

15. WILDLIFE RESCUE

15.1. Introduction

In the event of a spill, wildlife may come into contact with oil, especially on the surface of water or along shorelines. The numbers of individuals and species affected will depend on a number of variable factors, such as size of the spill, weather, wind and currents, habitats affected, and time of year the spill occurs. The most likely wildlife to be affected is birds, although aquatic or marine mammals can be affected. Terrestrial mammals are more likely to be secondarily affected when they scavenge other animals that are stressed or have died.

15.2. Key Considerations

The most important considerations in any wildlife response are to:

- Ensure the safety of the workforce
- Coordinate with local government agencies and experienced rehabilitation organizations

Capturing and caring for oiled wildlife can be a hazardous activity, and a rescue program will be successful only if people are not placed at unreasonable risk. Additionally, the success of a rescue program will depend on the level of cooperation with government agencies and wildlife rehabilitators.

There are two Wildlife Refuges in Cameroon that could be impacted by an oil spill. The Reserve de Campo, located to the south of Kribi, is the closer of the two refuges. The Reserve de Doyala-Edéa is located north of Kribi in the Senaga Delta area.

Wildlife species that may be at most threat or most vulnerable in an oil spill include:

- Marine turtles
- Goliath Frog
- Marine birds
- Fish

Additional information about these animals and their habitats can be found in the Project EMP.

15.3. Safety Guidelines

Wildlife rescue/rehabilitation workers can minimize the risks associated with physical and chemical hazards by following the precautions below:

- Observe all industrial hygiene safety precautions stated in the Health and Safety Plan
- Ensure training to deal with the hazards of the work task and the proper use and limitations of personal protective equipment
- Never conduct animal rescue work alone; always work in teams
- Keep animals at or below waist level to protect the face and eyes from pokes, bites, and scratches
- Wear approved personal protective equipment (goggles, gloves, non-skid boots or

shoes, etc.)

- Remove protective equipment and wash hands and face with soap and water or approved cleaners before eating, drinking, or smoking
- Never eat, drink, or smoke in animal handling areas
- Report all personnel injuries and illnesses

15.4. Reduction of Surface Oil

The most effective method for protecting wildlife populations is to reduce potential exposure to surface oil. Therefore the primary response strategy for wildlife protection emphasizes controlling the release and spread of spilled oil at the source to prevent or reduce contamination of potentially affected species and/or habitat. The use of dispersants, *in-situ* burning, protective booming, and mechanical recovery operations will help reduce the amount of oil that potentially could affect wildlife. Of these options, dispersants are the most effective at reducing surface oil. In addition, the primary response strategy includes the removal of oiled debris, particularly contaminated food sources, both on water and on land.

Reduction of oil volumes on the surface of the water will:

- decrease impacts to offshore, nearshore, and shoreline marine life
- decrease shore impacts and shoreline cleanup activities that may be harmful to the environment

15.5. Hazing

Wildlife hazing techniques can also be used to move birds and marine mammals from locations that are in the projected pathway of the oil. Hazing techniques can also be used to deter birds and marine mammals from entering into areas that have been previously oiled. Hazing should be carefully planned and executed, since hazed wildlife could move into other oiled areas, including the oil slick. Local officials will be notified, as appropriate, before using noise or other scare-away devices. Hazing techniques include:

- Noise, including pyrotechnics, firearms, air horns, motorized equipment, and recorded bird alarm sounds
- Scare devices, including deployment of mylar tape, helium-filled balloons, and scarecrows (either human or predator effigies) on oiled beaches
- Herding wildlife using aircraft, boats, or other vehicles
- Hazing by human presence

15.6. Wildlife Treatment

Treatment of impacted birds and mammals has been conducted during past oil spills. Trained and experienced wildlife specialists may be mobilized from within Chad or Cameroon to support spill response operations. Wildlife recovery teams and treatment operations may include these specialists and contract workers. Safety and training programs would be implemented for all contracted personnel (see Section 17). Construction of treatment facilities, or import of containerized wildlife facilities, may be needed. Certain supplies, such as specialized food and veterinarian supplies may be imported as needed.

Generally, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation will be based on a system consisting of satellite stations (trailers) which will serve as receiving points for shoreline pickup and rapid initial treatment. Wildlife may then be moved to a facility prepared for longer holding times. In the absence of a long-term government wildlife rescue plan and facilities, the care of affected wildlife is typically carried out by private wildlife organizations. If necessary, the Incident Command may establish a local Wildlife Care Team (Table 15-1) and an incident-specific wildlife hazing and/or rescue/rehabilitation plan.

Table 15-1. Components of a Wildlife Care Team

Individual	Responsibilities
Wildlife Specialist	Heads Wildlife Care Team Oversees operations of field crews
General Supervisor(s)	Assist Wildlife Specialist
Field Crews	Rescue wildlife in various affected areas

General response procedures include the following:

- Set up primary care stations near bird collection points to stabilize oiled birds before transport to a bird cleaning and rehabilitation center. The center will perform triage, clean birds, and provide short-term care for oiled birds until their release.
- Assist in locating and collecting affected birds. Permission may be required to capture, treat, and hold birds, but do not delay rescue attempts in an emergency.
- Assist in cleaning and rehabilitating birds. Private organizations or contractors may be hired to clean and rehabilitate birds. Special training and skills are needed to perform these activities.
- Rescue of marine or terrestrial mammals should be left entirely to government and private organizations or contractors.
- Document wildlife care activities in a log book maintained for that purpose. Tag and track all wildlife (dead or alive) delivered to the center throughout the rehabilitation process. Maintain records of any treatment performed and any pertinent observations. Document staff activities, including the number, location, and period of work of all contracted wildlife personnel.

All personnel who will serve as part of field crews must be trained if they will be handling wildlife. In addition, members of the Wildlife Care Team should be familiar with generally accepted published guidelines for collecting, cleaning, and rehabilitating oiled birds.

Published guidelines for collecting, cleaning, and rehabilitating oiled birds can be found in:

- API Publication 4407 (Rehabilitating Oiled Seabirds: A Field Manual); and
- API, 1986. Saving Oiled Seabirds. Prepared for the International Bird Rescue Research Center.

Private wildlife care organizations would be notified, as required, depending on the number and type of species affected. The Wildlife Specialist may activate a contractor and should mobilize other members of the team as necessary.

15.7. Wildlife Response Resources

15.7.1. Personnel

Table 15-2 is a list of contacts for wildlife rescue issues. Contractual agreements with private wildlife organizations may need to be established to ensure the most effective response from these organizations.

Table 15-2. Contacts for Wildlife Rescue Issues

Name	Address	Phone
International Bird Rescue Research Center	699 Potter Street Berkeley, California 94710	510-841-9086
Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.	Oil Spill Response 110 Possum Hollow Rd Newark, Delaware 19711	302-737-7241
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	Causeway Horsham, W. Sussex RH12 HG United Kingdom	403-264-181
Taronga Zoo	Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales PO Box 20 Mosman, NSW 2088 Australia	121-99-7847-50

15.7.2. Equipment

In general, equipment for wildlife rescue and treatment will consist of satellite stations (trailers) which will serve as receiving points for collection and rapid initial treatment.

Wildlife may need to be transported to longer-term care facilities. Transportation may be an important part of the care and rehabilitation of affected wildlife and would be arranged through logistical support (see Section 14).