

## **Abstract**

### **Global Oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response**

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Many coastal countries in the world are not well prepared to respond effectively to oiled wildlife incidents. Although the issue is increasingly being brought to the fore and more and more national authorities are considering the development of oiled wildlife response plans, it can be assumed that the majority of coastal countries have no dedicated response plans in place and lack the resources (expertise, equipment, facilities) to carry out an adequate response. Even in a well-prepared country, the local resources may be limited and potentially not able to cope with the more complicated events. The need to have an international oiled wildlife response system in place that is able to mobilise experts and equipment has been recognised by the oil industry and is being developed as part of the long-term agreement between Oil Spill Response (OSR) and Sea Alarm. This paper will explain why and how this response system has been set up and how a response team and equipment will be selected and mobilised, drawing from the expertise of a number of professional organisations and without attempting to duplicate or compete with any other effort. The paper will explore the benefits this system could have beyond the direct oil industry interests for which it has been developed but also list the various constraints of working at a global scale, for instance the limitations of the identified response groups to regularly train and work together.