

Report of the 10th GI WACAF Regional Conference

Lomé, Togo

25 – 28 November 2024



RÉPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE

Ministère de l'Économie maritime
et de la Protection côtière

Hosted by:

**Ministry of Maritime
Economy and Coastal
Protection, the Togolese
Republic**

NOTE

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Executive Summary

The 10th GI WACAF Regional Conference took place from 25 to 28 November 2024 in Lomé, Togo, at the Sarakawa Hotel. The Conference was organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for advancing environmental and social performance, in close collaboration with the Government of Togo, notably the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Coastal Protection. The event brought together key industry and government representatives from the 20 African partner countries of the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) project as follows: Angola, Benin, Cabo Verde, Congo, Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, with some 120 participants attending the Conference. The programme and the list of participants are set out in annexes 1 and 3 of this report respectively.

The main objectives of the Conference were to:

- address the challenges of Oil Spill Preparedness and Response (OSPR) within the region;
- review the progress achieved since the last regional conference in 2022;
- facilitate information sharing and lessons learned between countries and stakeholders;
- strengthen the network of government delegates involved in oil spill preparedness and response in the region;
- highlight the benefits of the GI WACAF Project; and
- determine priority actions for the coming 2025-2027 triennium to enhance oil spill preparedness and response in the region.

To address these objectives, the participants were guided through four days of presentations, case studies, working group sessions, discussions, and tabletop exercises, based on fictional scenarios.

The Conference recommendations, as outlined below, are based on the conclusions of the working groups and on the information provided by the countries over the four-day event. These recommendations will serve as basis for developing the Project's action plan for the 2025-2027 triennium.

Main recommendations

Amongst the different working groups, discussions revealed a common and strong desire for guidelines and tools tailored to the WACAF region to guide the countries in the organization and management of exercises. As countries evolve towards more efficient contingency planning, there is a growing need to test the National Oil Spill Contingency Plans (NOSCPs) and associated policies.

Step 1: Legislation and regulatory framework

Establishing a legislative and regulatory framework is the foundation of an effective national preparedness and response system (i.e. ratification/ transposition of conventions, update of national laws/ decrees, review of national institutional framework, regional/transboundary agreements, etc.). In this connection, the conference recommended the following:

- assist in the development of bi-lateral and sub-regional oil spill preparedness and response agreements and plans; and
- develop materials, guidelines, tools and templates to support the development of sub-regional agreements.

Step 2: Policies and processes

Establishing the appropriate policies, processes and tools to implement the legislative framework (e.g. National Contingency Plan, dispersant use policy, waste management policy, shoreline clean-up plans, maps, incident management system etc.), are all key components of an effective national system. The conference encouraged the establishment of operational systems and resources for incident management and spill response, in line with the national policies and legislative frameworks. Recommendations under this pillar included:

- a continuous effort to assist in the development of NOSCPs, their implementation and transposition to national regulation; and
- provide assistance in the development of standard operating procedures.

Step 3: Assistance for Implementation

The conference recognized the ongoing support and assistance that is required by countries to develop the necessary capacity and knowledge to ensure effective national response systems. Amongst the tools discussed during the conference, three were considered as of immediate interest and importance:

- promote the organization of small-scale to large-scale exercises. Small-scale exercises addressing specific parts of national oil spill contingency plans allows for testing of specific elements of the plan, to identify any gaps and to take steps to address these. Specific elements to be considered for small-scale table-top exercises could include roles and responsibilities, communications, dispersant approval processes, logistical challenges, etc;
- produce practical guidelines and tools, tailored to the WACAF region, to assist countries in the development and management of exercises on various scales, and

- support countries in the implementation of regular national and transboundary exercises.

Step 4 : Promoting stakeholder communication

- assist in the establishment of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between government entities and the private sector to facilitate resource mobilization in case of need;
- facilitate communication between entities; and
- establish a forum between countries at different levels of preparedness to promote experience sharing and learning.

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1 GI WACAF Project overview

Launched in 2006, the GI WACAF Project is a partnership between IMO and IPIECA to enhance the capacity of partner countries to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills. The mission is to strengthen the national systems for preparedness and response in case of an oil spill across 22 West, Central and Southern African Countries in accordance with the provisions set out in the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC 90). To achieve its mission, the GI WACAF Project organizes and delivers workshops, seminars and exercises. These aim to communicate good practices in all aspects of spill preparedness and response, drawing on expertise and experience from within governments, industry and other organizations working in this specialized field. To prepare and implement these activities, the Project relies on its network of dedicated governments and industry focal points. Promoting cooperation amongst all relevant government agencies, petroleum industry business units and stakeholders nationally, regionally and internationally is a major objective of the Project. GI WACAF operates and delivers activities with contributions from IMO and seven oil company members of IPIECA, namely Azule Energy, BP, Chevron, Eni, ExxonMobil, Shell, and TotalEnergies.



More information is available on the [Project's Website](https://www.giwacaf.net/en).

(<https://www.giwacaf.net/en>)

2 Background and introduction

The GI WACAF Project was launched in 2006 with the broad aim of developing and improving capability in oil spill preparedness, response and to facilitate cooperation within 22 countries of West, Central, and Southern Africa.

The gap analysis undertaken in 2006, showed low levels of national preparedness and response capability across the region. Between 2006 and 2009, the project implemented over 25 workshops across 16 different countries in the region, focusing predominantly on developing the foundations for national preparedness and response systems. Since 2010, the work programme of the GI WACAF Project has evolved and diversified. It now incorporates more regional and sub-regional activities, supports exercises to test capability, and provides guidance and assistance on an increasingly varied array of technical topics and policies, tailored to support ongoing in-country developments.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the GI WACAF project adapted to deliver remote assistance in capacity training to the countries, notably through online webinars. The success of this remote approach has led to a post-pandemic adoption of this form of assistance, in addition to the traditional in-country workshops. Depending on the country's needs, the GI WACAF can operate in a 3-step approach: a first step of remote needs-assessment with the country or countries, which can be coupled with remote reviews of national documents relating to oil spill preparedness and response, followed by an in-country workshop to build national capacity building, and a third step of following up with the countries' progress after the delivery of the assistance. This approach has been proven highly effective.

Organized every two years at the end of each biennial cycle, the GI WACAF Regional Conference forms an integral part of the management of the GI WACAF Project. The event gathers industry and government focal points from across the region with the objective to exchange experiences, review progress achieved and prioritize project goals for the next cycle. This conference marked the milestone of the project entering its 10th cycle, leading up to the 20 years of the project and its success.

To tailor the conference to the participants' needs and expectations, the GI WACAF Secretariat reached out to its national and industry focal points to define which topics they wanted to discuss in priority. Amongst the topics proposed (National Contingency Planning / Regulation / Response Policies / Response Strategy Development / Transboundary Cooperation, Sub-regional and regional aspects of oil spill preparedness and response / Training and exercise / Incident Management), the two topics which stood out were National Oil Spill Contingency Planning, and Transboundary Cooperation. The programme (Annex 1 - Agenda) of the event was defined according to those priorities.

3 Objectives

The main objectives of the Conference were to:

- address the challenges of oil spill preparedness and response within the region;
- review the progress achieved since the last regional conference in 2022 in Accra, Ghana;
- facilitate information sharing and lessons learned;
- strengthen the network of government delegates involved in oil spill preparedness and response in the region;
- highlight the benefits of the GI WACAF Project; and
- determine priority actions for the coming 2025-2027 triennium to enhance oil spill preparedness and response in the region.

4 Conference Agenda

The conference was implemented over four days. The complete programme is set out in Annex 1 - Agenda and is summarized below:

Monday 25 November – Highlights

- The GI WACAF Project
- Biennium highlights and updates by national focal points
- Compensation mechanisms
- Evolution and perspectives of oil spill in the region
- The Global Initiative Programme
- Opening ceremony

Tuesday 26 November – National Oil Spill Contingency Planning

- Sharing knowledge and experience
- Working groups – Risk evaluation
- Practical activities

Wednesday 27 November – Transboundary Cooperation

- Sharing knowledge and experience
- Working groups – How to plan and manage national exercise activities?
- Practical activities

Thursday 28 November – Next cycle

- Face-to-face: GI WACAF and national delegates
- Industry feedback
- Closing ceremony

5 Participation

Some 90 industry and government representatives from 20 of the 22 GI WACAF partner countries attended the event, as well as representatives from regional and international organizations, complemented by an array of international experts. The full list of participations, international delegations, speakers and facilitators that supported the various sessions is set out in Annex 2 – Speakers and Facilitators.

6 Activities and proceedings

Day 1

The first day of the conference was dedicated to sharing the highlights of the 2023-2024 biennium with all participants. Presentations made by national focal points from the Gambia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, and Togo. They gave various examples of GI WACAF assistance in enhancing preparedness and response in the region, along with updates on national and regional progress. Other presentations relating to oil spill preparedness and response in the region were delivered by the GI WACAF secretariat, IMO, the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) and Industry, followed by the opening ceremony.

Session 1 - The GI WACAF, Anaïs Guillou (GI WACAF)

The first day was introduced by Ms. Guillou, GI WACAF Project Manager, providing an overview of the GI WACAF project, its global objectives and its modus operandi. She presented the main outcomes of the project since its inception in 2006, as well as the outcomes of the 2023-2024 biennium, detailing the various activities that took place in countries such as the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Togo. Ms. Guillou highlighted the objectives of the Regional Conference which were to:

- present some recent and ongoing OSPR activities in the WACAF region;
- facilitate the exchange of information and best practices;
- identify the actions to be implemented as a priority within the 2025-2027 triennial action plan to enhance preparedness for and response to oil spills in the region;
- discuss the possible evolution and future work streams of the GI WACAF project; and
- exchange views on possible ways of improving and reinforcing cooperation between industry and governments.

Ms. Guillou then presented the agenda and the team of facilitators for the event.

Session 2 - Biennium highlights and updates by national Focal Points

- **Namibia, Industry / Government Cooperation, [Shapua Kalomo](#)**

Mr. Kalomo gave an overview of the workshop held in Namibia about roles and responsibilities between government and industries in case of an oil spill, with the main objective being to improve oil spill preparedness and response through cooperation between government and industry under a Unified Command. Thirty two participants from key Namibian government ministries were present. Key focus areas of the workshop were the Unified Command System, Incident Management System and the National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan. Mr. Kalomo presented the workshop highlights and key recommendations produced by the GI WACAF.

- **The Gambia, National Oil Spill Contingency Planning, [Wandifa Saidyleigh](#)**

Mr. Saidyleigh started this presentation with a background of the Gambian evolution in developing oil spill preparedness and response systems, underpinned by international obligations, as well as a recent oil spill incident that occurred in May 2022. This incident acted as a wake-up call for all stakeholders to come together and expedite the NOSCP development process. The GI WACAF provided assistance by an online kick-off meeting gathering all stakeholders involved. This was followed by site visits and surveys, further to which risk assessment and stakeholder meetings were organized. Finally, the third phase of this assistance consisted of a training workshop on oil spill preparedness and response, gathering the same stakeholders involved since the beginning of the process. Regarding the NOSCP development, a first review of the NOSCP draft was initiated, and followed by a second review. This assistance was finalized through an NOSCP validation workshop in May 2024. Mr. Saidyleigh then detailed the key outputs of this assistance, as well as the next steps considered for and by the country towards an effective preparedness and response system.

- **Togo, effective implementation of IMO Conventions, [Kpatcha Mawaïboyodou Gnama](#)**

Mr. Gnama, through his presentation, gave an overview of Togo's POLMAR Plan and of the road to its effective implementation in the country. He detailed the POLMAR Plan's objectives, contents, and stakeholders involved.

Mr. Gnama then explained the legal support delivered by the GI WACAF to Togo in 2023, and presented the highlights:

- summary of the principles governing the transposition of international conventions;
- presentation of the diagnosis accompanied by recommendations for each country and analysis of national legislation; and
- an interactive sequence of exercises and practical discussions aimed at ensuring that national legislation complies with international commitments.

The achievements of this sub-regional workshop, involving stakeholders from Benin, Guinea, Mauritania, and Togo were presented as well. This workshop gave participants a better understanding of the objectives, principles and legal implications of the five IMO instruments by political decision-makers, technical stakeholders and other participants. It

also raised participants' awareness of the importance of transposing IMO international rules into national legislation and promoted cooperation between the various institutions involved, including all stakeholders at national and sub-regional level.

Mr. Gnana then presented the next steps for Togo to implement its POLMAR Plan.

- **Nigeria, Oiled Wildlife Contingency Plan, Mohammed Gumsuri**

Mr. Gumsuri presented on the development of Nigeria's Oiled Wildlife Contingency Plan (OWCP) and the different stages undertaken: a first step of assessment and research to identify areas and activities posing significant oil spill risk; a second phase of planning and organization to establish the working groups, define objectives and scopes; a third stage of resource and infrastructure development; a fourth stage of training; a fifth stage of documentation and review, and finally a last phase of public outreach and sensitization to build trust. The GI WACAF assistance was focused on helping in the drafting of the OWCP and, later, on the review of the document. The way forward presented by Mr. Gumsuri was also details in his presentation, mentioning targeted workshops for specific sections of the plan, and maintaining stakeholder engagement throughout.

- **Mauritania, Dispersant Use Policy, M'hamed Cherif**

After describing the context, the Mauritanian focal point detailed the actions taken by Mauritania to develop its' Dispersant Use Policy, amongst which:

- drafting of a joint decree between the Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of the Environment, regulating the use of dispersants to combat accidental oil spills in the maritime waters of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
- the list of dispersants authorized in Mauritania is appended to the decree and set out in the table presented; and
- approval of a dispersant is valid for 5 years (subject to the reconsideration of the effectiveness, toxicity or biodegradability criteria).

In this context, the GI WACAF had delivered assistance in the revision of the POLMAR National Plan, as well as the drafting of the Dispersant Use Policy. The focal point also presented the actions in progress, including the acquisition of the dispersant stock and the training of the Maritime Authority staff on the dispersant approval process.

Session 3 - Compensation mechanisms, Gaute Sivertsen (IOPC Funds)

Mr. Sivertsen presented on the liability and compensation mechanism available under the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) system covering oil pollution damage resulting from spills of persistent oil from tankers. Mr. Sivertsen presented the basic principles of the international regime, including:

- compensate victims of pollution damage;
- sharing of cost of compensation between shipowner/insurer and oil receiver;
- uniform consistent application of compensation regime; and

- equal treatment of all claimants.



Mr. Sivertsen presented the status of memberships in the region, as detailed in the map below.

He then presented the limits of liability (how much can be paid in compensation), as well as the types of claims, which could cover clean-up activities and preventive measures, property damage, environmental damages and post-spill studies, negative effects on the tourism sector, and on fisheries and mariculture sector, noting that any damage directly linked to a spill could receive compensation. Key factors to the acceptance of claims from IOPC Funds were then presented:



Gaute Sivertsen concluded by noting that over £775 million was paid in compensation since 1978, in more than 150 incidents involving the IOPC Funds.

Session 4 - Evolution and perspectives of oil spill response in the region, [Tania Augusto \(ExxonMobil\)](#)

The objective of this presentation was to highlight oil and gas industry exploration and production activities with regard to spill preparedness and response in West, Central and Southern Africa. Ms. Augusto gave an initial historical and geographic industry overview, followed by the evolution of oil spill risk and response capabilities in the region, noting an overall increase of oil spill risk, with less probability but higher consequences. She also noted an overall improvement of spill response preparedness cooperation between governments and industries. Tania Augusto then presented the legal frameworks for oil spill preparedness and response on international, regional and national levels. After presenting the current oil spill response capabilities in the region, Ms. Augusto highlighted the importance of preparedness and response cooperation between industry/industry, government/governments, as well as industry/governments, noting the important role of GI WACAF in the facilitation of these cooperations.

Session 5 - The Global Initiative Programme, [Patricia Charlebois \(IMO\)](#)

Ms. Charlebois retraced the history of the Global Initiative, as a long-standing successful partnership between the International Maritime Organization and IPIECA. The three objectives of the GI were presented as the following:

- encourage and facilitate the development and implementation of oil pollution response capacity;
- support countries in ratifying and implementing the provisions of relevant International Conventions; and

- catalyse cooperation between industries and governments for OSPR.

Ms. Charlebois then presented the GI stimulus, covering its key partners, management, and history, spanning from 1996 to today. The different programmes under the GI umbrella were briefly presented, including GI WACAF, the Global Initiative for South-East Asia (GI SEA), the Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI), and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre (REMPEITC). These programmes are tailored to and developed according to the needs of each region they operate in. Additionally, the types of activities implemented to enhance preparedness and response to maritime oil spills in all regions were outlined.

Session 6 - Opening Ceremony

Togolese authorities welcomed all participants to the event. A welcome address was given by Wadoufei Babale, Secretary General, Ministry for Maritime Economy and Coastal Protection, followed by opening notes from Andrew Tucker, GI WACAF Industry Chair, and Patricia Charlebois, GI WACAF IMO Chair. An opening speech was given by Gbalgueboa Kangbeni, Minister of Maritime Economy and Coastal Protection, to officially mark the beginning of the event. Speeches were separated by cultural representations organized by the Togolese authorities, including traditional dances and a spoken word presentation. All speeches can be found in Annex 4 – Opening speeches.

Day 2

The second day of the event was dedicated to discussing National Oil Spill Contingency Planning. While the morning presentations gave insight on national and local contingency planning, tier levels on a national scale and key elements to consider for a dispersant use policy, working groups were organized for participants to discuss risk evaluations and assessments. The afternoon was dedicated to a scenario-based practical exercise, involving all participants.

Session 7 - Sharing knowledge and experience:

- **National and local plans, Peter Taylor (OSPRI)**

Mr. Taylor described the fundamental need for a national system for responding promptly and efficiently to oil pollution incidents. Article 6 of the OPRC Convention sets out the key components of such a system. These components were introduced and briefly described. The legal basis through domestication of the Convention is the priority requirement, followed by the designation of a competent national authority, national operational contact points, and an authority to act on behalf of the State to address requests for assistance. Defining these authorities is part of the wider identification of roles and responsibilities across government and including other stakeholders, who need to work together during an incident. The development of an incident management system, incorporating spill reporting, assessment, response policy, communication systems, and operational

procedures was suggested to be the most substantive work, requiring joint work across various authorities. The procedures should extend to integration with multilateral support mechanisms. Financial procedures are an important focus and need to capture relevant claims and compensation mechanisms and guidance. All components come together within the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, which is a dynamic tool that lives through a training and exercise programme. A broad outline of the content of a NOSCP was offered. There is published guidance available on the implementation of the OPRC Convention and the development of a national response system.

Mr. Taylor stressed the importance of ensuring the local dimension is considered within the framework of the national system. The crucial role of local administrations and the need to engage with communities was emphasized. There is forthcoming guidance from IMO on the development of local contingency plans to help countries in this regard. Captain Sougoufara took the floor to complete the presentation. He provided insights into Senegal's development of local plans focused on land-based authorities, who would take lead roles in the event of shoreline oiling. These local plans align with the overall framework of the NOSCP and HASSMAR's lead role for at-sea response. This provides seamless coordination and access to national and international resources to support the initial local response, as needed. HASSMAR has organized initial testing of the shoreline response system through training, awareness raising and exercising.

- **Definition of Tier levels for a country, [Franck Laruelle \(ITOPF\)](#)**

Mr. Laruelle (ITOPF) presented on "Definition of Tier levels for a country" highlighting the purpose of tiered preparedness and response as the basis to establish a robust framework to evaluate the severity of a spill, easily communicate with every administration involved and assess the level of mobilization required to address the incident. The evolution of the tiered response concept over time was described, starting from a model largely based on spill size, transitioning to the concentric model, and eventually to the more segmented circle, which identifies 15 categories of strategies and capabilities. Finally, the need to consider factors such as the existing administrative structure for emergency response of all types, as well as the territorial organization and jurisdictions were emphasized.

- **Key elements for a dispersant policy, [Natalie Beau Monvoisin \(Cedre\)](#)**

Among the strategies for response on the high seas, the use of dispersants was presented as one of the options to be considered in the first few hours after a spill. Although this strategy does have an impact to be considered beforehand, it helps to reduce the impact of oil pollution on the shoreline by minimising the volume of waste to be managed.

To facilitate decision-making on the implementation of a dispersant strategy, national regulations are essential. Given the sovereignty of states over their waters, this policy must be driven by national or even regional authorities, in consultation with industry representatives and the stakeholders concerned, by analysing the risks, defining the ecological, geomorphological and socio-economic challenges, and mobilising and implementing the resources to be deployed.

The presentation explained the key elements required to legislate and rationalise a national dispersal policy:

- as exhaustive an inventory as possible of potential pollutants, their physico-chemical characteristics and changes in their behaviour once released into the environment;
- a list of authorised dispersants based on protocols to be established for testing their effectiveness, biodegradability and ecotoxicity, or based on existing lists in other countries;
- a clear definition of the maritime areas characterised by depths and minimum distances from the coast in which dispersal will be authorised, and of the particularly sensitive areas in which it should be prohibited;
- a specification of the human and material resources available or that can be mobilised to carry out these operations; and
- a decision-making process specifying the players with decision-making powers and the key entities to be alerted, informed or consulted.

Only by defining these parameters in advance will it be possible to put in place a national policy and, above all, to consider the use of dispersants in the country's territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) when a spill occurs.

Given these observations, and the windows of opportunity that can be very short in some cases, it is essential to have an effective, solid and rapid decision-making process. To make this strategy a reality, national or regional regulations need to be drawn up on the basis of guidelines, best practice and feedback. The introduction of pre-approvals for the use of a dispersant strategy, based on pre-defined criteria, remains one of the keys to its success.

Session 8 - Working groups on risk evaluation

Presentation (20') followed by exercise and discussions

All participants were presented with the same elements as the basis of the discussions around risk assessment. The initial presentation reviewed the risk assessment process in context and identified relevant factors. The objectives of this session were to identify and discuss challenges faced by countries when evaluating risks, to capture shared experiences, and to identify recommendations for improvement of the risk assessment process.

The presentation developed on the different risk assessment process steps – identifying sources and hazards (giving examples of register, of probability scoring); identifying and assessing potential impacts (giving examples on how to assess scale of impact); identifying different scenarios and how to create them (computer trajectory models); and finally developing a response plan informed by realistic risk assessment. The presentations concluded by underlining the role of operators and private entities in risk evaluation, notably operators of terminals, shore-based storage facilities, entities involved in oil and gas

exploration or production, which should undertake their own risk assessment associated with their activities.

Guiding questions to foster discussions included:

- What challenges are you facing with identifying hazards / potential spill sources?
- Have you designated a person / team in charge of risk assessment?
- Have you considered previous incidents un your risk assessment process?
- How well does your risk assessment process account for specific socioeconomic and environmental sensitivities?
- How do you collect and manage information on socioeconomic and environmental sensitivities?
- Are there any regional or national reporting resources that help keep track of near misses / incidents?
- What kind of support can GI WACAF provide to better assist countries to undertake a better risk assessment process over the next biennium?

The main outcomes of the discussions around risk assessment can be found in

Annex 6 – Work group outcomes.

Session 9 - Situational game, incident day 1 on common operating picture, scenario

Group exercise

Overview

The objective is to split participants into groups (mixing industry and government representatives) each acting as an Incident Management Team facing a tanker spill situation to:

- Share a common understanding of the situation and the possible developments.
 - Numerous information sheets were distributed, forms to fill in, tactical maps to produce etc.
- Build tactics using a logical step-by-step process: Situation - Possible Evolutions - Possible Impacts - Objectives - Strategy - Tactics
 - Strategy: simple statement of proposed course of action to achieve the objectives to limit the impacts, considering possible developments of the situation
 - Tactics: detailed plan of action to implement the strategy (What to do Where, When, How with What equipment by whom?) summarized on forms and maps

Group members worked on different themes, under the guidance of a designated Incident Commander for each group, and with the help of the facilitators.

This first day of the incident exercise focused on defining an offshore and onshore strategy, and developing tactics for offshore response – the exercise was organized in 4 phases:

- 1) General briefing to all participants
- 2) Workshops (held simultaneously & attended by members of each group)
- 3) Group work to consolidate the strategy & tactics
- 4) Quick debrief

Scenario

- Large spill of persistent crude oil at sea (10,000 tonnes or more) from a tanker
- Government in charge of the overall response
- Area chosen: Soyo - Ambriz area with a coastline representative of West African shores (sandy beaches, river mouth, mangroves)
 - o Maps based on Angolan sensitivity maps with some modifications and change of names
- Timeline
 - o Conference Day 2 (morning): incident occurs, oil at sea, drifting towards the coast
 - o Conference Day 3: day +1 (or more) of the incident, with oil still at sea and on the shore

The initial situation is provided to all participants during the general briefing at the beginning of the afternoon (plenary session).

Workshops

Participants then attended specific workshops to collectively gather relevant information to define the offshore and onshore strategies, and to develop tactics for offshore response. The following workshops were held:

Workshop 1 – Incident situation / Aerial surveillance / Forecasting

Take-aways

- Good understanding of the spill situation and of the + 48 hours drift & behavior forecast
- Method to predict the drift for the next 3 to 5 days + identify the coast at risk and transboundary risk
- Display of information on the Incident Status Board

Workshop 2 - Offshore response

Take-aways

- Understanding the logical steps to define a strategy and plan tactics
- Outline of strategy and tactics for 1st days + Drawing of the tactics
- Note. Need to discuss with Aerial Surveillance team to have drift forecast at +3-4 days

Workshop 3 - Protection priorities

Take-aways

- Understanding of sensitivities and sensitivity mapping
- Understanding of the process to identify, locate and prioritize sensitive resources
- Choice of sensitive features to protect in priority:
 - Located on the map
 - Prioritized (High/ Med./ Low)
 - With a proposed protection strategy

Workshop 4 - Shoreline clean-up

Take-aways

- Identification of the coast at risk
- Identification of the types of shoreline at risk and possible clean-up techniques
- Understanding of the key steps and issues to plan shoreline clean-up

Workshop 5 - Wildlife management

Take-aways

- Identification of the coastal area at risk, and of species at risk
- Understanding of the possible oiled wildlife management options
- Understanding of the key steps to plan oiled wildlife management

Workshop 6 - Incident management

Take-aways

- Understanding the role of the Incident Commander within the group to guide the group and logical steps to plan a response
- Understanding the expected deliverables to display on the Incident Situation Board

A quick debrief of the groups' conclusions closed this first part of the activity.

Day 3

The third day of the event was dedicated to discussions around transboundary cooperation, defined as a priority by participants. Under the same format as the agenda of the second day, presentations were given on transboundary cooperation and sub-regional agreements, areas to consider when asking for assistance, and outcomes of the sub-regional workshop on dispersant use policies delivered by GI WACAF with Angola, Namibia, and South Africa.

Transboundary issues were discussed in the scope of dispersant use. Discussions in working groups around the planning of national exercise activities were held, followed by a scenario-based practical activity, using the same scenario as the previous day.

Session 10 - Sharing knowledge and experience:

- **Transboundary cooperation looking forward, sub-regional agreements,**
[Lindsay Page-Jones \(Astan\)](#)

Cross-border cooperation and assistance agreements are essential complements to national spill response systems. They provide approved mechanisms between countries for alerting, informing each other, requesting and providing assistance (in terms of personnel, response resources, logistical support, expertise, etc.), managing cross-border operations. The importance of establish relationships with key stakeholders in the preparedness phase, before any spill occurs, was underscored. Many situations in the WACAF region (at sea and on land, rivers and lakes in some countries) call for such agreements. Their geographical and technical scope, as well as their objectives, must be carefully defined, so that they effectively address the needs and can be backed up by the relevant regulatory framework. They can take various forms (binding or non-binding), but it is recommended that they be backed up by existing warning and response systems, if possible, and that their operational qualities be tested and improved through regular exercises. In all cases, a robust national spill response system remains the fundamental pre-requisite to establish such agreements.

- **Areas to consider when asking for assistance,** [Chiara Della Mea \(IMO\)](#)

The presentation focused on the key provisions in the OPRC 90 with regard to international cooperation and international offers of assistance following an oil or Hazardous and Noxious Substance (HNS) pollution incident. In particular, the presentation described the main aspects of making international requests or offers of assistance that should be determined and agreed in advance of a spill, in order to avoid common pitfalls and to improve the effectiveness of the assistance. The presentation stressed the importance of international assistance during a large spill, through providing real life examples and highlighting of the provisions in existing IMO guidance documents and offered recommendations for best practices.

- **Outcomes of the sub-regional workshop on dispersant use policies,**
[Rim Al Amir \(GI WACAF\)](#)

Ms. Al Amir first gave context on respective national progress towards efficient dispersant use policies in Angola, Namibia and South Africa, countries involved in the sub-regional workshop presented. Objectives of the workshop were to harmonize each country's understanding of dispersant use and regulations, to exchange on respective national dispersant use policies and to assess national needs and priorities when using dispersants as a response strategy. Rim Al Amir presented the recommendations shared with the countries involved, both regarding pertinent cross-boundary cooperation during potential incidents requiring the use of chemical dispersants, and recommendations focused on national dispersant regulation. Feedback from participants regarding this workshop was very positive and indicated that it allowed time for participants to delve in to their respective dispersant policy and identify gaps.

Session 11 - Working groups on how to plan and manage national exercise activities?

Presentation (20') followed by discussions

All participants were presented with the same elements as the basis for discussion around planning and managing national exercise activities. The initial presentation introduced the reasons for exercising, the existing instruments and guidelines on how to plan an exercise and defined the responsibilities of national authorities. The different types of exercises (varying in scale, objectives...) and possible frequencies of exercises (weekly, monthly, yearly...), the complexities and possible target participants were presented. In the context of the WACAF region, considerations of the various forms of states and administrative territorial organizations, different geographies and other important factors were presented.

To guide the planning of exercise activities, the following questions were shared with participants:

- Is a yearly exercise programme integrated in the National Capacity Building Plan?
- Who is the competent authority? Are there any funds? Is approval needed?
- Is there an interface with other national emergency systems? Is an exercise programme in place?
- Who are the involved stakeholders?
- Is there a continuous improvement process where exercises are evaluated, feedback is provided to improve in future exercises?

Main outcomes of the discussions around exercise planning and management can be found in annex 6 – Working group outcomes.

Session 12 – Situational game – Incident day 2 on planning onshore response

Group exercise

Overview

The second day of the incident exercise focused on developing onshore tactics at a provincial level, for a smaller area. The scenario of this exercise was day +1 of the incident dealt with the previous day, with oil still at sea and on the shore.

The exercise was organized in 3 phases:

- 1) General briefing to all participants
- 2) Group work on specific topics, and to consolidate tactics (same groups as previous days)
- 3) Quick debrief

The objectives of this exercise were to help participants' understanding of incident situation onshore and of the local environment, for participants to define and onshore response

strategy (priorities and techniques), as well as an onshore response action plan. This action plan included the following elements:

- Location of work sites & progress
- Location of responders & PPE
- Location of response equipment
- Location of waste storage equipment & sites
- Location of management sites
- Location of support facilities
- Location of transport means

The I.C. and facilitators organized the work within their group with the final objective to locate on the map the all or part of the sets of tokens provided to map the tactics chosen to implement the shoreline response strategy of the group and make the best use of available resources. Photos from each group map with the final tactics proposed were taken.

A quick debrief of the groups' conclusions closed this second part of the activity. The outcomes of this exercise were discussed and used to build the GI WACAF recommendations and strategic action plan for the next cycle. The picture below is an example of the final map from one of the groups, defining an onshore strategy:



Day 4

The last day of the event is typically dedicated to face-to-face meetings with national focal points and, in parallel, an industry feedback session. During this session, GI WACAF Secretariat discussed the way forward with the 20 countries represented, based on updated country profiles and national action plans. This allocated time between GI WACAF facilitators and national delegates, as well as industry representatives, to exchange views is a core feature of GI WACAF Regional Conferences. Based on the outcomes of these discussions, the GI WACAF Project establishes its project plan and priorities for the following biennium, taking into consideration the national specificities and requests and requirements expressed at the conference, and the feedback from industry stakeholders. These discussions were followed by the closing ceremony.

Session 13A - For National delegates:

Face-to-face meetings with GI WACAF Secretariat and focal points enabled countries to communicate their priorities with GI WACAF to enhance oil spill preparedness and response on national levels. This can include assistance on legislation and institutional framework, policies and processes and/or implementation tools. These priorities, coupled with GI WACAF priorities, will constitute the work plan for the next GI WACAF cycle.

Main priorities defined by those discussions include:

- national oil spill contingency planning;
- dispersant use regulation;
- IMO Trainings 1, 2, 3;
- legal framework; and
- oiled wildlife policy

Session 13B - For industry representatives:

In parallel, petroleum industry representatives gathered to provide their feedback on the GI WACAF project and their expectations.

Industry stakeholders underlined that the GI WACAF Regional Conference is a good opportunity of networking with authorities, to be aware of national regulation evolution, and what can be done to support and encourage the countries.

The main elements of feedback discussed were:

- The need for more frequent meetings between industry and authorities, to be initiated by oil and gas operators.
- The need for more joint government-industry exercises, with a wider variety of scales: table-top exercises or smaller scale scenario-based exercises, testing specific topics, can be just as valuable, if not more, than large scale exercises, during which

participants do not always benefit from the global picture. The less costly nature of small-scale exercises can enhance their recurrence, thus bring more lasting benefits. Exercise with exchanging roles were also suggested: authorities play O&G industry stakeholders and industry plays authorities so that participants better understand constraints, risks and opportunities on both sides.

- To widen GI WACAF's reach, oil and gas operators' headquarters could disseminate information from GI WACAF to their affiliates' focal points, to get them involved in the GI WACAF industry network meetings and events. Although this would rely on the operators' commitments to share return of experience, this could be a good use of the newly formed Industry Engagement teleconference. Collaboration of this sort can face challenges of censorship or confidentiality issues.

During this feedback session, industry stakeholders have also defined needs and issues for GI WACAF to address during the upcoming triennium:

- promote national and cross-border exercises and testing of NOSCPs;
- promote the establishment of clear dispersant use policies and updated coastal sensitivity mapping;
- promote Tier 3 assistance workshops; and
- promote and improve equipment mutualisation between O&G operators.

Session 14 - Conference highlights and recommendations for next cycle, [Anais Guillou \(GI WACAF\)](#)

After thanking all participants for their presence and their commitment, Anaïs Guillou mentioned the feedback collected during the event, and the importance for the project's evolution.

Anaïs Guillou highlighted that the project has continued to adapt to the changing needs of countries, focusing on specific themes. These include activities on technical topics, such as the use of dispersants, mapping coastal sensitivity, facilitating the organization of exercises (sometimes in conjunction with the oil industry), and cross-border and sub-regional activities. In that sense, the GI WACAF is in constant evolution.

Anaïs Guillou presented conclusions on several technical support needs which have been highlighted during the event:

- support to improve the national response system and, consequently, to update the National Plan;
- the development of guidelines, practical guides and checklists to help you do this; and
- strengthening cooperation between government and industry within countries, and between neighbouring countries.

After reminding all countries present to send their updated country profiles and action plans, Anaïs Guillou thanked all stakeholders involved in the making of this project and of this conference.

Closing ceremony:

Closing remarks were delivered by Andrew Tucker, GI WACAF Industry Chair, as well as Chiara Della Mea, representing IMO. Finally, the closing speech was delivered by Wadoufei Babale, representing the Togolese authorities. All speeches can be found in Annex 5 – Closing speeches.

7 Recommendations

Based on the work carried out in the working groups and practical exercises on day 2, recommendations covering the following thematic areas are summarized below.

- 1/ Guidelines and tools
- 2/ Capacity building
- 3/ Stakeholder communication

Guidelines and tools

Amongst the different groups, a common desire was expressed for guidelines and tools tailored to the WACAF region to guide the countries in the management and improvement of their national spill response system.

For several years, the GI WACAF has initiated the development of some tools such as typical contents and guidance documents for NOSCP and dispersant use policy development, or evaluation matrices for NOSCP or dispersant use policy review.

The development of practical guidelines and tools, tailored to the WACAF region, to assist countries in the development and management of exercises on various scales will be part of work to be carried out in the triennium 2025-2027.

Capacity building

The conference recognized the ongoing support and assistance that is required by countries to develop the necessary capacity and knowledge to ensure effective national response systems. Following the "three-step approach" developed by the GI WACAF Project providing the rationale for an efficient preparedness and response system, the overall recommendations were grouped under three main headings: legislation and regulatory framework; implementation of legal framework; and cross functional aspects, as presented below.

Step 1 Legislation and regulatory framework

The legal framework is the foundation to an effective national preparedness and response system. Countries expressed the need for:

- a continuous effort to assist with the effective implementation of international conventions into national legislation;
- trainings on handling and administration of claims from oil pollution damages; and
- assistance in the development of bi-lateral and sub-regional oil spill preparedness and response agreements and plans.

Step 2: Implementation of legal framework

Policies and processes to implement the legislative framework (e.g. National Contingency Plan, dispersant use policy, waste management policy, shoreline clean-up plans, maps, incident management system etc.), are all key components of an effective national system and countries asked for :

- a continuous effort to assist in the development of NOSCPs and policies, their implementation and transposition into national regulation; and
- assistance with the development of standard operating procedures.

Operational systems, and resources, for incident management and spill response, in line with the national policies and legislative framework are essential for an effective response in case of spill. Recommendations under this topic included:

- promote the development of small-scale exercises focused on specific parts of national oil spill contingency planning to allow for participants to develop a full picture vision of the outcomes of the exercises, thus to strengthen capacity building throughout the region;
- support countries in the implementation of regular national exercises; and
- support countries in the implementation of transboundary exercises.

Step 3: Assistance to develop cross-functional aspects

Encouraging transboundary cooperation and the development of procedures to facilitate international assistance could improve a lot the efficiency of a response in case of spill. In this context, the conference identified the following areas of interest and further development:

- assist in the establishment of MoUs between government entities and the private sector to facilitate resource mobilization in case of need; and
- assist with the development of transboundary/sub-regional agreements on specific topics.

Stakeholder communication

The Project works in the spirit of IMO's OPRC 1990, which promotes industry-government cooperation and encourages them to work together to address core elements of effective preparedness and response to an oil spill. During the Regional Conference, participants renewed their wish for the GI WACAF project to continue to:

- facilitate communication between entities;
- establish a forum for national focal point to promote experience sharing and learning;
- strengthen experience sharing and learning between industry representatives based in the region in particular through the industry engagement call;
- facilitate meetings between industry and authorities; and
- encourage more joint government-industry exercises.

8 Conclusions

After a productive biennium, during which the GI WACAF project evolved with its partner countries to offer more tailored assistance for long-term effects, the conference revealed a real enthusiasm from the delegates for capacity-building within the countries, and a wish to see the GI WACAF project continue to create cooperation channels and platforms to enhance productive communication between all stakeholders involved.

Delegates specifically expressed a wish for:

- The development of guidelines and tools tailored to the WACAF region to guide the countries in the management and improvement of their national spill response system.
- Capacity building through guidelines and tools to serve as guiding documents in the development, strengthening and testing of their national oil spill contingency planning systems.
- Stronger stakeholder communication through dedicated communication channels and platforms.

As the working groups focused specifically on risk assessment and the development/management of national exercises, the outcomes of discussions around these subjects have been extremely valuable, highlighting the need for guidelines on multiple aspects of preparedness and response. This will lead to an increase of the GI WACAF toolbox in future.

It was agreed that the Conference had once again provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on past achievements and propose improvements and developments for the future. The event also proved to be an excellent platform for the exchange and dissemination of knowledge with the aim of strengthening oil spill response capability in West, Central and Southern Africa. Whilst the participants acknowledged and celebrated the milestones achieved, they remained conscious of the work ahead. The productive discussions and exchanges helped shape the direction of the project to ensure its continued progress in fulfilling its mandate.

This positive feedback is also reflected in the evaluation questionnaires. More than 96% of the delegates considered that the objectives of the Conference were achieved and 96% said they were likely to use the information they learned in the future. 89% of the participants which responded to the evaluation questionnaires noted that they will have the opportunity to transfer the knowledge gained during the event to their colleagues.

9 Annexes

Annex 1 - Agenda

DAY 1, 25 November 2024: 2023/2024 Highlights, Opening Ceremony

- 8:15 – 9:30** Registration
- 9:30 – 9:45** Short Introduction
- 9:45 – 10:15** The GI WACAF, [Anais Guillou \(GI WACAF\)](#)
- 10:15 – 11:15** Biennium highlights and updates by national Focal Points
- Namibia, Industry / Government Cooperation, [Shapua Kalomo](#)
 - The Gambia, National Oil Spill Contingency Planning, [Wandifa Saidyleigh](#)
 - Togo, effective implementation of IMO Conventions, [Kpatcha Mawaïboyodou Gnama](#)
- 11:15 – 11:45** Coffee break
- 11:45 - 12:30** Biennium highlights and updates by national Focal Points
- Nigeria, Oiled Wildlife Contingency Plan, [Mohammed Gumsuri](#)
 - Mauritania, Dispersant Use Policy, [Mouhamedou Traore](#)
- 12:30 – 14:00** Lunch
- 14:00 – 14:15** Compensation mechanisms, [Gaute Sivertsen \(IOPC Funds\)](#)
- 14:15 – 14:45** Evolutions and perspectives of oil spill response in the region, [Tania Augusto \(ExxonMobil\)](#)
- 14:45 – 15:00** The Global Initiative Programme, [Patricia Charlebois \(IMO\)](#)
- 15:00 – 15:15** Short break
- 15:15 – 16:00** Opening Ceremony
- Welcome address, [Wadoufei Babale, Secretary General, Ministry for Maritime Economy and Coastal Protection](#)
 - Opening notes, [Andrew Tucker, GI WACAF Industry Chair](#)
 - Opening notes, [Patricia Charlebois, GI WACAF IMO Chair](#)
 - Opening speech, [Gbalgueboa Kangbeni, Minister of Maritime Economy and Coastal Protection](#)
- Cultural Interludes will take place between speeches

DAY 2, 26 November 2024: National Oil Spill Contingency Planning

- 9:00 – 10:30** **Sharing Knowledge and experience:**
- National and local plans, [Peter Taylor \(OSPRI\)](#)
 - Definition of Tier levels for a country, [Franck Laruelle \(ITOPF\)](#)
 - Key elements for a dispersant policy, [Natalie Monvoisin \(Cedre\)](#)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:30** **Working groups**
Risk Evaluation – Presentation (20') followed by exercise and discussions
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 – 16:30** **Practical work**
Common operating picture, scenario-based group exercise
Coffee break included
- 16:30 – 17:00** **Discussion and debrief**
- 18:00 Welcome cocktail and 10th Biennium celebrations

DAY 3, 27 November 2024: Transboundary Cooperation

- 9:00 – 10:30** **Sharing Knowledge and experience:**
- Transboundary cooperation looking forward, sub-regional agreements, [Lindsay Page-Jones \(Astan\)](#)
 - Areas to consider when asking for assistance, [Chiara Della Mea \(IMO\)](#)
 - Outcomes of the sub-regional workshop on dispersant use policies, [Rim Al Amir \(GI WACAF\)](#)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:30** **Working groups**
How to plan and manage national exercise activities? – Presentation (20') followed by discussions
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 – 16:00** **Practical work**
Planning onshore response, scenario-based group exercise
Coffee break included
- 16:00 – 16:30** **Discussion and debrief**

DAY 4, 28 November 2024: Next biennium

- 9:00 – 9:30** Introduction (plenary)
- 9:30– 12:30** For National delegates:
Face-to-face meetings with GI WACAF secretariat and facilitators
For industry representatives:
GI WACAF Feedback and expectations
- 12:30 – 13:30** Lunch
- 13:30 – 14:00** Conference Highlights and recommendations for next cycle, [Anais Guillou & Rim Al Amir \(GI WACAF\)](#)
- 14:00 – 15:00** Closing ceremony:
- Closing remarks, [Andrew Tucker \(bp\)](#)
 - Closing remarks, [Chiara Della Mea \(IMO\)](#)
 - Closing Speech, [Togolese authorities](#)

Annex 2 – Speakers and Facilitators



AUGUSTO Tania

Regional Emergency Preparedness and response Advisor / GI WACAF Industry Vice-Chair

ExxonMobil

Tania has been working with ExxonMobil for 19 years: before being the Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Advisor, she was an Environmental and Regulatory Advisor, and Emergency Preparedness and Response Security Supervisor, and an Emergency Preparedness and Response Senior Advisor. Since 2017, she is a member of the Europe Africa Middle East Regional Response Team. Tania has been appointed GI WACAF vice-chair in 2023.



CARIGLIA Nicoletta

Independent Consultant,

Marittima Ltd.

Nicky is an environmental consultant specializing in response to maritime incidents and pollution. She has a background in marine biology and started out her career working in coastal habitat conservation and small-scale fisheries management in tropical countries. Over the last 12 years she has attended more than 60 incidents around the world, such as spills from shore-based oil handling facilities, vessels and pipelines, including several in the West African region. More recently she has been involved with GI WACAF by providing support in pollution contingency planning projects.



CHARLEBOIS Patricia

Senior Deputy Director,

Maritime Environment Division,
International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Patricia Charlebois is currently Deputy Director of the Marine Environment Division, IMO. Throughout her 20 years with IMO and 25 years within the United Nations system (UNEP, UN OCHA), she has been involved in many international incidents and disasters, from the FSO SAFER operation off the Coast of Yemen, to the Fukushima nuclear disaster (2011),

Jiyeh Power Station Oil Spill (Lebanon, 2006), Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), UN humanitarian response to the Iraq Conflict (2003) and various other oil and chemical pollution incidents over the span of her 30+ year career both internationally and nationally, having also held several emergency management roles within the Canadian Government with both Transport Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

As part of her current functions, she oversees all matters related to preparedness and response to marine pollution incidents from both oil and chemicals and coordinates technical cooperation implementation related to IMO's environmental conventions. She also oversees ocean policy matters including ocean dumping, borders beyond national jurisdiction and oversight of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) in Malta.

Patricia holds a BSc in Chemistry from the University of Ottawa, Canada, MSc in Environmental Management and Business from Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC, Canada, as well as a Diploma in Maritime Trade & Transport from Lloyd's Maritime Academy.



DELLA MEA Chiara

Head of Pollution and Response Section,
Maritime Environment Division,
International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Chiara Della Mea is currently Head of the Pollution Preparedness and Response Section of the Marine Environment Division, IMO. She joined IMO as OPRC-HNS Technical Officer, after 19 years at the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds), where she was involved in many international incidents and disasters, such as the Prestige sinking in Spain and the Hebei Spirit spills in the Republic of Korea, as well as several other pollution incidents around the world. Before then, she worked in the Marine Environment Protection section in the Italian Ministry of Environment, where she negotiated and worked on the national implementation of international conventions on the protection of the marine environment. As part of her current functions, she deals with matters related to preparedness and response to marine pollution incidents from both oil and chemicals as well as technical cooperation implementation related to IMO's environmental conventions.

Chiara holds a Laurea (Master) degree in International Political Sciences from the University of Pisa, Italy and a Master of Marine Management from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada.



GNAMA Kpatcha Mawaïboyodou

Maritime Affairs Administrator, Technical
Advisor to the Minister,

Ministry of Maritime Economy and Coastal
Protection, Togo

It was in 2002, during a brief stint at the general management of the Autonomous Port of Lomé (PAL) on digitalization issues that Mr. GNAMA Kpatcha Mawaïboyodou discovered a passion for the maritime sector and decided to pursue a career in this sector.

Hired in the Togolese public administration in February 2006 and assigned the same year to the maritime affairs department, Mr. GNAMA held several key positions within the Togolese maritime administration which made him an essential agent. His rigor and dedication to work made him climb the ladder of his department. From manager in charge of Review, Litigation, Wreck Management and boats' Registration, he was promoted in 2017 to Head of the maritime safety and security and marine environment protection division at the maritime affairs department (DAM). On January 6, 2020, he was appointed head of the maritime transport division at the DAM.

With a strong and multidimensional experience accumulated after 15 years of good and loyal service, he was entrusted by the highest authorities with the interim of the DAM, which he managed with professionalism and selflessness from April to October 2021.

In November 2021, his career took a new decisive turn with his appointment to the position of Technical Advisor to the Minister of Maritime Economy, Fisheries and Coastal Protection, a position where he contributed his experience and expertise to the development of the Togolese maritime sector.

Endowed with a diploma in maritime affairs administration from the School of Maritime Affairs Administration (EAAM) of the National School of Security and Administration of the Sea (ENSAM), which has now become the School of Public Service of the Sea (ESPMER), a major military school that provides initial training for maritime affairs administrators, a body of career officers of the French Navy administered by the Ministry of the Sea in France. Born on 26 November 1976 in Tchitchao in the Kozah prefecture in Togo, Mr. GNAMA completed his primary and secondary studies in Togo and Burkina Faso where he continued his university studies. He graduated in 2001 with a diploma in program analyst from the High Institute of Management Informatics (ISIG) in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), which has now become the Université Aube Nouvelle (U-AUBEN).

Mr. GNAMA has participated in various certification courses, workshops and internships, including:

- Training of Trainers for Port Facility Security Officers (2023);

- Regional Online Training Course on Flag State Implementation and Port State Control (2021);
- Regional Workshop on Capacity Building for Climate Change Mitigation in the Maritime Industry (2019);
- Regional Workshop on the Implementation and Enforcement of the MARPOL Convention (2018);
- Training on Capacity Building for Ship Registers Auditing (2018);
- Regional Training Course on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Programme (2015);
- Regional Course on Maritime Safety and Security (2013);
- Training for strengthening the managerial capacities of the Togolese administration's executives (2011).

Mr. GNAMA Kpatcha Mawaïboyodou is married and a father.



GUMSURI Mohammed Suleman

Chief Environmental Scientist,

National Oil Spill Detection & Response
Agency (NOSDRA), Nigeria

Mr. Gumsuri has worked with NOSDRA for 17 years. He provides technical support for the implementation of national statutory requirements on oil spill management and related environmental issues in Nigeria's oil and gas industry, including joint investigation visits to incident locations, clean-up, and remediation, post-clean-up inspections, post-spill impact assessments, damage assessments, shoreline clean-ups, processing dispersant use applications, review oil companies' oil spill contingency plans, etc.. He was a member of many local organizing committees for national and regional workshops, amongst several other ad-hoc responsibilities, including the National Committee that developed Additional Protocols to the Abidjan Convention, namely, on Environmental Norms and Standards for Offshore Oil & Gas Exploration and Exploitation Activities; Sustainable Mangrove Management; as well as on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. His other achievements include being the Agency's desk officer who led the team that developed Nigeria's online Oil Spill Monitor Platform; a Member of the National Committee that developed Nigeria's Harmonized Standard Operating Procedure on Arrest, Detection, and Prosecution of Persons and Vessels in the Nigerian Maritime Environment, 2016/2017; Member of the Committee that developed Nigeria's Dispersant Use Policy, 2013

He has attended many trainings, workshops, and conferences at home and abroad, including those organized by GI WACAF, IPIECA, and OSRL. Since 2011, Mr. Gumsuri has provided technical support to the GI WACAF Project and its National Focal Points in Nigeria.



KIRK Natálie

Technical Advisor

International Tanker Owners Pollution
Federation (ITOPF)

Natálie is a Technical Adviser at ITOPF. Her primary role is to deploy to spills worldwide to advise on effective spill response. In this capacity, Natálie attended spills in Peru, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and in Singapore. Beyond spill response, Natálie is involved in preparedness initiatives, working closely with representatives from the shipping industry and governments globally. In 2024/2025, she was seconded to the IMO's Marine Environment Division, where her responsibilities included planning and implementing OPRC technical cooperation activities in the GI WACAF region and facilitating working groups during the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and the Sub-Committee on Pollution Preparedness and Response (PPR).

Natálie has a background in Earth Sciences and Economics. She is fluent in English, French, and Czech, and has intermediate proficiency in Russian.



LARUELLE Franck

Technical Team Manager

International Tanker Owners Pollution
Federation (ITOPF)

Dr. Franck Laruelle holds a PhD in marine biology from Brest University in France and previously worked with the environment and emergency response services of the French oil spill research organization Cedre for 6 years. During that time, he has acted as a technical adviser on behalf of the French government on a number of spills, including ERIKA (1999) and PRESTIGE (2002). Franck joined ITOPF in 2006 and has since acted as a technical adviser on maritime incidents worldwide. Franck has attended a number of incidents involving tankers, including the main IOPC Fund cases of these last 15 years such as SOLAR 1 in the Philippines (2006), HEBEI SPIRIT in South Korea (2007) and AGIA ZONI II in Greece (2017) as well as incidents involving bunker spills from other types of ships. Franck was promoted to Technical Team Manager in January 2010.



KALOMO Shapua

Deputy Director Marine Pollution Control &
SAR

Ministry of Works and Transport, Namibia

Mr. Kalomo is a well-rounded Technical Professional with over 8 years' progressive experience in Environmental Sciences and Marine Pollution Control. He is currently employed as Acting Deputy Director: Marine Pollution Control & SAR at the Ministry of Works and Transport in Walvis Bay, Namibia. Where his duty as Divisional Head is to manage Namibia's marine pollution preparedness and response system and to provide for the implementation of all International Marine Pollution Control Conventions such as OPRC-90. Mr. Kalomo holds a Bachelor of Science (honors) in Environmental Biology & Geology, as well as a Master of Business Administration Specializing in Natural Resources Management, both from the University of Namibia. Additionally, Mr. Kalomo is a graduate of the World Maritime University where he obtained a Master of Science Specializing in Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration.



MONVOISIN Natalie

Studies and Training Department Manager,

Emergency Response Team Duty Engineer –
Cedre

As an industrial environmental engineer by training, Natalie Monvoisin took part in studies in the field of water and soil management and pollution before joining Cedre in 2002. Joining Cedre's response team in 2003, she was heavily involved in on-land response to the oil spill caused by the tanker PRESTIGE and assisted technical advisor to the authorities and municipalities. After 9 months working abroad, in Hungary, as part of a European project named PHARE, aimed at conducting a feasibility study and drafting a development plan for a national spill response training center, she joined the Contingency Planning Department in 2005 and then the Studies and Training department, she was appointed Head of the Department in 2016. In this role, she oversees Cedre's engineering projects (training, contingency planning, audits), designs, organizes and conducts various training courses and develops contingency plans for French or foreign administrations, oil industry, national or international private shipping or oil companies worldwide. She has gained hands-on experience in crisis management and response techniques through her involvement in response operations in the wake of oil spills in inland and marine waters in France (and abroad (Africa)). She has also been a member of Cedre's Emergency Response Team since 2009, as an appointed Duty Engineer.



PAGE-JONES Lindsay

Technical Advisor, Independent Consultant

Astan

Trained as a coastal geographer, Lindsay is an independent spill response consultant (after working over 20 years for OTRA, French oil spill consultancy company). He has participated in many preparedness activities for national and local authorities, ports, regional projects and the Oil & Gas industry: oil spill contingency planning, implementation of customized Incident & Crisis Management Systems, coastal sensitivity mapping projects (and guidelines for IPIECA-IOGP), waste management guidelines (with Cedre for REMPEC), training (all levels, classroom and field), equipment deployment exercise onshore, in ports and offshore, facilitation of large scale exercises, National Spill Contingency update, response capability development plans (trainings & exercises, equipment scoping-acquisition-servicing & maintenance). He was seconded for 5 years, as oil spill advisor & responder, for Total E&P Angola. He has worked in countries of various region: Europe, African, Western Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, Middle East as well as in Kazakhstan, Brazil and Papua New Guinea. He is an accredited spill response trainer, is on IMO roster of spill consultants. He has also participated in various oil spill response operations (aerial surveillance, offshore response and onshore surveys and clean-up).



SAIDYLEIGH Wandifa

Director of Marine Environment,
Governance and Policy

The Gambia Maritime Administration

Wandifa Saidyleigh works at the Maritime Administration as the Director of Marine Environment, Governance and Policy after rising through the ranks from Assistant Marine Surveyor, Marine Surveyor, Principal Marine Surveyor and Deputy Director and Head of the Technical Department. As director, Mr. Saidyleigh advises on technical matters generally and focuses on marine environmental issues relating to the relevant conventions with respect to their ratification, implementation, and enforcement by the Gambia. Among other things relevant to pollution control efforts, he initiated the development of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan in collaboration with stakeholders and technical assistance from GI WACAF and partners. He leads its implementation.

Prior to working with the Maritime Administration, Mr. Saidyleigh sailed as a Marine Engineer officer on ocean-going vessels across the world and took various shore-based appointments as a marine engineer with 27 years of industry experience.

With professional experience spanning from sea to shore-based roles, Mr. Saidyleigh is a Marine Engineer and an energy expert with a marine environmental focus. He holds an Engineering Certificate of Competency (Unlimited), BSc Degree in Marine Engineering and a master's degree in Maritime Affairs with specialization in Maritime Energy Management.

Mr. Saidyleigh's interests focus on understanding the impact of regulatory measures on Maritime operations and scientific research works relating to Maritime transport systems. He published a Master thesis work on "Investigation of Auxiliary Power Potentials of Solar Photovoltaic Applications of Dry Bulk Carrier Ships".



SIVERTSEN Gaute

Director

IOPC Funds

Mr. Sivertsen joined the IOPC Funds as Director on 1 January 2022, having been elected by the 1992 Fund Assembly for a term of five years. In his previous role as Director in the Maritime Department of the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Mr. Sivertsen was responsible for maritime law, rules and regulations relating to maritime safety, security and seafarer issues. He was also responsible for the governance of the Norwegian Maritime Authority. He followed IOPC Funds' matters and represented Norway at meetings of the Funds' governing bodies for almost 30 years. He gained experience in a leading role at the organization in his capacity as the 1992 Fund Assembly Chair, a position he held for over 10 years, from 2011 to 2021. He was also responsible for coordination of all matters relating to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for almost 22 years. Mr. Sivertsen holds a law degree from the University of Oslo.



SOARES Duarte

Senior Technical Adviser

International Tanker Owners Pollution
Federation (ITOPF)

Dr Duarte Soares is a geologist with a PhD in Geosciences and an MSc in Petroleum Geoscience. Since joining ITOPF in 2017, Duarte has attended incidents involving spills of bunkers and crude oil in Asia, South America, Oceania, and Europe, including the SANCHI incident in the East China Sea, and provided remote assistance to many cases involving spills of hydrocarbons and cargo. He is the coordinator of the ITOPF R&D Award and the lead of the internal working group Modelling, Monitoring & Mapping. He has been involved in the revision of national contingency plans for several African countries, participated in international conferences, and collaborated in the delivery of awareness and preparedness courses at the governmental level.



STASSEN Monica

Preparedness and Response Manager

SANCCOB

Monica started her career in Marine Conservation nearly 10 years ago conducting research on whales and dolphins in Mossel Bay. In 2015 she took up an internship at WWF-SA transitioning from marine mammals to fisheries. Monica was promoted to the role of Marine Scientist where she oversaw the scientific process that underpinned South Africa's sustainable seafood guide and worked alongside stakeholders to implement more sustainable fishing practices. At the start of 2022, Monica took up the role of Preparedness and Response Manager at SANCCOB where she leads and coordinates the wildlife response department and ensures that SANCCOB is ready to respond to a wildlife disaster both nationally and internationally. Outside of a response, Monica is responsible for the development of oiled wildlife contingency plans working alongside a range of stakeholders. She is SANCCOB's second representative for the Global Oiled Wildlife Response System a network of leading oiled wildlife response organizations available to respond to Tier 3 incidents 24/7/365.



TAYLOR Peter

Manager

Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative
(OSPRI, Caspian Sea / Black Sea / Central
Eurasia)

Peter Taylor graduated from university with a degree in biological sciences. He spent six years in environmental consultancy prior to specializing in oil spill preparedness and response activities for the last 20 years. He has been involved in over 400 oil spill related projects in 40+ countries. These projects have included oil spill contingency planning, training and the development of exercises, alongside providing guidance during the response to major oil spills. Mr. Taylor has been supporting IPIECA's inputs to the Global Initiative since 1998, helping promote effective contingency planning around the world. He has managed their Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (Caspian Sea–Black Sea–Central Eurasia), known as OSPRI, since its inception in 2003 to the present.





TUCKER Andrew

Oil Spill Manager, GI WACAF Industry Chair

BP

Andrew Tucker has been with BP since 2012. He is the BP global Oil Spill Manager. Prior to joining BP, he worked with ITOPF for 8 years, during which he worked and responded to oil and chemical shipping spills across the world. Before his time at ITOPF, Andrew worked for the UK Environment Agency for 10 years dealing with pollution control, contaminated land remediation and waste management. He has a B.Sc. in Environmental Biology and a master's degree in environmental science.

GI WACAF Team	
	<p>AL AMIR RIM</p> <p>GI WACAF Project Coordinator</p>
<p>Rim joined the GI WACAF team as Project Coordinator in October 2022, after completing her Master's in risk management, Cooperation and Development at Bordeaux's Political Institute. She has previously worked on a study on Maritime security in the Mozambique Channel within a French research center (International and Strategic Relations Institute), where she analyzed impacts of climate change in the maritime defense sector. The research she has participated in took part in the scope of the Climate, Energy, Security program. For more than two years now, she has worked with WACAF countries to enhance preparedness and response in the region, in regular contact with national focal points as well as industry stakeholders.</p>	
	<p>GUILLOU Anaïs</p> <p>GI WACAF Project Manager</p>
<p>Anaïs Guillou has been the GI WACAF project manager since May 2022. She is responsible for the definition and implementation of the GI WACAF action plan, and ensures the Project reaches its strategic objectives. She carries out and oversees the delivery of technical cooperation activities implemented under the framework of the relevant IMO Conventions. She also contributes to increasing the visibility of the project and seeks to strengthen the links with stakeholders in the region. She liaises and reports directly to the GI WACAF Steering Committee. Anaïs is supported by Rim Al Amir, GI WACAF Project Coordinator. Previously, Anaïs worked for fifteen years as project manager for a French consulting firm. As manager of the marine environment team, she carried out and supervised numerous environmental monitoring studies at sea on behalf of Oil & Gas companies, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea. Furthermore, in the framework of environmental impact studies and oil spill contingency plans, she has also participated in carrying out modeling studies of discharges in the marine environment (oil spills, produced water, drilling cuttings, chemicals, etc.) and of the response associated. She holds a master's degree in Oceanography and Marine Environment Management from Pierre et Marie Curie University (Paris).</p>	

Annex 3 – List of participants

Attendance register: National Delegates, Industries and Partners (88 Participants)

National delegates

<u>Country</u>	<u>Names</u>
Angola	José Munuma de JESUS
Benin	Germain Jessugnon AHISSOU
Benin	Yehonnou Tchégbénton Fabrice METONWAHO
Cabo Verde	Seidi PINTO SILVA DOS SANTOS
Congo	Medard NGOBO
Congo	Christian Armel NKOU
Côte d'Ivoire	Mian Germain EBA
D R Congo	Ernest Kasisi NYANKUNGWA
Equatorial Guin	Justino Obama ENI EKAT
Gambia	Karamo Bakary JANNEH
Ghana	Numbu Issahaque SUMABE
Guinea	Ismael SOUMAH
Guinea	Lama CAMARA
Guinea	Yalany FOFANA
Guinea-Bissau	Fred Fernando CABI
Liberia	Bohmensahn Blehsuah YUAN
Liberia	Nadine Tanneh AJAMI
Mauritania	Mohamed Lemine CHRIF M'HAMED
Namibia	Shapua Randy Mandela KALOMO
Nigeria	Dimowo HEAKY
Nigeria	Mohammed Suleman GUMSURI
Nigeria	Mustapha AKANBI TALYE
Nigeria	Catherine Chinyere NWUBA
Nigeria	Yusuf Rigasa ABDULLAHI
Nigeria	Chukwuemeka WOKE
S.Tome,Principe	Manuel FERNANDO DE CEITA VAZ DO ROSÁRIO
S.Tome,Principe	Charles GÉNERO PEREIRA FONSECA NETO
Senegal	Abdou MBODJ
Senegal	Ngouye SOUGOUFARA
Sierra Leone	Duramani Kempes SESAY
Sierra Leone	Cremelda THOMAS
South Africa	Nkgomeleng Stella MATLALA
South Africa	Dhanabalan Dharmalingam NAICKER
The Gambia	Olimatou DANSO
The Gambia	Wandifa SAIDYLEIGH

Industry representatives

<u>Industry</u>		<u>Names</u>
Clean Associates	Nigeria	Cyril EZEAKU EMEKA
BP		Andrew TUCKER
Chevron		Miguel Arcanjo Tavares NDALA
Chevron		Phil B. SUAHL
Chevron		Osvaldo Raul Guadalupe DE JESUS
Chevron		Antonio Francisco Bambi MBADO
Shell		Abatam NWOSU
Shell		Daniel (Efe) ABALE
Total Energies		Christopher SPIES
Total Energies		Clémentine GELBER
Total Energies		Steve OTSONDO
Total Energies		Age d'Or Fabre AKOUALA
ExxonMobil		Tania AUGUSTO

Technical Partners and GI WACAF Team

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Names</u>
CEFAS	Freya GOODSIR
IOPC	Gaute SIVERTSEN
IPIECA	Polly HILL
IPIECA	Peter TAYLOR
ITOPF	Natálie KIRK
PRCM	Demba MARICO
Cedre	Natalie BEAU-MONVOISIN
OSRL	Leina CHONG-PAN
Marittima Ltd.	Nicoletta CARIGLIA
ITOPF	Franck LARUELLE
ITOPF	Duarte SOARES
SANCCOB	Monica STANSSEN
Astan	Lindsay PAGE-JONES
IMO	Patricia CHARLEBOIS
IMO	Chiara DELLA MEA
GI WACAF	Anaïs GUILLOU
GI WACAF	Rim AL AMIR

Togolese stakeholders and representatives

<u>Representing</u>	<u>Names</u>
Ministère de l'économie maritime, de la pêche et de la protection côtière (MEMPPC)	Kpatcha Mawaïboyodou GNAMA
Ministère de l'économie maritime, de la pêche et de la protection côtière (MEMPPC)	Médédé BERENA épouse BADA KPENDOU
Ministère de l'économie maritime, de la pêche et de la protection côtière (MEMPPC)	N'Kouleté Yaovi Amedegou KPADENOU
Ministère des Ressources Halieutiques, Animales et de la Réglementation de la Transhumance	Adjéya Banilé KEBENZIKATO épouse TCHARIE
Ministère de l'environnement et des ressources forestières (MERF)	Adjovi Elemawussi NOUKPETOR
Ministère de l'environnement et des ressources forestières (MERF)	Komlan Agbéwonou SEMEGLO
Ministère de l'économie maritime, de la pêche et de la protection côtière (MEMPPC)	Akofa AKLOBESSI
Ministère de la sécurité et de la protection civile	Essosinam KOZOLINE
Ministère de la sécurité et de la protection civile	Waguéntéa HARENGA
Ministère des affaires étrangères, de l'intégration régionale et des togolais de l'extérieur (MAEIRTE)	Ptangme PEKETI
Ministère des armées (MINARM)	Afi Nathalie ALEZA
Ministère des armées (MINARM)	Sama AGRIGNA
Ministère des armées (MINARM)	Adjudant Tchamdabalo PALI
Ministère des transports routiers, aériens et ferroviaires (MTRAF)	Abla Edem Raïssa YOVO
Ministère de l'administration territoriale, de la Décentralisation et de la Chefferie Coutumière	Messan Joël HOUNAKE
Préfecture maritime (PREMAR)	Essodina KIDEMA
Port autonome de Lomé (PAL)	Tcha LEMOU
Société togolaise de stockage de Lomé (STSL)	Talbia DJOTBAYI
Société togolaise d'entreposage (STE)	Kodjo Emmanuel NYAKU
ZENER	Abdel Manaf ZAKARI
ERES TOGO	Rosine KOUMAI

Union nationale des embarcations et avitaillements du Togo et de la sous-région (UNEMATR)	Ayaovi ADANHOU
BRIGHTNESS	Holali Mawulom TOSSOU

Media / Translation / General support

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Personnel</u>
Lingua franca consulting	Translator x4
Story Record Image	Photograph x3
Story Record Image	Video x2
Story Record Image	video
Envergure	Hostess x8
Envergure	Sepopo MONTANT

Speakers and facilitators

The experts, national delegates and industry members invited to facilitate and present this 10th GI WACAF Regional Conference were:

- AUGUSTO Tania, Regional Emergency Preparedness and response Advisor / GI WACAF Industry Vice-Chair, ExxonMobil
- CHARLEBOIS Patricia, Senior Deputy Director, Maritime Environment Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- DELLA MEA Chiara, Head of Pollution and Response Section, Maritime Environment Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- GNAMA Kpatcha Mawaïboyodou, Maritime Affairs Administrator, Technical Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Maritime Economy and Coastal Protection, Togo
- GUMSURI Mohammed Suleman, Chief Environmental Scientist, National Oil Spill Detection & Response Agency (NOSDRA), Nigeria
- LARUELLE Franck, Technical Team Manager, International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF)
- KALOMO Shapua, Deputy Director Marine Pollution Control & SAR, Ministry of Works and Transport, Namibia
- MONVOISIN Natalie, Studies and Training Department Manager, Emergency Response Team Duty Engineer – Cedre
- PAGE-JONES Lindsay, Technical Advisor, Independent Consultant, Astan
- SAIDYLEIGH Wandifa, Director of Marine Environment, Governance and Policy, The Gambia Maritime Administration
- SIVERTSEN Gaute, Director, IOPC Funds
- TAYLOR Peter, Manager, Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI, Caspian Sea / Black Sea / Central Eurasia)
- TUCKER Andrew, Oil Spill Manager, GI WACAF Industry Chair, BP
- AL AMIR RIM, GI WACAF Project Coordinator
- GUILLOU Anaïs, GI WACAF Project Manager

The following participants also contributed to the organisation of the conference, by facilitating plenary sessions, work groups, demonstrations, and specific presentations or exercises:

- CARIGLIA Nicoletta, Independent Consultant, Marittima Ltd.
- HILL Polly, Nature Senior Manager, IPIECA

- KIRK Natálie, Technical Advisor, International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF)
- SOARES Duarte, Senior Technical Adviser, International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF)
- STASSEN Monica, Preparedness and Response Manager, SANCCOB

The following participants contributed to the global organisation of the event:

- MONTANT Sepopo, Event Planner, Envergure

Annex 4 – Opening speeches

Welcoming notes - Secrétaire Général Wadoufei Babale

Monsieur le Ministre de l'environnement et des ressources forestières ;

Monsieur le Ministre de l'administration territoriale, de la décentralisation et de la chefferie coutumière ;

Monsieur le ministre, conseiller pour la Mer ;

Monsieur le chef d'Etat major général des Forces armées togolaises

Monsieur le Préfet maritime ;

Madame la Directrice du département de l'environnement marin à l'OMI ;

Monsieur le Président du groupe des industries du projet GI WACAF ;

Distingués invités en vos rangs, titres et grades, tout protocole observé ;

Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi de prendre la parole ce jour spécial, à l'ouverture de la 10^e Conférence régionale du projet Initiative mondiale pour l'Afrique occidentale, centrale et australe (GI WACAF), pour m'acquitter d'un agréable devoir, celui de souhaiter à toutes et à tous ici présents, au nom du ministère de l'économie maritime et de la protection côtière, la chaleureuse bienvenue dans cette agréable salle de l'hôtel Sarakawa qui servira de cadre à notre rencontre de réflexion durant les quatre jours.

Je voudrais sincèrement vous remercier pour avoir bien voulu, en dépit de vos agendas chargés, répondre favorablement à cette invitation en participant à cette grande rencontre internationale. Votre présence à Lomé est une preuve éloquente de l'intérêt que vous portez à la protection du milieu marin.

Je salue la présence parmi nous des représentants des organisations internationales qui accompagnent les Etats dans le secteur maritime en particulier l'Organisation maritime Internationale.

Ainsi, je tiens à vous réitérer, nos remerciements pour cet engagement sans faille en matière de lutte contre la pollution des mers par les hydrocarbures.

Distingués invités, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Nous connaissons tous les impacts des déversements d'hydrocarbure sur l'environnement marin. En effet, les marées noires ont des effets néfastes sur la faune et la flore marines. Ainsi, face aux risques de déversements accidentels d'hydrocarbure, il faut une réponse collective.

Je suis particulièrement ravi et rassuré que nous allons ensemble réaliser de grands desseins dans le domaine qui nous réunit aujourd'hui, celui d'une plus grande implication de tous les acteurs dans la conception, l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre des mécanismes efficaces de lutte contre la pollution marine par les hydrocarbures.

Mesdames et Messieurs, Distingués invités,

Chers participants,

Je vous invite, après avoir pris la mer pour trouver les solutions à la pollution marine par les hydrocarbures, à prendre de l'air pour contempler notre belle capitale Lomé.

Sur ce, sentez-vous comme chez vous et bon séjour sur la terre de nos aïeux, pays de paix et d'hospitalité.

Je vous remercie !

Opening notes, P. Charlebois, Deputy Director, MED, IMO

Honourable Minister(s), Excellencies, distinguished representatives of the governments of the West, Central, and South African littoral States,
Esteemed colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), I am honoured to welcome you to the 10th GI WACAF Biennial Conference here in Lomé. This milestone event marks nearly two decades of collaboration between IMO and IPIECA, uniting government and industry to strengthen oil pollution preparedness and response capacities across West, Central, and Southern Africa.

The GI WACAF project stands as a testament to the power of partnership. Over 18 years, it has provided essential support to 23 nations, enabling the development of robust frameworks for pollution preparedness while fostering a culture of cooperation that reflects the region's shared maritime priorities. This conference is not only a moment to reflect on past achievements but also an opportunity to chart an ambitious path forward for this vital initiative.

The GI WACAF region occupies a critical position in global maritime trade. Its extensive coastline, abundant marine resources, and bustling ports underscore the importance of safeguarding the marine environment while driving sustainable economic growth. However, the region also faces unique vulnerabilities: rapid industrialization, heavy shipping traffic, and offshore oil and gas activities heighten the risk of pollution incidents.

Against this backdrop, the GI WACAF project has played a pivotal role in aligning national capabilities with global standards, guided by instruments such as the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC). The Convention's principles—ensuring readiness, fostering international cooperation, and engaging industry stakeholders—have been at the heart of regional capacity-building efforts.

As we gather here today, the maritime and petroleum sectors are undergoing transformative changes. The global shift toward alternative fuels and low-carbon solutions presents new challenges for spill response and preparedness. The GI WACAF region, with its diverse ecosystems and growing energy infrastructure, must adapt to these evolving realities.

Recent efforts by the GI WACAF countries to address these challenges are commendable. From national contingency plans to regional exercises, the progress made reflects the resilience and dedication of stakeholders across the region. However, continued vigilance is

required to ensure these systems remain responsive to emerging threats, including spills of new fuel types, such as Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oils (VLSFOs), and to be prepared for the next generation of alternative marine fuels that will be introduced, further to new regulations expected to be adopted at IMO in late 2025.

The work of the GI WACAF project aligns closely with IMO's broader commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14 on life below water and SDG 13 on climate action. Effective spill response systems contribute directly to the preservation of marine ecosystems, which are vital not only for biodiversity but also for the livelihoods of millions across the region.

Looking ahead, the region's success will depend on its ability to maintain strong partnerships between governments, industry, and local communities. Collaboration is essential to ensure that preparedness measures are not only implemented but also tested and refined through regular training and exercises. This conference provides an invaluable forum for sharing experiences, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to safeguarding the marine environment.

In closing, I wish to express my deep gratitude to the Government of Togo for hosting this important event and for their steadfast support in making this conference possible. My sincere thanks also go to the Togo Maritime Authority and the local authorities for their excellent arrangements and warm hospitality.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to our partners at IPIECA, whose unwavering commitment has been instrumental in advancing the objectives of the GI WACAF project. Finally, I thank all the delegates here today for your dedication to protecting the marine environment and ensuring the sustainable growth of this vital region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish us all a productive and inspiring conference. May our discussions over the coming days reinforce the foundations of this initiative and pave the way for even greater progress in the years ahead.

Thank you.

Opening notes, Andrew Tucker, GI WACAF Industry Chair, bp Group Oil Spill Manager

Distinguished Guests, Honoured Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great privilege to welcome you all to the 10th Regional WACAF Conference. Today, we gather under the auspices of an enduring partnership—the Global Initiative for West, Central, and Southern Africa (GI WACAF)—to share our experiences and build enduring relationships on a topic of great importance: how do we all safeguard the marine environment against the impacts of spills.

This year's themes of Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing resonate deeply with me. I strongly believe that Preparedness and Response is about relationships – working together

is the way that we all learn and better prepare ourselves for the challenges ahead. This is the foundation of the GI WACAF mission.

Over the past 20 years, the GI WACAF programme has delivered impactful workshops, conferences, seminars, and exercises, aiming to share best practices and leverage the expertise and knowledge from everyone present in this room. These initiatives have trained almost five and a half thousand individuals across the region. These activities represent more than training; they are opportunities to foster understanding and build relationships between national agencies and international partners.

The contributions and commitments of all these partners—the IMO, the seven oil company member, and of course the Countries—are a testament to the power of shared responsibility. We have all played a significant role in advancing our shared goal of an improving response capability across the Region, able to face current challenges and those in the future.

As we embark on this conference, in my role as Industry Chair I would like to reaffirm our commitment to regional and international cooperation. We have already heard number of talks today about successful collaboration Countries and Industry. Together, we can navigate complex challenges and pave the way for a future where our marine ecosystems are safeguarded for generations to come.

This is your conference and the future direction of WACAF depends on us all. This week is an opportunity for action, a network of like-minded professionals united by a shared vision. I encourage each of you to actively engage in the sessions, exchange ideas, share your thoughts, learn from one another, and let us collectively pave the way for a safer and more sustainable future.

I would like to give my thanks to both Anais and Rim for their hard work over the past 2 years across the Region, but especially for their efforts to organise this Conference.

And a big thank you to our Togolese hosts for their hospitality and support in hosting the Conference. We have a beautiful venue and a full conference agenda.

Thank you too to all of you for your dedication and presence here today. It will be three years until we meet again, so I wish everyone a productive and successful conference.

Thank you.

Opening speech, Richard Gbalguéboa KANGBENI, Minister of maritime Economy and Coastal protection

Le Chimiste et physicien américain, Irving LANGMUIR, lauréat du prix Nobel Chimie en 1932, disait : « Avec deux cuillerées à soupe d'huile, je peux recouvrir le lac Léman ». Cette assertion a le mérite d'attirer l'attention sur le fait qu'une infime quantité d'hydrocarbure est suffisante pour recouvrir une grande surface d'eau.

Monsieur le Ministre de l'environnement et des ressources forestières ;
Monsieur le Ministre de l'administration territoriale, de la décentralisation et de la chefferie coutumière ;
Monsieur le Ministre, Conseiller pour la Mer ;
Monsieur le Chef d'Etat major général des Forces armées togolaises
Monsieur le Préfet maritime ;
Madame la Directrice du département de l'environnement marin à l'OMI ;
Monsieur le Président du groupe des industries du projet GI-WACAF ;
Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants des institutions nationales et internationales ;
Messieurs les Directeurs de cabinet et secrétaires généraux des administrations centrales ;
Mesdames et Messieurs les Directeurs généraux des sociétés portuaires ;
Mesdames et Messieurs des médias ;
Distingués invités en vos rangs, titres et grades, tout protocole observé ;
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le Togo est honoré d'ouvrir ce jour, la 10e Conférence régionale du projet « Initiative mondiale pour l'Afrique occidentale, centrale et australe » en abrégé GI WACAF.

Je voudrais, avant tout propos, souhaiter la bienvenue et adresser mes salutations fraternelles à tous ceux qui ont fait le déplacement à Lomé, particulièrement, à nos amis venus des pays de l'Afrique occidentale, centrale et australe, pour prendre part à cette 10e Conférence régionale du projet GI WACAF.

Je voudrais également saluer les membres du Gouvernement, dont la présence traduit tout l'intérêt que l'Etat attache à la lutte contre la pollution marine sous toutes ses formes.

C'est bien dans l'élan de la préparation et de la lutte en cas de déversement d'hydrocarbures dans les régions d'Afrique occidentale, centrale et australe que s'inscrit le Projet GI WACAF, appelé à contribuer à la protection du milieu marin.

En effet, l'ambition de nos Etats à faire de l'économie bleue un secteur d'avenir requiert une meilleure protection de l'environnement marin dans la région.

Comme vous le savez, le commerce mondial s'effectue pratiquement à 95% par voie maritime grâce à près de 50.000 navires de toutes sortes. Dans ce contexte, le risque de pollution marine et côtière par hydrocarbure doit être interprété comme un aléa émanant du risque lié au transport maritime.

Distingués invités,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le choix de notre pays pour abriter la 10^e conférence régionale du projet GI-WACAF témoigne à suffisance les efforts du Gouvernement, sous la conduite de Son Excellence Monsieur Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE, Président de la République pour son leadership et son engagement en faveur de la protection et de la préservation du milieu marin.

En effet, il y a lieu de noter que le Togo a fait des efforts en matière de transposition des conventions de l'Organisation Maritime Internationale (OMI) afin de se positionner comme un Etat du port et un Etat du pavillon. De plus, des institutions sont mises en place et se sont dotées de moyens d'intervention en cas de déversement accidentel d'hydrocarbures.

La préservation de « l'or bleu » justifie pleinement cette rencontre internationale de haut niveau à Lomé afin de faire le bilan sur la responsabilité de tous les acteurs en matière de lutte contre la pollution marine par les hydrocarbures.

Honorables invités, Mesdames et Messieurs,

La 10^{ème} Conférence régionale du projet GI WACAF marque une étape importante dans cette lutte contre les déversements d'hydrocarbures dans la région. Le projet GI WACAF, fruit d'une collaboration entre l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI) et l'Association mondiale de l'industrie pétrolière et gazière pour l'amélioration des performances environnementales et sociales (IPIECA), constitue depuis 2006 une pierre angulaire des efforts visant à améliorer la préparation et l'intervention en cas de pollution marine par les hydrocarbures dans 22 pays d'Afrique occidentale, centrale et australe.

Des actions concrètes ont été entreprises dans le cadre de ce projet pour renforcer la résilience de nos pays face aux risques environnementaux.

Ainsi, le Togo fait partie des pionniers en organisant, dès 2013, un atelier national de formation pour l'opérationnalisation du Plan national d'intervention d'urgence, avec comme objectifs le développement des outils tels que les cartes de sensibilité, la politique d'utilisation des dispersants, etc. Cet atelier a été un jalon majeur qui a donné la possibilité d'accroître notre compréhension des enjeux de la pollution marine et de poser les bases d'une coopération régionale solide.

Dans cette même logique, il s'est tenu en octobre 2023 à Lomé, un atelier sous-régional sur la ratification et la mise en œuvre effective des conventions de l'OMI relatives à la pollution par les hydrocarbures, à la responsabilité et l'indemnisation. Cet atelier a réuni les points focaux techniques et juridiques de quatre (04) pays francophones (Bénin, Guinée, Mauritanie et Togo), qui ont des responsabilités liées à la ratification et à la mise en œuvre des différentes conventions en lien avec la pollution par les hydrocarbures.

Le Projet GI WACAF a également permis d'accompagner la mise en place de Plans nationaux de contingence, des mécanismes essentiels pour une réponse rapide et efficace aux incidents en mer. Grâce à ces efforts, de nombreux pays ont pu se doter d'instruments juridiques et opérationnels renforçant leur résilience face aux catastrophes environnementales.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Cette 10^{ème} Conférence régionale est l'occasion de dresser un bilan des acquis. Il s'agit de corriger les insuffisances du passé et de tenir compte des réalités du présent pour mieux préparer l'avenir avec une nouvelle feuille de route pour le prochain biennium.

Les acquis du projet sont énormes. L'on peut citer entre autres : (i) la création d'un réseau de points focaux dans chaque pays ; (ii) l'organisation d'ateliers de formation et (iii) la sensibilisation accrue des gouvernements et des parties prenantes à la nécessité de ratifier et d'appliquer les conventions internationales pertinentes pour protéger notre environnement marin.

Malgré ces acquis, de nombreux défis restent à relever. En effet, dans un contexte mondial où les risques de déversements d'hydrocarbures persistent, il est crucial d'encourager la ratification de toutes les conventions relatives à la pollution marine. Ces instruments juridiques sont notre première ligne de défense contre les catastrophes environnementales.

Mesdames et messieurs, chers participants,

La 10^e Conférence qui s'ouvre aujourd'hui doit aussi être l'occasion de redéfinir nos priorités et de renforcer les capacités nationales à travers des formations techniques adaptées, une coopération accrue entre les États membres et le soutien continu de nos partenaires techniques et financiers.

Pendant ces quatre (04) jours, vous êtes invités à aborder les défis liés à la préparation et à la lutte contre les déversements d'hydrocarbures, à définir les priorités stratégiques du projet GI WACAF pour les deux années à venir, et à explorer de nouvelles pistes de coopération entre les pays présents.

Nos attentes pour cette conférence sont donc claires : il s'agit de renforcer davantage les capacités des pays de la région à faire face aux risques environnementaux. Nous espérons que les échanges permettront d'identifier les axes de coopération future et les nouveaux mécanismes de financement pour soutenir les efforts de préparation et de réponse contre les déversements d'hydrocarbures.

Honorables invités, Mesdames et Messieurs les experts,

Chers participants,

La mer est à la croisée des chemins. Au-delà de la sécurité en mer, il faut instituer un ordre public écologique en mer. Le milieu marin fait partie du patrimoine commun des Nations. Il en découle que sa protection, la conservation de sa biodiversité et son utilisation durable par les activités maritimes et littorales dans le respect des écosystèmes marins sont d'intérêt général. Il faudra alors agir pour lutter contre toutes les menaces du milieu marin.

Nous pouvons alors compter sur la solidarité régionale et internationale. C'est ensemble que nous pourrons bâtir des mécanismes de prévention et d'intervention encore plus robustes,

avec l'appui des partenaires comme l'OMI et l'IIPECA, mais aussi d'autres institutions engagées pour la durabilité environnementale.

Je vous encourage vivement à partager vos précieuses expériences et à tirer pleinement profit de cette Conférence pour renforcer vos connaissances. Je suis convaincu que les enseignements issus de vos échanges permettront à chacun de contribuer efficacement à relever les défis du secteur maritime.

Je ne saurais clore mon propos sans renouveler mes remerciements à tous ceux qui ont œuvré, de près ou de loin, à la réussite de cette 10^e Conférence particulièrement la cheffe du projet GI WACAF.

Je n'oublie pas nos amis les journalistes qui ont assuré la couverture médiatique de l'évènement de ce jour. Le relais que vous allez faire de cette Conférence permettra une meilleure visibilité sur les efforts des acteurs en matière de lutte contre la pollution marine.

Ainsi, convaincu d'un transport maritime plus durable, je déclare ouverte, la 10^e Conférence régionale du GI WACAF.

Je vous remercie.

Annex 5 – Closing speeches

Closing remarks - Chiara Della Mea, Head of Pollution Preparedness and Response Unit Marine Environment Division, IMO

Dear Colleagues,

As we close this 10th GI WACAF conference, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to its success.

To the Government of Togo and in particular to the Togo Maritime Authority, thank you for hosting the event and for your support in facilitating the delegates' participation.

To our partners at IPIECA, for your ongoing commitment to the GI WACAF project and its objectives.

To the speakers, experts, and facilitators, we are grateful your valuable knowledge and commitment to the success of the conference.

To the delegates, thank you for your active participation and enthusiasm, which were essential in achieving the conference's objectives.

And of course, a special thank you to the GI WACAF project team—Anaïs and Rim—for your dedication and hard work in the past year to ensure the success of this conference.

Over the past four days, we've shared important insights on pollution preparedness and response, and it's encouraging to see how the project has been embraced across the region. You now face the challenge of turning this knowledge into action, sharing it with colleagues back home, and strengthening national preparedness frameworks.

The IMO looks forward to continuing our collaboration to enhance oil spill preparedness and response in the GI WACAF region.

Thank you again, and I wish you all a safe journey home.

Closing address - Andrew Tucker, GI WACAF Industry Chair, bp Group Oil Spill Manager

As we come to the close of this year's GI WACAF conference, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all of you for your active participation, insightful contributions, and commitment to advancing the work we do in oil spill preparedness and response across the region.

This conference has all about the importance of cooperation, information sharing, and collaboration. Through our discussions and shared experiences, we have not only strengthened our collective knowledge but also built new relationships that will drive the WACAF mission forward.

What has truly stood out for me is the energy and enthusiasm of everyone. When I saw how committed everyone was during the practical Response Strategy and Shorleine activity, I was moved and felt a deep sense of pride. Your passion and commitment have been the driving force behind the success of this conference, and an inspiration to me.

A special thanks goes to our Togolese hosts, who have supported the Conference. I would also like to thank the expert facilitators who have shared their deep expertise and experiences – this a resource that is priceless.

I would also like to thank especially Anais and Lindsey for all the efforts that they have made behind the scenes to make this conference such a success – I know this is a labour of love, and I am very appreciate of what you have both done.

I would like to take a moment to give a big thank you to Rim, who will be leaving the GI WACAF project at the end of this year.

Rim, I know your hard work and enthusiasm have made a significant impact to many people in this room, and we will miss you greatly. Merci beaucoup.

As we leave today, please let us continue the momentum we've built here and maintain the spirit of cooperation

Thank you once again. I wish you all safe travels, and look forward to seeing you at our next gathering, wherever that may be

Thank you

Closing remarks, National authorities

Wadoufei Babale closed the event with a brief overview of the previous days and wished all participants a safe way back home.

Annex 6 – Work group outcomes

Risk Assessment: Working group outcomes

Across the groups some common themes emerged, both with respect to challenges and ways the GI WACAF programme could provide assistance. In this section, general challenges raised, and recommendations have been summarised below.

Challenges

Specific concerns were raised regarding:

- The scope of the risk assessment process whether and how to include onshore and inland sources of risk.
- Data collection (related to the quantities and types of hydrocarbons transported, stored, charged or discharged) from competent authorities (as ports, customs, etc.) because of communication and confidentiality issues related to commercial and strategic aspects, and potentially corruption Stakeholder mapping and data sharing.
- A lack of knowledge of the practical process by which a risk assessment is undertaken. Who does it – how they gather information across various stakeholders, implementing a process by which information is provided in a timely order and how assess this information (i.e. quantitative versus qualitative).
- Resourcing issues.
- Changing risk profiles in terms of HNS, low sulphur fuels and alternative fuels

Recommendations

Based on the recurring themes across groups, key recommendations which can be developed into practical means by which the GI WACAF programme could provide support:

- Establish tools and framework to collect manifests or key data from the entities in possession of this information as they represent key security / safety issues for national authorities.
- Workshops to facilitate the connection of entities (at national or regional levels / between onshore and offshore authorities and public /private sector) in possession of the data and the exchange of data.
- Standard guideline document from GI WACAF on how to undertake a risk assessment. Not only technical guidance but guidance on the process for how a project could be organised internally, how information is gathered etc. A step-by-step guide which is not technically prescriptive so that it may apply to multiple countries.
- Peer to peer learning – a forum or partnership between countries to enable less-prepared and resourced countries to learn from those who have a higher level of preparedness. A similar process was also suggested for industry to government knowledge-sharing.
- Guidance document or centralised resources on research on low sulphur fuels and alternative fuels.
- Provision of training on standardised tools.

How to plan and manage a national exercise: Working group outcomes

The different formats of exercises, from small scale desktops, workshops and working single issues have been discussed. In this section, general challenges raised, and recommendations have been summarised. More detailed notes from the sessions are provided in the next section.

Challenges

Specific concerns were raised regarding:

- **Budget for OSPR:** No funding for exercises
- Governments depend too often on industry to plan and conduct exercises
- **Ambiguities** on the NSCOPs (e.g. roles and responsibilities)
- and **too much** turnover in government organisation without any skills transfer.

The types of exercise, at national and other levels, range from simple telephone calls to test emergency numbers - to be carried out frequently - to large-scale exercises lasting several days and involving significant numbers of people and resources.

Most countries considered Exercises to be large, all day deployment exercises. Such exercises cost a lot, take a long time to organise, and no-one sees everything that is occurring – people focus on the portion of the exercise that they need to work through. So, large exercises even if needed, do not have the same value as more regular small scale.

Possible areas for improvement:

Main recommendations of delegates for national exercise activities have been captured below.

From the discussions, countries raised on some key elements that should be emphasized to improve any national exercise activity:

- Hold regular small exercises to keep people aware of their role & responsibility & capacity building
- Keep inventories and directories updated
- Conduct regular exercises with Industry
- Conduct regular national and transboundary exercises (with GI WACAF support)
- Set-up MoU between government agencies and private sector to facilitate resources mobilisation in case of need (limiting requisitioning).
- Secure the budgets allocated to preparedness

- Establish an annual national programming document for the expected results and activities planned to implement the provisions of the POLMAR Plan and strengthen the country's response capabilities (reviewed, approved and implemented annually).
- Have mechanisms to ensure that exercise programmes are actually implemented each year (at national, port, industrial, etc. level), that these exercises are observed and evaluated and that the necessary corrective/improvement actions are taken following these exercises.
- Take advantage of 'safety and security at sea' exercises (and the mechanisms for organising these exercises) to include a 'pollution response' component whenever possible.

Recommendations

Based on the recurring themes across groups, key recommendations which can be developed into practical means by which the GI WACAF programme could provide support:

- Most countries (and industry participation) would benefit from having more regular small scale facilitated desktop exercises to familiarise everyone with their NCP, especially roles and responsibilities, dispersant approvals, logistical challenges etc. Have **Guidelines/Good Practices**, or even provisions in the National Plan, to help plan exercises each year, define the objectives/expected results for each type of exercise, and organise these exercises, with a harmonised approach between countries.
- Support a better **sharing** of feedback and good practice between neighbouring countries.
- Set up **cross-border activities** and exercises between neighbouring countries sharing similar issues and risks.

Propose/ develop a system for **assessing the operational response capabilities** of the authorities, at sea and on land, to better adapt the preparedness effort.