



POSOW

Preparedness for oil-polluted
Shoreline cleanup and
Oiled Wildlife interventions



SIMARINE-NATURA

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Report on the POSOW Slovenian National Pilot Training



21 - 23 November 2013

POSOW is a project co-financed by EU under the [Civil Protection Financial Instrument](#) developed in cooperation with [ISPRA](#), [Cedre](#), [See Alarm](#) and [CPMR](#) and coordinated by [REMPEC](#) a regional Centre of the [Barcelona Convention](#).

Introduction

The Civil Protection and Disaster Relief of the Republic of Slovenia organised a national training course on oiled shoreline assessment and cleanup, volunteers' management and wildlife response, on the 21, 22 and 23 November 2013, in its training centre located in Sežana. A field exercise was organized, on the last day, in the premises owned by the Slovenian Environment Agency (ARSO), in Koper.

The training targeted representatives of the Civil Protection, local authorities and NGOs who could be involved, under the supervision of the competent authorities, on a voluntary basis, in oil spill response operations. The objective of the training was to provide knowledge on oiled shoreline assessment and cleanup as well as oiled wildlife response.

This training was organised within the framework of the POSOW Project co-financed by EU under the Civil Protection Financial Instrument, developed in cooperation with the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (*Cedre*), the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), Sea Alarm Foundation, and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR), and coordinated by REMPEC as regional Centre of the Barcelona Convention. Twenty four (24) volunteers participated in the Training Course. The list of participants is attached to the present report in **Annex I**.

Mr Zvezdan Božič, responsible for Sežana area of Slovenian Civil Protection, welcomed the volunteers and provided an overview on the 3 days training course programme (**Annex II**), and detailed the organisation of the event.

Course Delivery

Day 1 - Thursday 21 November 2013

National Response System

Mr Zvezdan Božič introduced the current national response system and presented the national contingency plan, recalling the main entities involved in case of an oil spill in the Republic of Slovenia.

A Preparedness Project for European Civil Protection

Mr Luigi Alcaro, Researcher at ISPRA's Marine Environmental Emergency Service, introduced the POSOW project.

Geological and geomorphologic characteristics of Slovenian coast

Branko Čermelj, professor at the National Institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station Piran, presented the main geological and geomorphologic characteristics of Slovenian coast. His presentation provided the background for a better understanding of the environment where interventions could take place.

Logistics

Mr Zvezdan Božič introduced the main logistical elements to manage oil spill operators and volunteers in the field.

Chain of command

Yet Mr Zvezdan Božič provided an overview of the chain of command, highlighting that all activities should be authorised and supervised by the national competent authorities.

Expected roles and technical sheets

Finally, Mr Zvezdan Božič detailed the possible roles of volunteers in a shoreline response. The datasheets available in the manuals were explained through theoretical examples and using POSOW's presentations and posters.

Assessment

Mag. Marko Perkovič, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport Portorož, explained the shoreline assessment methodology and assisted participants in using the datasheets and forms available in the related Manual.

General principles of cleanup

Mr Zvezdan Božič explained the parameters considered by decision makers to select the most effective cleanup techniques, including the oil weathering, the oil movement, etc... . Mr. Luigi Alcaro displayed some selected documentaries on the lesson learnt from past major oil spill, during lunch and coffee breaks on the first two days.

Cleanup techniques

Mr Zvezdan Božič emphasized the importance of volunteers in case of a major incident. He explained the health and safety main aspects to be considered by volunteers when implementing the various cleanup techniques.

Worksite organisation

Mr Zvezdan Božič reminded that cleanup sites must be considered as hazardous environments and presented all the safety and logistical issues to set an operative worksite up.

Day 2 - Friday 22 November 2013

On the second day of the training Peter MARIČIČ, University of Primorska, Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies, presented the program of the day.

Overview on Wildlife Response - Health and Safety

Mr Peter MARIČIČ introduced health and safety issues and decontamination procedures. Volunteers were taught on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and on their use.

Search and collection, animal transport

Mr Peter MARIČIČ explained how and why it is important to collect different kind of data to report to the authorities. The presentation also focused on best ways to capture and transport oiled wildlife. Appropriate techniques to catch animals without hurting them and the volunteers themselves were demonstrated.

Animal care (stabilization and prewash)

Ms. Bojana LIPEJ, DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia introduced the preparatory phase before the final cleaning of the affected animal. The main roles of volunteers in these phases have been highlighted.

Setting up/running a command centre

Ms. Bojana LIPEJ detailed the effects of oil on wildlife, rescue activities and possible roles of volunteers during the response. The necessary structures to set up a rescue centre during an oil spill response were also described.

Day 3 - Saturday 23 November 2013

Field exercise

A field exercise was performed in the premises owned by the Slovenian Environment Agency (ARSO). The Center stores response equipment including containing booms, sorbent materials, skimmers, pressure washer, etc. A demonstration of their use in recovery and containment techniques was carried. The operators used real oil in a confined tank. Oiled gravels and rocks were also cleaned with a pressure washer, in a confined space. Mr Peter MARIČIČ illustrated the main equipment used to capture and transport oiled wildlife.

Conclusion of the training

Evaluation of the training

Participants were invited to fill-in an evaluation sheet to provide the POSOW partners with their feedback on the National Training Course. The following table summarizes the evaluation given by participants of the training. The rating is based on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being bad and 5 excellent.

Title of the conference presentation/exercise	Content adequacy mark (from 1 to 5**)	Presentation mark (from 1 to 5**)	Observations
Thursday 21 November 2013			
Volunteer Management	4.42	4.36	Too much repetition for key elements. This session could probably be shortened
Oiled shoreline assessment	4,72	4.82	Presentation was really appreciated. Probably, more time should be devoted or a more practical experience should be presented (e.g. during on field exercise as well as through a role playing)
Oiled shoreline cleanup	4,33	4.30	The presentation was appreciated. This session could be extended.
Friday 22 November 2013			
Oiled Wildlife Response	4.40	4.55	The audience really appreciated these interventions. However, too much time was dedicated to this session, leaving less time to other sessions (e.g. oiled shoreline assessment)
Saturday 23 November 2013			
Exercise	4,81	4,81	The exercise was really appreciated. It was suggested to add clean-up activities along a shoreline to complete the learning process.

Debate and Suggestions

Evaluation average shows that participants appreciated and valued the training content, material and the performance of the trainers. According to the participants, improvements should be made on the following points:

- Increase the course duration
- More connection between Oil spill response and oiled wildlife rescue. Alternatively, organise two separate “specialized” training courses focused respectively on oil shoreline clean-up and intervention on oiled wildlife.
- Add an introduction on oil behaviour and its environmental effects through illustration of past accident
- Add an introduction on main characteristics of shoreline and wildlife that could be endangered at national level
- Add practical exercises on all technical topics, including rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife
- Follow ups of the training

Certificate Delivery and conclusion of the training

Mr Zvezdan Božič, together with the President of the Slovenian Civil Protection, delivered the POSOW certificates to the volunteers. They thanked the volunteers for their participation and highlighted the importance of their involvement in the promotion of this program in their association and organization.

Annex I
LIST OF
PARTICIPANTS

	IME IN PRIIMEK / NAME AND SURNAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION / COMPANY / INSTITUTION	E-MAIL
1	Tjaša ZAGORŠEK	(University of Primorska, Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies Koper	tzagorsek@gmail.com
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18	Marko PERKOVIČ	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport	marko.perkovic@fpp.uni-lj.si
19	Jure BAROVIČ	Port of Koper d.d.	jure.barovic@luka-kp.si
20	Tilen GENOV	Morigenos - Slovenian Marine Mammal Society	tilen.genov@gmail.com
21	Ana HACE	Morigenos - Slovenian Marine Mammal Society	pr@morigenos.org
22	Peter MARIČIČ	University of Primorska, Veterianry clinic Koper d.o.o.	peter.maricic@upr.si
23	doc. dr. Branko ČERMELJ	National Institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station Piran	branko.cermelj@dopps.si
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Annex II

PROGRAMME

Time	Day 1 (21.11.2013)	Day 2 (22.11.2013)	Day 3 (23.11.2013)
9.00	Registration of participants	Overview – Wildlife Response	Field exercise (Koper)
9.30	Opening of Course, welcome speech	Health and safety	
10.00	National Response System		
10.30	Geological and geomorphological characteristics of Slovenian coast (<i>doc. dr. Branko Čermelj, NIB</i>)	Search and collection, animal transport	
11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.30	Overview – volunteer Management	Animal care (stabilization and prewash)	
12.00	Logistic Management	Set up/running a command centre	
12.30	Chain of Command		
13.00	Expected roles and duties for volunteers		
13.30	<i>Lunch</i>		
14.30	Assessment of oil polluted coastal belt (<i>mag. Marko Perkovič</i>)	Facilities for oiled wildlife	End of Training Course
15.00	General principles of cleanup		
15.30	Clean up techniques		
16.00	Worksite organization		
17.00	End of Day 1	End of Day 2	