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Agenda Item	7 - Response on the shore and wildlife response
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Background

Sea Alarm has been providing regular updates to HELCOM about the EUROWA-2 project, running from 01/01/21 to the end of 2022. The project is being coordinated by the Sea Alarm Foundation, together with partners WWF Finland, Submon (Spain) and Royal NIOZ (the Netherlands).

The EUROWA-2 project provides an opportunity to expand the philosophy developed during the EUROWA-1 project (2015-16) to develop a stronger system for European oiled wildlife response mutual assistance and for the EUROWA network to continue its cooperation. An important work stream is focussed on authority preparedness. A number of activities are underway which are directly relevant for the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) and for European authorities in general. The list of relevant activities was presented at EWG OWR 17-2021, which has been updated to include more details in the attachments to this document.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider the information provided in this document on the EUROWA-2 project and discuss the relevance of the EUROWA-2 project to the activities of the EWG-OWR, as well as ways that the EUROWA-2 project outputs may be useful at national level.

Secondly, the Meeting is reminded to consider the invitation to EUROWA-2 authority workshops, for which the [profile and call for expressions of interest](#) were recently circulated by the HELCOM Secretariat to HELCOM Response Working Group contacts. Contracting Parties are invited to review the invitation, consider who would be best placed in each country to attend, and to indicate interest via the above link by Friday 15th October 2021.

Development of tools and guidelines

Activity	Description	Impact for HELCOM EWG Authorities
3.3 Guideline for exercise development	<p>Develop a good practice guideline for authorities on integrating oiled wildlife response elements into exercises. The guideline includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical explanation and examples of different types of exercises on integrated wildlife response management. • Approaches for discussion-based exercise activities (seminars, workshops, tabletops and games), for personnel who have to fill a specific function described in an OWR plan and their managers. • Approaches for operations-based exercises (drills, functional exercises and full-scale exercises), to practice technical/management skills of individuals and groups • Approaches for discussion-based activities (workshops or seminars), for countries where an OWR plan is not yet in place. • Guidance on including wildlife aspects into at-sea and shoreline response exercises, exercise types for HELCOM Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta and how to embed exercises into a national preparedness programme. 	<p>Authorities can use and apply the guidelines when organising oiled wildlife response exercises or oil spill exercises where a wildlife component can be included- both for national exercises and regional (e.g. BALEX DELTA) exercises.</p> <p>The guidelines are available in draft and can be shared with the EWG OWR once finalised (after end 2021).</p>
3.4 Develop tabletop exercise package	<p>Design a tabletop exercise package based on a fictitious multi-country setting, allowing simulation of a pollution incident and wildlife scenarios. Will include elements for testing international mobilisation of a EUROWA team and integration into a local authority-led response system. The package will use active learning techniques and encourage multidisciplinary mixing and fact-finding drills over a range of scenario settings.</p>	<p>The exercise package can assist authorities interested to expand their understanding of oiled wildlife response and integrated management issues.</p> <p>The package will be rolled out at the 2 authority workshops (Jan and March 2022) – see below.</p>

Activity	Description	Impact for HELCOM EWG Authorities
5.1 Desktop study and recommendations	<p>Recommendations will be developed that provide the structure and content of a wildlife response plan that can be used in European countries for discussion and implementation. The structure for inviting and offering of mutual assistance between countries will be explored and a proposal will be developed for European Regional Agreements to consider as part of their Response Manuals. The guidelines provide an update of existing best practice documents (including HELCOM Recommendation 31E/6, by going more into practical detail on why integrated oiled wildlife preparedness is important and how to do it. Guidelines include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rationale of having fully integrated wildlife response plans in place. • Objectives and standards from existing legislation, policy documents and professional wildlife response systems that can be used by authorities in countries where these systems are not yet (fully) in place. • Risk profile for seabirds and marine mammals in European regional sea areas. 	<p>The guidelines will provide updated and detailed guidance for authorities to consider in their national preparedness efforts.</p> <p>The guidelines are available in draft and can be shared with the EWG OWR once finalised (after end 2021). They will also be applied and demonstrated during the 2 authority workshops (Jan and March 2022) – see below.</p>

Authority workshops

Activity	Description	Impact for HELCOM EWG Authorities
5.2 Regional authority workshops	<p>Expert European authorities will be brought together for a workshop where they will be trained on wildlife response management and the EUROWA SOP, introduced to the draft response plan and exercised on the tabletop package above. Workshops are aimed at authority decision-makers who deal with planning and management of at-sea and shoreline response, as well as those who deal with social communication aspects during emergencies.</p> <p>This workshop will be provided twice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) in January 2022 in Brussels (15 authority spaces available). 2) In March 2022 in Spain, exact location and date to be confirmed (15 authority spaces available). 	<p>Workshops are open¹ to authorities interested to expand their understanding of oiled wildlife response and integrated management issues.</p> <p>Profile and call for expressions of interest to attend both workshops has been sent out via Secretariat to HELCOM Response contacts in August 2021.</p>

¹ The EUROWA-2 project provides budget to cover travel and subsistence costs for a number of European (Member State) authorities to attend the workshops and for a local organiser to make arrangements for the workshop venue.

<p>5.4 E-learning Module for authorities</p>	<p>Create an online training course for authorities. The course will explain the role and function of the EUROWA network and actions that authorities need to take to fully integrate EUROWA wildlife response capability into their emergency response system. Incorporates contents of the SOP training delivered during the regional authority workshops but translated into an e-learning format.</p>	<p>E-learning package will be available for authorities interested to gain a basic insight into how an oiled wildlife response can be managed where international mutual assistance is requested from the EUROWA network.</p>
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