

Introduction

Senegal shares coastal borders with Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia and Mauritania. The border with Mauritania remains under dispute and The Gambia occupies a narrow strip through the middle of Senegal, tracking along the Gambia River. The coast of Senegal is home to more than half the total population of the country. Important habitat for migrating and nesting birds is found along the 531km coastline. Four national parks, three on the coast and one along the Senegal River just a short distance inland, are of concern in the event of an oil spill- The Parc National du Delta du Saloum, (Biosphere Reserve and Ramsar Wetland), Parc National des Iles de la Madeleine (marine protected area), Parc National Langue de Barbarie, Parc National des Oiseaux de Djoudj (Ramsar Wetland and World Heritage Site).

Avian Species - among the more than 600 species of bird found in Senegal over 300 species of seabirds and shorebirds are either resident or migrant along the coast of Senegal. IUCN Redlist Vulnerable species include black-crowned crane, marbled teal, lappet-faced vulture, white-headed vulture. Other Marine Species of Concern are the African skimmer, lesser flamingo, Eurasian curlew, black-tailed godwit, Audouin's gull, ferruginous duck, great snipe, Palearctic osprey and Cape Verde shearwater.

Marine mammals - African manatee and approximately 20 species of cetacean including Sperm whale, sei whale, Atlantic hump-backed dolphin, pilot whale, bottle nosed dolphins, common dolphins, several species of spotted dolphin are found in Senegal's waters.

Sea turtles - Leatherback, green, hawksbill, loggerhead, and Olive Ridley turtles are found here. Green turtle nesting has been confirmed near the border with The Gambia.

Regional Seas

Atlantic Ocean

Past experience

There have been no major oil spills reported in Senegalese waters.

Response: the role of the authorities

La Haute Autorité chargée de la Coordination de la Sécurité Maritime, de la Sureté Maritime et de la Protection de l'Environnement Marin (HASSMAR) is the primary agency entitled to act on behalf of the government to provide or request assistance under the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) also called the Plan POLMAR, which was developed under GI-WACAF, was approved in 2008. The National Coordinator for oil spill response is the Secretary General of HASSMAR.

Oiled wildlife responseFormal guidelines?

There are no formal guidelines for oiled wildlife response in Senegal.

Response objectives and strategy

N/A.

Euthanasia or rehabilitation?

The Plan POLMAR does not include mechanisms for wildlife rehabilitation but, should a spill occur, the National Coordinator may authorise the establishment of rehabilitation facilities. Wildlife rehabilitation NGOs must be authorised to work in Senegal by the Ministère de l'Ecologie et de la Protection de la Nature.

Impact assessment

The Ministère de l'Ecologie et de la Protection de la Nature has responsibility for evaluation and monitoring of the impacts of pollution on the environment and wildlife. Other agencies that would potentially be involved in impact assessment are HASSMAR, the Environmental Monitoring Center (Centre de Suivi Ecologique or CSE), the Ocean and Marine Fisheries Department (DPM), Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Dakar-Thiaroye Center for Oceanographic Research (CRODT), la Direction des Parcs nationaux, la Direction des Eaux et Forêts, the West African Association for the Marine Environment (WAAME). Wetlands International Afrique, and l'Ecole Inter Etats de Medecine vétérinaire.

Notification and early response

Offshore oil spills are reported to HASSMAR's MRCC Dakar office. Onshore response is coordinated through the Ministry of the Interior.

There is no system for early notification of oil-affected wildlife at present, however, individuals may report cases to the MRCC via the national emergency line.

Wildlife responders

Senegal is a member of the West African Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme (PRCM), which includes representatives from Mauritania, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Cape Verde and Sierra Leone. However, there do not appear to be any organized wildlife rehabilitation programs within Senegal.

Cooperation between stakeholders

The organisations listed under Impact Assessment work together on wildlife and conservation issues and would likely form the core of any oiled wildlife response.

Permanent facilities

No permanent facilities for wildlife rehabilitation exist at this time.

Current processes

There are no processes in place for wildlife in the event of an oil spill.

Documentation and references

General references

ITOPF Senegal Country Profile 1997

Global Initiative for West and Central Africa (GI WACAF) Senegal Country Profile (<http://www.giwacaf.org/countryProfile.asp>)

Bird Life International List of Endangered Birds in Senegal (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>)

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Country Wildlife Response Profiles
A Summary of oiled wildlife response
arrangements and resources worldwide

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