



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



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

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

REMPEC/WG.61/INF.7  
08 April 2025  
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Sliema, Malta, 13-15 May 2025

**Agenda Item 6: Illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships**

**Strengthening oiled wildlife preparedness and response**

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REMPEC  
Malta, 2025

### **Note by SEA ALARM**

This paper provides an update on recent international developments, and capability development on assistance that can be provided by Sea Alarm and EUROWA. It will provide details on a current project, EUROWILD that further helps to strengthen the network and increases it's training portfolio.

## **Background**

1 An MOU between REMPEC and Sea Alarm makes Sea Alarm's advisory services available to Contracting Parties via the activation of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (see details [here](#)). Outside of incidents and with the help of REMPEC, the MoU facilitates Sea Alarm's assistance to CPs in the development of oiled wildlife contingency plans, particularly regarding protection of sensitive species, and the activation and management of an operational wildlife response. CPs can also work with Sea Alarm in developing training activities or exercises.

2 The European EUROWA network of oiled wildlife response experts is coordinated by Sea Alarm and can be activated to assist in an incident via REMPEC and soon via CECIS. EUROWA has membership of tens of expert organisations in a growing number of countries and provides professional oiled wildlife assistance in incidents on the basis of tiered response. Expanding the EUROWA network in the Mediterranean and developing capabilities via planning, training and exercises is part of the Mediterranean Strategy.

## **Update on international developments**

3 Sea Alarm and the EUROWA Network can support Contracting Parties in achieving actions from CSO 1 of the Mediterranean Strategy Prevent, prepare for, and respond to, operational, illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships, in the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). When it comes to action 1.2.1 regarding the increase of knowledge by delivering training, EUROWA has got a complete portfolio of training courses which continues growing with the new EU funded Project EUROWILD and are available for Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties on request.

4 The EUROWILD project (EUROpean Oiled Wildlife response Life-long learning Development) is an EU-funded project under the Erasmus+ programme. Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe and this project has a focus on training.

5 The project provides an important financial contribution to the work of the EUROWA network (which does not have its own operating budget) and its ability to assist European governments to deal with oiled wildlife incidents.

6 The project will last for 2 years, from 01/12/24 to 30/11/26. It is coordinated by Sea Alarm, assisted by four partners from the EUROWA network: WWF Finland, Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend (Belgium), ProBird (Germany) and Submon (Spain).

7 More information about the project can be found [here](#) but find below some highlights that might be of special interest to CP of the Barcelona Convention:

8 **EUROWA Network meeting event (Altafulla, Spain – November 2025)**

9 **Develop new EUROWA online BASIC responder course:** this course is the continuation to the Oiled Wildlife Response Course developed during the POSOW I / II projects.

10 **Authority wildlife preparedness workshop (2026):** aimed at strengthening cooperation between oiled wildlife authorities and NGOs (EUROWA members and others) with a focus on the Baltic region but participation of countries which have currently representation in the EUROWA Network is considered (Spain and the EUROWA Organisation Submon).

11 **Webinar - How can Europe improve wildlife preparedness (2026):** the Webinar is planned for 2026, for authorities, wildlife experts, NGOs. The course will be advertised via REMPEC and

Social Media communications in due course.

12 All Project outcomes will be shared with REMPEC at the end of the project.

13 As for action 1.3.4 from the Mediterranean Strategy Action Plan regarding the development of *a framework for holistic integrated management*, Sea Alarm and EUROWA provide the Barcelona Convention CPs with tools and guidelines explaining the importance of applying an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to wildlife emergency management, and ways to develop it.

14 We would like to provide here a brief summary of several resources available to CP in order to increase their wildlife response preparedness:

15 **Sea Alarm's Self Assessment Tool**: the SAT has been recently completed, together with the RETOS™ tool by some CP during REMPEC's activities supporting the completion of national self-assessments of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (2019-2023). We encourage CP to continue the work carried out with the completion of those SAT and to share the data with Sea Alarm by transferring it into the Online version of the SAT. It is Sea Alarm's hope that the tool may be more widely adopted by contracting parties in the future as a way to support ongoing wildlife response preparedness activities within the Mediterranean Action Plan. The SAT could be used as a monitoring tool to assess wildlife preparedness levels in the region in a similar way as it is currently used by the HELCOM Contracting Parties where the SAT is used to measure their preparedness and learn from each other in areas where they are making progress.

16 **The Future of Professional Oiled Wildlife Response in Europe Document**: provides European coastal authorities with information that helps them to prepare better for marine wildlife emergencies. The document also lays out action plans at different levels, including national authorities and regional agreements.

17 **Guidelines for exercise development**: document providing guidelines for scheduling and designing exercises helping to develop in-country wildlife preparedness.

18 **Education materials** that can be used by authorities to understand and be prepared for challenges that may be connected to visible impacts of incidents on marine wildlife in the public domain and the reaction of the public. These include a set of e-learning Modules and a set of short, animated films.

19 **WildX Wildlife Tabletop Exercise package**: a very rich tool to educate authorities and other stakeholders on wildlife operational management, allowing these stakeholders to playfully explore oiled wildlife response challenges as a way to better identify issues that need to be solved as part of the wildlife planning process.

20 All this material and some other resources are available from the '[Authorities area](#)' in the EUROWA website.

### **Actions requested by the Meeting**

21 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **comment** as deemed appropriate.

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