

2015

Mid-Year Review



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About the GI WACAF

Launched in 2006, the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF Project) is a partnership between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) 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 partnerships for effective oil spill response. The GI WACAF Project is jointly funded by the International Maritime Organization and 9 oil companies.



The Project area covers 22 West, Central and Southern African countries. The scope is to organise workshops, training, seminars and exercises in collaboration with national authorities in charge of oil spill response and in partnership with local business units.

GI WACAF Mid-Year Review 2015

During the first months of 2015 the GI WACAF Secretariat focused on the production of an Annual Action Plan and reflected on past activities with the publication of the 2014 Annual Review.

The implementation phase started in March with different types of activities delivered in West, Central and Southern Africa. One of the major events during this period was the first trans-boundary exercise between Cameroon and Nigeria to test the lines of communication in the case of an oil spill (see page 6). GI WACAF also attended external events related to oil spill prevention and response, such as Interspill in Amsterdam, and the IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group in London.

Finally, the Project has been working to improve its communication tools through the redevelopment of the website and the publication of a new brochure.

2015 Activities Timeline

January		Turkey	OSPRI Annual Members Meeting
March		Senegal	National workshop on Dispersant and table-top exercise
		Cameroon	Trans-boundary exercise with Nigeria to test the lines of communication in case of an oil spill
		Nigeria	Trans-boundary exercise with Cameroon to test the lines of communication in case of an oil spill
		Netherlands	Interspill 2015
May		The Gambia	National workshop on Sensitivity mapping and Shoreline clean-up
		United Kingdom	IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group meeting
June		Norway	UNEP/OCHA Environmental Emergencies Forum
		Angola	Second Annual HSSE Conference
		South Africa	National workshop on Incident Management System
		Namibia	National workshop on Waste Management
September		Gabon	Trans-boundary exercise with the Republic of Congo to test the lines of communication in case of an oil spill
		Republic of Congo	Trans-boundary exercise with Gabon to test the lines of communication in case of an oil spill
		Gabon	Sub-regional workshop on the Challenges of Shoreline clean-up and Waste management during an oil spill
November		Ghana	6th GI WACAF Regional Conference



In-region activities



External engagement

Upcoming activities
(subject to change)

2015 Activities Snapshots



March - Senegal - National workshop on dispersant and table-top exercise

Around 60 participants coming from various ministries and government agencies attended the event. The oil and gas industry was also represented through a number of local operators. The event consisted of a mix of technical presentations on the application, conditions of use and limits of dispersant. The table-top exercise organised on the last day helped to identify gaps in the implementation of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan.



March - Cameroon & Nigeria - Trans-boundary exercise to test the communication lines

Around 150 participants attended the joint activity coming from various ministries and government agencies within the two countries. Representatives from the industry and the private sector were also in attendance. The main objective was to establish lines of communication between Nigeria and Cameroon in the case of a trans-boundary oil spill incident as well as to test and practice communication procedures. For more information, see page 6.



May - The Gambia - National workshop on Sensitivity mapping and Shoreline clean-up

The workshop, hosted by the National Disaster Management Agency, was attended by 40 participants. The objectives were to support the development of sensitivity maps of marine resources that are vulnerable to oil pollution, as well as the implementation of effective shoreline response in the event of an incident. In order to address these objectives, the participants were guided through four days of presentations, case studies, practical sessions and discussions.



June - South Africa - National workshop on Incident Management System (IMS)

The workshop focussed on introducing IMS to the South African Government to meet the needs of emergency management and preparedness towards Operation Phakisa (Economic plan to utilise South Africa's offshore resources). During the workshop, the audience was provided a draft model implementation plan which developed into options towards future implementation and management using IMS for oil and gas emergencies in South Africa.



June - Namibia - National workshop on Waste management

The workshop gathered more than 30 participants from different ministries, government agencies and local entities. The main objectives of the workshop were to train participants on waste management and to draft Terms of Reference for the recruitment of a consultant in charge of developing a waste management policy for Namibia. The programme included technical presentations, field visits and working group sessions.

2015 External Engagements



January - Turkey - OSPRI Annual Members meeting

GI WACAF attended the Annual [Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative](#) (OSPRI) meeting in Istanbul. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that the overall strategy and priorities for OSPRI remain current. GI WACAF used the event as an opportunity to identify areas for closer collaboration between the two initiatives as well as administrative processes that might be applied to GI WACAF.



March - Netherlands - Interspill 2015

[Interspill 2015](#), the European oil spill conference and exhibition, took place in Amsterdam. Over 1,250 visitors and exhibitors from 75 countries attended. GI WACAF was engaged at the event presenting on the topic of “future development of oil spill response in West, Central and Southern Africa”. The presentation was part of a dedicated Global Initiative session. The Project Secretariat was also present at the IPIECA exhibition booth.



May - United Kingdom - IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group meeting

The Oil Spill Working Group meeting organised in London was an opportunity to exchange on current activities of the different GI programmes. The GI WACAF Project Manager gave an update on the Project for 2015, focusing on upcoming events. The members also discussed the second phase of the [Joint Industry Project](#) (JIP).



June - Norway - 2015 Environmental Emergencies Forum

Organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the [Forum](#) showcased experiences and innovations in improving prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies. The event brought together representatives from governments, industries, academia, aid agencies and civil society. The GI WACAF Manager presented the Project as an example of successful government and industry collaboration. Particular focus was placed upon how to measure achievements, what are the contributors to success, and what are the next steps for GI WACAF.



June - Angola - Second Annual HSSE Conference

The purpose of the [event](#) held in Luanda was to highlight the technical aspects of the HSSE Department and to promote responsible management of environmental risks. GI WACAF presented on the topic of “Oil and gas industry partnership with Government to combat major oil spills”. Particular emphasis was placed upon the importance of an aligned incident management system and the application of Net Environment Benefit Analysis (NEBA) during the planning for a major oil spill.

Focus on the transboundary exercise between Cameroon and Nigeria to test the lines of communication in case of an oil spill

The GI WACAF Project organised the first trans-boundary exercise in the WACAF region in March. The event was hosted simultaneously by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) in Abuja (Nigeria) and the *Société Nationale des Hydrocarbures* in Yaoundé (Cameroon). Around 150 participants attended the joint activity coming from various ministries and governmental agencies. Representatives from the industry and the private sector were also in attendance in both countries. The workshop was facilitated by Aimyll Prosperre Dzali Dikapa in Cameroon and Stéphane Grenon in Nigeria.



Trans-boundary exercise in Abuja (Nigeria)

The purpose of the bilateral exercise was to facilitate productive discussion and promote agreements between Nigeria and Cameroon on topics such as mutual aid and cross-jurisdictional support. The overall objectives for 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 test and practice communication procedures. Communication procedures included provisions to address the French-English interface;
- Test the National Oil Spill Contingency Plans of the countries in the case of a trans-boundary oil spill incident;
- Test different mechanisms for requests for assistance and allocation of international resources.



Trans-boundary exercise in Yaoundé (Cameroon)

The output from the working sessions is testament to the level of commitment from the participants involved, and the recommendations provided will form a strong foundation for future activities to strengthen national response plans and lines of communication. The exercise was the first of its kind for GI WACAF and it is the intention of the Project to use the activity as a template to be replicated elsewhere in the region (see page 8). The exercise also marks a major milestone for the Project, highlighting that levels of national oil spill capability have developed to a point that a number of countries are now looking beyond their borders and seeking to align their National Oil Spill Contingency Plans with their closest neighbours.

Communication

During the first half of the year, the GI WACAF Secretariat has been focusing on improving and updating communication tools.



2014 Annual Review

In March, the GI WACAF published the Annual Review 2014. It includes details about in-region activities as well as external engagement. The Project governance is also discussed with chapters on the Key Performance Indicators and the evolution of the work programme. The document is available in English and in French.



GI WACAF Brochure

The GI WACAF Secretariat also updated the Project brochure. This two-page document, available in English and in French, provides an overview for anyone interested in learning more about the Project: objectives, achievements, evolution of the programme, examples of in-region activities and contact details.

Finally, the GI WACAF website is currently being redeveloped. It will feature more information on the level of preparedness and response in the region and on the different activities. The new version will be available in September 2015. A temporary page is currently [available](#).

The Project Management Team

In March 2015, Rupert Bravery (ExxonMobil) was appointed Industry Vice-Chair for the Project.

Strategic level

Industry



Scott
Smith



Rupert
Bravery

IMO



Dandu
Pughiuc



Colleen
O'Hagan

Upcoming Activities (subject to change):

September - Gabon and Republic of Congo - Trans-boundary exercise to test the communication lines

This event will take place between 14 and 15 September 2015 simultaneously in Libreville and Pointe-Noire. The Oil Spill Crisis Management organisations of the two neighbouring countries will take part in a trans-boundary table-top exercise to improve their overall readiness and capabilities and to test their ability to communicate in order to pursue a common line in the management of oil spill response. The purpose of the exercise will be to facilitate productive discussions and promote agreements between Gabon and the Republic of Congo on topics such as mutual aid and cross-jurisdictional support.

September - Gabon - Sub-regional workshop on Shoreline clean-up and Waste Management

This workshop will be an opportunity for delegates from 12 French-speaking countries of the region to share information on and discuss the challenges related to Shoreline Clean-up and Waste Management during an oil spill response. The specific objective of this workshop will be to provide delegates with the essential knowledge and skills to establish and manage effective shoreline clean-up and waste management operations within their respective countries. It will be organised in Libreville between 16 and 18 September 2015.

November - Ghana - 6th GIWACAF Regional Conference

The GI WACAF Regional Conference, organised every two years, will be held from 16 to 19 November 2015 in Accra, Ghana, in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The objectives are to:

- Raise awareness on oil spill preparedness and response with an emphasis on the challenges in the region;
- Facilitate information sharing and lessons learned in the region;
- Review the progress achieved since the last Regional Conference; and
- Determine priority actions for the coming work biennium 2016-2017 to strengthen oil spill response capability in the region.

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The GI WACAF Project is an IMO / IPIECA Partnership

