Introduction
Nigeria ranks among one of the world’s largest oil exporting countries. It has a coastline of approximately 853 km facing the Atlantic Ocean. The Nigerian coast is composed of four distinct geomorphology units namely the Barrier-Lagoon Complex, the Mud Coast, the Arcuate Niger Delta and the Strand Coast.

Nigeria holds the largest mangrove forest coverage in Africa and the third largest in the world and has a minimal coverage of coral reef. Nigeria hosts dense populations of birds; some of them are seasonal birds migrating from Europe to Nigeria, especially the migratory waterfowl that fly annually to the wetlands of the Nigeria Delta and those in the northern part of the country. Sixty-seven bird species found in Nigeria are purely aquatic and 76% of these species are resident and indigenous to Nigeria. Amongst the aquatic birds are the common species of herons, egrets, Pigmy goose, Lily-trotter, Black-winged Stilt, Egyptian Plover, Black Crane, fish eagle and darters, the majority of which are piscivorous.

Besides water turtles, terrapins and crocodiles one can find the marsh mongoose, civets, genets, otter and manatees amongst aquatic species of conservation value. Their distribution extends from Lake Chad to Lake Kainji for the other while the mongoose, civets and genets are distributed along rivers and other water bodies in the woodland savannah and forest zones. There are also two species of hippopotamus, the large cloven footed African giant Hippopotamus amphibius, confined to big rivers, lakes and similar water bodies, while the pigmy hippopotamus Choeropsis liberiensis, has a limited distribution in the forest zones and is confined to the delta regions of the River Niger.

In Nigeria, the manatee inhabits large water bodies of the Sahel and is distributed throughout Nigeria to the coastal region. The population is threatened by human pressure and is now limited to large water bodies of the Plateau and a more substantial population is found in the coastal and delta regions, in particular around the Cross River and Akwa-Ibom States where this animal is worshipped. Only Trichechus senegalensis is indigenous to Nigeria and is well distributed in West Africa along the estuaries of the Senegal, Niger and Congo rivers.

Oil production and shipping activities are taking place very near to the sensitive coastal areas, especially to the Niger Delta, and therefore pose a considerable risk.

Regional Seas
Atlantic Ocean – Gulf of Guinea

Past experience
Oil spillage is a major environmental problem in Nigeria. Between 1976 and 1996, Nigeria recorded a total of 4835 oil spill incidents in the Niger Delta area. Some of the major spills in the coastal zone are the GOCON’s Escravos spill in 1978, the Abudu pipe line in 1982, the Jesse Fire Incident and the Idoho Oil Spill in January 1998. The most publicised of all oil spills in Nigeria occurred on January 1980 and resulted from a blow out at Funiwa 5 offshore station. No records of oiled wildlife were encountered connected to these incidents.

Response: the role of the authorities
Despite the level of oil industries activities, oil spill contingency arrangements in Nigeria are relatively undeveloped.

The authority that is responsible for the oil spill clean up is the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) that has been created in 2006. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for oil spill planning and response with NOSDRA, NMISA (Nigerian Maritime and Safety Agency), the Urban and Regional Planning, the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the Coastal State Ministries of Environment.
A National Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been set up by the National Oil Spill Response Advisory Committee. Each operating oil company is required by law to possess a contingency plan for the prevention, control and removal of spilled oil from its own facilities. In addition, Clean Nigeria Associates (CNA), a consortium of eleven oil companies operating in Nigeria and founded in 1981, can be called upon by members when faced with spills beyond the capability of own resources. Moreover, the law makes Environmental Impact Assessment compulsory for any major project that may have adverse effects on the environment.

The authority responsible for wildlife at the national level would be the Federal Ministry of Agriculture or the Forestry Department. Another national state body, the National Resources Conservation Council (NRCC), which directly resorts under the President, is also responsible for monitoring and conservation of natural resources including water and aquatic resources. It has been created in the late 80’s and consists of the President and representatives from several ministries as well as members of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF).

An oiled wildlife incident would involve the Department of Fisheries, resorting under the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as the Ministry of Environment, although a high level of oiled wildlife response preparedness should not be expected.

Oiled wildlife response

Formal guidelines?
The Ministry of Environment is legally empowered with the responsibility of protecting and sustaining the Nigerian Environment. An Environment Impact Assessment Decree has passed in 1992 in order to control activities that have environmental impact which facilitates the promotion and the implementation of policy, encourage information exchange. In 2002, the Nigerian government has issued the Environmental Guidelines and Standards for the Oil Industry and has ordered the oil companies operating in the country to comply with it. Regarding the response and preparedness to oiled wildlife, according to different sources, no formal plan exists.

Response objectives and strategy
No formal objectives and strategies as to the response to oiled wildlife incidents have been defined.

Euthanasia or rehabilitation?
No formal guidelines exist

Impact assessment
No organisation or institute could be identified that would take a scientific interest or responsibility to carry out a wildlife impact assessment in the aftermath of an oil spill.

Notification and early response
In case of an oiled wildlife incident, it would probably be NGO’s that would notify the relevant authorities and put pressure on the company (-ies) involved.

Wildlife responders
No wildlife responders could be identified in Nigeria. A few organisations may provide useful information in case of an oil spill incident involving wildlife:
The Nigerian Conservation Foundation is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) dedicated to the promotion of nature conservation in Nigeria. The activities of the NCF encompass conservation, education, support for wildlife research, protection of endangered species and habitat and lobbying for legislation and policy initiatives that promote nature conservation.
The Foundation is implementing different kind of programs in collaboration with other international and local
NGOs, such as Wildlife Conservation Society, Birdlife International, Wetlands International, WWF, IUCN or A.P Leventis. Regarding marine and wildlife issues, NCS has developed different projects such as the Niger Delta Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Programme, whose main aim was to ensure the conservation and wise use of natural resources within the Niger Delta. Another major project is the Important Bird Area Programme; which was an initiative of BirdLife aiming at identifying and protecting a network of critical sites for the conservation of the World’s birds. A third major programme implemented by NCS is the Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands conservation Project which has succeeded in bringing about recognition of the ecological and economic importance of the Hadejia -Nguru Wetlands amongst Decision Makers at the state and federal levels. It has also acquired and processed a large quantity of data and information on the hydrology, biology and socio-economics of the area.

A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) is a small institute connected to the University of Jos (UNIJOS). The institute aims to educate students in Conservation Biology, and to be a centre for Ornithology in West Africa. APLORI also aims to provide a platform for Nigerian and international scientists to conduct research on animal and plant ecology in Nigeria. Amongst other projects, APLORI studies the ecology of wintering Palearctic migratory birds in the wetlands of Nigeria.

The Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR) was established in November 1975. The Institute has the mandate to conduct research into the resources and physical characteristics of the Nigerian territorial waters and the high seas beyond, which includes e.g. fisheries research and effects of pollution.

The Nigerian Veterinary Research Institute has a broad mandate into veterinary medicine and all of its applications.

ABGREMO Nigeria is an NGO working on a broad range of environmental issues and involved in advocacy, monitoring and reporting on issues that affect the ecosystem of the marine and coastal areas. Recently they have conducted capacity building for local communities aiming at independent monitoring and reporting on extractive industries activities. ABGREMO is also working on mangrove conservation in the Niger-Delta.

The Drill Ranch aims at the conservation of the drill and carries out different kind of activities such as habitat protection; captive care and breeding; research; training; small scale development schemes and advocacy. Drill Ranch collaborates with state and national governments, communities, traditional rulers, other international and local NGOs, zoos, advisory groups, and the private sector to achieve its goal.

CERCOPAN is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation located in southeast Nigeria. It aims at the conservation of rainforest primates and their habitat. It focuses on guenons and mangabeys and includes rescue, rehabilitation, conservation education and research. CERCOPAN works in cooperation with the Department of Wildlife and Ecotourism, Cross River State Forestry Commission, under the Ministry of Environment. CERCOPAN has two sites, its administrative and primate rehabilitation headquarters in Calabar, and its international research and education centre at Rhoko, Iko Esai.

The Wildlife Conservation Society since 2001 has worked with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) to support biodiversity research throughout south-eastern Nigeria. In particular, WCS has been focusing on the Af and Mbe Mountain chain which links with the Cross River National Park as well as the Takamanda-Mone Forest in Cameroon, forming a rich landscape that offers refuge for plant and animal diversity.

Cooperation between stakeholders
There is cooperation between oil industries and government authorities that deal with oil development activities and between oil industries.
No collaboration exists between oil industries and NGO's.

Permanent facilities
Permanent facilities that could be important in case of an oiled wildlife incident could not be identified.

Current processes
n.a.

Documentation and references
General references

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