



Oil spill response training, preparedness and response

Teemu Niinimäki, WWF Finland



Why are volunteers needed?



In large incidents, the oil almost always reaches the shore.



Cleaning oiled shoreline is extremely time-consuming.



Cleaning up after a large-scale incident may take months or even years.



Oil spill authorities usually do not have the manpower to do manual cleaning.



Why are volunteers needed?



From past experiences, we know that volunteers will show up, and there will be a lot of them!



Oil that has to be cleaned is always toxic and has to be handled with care, using appropriate protection.



Without training and guidance, volunteers will slow down or hinder spill response operations and can potentially be a danger to themselves and others.



A well-trained and well-coordinated group of volunteers can be very efficient!



WWF as a "service provider"

WWF is an established provider of voluntary resources.

Latest real incidents:

Raahe 2014
Oulu 2017
Sipoo 2019



Finnish voluntary oil spill response

10000 volunteers

2700 trained

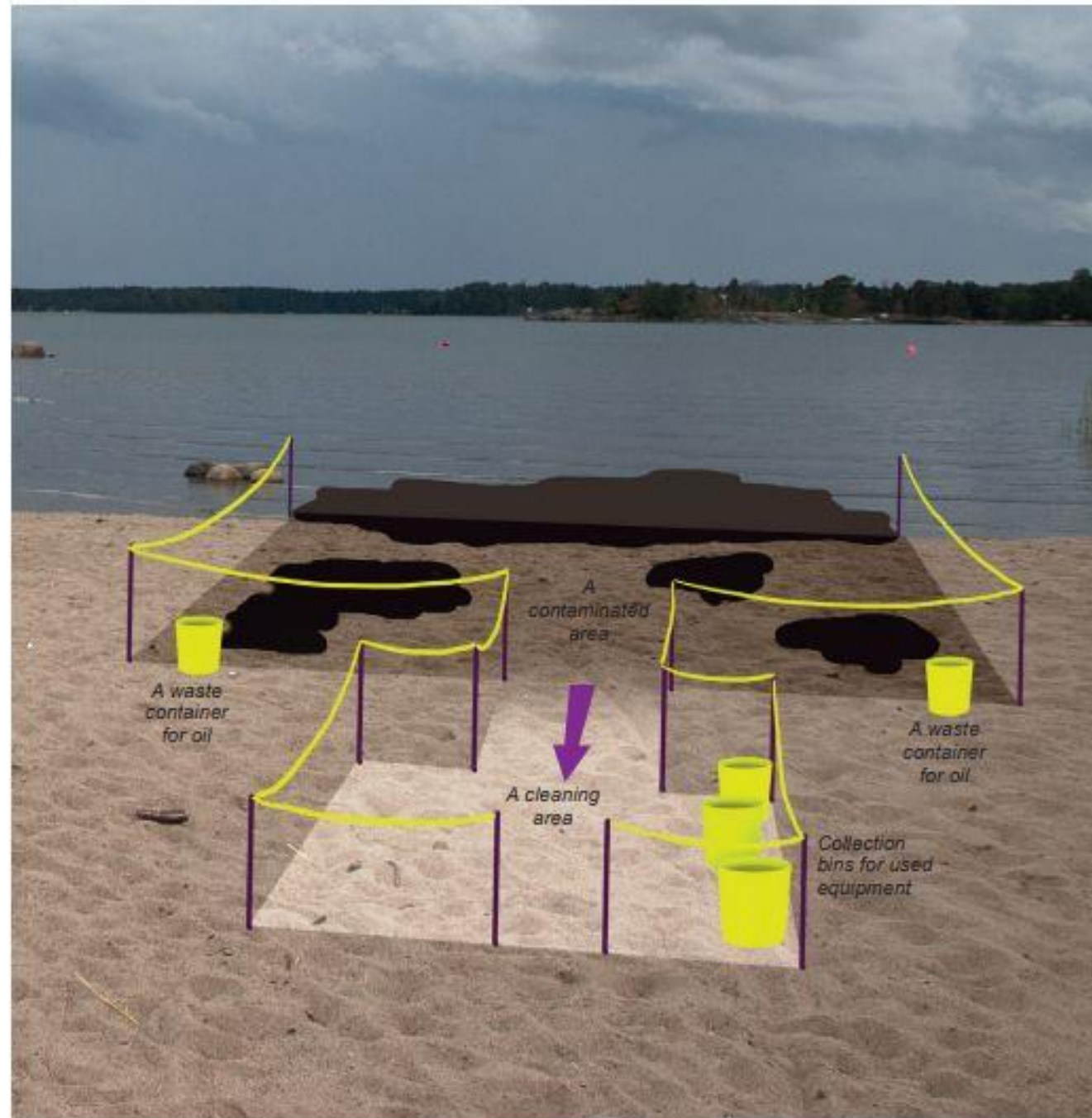
Support the
authorities in a
spill

Close
cooperation with
other NGOs





Marking the oiled area





Equipment for shoreline clean-up

PPE

Waterproof/oil resistant pants and jacket

Disposable overall

Rubber boots

Rubber gloves

Mask with filter

Protective goggles

Group equipment

Oil collection containers/buckets

Shovels, brushes, wipes

Tarp

Duct tape

Rope

First aid kit

Charged phones/radio transceiver

Maps/writing pads/pens/forms

1) The first layer of clothing consists of the volunteer's own clothes that are suitable for the weather.



2) The next layer consists of waterproof clothing that protects the wearer from oil.



3) Disposable overalls should be worn over the waterproof clothes.



4) Rubber boots are suitable footwear. The legs of the waterproof layer and the overalls should be pulled over the leg of the rubber boot. The legs of the overalls are taped to the boots.



5) Wear cotton gloves and oilproof rubber gloves. Pull the gloves over your sleeves. The gloves are taped to the sleeves of the overalls using duct tape. Be careful not to make the tape too tight.



6) Finally, wear safety goggles and, if necessary, a respiratory mask. In addition, everyone should have their first name written on their chest and their back. Those with first aid skills are marked with red tape around the sleeve of their overalls.





Oiled wildlife response in Finland

WWF Finland started oiled wildlife response in 2006.

WWF is the only non-governmental organization in Finland which is working with oiled wildlife response.

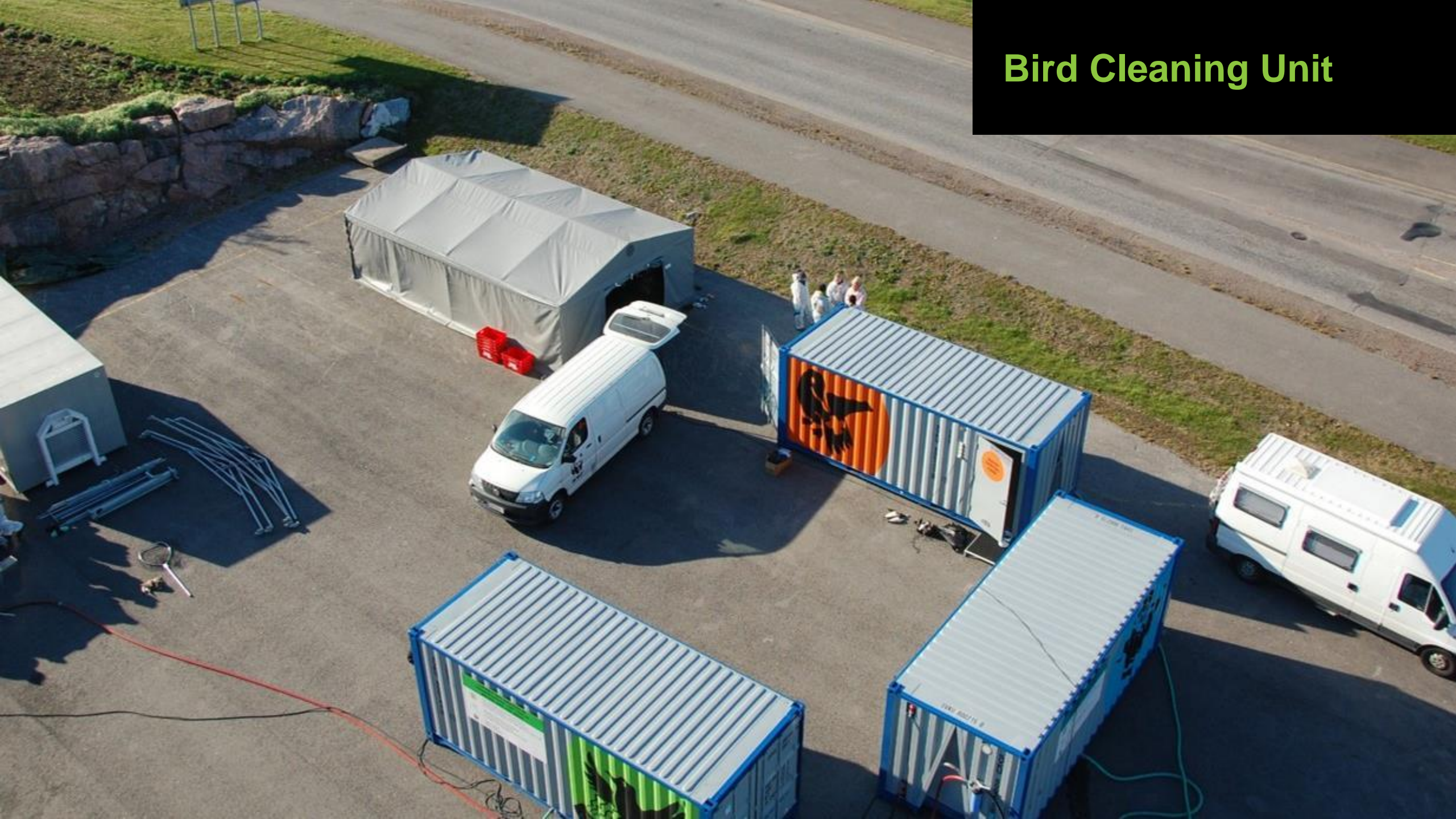
WWF focus is in voluntary work but we are also developing wildlife response in Finland together with officials and international experts. We have also made wildlife response action plan which will be taken in use if accident happens.

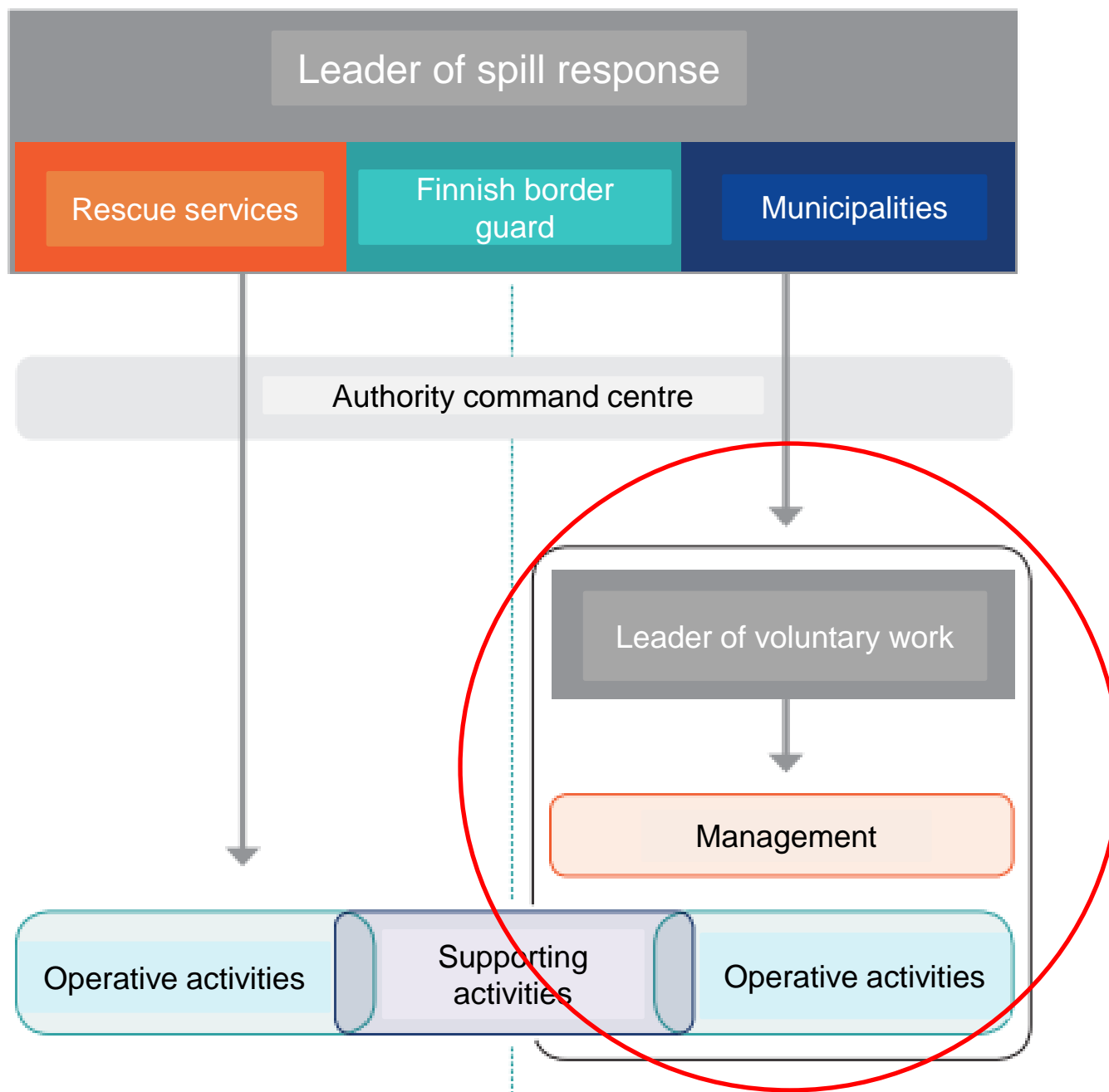
Finnish Environment Institute is in charge of wildlife response when oil spill accident happens.

WWF Finland is part of EUROWA which is a network of wildlife responders and their equipment ready to cross-border assistance if needed.



Bird Cleaning Unit





Structure of oil spill response organisation

Structure of voluntary work

Leader of voluntary
work

WWF leader of
operations

Leader of supporting
activities

Beach cleaning

Oiled wildlife
response

- Transportation
- Equipment service and maintenance
- Accommodation
- Catering
- First aid

Coordinator (WWF)

Coordinator (WWF)

Troop leader (responsible
for 2-5 groups)

Leader on field
operations

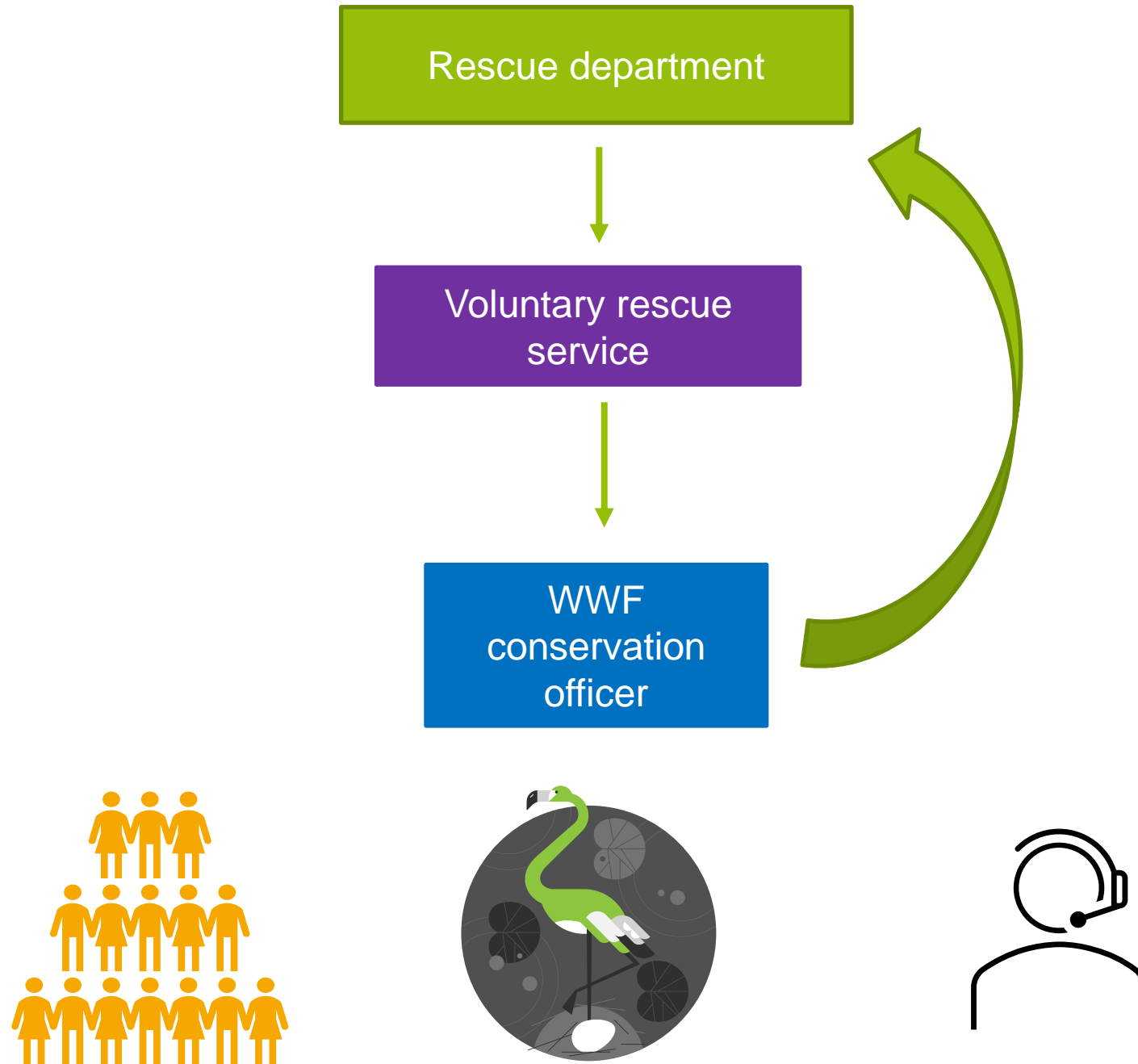
Leader of
rehabilitation

Group leader
(responsible for 10
volunteer)

Individual volunteer



Alert system





Topics to discuss with the authorities before the operation

1. Contact number to the rescue department.
2. Quality of oil (toxicity and collectibility). WWF enters the contaminated area only with the permission from the authorities.
3. Possible no-go zones and priorities (nature conservation areas, bird nesting places and migration routes).
4. Number of volunteers needed in timetable of next 1-4 days.
5. Supporting activities (need for assistance in transportation, catering, accommodation etc.)
6. Oiled wildlife on the incident area.
7. Covering of the costs. Principally, the WWF oil spill response volunteers do not have to cover any costs resulting from the response operations.



**Daily communication
between coordinator and
rescue department.**





Communication equipment

- VIRVE (short for "Viranomaisradioverkko", government official radio network)
- PMR phones (professional mobile radio)
- Phones



External communication

- Media releases
- Reporters
- Social media rules

News 3.6.2014 16:40 | updated 4.6.2014 7:51

WWF: Raahe oil spill worse than expected

Volunteers will continue oil spill cleanup operations in the Raahe archipelago in northern Ostrobothnia for up to a week. The environmental NGO WWF says the spill was worse than first thought and is calling for more volunteers to help with the painstaking recovery task.

Share



A volunteer from the environmental NGO WWF helps with the arduous cleanup operation. Image: Jonas Fritze / WWF

The environmental organisation WWF says last Friday's oil spill in Raahe, northwest Finland is worse than originally estimated. Volunteers will continue their cleanup efforts in the islands near the mainland for as long as another week. On Tuesday volunteers focused their recovery efforts on the island of Selkämatala, an important marine nesting ground.

"This is a critical location. There's some oil on the beach and many birds are here," said WWF field coordinator Teemu Niinimäki.







Balex Delta 2021

- Volunteers were used for:
- Shoreline assessment.
- Search and collection of oiled wildlife.
- Shoreline clean-up
- Supporting activities
- Set up an oiled wildlife rehabilitation centre.



More info:

- Oil spill response guide:

https://wwf.fi/app/uploads/8/5/r/8vjakpxhdn5mp6rfoidwz5/ot_opas_eng_2017_korj2020.pdf

- Basic oiled wildlife response manual:

https://wwf.fi/app/uploads/1/0/t/27hvu2aqup1cqi7q2wmanz/07_part-g_basic-owr-manual_euowa-002.pdf

- in Finnish from our website: <https://wwf.fi/vapaaehtoistyö/oljyntorjuntajoukot/#oilspillresponse>

Thank you!
Questions?
teemu.niinimaki@wwf.fi

