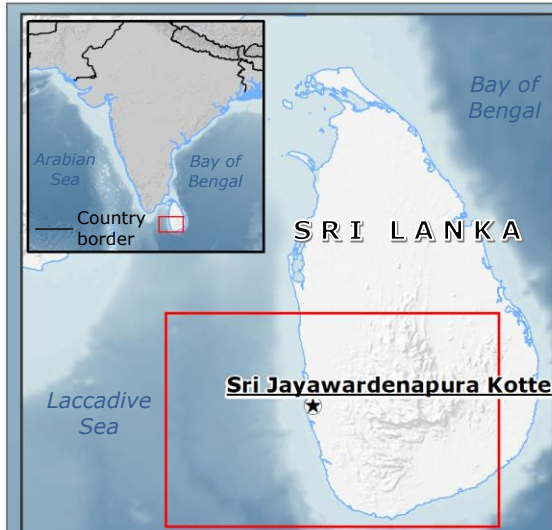


Sri Lanka | Marine Pollution – MV X-Press Pearl cargo ship



EU RESPONSE
Source: DG ECHO

-On 20 May 2021, the Singapore-flagged MV Xpress Pearl vessel caught fire in Sri Lankan national water and has since sunk to the seabed. The vessel was carrying a cargo containing dangerous goods, such as nitric acid and containers of plastic pellets, in addition to 322 tonnes of fuel oil.

-The incident has caused severe marine and air pollution, with large quantities of plastic resin pellet being washed ashore and littering the beaches from Negombo to Kalutara.

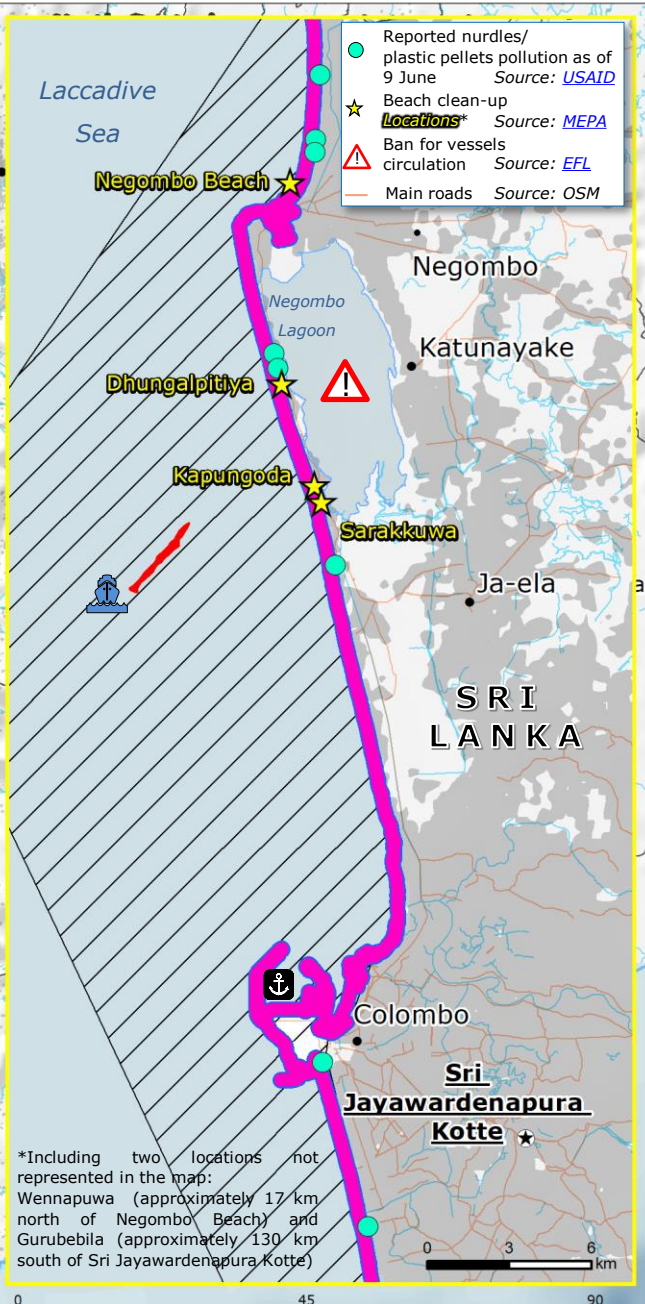
-On 4 June, Sri Lanka requested support from the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to tackle the unfolding disaster around the ship.

-Two oil spill and chemical experts from France and one expert from Italy have been deployed to Colombo for a two-week mission, they joined the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environmental Unit (JEU) team led by the UN.

-The European Maritime Safety Agency's (EMSA) CleanSeaNet satellite imagery service has been activated and so far three satellite images as well as oil spill trajectory models have been shared with the Sri Lankan authorities.

-On 12 June, the Norwegian Coastal Administration provided remote advice to the Sri Lankan National authorities through a two-hour session dedicated to plastic pellets pollution in the sea.

-The European Commission is supporting the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society with **€200,000** in humanitarian funding through IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).



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