

Oiled Wildlife Response Capability Building Project, bp Azerbaijan

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bp has a large-scale integrated energy business in the Azerbaijan – Georgia – Turkey Region. This consists of offshore and production operations (platforms, drilling units), subsea pipelines, export pipelines (with an overall length of over 3,000 km), terminals, pump stations and block valves.

Over the past 8 years, bp has been working to strengthen wildlife response capability in Azerbaijan, as wildlife response is considered a core aspect of an oil spill contingency programme within bp. A comprehensive programme was initiated to better understand the potential required capability, available resources already present in country, identify key stakeholders and then the required actions to be taken to build a fit for purpose response capacity.

By exploring the current national capability, this allowed identification of specific gaps and opportunities that existed at that time.

A feasibility study was undertaken with which focussed on the following elements:

- Wildlife data – what species could be impacted by a spill event. This data set considered species distribution and numbers, seasonality, priority species etc.
- The potential responder pool – which organisation (veterinarians, wildlife groups, universities) could be contacted and understood if they may be willing and able to support in the event of an oiled wildlife response event.
- Equipment and resources – what wildlife response equipment already existed in country. Was there a need to identify extra equipment which may be quickly required in the event of a response.
- Contractual preparedness – was there a need to put in place contractual agreements with any potential responders, contractors who could help build/equip wildlife centres or procure resources.
- Identification of potential locations for, wildlife response facilities – based on the potential spill risks, sensitivity maps and wildlife data, could locations be pre-identified that could be utilised as wildlife response centres.
- Development of a wildlife response plan and associated tools. The purpose of the feasibility study was to identify best options to build wildlife response national capability for both response and rehabilitation taking into consideration the species, concentration and distribution, as well as marine and terrestrial aspects. The study was carried out by in line with the Azerbaijan Oil Spill Response (OSR) Contingency Plans and Azerbaijan National Plan, bp policies and the IPIECA (international best practises).

Following the feasibility study, project scope and specific key modules were identified taking into consideration the species, concentration and distribution, as well as marine and terrestrial aspects. These were then developed over time and together make up the overall Azerbaijan wildlife response programme. These modules are;

- **Scope:** Building local Oiled Wildlife Response Capability for OSR Tier 1&2 (OWR Level 1-2-3) with all aspects of oiled wildlife response and rehabilitation for bp Azerbaijan operations.
- **Geographical coverage:** onshore, near-shore and offshore (oil/gas exploration and production) in Azerbaijan.
 - Coastal: Coastal areas of Azerbaijan stretching from the border with Russia in the North to the border with Iran in the South including islands, a length of app. 750km.
 - Terrestrial: Pipeline routes in Azerbaijan in a 500m corridor with an approximate length in 500km.
- **Target Capability:**
 - Number of Responders: 50
 - Main Species and number of animals (Level 1-2-3): *“Azerbaijan is a country with very broad diversity in the infrastructure up and down the coastal region and along the pipeline corridors. There are number of high-profile species at risk in the Caspian Sea and along the pipeline corridor”*
 - Birds: 100
 - Marine Mammals (Caspian Seal): 20
 - Terrestrial Species: 30 mixed terrestrial species (Amphibians and Reptiles (25), Goitered Gazelle (2), Striped Hyena (2), Golden Jackal (1), etc.)
- **Planning:** Revision of Wildlife Response Plan (WRP) which includes, legal framework (local and global requirements and standards), wildlife at risk: sensitivities and priorities, response tactics based on the build capacity.
- **Local Responders:** Development of local responder pool through robust engagement, trainings and exercises programme. This capacity was built from zero to currently around 100 potential responders from various governmental and non-governmental organisation.
- **Facility:** Build (and maintain) local fit for purpose Mobile Wildlife Response and Rehab Center which was designed considering the location, species, distribution and the concentration.

“Various options for the facility set-up has been assessed taking into consideration the species, concentration and distribution of wildlife (marine and terrestrial) in Azerbaijan. 4 options have been studied in detail (advantages and dis-advantages) to build an efficient facility considering the distribution and the scale of bp Azerbaijan operations within the country. As a result, “Mobile Oiled Wildlife Response and Rehabilitation Unit, which can be mobilized and deployed in almost any location, was selected as a preferred option”
- **Equipment:** Designed to cover both facility related equipment and response related equipment considering the species, distribution, concentration and potential response sites for the below listed activities:
 - Assessment and Collection
 - General Equipment
 - Traps
 - Hazing equipment

- Trailer or staging equipment
 - Transportation (animal)
 - Transport & Accommodation (responders)
 - Field Stabilization
 - Intake and Processing
 - Pre-Wash Care
 - Water birds
 - Terrestrial birds/raptors
 - Marine mammals
 - Terrestrial Mammals and Herptiles
 - Wildlife Cleaning
 - Wildlife Conditioning
 - Water birds
 - Terrestrial birds/raptors
 - Marine mammals
 - Terrestrial Mammals and Herptiles
 - Veterinary Care and Lab
 - Animal Care Support/ Waste Management
 - Facility Related Equipment (Facility main tools, treatment)
 - Health and Safety
 - Administrative Office
 - Services: Water resources, Electrical power and heating, Ventilation, etc) related equipment.
- **Training and Exercise:** A programme was developed and attached to WRP for further capacity building and strengthen.

bp now has a well-developed level of wildlife response capability in the country which is in government/regulators' focus as a national capability as well. Wildlife response in Azerbaijan has been further strengthen by the adoption of the Global Oiled Wildlife Response Service (GOWRS).

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