 European Module for oiled wildlife response (EUROWA) project finalised.
- .2 First phase of Global Oiled Wildlife Response System (GOWRS) completed.
- .3 The IPIECA/OGP Good Practice Guide on Oiled Wildlife Response Preparedness
- .4 Self-assessment Tool for oiled wildlife preparedness.

### **European Module for Oiled Wildlife Response (EUROWA) project finalised**

4. Sea Alarm, together with four (4) partners and three (3) subcontractors has recently completed the two-year EUROWA project co-financed by the European Commission, via the European Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). EUROWA aims to develop a Module (experts and their equipment according to UCPM terminology) that can be mobilised by European Member States via the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) to assist with oiled wildlife response within Europe or elsewhere in the world. Information about the project and its partners (including a layman's report) can be viewed at <http://www.oiledwildlife.eu/eurowa>. The main outcomes of the project are outlined below.

5. A Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) has been developed and is now available to guide a mobilisation of the EUROWA team and equipment. The SOP details the notification and mobilisation processes for the EUROWA team and the requesting country, including the requirements of the requesting country in contracting, hosting and integrating the Module team into its national response system. The SOP is available for download under <http://www.oiledwildlife.eu/eurowa/publications>.

6. The EUROWA project partners have also created a suite of oiled wildlife response training packages which are now available for persons interested to build their competency in oiled wildlife response and gradually gain the qualifications required to become a qualified member of an international Team. The EUROWA courses were built on the basic training created in 2012-2013 for initial first aid of oiled wildlife via the Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline cleanup and Oiled Wildlife interventions (POSOW) project. EUROWA course packages combine lectures, hands-on training, skill labs, exercises and evaluation of individual skills. Packages have been developed at the following levels:

- .1 ADVANCED Oiled Wildlife Responder
- .2 SPECIALIST Oiled Wildlife Responder
- .3 SECTION HEAD
- .4 MANAGER
- .5 SPECIALIST Veterinarian

7. The newly developed courses have been delivered during the project to a number of individuals from different European countries who would like to be accredited and listed for inclusion in the Module in case of call-out. The courses are now available for other interested persons (inside and outside of Europe) who wish to build their competency in oiled wildlife response. Sea Alarm holds a central electronic database of trained persons, as a resource to call on in the event of emergencies.

8. The project also prepared a stockpile of Sea Alarm-owned oiled wildlife response equipment for integration into the Module. The stockpile, which is housed in Germany, has been evaluated, supplemented with extra supplies, exercised, and electronically catalogued and prepared for mobilisation as part of the EUROWA project. This stockpile is also available for European responses.

9. The EU-funded phase of the EUROWA project was completed at the end of 2016. The EUROWA Module can now be considered for inclusion in the UCPM and an increasing number of individuals can be trained towards the qualifications defined by the project. In their own countries, these individuals can act as first responders. Outside of their country, they can assist their wildlife responder colleagues, as requested, through their authorities. With everyone performing to the same international standards and procedures, countries will be increasingly effective in dealing professionally with oiled wildlife incidents of larger complexity. A EUROWA network of organisations will be created via the MoU system that has been developed as part of the project, and via this network, individual responders can obtain EUROWA qualifications.

### **First phase of Global Oiled Wildlife Response System completed**

10. Sea Alarm, together with ten (10) project partners, has recently completed the first phase of a project on behalf of oil industry to explore and design a global Tier-3 system for oiled wildlife response. The project aims to align the world's leading wildlife response organisations and define a robust system that can be activated by the oil industry. The ten (10) project partners represent ten (10) oiled wildlife response organisations around the world, including three (3) European groups who took part in the EUROWA project.

11 The project, funded by IPIECA/OGP under the Joint Industry Project (JIP 20) was run in 2015 and 2016. It has developed its own Standard Operating Procedure for notification, mobilization, operational activities and demobilization and has written standards for Animal Care Principles, which will be published by IPIECA. A Road map for developing global readiness in terms of expertise and equipment was also developed.

12 From 2017, the development of the GOWRS is now housed under a new project, funded by the oil industry members of Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL). This phase, which will end in 2018, is known as the beta phase in which the same project group will refine and further test the systems developed in the previous phase. To that end, activities in 2017-2018 will focus on expanding the quality and volume of oiled wildlife responders that can be called upon to assist in an oil industry callout. Activities will include determining competencies and training requirements for responders, exercising oiled wildlife response as part of oil spill response exercises and making assessments of requirements and recommendations for global equipment stockpiles. This phase will also agree and determine the formal governance structure of the response system network in the future.

### **Joint industry guideline for oiled wildlife response preparedness**

13 In December 2016 the oil industry finalised a joint industry programme (JIP) that was initiated in the aftermath of the Macondo incident in 2010. As part of that programme, in which a myriad of assessments and innovative products were developed, the so called IPIECA/OGP Good Practice Guide on Wildlife Response Preparedness was published. The guide, written by a team of leading experts coordinated by Sea Alarm, is bringing together the cutting edge knowledge from all parts of the world with regards the building of reliable and integrated response capabilities to deal effectively with oiled wildlife incidents. The guide was designed to assist those responsible for developing oiled wildlife preparedness for their company or country and can be downloaded at <http://www.oilspillresponseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/GPG-Wildlife-response-preparedness.pdf>.

### **Self-assessment Tool for oiled wildlife preparedness**

14 A Self-assessment Tool has been created by Sea Alarm and is now available as a way for countries to measure their level of oiled wildlife preparedness. The idea to create this Tool originated in HELCOM RESPONSE (under the framework of the Helsinki Convention for Protection of the Baltic Sea), within their Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response. The Tool was created on the basis of the principles laid out in the IPIECA/OGP Good Practice Guide referred to in paragraph 13 above. HELCOM RESPONSE has adopted the Self-assessment Tool as a way for countries (leading authorities and their partner wildlife response organisations) to make an assessment of their current level of oiled wildlife preparedness, so providing a benchmark for countries to assess their progress as part of a multi-stakeholder discussion involving all relevant parties. The Tool, which can be found in the **Annex** to this document, allows countries to identify where gaps need to be filled and, through sharing outcomes regionally, to learn from neighbours who are progressing better in some areas, and monitoring progress in their joint objective to further develop regional preparedness. The OTSOPA group (under the framework of the Bonn Agreement for protection of the North Sea) at their meeting in 2016 has also adopted the Self-assessment Tool for reporting purposes.

### **Action requested by the Meeting**

15 **The Meeting is invited to take note** of the information provided in the present document.



**ANNEX**

**Sea Alarm**

**Oiled Wildlife Preparedness**

**Self assessment tool**

**February 2017**





**Oiled Wildlife Preparedness**  
**Self assessment tool February 2016**

Introduction

In 2015 IPIECA published the Good Practice Guide on Oiled Wildlife Preparedness. The guide can be used as a guide for industry and governments to develop a level of preparedness for oiled wildlife response that meets an international standard of good practice. It describes the nature of an oiled wildlife incident and the various challenges that responders may be confronted with, and provides recommendations for response plan development and the implementation of such a plan.

This Self Assessment Tool has been developed as an instrument that countries can use to assess their current level of preparedness against what could be considered as a “world class” system of preparedness, or at least a “good basis”.

Guidance for use

The table on the next page provides various statements on systems that have been created or activities that are taking place in a country's intention to develop a higher level of preparedness. Five categories are provided: Planning and integration, Exercises, Training, Equipment and facilities, Partnering and funding. Each column in the table provide statements that signify an increasing level of preparedness from left to right, leading to the world class preparedness in the rightmost column. In each cell of the table two or three statements are presented that can be ticked if the statement applies to the situation in a particular country. Horizontally statements appear in different text colours, to assist filling in the table and comparing statements of similar nature in each column. **Double click to tick a box** (via a dialogue screen).

The user should aim to tick the most relevant description comparing statements of the same colour in each category, and working through the table so that each horizontal line of statements will have one tick.

Once completed the position of the ticks will provide an indication how the preparedness level can be assessed. The overall judgment should be the column in which the gravity of the ticks have been put.

The way the statements are formulated is in such way that it they give guidance on how to improve to a higher level by simply reading what would be required for being able to tick the next statement to the right in the same text colour.

In order to reach a more graphical expression of the overall preparedness, figure 1 on the third page can be used. An example is provided in figure 2. Again it is to put a dot where the gravity of the score per category lies.

The figures of different countries in a geographical region can be used in one overview, showing relative strengths and weaknesses.

Good luck and be honest!





| Needed for (cost) effective oiled wildlife response | To be initiated  | Important gaps to be filled  | Strong basis   | World class   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Planning and integration</b>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR<br><input type="checkbox"/> No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness<br><input type="checkbox"/> It is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.  | <input type="checkbox"/> It is recognized that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet<br><input type="checkbox"/> One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet<br><input type="checkbox"/> A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what   | <input type="checkbox"/> A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet<br><input type="checkbox"/> All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision<br><input type="checkbox"/> All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks  | <input type="checkbox"/> OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget<br><input type="checkbox"/> Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate<br><input type="checkbox"/> Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and budget; Risks are managed  |
| <b>Exercises</b>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> No OWR exercises take place<br><input type="checkbox"/> There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises<br><input type="checkbox"/> The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon   | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises  | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response<br><input type="checkbox"/> Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training<br><input type="checkbox"/> Exercises are structural but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build up and operations of a facility has not been held to date  | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan together<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working<br><input type="checkbox"/> There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme  |
| <b>Training</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders<br><input type="checkbox"/> There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses<br><input type="checkbox"/> There are parties interested in being trained   | <input type="checkbox"/> Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions<br><input type="checkbox"/> Training at different levels (convergent responder, advanced responder, section heads, manager) is recognized, but training is limited to the volunteer (convergent) level.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Management roles are not trained  | <input type="checkbox"/> Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations<br><input type="checkbox"/> Training at most levels is recognised and taking place<br><input type="checkbox"/> Training packages aim at international standards allowing trained staff to assist abroad if called upon  | <input type="checkbox"/> Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations is offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios<br><input type="checkbox"/> A centrally coordinated training programme is aiming at delivering responders at all levels and ensuring various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Trained staff are qualified according to international standards to assist with training other responders or responders abroad   |
| <b>Equipment and facilities</b>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent  | <input type="checkbox"/> It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, relating to relatively unchallenging incident scenarios<br><input type="checkbox"/> Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made  | <input type="checkbox"/> The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and scripts and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed<br><input type="checkbox"/> Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers   | <input type="checkbox"/> The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated<br><input type="checkbox"/> Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme  |
| <b>Partnering and funding</b>                       | <input type="checkbox"/> No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development<br><input type="checkbox"/> It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions<br><input type="checkbox"/> There is a high reliance on quality tier-3 resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate a tier-3 team have not been discussed or described. | <input type="checkbox"/> Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available<br><input type="checkbox"/> Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions<br><input type="checkbox"/> Quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described | <input type="checkbox"/> A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. Still it is expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level<br><input type="checkbox"/> Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR<br><input type="checkbox"/> The assistance from quality tier-3 resources have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme | <input type="checkbox"/> A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme<br><input type="checkbox"/> A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking<br><input type="checkbox"/> The assistance from quality tier-3 resources is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested |



Figure 1: diagram in which scores can be put



Figure 2: Example

