



Volunteers' role in oil spill response – cooperation and communication

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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.



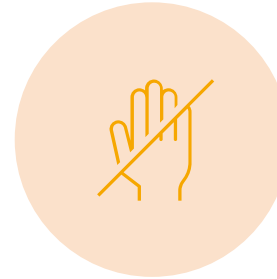
Oil spill authorities usually do not have the manpower to do manual cleaning.



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) Suojavarustel-
den alle vapaa-
ehtoinen pukee
säänmukaiset
vaatteet.



2) Omien vaat-
teiden ylle
puetaan öljyitä
suojaava
sadeasu.



3) Sadeasun
päälle puetaan
kertakäyttö-
haalari.



4) Jalkoihin laitetaan kumisaap-
paat. Sekä sadeasun että
haalarin lahkeet vedetään
saappaan varren päälle.
Haalarin lahkeet teipataan
tukevasti kiinni saappaaseen.



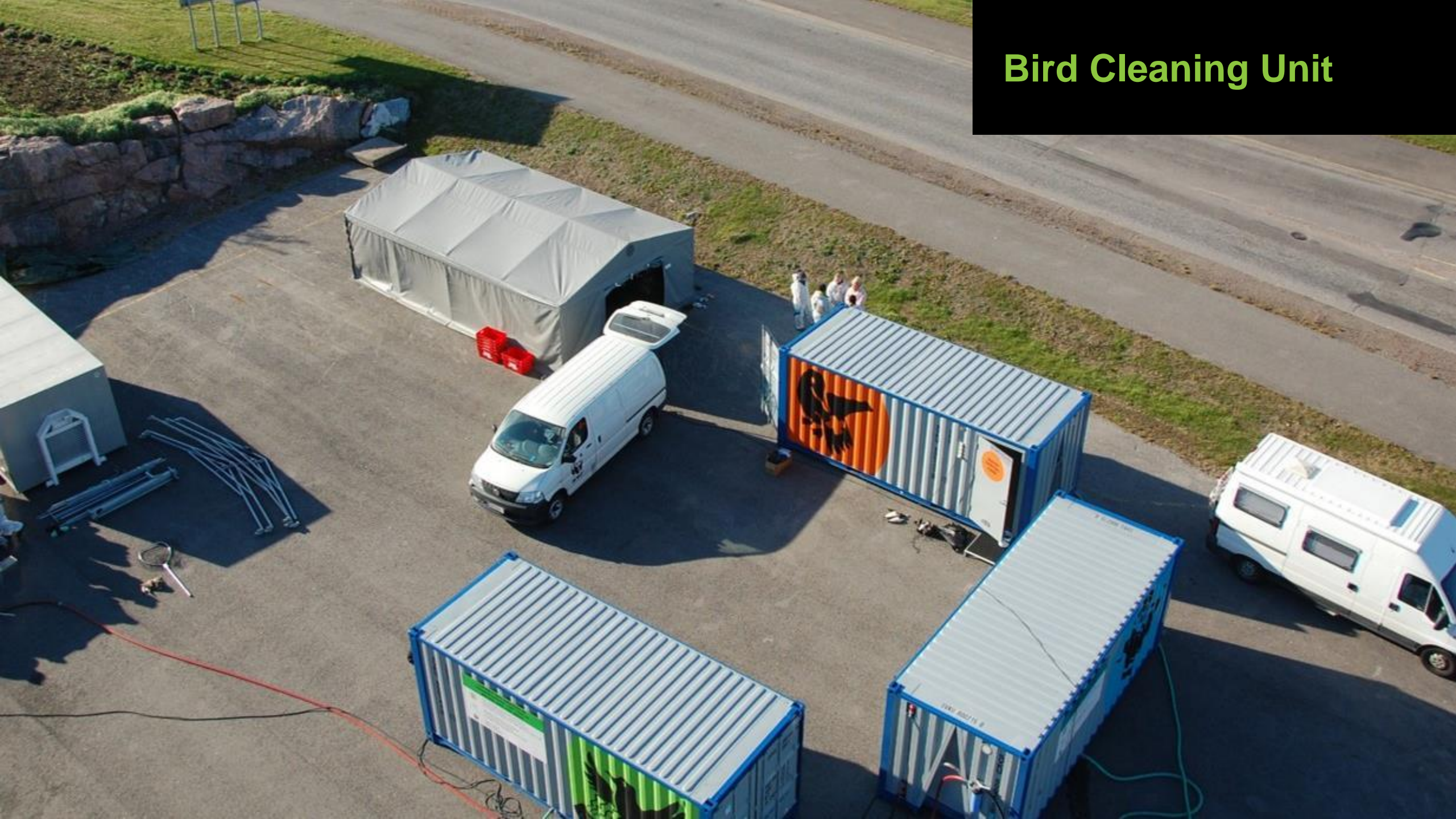
5) Käsiiin puetaan puuvillakäsi-
neet ja niiden päälle öljynkes-
tävät kumihanskat. Hanskat
vedetään hihojen päälle.
Hanskat kiinnitetään ilmas-
tointiteipillä haalarin hihaan.
Älä kiristä teippiä liikaa.

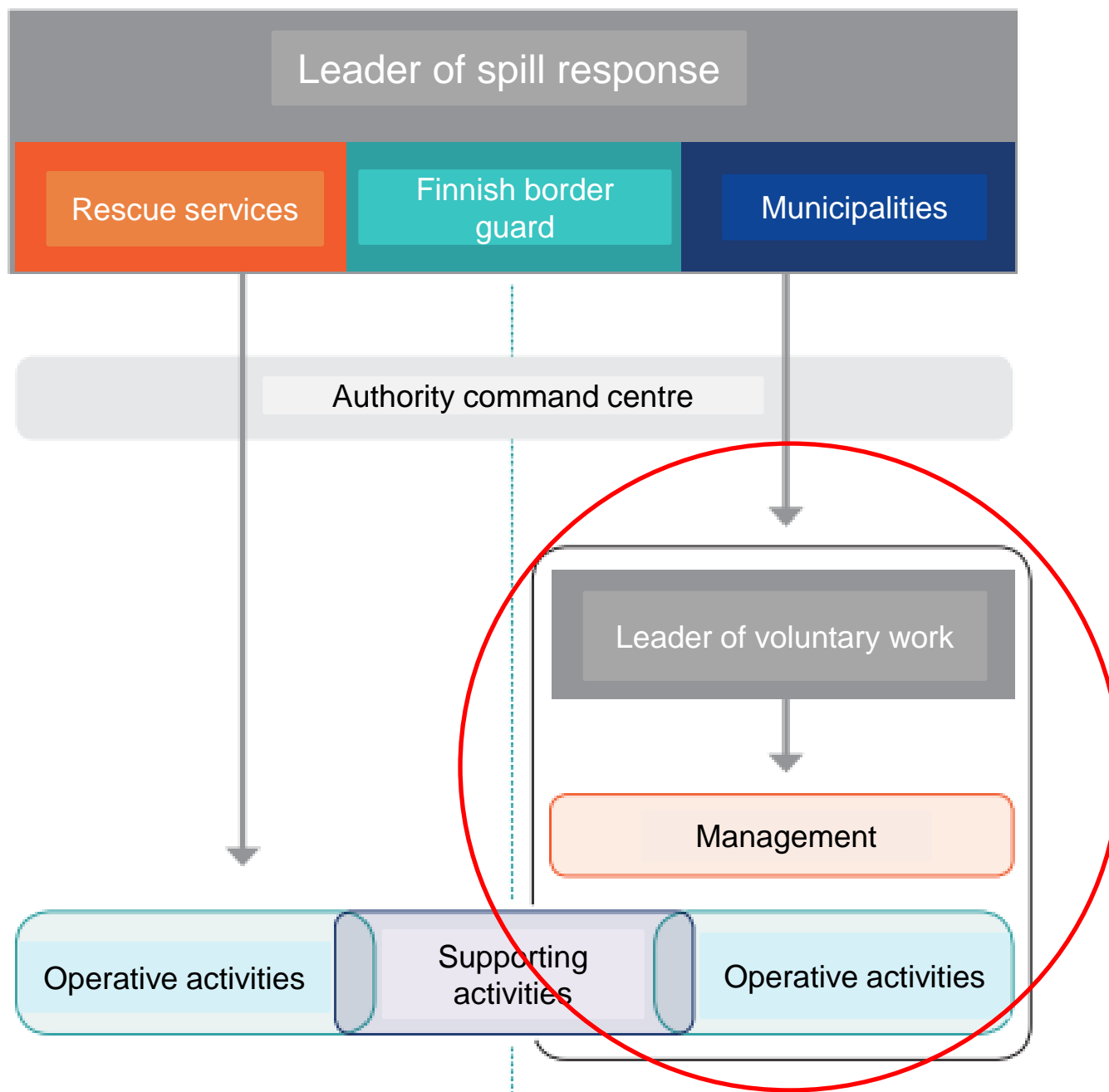


6) Viimeisenä puetaan suojalasit
ja tarvittaessa hengityssuojai-
met. Lisäksi jokaisen selkään
ja rintaan kirjoitetaan henki-
lön etunimi. Ensiaputaitoisille
sidotaan punainen teippi
hanskojen hihaan.



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

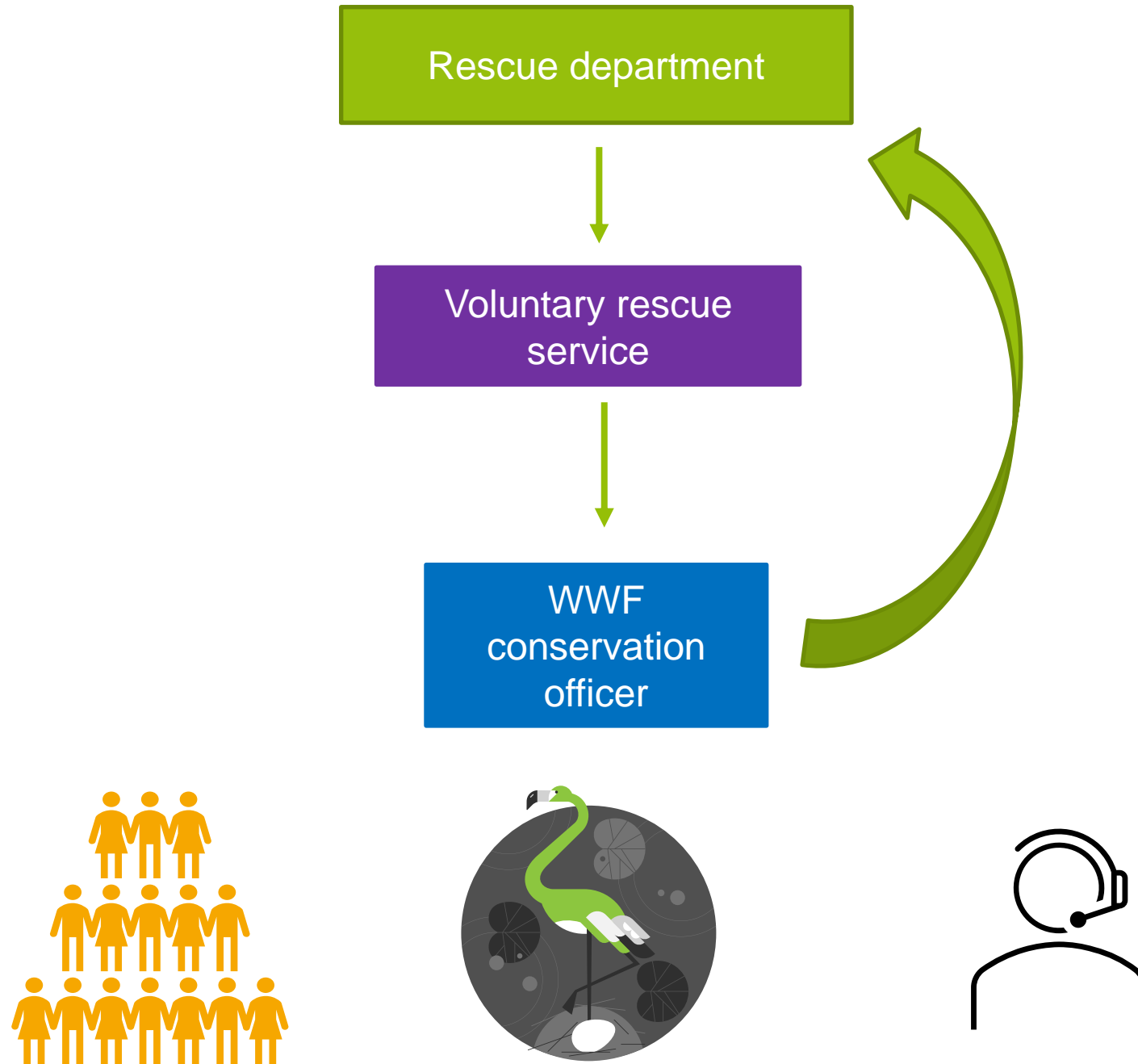
Leader of
rehabilitation

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, accomodation 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

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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: Joonas 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.









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?

