



Editorial

Welcome to the first Newsletter from the initiative RIOS-Reducing Impacts from Oil Spills. The project is a Specific Support Action financed by the European Commission through the 6th Framework Programme – DG Research. The RIOS-project started in April 2007 and has duration of 18 months.

The present Newsletter gives a brief overview of the objectives of the RIOS-project and its expected outcomes, the consortium, an update on the activities and progress made in the project. Finally, information about forthcoming activities, especially the upcoming international workshop in Portugal is provided, as well as the main expected results of the project.

To increase the impact and relevance of the RIOS-project, please contribute with your opinion on the future R&D needs for the emerging area of oiled wildlife response and preparedness. All stakeholders are welcome to present both ideas with regards to scientific research and/or projects that would enhance knowledge and good practices.

We look forward to your response!

Claudia Jesus-Rydin, RIOS Co-ordinator
On behalf of the RIOS Consortium

Objectives

The RIOS project aims firstly at identifying the research and development needs for oiled wildlife response and preparedness and secondly to develop a European Action Plan that proposes further steps to enhance activities in this emerging field of research.

The Action Plan is aiming to be a strategic document which will list the priorities, proposed activities and future projects. The Action Plan is the main delivery of the RIOS project and will be submitted to the European Commission.

The European Commission may consider the Action Plan in the further development of the European Research Policy and, in particular, in orienting the future Research Framework Programmes to better meet the needs of this new field of Research and Development.

A possible spin-off the RIOS project could be that future Calls for project-funding in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) will be dedicated to the area of oiled wildlife, which would be an interesting development and providing access to considerable sources of funding.

Partnership

The project is carried out by a partnership composed of institutions from three European countries:

Nordeconsult Sweden AB, Sweden – Coordinator
Sea Alarm Foundation, Belgium – Partner
Zoomarine, Portugal – Partner

Furthermore, the partners have been working closely with a group of outstanding international experts (Expert Group):

- Kees Camphuysen Royal NIOZ, NL
- Mark Grantham, British Trust for Ornithology, UK
- Mike Ziccardi, UC Davis, California, US
- Thierry Jauniaux, The Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models and the Scheldt estuary, (MUMM), BE

On behalf of the European Commission the project is followed by the EU Project Officer Javier Peinado Lebrero.

Activities and Progress

The activities of the RIOS project are divided into clearly defined work packages, including:

1. Providing a state-of-the-art overview and the identification of research priorities with the help of the expert group;
2. Stimulating input from stakeholders before, during and after a 2-day workshop in Algarve, Portugal;
3. Review and assessment of project results
4. Development of a European Action Plan (main deliverable)
5. Dissemination of results

At this moment, the 2 days workshop in Portugal is being organised. The programme of the workshop is now available from the website

<http://www.nordeconsult.com/RIOS/workshop.htm>

Also available are the state of the art overview and the first preliminary identification of research and development priorities by the expert group, the Background Document, which can be downloaded at:

<http://www.nordeconsult.com/RIOS/results.htm>

All stakeholders can get involved in the RIOS project. Stakeholders can write in reaction to the publication of the Background Document (BD), complementing the views of presented and/or bringing new ideas to the table and/or proposing new fields of research and development. These reactions will be discussed at the RIOS workshop and taken into consideration in the European Action Plan.

Contributions can be made by email (rios@nordeconsult.com) and/or by participation in the discussions at the RIOS-workshop at Zoomarine, in Albufeira, on the 17-19th April 2008.

Forthcoming Activities

The main forthcoming activity is the RIOS-Workshop at Zoomarine, in Albufeira (Portugal).

At the workshop, the whole field of oiled wildlife response and preparedness will be reviewed by a number of invited experts. The workshop will offer a platform for discussion with all interested stakeholders. The main objective of the workshop is the identification of research and development needs. At the workshop project ideas can be exchanged and new consortiums for new projects could be formed. The RIOS consortium will facilitate these discussions and the forming of these consortiums.

The workshop, offers a unique opportunity for individuals and organisations (who are actively involved in the field of oiled wildlife response and rehabilitation) to meet colleagues from other countries and backgrounds and to contribute to the identification of the research priorities.

The target audience for the RIOS workshop are scientists, rehabilitators, veterinarians, national authority officials, NGO, and other professionals in the field of oiled wildlife response and preparedness.

More information is available at:

<http://www.nordeconsult.com/RIOS/workshop.htm>

Contacts

For further details please contact the project coordinator:

Claudia Jesus-Rydin
NORDECONSULT Sweden AB
Sofiaparken 3C, SE-222 41 Lund
Sweden

e-mail: claudia.jesus-rydin@nordeconsult.com

