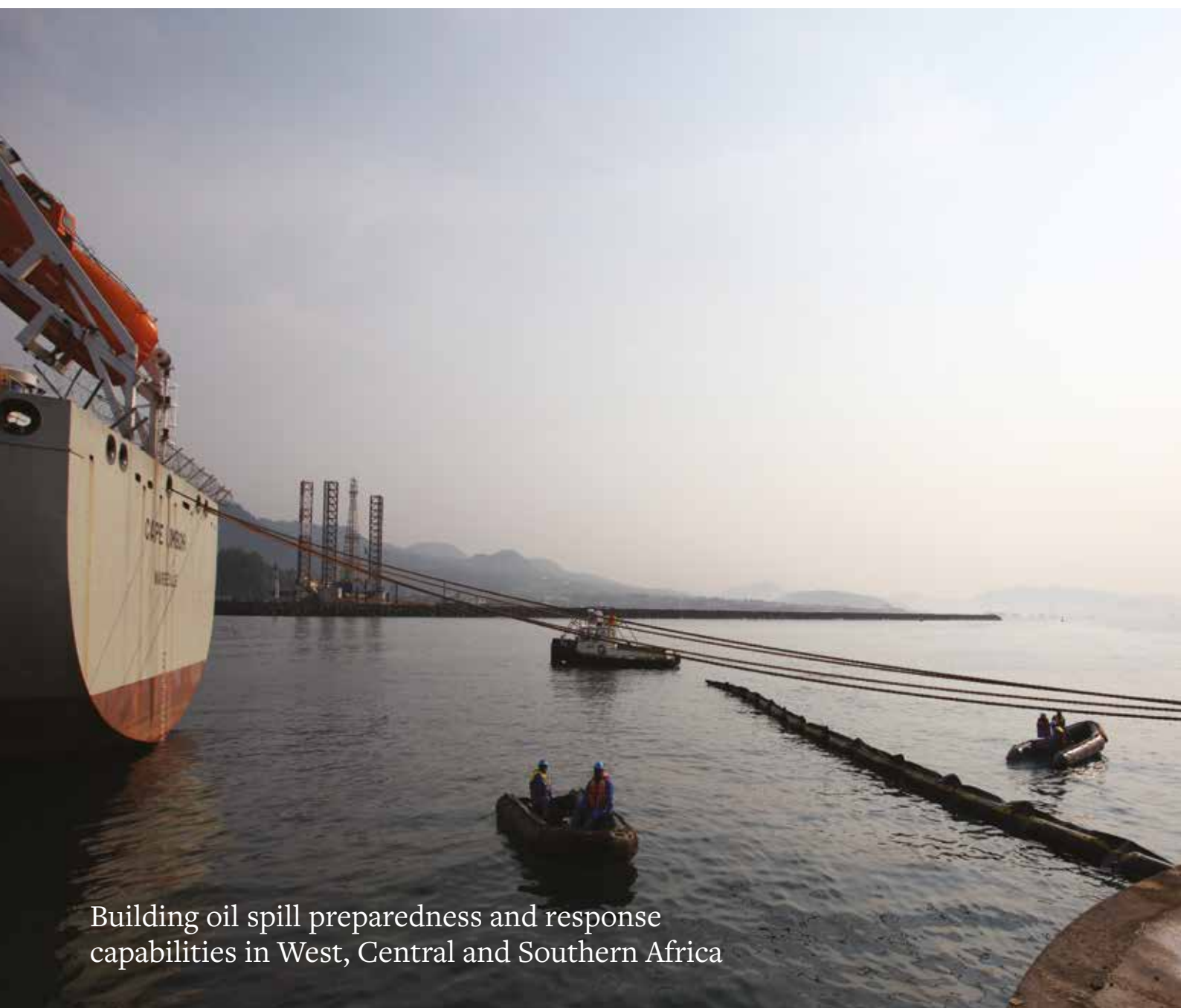


# Celebrating 10 years of success

**GI WACAF special anniversary report**



Building oil spill preparedness and response  
capabilities in West, Central and Southern Africa

**Photo credits:** International Maritime Organization (cover, pp. 1 and 17) Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa (p. 4), Direction de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature du Gabon (pp.12 and 29), Direction de l'Information et des Relations Publiques de l'armée sénégalaise (p. 4), Direction de la Marine Marchande de la République du Congo (p. 7), Joe Small (p. 20).



Exercise in Cameroon, 2014

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# About GI WACAF

Launched in 2006, the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF Project) is a collaboration between the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for safety, and security of shipping and protection of the marine environment and IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, to enhance the capacity of countries to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills.

A key innovative feature is to emphasise the promotion of public/private collaboration for effective oil spill response. The GI WACAF Project is jointly funded by IMO and eight oil companies.

The Project area covers 22 West, Central and Southern African countries. The scope is to build capacity in the region through workshops, training, seminars and exercises carried out in collaboration with national authorities in charge of oil spill response and with local oil industry business units.

The GI WACAF Project is supported by an effective management system based on six goals of preparedness which reflect the capacity of countries in the region to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills. These goals cover the requirements of the OPRC 90 Convention:

**Goal 1 - Legislation:** Promote the ratification of the relevant international Conventions

**Goal 2 - Contingency plan:** Develop National Contingency Plans for all the countries of the region

**Goal 3 - Designation of authority:** Obtain clarity on roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders

**Goal 4 - Regional agreements:** Promote the exchange of information and the provision of mutual assistance for oil spill incidents

**Goal 5 - Training:** Ensure that training and exercises are delivered in the participating countries on a regular basis

**Goal 6 - National capabilities:** Support participating countries in developing their own national response system







Exercise in Senegal, 2015

# Foreword

Launched in South Africa in 1996, the Global Initiative (GI) is a programme through which the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for safety, and security of shipping and protection of the marine environment and IPIECA, the oil and gas industry association on environmental and social issues, work together to encourage and facilitate the improvement in global oil spill preparedness and response arrangements. As a follow-up to several technical missions held in the West, Central and Southern Africa region, IMO and IPIECA recognized the value of having a planned regional approach financed with the support of the oil industry business units in the targeted countries. Early in 2005, IMO and IPIECA expressed interest in joining forces to develop a project for the region, for an initial period of two years. Further discussions and developments led to the establishment of the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) which was launched in 2006 with a full-time Project Manager overseeing implementation of the strategic plan.

This year, 2016, signals important milestones for both the GI WACAF Project, marking its ten-year anniversary, and the GI Programme, which will be celebrating 20 years since its launch. The GI WACAF Project has implemented over

95 workshops, training courses and conferences since 2006, following which we have seen significant advancements in preparedness in the region. Of particular note is the progress made with designating national authorities responsible for oil pollution preparedness and response in each country, as well as the development of national contingency plans, which are now in place throughout the vast majority of the region.

A source of pride for both IMO and IPIECA is how the Project has been embraced by countries in the region, which is demonstrated through the commitment and enthusiasm shown by both our industry and government focal points, as well as the participants who have attended GI WACAF activities. The achievements in oil spill preparedness and response clearly demonstrate the effectiveness and momentum of this Project.

This publication celebrates the success of GI WACAF and reflects on the progress made in the region over the past decade. It also looks back on the most important milestones.

Finally, we would like to thank our partners and colleagues around the world who have helped to make this Project a success story for all involved.



**Stefan Micallef**

Director, Marine Environment Division  
International Maritime Organization (IMO)



**Brian Sullivan**

Executive Director  
IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry  
association for environmental and social issues



## GI WACAF at a glance\*

**5200+**

people trained

**1200+**

people attending  
exercises

**98**

activities held

**18**

exercises organised

**16**

regional and sub-regional  
events held

*\* Between April 2006 and July 2016*





Exercise in Congo, 2011

# GI WACAF Milestones

**APRIL 2006**

GI WACAF  
Launch in  
Gabon

**page 15**



**APRIL 2007**

First regional  
workshop  
in Ghana  
(16 countries)



**OCTOBER 2007**

First table-top  
exercise in  
Angola



**JANUARY 2008**

First workshop  
on sensitivity  
mapping in  
Côte d'Ivoire



**OCTOBER 2010**

First Project  
Coordinator  
seconded by French  
Government

**page 24**



**SEPTEMBER 2007**

First deployment  
exercise in  
Namibia

**page 16**



**AUGUST 2006**

First national  
workshop in  
Congo



**DECEMBER 2007**

Regional  
Conference  
in Congo



**NOVEMBER 2009**

Regional  
Conference in  
Cameroon



**JUNE 2011**

Joint  
deployment  
exercise  
in Congo

**OCTOBER 2011**  
Regional  
Conference in  
Nigeria



**JULY 2013**  
Deployment  
exercise in  
Mauritania



**JANUARY 2014**  
Joint deployment  
exercise in  
Cameroon

page 20



**JUNE 2015**  
First national  
workshop on waste  
management in  
Namibia



**JANUARY 2016**  
New  
GI WACAF  
website

**MARCH 2012**  
Joint deployment  
exercise in Gabon



**NOVEMBER 2013**  
Regional Conference  
in Namibia



**MARCH 2015**  
First bilateral exercise  
between Cameroon  
and Nigeria

page 21



**NOVEMBER 2015**  
Regional  
Conference  
in Ghana



**FEBRUARY 2016**  
South Africa  
becomes  
full member

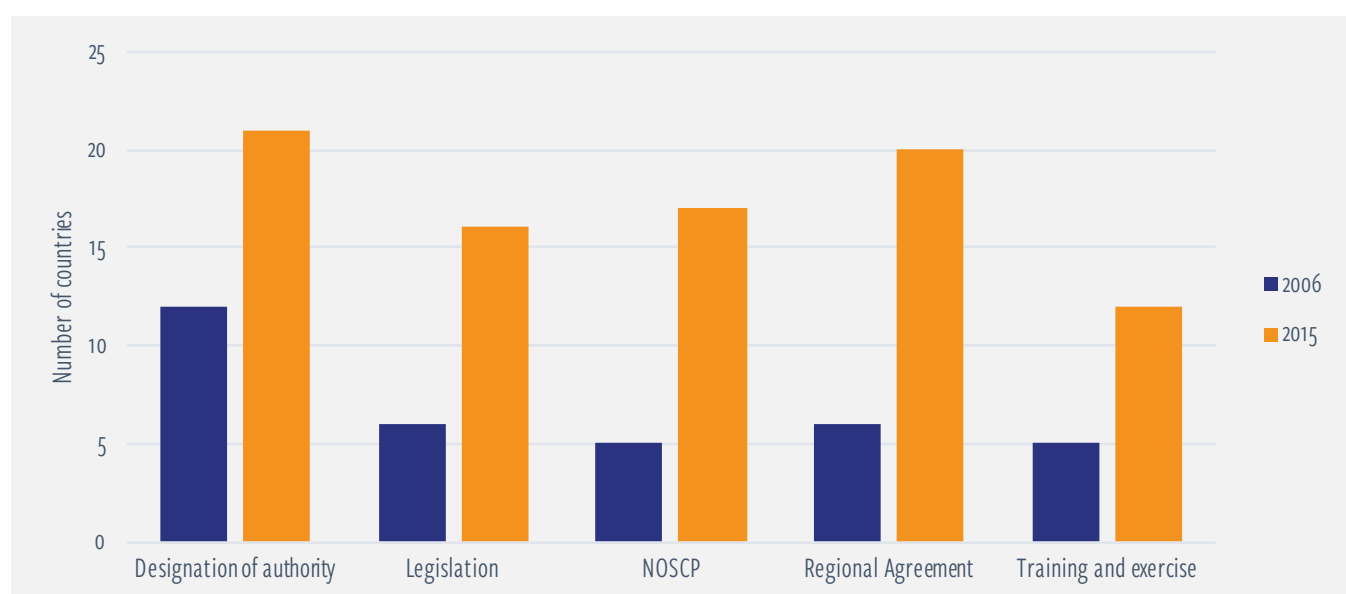
# Significant progress in the region

The GI WACAF Project was launched with the aim of achieving tangible improvements in oil spill response preparedness and cooperation within the 22 countries of West, Central, and Southern Africa. During the launch, a broad picture of the state of preparedness and response capability in the region was created, with the information provided by relevant government and industry representatives through a gap analysis study (GI WACAF Annual Review, 2006). The data collected in 2006 have been monitored since then and updated most recently in November 2015 to progress and improvements against the following indicators:

1. Designation of authority: The country has in place a designated national authority to deal with oil spill related issues
2. Legislation: The country has ratified the OPRC 90 Convention
3. National Oil Spill Contingency plan (NOSCP): The country has an approved NOSCP

4. Regional agreement: The country has in place either a regional, sub-regional, or bi-lateral cooperative agreement relating to oil spill response cooperation
5. Training and Exercise: The country has undertaken oil spill training and exercises at national level
6. National Resources: The country has equipment and resources to adequately address oil spill risks

In comparison to 2006, the results from 2015 show a significant increase in the overall level of oil spill response preparedness and response across the region. For example, between 2006 and 2015 there was a significant increase in the number of countries that had ratified a regional, sub-regional, or bilateral cooperative agreement, and there was a similar increase in the number of countries that had undertaken training and exercises relating to oil spills.



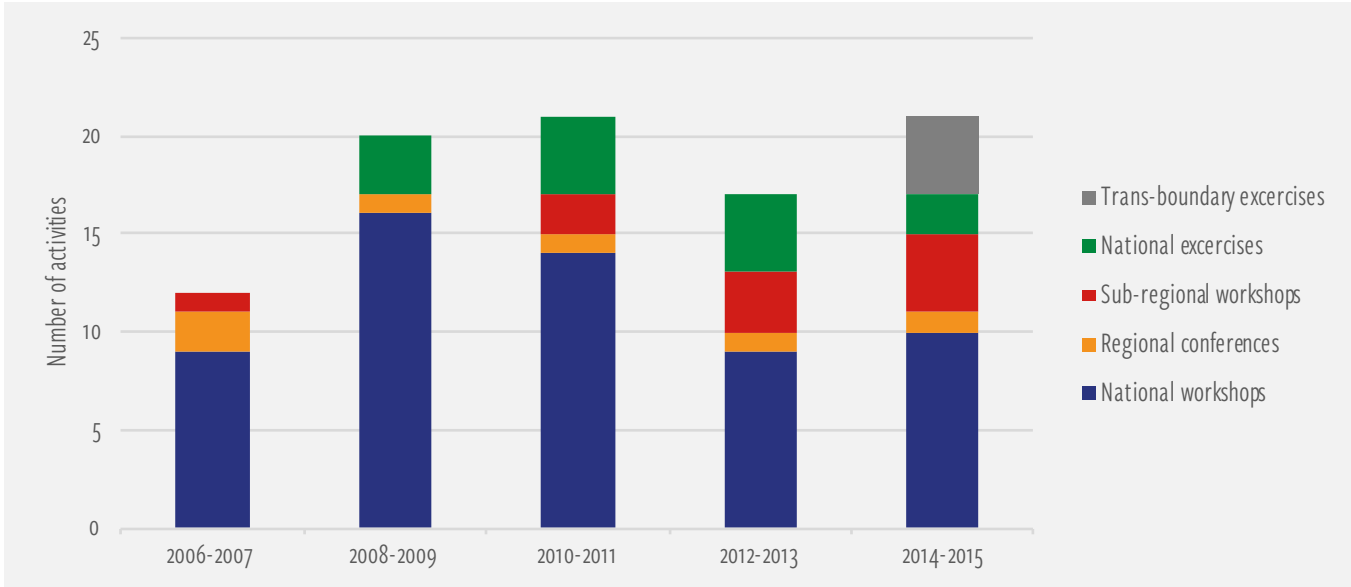
Source: Data taken from GI WACAF National Profiles, 2016. Available on GI WACAF website



Whilst the trend across the region has shown a marked development in oil spill response capability, the rate at which this development has taken place has varied significantly among individual countries, with some advancing more rapidly than others. In this connection, the project’s work programme has become much more diversified in recent years in order to respond to the needs of individual countries.

In the early days of the project the focus was predominately on building the foundations of oil spill response and preparedness. For example

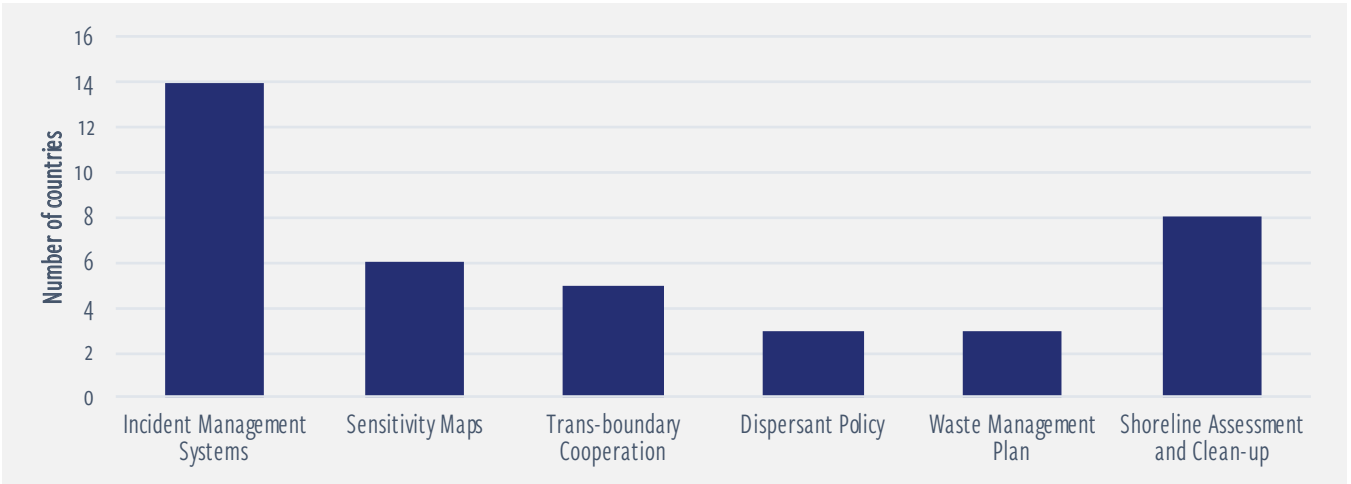
between 2006 and 2009, the Project undertook over 25 workshops across 16 different countries in the region, with over 90% of the workshops being undertaken at the national level focusing on this aspect. Since 2010, the GI WACAF work programme has become more diversified. The programme began to focus on testing the NOSCPs of the countries through table top exercises and the actual deployment of response equipment. It also started to focus on specialised topics such as sensitivity mapping and dispersant application. Furthermore an increasing number of activities were undertaken at the regional and sub-regional levels.



Source: Data available on GI WACAF website

In order to reflect this diversified programme and as capabilities improved, the Project Secretariat developed new indicators to obtain a better picture of the level of oil spill preparedness and response in the region. These supplementary indicators were subsequently endorsed by the

Steering Committee in 2015 and consist of: Sensitivity Maps, Dispersant Policy, Shoreline Assessment and Clean-up, Waste Management Plan, Trans-boundary Cooperation and Incident Management System. Starting in 2015, the Project was able to measure progress in the region against these elements.



Source: Data taken from GI WACAF National Profiles, 2016. Available on GI WACAF website



Workshop in Gabon, 2014



# Highlights

## April 2006: Launch of the GI WACAF Project, Gabon

The GI WACAF Project was launched in April 2006 in Libreville. The event was opened by the Prime Minister of Gabon supported by the Minister of Merchant Marine. Government representatives from the following 17 countries attended the launch: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo. Representatives from IMO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) were also in attendance. Industry representatives from IPIECA, Gabon Petroleum Union (UPEGA), BP, Cabinda Gulf Oil Company Limited, Sigeprag-Cgem, Chevron, ENI, Esso Exploration, Sonangol, ExxonMobil, Total, Mobil Oil, Tema Oil Refinery Ltd, Shell, Perenco, Panafrican Energy, CNR International and Texaco participated in the event.

The key objectives of the launch were to:

- provide a clear understanding of the GI WACAF Project to the stakeholders

- emphasize and engender government and industry commitment to the Project
- develop national and regional networks for oil pollution preparedness, response and cooperation
- place other regional initiatives related to the protection of the marine and coastal environment in context to this initiative

During the launch, elements of preparedness were identified and an assessment of the state of national and regional preparedness and response capability was carried out. Based on this, IMO and IPIECA worked together to develop an initial plan of action for the period 2006-2007. This plan of action consisted of assessment missions to countries of which 10 in total were carried out, as well as activities to address specific gaps. The latter were carried out in coordination with other regional development programmes.



## September 2007: First deployment exercise, Namibia

A five day workshop and exercise to launch the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan of Namibia was held in Walvis Bay from 24 to 28 September 2007. It was organised by the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications and it drew participants from Government Ministries and Agencies, Oil Industry, and NGOs from Namibia. Participants from Angola and South Africa were also in attendance. Experts from IMO, IPIECA and ITOPF facilitated the activity.

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- Provide information on matters related to national contingency planning, sensitivity mapping and claims and compensations
- Launch the NOSCP
- Conduct an equipment deployment demonstration exercise
- Provide information on the current state of preparedness in Namibia, Angola, and South Africa and on the status of Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project
- Ensure that the NOSCP facilitated Namibia's participation in international cooperation under OPRC 90

The NOSCP was officially launched by the Mayor of Walvis Bay and the Deputy Minister of Works, Transport and Communications on the third day of the activity. After the launch, participants were transported to the Walvis Bay Port Area and embarked on the Namibian Fishery Protection Vessel *NATHANEL MAXUILIL* to observe the



demonstration exercise. A short briefing of the exercise was held upon arrival at the Port. The exercise simulated a response to a small tanker that had entered Walvis Bay suffering from a structure failure which resulted in an oil spill in the bay. The NOSCP was activated and Port Control of Walvis Bay together with personnel from NAMPORT mobilised 400 metres of boom that was deployed from the target ship. The exercise involved testing of notification procedures to alert and call out response teams, in compliance with the NOSCP. Technical advice was also provided to participants on the type of equipment needed for such an oil spill. On the last day of the workshop, a plenary session developed an action plan for future work related to the implementation and maintenance of the National Plan.



## January 2014: Large-scale deployment exercise, Cameroon

In January 2014, GI WACAF Project organised the first large-scale exercise in Cameroon. It was hosted by the Pipeline Steering and Monitoring Committee of the National Hydrocarbons Corporation (SNH). Some 130 delegates from SNH, ministries, the “Prefecture” in Limbé, the National Refinery Company (SONARA) in Limbé, other oil operators in Cameroon and civil society took part in the exercise. The objectives were to:

- Deliver training on oil spill response exercises
- Conduct a exercise to test the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan of Cameroon
- Develop an action plan following recommendations made during the exercise to update the National Plan

Due to the scale of this exercise, a preparatory mission was organised in Yaoundé in July 2013. Other preparatory meetings took place with SNH, SONARA and other oil companies. The scenario of the exercise was based on a major oil spill at the SONARA installations in Limbé.

During this exercise, the national incident command centre, the local incident command centre and SONARA’s incident command centre were mobilised respectively at SNH in Yaoundé, at the “Prefecture” in Limbé and in the SONARA’s office in Limbé.

The different incident command centres were mobilised from 6:30 until 12:30. Meanwhile, SONARA deployed its oil spill response equipment at sea near Limbé.

As Aymill Prosperre Dzali Dikapa, the consultant who designed this activity, explained: *“The main challenge was to ensure synchronisation of the activities in three Command Centres in Yaounde and in Limbe, as well as the deployment of SONARA’s intervention teams and oil spill response equipment offshore, during the management of the Tier 3 oil spill incident”.*

The exercise tested the organization of the incident command centres as well as the collaboration between public authorities and private companies. An action plan was developed following the exercise. Mr Dzali Dikapa underlined that *“the involvement of participants from the government at the national and local level and the local oil operators contributed to the reinforcement of the cooperation between the public and the private sectors in case of a major oil spill incident in Cameroon”.*

During this large-scale exercise, an IMO representative filmed several activities of the workshop and national exercise to produce a documentary.







*Trans-boundary exercise in Gabon, 2015*

## March 2015: First bilateral exercise - Cameroon and Nigeria

The GI WACAF Project held the first trans-boundary exercise in the WACAF region in March. This activity had been requested by Cameroon and Nigeria during the Regional Conference in November 2013. As Idris Olubola Musa, GI WACAF Focal Point in Nigeria, explained: *“We had an initial contact with Cameroon for something similar in 2003 but we were unable to complete the exercise. This time around, we were glad it became possible”*.

The event was hosted simultaneously by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) in Abuja (Nigeria) and the National Hydrocarbons Corporation (SNH) in Yaoundé (Cameroon). Some 150 participants from various ministries and governmental agencies attended this joint activity. Representatives from the industry and the private sector were also in attendance in both countries.

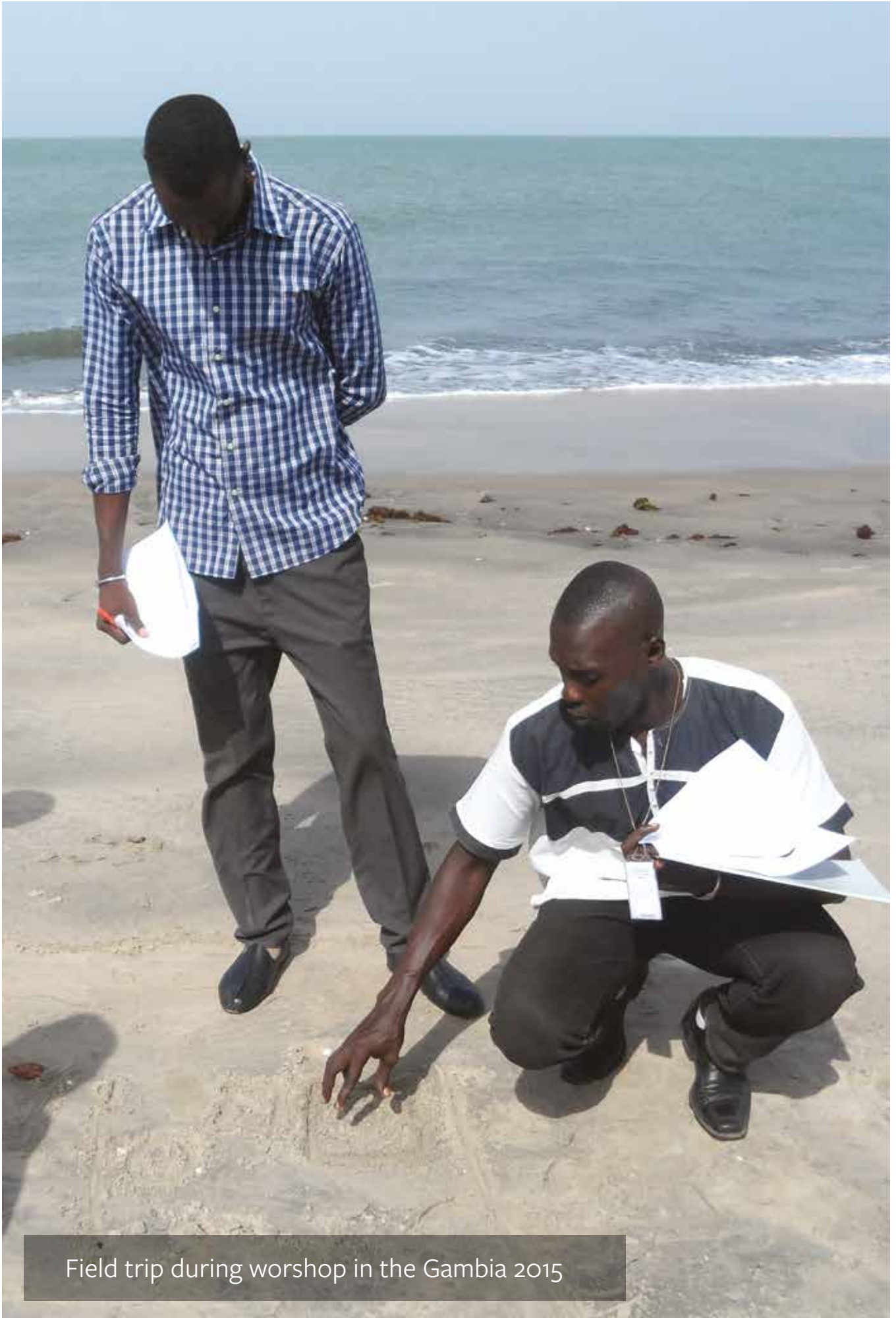
The objectives of this exercise were to:

- Establish lines of communication between Cameroon and Nigeria in the case of a trans-boundary oil spill incident as well as to test communication procedures
- Test both National Oil Spill Contingency Plans in the case of a trans-boundary oil spill incident Test different mechanisms for requests for assistance and allocation of international resources

This activity, the first of its kind, was well-received by both countries. It assisted them identify gaps that could not be otherwise identified through national exercises alone. The recommendations provided a strong foundation for future activities to strengthen national plans and lines of communication. For Idris Olubola Musa, *“Oil companies operating close to our border with Cameroon are glad that there is a procedure to follow should there be an oil spill that is likely to stretch to Cameroon. We also know the contact people, an opportunity we expect to further engage in when we have the next GI WACAF activity”*.

Based on this experience a similar exercise was replicated between Gabon and the Republic of Congo in September 2015.





Field trip during workshop in the Gambia 2015

# What do they think?

## Key people who work with the Project

### Richard Santner, BP, GI WACAF Industry Vice-Chair and former Industry Chair

**Richard Santner** is one of the original architects of GI WACAF. He discussed with us his experience and his vision of the Project.

**Richard, could you tell us more about the different roles you've undertaken with GI WACAF?**

**Richard Santner:** I was working at OSRL as a Technical Manager in 2005-2006. I led the original project design: scope, content, target outcomes, laying the foundations with the '6 elements' approach, setting milestone biennium conferences; but also achieving alignment of the IMO and IPIECA representatives, running the launch in Gabon in 2006 and setting up the systematic support work, annual plans, budget etc. I became the Industry Chair from 2011 to 2014. I could reinforce the original foundation goals, refresh the Project Manager role, refocus on the 6 elements and extend the range of topics to reflect the maturing level of capability in countries having achieved the original goals and seeking more. I also refreshed the governance for GI WACAF, encouraging the critical role of IMO in the Project's leadership. I am now one of the Industry Vice-Chairs. My current role is to contribute an experienced perspective on the various aspects of the Project.

#### **What makes GI WACAF a successful project?**

**RS:** It's all about the chemistry. There are some critical ingredients that need to be understood and mixed well. The first one is partnership, with the recognition and respect for the different drivers of the stakeholders, a strong sense of trust and a shared willingness to work together, to sustain a coordinated effort and address differences, as well as the ability to see past the inevitable short-term challenges and keep reaching for the long-



*Richard during the launch of the Project in 2006*

term goals that ultimately make a real difference. Project Management is another key element, with a long-term strategy based on annual plans, clear and tangible targets to achieve genuine progress, realism for what can be achieved without accepting the status quo.

Technical foundations and framework for growth are other elements of success: the Project has strong technical roots, clear foundations of legislation, risk/scenario definition, response strategy, tiered capability provisions, training, and exercises to add critical detail and capability. Finally, individuals' attributes underpin the success of the Project. We are lucky to work with people who have a long-term vision, clarity of purpose, technical strength, sustained determined support, and a personal commitment to the partnership approach founded on mutual respect.



## What are the main differences between the Project in 2006 and the Project now?

**RS:** The fledgling project which first took to flight in 2006 is now a mature and impressive programme of achievement. What was simply then my conviction of this being the right way forwards, is now an assured sense of proof-demonstrated value from sustained, coordinated effort to achieve mutually supportive long-term aims marked by interim measurable goals. We set out with just 6 key elements aligned to the OPRC Convention. We now have a good range of technical components, continually growing from the first foundations.

## How do you see the future of the Project?

**RS:** Of course there will be the Project's natural evolutionary growth, with increasing maturity, scope of work, and achievement across the 22 countries. I think that there should be a fundamental refresh of the 6 elements and supplementary areas at some point around 2019 to strengthen the framework and maturity steps. Eventually, if suitable opportunity arises, we could explore the option of additional delivery modes to embed the work in the next decade through in-region centres of capability of some kind.

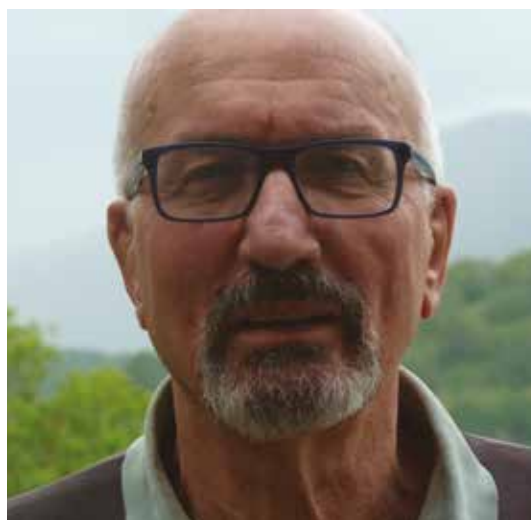
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## Jean Claude Sainlos, Former Director, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO)

*In his former role as Director of the Marine Environment Division, **Jean Claude Sainlos** played a central role in establishing GI WACAF. He reflects on the projects achievements and outlines some of the challenges that still remain.*

“This is an example of successful cooperation between the IMO and the oil industry. The project activities have directly benefited countries in the region by providing better understanding of oil spill issues, and helping to ensure improved communication and co-operation between governments and industry. GI WACAF has also played a key role in supporting the development and implementation of national oil spill contingency plans and the ratification and implementation of the relevant international Conventions. These are significant achievements, however, difficulties remain and some issues have not yet been properly addressed.

In my opinion, the main difficulty encountered by the project is the designation of competent national authorities for oil spill preparedness and response. The Abidjan Convention and its emergency Protocol led to the designation of particular Ministries/Agencies as the competent national authority within their respective countries. It has been the case that due to a lack of resources, certain Ministries/Agencies have not yet developed the capabilities to carry



out that responsibility effectively. This situation affects the establishment, as requested by article 6 of the OPRC convention, of a national system for preparedness and response. To address this issue new working methodology should be considered.

Looking ahead, one issue which has not yet been addressed by GI WACAF is the implementation of Paragraph 2 of article 6 of the OPRC convention. This relates to pre-positioned oil spill combating equipment, as well as the development of a plan to establish oil spill combating equipment stockpiles on a regional or sub-regional basis.”

**Rupert Bravery** became GI WACAF Industry Chair in November 2015. He told us how he saw GI WACAF developing in the future.

“GI WACAF should continue with the core ethos of pursuing best practice in oil spill preparedness and response. This has, and will continue to be, a key ingredient of success for regional development. To achieve this, we must support relevant national legislation, help implement the establishment of effective processes and make best use of proven oil spill response tools. We will work to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation between industry and government and play an increased role in organising effective mutual aid activities and cross border cooperation. The work already undertaken by the Project in this area sets a strong foundation for the future.

To ensure GI WACAF has truly regional scope and high levels of activity and output, it is paramount that the Project finances are maintained. GI WACAF will continually seek to increase its industry membership and improve cost effectiveness. Already begun, the Project’s policy of minimising administration costs and maximising the portion of the budget for running programmes will be continued.”



**Alexis Poutchovsky** (Total), **Dirk Martins** (Total), **William Lerch** (ExxonMobil), **Richard Santner** (BP), **Tom Coolbaugh** (ExxonMobil) and **Scott Smith** (ConocoPhillips) were the previous Industry Chairs.

## Thomas Liebert, Head, External Relations & Conference, IOPC Funds

**Thomas Liebert** has been involved in the development of the Global Initiative. He explained his role in GI WACAF in 2005-2006.

### What was your role at the beginning of the Project?

**Thomas Liebert:** I joined OSRL in 2003, with the responsibility to manage all advocacy activities. I was therefore very involved in the development of GI WACAF, which was first envisaged during a regional workshop I co-organised with IMO held in 2003 with 16 WACAF countries. The objectives were to discuss inter-governmental and government-industry cooperation and to prepare a programme of action for the development of regional systems for preparedness and response. An Action Plan was adopted, including a call to IMO and IPIECA to follow-up on that Plan. In 2004, IPIECA recognised the value of a planned, budgeted regional approach supported by the business units in the countries. I was then tasked to prepare the ground for the Project, engaging with IMO and the industry.



*Thomas in a workshop in Gabon, 2014*

### What is the nature of the collaboration with GI WACAF?

**TL:** The IOPC Funds considers itself as a technical partner. We are involved in assisting States with the adoption of the compensation regime following oil spills from tankers and in supporting national implementation. GI WACAF is the perfect conduit for providing such assistance.

### **Why do you think GI WACAF is a successful Project?**

**TL:** I believe that the main reason is the continuous commitment of IMO and the industry. Experience has shown that addressing the lack of sustainable support leads to success and GI WACAF has managed to maintain momentum on the government and industry sides. The regional approach is also beneficial as it demonstrates to governments that it is possible and more efficient to work together and share resources.

### **What are the biggest differences between the Project in 2006 and the Project now?**

**TL:** In 2006 it was new territory, nothing like that had been done before. GI WACAF is truly a joint IMO-Industry initiative and finding the adequate modus-operandi was not easy. The other important point is that Focal Points have been identified and their roles are clear. All of that had to be built from scratch.

*More information on IOPC Funds:  
[www.iopcfunds.org](http://www.iopcfunds.org)*

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## **Christophe Rousseau, Deputy Manager, Cedre**

**Christophe Rousseau** was part of the team who initiated the Global Initiative. He is now Deputy Manager of Cedre, one of GI WACAF's technical partners.

### **Christophe, when did you start working with GI WACAF?**

**Christophe Rousseau:** I was involved very early in the Global Initiative. In November 1995, a small team of experts was mobilised by IMO and IPIECA to prepare the GI launch. Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Tanzania were visited. I was in charge of facilitating the workshop in Côte d'Ivoire. I attended the launch in Cape Town in March 1996 with 180 governments and industry representatives, coming from Africa, Europe, the United States, Singapore and Australia.

### **How can you explain the success of GI WACAF?**

**CR:** I think the “cross fertilisation system” created between the public and private sectors around concrete actions is the cornerstone of the success of the Project.

### **What are the main differences between the Project in 2006 and the Project now?**

**CR:** The Project has evolved significantly since 2006: the consolidated budget, the follow-up of the progress made by countries and the work



*Christophe during the Regional Conference in Ghana, 2015*

programme established in the framework of a biennial strategic plan are proof of the systematic dimension reached by the Project. How do you see the future of the Project?

**CR:** The future of the GI WACAF will depend mainly on the capacity of the countries to prove, through sustainable actions, the added value and the efficiency of the international effort that has been dedicated to this Project since 2006.

*More information on Cedre: [wwz.cedre.fr](http://wwz.cedre.fr)*

## Andy Nicoll, Advocacy Manager, Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL)

OSRL is an important technical partner for the Project. **Andy Nicoll**, Advocacy Manager, shared his knowledge on oil spill preparedness in the region.

**In your travels around the WACAF region over the past 10 years have you noticed positive changes in terms of oil spill preparedness and response capability?**

**Andy Nicoll:** Absolutely! I think what has been striking has been the increase in scope of preparedness and response capability. In the beginning, the Project was rightly focussed on the basic blocks of response capacity such as having an national plan and a designated authority in charge. As the Project has matured, I have seen a tremendous growth in the demand for more specific elements such as sensitivity mapping, dispersant policies and Incident Management Systems. I think you can clearly see this demonstrated through the national and sub-regional exercises which are taking place in conjunction with industry, and also with greater frequency throughout the region.

**Having attended four of the five Regional Conferences, what do you see as the greatest value of these events?**

**AN:** The Regional Conferences provide a unique opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved but, more importantly, to set the course



*Andy during the Regional Conference in Nigeria, 2013*

for the next two years. It is absolutely right that the Project pauses to reflect and celebrate the progress that has been made at the national level and within a sub-regional and wider regional context. Thereafter these events give delegates the opportunity to agree objectives for the next biennium, based upon their specific needs, set against the key performance indicators established under the Project. The conference is also extremely valuable from a networking perspective, in providing a platform to hear from countries and individuals who have experience of the problems commonly faced and can share this knowledge and good-practice in a friendly and mutually constructive atmosphere.

*More information on OSRL: [www.oilspillresponse.com](http://www.oilspillresponse.com)*

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## The implementation team: the Project Secretariat

GI WACAF Secretariat is composed of a Manager and a Coordinator. The Project Manager is responsible for developing the strategy and implementing activities. The first Manager, **Gabino Gonzalez**, now head of REMPEC, started in 2005.

**You were in charge of organising the Project Launch in 2006. What were the objectives?**

**Gabino Gonzalez:** The Launch marked a significant change in focus from informing the delegates of key issues to them taking ownership of these issues, demonstrating their commitment in





planning the way forward and identifying the appropriate support. Throughout the event, delegates were guided through six key elements of oil spill preparedness and response: Legislation, Plan, Forces of Implementation, Training, Equipment and Exercises. All the information collected was analysed to provide a regional overview and to plan future activities. I trust that the Launch was a success and that it is a cornerstone of the Project.

### **What were the main challenges you had to face as the first Project Manager?**

**GG:** The countries had received substantive technical support from IMO and other organisations, but the implementation of the OPRC Convention had not been analysed. A network of focal points also had to be established, an action plan and indicators had to be defined, and a working procedure between the industry and government had to be discussed. In other words, the challenges were numerous, but the collaborative approach and the motivation of IMO and IPIECA, together with the willingness of the countries and of the industry, provided all the elements to lead the measurable achievement of the Project in the region.

### **What was your biggest achievement?**

**GG:** The biggest achievement was the definition of the six key elements used to measure the progress of the Project, to collect the required national information prior and during the Launch and to draw the action plan. These indicators are still central to the Project ten years after.

*More information on REMPEC: [www.rempec.org](http://www.rempec.org)*



**Philippe de Susanne** (left) and **Romain Chancerel** (right) were the second and third Project Managers.

**Anton Rhodes** has been Project Manager since 2013 and shares his views on the success of GI WACAF.

“GI WACAF is built on very strong foundations. The goals set out in 2006 give the Project clear direction and are an effective measure of success. In addition, the governance model and funding arrangements have ensured strong leadership and a dependable source of income.

Another key ingredient of success is flexibility. GI WACAF is constantly responding to the development and changing priorities of key stakeholders in the region by introducing new focus topics and activities into the work programme. For example, in recent years, topics such as Waste Management, Shoreline Clean-up and Incident Management Systems (IMS) have been introduced and trans-boundary exercises are now central to our work.

The fact that the Project is so inclusive is also a hugely positive factor. The active role of stakeholders through regional, sub-regional and national activities ensures a high level of participation and support for the Project’s goals. In my experience, the drive and direction of the Project has always come from its Government and industry members in the region. Ultimately, the success of GI WACAF and its future path lies with them”.



The Project Manager is supported by a Coordinator recruited by Total, in agreement with the French government under the “International Scientific Volunteer” (Volontaire International Scientifique – VIS) scheme. The VIS is based at IMO headquarters in London. Their main role is to support the drafting and the implementation of the annual work programme through the organisation and the delivery of training, workshops and exercises. **Antoine Blonce** was the first Project Coordinator. He shared his experience with GI WACAF.

### **Antoine, could you describe the role of the VIS?**

**Antoine Blonce:** The VIS, who is based in the Marine Environment Division at IMO, is essential for the coordination of this IMO-IPIECA project. The VIS’s role is to prepare activities, from budget planning in collaboration with the IMO Technical Cooperation Division, to consultants’ recruitment with the Human Resources Services all the way through the final delivery of activities including technical presentations with intensive travel to West Africa. It is complete and challenging but also rewarding.

### **What was the biggest challenge you had to face as the first VIS?**

**AB:** The main challenge was to find the right role amongst all the stakeholders. The VIS has the chance to be working at the same time with oil companies and government representatives and always has to wear this “double hat” - IMO or IPIECA. The coordination is demanding but it is also what makes GI WACAF so successful.

### **Was this experience useful for your career?**

**AB:** My 2 years working for GI WACAF were a springboard for the next step in my career. In 2012, I joined another MED Project, the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme as Technical Adviser, to assist developing countries to reduce the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms in ships’ ballast water through the implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention, promoting capacity building and technical cooperation.

### **Any anecdote you would like to share to finish?**



**AB:** One of my best memories is probably seeing the Project team and partners dancing to Nigerian music during the reception of the 2011 Conference. The generosity of the 22 countries, and the friendship developed between the Project team, the focal points and the stakeholders, made working for GI WACAF an unforgettable experience. “Working together” is a motto I learned during that project and that I will definitely keep using in my career.



**Benjamin Jeanne and Chloe Blais** were the other VIS for the GI WACAF Project



## Our Focal Points in the region

*The success of the Project relies on the strong network of government and industry focal points. Some of them have been there from the launch in 2006. They agreed to share their experience.*



**Louis-Léandre Ebobola-Tsibah** is the Government Focal Point of Gabon. He has been involved since the Launching Conference organised in his country in 2006.

### **Which concrete results have you been able to observe in Gabon thanks to the collaboration with GI WACAF?**

**Louis-Léandre Ebobola Tsibah:** GI WACAF helped to raise awareness and strengthen capabilities. Thanks to the Project, we have been able to create a national platform, “GI WACAF Gabon”, which is composed of representatives of the government and the oil industry as well as other private actors from the maritime sector. We meet once a month between September and June.

### **Have you seen any evolution in oil spill preparedness at the regional level?**

**LLET:** In 2006, very few countries had ratified the relevant IMO Conventions or started the development of National Plans. In Gabon, we were just finalising the National Plan. After that, it took us four years to establish the national platform and two more years to be able to test the Plan. During the first five years, the Project was mostly raising awareness on these issues. Today, this has changed as the vast majority of the countries of

the region now understand the importance of having a National Plan in place. Finally, the Project is now focusing on promoting cooperation and mutual agreement between countries through trans-boundary exercises. We can say that we are, since the Regional Conference in Lagos held in 2011, in the “action phase”. However, there is still progress to be made, especially to strengthen the legal and institutional framework and to purchase equipment, or at least to formalise agreements with the oil industry on this matter.

### **What is your biggest success as GI WACAF Focal Point?**

**LLET:** Without a doubt, the joint deployment exercise to test the National Plan held in March 2012 in Libreville and Port-Gentil, in cooperation with IMO, IPIECA, Cedre and the Abidjan Convention. It took us two years to prepare for this activity but it has been a real source of pride for all members of the platform “GI WACAF Gabon”. Three years later, we held a bilateral exercise with one of our neighbouring country, the Republic of Congo.



*Sub-regional Workshop in Gabon, 2015*



**Gabriel Ikapi** is one of the Industry Focal Points of Gabon. He is a member of the national platform and he attended the launch in 2006.

**Do you think that GI WACAF had a positive impact in Gabon?**

**Gabriel Ikapi:** GI WACAF had concrete results in our country. For example, Gabon has been able to develop a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. This plan has been tested with a table-top exercise and a deployment exercise with all actors involved in oil spill preparedness and response: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Hydrocarbons, Ministry of Defence, the oil industry through UPEGA (Union des Pétroliers du Gabon) and civil society.

**Have you been able to measure improvement in the level of preparedness and response?**

**GI:** Absolutely. The cooperation between the government and the industry has been strengthened significantly with the creation of the GI WACAF national committee. National capabilities and expertise have improved thanks to the numerous workshops organised in Gabon and in the region since 2006.



Director of CIAPOL (Centre Ivoirien Anti-Pollution), **Martin Diagne Dibi** has been the Government Focal Point of Côte d'Ivoire for 10 years.

**What has been achieved in Côte d'Ivoire with GI WACAF?**

**Martin Niagne Dibi:** The main achievements are the ratification of IMO Conventions such as OPRC 90, CLC 92 and FUND 92, the development of sensitivity maps, the approval of a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and the organisation of regular exercises. Overall, the local expertise has been strengthened.

**What is your biggest success regarding oil spill preparedness and response in Côte d'Ivoire?**

**MND:** I am very proud to say that I led the development of the National Plan as well as sensitivity maps for my country. But most importantly, I have been able to reinstate a sense of trust between the government and the oil industry. The cooperation with the oil industry is very strong. We participate together in workshops and exercises and we share our resources.

**Have you seen any evolution at the regional level over the last ten years?**

**MND:** The level of preparedness and response has improved significantly in most countries. Each country has a National Plan, which was not the case ten years ago. Discussions during regional events are now more technical and specific.

## GI WACAF is also about friendship

*Over the last ten years, the Project has brought together representatives from the public and private sectors from 22 countries. It is a great opportunity to make new contacts and firm up old friendships.*



*Left to right, top to bottom: South Africa (2015), Gabon (2012), Ghana (2015), Togo (2013), Nigeria (2011), Ghana (2015), Cameroon (2011), Ghana (2015)*

"I am in contact with the Focal Points who have been there from the beginning. We are friends"

**Louis-Léandre Ebobola Tsibah, Gabon**



# Views from our Focal Points



**Kojo Agbenor-Efunam, Ghana**

“Very successful Project”



**Fabrice Metonwaho, Benin**

“The strong commitment of focal points in each member country makes GI WACAF a successful project “



**Octavio Cabral, Guinea Bissau**

“GI WACAF is a sustainable capacity building project with a tailored approach, based on the needs of the countries“



**Alhajie Sanneh, the Gambia**

“ Informative, Resourceful with excellent Trainers”



**Antonio Cruz Lopes, Cabo Verde**

“GI WACAF fosters closer working relationships between relevant stakeholders without any barrier or hindrances”



**Jean-Paul Mwamba Nyembo, DRC**

“One of the main priorities for the future is to organise sub-regional workshops to facilitate the establishment of bilateral agreements for oil spill response”



**Ibrahima Camara Ngaye, Guinea**

“In 3 words: organisation, preparedness and response”



**Abdel-Ganiou Soulemame, Togo**

“Thanks to the support of GI WACAF, all countries have at least a draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan”



**Metse Ralephenya, South Africa**

“ GI WACAF fosters closer working relationship between governments, oil companies and NGOs”



**Diodj Sene, Senegal**

“ GI WACAF is a pragmatic programme gathering all actors involved in oil spill response to strengthen regional capacities”



Exercise in Gabon, 2012



**GI WACAF**

[www.giwacaf.com](http://www.giwacaf.com)

**The GI WACAF Project is an IMO / IPIECA Collaboration**



**IPIECA**

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FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND SOCIAL ISSUES