



Report on wildlife response activities and preparedness by the HELCOM Expert Group on Wildlife Response (EG Wildlife) 2021–2022


Baltic Marine Environment
Protection Commission

Response to spills



2023





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1 Introduction

The HELCOM Expert Group on Wildlife Response (EG Wildlife) works to strengthen the cooperation between HELCOM Contracting Parties (Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden). in the field of oiled wildlife response. It acts as a forum for the exchange of information on progress and best practices and facilitates the creation of joint standards and cross-border cooperation in oiled wildlife response. Where possible, it also facilitates the training of national experts and exchange of training materials.

Since January 2022, EG Wildlife has incorporated all functions of the former HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR).

The EWG OWR was set up in 2014 with the aim to facilitate the implementation of [HELCOM Recommendation 31/E/6](#) on integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea Area, and the objectives on wildlife response preparedness of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Meetings of the EG Wildlife are organised online one to two times per year and HELCOM Contracting Parties are actively taking part and contributing to the discussions. The Terms of Reference 2022-2023 for EG Wildlife can be found [here](#).

This report summarises the results of the EWG OWR and EG Wildlife meetings and consultations in 2021-2022. It also includes updates on the national state of Wildlife Response Preparedness as provided by several countries according to templates agreed by the group. An online seminar was also organised in April 2021 on euthanasia of wildlife during an oil spill incident. These are also summarised below.

2 OWR activities and current level of preparedness

This report contains an overview of the OWR activities in 2021-2022 by the Contracting Parties (CPs) and an overview of the level of oiled wildlife response preparedness using the online [Self-Assessment Tool \(SAT\)](#). The SAT was approved by RESPONSE 25-2018 as a reporting tool for OWR. It was converted to an online format in 2021, using the same questions and criteria as the previous excel version 2.0. This is the first report where the online SAT has been used as a reporting tool.

In addition, this report incorporates three documents that describe and summarise preparedness arrangements for OWR in the HELCOM Contracting Parties. At EWG OWR 16-2020 in September 2020, it was agreed that these three documents, along with the SAT would be kept up to date and used as reporting tools for CPs to routinely report on their OWR preparedness progress. The three documents are as follows:

- 1) *Authority responsibilities* – summarises jurisdiction in each country of authorities leading oil spill response, shoreline response, wildlife response, nature/species conservation and animal welfare (rehabilitation/euthanasia). Information has been prepared for a number of regions identified in the Baltic Sea where an oiled wildlife incident could have cross-border implications. The document therefore provides a basis for countries to initiate communication and discussions between them in case of an incident which affects more than one country. The latest version is included in Annex 1.
- 2) *Authority-NGO partnerships* – HELCOM Recommendation 31/E/6 on Integrated Wildlife Response Planning in the Baltic Sea Area states that oiled wildlife response plans should include arrangements for “coordinated involvement of multiple stakeholders, including NGOs and volunteers”. NGOs are crucial to the effectiveness of an oiled wildlife response operation in most HELCOM countries, therefore a document listing the existence and nature of partnerships and arrangements between authorities and NGOs is now in use by the EG Wildlife. The latest version is included in Annex 2.
- 3) *Equipment* – lists stockpiles of oiled wildlife response equipment (mobile or otherwise) in each country, with an indication of type of equipment, capacity (number of units) and whether the stockpile is purely for national use or can be mobilised internationally. The template is included in Annex 3.

Eight out of nine CPs provided the required information in due time for preparation of this report. Updated information (or a statement that no updates are required) are lacking from Russia. Therefore, the report may be missing some of the latest data. The report has been compiled with information provided by CPs at the end 2022/early 2023, or if this was not provided, with information previously provided for the last report in 2020. Results are summarised with some observations on general level of preparedness in the conclusions section.

2.1 Country: Denmark

Report submitted by: Caroline Vestergaard Mikkelsen, The Danish Environmental Protection Agency

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

The Royal Danish Navy is responsible for national contingency arrangements. Maritime Assistance Service holds the responsibility for managing pollution incidents. Danish Defence Operational Staff is responsible for aerial surveillance while aerial surveillance missions have been outsourced to Norwegian company Sundt Air. The Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and regional or local councils are responsible for shoreline clean-up. Local councils manage pollution response in harbours and share responsibility with the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for restoration.

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency has responsibility for planning and strategy. The Danish Nature Agency has the responsibility for oiled wildlife response and field management. The primary oiled wildlife response strategy is field euthanasia. Birdlife Denmark can rehabilitate Species of special concern (e.g. IUCN or HELCOM Red List). If wildlife rehabilitators are allowed to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife; this will be a local, ad hoc decision.

The contingency plan is under revision.

2. Training

Field euthanasia will be carried out by experienced employees or hunters. Activities will be coordinated by The Nature Agency. Dedicated training is not included in the contingency plan.

3. Exercises

Wildlife aspects are exercised as part of the national contingency plan for managing oil spill or pollution incidents. Oil spill exercises with shell in 2019 included a discussion on how Denmark handles oiled bird wildlife. Oil spill exercises in 2020 was to include affected wildlife, but was cancelled due to Covid-19.

4. Equipment and facilities

Field euthanasia is carried out with standard hunting equipment. If volunteers are involved, ammunition for guns is provided. There is a network of wildlife rehabilitation centres affiliated with the Dyrenes Beskyttelse (Animal Welfare Denmark), all of which work on a voluntary basis. Present level of experience and capacity to care for oiled wildlife is not known.

5. Partnering and funding

Tier-3 resources are not described in the Danish oiled wildlife plan.

The following authorities and organizations are partners or stakeholders in the plan:

- The Royal Danish Navy
- Aarhus University, DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy
- DTU Vet, National Veterinary Institute
- Dansk Ornitologisk Forening (Danish Birdlife Partner)
- The Danish Nature Agency
- The Danish Environmental Protection Agency

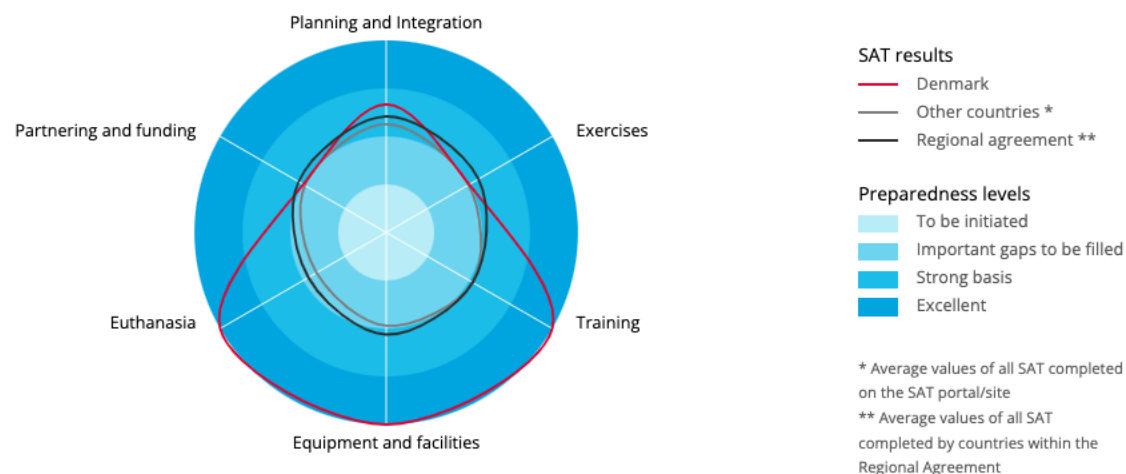
Stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR.

All main stakeholders are aware of the formal policy guidelines recommending the euthanasia of oiled animals. During an oiled wildlife response, stakeholders can be expected to effectively cooperate on the beach and apply predefined guidelines as appropriate.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

Table 1. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Denmark (Jan 2023)

Denmark



Completed by: The Danish Environmental Protection Agency (National Authority)

Regional Agreement: HELCOM

Date: January 26, 2023

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
<p>Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR</p> <p>It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet</p> <p>A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet</p> <p>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</p>	<p>No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness</p> <p>One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet</p> <p>All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision</p> <p>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</p>	<p>There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.</p> <p>A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what</p> <p>All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks</p> <p>Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed</p>	<p>No OWR exercises take place</p> <p>Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme</p> <p>Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response</p> <p>Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan</p>	<p>There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together</p> <p>Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles</p>	<p>The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon</p> <p>Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises</p> <p>Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date</p> <p>There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme</p>

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders	There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses	There are parties interested in being trained	The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested	Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent
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	The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level	Training is provided, but not to international standards	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, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios	Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made
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	Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers	Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified	The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed	Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers
Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios	A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions	Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad	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	Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed	No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia	No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development	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	There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described
Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place	Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analysis has not been carried out	Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available	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	Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described
A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted	Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level	Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR	The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme
The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios	All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios	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	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	The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested
		<div> <div></div> Selected answers </div>		

2.2 Country: Estonia

Report submitted by: Environmental Board of Estonia

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

The Police and Border Guard is responsible for contingency arrangements at sea. The Rescue Board is responsible for contingency arrangements at seashore. The Environmental Board is responsible for wildlife response and environmental recovery arrangements.

An updated version of the oiled wildlife response plan was adopted by the Environmental Board in January 2022.

2. Training

A 4-days training/exercise on oiled wildlife response for the Estonian Fund for Nature volunteers was carried out by the Ministry of Environment in September 2021.

Trainings (both practical and via web) for the Environmental Board staff and Fund for Nature volunteers (ca 30 persons altogether) on the oiled wildlife response plan and exploitation of the oiled wildlife response equipment were carried out by the Environmental Board in 2022.

3. Exercises

Exercises were an element of the trainings mentioned in p. 2 (Training). Wildlife response is also ordinarily included in rescue exercises conducted by the Rescue Board.

4. Equipment and facilities

A standard set of wildlife response equipment was allocated to the premises of the Environmental Board in Tallinn from the Rescue Board Logistical Center. An agreement between the two authorities regarding the exploitation of the equipment was signed.

5. Partnering and funding

National oil response plan regarding the sea scenarios, prepared by the Police and Border Guard is in force.

The pollution response duty at sea is to be given from the Police and Boarder Guard over to the Estonian Marine Forces in 2023. Relevant rearrangements were carried out in and between the responsible authorities in 2022. A respective agreement between the Environmental Board and the Defence Forces was signed in December 2022.

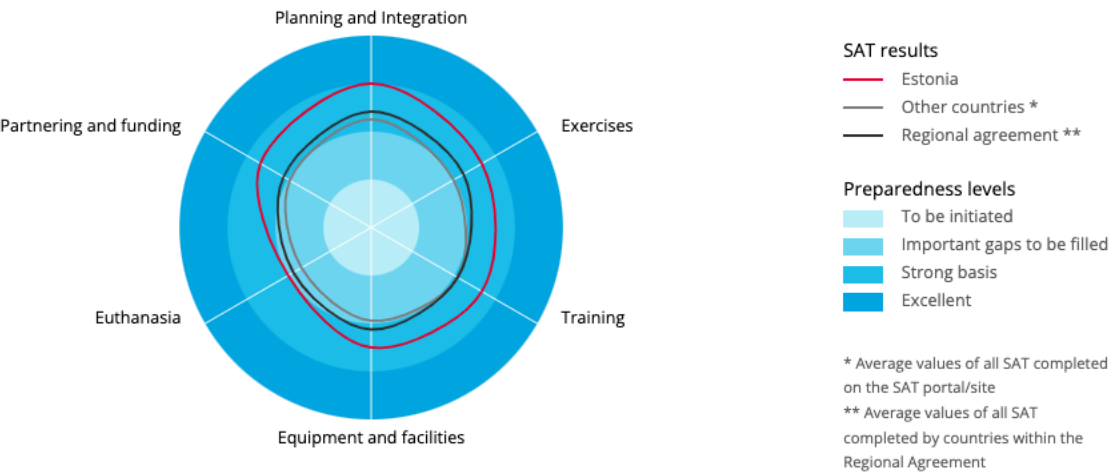
6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

A widespread ca 50 km seashore oil pollution in West-Estonian archipelago took place in May 2022. Ca 8 tons of polluted surface was eliminated by the local authorities, the Rescue Board and volunteers. No wildlife casualties were detected as a result. Lessons learned from the case is a major issue in discussions between the responsible authorities.

Several minor pollutions at sea were registered in the period, but no wildlife casualties as a result were detected.

Table 2. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Estonia (Jan 2023)

Estonia



Completed by: Environmental Board (National Authority)
Regional Agreement: HELCOM
Date: January 30, 2023

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR	No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness	There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	No OWR exercises take place	There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises	The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon
It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet	One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet	A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme	Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together	Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises
A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet	All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision	All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response	Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training	Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date
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	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	Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed	Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan	Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles	There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders	There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses	There are parties interested in being trained	The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested	Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent
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	The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level	Training is provided, but not to international standards	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, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios	Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made
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	Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers	Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified	The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed	Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers
Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios	A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions	Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad	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	Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed	No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia	No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development	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	There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described
Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place	Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analysis has not been carried out	Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available	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	Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described
A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted	Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level	Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR	The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme
The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios	All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios	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	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	The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested
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2.3 Country: Finland

Report submitted by: Pekka Rusanen (Finnish Environment Institute SYKE)
& Vanessa Ryan (WWF Finland)

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

An Advisory Board for the oil and ship-based HNS response has been established. The advisory board has established working groups for 1) updating the national PPR strategy, 2) for wrecks and 3) for the Oiled Wildlife Response (OWR). The working group for OWR has mainly been working on updating the OWR plan, which will hopefully be formally adopted during the spring of 2023. The plan will consider the principles set by the EUROWA network, and EUROWA manuals will be used as the standard animal care manuals.

An amended law regulating oiled wildlife response has come into force. After a short break the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) is again officially responsible for leading OWR efforts.

2. Training

WWF Finland is responsible for organising training events for volunteers and experts. In 2021, during Covid-19 restrictions, two webinars were organised as refresher courses for people already trained for OWR. The events gathered in total 150 volunteers. In 2021 and 2022, WWF Finland also trained experts and volunteers as part of the EU-funded EUROWA-2 project. Six Finnish WWF staff/volunteers/experts were trained to EUROWA ADVANCED level, and two WWF staff were qualified as EUROWA SPECIALIST level responders (pre-wash and wash).

In 2022, a EUROWA BASIC course was organised, and 21 volunteers successfully completed the course.

3. Exercises

OWR was exercised as part of the BALEX DELTA exercise in 2021, where both search and collection and the set-up of a temporary animal care facility was exercised. A separate report was completed for that exercise.

4. Equipment and facilities

No changes, apart from minor equipment purchases mainly for training purposes (PPE, storage containers etc.). Two firm rehabilitation centres (Korkeasaari Zoo and Heinola bird sanctuary), the mobile Bird Cleaning Unit (BCU) and one light unit are included. During 2022, a thesis focusing on the BCU was prepared by a member of the WWF Finland oil spill response troops. As well as analysing the current set up of the BCU, the thesis makes recommendations for updating/optimising the containers to suit the requirements of a large-scale spill, where a temporary facility would be built around the BCU.

5. Partnering and funding

The oiled wildlife response organisation will be solidified by the completion of the OWR plan in early 2023. Syke and WWF Finland have a cooperation agreement in place, as do Syke and the Eastern Uusimaa Emergency Services. The national funding that WWF has received from the Finnish oil pollution fund to keep up voluntary oil spill response activities ended in 2020, but a new funding agreement has been in place during 2022 with Syke, which covers essential costs like basic training

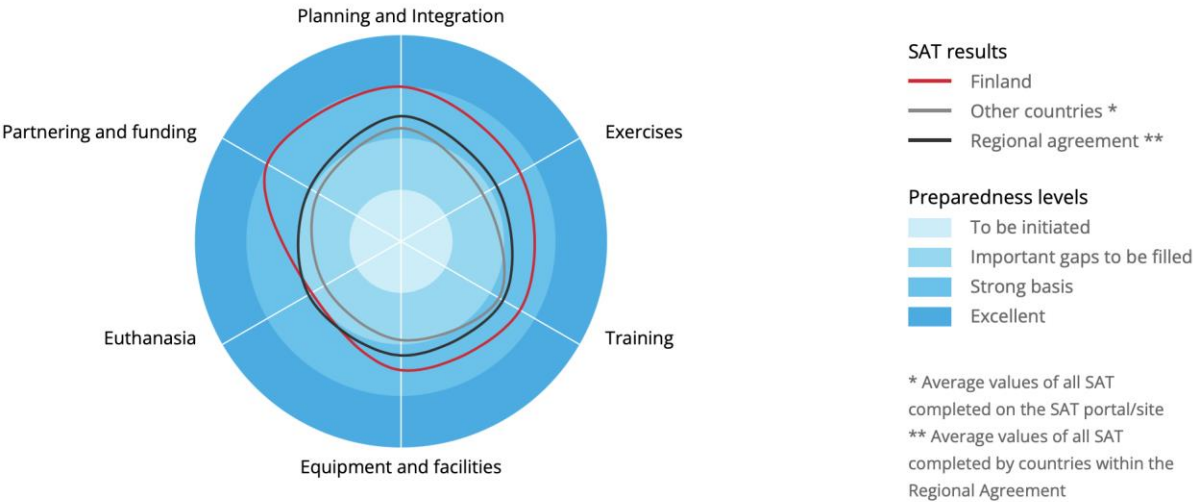
and exercises as well as development work carried out by WWF staff. This funding will be continued in 2023.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

No accidents concerning activities in OWR.

Table 3. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Finland (Feb 2023)

Finland



Completed by: Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) (National Authority)
Regional Agreement: HELCOM
Date: February 15, 2023

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR	No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness	There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	No OWR exercises take place	There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises	The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon
It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet	One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet	A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme	Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together	Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises
A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet	All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision	All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response	Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training	Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date
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	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	Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed	Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan	Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles	There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders	There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses	There are parties interested in being trained	The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested	Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent
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	The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level	Training is provided, but not to international standards	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, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios	Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made
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	Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers	Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified	The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed	Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers
Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios	A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions	Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad	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	Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
<p>Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed</p> <p>Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place</p> <p>A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted</p> <p>The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia</p> <p>Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analyses has not been carried out</p> <p>Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios</p> <p>All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development</p> <p>Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available</p> <p>A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR</p> <p>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</p>	<p>There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described</p> <p>Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described</p> <p>The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme</p> <p>The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested</p>

2.4 Country: Germany

Report submitted by:

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

Response: Role of the authorities

The competent national authority for the management of major marine incidents is the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME), Havariekommando, located in Cuxhaven. Here the Marine Pollution Response-High Sea Section is coordinating spill response at sea, emergency towing, aerial surveillance and international affairs on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Transport. The Marine Pollution Response-Coastal Section is coordinating response to spills in coastal waters and for beach cleaning operations on behalf of the Environmental Ministries of the five Coastal States of Bremen, Hamburg, Niedersachsen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Schleswig-Holstein, which allows for a unified response. Onshore oil spill response, including oiled wildlife, is the responsibility of the five coastal states. Only Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are located at the Baltic Sea.

In Schleswig-Holstein the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas is the responsible authority for wildlife response. In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern the competent authority is the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection.

A response plan exists for the Schleswig-Holstein part of the Baltic Sea (western part of the Baltic Sea). The plan includes guidelines and a manual for the technical and logistical implementation of the guidelines, which describe how the competent authorities will carry out Oiled Wildlife Response in cooperation with a regional animal welfare institution. In the eastern part of the German Baltic (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) a draft response plan exists, which needs to be finalised and, as in Schleswig-Holstein, needs to be further developed.

For major incidents in Germany a general response plan is under development which will describe the common approach for German oiled wildlife response.

2. Training

Training elements are e.g. collection and transport of birds, handling of equipment, health and safety aspects, communication and media (in major incidents CCME takes over the overall command of all response operations including PR work). The different tasks of oiled wildlife response are trained in special courses. Authorities responsible for oil response, animal welfare and nature conservation are conducting special regional and national courses to get prepared for their tasks during oiled wildlife response.

Oiled wildlife response (OWR) in Schleswig-Holstein is conducted by the oil combating department of the State Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation. Volunteers of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief, special wildlife response teams are trained in several aspects of OWR (laws for animal welfare, personal protective equipment, distribution of birds etc.).

A national two-day course for all management aspects of oiled wildlife response in Germany has taken place conducted by CCME. Representatives of authorities for oil response, animal welfare and nature conservation from the different coastal states of Germany were skilled in their tasks during oiled wildlife response. Lectures were held by competent partners of authorities and organizations like ITOPF, Sea Alarm and Pro Bird.

Members of the German organization 'Pro Bird' (NGO) are continuously skilled in special courses of the EUROWA module (www.euowa.eu). The suite of EUROWA modular courses, developed by the EUROWA project partners, build on the basic training created in 2012-2013 for initial first aid of oiled wildlife. EUROWA courses include four additional levels ('advanced', 'specialist', 'section head' and 'manager') each produced in a modular form and consisting of a combination of online testing prior to admission to any of the higher level training courses. There are also course packages which combine lectures, hands-on training, skill labs, exercises and evaluation of individual skills.

3. Exercises

Exercises for oil response already include special elements of OWR in some coastal states of Germany. Other coastal states are busy planning such exercises (e.g. Lower Saxony). In Schleswig-Holstein OWR is conducted by the oil combating department of the State Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation. Together with the Federal Agency for Technical Relief, special wildlife response teams were created that were trained as part of annual major oil response exercises.

Also table top exercises were conducted by the oil combating department of the State Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation involving CCME were aspects of OWR included.

4. Equipment and facilities

Personal protection equipment, to ensure health and safety requirements, is available regionally. Cooperation between NGO's and authorities is under development. Regional wildlife rehabilitation centres hold equipment and capabilities for limited response.

The competent authority for oil response in Schleswig-Holstein (Oil combating department of the State Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation) established special containers consisting equipment for first response to OWR. Other coastal states planning to follow this example.

5. Partnering and funding

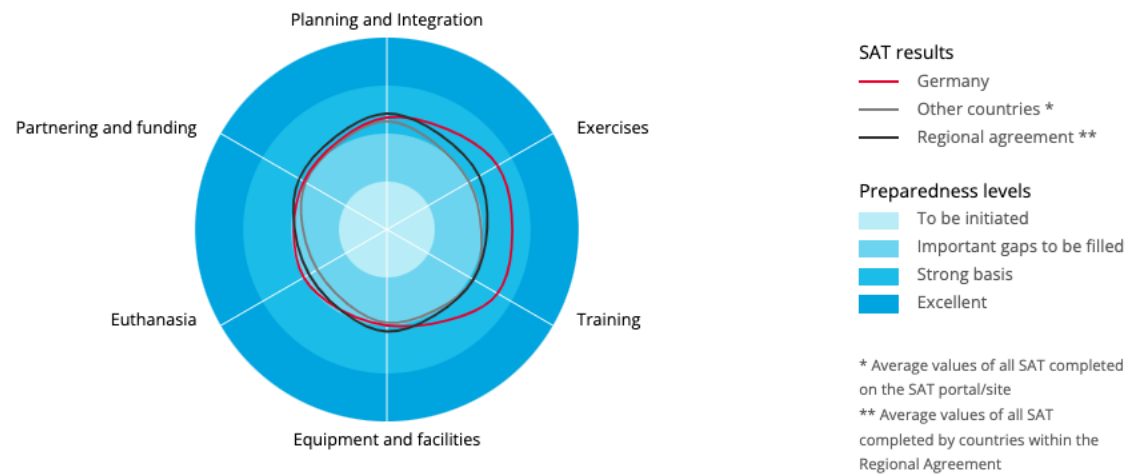
Germany is a signatory to the Bonn Agreement, Helsinki Convention, DenGerNeth (Denmark Germany Netherlands) Agreement for response in the Wadden Sea and part of the North Sea, SweDenGer (Sweden Denmark Germany) for response in the southwestern Baltic and a bilateral agreement with Poland for response in the Pomeranian Bight. Via the Baltic Sea Action Plan adopted in 2007 the Contracting Parties agreed to integrate the subject of oiled wildlife response into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level.

Cooperation between Federal Coastal States in Germany has improved during the last decade. Regular exchange of information (meetings twice a year) between competent authorities (and CCME) is now standard in order to be prepared for Oiled Wildlife Response.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

Table 4. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Germany (Jan 2020)

Germany



Completed by: Sea Alarm on behalf of Germany (National Authority)

Regional Agreement: HELCOM

Date: January 1, 2020

Remarks

General: Sea Alarm has completed this SAT with data provided in 2020 in previous versions of the SAT (excel or pdf version). It was not completed by the Country itself. Those statements that were not completed in previous version of the SAT, Sea Alarm has decided to mark them with the first statement of the category which are the statement that shows the lowest level of preparedness.

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR	No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness	There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	No OWR exercises take place	There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises	The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon
It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet	One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet	A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme	Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together	Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises
A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet	All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision	All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response	Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training	Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date
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	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	Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed	Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan	Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles	There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders	There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses	There are parties interested in being trained	The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested	Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent
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	The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level	Training is provided, but not to international standards	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, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios	Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made
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	Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers	Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified	The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed	Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers
Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios	A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions	Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad	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	Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed	No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia	No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development	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	There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described
Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place	Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analysis has not been carried out	Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available	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	Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described
A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted	Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level	Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR	The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme
The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios	All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios	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	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	The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested
		Selected answers		

2.5 Country: Latvia

Report submitted by: State Environmental Service

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

National action plan for rescue of animals in case of oil pollution at sea and on shore (Action Plan) was adopted in December 2022 by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. Work on implementation of the plan is in progress. The State Environmental Service is responsible for coordination of the oiled wildlife response in national level.

2. Training

There have not been trainings regarding oiled wildlife response in Latvia in 2021-2022. Although the need for training at different levels is recognized and included in the National Plan.

3. Exercises

There have not been exercises regarding oiled wildlife response in Latvia in 2021-2022.

4. Equipment and facilities

No specialised permanent oiled wildlife rescue/rehabilitation facilities exist in Latvia.

5. Partnering and funding

There is no rescue/rehabilitation equipment and facilities of oiled wildlife. Latvia relies on possibility to seek for help from abroad.

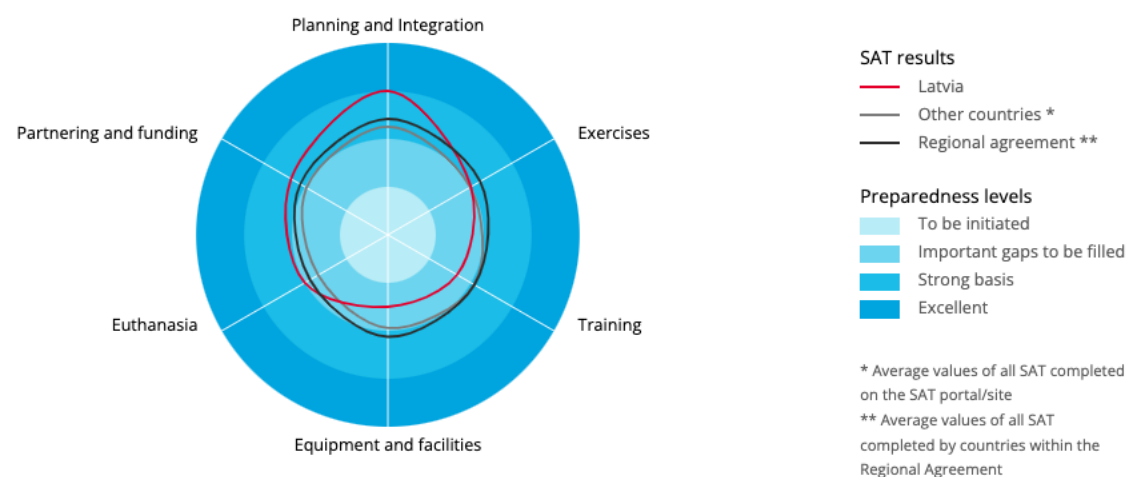
Possible funding to obtain personal protection equipment is being assessed.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

There were no accidents resulting oiled wildlife response in Latvia in 2021-2022.

Table 5. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Latvia (Dec 2022)

Latvia



Completed by: State Environmental Service (National Authority)

Regional Agreement: HELCOM

Date: December 21, 2022

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR	No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness	There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	No OWR exercises take place	There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises	The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon
It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet	One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet	A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme	Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together	Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises
A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet	All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision	All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response	Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training	Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date
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	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	Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed	Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan	Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles	There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
<p>Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios</p>	<p>There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses</p> <p>The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level</p> <p>Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers</p> <p>A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions</p>	<p>There are parties interested in being trained</p> <p>Training is provided, but not to international standards</p> <p>Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified</p> <p>Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad</p>	<p>The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested</p> <p>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, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios</p> <p>The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers</p> <p>Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme</p>

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
<p>Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed</p> <p>Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place</p> <p>A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted</p> <p>The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia</p> <p>Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analyses has not been carried out</p> <p>Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios</p> <p>All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development</p> <p>Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available</p> <p>A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR</p> <p>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</p>	<p>There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described</p> <p>Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described</p> <p>The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme</p> <p>The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested</p>

Selected answers

2.6 Country: Lithuania

Report submitted by: Lithuanian NAVY

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

According to the Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Incidents at Sea, the Lithuanian Sea Museum provides assistance to marine mammals contaminated by oil during pollution incidents. The Lithuanian Sea Museum also possesses capabilities of providing assistance to birds.

The Lithuanian Sea Museum intends to prepare a plan for receiving animals (birds) with initial capability by May 2023. In addition, the Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Incidents at Sea will be reviewed and updated in 2023-2024, especially the parts concerning oiled wildlife and shoreline response.

2. Training

There have been no trainings regarding oiled wildlife response in Lithuania in 2021-2022. Dedicated training is not included in the Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Incidents at Sea.

3. Exercises

There have been no dedicated exercises for Oiled wildlife response in Lithuania in 2021-2022.

The Fire and Rescue Department of Lithuania organized KOPOS2021 oil spill response exercise together with the various partners on 26–27 May 2021. The aim was to improve collaboration between different responsible organizations to collect spilled oil in the Baltic Sea and coastal areas.

The exercise simulated an oil spill disaster at the Lithuanian coastal line. It focused on the coordination of all actors involved in the management of such disaster. Overall, there were 17 actors participating in the exercise, representing multiple institutions, municipalities and non-governmental organizations.

One of the scenarios of the KOPOS2021 exercise was a wildlife response. Birds affected by oil products were collected on the coastal line and transported to the Lithuanian Sea Museum for further cleaning, care and rehabilitation.

A seminar was also held during the 2021 KOPOS exercise. One of the topics of the seminar was “Help for water birds”, which was presented by a representative of the Lithuanian Sea Museum.

4. Equipment and facilities

According to the Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Incidents at Sea, the Lithuanian Sea Museum provides assistance to marine mammals contaminated by oil during pollution incidents. The Lithuanian Sea Museum possesses capabilities of provide assistance to birds.

In 2019-2022, the Baltic Sea Animal Rehabilitation Centre was built. The centre was completed at the end of 2022 and is operational. The Baltic Sea Rehabilitation Centre will become an integral part of the Lithuanian Sea Museum.

The centre has indoor and outdoor pools for birds and seals. Facilities and equipment for animal examination, washing and treatment are also equipped accordingly. Currently, the centre is looking

to purchase disposable boxes for the transportation of birds, as well as appropriate chemicals for washing animals and birds from oil products.

Resources and capabilities regarding wildlife response are not described in the plan yet.

5. Partnering and funding

In cooperation with the project partners, the Lithuanian Sea Museum completed an ambitious project, the implementation of which is bound to result in more opportunities for contribution to the well-being of the Baltic Sea animals and its entire ecosystem.

The Baltic Sea Animal Rehabilitation Centre is important not only for Lithuania, but also for other countries which have access to the Baltic Sea. The goal of the Centre is to nurse and treat seals and birds that suffered from human's activities. The centre aims to create a system for investigation and rescue of marine animals while meeting modern scientific and practical standards, to carry out biological investigations of animals and to promote education for common society.

A hospital of seals, other animals of the Baltic Sea, the Baltic Sea Rehabilitation Centre will become an integral part of the Lithuanian Sea Museum .

The project was funded by the financial means of the European Union Cohesion Fund and the Lithuanian Sea Museum. The funding was allocated in compliance with the Ministers of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania order No. D1-1007 issued on 29 November 2018, "On Allocating Funding for the Project No. 05.3.1-APVA-V-011-01-0003".

The main objectives of the project:

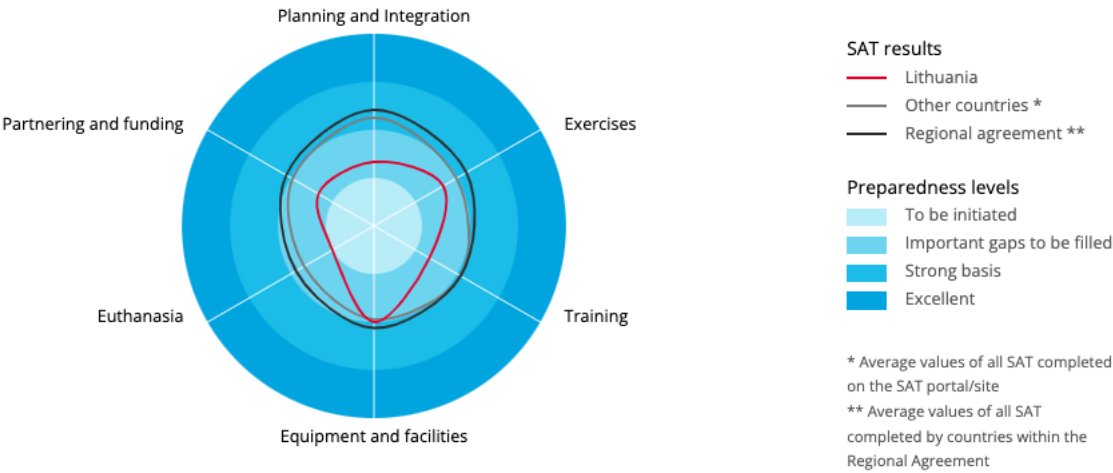
- Construction of the object included: reception area, operating and procedure rooms, medical room, dissection room, refrigerator for the remains of animals, room for primary clinical examination, intensive therapy and quarantine enclosures with small pools, pools for baby seals gaining weight, adaptation pool, outdoor pool for seabirds, deep indoor diving pool for birds.
- Purchase of veterinary equipment and specialised furniture for treatment purposes. Overall area of the building is 955 sq. m, area of water pools is 320 sq. m.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

There were no accidents resulting in oiled wildlife response in Lithuania during the period of 2021-2022.

Table 6. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Lithuania (Jan 2020)

Lithuania



Completed by: Sea alarm on behalf of Lithuania (National Authority)
Regional Agreement: HELCOM
Date: January 1, 2020

Remarks

General: Sea Alarm has completed this SAT with data provided in 2020 in previous versions of the SAT (excel or pdf version). It was not completed by the Country itself. Those statements that were not completed in previous version of the SAT , Sea Alarm has decided to mark them with the first statement of the category which are the statement that shows the lowest level of preparedness.

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
<p>Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR</p> <p>It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet</p> <p>A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet</p> <p>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</p>	<p>No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness</p> <p>One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet</p> <p>All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision</p> <p>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</p>	<p>There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.</p> <p>A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what</p> <p>All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks</p> <p>Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed</p>	<p>No OWR exercises take place</p> <p>Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme</p> <p>Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response</p> <p>Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan</p>	<p>There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together</p> <p>Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles</p>	<p>The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon</p> <p>Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises</p> <p>Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date</p> <p>There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme</p>

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
<p>Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios</p>	<p>There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses</p> <p>The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level</p> <p>Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers</p> <p>A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions</p>	<p>There are parties interested in being trained</p> <p>Training is provided, but not to international standards</p> <p>Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified</p> <p>Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad</p>	<p>The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested</p> <p>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, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios</p> <p>The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers</p> <p>Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme</p>

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
<p>Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed</p> <p>Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place</p> <p>A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted</p> <p>The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia</p> <p>Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analysis has not been carried out</p> <p>Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios</p> <p>All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development</p> <p>Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available</p> <p>A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR</p> <p>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</p>	<p>There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described</p> <p>Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described</p> <p>The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme</p> <p>The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested</p>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Selected answers		

2.7 Country: Poland

Report submitted by: The Self-assessment Tool and the Report have been prepared by the Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Gdańsk and West-Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin.

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

The Ministry of Climate and Environment has organised preliminary meetings with potential stakeholders concerning establishing the national OWR plan (legal basis, scientific analysis, preventive system, provide for the risk of oil spills in Crisis Management plans, trainings, financing system, appointment of the coordinator).

All relevant authorities have been identified and a Working Group for rescue of oiled wildlife has been established. The group consists of the representatives of Polish government institutions (Ministry of Climate and Environment, Ministry of the Interior and Administration, General Directorate for Environmental Protection, National Water Management Authority), municipal authorities (Voivodeship Offices), Maritime Offices, Maritime Search And Rescue Service, Veterinary Inspection, Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja', WWF Poland and LOTOS Petrolbaltic S.A.

A draft of a national OWR plan has been prepared, but it has not been formally endorsed. Nonetheless it should be noted, that there is no need for a formal (legal) acceptance of the document, because a legal basis for OWR has been established by an act of law by the Council of Ministers that makes it mandatory to include OWR in regional (voivodeship) crisis management and civil protection contingency plans. Pomeranian Voivodeship has an OWR Plan and is currently proceeding to update it and make it more detailed.

2. Training

In the beginning of the 2020, 3 people from the WWF Poland took part in the Advanced Responder workshops within the EUROWA network, which took place in the Rehabilitation Centre for Wild Birds in Ostend, Belgium.

In 2020 WWF Poland signed the EUROWA Memorandum of Understanding and EUROWA Charter, thus becoming a member of the EUROWA network.

WWF Poland also translated the manual: *Oiled Wildlife Response Protocols in the Central Baltic Sea* into Polish. The translated document was published on the website as a teaching aid and distributed among participants of exercises.

During COVID-19 pandemic there were no trainings including OWR Plan in Pomeranian or West-Pomeranian Voivodeship.

3. Exercises

The stakeholders have been identified and most of them have assumed their roles in OWR. The key personnel has received diversified training, but there are no clear job descriptions written down. There are new parties interested in being trained (ornithologists, bird ringers), and parties that have already undergone some training are willing to continue broadening their knowledge and experience, i.a. WWF Blue Patrol volunteers, veterinarians from rehabilitation centres, national and landscape parks employees, nature protection authorities, Maritime Search and Rescue Service, etc.

The need for continuous training at different levels, from volunteers to managers is recognised. Several persons from various fields (nature protection authorities, veterinarians, volunteers) have received training sufficient to train other local responders should the need arise, and assist abroad if called upon.

4. Equipment and facilities

Due to a general improvement of maritime regulations and traffic, the number of recorded accidental oiled wildlife cases (usually bird carcasses) found on the shoreline has significantly declined. Therefore, it was deemed a better use of the very limited resources to dedicate them to training personnel and focusing on tightening cooperation between different parties engaged in OWR.

Some small equipment is located in Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja' - pools, medicines, protective clothing, containers for drying birds, etc.

It was decided that there will be no purchases of small equipment and storage in case of an oil spill. Both due to the recommendations arising from the circular economy concept and the principles of avoiding waste generation. A fast financing path for the purchase of small equipment from oil exploration and production company Grupa LOTOS S.A. was established and a list of necessary purchases in case of an oil spill was created.

5. Partnering and funding

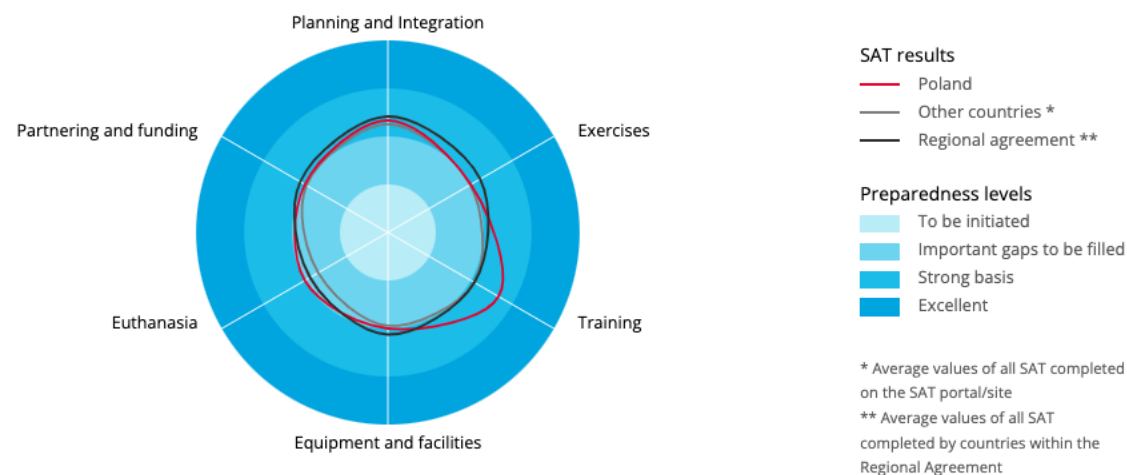
Oil exploration and production company LOTOS and the Ministry of Climate and Environment have agreed to establish a fund for some ad hoc activities (e.g. OWR actions during relatively small oil spill incidents). Thanks to participation in international meetings and exercises, quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions on mobilisation procedures took place. Procedure for mobilisation of Tier-3 response has been written down and incorporated to the draft of national oiled wildlife response plan.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

There were no known incidents resulting in oiled wildlife response in Poland in 2021-2022.

Table 7. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Poland (Jan 2023)

Poland



Completed by: Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Gdańsk (Regional Authority)

Regional Agreement: HELCOM

Date: January 25, 2023

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR	No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness	There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	No OWR exercises take place	There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises	The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon
It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet	One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet	A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme	Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together	Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises
A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet	All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision	All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response	Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training	Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date
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	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	Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed	Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan	Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles	There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
<p>Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios</p>	<p>There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses</p> <p>The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level</p> <p>Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers</p> <p>A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions</p>	<p>There are parties interested in being trained</p> <p>Training is provided, but not to international standards</p> <p>Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified</p> <p>Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad</p>	<p>The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested</p> <p>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, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios</p> <p>The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers</p> <p>Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme</p>

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
<p>Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed</p> <p>Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place</p> <p>A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted</p> <p>The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia</p> <p>Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analysis has not been carried out</p> <p>Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios</p> <p>All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development</p> <p>Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available</p> <p>A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR</p> <p>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</p>	<p>There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described</p> <p>Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described</p> <p>The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme</p> <p>The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested</p>
<div> <div></div> Selected answers </div>				

2.8 Country: Russia

Note: no updates received from Russia, Self-Assessment Tool not completed.

Report submitted by:

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

(Please report progress in plan development and implementation)

2. Training

(Please report wildlife dedicated training events)

3. Exercises

(Please report wildlife dedicated exercises (table top, field exercise))

4. Equipment and facilities

(Please report activities that have enhanced the status of wildlife dedicated equipment and facilities)

5. Partnering and funding

(Please report activities that have enhanced partnerships and cooperation on wildlife response preparedness, and report on enhanced funding schemes if appropriate)

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

2.9 Country: Sweden

Report submitted by: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has decided to draw up a national guideline on oiled wildlife response. There is currently no funding available, but the authority aims to enable this so that the work can start in 2023.

2. Training

Training may have been carried out at national, regional and local level but there is no compiled list of training carried out.

3. Exercises

Exercises may have been carried out at international (for example BALEX DELTA), national, regional and local level but there is no compiled list of exercises carried out.

4. Equipment and facilities

No data available at this point.

5. Partnering and funding

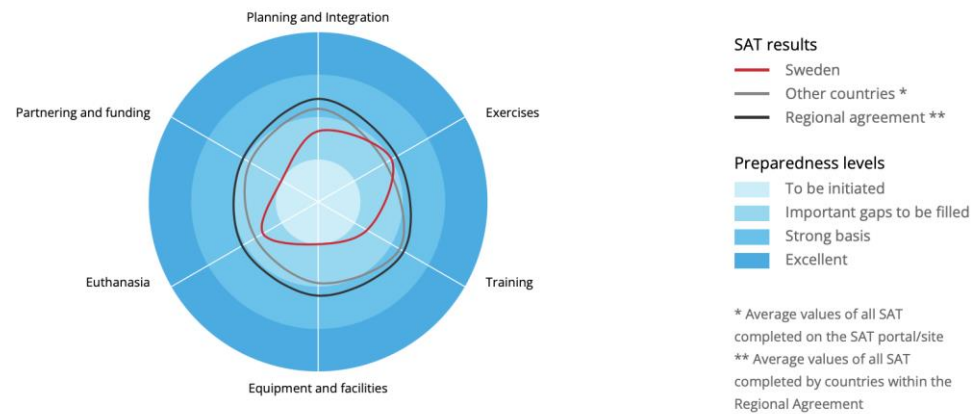
No data available at this point.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

No data available at this point.

Table 8. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Sweden (Mar 2023)

Sweden



Completed by: Sea alarm on behalf of Sweden (National Authority)
Regional Agreement: HELCOM
Date: March 22, 2023

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
<p>Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR</p> <p>It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet</p> <p>A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet</p> <p>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</p>	<p>No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness</p> <p>One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet</p> <p>All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision</p> <p>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</p>	<p>There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.</p> <p>A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what</p> <p>All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks</p> <p>Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed</p>	<p>No OWR exercises take place</p> <p>Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme</p> <p>Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response</p> <p>Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan</p>	<p>There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together</p> <p>Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles</p>	<p>The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon</p> <p>Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises</p> <p>Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date</p> <p>There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme</p>

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
<p>Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios</p>	<p>There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses</p> <p>The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level</p> <p>Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers</p> <p>A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions</p>	<p>There are parties interested in being trained</p> <p>Training is provided, but not to international standards</p> <p>Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified</p> <p>Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad</p>	<p>The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested</p> <p>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, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios</p> <p>The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers</p> <p>Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme</p>

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed	No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia	No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development	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	There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described
Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place	Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analyses has not been carried out	Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available	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	Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described
A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted	Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level	Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR	The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme
The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios	All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios	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	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	The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested
		<div> <div></div> Selected answers </div>		

3 Other activity updates 2021-2022

3.1 Online seminar on euthanasia

An online seminar on euthanasia of wildlife during an oil spill incident was held on 20 April 2021 under the auspices of EWG OWR. The seminar was aimed at presenting methods and philosophy around (mass) euthanasia including some national approaches, exploring planning issues and providing guidance for decision-making on use of this strategy.

The seminar was recorded and was well received and attended by 39 participants from HELCOM authorities, HELCOM Secretariat, veterinary institutes or practices, observers of the EWG OWG and a number of invited NGOs and their volunteers. The seminar demonstrated the different techniques available for euthanasia as an alternative for rehabilitation, an important strategy to be considered in any oiled wildlife response (either on a large scale, or for animals too weak to survive the rehabilitation process). If euthanasia is a chosen strategy, then authorities must prepare properly for it, so that it can be done professionally.

4 Conclusions

Observations on the level of CPs' oiled wildlife preparedness in this section are considered for each of the four elements that collectively make up the HELCOM monitoring tools, plus general observations:

1. Self-Assessment Tool and country reports
2. Authority responsibilities
3. NGO-authority partnerships
4. Equipment
5. General statement

4.1 Progress in Oiled Wildlife Preparedness - Self-Assessment Tool and Country Reports

Six Contracting Parties have completed the online Self-Assessment Tool in 2022/2023. For the remaining CPs, Sea Alarm has used the results from their previous SAT in 2020 (if existing) to complete the online SAT. In doing this, Sea Alarm had to make some assumptions and extrapolations due to some CPs not filling in the SAT correctly or thoroughly, so in doing so a conservative approach was taken as to the level of preparedness.

A visual comparison of the SAT results in 2020 and 2022 is not included here as not all CPs have updated their SAT in 2022/2023 (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Poland and Sweden provided updates for this report). However, a manual comparison of the updated SATs for those CPs shows that some improvements have been made in several areas, along with a slight decrease in the level of preparedness in some other areas. Broadly the picture remains the same, indicating that CPs are continuing their efforts to maintain preparedness for oiled wildlife incidents, but that further attention is needed to move forwards.

There is still a variation in the level of overall preparedness across the CPs, with some countries more advanced relative to others. Notable developments include wildlife response training courses being run in Estonia for the Estonian Fund for Nature and the Environmental Board, as well as establishment of a wildlife response equipment stockpile. In Poland, efforts are ongoing to update and further develop the Oiled Wildlife Response Plan for the Pomeranian Voivodeship. Both Poland and Estonian authorities collaborate with NGOs in their country who are members of the EUROWA network. Latvia also continues to progress on implementing the National Oiled Wildlife Response Plan, including a recognition of the need for oiled wildlife response training at different levels. Denmark is in the process of revising their contingency plan and Sweden is planning to prepare a new national guideline on oiled wildlife response. Significant progress is being made in Lithuania, with the construction of a new Baltic Sea Animal Rehabilitation Centre, a facility which will be able to accommodate oiled and injured seals and seabirds. Wildlife response was included in a 2021 national oil spill exercise and a wildlife response plan for oiled birds is under development.

The SAT continues to be a useful tool to CPs to measure and benchmark their progress and allow for trends to be observed across the Baltic Region. A visual summary of the 2022 SAT results (and 2020 results where no 2022 update has been given) is given below in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – summary of SAT results as a graphical display

4.2 Authority responsibilities

No major changes have been indicated since 2020. Based on the information submitted (see Table 9 below), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden (8 of 9 CPs) have defined jurisdiction for oil spill response, shoreline response and oiled wildlife response, meaning that it is clear which authority would take a lead on each aspect and which authority entities would need to be involved in decision-making for oiled wildlife response (in Sweden the specific responsibility for oiled wildlife response is not stated). No information was provided for Russia, so the division of authority responsibilities amongst the five subject areas is unknown. This means specific jurisdiction for oiled wildlife response issues, including decisions on euthanasia/rehabilitation and how conservation values affect those decisions is unclear, although it may be the case that the jurisdiction is defined but information was not submitted in preparation of this report.

In most cases, as would be expected, the responsibilities for shoreline and wildlife response, conservation and animal welfare vary depending on the region involved, which suggests that regional authorities must also be actively involved in national planning processes when it comes to oiled wildlife.

Table 9 – summary of Authorities Responsibilities information provided

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES (See Annex 2)	Authority leading the overall oil spill response	Authority leading shoreline oil pollution response	Authority in charge of leading the wildlife response	Authority responsible for nature conservation and species conservation	Authority responsible for animal welfare and leading rehabilitation or euthanasia activities
Denmark	X	X	X	X	X
Estonia	X	X	X	X	X
Finland	X	X	X	X	X
Germany	X	X	X	X	X
Latvia	X	X	X	X	X
Lithuania	X	X	X	X	X
Poland	X	X	X	X	X
Russia					
Sweden	X	X		X	X

4.3 NGO-Authority relationships

No significant updates have been indicated since 2020. 5 of the 9 CPs (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany and Poland) have formal arrangements or contracts in place with NGOs or other stakeholders to provide oiled wildlife response support. In Denmark, the contract is with hunters who are deployed under contract to carry out euthanasia of oiled birds. Whereas in Germany, an NGO contract only exists in the state of Schleswig-Holstein. Finland has benefited for many years from a formal agreement between WWF Finland and the Finnish authorities. The extent to which the partnerships described are made structural by regular annual preparedness activities varies, although at least a regular information exchange appears to be conducted in each case. Four of the CPs (Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Sweden) have not reported on any formal agreements or partnerships with their national NGOs. This is an area that CPs should focus on for the future, not only naming NGOs in the national response plans, but aiming to reinforce, strengthen and institutionalise partnerships with NGOs (including members of the EUROWA network in countries where they exist), who are so crucial to an effective response.

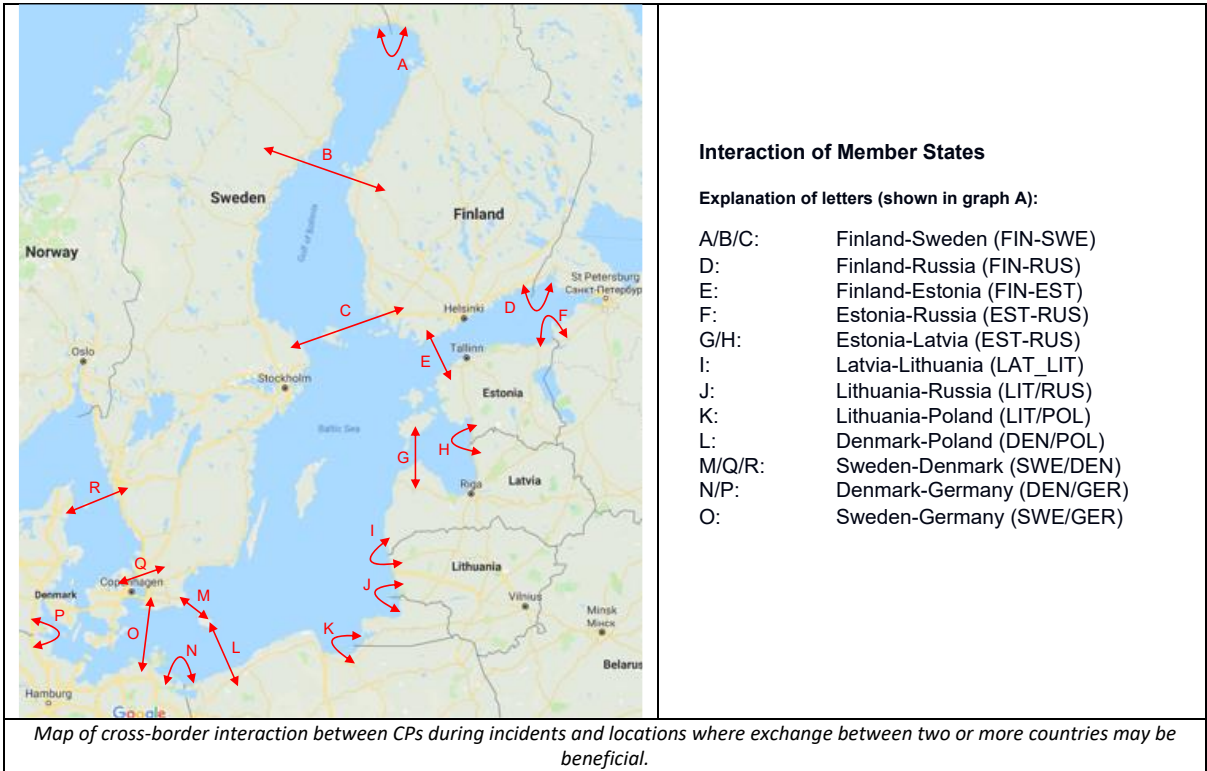
4.4 Equipment

No significant updates have been made since 2020. 3 of the 9 CPs have reported that they hold national stockpiles of oiled wildlife response equipment (Estonia, Finland and Germany). In Poland, a small stockpile is held within a wildlife rescue NGO. Of these four countries, only Finland reports that its equipment is available for an international mobilisation (although it could be considered for certain items from the German stockpile). A future focus area for the EG Wildlife could be to conduct risk assessments in each Baltic country, looking at oiled wildlife emergency scenarios to assess any gaps in existing equipment stockpiles and developing plans to supplement them where needed and appropriate. The possibility of stockpiles being made available for international use, to provide a better basis for oiled wildlife response mutual assistance in the spirit of the Helsinki Convention, should be explored further.

4.5 General statement

Defining clear roles and responsibilities for oiled wildlife response, developing NGO/stakeholder partnerships and establishing detailed oiled wildlife response plans and capacity are all an integral part of both HELCOM Recommendation 31/E/6 on Oiled Wildlife Response Planning, and Chapter 7 of the [HELCOM Response Manual](#) on Cooperation in Oiled Wildlife Response. These documents are designed to assist Baltic Authorities in being ready to face serious incidents which affect oiled wildlife in a professional way, to be able to deal with animal casualties in the way that the public would expect. HELCOM CPs should therefore continue to explore and invest into improving their national preparedness for oiled wildlife incidents and to develop and exchange ideas through the work of the EG Wildlife.

Annex 1 – Authority responsibilities (latest version)



Contracting Party	Location	Authority leading the overall oil spill response	Authority leading shoreline oil pollution response	Authority in charge of leading the wildlife response	Authority responsible for nature conservation and species conservation	Authority responsible for animal welfare and leading rehabilitation or euthanasia activities
Denmark	L	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
	M	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
	O	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
	P	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
	Q	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
	R	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
Estonia	E	Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	Estonian Rescue Board	Estonian Environmental Board (coordinating wildlife response)	Estonian Environmental Board	Estonian Veterinary and Food Board
	F	Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	Estonian Rescue Board	Estonian Environmental Board (coordinating wildlife response)	Estonian Environmental Board	Estonian Veterinary and Food Board
	G	Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	Estonian Rescue Board	Estonian Environmental Board (coordinating wildlife response)	Estonian Environmental Board	Estonian Veterinary and Food Board
	H	Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	Estonian Rescue Board	Estonian Environmental Board (coordinating wildlife response)	Estonian Environmental Board	Estonian Veterinary and Food Board
Finland	A	The Finnish Border Guard	Regional Rescue Services, municipalities		Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (ELY), SYKE	Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI)

	B	The Finnish Border Guard	Regional Rescue Services, municipalities		Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (ELY), SYKE	Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI)
	C	The Finnish Border Guard, Åland Provincial Government	Regional Rescue Services, municipalities, Åland Provincial Government	Åland Provincial Government	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (ELY), SYKE, Åland Provincial Government	Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI), Åland Provincial Government
	D	The Finnish Border Guard	Regional Rescue Services, municipalities		Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (ELY), SYKE	Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI)
	E	The Finnish Border Guard, Åland Provincial Government	Regional Rescue Services, municipalities, Åland Provincial Government	Åland Provincial Government	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment, SYKE, Åland Provincial Government	Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI), Åland Provincial Government
Germany	N	Central command for maritime emergency (CCME), Cuxhaven, 0049-30 / 185420-1400	Affected Administrative County district (<i>Vorpommern-Greifswald, Vorpommern-Rügen, City of Rostock, County of Rostock, North-west-Meckelenburg</i>)	Affected Administrative County district (<i>Vorpommern-Greifswald, Vorpommern-Rügen, City of Rostock, County of Rostock, North-west-Meckelenburg</i>)	Admin. County district's Regulatory agency and environment agency (Reporting to: Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of The Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Ref.410 & Ref.500)	Administrative County district Veterinarian (<i>Vorpommern-Greifswald, Vorpommern-Rügen, City of Rostock, County of Rostock, North-west-Meckelenburg</i>)
	O	CCME, Cuxhaven, 0049-30 / 185420-1400	Affected Administrative County district (<i>Vorpommern-Greifswald, Vorpommern-Rügen, City of Rostock, County of Rostock, North-west-Meckelenburg</i>)	Affected Administrative County district (<i>Vorpommern-Greifswald, Vorpommern-Rügen, City of Rostock, County of Rostock, North-west-Meckelenburg</i>)	Admin. County district's Regulatory agency and environment agency (Reporting to: Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of The Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Ref.410 & Ref.500)	Administrative County district Veterinarian (<i>Vorpommern-Greifswald, Vorpommern-Rügen, City of Rostock, County of Rostock, North-west-Meckelenburg</i>)

	P	CCME, Cuxhaven, 0049-30 / 185420-1400	LKN.SH, situation centre Husum, 0049-4841 / 8984-11	LKN.SH, situation centre Husum, 0049-4841 / 8984-11	Admin. County district's Regulatory agency and environment agency (Reporting to: Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization of the State of Schleswig Holstein Dept.43 & Dept.24)	Administrative County district Veterinarian (<i>Schleswig-Flensburg, City of Flensburg, Rendsburg-Eckernförde, City of Kiel, County of Plön, Eastern Holstein, City of Lübeck</i>) Rehabilitation Centre: Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V., 24376 Kappeln
Latvia (February 2023)	G	Latvian Coast Guard	State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia	State Environmental Service (coordinating wildlife response)	Nature Conservation Agency	Food and Veterinary Service
	H	Latvian Coast Guard	State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia	State Environmental Service (coordinating wildlife response)	Nature Conservation Agency	Food and Veterinary Service
	I	Latvian Coast Guard	State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia	State Environmental Service (coordinating wildlife response)	Nature Conservation Agency	Food and Veterinary Service
Lithuania (February 2023)	I	The Lithuanian NAVY is under the Ministry of National Defence and is the head authority for the response at sea	Municipalities	Lithuanian Sea Museum	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania	Lithuanian Sea Museum
	J					
Poland (February 2023)	L	West Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin, Maritime Office in Szczecin	West Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin, Maritime Office in Szczecin, Vovoidship Inspectorate of Environmental Protection in Szczecin	Ministry of Climate and Environment	General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Szczecin	Voivodeship Veterinary Inspectorate in Szczecin
	K	Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Gdańsk, Maritime Office in Gdynia	Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Gdańsk, Maritime Office in Gdynia, Vovoidship Inspectorate of Environmental Protection in Gdańsk	Ministry of Climate and Environment	General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk	Voivodeship Veterinary Inspectorate in Gdańsk

	N	West Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin, Maritime Office in Szczecin	West Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin, Maritime Office in Szczecin, Voivodeship Inspectorate of Environmental Protection in Szczecin	Ministry of Climate and Environment	General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Szczecin	Voivodeship Veterinary Inspectorate in Szczecin
Russia	D					
	F					
	J					
	K					
Sweden	A	The Swedish Coastguard and the municipal rescue service.	The Swedish Coastguard, the municipal rescue service and county administration boards. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency can be of aid.	No stated area of responsibility. Can be included as part of other rescue efforts.	The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management can be mentioned. Complex distribution of responsibilities with several actors involved.	Complex area of responsibilities. The Swedish Board of Agriculture and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency can be mentioned but they have no stated responsibility for rehabilitation or euthanasia.
	B					
	C					
	M					
	Q					
	R					

Annex 2 – NGO-authority relationships

Country	Authority-NGO arrangement(s)	Formal or informal?	Related to a plan?	Annual activities	Report by
Contracting Parties					
Denmark	In Denmark we do not work together with NGOs when it comes to oiled birds. The Nature Agency is responding when oiled birds are seen and they have a list of hunters who volunteer helping the Nature Agency to put down the birds affected by oil. When an accident happens, The ministry of environment and food protection sends out a press release telling people to contact the Nature Agency if they see any oiled birds.	It is formal. The volunteers gets a contract with the Nature Agency and the police are informed that hunters will be in a specific area to look for oil birds and put them down.	The cooperation is related to the Management plan for marine mammals and oilbirds 2003. The plan is currently subject of review and updating.	There is no annual network meeting with the hunters.	Sea Alarm
Estonia	Agreement between the Environmental Board of Estonia and Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF)	Formal contractor.	Agreement is related to plan.	Trainings and keeping of volunteer's network are running, regular communication between parts of contract.	Environmental Board
Finland (January 2023)	There is cooperation between NGOs (namely WWF Finland) and the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke), the Finnish Border Guard and Regional Rescue Services. NGOs are called upon by authorities in wildlife incidents and are also invited to exercises in the field of shoreline and wildlife response.	Formal agreements between Syke and WWF Finland, as well as Syke and Eastern Uusimaa Emergency Services exists. A working group on OWR has been established under the Advisory Board for the oil and ship-based HNS response.	A draft plan exists and will be formally adopted in early 2023.	Training and exercise events are run annually. An annual training and exercise plan will be made at the start of each calendar year and agreed upon by the working group on oiled wildlife response.	
Germany	National authorities represented by CCME are aiming at working	Formal contractor.	The cooperation is related to the OWR-	Annual meetings and trainings as well as integration in bigger	LKN.SH

	together with NGOs under defined circumstances (regarding safety at work, ensured hierarchy, aligned public relations, certified facilities, etc.) only. By now, only one NGO as an operator for a rehab-centre in Schleswig-Holstein is part of the OWR-Plan.		Plan of Schleswig-Holstein.	incident exercises with this NGO are scheduled and conducted on a regular basis.	
Latvia (February 2023)	National action plan for rescue of animals in case of oil pollution at sea and on shore (National Action Plan) is developed and adopted by Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. National Action Plan includes involvement of NGO in response.	No formal contract has been signed, but involving of the WWF Latvia volunteers are described in National Action Plan.	The cooperation is related to the OWR-Plan	No annual activities have taken place.	State Environmental Service
Lithuania (February 2023)	If required, the role of the Lithuanian Red Cross volunteers could also be extended to, for instance, incorporate additional tasks such as collecting oil and cleaning birds.	Informal	No	There is no annual network meeting with the NGOs	
Poland (January 2023)	National and regional authorities together with NGOs (Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja' and WWF Poland) participate in the Working Group for rescue of oiled wildlife. NGOs are also involved in the regional OWR plan (Pomeranian Voivodeship).	Formal. A legal basis for OWR has been established by an act of law by the Council of Ministers that makes it mandatory to include OWR in regional (voivodeship) crisis management and civil protection contingency plans.	The cooperation is related to the Oiled Wildlife Response Plan of the Pomeranian Voivode.	Annual meetings to evaluate past year's activities and outlook to next year's planning. According to the national OWR plan exercises should take place biannually.	WWF Poland, Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja', representatives of the voivodship offices of the West Pomeranian and Pomeranian Voivodships.
Russia					

Sweden (March 2023)	No information on NGO-authority relationships. However, there are NGOs that have permission to rehabilitate birds and that may be relevant to contribute in the event of an oil disaster.				
Examples from outside of Baltic region					
Netherlands	The national authority (Rijkswaterstaat) aims at working together with NGOs for the preparedness and response to oiled wildlife incidents. Rijkswaterstaat has financially enabled coastal rehab centres to set up an umbrella organisation in 2008. Via a project (2017-2023) this umbrella organisation will be expanded to include a variety of NGOs who are willing to join forces with the authorities to deal effectively with future wildlife incidents	Semi-formal, not via a covenant, but via a multi-year project with training, exercises, research and development. Rijkswaterstaat is involving other regional and local authorities to participate. SON-Respons is envisaged as the (new) organisation that will coordinate the preparedness and response programmes between authorities and NGOs.	The cooperation is related to the Oiled Wildlife Response Plan, in which authorities and NGOs have agreed to cooperate together. The Plan was originally established in 2009 and was updated in 2021.	Annual network meeting to evaluate past year's activities and outlook to next year's planning. Regular training of identified roles and functions. EUROWA materials have been formally adopted are being translated. Also exercises (table tops, field exercises) are scheduled to take place regularly in three different coastal regions. Budget is 150,000 EURO per annum (exclusive of costs field exercises or multi-stakeholder events)	Sea Alarm

Annex 3 – Equipment stockpiles template

Country:

Filled by (name):

Delegation (CP or observer):

Date (date of submission):

Please answer this question: Is there a stockpile of wildlife equipment in your country? Answer: No / Yes*, namely:

Please tick if available	Equipment type	Contains e.g.	Capacity of equipment	Stockpiled in (location)	Description available? (please provide)	For national use	Can be mobilised for international use
	Hazing/deterrence	Visual techniques equipment Auditory techniques equipment, etc			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Capture of animals	Nets, boxes, ppe, etc			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Veterinary and husbandry care	Syringes, tubes, needles, necropsy kit, scales, blood centrifuge and testing kit, netting,			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Washing equipment	Tubs, hoses, pumps, nozzles, detergent			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Pools and water management	Pools, hoses, pumps			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Facility build-up	Tent (incl. heating, ventilation, etc.)			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Complete washing unit (container, plug and play)	Unit with various washing bays and warm water installation, ventilation etc.			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Complete veterinary unit (container, plug and play)	Container fully equipped with examination tables, consumables, medicines, etc.			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Complete drying unit (container, plug and play)	Unit with cages and hot air installation.			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Other (describe)				Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*