Introduction
The Republic of Chile is a country located in South America. It borders Argentina and Bolivia to the east, Perú to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the west. It occupies a long narrow coastal strip between the Andean mountains and the Pacific Ocean. It covers a long coastline of 6,435 kilometers including the Drake Passage in the South, the overseas territories of Juan Fernandez Islands, the Salas y Gomez Islands, the Desventuradas Islands and Easter Island located in Polynesia.

The country is divided in 15 regions and all of them except the Metropolitan Region, have a shoreline facing the Pacific Ocean. Due to its geography, covering a long narrow strip stretching 4,630 kilometers north to south, there is a remarkable variety of landscapes and species. It encompasses the Atacama Desert in the north of the country, a very productive Central Valley and a labyrinth of fjords, inlets, channels, islands and peninsulas in the south. The south is also rich in volcanoes, lakes and vast forests.

The Chilean coast is under the influence of the cold nutrient-rich Humboldt Current with the largest upwelling system in the world supporting one of the most productive fishing ground in the World. Due to the Humboldt Current and the diversity of landscapes, the Chilean coast is home to a rich and diverse fauna. Around 50% of cetacean species have been registered in Chilean waters. The following species have commonly been sighted: blue whale (Balaenoptera musculus), Humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae), Peales dolphin (Lagenorhynchus australis) Commerson’s dolphin (Cephalorhynchus commersonii), Chilean dolphin (Cephalorhynchus eutropia) and bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus). Other species such as the Chile-Peru right whale (Eubalaena australis), Fin Whale (Balaenoptera Physalus) and the Sei Whale (Balaenoptera Borealis) habit Chilean waters and are classified as endangered species in the 2008 IUCN Red List.

Other mammals occurring along the coast of Chile are the endangered marine otter (Lontra felina) and the South American sea lion (Otaria flavescens). The coast is also home to five species of penguins: the King Penguin (Aptenodytes patagonicus), Magallanes Penguin (Spheniscus magellanicus), the vulnerable Macaroni Penguin (Eudyptes chrysolophus), the Southern Rockhopper Penguin (Eudyptes chrysocome) and the Humboldt Penguin (Spheniscus humboldti). Four species of turtles have been sighted in Chilean waters: the loggerhead (Caretta caretta), the green turtle (Chelonia mydas), the Olive Ridley sea turtle (Lepidochelys olivacea) and the leatherback turtle (Dermochelys coriacea).

The Chilean coast also hosts many sea bird species including more than 8 species of albatross, among them the critically endangered Chathamb albatross (Thalassarche eremite), more than 6 species of petrels including the endangered Cook’s Petrel (Pterodroma cookie) and the Peruvian Diving-petrel (Pelecanoides gormotii) as well as 9 species of gulls, including the Franklin’s gulls (Larus pipixcan). The Peruvian pelican (Pelecanus thagus) classified as Near threatened by the IUCN Red List 2008, the Andean Flamingo (Phoenicoparrus andinus) and the Guanay Cormorant (Phalacrocorax bougainvillii) also occur along the Chilean coast. The coast also represents home for the following migratory shorebirds: the Sanderling (Calidris alba), the Hudsonian Godwit (Limosa haemastica), the Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus) and the Red Knot (Calidris canutus).

Chile is a very small producer of oil and gas and it exports more than 85% of its consumption. The Chilean coasts are subject to heavy maritime traffic while the South around Cape Horn and the Drake Passage are well known for its roughness and dangerousness.

The Chilean port system counts with more than twenty ports out of which the following are the most important ones: from north to south, Arica, Iquique, Tocopilla, Antofagasta, Chañaral, Caldera, Huasco, Easter Island, Coquimbo, Quintero, Valparaíso, San Vicente, Puerto Montt, Chacabuco, Punta Arenas, Punta Delgada, Tierra del Fuego and Puerto Williams.

According to the Chile’s NCP, Iquique, Quintero, San Vicente, Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas are areas with the most probability of an occurrence of an oil spill along the Chilean coast.

Regional Seas
South East Pacific Ocean
Past experience
On May 25, 2007 the pipeline of the Empresa Nacional de Petróleo (ENAP) broke spilling around 650 cubic meters of crude oil in Bahía San Vicente in the South of Chile. During this incident, hundreds of sea birds (one sea lion was found dead) were oiled and treated by a temporary facility built by ENAP. After this incident, ENAP was investigated and an environmental mitigation procedure they are financing the construction of a wildlife rescue center at Concepción in the south of Chile that will be managed by CODEFF and Universidad de Concepción. Construction of a high quality is set to begin within the next year. The project is part of an environmental mitigation procedure that the National Oil Company (ENAP) must fund as a result of its San Vicente Bay oil spill in 2007.

The Hong Kong-flagged cargo ship Eider (November 2005) ran aground close to the city of Antofagasta in northern Chile. The Wildlife response group of Antofagasta University (Centro de Rescate y Rehabilitación de Fauna Silvestre (CRRFS) de la Universidad de Antofagasta) took charge of the oiled animals and called upon IFAW’s Emergency Relief Team to help in the rescue and rehabilitation activities. The team included international staff from the IFAW Penguin Network, IBRRC, Centro de Recuperação de Animais Marinhas (CRAM) in Brazil and Foundation Mundo Marino (FMM) in Argentina. The oiled animals rehabilitated by the team included 20 Peruvian pelicans, one Humboldt penguin and two Franklin's gulls.

The Metula (1974) spilled around 47,000 tonnes of light Arabian crude oil and 3,000 to 4,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil in the Strait of Magellan. It impacted the sandy and rocky shores of Tierra del Fuego. No clean-up operations were performed to the remoteness of the area. It has been estimated that around 4,000 birds were killed, including cormorants and penguins.

Other spills occurred along the coast of Chile, Cabo Tamar (1978) 12,500 tons of oil, Cabo Pilar (1987) 7,500 tons of oil and Valparaiso oil terminal (1992) 3,000 cubic meters of oil. No wildlife seems to have been affected.

Response: the role of the authorities
The national competent authority is the Department of Aquatic Environment Preservation and Combat against Pollution (Departamento de Preservación del Medio Ambiente Acuático y Combate a la Contaminación) of the General Department of Maritime Territory and the Merchant Navy, a branch of the Chilean Navy (Armada de Chile). Responsibility of oil spills is under the 16 Gobernaciones Marítimas (Maritime governing regions) and the 57 Capitanías de Puerto (Captains of the Ports).

The NCP consists of 5 regional NCPs in 5 geographical areas with 5 Regional Coordination Centers, Iquique, Valparaíso, Talcahuano, Puerto Montt and Puerto Arenas, covering the entire length of the Chilean coast. There is one General Coordination Center and most of the Regional Coordination Centers are then divided in sub centers. The NCP refers to several ministries such as the National Defense Ministry and the Ministries of Health, Home and Foreign Affairs, the National Commission of Environment (Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente or CONAMA) and the Sub secretary of Fisheries (Sub secretaría de Pesca).

In the case of an oiled wildlife incident, although no plan or strategy have been defined, the public authorities that are in charge of fauna are:
• The National Fisheries Service (Servicio Nacional de Pesca or SERNAPESCA) if marine fauna (including penguins but not other sea birds) are to be treated and
• the Agricultural and Livestock Service (Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero or SAG) in the case of other sea birds.

Oiled wildlife response
Formal guidelines?
Chile does not have a wildlife response plan in place or any formal guidelines. The response would vary very much depending on the animals involved and the regions affected.

However, the Puerto de Mejillones S.A. as part of their environmental impact assessment presented a Wildlife response plan in case of an oil spill. The plan only foresees to immediately notify SAG and SERNAPESCA, as well as the Antofagasta University.

Response objectives and strategy
n.a.

Euthanasia or rehabilitation?

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**Impact assessment**
Authorities will support the rehabilitation of wildlife as it happened in previous incidents.

**Notification and early response**
The Chilean Navy would be informed of any oil spill. Although, no guidelines are pre defined, the navy would probably contact the SAG and SERNAPECSA.

**Wildlife responders**
The following groups would rescue and rehabilitate oiled animals: the Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Group, an NGO that serves the Wild Fauna Rescue and Rehabilitation Center of the University of Antofagasta (CRRFS), the Comite Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF), the University of Concepción, Centro de Rehabilitacion de Fauna Silvestre de San Antonio of the San Antonio Museum, Centro de Rehabilitacion y Recupera de Aves acuaticas y Rapaces, Altos de Lircay and the Centro de Rehabilitación of the San Sebastián University.

**Cooperation between stakeholders**
Cooperation between the different stakeholders is relatively good but varies between regions. For example the San Sebastian University has a cooperation agreement with SERNAPECSA in the Region Bío- Bío in the context of marine wildlife rehabilitation.

**Permanent facilities**
The Wild Fauna Rescue and Rehabilitation Center of the University of Antofagasta (CRRFS) has more than 10 years of experience, has a rehabilitation center in Antofagasta and a volunteer group.
The Comite Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF) also operates a rehabilitation center since 1992.
Other rehabilitation centers include Centro de Rehabilitacion de Fauna Silvestre de San Antonio of the San Antonio Museum, Centro de Rehabilitacion y Recupera de Aves acuaticas y Rapaces. Altos de Lircay, Centro de rehabilitación of the San Sebastián University and Centro de rehabilitación of the Concepción University with experience with oiled wildlife.
The following zoos could also bring support during an oiled wildlife incident: Parque Zoológico de Quilpué and Zoológico de Buin.
Although it does not operate a rehabilitation center, the Foundation Natura Patagonia would provide knowledge and information of Tierra del Fuego. It forms part of the IFAW South American Penguin Network.

**Current processes**
n.a.

**Documentation and references**
General references
Country Profile ITOPF Chile
IFAW Website
General references

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