

Introduction

The island of Madagascar is well known for its variety of endemic species, many of which are endangered or vulnerable. Approximately 70% of Madagascar's known species are endemic. Birdlife International has recognized the West Malagasy wetlands (26000 sq km), which includes coastland, islets, mangroves, marshes, and the mouths of major rivers as an Endemic Bird Area.

There are a total of 74 Important Bird Areas named in Madagascar. Among those at risk from oil spills are the Baly Bay National Park, Ampasindava Wetlands and Forest Complex, the Tsiribihina river delta, the Tambohorano wetland complex, the south western coastal wetlands (includes Nosy Manitse), the Sahamalaza Bay (and its wetlands) and Nosy Be (includes satellite islands).

Despite having not experienced a major oil spill to date, over 700 million tons of crude oil passes through the Western Indian Ocean Island states (Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros) area.

Many species of birds inhabit Madagascar. Endangered species include the Madagascar teal (*Anas bernieri*), Indian yellow-nosed albatross (*Thalassarche carteri*), Madagascar sacred ibis (*Threskiornis bernieri*), Madagascar pond-heron (*Ardeola idea*), Madagascar heron (*Ardea humbloti*), Madagascar fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*), Sakalava rail (*Amauornis oliveri*).

Vulnerable species include Wandering albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), white-chinned petrel (*Procellaria aquinoctialis*), Madagascar harrier (*Circus macrosceles*), white-breasted mesite (*Mesitornis variegates*), subdesert mesite (*Monias benschi*), Madagascar rail (*Rallus madagascariensis*), Madagascar plover (*Charadrius thracicus*), Madagascar pratincole (*Glareola ocularis*), southern giant petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*), Crab plover (*Dromas ardeola*), lesser-crested tern (*Sterna benagalensis*), Saunder's tern (*Sterna saundersi*), lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*) and the endemic Madagascar jacana (*Actophilornis albinucha*) are also found in Madagascar. A number of shorebirds winter on the western coast.

Marine mammals also inhabit Malagasy waters including Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Dugong (*Dugong dugon*), Indo-pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*), Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaengliae*), southern right whale (*Eubalena australis*), pygmy right whale (*Caperea marginata*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*), dwarf sperm whale (*Kogia sima*), crabeater seal (*Lobodon carcinophaga*) and subantarctic fur seal (*Arctocephalus tropicalis*).

Madagascar is also home of five species of sea turtles Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Green (*Chelonia mydas*), Leatherback (*Dermodochelys coriacea*), Hawksbill (*Eretmodochelys imbricata*) and Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). All but the leatherback breed on local beaches.

Regional Seas

The Indian Ocean (surrounds the country)

The Mozambique Channel (separates Madagascar from mainland Africa)

Past experience

There have been no major oil spills in Madagascar to date.

Response: the role of the authorities

There is no legislation or organization responsible for dealing with oil spills in Madagascar. It is expected that

the Emergency Disaster Committee would be activated in the case of a major event.

Madagascar is a signatory to the Nairobi Convention, which includes a Protocol for Cooperation in Combating Marine Pollution in Cases of Emergency in the East African Region

In the years from 1998 to 2003 the World Bank funded a project called Western Indian Ocean Islands Oil Spill Contingency Planning to address national and regional oil spill response efforts. That plan involves cooperative effort between Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles

Oiled wildlife response

Formal guidelines?

There are no formal guidelines in place for wildlife response.

Response objectives and strategy

N/A

Euthanasia or rehabilitation?

There are no guidelines on this issue, however, the importance of endemic species on this island would likely result in pressure to initiate a rehabilitation program in the event of an oil spill.

Impact assessment

There are no formal plans in place for impact assessment. It is likely that groups such as Asity Madagascar, a BirdLife International Affiliate, would be involved in any efforts at impact assessment.

Notification and early response

There are no guidelines for response in Madagascar.

Wildlife responders

There are no large wildlife rehabilitation programs in Madagascar.

Cooperation between stakeholders

Member or signatory of:

- o IOSEA(Indian Ocean-South East Asia's Marine Turtle MOU
- o Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment (East African Region)
- o Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas

Permanent facilities

There are no permanent facilities for oiled wildlife response.

Current processes

There are no current processes in place for oiled wildlife response in Madagascar

Documentation and references

General references

ITOPF Madagascar Country Profile

IOSC www.iosc.org/papers/02364.pdf

Asity Masagascar/ Birdlife Affiliate

(<http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/national/madagascar/index.html>)

Western Indian Ocean Islands Oil Spill Contingency Planning Project

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MADAGASCAR

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

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