

National Workshop on National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

Monrovia, Republic of Liberia
14-18 October 2024

*Hosted by the Liberia Maritime
Administration*



Liberia Maritime Authority

Contacts Liberia Maritime Administration (GMA)

Stephen B. Lavalah, Esq. Director of Department of Marine Environmental Protection
Liberia Maritime Authority and the GI WACAF National Focal Point
stephen.lavalah@lima.gov.lr

Contacts GI WACAF

Ms. Anaïs Guillou
GI WACAF Project Manager
anais.guillou@ipieca.org
giwacaf-project@ipieca.org

Contacts Marittima Limited

Ms. Nicky Cariglia
Director & Independent Consultant in Environmental and pollution emergency response
services for the maritime sector
nc@marittima.co.uk

Julke Brandt

Independent Consultant for marine pollution prevention and response
Julke.brandt@gmail.com

NOTE

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1. Executive summary

Title of the event: National Workshop on National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

Organized by: Liberia Maritime Administration (LIMA)

Supported by: GI WACAF (IMO / IPIECA)

Type of event: National Workshop

Date: 14 - 18 October 2024

Number of participants: 55

Location: A La Lagune

Summary:

The aim of this workshop was to train key entities on the fundamentals of oil spill response, following the standard format and content contained in the IMO OPRC Levels 1 and 2 training courses but tailored to be relevant to the specific risks and conditions identified in Liberia.

The workshop had the secondary aim of conducting round table sessions with key stakeholders to progress discussions and finalise roles and responsibilities, the organisation of a response from both an inter and intra-agency perspective and to define specific response strategies that will be included in the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

2. Table of Contents

1. Executive summary.....	4
2. Table of Contents	5
3. Presentation of the GI WACAF Project.....	6
4. Introduction	7
4.1 Context of the Workshop.....	7
4.2 Objectives of the workshop	7
4.3 Agenda, venue and participants	7
5. Activities and Presentations	8
5.1 Opening Ceremony.....	8
5.2 Presentations.....	9
5.2.1 Day 1.....	9
5.2.2 Day 2.....	11
5.2.3 Day 3.....	12
5.2.4 Day 4.....	14
5.2.5 Day 5.....	14
5.3 Closing Ceremony.....	15
6. Recommendations from GI WACAF.....	15
7. Feedback from the Participants.....	16
8. Conclusion.....	17
9. Annexes	18
9.1 Annex 1 – Workshop Program.....	18
9.2 Annex 2 – List of participants.....	21
9.3 Annex 3 – GI WACAF Opening Speech.....	22
9.4 Annex 3 – GI WACAF Closing Speech	23

3. Presentation of the GI WACAF Project

Launched in 2006, the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) Project is a partnership between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, to enhance the capacity of partner countries to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills.

The mission is to strengthen the national system for preparedness and response in case of an oil spill in 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, that aim to communicate good practice in all aspect 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 the Project's network of dedicated government and industry focal points. Promoting cooperation amongst all relevant government agencies, oil industry business units and stakeholders both nationally, regionally, and internationally is a major objective of the Project during these activities.

GI WACAF operates and delivers activities with contributions from both the IMO and seven oil company members of IPIECA, namely Azule Energy, BP, Chevron, Eni, ExxonMobil, Shell, TotalEnergies.



4. Introduction

4.1 Context of the Workshop

As a GI WACAF Partner country, the Republic of Liberia has in recent years made considerable progress in establishing the conditions necessary to respond to oil spills.

The vehicle of implementation is through the maritime strategy 2024-2028, of which a stated purpose to create the mechanisms for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and marine and coastal resources against oil pollution. Under these drivers, Liberia has been working to strengthen its national capacities through the process of preparing a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP). The general objective is to establish a mechanism to respond to situations of spills of oil and other hazardous substances, or situations of imminent threat of such spills, to define the responsibilities of the intervening entities and to establish the competences of the authorities responsible for carrying out the tasks.

To accelerate this work, in 2023 Liberia formally requested assistance from the GI WACAF for continued development of its NOSCP. Finalisation of this document for adoption is an integral component in implementation of the IMO 1990 Oil Spill Prevention and Response Convention (OPRC '90).

The goal of the project is to ensure a case and country-specific approach to the formulation of a response strategy and operational plan that complements existing national processes and frameworks and results in a NOSCP that is ultimately approved and formally adopted by the Country. This workshop was the second workshop associated with the activities under the Project.

4.2 Objectives of the workshop

The aims of this workshop were to:

1. train key entities on the fundamentals of oil spill response, following the standard format and content contained in the IMO OPRC Levels 1 and 2 training courses.
2. discuss operational components of the NOSCP guidance documents produced as part of this project.

4.3 Agenda, venue and participants

The workshop was held over a period of five days at the La Lagune Hotel in Monrovia.

While the planned programme was delivered, the agenda was modified during the workshop based on the organic progression of discussions. The agenda is provided in Annex 1. But is summarised below:

The workshop gathered 55 participants drawn mainly from Liberia relevant government and private stakeholders listed below.

- Bea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC)
- CONEX Liberia
- Environment Protection Agency (EPA)
- Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

- Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL)
- Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
- Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
- Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC)
- Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (PRA)
- Liberian Coast Guard (LCG)
- Liberia Meteorology Service (LMS)
- Ministry of Defence (MOD)
- Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
- Ministry of Justice (MOJ)
- Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)
- Ministry of Transport (MOT)
- National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)
- National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NAFAA)
- National Oil Company Liberia (NOCAL)
- National Port Authority (NPA)
- Society for the Conservation of Liberia (SCNL)
- SRIMEX Oil & Gas Liberia
- Women Concern Liberia (WCL)

The advisers invited to facilitate this workshop were:

- Nicky Cariglia, Independent Consultant in Environmental and pollution emergency response services for the maritime sector, Marittima Limited.
- Julke Brandt, Independent Consultant for marine pollution prevention and response

The GI WACAF Secretariat was represented by:

- Anaïs Guillou, GI WACAF Project Manager

5. Activities and Presentations

5.1 Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on Monday 14th October 2024 at 09:30 am and consisted of several introductions and opening speeches from various dignitaries. The opening speeches are available in the Annex 1.

The GI WACAF project manager, Ms Anaïs Guillou delivered the welcome address, alongside remarks from Honorable Sekou, A.M. Dukuly, Managing Director of the National Port Authority and keynote address from Honorable Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr., Commissioner / CEO of the Liberia Maritime Authority.



5.2 Presentations

5.2.1 Day 1

Introduction of workshop objectives and presentation of the GI WACAF Project

Anaïs Guillou, GI WACAF Project Manager

Ms. Anaïs Guillou presented the general objectives of the GIWACAF Project and the respective roles of IMO and IPIECA. She then showed the achievements, and the progress made in the region measured against GI WACAF's project indicators. The project manager stressed GI WACAF's commitment to build on its previous achievements and ensure continuity. She then introduced the current workshop and exercise, highlighted the objectives, and presented expected outputs.

Introduction and orientation: Introduction and update to NOSCP project and overview of spill response

Nicky Cariglia, Marittima Ltd

As the consultant for the wider project, Ms. Nicky Cariglia set the context for the workshop during this session. An introduction to the Project was provided, along with a summary of previous activities and progress to date. The specific aims of this workshop were outlined, namely:

- Provide technical training in line with standardised IMO OPRC courses. The intended outcome was for all relevant stakeholders to have a basic and common knowledge of key oil spill response-related subjects.

- discuss operational components of the **NOSCP guidance documents produced as part of this project.**

The proposed agenda for the week was also presented at this stage. However, participants were informed and agreed that specific topics and sessions would be tailored as the week progressed to ensure more emphasis and training was provided on the areas that would be most useful to participants.

The presentation ended with a section that provided the background of the field of oil spill response and how this has evolved over the years: how international agreements have led to a decline in the volume and frequency of oil spills, an inspection on the causes of spills, as well as an overview of the pathways and mechanisms by which hydrocarbons are released into the marine environment.

Fate and behaviour of oil, Impacts of an oil spill

Julke Brandt, Independent Consultant

This presentation introduced the chemical composition, physio-chemical characteristics and properties of oil as well as the concept of weathering and how these factors influence the fate of oil spilled at sea. Participants were provided with insight into how the fate of oil once spilled has implications on the selection of suitable response options.

The second half of the presentation focussed on elaborating on the impacts that an oil spill could have on the environment and its people. It was highlighted how the impacts of a spill depend on the type and volume of oil spilled, the environmental conditions at the time, the resources affected and the effectiveness of clean-up operations.

Contingency planning Part I

Nicky Cariglia, Marittima Ltd

Given the Project's overarching focus is on contingency planning, this topic was covered in two parts.

The first part was delivered by Ms. Nicky Cariglia and aimed to provide an introduction to the process of contingency planning in the context of oil spills. This was to familiarise the participants who have not been directly involved in the day-to-day support of the Project. The presentation focussed specifically on Liberia, using the risk assessment, spill scenarios and response organisation / roles and responsibilities that have been used so far to introduce and explain each component of a plan.

Case study: spill response and lessons learned: a reflection of the Mesurado River Spill

Liberia Petroleum Refining Company

LPRC presented an overview of a previous oil spill from one of their facilities which impacted local communities after affecting the Mesurado River. They introduced the events and actions undertaken in response to the incident, methods for cleaning up the oil, as well as highlighting the challenges such as how to respond to the media interest surrounding the incident. LPRC

identified that inter-agency coordination and an understanding of who should be doing what was a major issue. One of the key impacts from the incident was that drinking water was affected.

Introduction to at-sea response techniques

Julke Brandt, Independent Consultant

The presentation focussed on describing commonly used at-sea response techniques (containment and recovery, dispersant application and in-situ burning) and introduced operational factors to each method. The respective equipment needs were elaborated on it and the individual advantages and disadvantages were discussed, focussing on the context of Liberia.

The ITOPF video on [At-Sea Response Techniques](#) was shown to emphasise the points made during the presentation and to illustrate some of the practical components of at-sea response techniques.

5.2.2 Day 2

Case study: managing and responding to other emergencies

National Disaster management Agency of Liberia

In recent years, Liberia has devoted a considerable amount of effort on the development and implementation of systems to manage national-scale disasters. The management of and response to an oil spill will sit within the overall framework of the National Disaster Management Act and as such, the IMS and many administrative, strategic and coordination processes will be relevant in the event of an oil spill.

Spill assessment; monitoring and surveillance

Julke Brandt, Independent Consultant

The presentation showed different options for assessing the extent and nature of a spill and explained the advantages and disadvantages of using different means (such as satellites, aircrafts, drones, boats, and by foot). The concept of using satellite imagery to assess the extent of a spill, and how to access such imagery was introduced. To describe oil observed from an aircraft, the Bonn Agreement's Oil Appearance Code (BAOAC) was explained, and examples were given how to report sightings of oil.

For shoreline surveys to document the nature and extent of contamination the concept of the standardised Shoreline clean-up assessment Technique (SCAT) was introduced (which was followed by a more detailed presentation on Thursday).

Shoreline response strategies and techniques: focus on Liberia

Nicky Cariglia, Marittima Ltd.

This interactive session built on the presentation from the previous day which introduced shoreline response techniques. The aim was to present the recommendations for response strategies and techniques to be included in the NOSCP as well as discuss practical aspects such as where operational coordination centres would be located, local operational bases, and other logistical matters.

To summarise, the following response strategies and techniques were presented:

- Recommendations on Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 for Liberia
- Detailed recommendations for response techniques at each of the shoreline type/use category identified for Liberia.
- Prioritisation of protection at estuarine fishing villages in the event of an oil spill as per the estuary-based identified scenarios. Protective booming may be possible in some locations and examples of effective makeshift protective measures were provided.
- Focus on manual clean-up given the nature of the coastline.

Environmental sensitivity mapping

Julke Brandt, Independent Consultant

The idea behind the development of sensitivity maps in the context of oil spill response was elaborated on and how the pre-identification of the most sensitive sites and resources provides a basis for identifying protection and clean-up priority areas and assists in deciding upon the best-suited response strategy. The various layers of data required were explained and example (re)sources for this data were shared.

5.2.3 Day 3

Fate and trajectory modelling

Julke Brandt, Independent Consultant

Fate and trajectory modelling provides information on the future location of the oil as well as the condition of the oil over time, which in turn supports decision-making where and which response resources to mobilize and deploy.

NOAA's GNOME suite was used to illustrate trajectory and fate of an exemplarily spill in Liberia's EEZ (other models were mentioned as well). The limitations of trajectory modelling were explained as well as the importance of contextualisation of modelling results.

Post incident operations and recovery framework

Nicky Cariglia, Marittima Ltd.

This presentation sought to provide a high level introduction to the activities and issues that arise when a response concludes: clean-up end points, operational considerations associated with the termination of clean-up activities, when and how to undertake post-spill impact assessments to determine environmental and socioeconomic impacts and an introduction to the international liability regime governing claims and compensation.

Introduction to waste management

ITOPF Video

The importance of waste management issues in countries that already have limited capacity in the management of domestic waste has been consistently emphasised throughout this Project and identified as a potential bottleneck. As such, the video sought to encapsulate the potential scale of waste management activities required in the event of an oil spill. This presentation covered each relevant phase from segregation, temporary storage, transport, long term storage and treatment.

Waste management in practice: Liberia

Nicky Cariglia, Marittima Ltd.

Operational and technical presentation on the collection, transport, storage and treatment of spill-associated waste with a focus on the Liberia context. The presentation sought to identify the most likely waste management challenges that would arise from a spill in Liberia, the issue with domestic waste management capacity and to identify potential solutions.

Update on Liberia NOSCP sensitivity mapping

Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)

The presentation focussed on Environmental sensitivity mapping for oil spill response. LISGIS illustrated their approach to ESI mapping. The project consists of two Phases:

- Phase 1: strategic environmental sensitivity index maps
- Phase 2: tactical and operational Maps for oil spill response in Liberia.

To achieve the above, LISGIS used existing ESI data and modified it using aerial and satellite imagery as preferred source. In addition, physical data and ground observations (such as grain size, salinity and prevailing wind speed and direction) were to be used.

LISGIS explained that remote classification of the coastal belt was carried out using Sentinel imagery. Furthermore, socio-economic data was provided by government entities and research institutions to improve sensitivity mapping accuracy.

LISGIS highlighted that the next step was to continue ground-truthing data and acquiring further satellite imagery – for which assistance might be required.

Command and control and incident management

Liberian Coast Guard (LCG)

The presentation focussed on presenting LCG's approach to command and control, as well as providing an overview of LCG assets. Provided information on permanent bases (Monrovia, Buchanan) and forward-operating bases (Robertsport and Greenville). LCG uses a modified version of the US Incident Command System (ICS).

LCG highlighted current challenges including: information sharing, budgetary limitations, challenge with resource support by maritime agencies, limited equipment, interagency collaboration.

5.2.4 Day 4

SCAT training

Nicky Cariglia, Marittima Ltd. and Julke Brandt, Independent Consultant

A condensed and high-level "mini" SCAT course to familiarize participants with the principles of the shoreline contamination assessment technique. The short course introduced how to characterize shorelines and oiling conditions on shoreline, how to record data and the value of the technique for monitoring the effectiveness of shoreline cleanup activities.

Introduction to draft NOSCP documents

Nicky Cariglia, Marittima Ltd. and Julke Brandt, Independent Consultant

An open Q&A session with participants regarding various components of the Plan. Due to the number of participants in attendance, rather than review the guidance documents produced for Liberia as part of the project, the session focussed on presenting an overview of the documents, how they should be used and a discussion on the recommended next steps for LiMA and the Technical Committee. This discussion continued the following morning before the closing ceremony and it is understood in-depth discussions on the draft documents will continue after the close of this Project.

5.2.5 Day 5

National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NAFAA)

Amos G. Piah

Delivered a talk on the functions, roles and activities of NaFAA. He presented an overview of the fisheries landing sites in each county and how each has its own dedicated fisheries officer. He also introduced the various challenges faced with managing both the artisanal and industrial fisheries of Liberia.

Workshop wrap-up and closing ceremony

This presentation recapped the week and highlighted developments made relevant for the next stage of the Project. An overview of the components of a NOSCP were shown and relative to this, the progress under each heading was shown. A tentative list of annexes that will be drafted into the NOSCP was shown. This list had been developed over the week and based on discussions.

The presentation also summarised outstanding needs and requests for information from various stakeholders. This session provided participants with a final opportunity to discuss any matters or topics of particular interest.

5.3 Closing Ceremony

Attendance Certificates were presented to all participants together with a USB Flash Drive containing all the presentations and supporting documents used during the workshop.

On behalf of IMO and IPIECA, the GI WACAF Project Manager, Anaïs Guillou thanked the delegates for their active involvement. She specially thanked LiMA for hosting the national workshop.

6. Recommendations from GI WACAF

This workshop was the concluding part of a Project aimed at assisting the Liberian maritime authorities enhancing their first national oil spill contingency plan. It is recommended that the guidance document produced as part of this Project be used to guide and underpin continued development of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan into a finalized draft. We understand the Technical Committee has a deadline of June 2025 to finalize a draft for adoption.

With the conclusion of the project, some final recommendations for LiMA in setting their short and medium-term objectives to achieve their aim are as follows:

1. Transpose OPRC provisions into national law;
2. Understand related Acts governing the role and responsibilities of key government stakeholders. Where no agreement between Acts cannot be found, consider developing interagency cooperation MoU between LiMA, NDMA and EPA.
3. Appoint a core, small group of personnel to act in a Project Management capacity to coordinate and oversee further work of the Technical Committee.
4. Break-down technical work that is still required into working groups comprised of relevant members of the Technical Committee. While all stakeholders on the Technical Committee should be consulted or kept informed of all technical matters, only those that are responsible for certain thematic areas need to draft the relevant components of the Plan.

5. The comments, questions and highlighted points in the guidance documents produced by this project should be addressed by these core workgroups.
6. Actual risk of pollution should be re-assessed using existing data on traffic, potential sources and volumes from the various ports.
7. Some examples of thematic working groups include (these are consultants' opinions only and stakeholders may feel other thematic topics and group composition are more appropriate):
 - a. Legislative review group: identify roles and responsibilities as defined by Acts relevant for pollution preparedness and response (suggested Members: MOJ, LiMA, EPA, LPRA)
 - b. Strategy and coordination group: draft sections relevant to strategic and coordination aspects of the plan (suggested Members: LiMA, NDMA, EPA and MOD)
 - c. At-sea response group: draft tactics, list various assets and capabilities and develop list of needs (suggested Members: LiMA, LCG and NPA).
 - d. Shoreline response: draft guidance on who would respond to shoreline pollution, how and how personnel are to be organised (suggested Members: NDMA, MOD, EPA, NaFAA, LISGIS)
 - e. Environmental group: develop general principles for response in each habitat type. Set priorities for LISGIS ESI related activities and develop protocols for SCAT surveys and data collection/management in the event of a spill (suggested Members: EPA, NaFAA, FDA, LISGIS).
 - f. Finance group: develop strategy for funding ongoing preparedness activities and develop mechanisms for keeping track of and documenting expenses amongst all stakeholders in the event of a spill (suggested Members: LiMA, NPA, NDMA, MOFDP and LPRA)
8. Port level contingency plans involving the private sector should be overseen by the National Ports Authority but should be separate from the national contingency planning process.

7. Feedback from the Participants

It was felt by all that the workshop's objectives were achieved. The success of the event was confirmed by the positive feedback received from the participants through the evaluation questionnaire considering the workshop has been insightful and rewarding.

Overall, the participants expressed their appreciation for the quality of the workshop and its value, and they recognized the importance of

- Knowledge Sharing to facilitate the exchange of best practices, leading to more effective solutions.

- Awareness Raising about the importance of environmental protection and the potential impacts of oil spills, to mobilize support for environmental initiatives.
- Collaboration fostering between different sectors to promote joint efforts towards environmental protection.

They agreed on the importance to move forward with the development of the NOSCP document to sharpen the skills of Liberian and provide the strategy necessary to effectively response not only to oil spill, but other related disaster.

8. Conclusion

The workshop was well attended, with a good representation of stakeholders involved in the National Oil Spill Contingency Planning and a high level of active engagement. The workshop marked the end of this Project in providing technical support to the Liberian maritime authorities with the finalization of their National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. It is understood that the authorities and Technical Committee tasked with drafting the plan will now work to consolidate outputs from the project to draft a finalized version of the plan over the next few months.

9. Annexes

9.1 Annex 1 – Workshop Program

Day 1 – Monday 14 October	
08:30	Registration of participants
09:00	<p>Opening ceremony and workshop introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Address by <i>Anaïs Guillou, GI WACAF Project Manager</i> • Welcome Address by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Honorable Sekou, A.M. Dukuly, Managing Director, National Port Authority</i> ○ <i>Honorable Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr., Commissioner / CEO, Liberia Maritime Authority</i>
09:30	<p>Presentation of the GI WACAF Project <i>Anaïs Guillou, GI WACAF Project Manager</i></p> <p>Introduction of workshop objectives <i>Introduction of the facilitators and objectives of the workshop and programme</i></p>
09:45	Introduction and orientation: Introduction and update to NOSCP project and overview of spill response - <i>Nicky Cariglia</i>
10:30	Group photograph and coffee break
11:00	Fate and behaviour of oil – <i>Julke Brandt</i>
12:00	An introduction to contingency planning, roles and responsibilities and incident management systems- <i>Nicky Cariglia</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Case study: Spill response and lessons learned: A reflection of the Mesurado River Spill - <i>Liberia Petroleum Refining Company</i>
15:00	<p>Introduction to response techniques - <i>Video</i></p> <p>At-sea response strategies (containment and recovery, dispersants and <i>in-situ burning</i>) - <i>Julke Brandt</i></p>
16:30	Planning for day 2 and end of the day

Day 2 – Tuesday 15 October	
09:00	Welcome
09:05	Case study: managing and responding to other emergencies - <i>NDMA</i>
09:30	Spill assessment: monitoring and surveillance – <i>Julke Brandt</i>
10:45	Coffee break
11:00	ESI mapping and trajectory modelling - <i>Julke Brandt</i>
12:00	Response strategies and techniques in practice: focus on Liberia - <i>Nicky Cariglia</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Shoreline response techniques in Liberia - <i>Group discussion</i>
15:15	Coffee break
15:30	Open session
16:30	Planning for day 3 and end of the day

Day 3 – Wednesday 16 October	
09:00	Welcome
09:05	Roles and responsibilities in Liberia - <i>Group discussion</i>
09:35	Post incident operations and recovery frameworks - <i>Nicky Cariglia</i>
10:00	Claims, compensation and the international liability regime – <i>Video</i> <i>Nicky Cariglia</i>
10:45	Coffee break
11:00	Introduction to waste management during a spill – <i>Video</i>
12:00	Waste management during a spill in Liberia - <i>Nicky Cariglia</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Incident management and health and safety - <i>Nicky Cariglia</i>
15:00	Update on Liberia NOSCP sensitivity mapping – <i>LISGIS</i>
15:45	Coffee break
16:00	Command and control and incident management – <i>Liberian Coast Guard</i>
16:30	Planning for day 4 and end of the day

Day 4 – Thursday 17 October	
09:00	Welcome
09 :05	<p>SCAT training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCAT within an incident management system; - Roles and responsibilities of SCAT survey teams; - Recognizing and understanding habitats associated with various shoreline types; - Evaluating oiling conditions and predicting oil behaviour; determining the need for clean-up; - Recommending appropriate responses and viable endpoints; - Identifying sensitive resources <p><i>Julke Brandt and Nicky Cariglia</i></p>
10:30	Coffee break
10:45	SCAT training continued <i>Julke Brandt and Nicky Cariglia</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00	<u>Interactive SCAT session</u> – <i>All</i>
15:30	Coffee break
15:45	Introduction to draft NOSCP documents- <i>Nicky Cariglia and Julke Brandt</i>
16:30	Planning for day 5 and end of day

Day 5 – Friday 15 October	
09:00	Welcome
09 :05	Roundtable discussion on NOSCP documents - <i>All</i>
10:45	Coffee break
11:00	Roundtable discussion on NOSCP documents continued- <i>All</i>
12:00	<p>Conclusion and Closing ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop conclusion and presentation of certificates <i>Anaïs Guillou, GI WACAF Project Manager</i> - Closing address by <i>Hon. Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr., Commissioner / CEO, LiMA</i>
13:00	Lunch

9.2 Annex 2 – List of participants

No	Name	Institution
1.	Richard Donald	LPRC
2.	James Z. Barzon Jr	LISGIS
3.	Matthew S. Gee	LPRC
4.	Burton M. Kawah	FDA
5.	Jamon Banks	NPA
6.	Bohmensahn Yuan	LiMA
7.	Konah Kaliku	LiMA
8.	Melvin Dee Gwaikolo	LiMA
9.	Amos G. Piah	NAFAA
10.	Gayflor Wesley	NDMA
11.	Peter S. Myers	NPA
12.	Herron Bladee	LCG
13.	Melvin T. Johnson	LCG
14.	Thomas L. Davis	LISGIS
15.	Cassius O. Onabiyi	CONEX
16.	Momo N. Kaifa Jr	BMMC
17.	Abdullah C. Conneh	MOT
18.	Tody Marvin Goah	LMS
19.	Oliver Z. Arkoi	MFDP
20.	Isiaka Kakay	GVL
21.	Nahounou Rufus Scott	LPRA
22.	Rolander Kingsley	LiMA
23.	Nadine T. Ajami	LiMA
24.	Majoma M. Kamara	LISGIS
25.	Charles F. Johnson	MOJ
26.	Prince N. Wonnawon	MOJ
27.	Capt. John S-KeK Willie	LCG
28.	Patrick J. Larbelee	MOD
29.	Winston T. Sluwar	MOD
30.	Otis Deah	LiMA
31.	Ransford Moore	SRIMEX
32.	Urias B. Barclay	NaFAA
33.	Dickarmien A. Deemie	SCNL
34.	Benjamin G. Warner	LiMA
35.	Emmanuel S. Kollah	EPA
36.	Christopher B. Togba	LISGIS
37.	Gesler E. Murray Jr.	LPRA
38.	David P. Nawah	MFA
39.	Forkpah T. Dennis	MME
40.	Stephen B. Lavalah	LiMA
41.	Harrison O. Teah	NPA

42.	Jeremiah J. Cole II	WCL
43.	George Goanue Luogon, Sr.	NPA
44.	David S. Dukuly, Jr	NPA
45.	Mabutu M. Dulleh	NPA
46.	Sanford V. Daniels	EPA
47.	Lester N. Sokpah	NOCAL
48.	Gabriel L. Potter, III	NPA
49.	Mohammed S. Sheriff	NPA
50.	Esther K. Nmah	NPA
51.	Bannel S. Dennis	LISGIS
52.	Ellen Ziah- Nimely	NDMA
53.	Peaches K. Surboh	MOD
54.	D. Bernice Kpor	LiMA
55.	Samelia Tweh	Srimex

9.3 Annex 3 – GI WACAF Opening Speech

Distinguished Guests,
 Workshop Participants,
 Ladies and Gentlemen,
 Good morning.

It is an honour for me to deliver this welcome address as representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and IPIECA, the global oil and gas association for environmental and social issues. I would like to welcome all of you to this national workshop on national oil spill contingency planning.

This workshop benefits from the technical and financial support of the IMO and the Ipieca within the framework of the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa. The foundation of the GI WACAF project is entrenched in the various elements of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation or OPRC Convention. This Convention provides a global framework to facilitate international co-operation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to major oil pollutions. Its effective implementation is the major focus area for the project.

In this context, the GI WACAF project established in 2006 aims to strengthen the capacity of countries to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills by promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors, in particular the oil industry.

Whilst strong progress in preparedness has been made, the risk of oil spills remains present in the region. The growing levels of oil and gas activity have coincided with, and contributed to, a large increase in the level of shipping activity in the region. This means that the level of risks of an oil spill are higher. This is why the authorities of Liberia are currently working on the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, the subject that brings us together today.

To support Liberia with the development of its NOSCP, the GI WACAF have set up this specific and reinforced technical assistance over several months.

The national contingency plan is a key document describing the national preparedness and response system in place to ensure an adequate, effective and coordinated response in the event of an oil spill. It is therefore essential to lay the foundations of the plan, taking into account the national context of Liberia, the specific risks and sensitivities, and the country's administrative and territorial organisation. Its development and, above all, its implementation require the commitment of all the institutions concerned, as well as public and private operators in the oil, mining, port and maritime transport sectors. It is the contribution and complementarity of each of the players concerned in terms of human resources, logistics and financial resources, in addition to the resources of the State, that will make the National Plan an effective mechanism.

Over the next five days, the key objective of this national workshop will be to provide training to relevant national stakeholders on the fundamentals of oil spill response, through technical presentations, case studies, table-top exercise and work sessions. The workshop will also aim to discuss components of the NOSCP. We encourage you to participate actively, to ask questions and to foster dialogue this week, to ensure interactive discussions on the issues affecting the oil spill preparedness and response stakeholders.

In concluding, I have the pleasure in conveying to all of you the very best wishes of the IMO Secretary-General, Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, and Mr Brian Sullivan, Executive Director of IPIECA. I would also like to express sincerest thanks to the Liberia Maritime Authority for the organisation and to National Disaster Management Agency for hosting of this special event.

Thank you for your kind attention, and I wish you all a very productive and successful workshop.

9.4 Annex 3 – GI WACAF Closing Speech

Distinguished Guests,
Workshop Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are approaching the end of our workshop on National Oil Spill Contingency Planning.

The activity gathered 55 participants with key national institutions, organizations and companies. Dynamic exchange and discussions were carried out throughout the workshop. Ensuring all key stakeholders have undertaken this training will not only help with writing of the NOSCP but will also prove invaluable in the event of a real spill.

The discussions and recommendations of this week will be captured in an activity report which will be disseminated to you. The report will also be made available to IMO, IPIECA as well as on the GI WACAF website. This capacity building effort will be yet another example of collaboration between the Government of Liberia and the GI WACAF Project.

I would like to draw your attention on Two of the main outcomes of this week:

Liberian maritime regulations DO NOT currently transpose OPRC. We understand that these are “self-executing” but our understanding is that OPRC will still need to be transposed to explicitly designate LiMA as the competent authority for oil spill preparedness and response.

Second, I highly recommend you to take ownership on the guidance documents developed as part of this project. These document are intended to guide your further discussions and you are encouraged to amend and change them until they reflect how in your view a response should unfold in Liberia.

We appreciate everyone’s hard work. This sort of multi-agency collaboration is fundamental in achieving a functional and practicable NOSCP.

In concluding, our heartfelt thanks go to the LiMA DEPUTY Commissioner of vessels registration, Mr John F Harvey for accepting to deliver the closing speech to the present activity. I would also like to thank Stephen Lavalah who spared no efforts in providing us great working conditions throughout the workshop.

I would like to thank our advisors for their energy and efforts into facilitating this activity.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the participants, for your commitment and active participation, without whom the meeting would not have been fruitful.

I thank you for your attention.