

**Introduction**

The Republic of Angola is located in south-central Africa, bordering Namibia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. The Atlantic Ocean forms its west coast, which is 1.65km long. The northern province of Cabinda, separated from the mainland by the Democratic Republic of Congo, also borders the Republic of the Congo.

On the northern coast rocky shores and sandy beaches predominate with extensive wetlands, estuaries, lagoons and mangrove swamps are found in the central region and sandy beaches predominating in the south.

The climate is tropical in the north and more temperate in the south where the southward warm Angolan current and the northward cold Benguela current meet to form the Angola-Benguela front. Largely due to the Benguela current, one of the four major coastal upwelling ecosystems in the world, Angola ranks amongst the most productive ocean systems, supporting a tremendous biodiversity and biomass of zooplankton and fish. This biomass in turn supports a variety of seabirds, marine mammals and sea turtles.

(Note: The NOSCP lists species of seabirds and cetaceans recorded during surveys in 2005).

*Avian Species*

Many seabird and waterbird species have been recorded in the waters of Angola, including the critically endangered Tristan albatross (*Diomedea dabbenena*). Endangered, vulnerable and near threatened species include the Cape cormorant (*Phalacrocorax capensis*), African penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*), Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*), Cape gannet (*Morus capensis*), Damara tern (*Sterna balaenarum*) and black-browed albatross (*Thalassarche melanophrys*), African skimmer (*Rhynchops flavirostris*), lesser flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), Maccoa duck (*Oxyura maccoa*) and Eurasian curlew.

*Marine mammals*

Most marine mammal species recorded off the coast of Angola are present year round and often in mixed groups. Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) whales, however are more common in winter and spring. Other species commonly found include blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*) and short-finned pilot (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) whales, as well as Atlantic humpback (*Sousa teuszii*), bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*) and Atlantic spotted (*Stenella frontalis*) dolphins.

The African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) is found mainly in waters of the Congo, Chiloango, Mbridge, Dande and Bengo Rivers. Cape fur seals (*Arctocephalus pusillus*) may be present at any point along the Angolan coast, however the main concentration is generally found in the area of Baía dos Tigres, an island off the southern coast of the country, also known for large concentrations of seabirds.

*Marine Reptiles*

Five species of sea turtle– Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), leatherback

(*Dermochelys coriacea*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)— are found in Angolan waters, with three species (green, Olive Ridley and leatherback) confirmed nesting there.

**Regional Seas**

Central and West Africa RS (Southeast Atlantic)

**Past experience**

Angola is one of the largest oil producers in Africa but has experienced few major oil spills. In 1991 the ABT Summer spilled 260.000 tonnes of oil after an on board explosion off the coast of Angola. In 1999/2000, oil leaking from fields off the Cabinda province coast resulted in damage to the local fishing industry.

There are reports, which give few details, of spills from offshore activities in 1999/2000 and 2002. In 2013, the Ministry of the Environment reported 20 cases where oil spills resulted in legal action by the State. No details are available on these spills. No significant oiled wildlife response has been mounted in Angola to date.

**Response: the role of the authorities**

The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, developed through the GI WACAF Project, was approved in 2008. The Environment Department of the Ministry of Petroleum is designated as the competent authority. The Executive Technical Committee for oil spill response, which is coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment, has representatives from Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Petroleum; Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Environment Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of External relations and the oil industry operators.

The Natural Resources Department of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Environment would likely have responsibility for response to oiled wildlife.

**Oiled wildlife response**Formal guidelines?

The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan does not address oiled wildlife response in detail. It does, however, note that wildlife has priority over fisheries when determining whether to use dispersants. There are no specific guidelines on oiled wildlife response.

Response objectives and strategy

N/A

Euthanasia or rehabilitation?

It is likely that rehabilitation would be permitted, however, no procedures are in place for this. Permission to euthanise animals in the event of a spill would need to be requested from the Ministry of Agriculture: Rural Development and Fisheries, Institute of Veterinary Services.

Impact assessment

While there are no clear guidelines and impact assessment is not addressed in the NOSCP, it is likely

that the Ministry of the Environment would be the key decision maker on any impact assessment undertaken. The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries' National Institute for Fisheries Research (INIP), the Natural History Museum in Luanda and the University of Angola Department of Biology's Kitabanga sea turtle monitoring project would be potential participants in the process.

#### Notification and early response

No processes are in place.

#### **Wildlife responders**

There are no wildlife rehabilitation or oiled wildlife response organisations or individuals in Angola. As with impact assessment, it is likely the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Environment would be the primary decision making body regarding oiled wildlife response.

The Kitabanga project (above) and the Provincial Fisheries Departments in Kwanza Sul and Cabinda may play a role in any response to sea turtles impacted by oil. Also in Cabinda, personnel at Chevron's Operations Base who have been involved in turtle monitoring, assisting with hatching and nest relocation might be potential participants in turtle response.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries' state veterinarians may be able to assist with provision of medications and veterinary care. INIP has laboratory facilities and may also be able to assist with sourcing fish supplies.

The Artesanal Fishing Institute (IPA), an arm of INIP, the Maiombe Network which is an umbrella organisation for a number of NGOs and the Ecological Youth of Angola (JEA) might be able to assist with providing volunteers and local knowledge.

#### **Cooperation between stakeholders**

With no infrastructure in place for oiled wildlife response, there has been little opportunity for stakeholders to develop cooperative processes.

Angola does not have any regional or bilateral response agreements with other nations.

#### **Permanent facilities**

There are no permanent facilities for wildlife rehabilitation.

#### **Current processes**

In 2014 a national exercise to test and update the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan was held, although response to oiled wildlife was not a significant part of that exercise.

Some oil and gas companies operating in the area are in the process of developing their own internal wildlife response plans and, as part of that process, are collaborating on sensitivity mapping of the coastline.

#### **Documentation and references**

General references

Angola National Oil Spill Contingency Plan 2010

Angola ITOPF Country Profile

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