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<b>Document title</b>	Involvement of NGOs in Poland
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## Background

This document contains information provided by Poland on involvement of NGOs in national and international emergency cooperation as an addition to document 4-2.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note and discuss of the information provided by the Contracting Parties on the involvement of NGOs in national and international emergency cooperation.

## Authority-NGO relationships in the BSR

Country	Authority-NGO arrangement(s)	Formal or informal?	Related to a plan?	Annual activities	Report by
<b>Contracting Parties</b>					
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
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
Finland	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.	Has previously been formal, with an agreement between SYKE and WWF Finland. With a change in the oil spill response legislation and the transfer of oil spill response duties from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Interior, and operational duties from SYKE to the Finnish Border Guard, no	A draft plan exists but due to the mentioned changes has to be updated and has not been formalised.	A draft plan exists but due to the mentioned changes has to be updated and has not been formalised.	

		such formal contract exists at the moment.			
Germany	National authorities represented by CCME are aiming at working 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.	Formal contractor.	The cooperation is related to the OWR-Plan of Schleswig-Holstein.	Annual meetings and trainings as well as integration in bigger incident exercises with this NGO are scheduled and conducted on a regular basis.	LKN.SH
Latvia	Latvia has not signed and approved National Oiled Wildlife response plan, so NGO involvement in response is not strictly defined and known yet.				
Lithuania					
Poland	National authorities together with NGOs (Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja' and WWF Poland) participate in the Working Group for rescue of oiled wildlife. Working Group prepared national OWR plan.	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.  In fall, 2017 a 2-day training course in Gdańsk was organized by the Ministry of the Environment and WWF Poland. It consisted of two parts, a theoretical course and a practical field exercise. The target group of the event was veterinarians and volunteers (chiefly WWF Błękitny Patrol volunteers), but it was also attended by representatives of	WWF Poland, Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja', representatives of the voivodship offices of the West Pomeranian and Pomeranian Voivodships.

				<p>other fields (nature protection authorities, SAR).</p> <p>In October 2017 representatives of General Directorate for Environmental Protection and a representative of the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation attended a seminar and training event in Helsinki, Finland. During the seminar information on national programmes and activities has been shared between the participants. The 1-day course has been focused on OWR management and was provided by Sea Alarm.</p> <p>In September and November 2019, field exercises were held in both coastal provinces with the participation of NGOs.</p> <p>Together with the Sea Alarm, WWF Poland organized two oneday Basic Responder workshops for around 40 Błękitny Patrol volunteers in Sept 2019. Workshops were organized within the EUROWA network.</p> <p>In September 2019, there was a meeting on the improvement of OWR procedures, organized by WWF, with the participation of Sea Alarm, local government and central institutions.</p> <p>Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja' in cooperation with WWF organized in March 2019, two-day trainings</p>	
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				<p>on practical aspects of oiled birds rescue.</p> <p>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 part in the Rehabilitation Centre for Wild Birds in Ostend, Belgium.</p> <p>In 2020 WWF Poland signed the EUROWA Memorandum of Understanding and EUROWA Charter, thus becoming a member of the EUROWA network.</p>	
Russia					
Sweden					