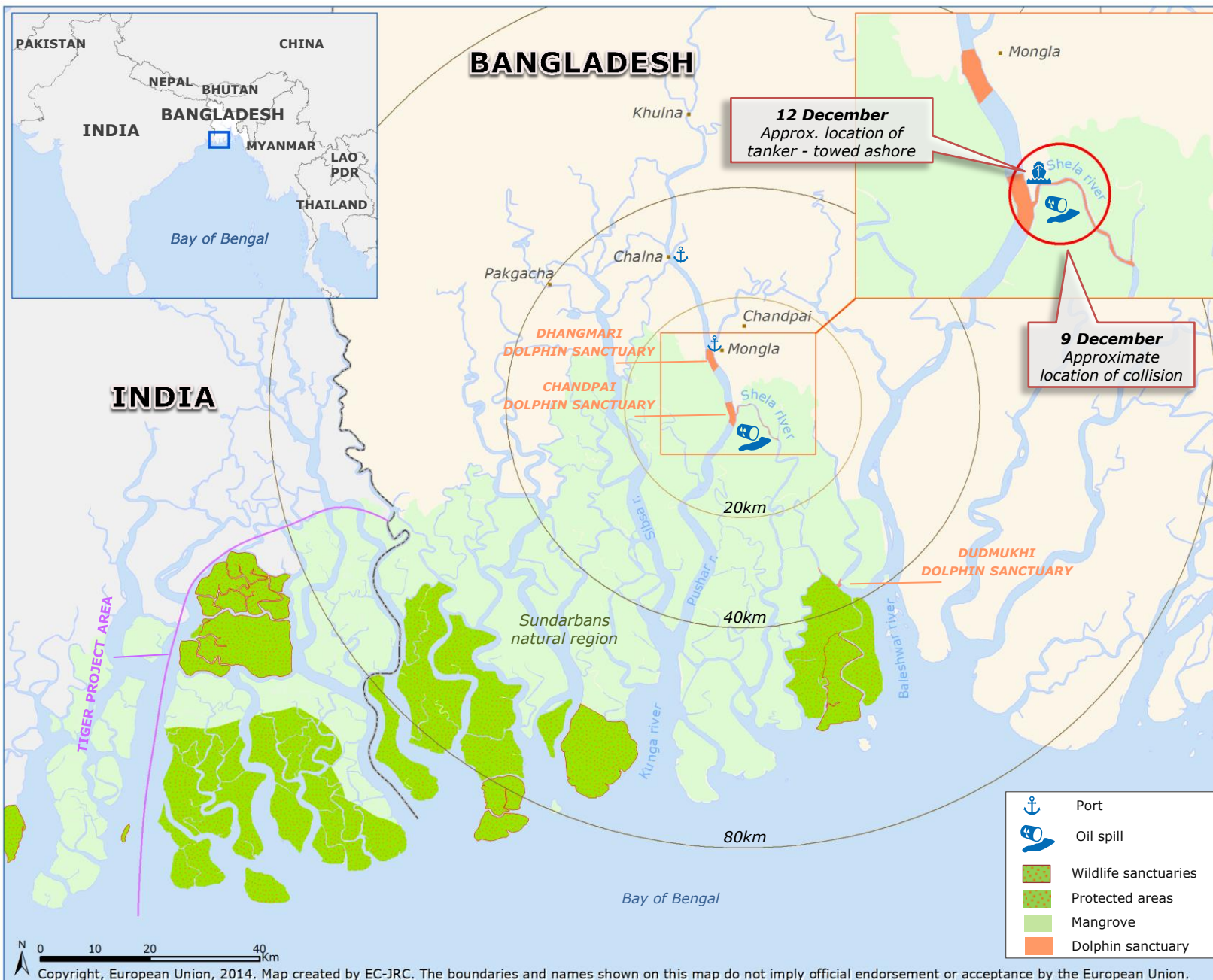


# 16 December 2014: Bangladesh – Oil Spill



## SITUATION

- The oil tanker Southern Star 7 collided with a cargo vessel in the Sundarbans natural region of south-western Bangladesh, in Shela river, on 9 December. The accident was caused due to low visibility in the area and triggered the spill of furnace oil in the river, where sanctuaries of protected wildlife exist.
- After collision, Southern Star 7 was partially sank, but was subsequently salvaged and towed ashore.
- The tanker was carrying approximately 380 000 litres of oil, most of which was already spilt in the first few days after the accident, spreading along 60 or more km of the Shela river and connecting canals. Media report dead animals have already been found in a number of places.
- Clean-up operations are mostly carried out by local people collecting oil manually, using sponges and nets. The local government has authorised also the use of clean-up chemicals, although they pose environmental concerns for the possible further damage to the mangrove system.
- Aid agencies are closely monitoring the situation in order to further assess the impact on the livelihood of the affected population.

### Sources:

[UNDP](#), [OCHA](#), [ECHO](#), [Media \(1, 2, 3, 4\)](#), [GEE](#), [Scientific article](#)