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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Helping Save Wildlife at Peru Oil Spill

Response Team from California-based International Bird Rescue lending support after 500,000 gallons of crude stains coastal areas near Lima

Fairfield, CA – An experienced team from California-based International Bird Rescue is on the ground this month helping rescue wildlife affected by an oil spill in Peru. These senior responders are supporting long-term partner organization, Brazil-based [Aiuká](#), with efforts at a major Pacific Ocean oil spill about an hour north of Lima, Peru.

On January 15, 2022, more than 500,000 gallons of heavy crude oil were spilled in Ventanilla, Peru, when unusually large waves from the undersea volcanic eruption in Tonga 6,200 miles (10,000 km) away, disrupted a ship that was unloading.



Oiled Peruvian Booby. Photo: Parque de las Leyendas Zoo

To date, the spill has stained nearly 30 miles (50 km) of beaches, as well as the nearby uninhabited guano islands. At least 200 oiled animals have been rescued. The bird species in the area include the vulnerable Humboldt Penguin, Guanay Cormorant, Red-legged

Cormorant, Neotropic Cormorant, Peruvian Booby, and the Peruvian Pelican. Marine Otters are also in danger of contamination.

Impacted wildlife is being cared for at the [Parque de las Leyendas Zoo](#) with support from [Proyecto Golondrina de la Tempestad de Collar](#) working with Aiuká's experienced oiled wildlife response team.

Aiuká founders have been part of Bird Rescue's international response team since 2000, working together in Spain, Norway, South Africa, Galapagos Islands. Bird Rescue has assisted their team in South America on a number of spill responses.

Bird Rescue has a long history of working with international response partners to provide the best outcome for oiled wildlife. Both Bird Rescue and Aiuká are among the founding members of the [Global Oiled Wildlife Response Service \(GOWRS\)](#), bringing together 10 of the world's leading oiled wildlife preparedness and response organizations to develop key readiness guidance documents for ensuring professional, effective preparedness and response.

Since 1971 International Bird Rescue, headquartered in Fairfield, CA, has responded to over 230 oil spill events including the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, the 2000 Treasure Oil Spill in South Africa where 20,000 oiled penguins were saved, and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil rig blowout in the Gulf of Mexico.

About International Bird Rescue

In 1971 after 800,000 gallons of crude oil spilled into the bay, concerned individuals led by a registered nurse named Alice Berkner jumped into action, bringing International Bird Rescue to life. We have always had to pave a road where there is none. Staff and volunteers work with tenacity alongside clients, partners, and the public to find solutions. Today, we research best practices at our crisis response hospitals in California and Alaska and share them worldwide.

Our mission is to inspire people to act toward balance with the natural world by rescuing waterbirds in crisis. We dream of a world in which every person, every day, takes action to protect the natural home of wildlife and ourselves.

Learn more at <https://www.birdrescue.org/>

International Bird Rescue

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