

Introduction

The Republic of Cote d'Ivoire is bordered on the west by Liberia and Guinea, on the north by Mali and Burkina Faso, on the west by Ghana, and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean. The western border with Ghana is currently disputed.

The country's 515 km of coastline includes sandy beaches, rocky shores, and extensive mangroves, lagoons, and coastal estuaries. Five RAMSAR sites along the coast (Iles Ehotilé-Essouman which includes Iles Ehotilé National Park, N'Ganda N'Ganda, Parc National d'Azagny, Fresco and Complexe Sassandra-Dagbego) provide important habitat for coastal and forest species.

At Risk Wildlife

In this section, some individual wildlife species are mentioned followed by a letter in parentheses. These are species included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species within the top three categories of risk - Vulnerable to extinction (V), Endangered (E) or Critically Endangered (CR).

Avian species – in addition to a variety of wading birds, shorebirds and waterfowl that winter or breed along the coast, some species of sunbird and weaverbird are restricted to coastal vegetation and mangroves. Of special concern are the rufous fishing owl (V) which occurs in mangroves, the hooded vulture (CR) which forages on the coast, and the Damara tern (V).

Marine mammals – a variety of cetaceans are found offshore. The Atlantic humpback dolphin (CR) and African manatee (V) and harbour porpoise inhabit nearshore and coastal areas putting them at greater risk. Spot-necked and African clawless otters also forage in coastal waters.

Note: A number of land mammals including various species of antelope (duiker, eland, etc.), forest elephant (EN), and primates including chimpanzees (CR subspecies) may also be found in forested coastal areas

Marine reptiles – Leatherback (V), Olive Ridley (V), and green (E) turtles nest on Cote d'Ivoire beaches from October to February. Juvenile hawksbill (CR) and green turtles forage along rocky nearshore areas. Most of the turtle nesting sites are between Grand Bereby and Tabou on the western side of the country, with the most important nesting beach near the Liberian border town of Mani.

The slender-snouted crocodile (CR) may be found in lagoons near the coast but generally prefers freshwater.

Regional Seas

Gulf of Guinea, Atlantic Ocean

Past experience

In addition to a number of small spills in the vicinity of Abidjan's refinery and terminal, there have been five larger spills that have impacted the lagoon and beaches near the city, including the CNR International spill in 2006 which impacted the area of Jacques Ville. There were no reports of impacted wildlife in any of the spills.

Response: the role of the authorities

The Centre Ivoirien Antipollution (CIAPOL), under the Ministère du logement du Cadre de vie et de l'Environnement (Ministry of Housing of the Living and the Environment), implements the national contingency plan for combating accidental pollution at sea, in the lagoon and coastal areas or Plan National d'Intervention d'Urgence de lutte contre les pollutions accidentelles en mer, en lagune et dans les zones côtières (PNIU). Within CIAPOL, the Compagnie d'Intervention contre les Pollutions Marines et Lagunaires (CIPOMAR) is the response division which initiates the PNIU when needed. The Laboratoire Central de l'Environnement (LCE) is responsible for analysis of oil and HNS spill samples.

Oiled wildlife response

Formal guidelines?

There is no reference to oiled wildlife in the PNIU and no work has begun on addressing impacted wildlife during an oil spill.

It is likely the Ministry of the Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development (Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Salubrité Urbaine et du Développement Durable or MINSÉDD), in particular the Office Ivoirien

des Parcs et Réserves (Office of Parks and Reserves), the l'Agence Nationale de l'Environnement (ANDE or Environment Agency) and the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (Ministere des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques) would be involved in response as well.

Response objectives and strategy

N/A

Euthanasia or rehabilitation?

Rehabilitation would likely be allowed with euthanasia permitted based health and welfare assessment, however there is no capacity at this time to respond to oiled wildlife.

Impact assessment

Although not specified in the national contingency plan, it is likely that ANDE would be the lead agency for impact assessment and that the Centre de Recherche Oceanologique (Centre for Oceanographic Research or CRO) would also be involved. SOS Forêts, Cote d'Ivoire's Birdlife International partner, which has been involved in sea turtle protection and aquatic environmental assessment, might also be involved. Another NGO, Linking Tourism and Conservation, has a project in Cote d'Ivoire for the conservation of marine species which focuses on sea turtles at this time. It might also be involved in impact assessment.

Notification and early response

There is no system in place for notification of, and early response to, wildlife impacted by an oil spill.

Wildlife responders

There are no experienced oiled wildlife rehabilitators in Cote d'Ivoire. The National Zoo of Abidjan has done some limited rehabilitation. It is not clear whether capacity still exists at this facility, however, the Albuquerque BioPark in the United States has been assisting the Zoo in improving its facilities and capacity to care for animals.

Cooperation between stakeholders

Cote d'Ivoire is a signatory to the Abidjan Convention and the related Protocol on Hydrocarbon Pollution, the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Regional and the Bamako Convention on importation and movements of hazardous wastes in Africa, and participates in the OBANGAME Interregional Exercises with the US Navy on Maritime Security and Safety in the Gulf of Guinea.

Permanent facilities

There are no permanent facilities for wildlife rehabilitation in Cote d'Ivoire, although in the past the National Zoo has done some wildlife rehabilitation for the Wildlife Department of the Ministry of the Environment in the past.

Current processes

Cote d'Ivoire runs annual exercises to test the Plan Pollumar. In 2017, WACAF staff attended as observers and provided feedback on the two-day exercise.

Cote d'Ivoire's CIAPOL hosted the regional WACAF conference in 2017.

Documentation and references

General references

I TOPF Country Profile (2001)

Birdlife International Country Profile

RAMSAR Country Profile

WACAF Country Profile (2017)

State of the World's Sea Turtles V12 (Special Report on Africa)

Gómez Peñate, J, Mamadou, K, Bamba, S, and Gervais Djadji. 2007. An Update on Marine Turtles in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. *Marine Turtle Newsletter* 116:7-8.

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

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