

Annual Report 2020

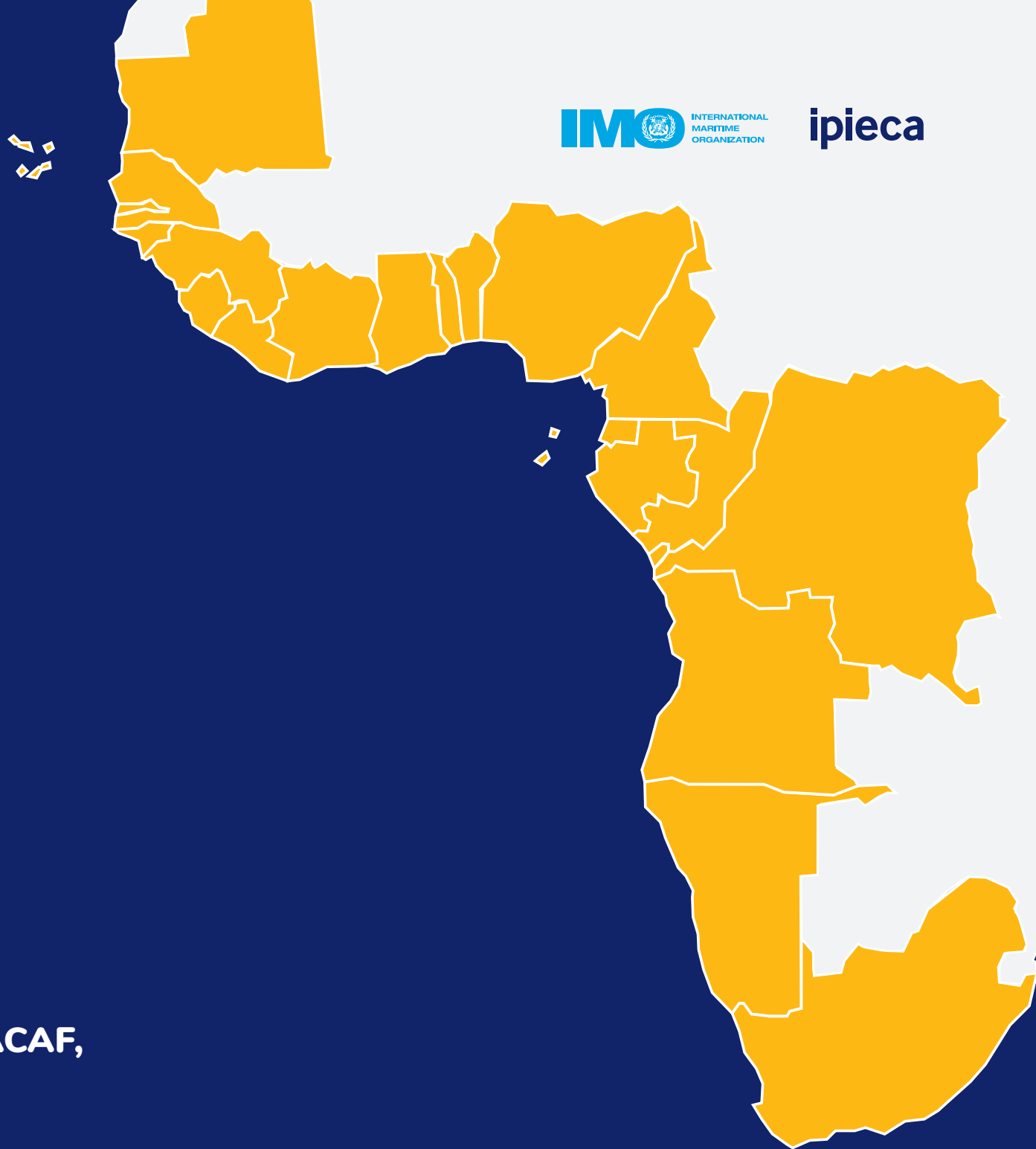


GIWACAF

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please visit www.giwacaf.net



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About the Project

Launched in 2006, the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) Project is a collaboration 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 capability for preparedness and response to 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 organises and delivers workshops, seminars and exercises, that aim to communicate good practice in all aspects of spill preparedness and response, drawing on expertise and experience from within governments, industry and other organisations working in this specialized field. The Project's activities are supported and facilitated by its network of dedicated government and industry Focal Points. Promoting cooperation amongst all relevant government agencies, oil

industry business units and stakeholders nationally, regionally and internationally is a major objective of the Project.

GI WACAF is supported and funded by IMO and seven oil company members of IPIECA, namely BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Eni, Shell, Total and Woodside. More information is available on the [Project's website](#).



ExxonMobil



2020-2021: the 9th work biennium of the GI WACAF Project

2019 marked the end of the 2018-2019 biennium. As per usual, the biennium culminated with the Regional Conference, which took place in October 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa. During the Regional Conference priority actions for the next cycle in view to enhancing oil spill preparedness and response in the region were set and summarized in recommendations. These recommendations were put forward by the national delegates from the GI WACAF participating countries and are all presented in the [Report of the GI WACAF Regional Conference 2019](#). Based on the recommendations, the Project's Secretariat prepared a strategic action plan and a work

program for the 2020-2021 biennium, which were both approved by the Project's Steering Committee.

Unfortunately, the implementation of the work program by the GI WACAF Secretariat has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (see the "2020 review" section below). The implementation phase should have started in March 2020 with a national workshop in Togo, followed in April by a sub-regional workshop for English-speaking countries in Ghana on the ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions into national law. However, the GI WACAF Secretariat has been able to adapt to this unforeseen

situation and several remote activities were implemented. A new webinar series on oil spill preparedness and response was launched in June and several countries benefited from remote assistance on the domestication of IMO conventions or on the review of their draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP).



At the same time, the Project continued to take part in external initiatives dedicated to oil spill preparedness and response in the region. Recognized as a key regional player, GI WACAF was contacted by the PRCM (Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Area in West Africa) to contribute to a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on the environmental management of offshore oil and gas activities. The Project was also contacted by the World Bank to contribute to the West Africa State of the Coast Report 2020.

2020 activities overview

INITIAL DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	TOPIC
January	PORTUGAL	External engagement	GoGIN coordination meeting of international maritime partners
March	SENEGAL	External engagement	Mid-term evaluation meeting of the COBIA initiative
May-September	LIBERIA - ONLINE	Remote legal assistance activity	The effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation
May-September	NAMIBIA - ONLINE	Remote legal assistance activity	The effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation
May-September	NIGERIA - ONLINE	Remote legal assistance activity	The effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation
May-September	THE GAMBIA - ONLINE	Remote legal assistance activity	The effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation
June	ONLINE	External engagement	Oil Spill Group meeting
June	ONLINE	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #1 on introducing oil spill preparedness and response

Legend:

Green: external engagements attended **Blue:** GI WACAF activities implemented

INITIAL DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	TOPIC
July	ONLINE	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #2 on preparedness and response to oil spills - focus on the international legal framework
August	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE - ONLINE	Remote assistance activity	Critical review of the draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP)
September	ONLINE	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #3 on oil spill contingency planning, perspectives from the private sector and national authorities
September	ONLINE	External engagement	Oil Spill Group meeting
November	ONLINE	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #4 on at-sea response techniques
December	LIBERIA - ONLINE	Remote assistance activity	Critical review of the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map of Liberia
December	ONLINE	External engagement	Oil Spill Group meeting
December	ONLINE	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #5 on shoreline response techniques



2020 review

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions strongly challenged the implementation of the work program by the GI WACAF Secretariat and changed the Project's way to operate in many aspects. Even though it became impossible to travel and lead activities in region, the focus of many members of the GI WACAF network was logically reoriented towards the response to the pandemic. In what was to become the "new paradigm", the GI WACAF Secretariat had to innovate and to strategically rethink the way the Project supports the region.

The reconstruction of the Project's way to operate is based on three main pillars, and has been made possible with the

constant and constructive support from the Project's members and stakeholders:

1. Remote assistance on technical and policy aspects;
2. Online training; and
3. Networking and partnership.

As this annual report shows, several projects have been delivered or are currently underway under each of these three pillars. Even if the GI WACAF Secretariat hopes to be back as soon as possible in the region and deliver face-to-face activities again, this reorganisation allows for the continuation of the journey towards better oil spill preparedness and response capacities in the region.

2020 review of GI WACAF activities

6 activities have been organised in 2020 with 5 countries:

- 4 countries have benefited from a remote legal assistance on the ratification and implementation of IMO conventions:

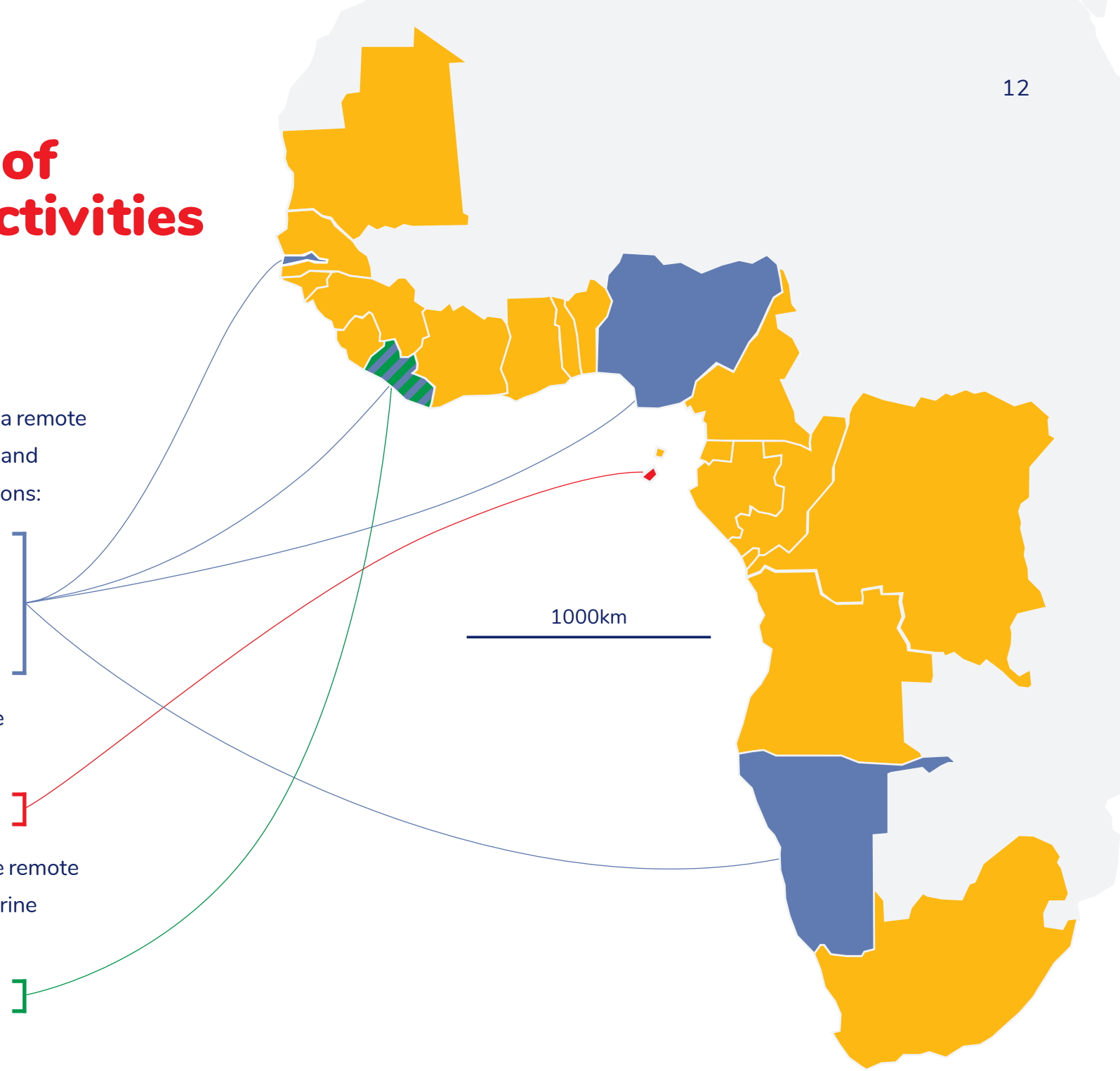
-  Liberia
-  Namibia
-  Nigeria
-  The Gambia

- 1 country has benefited from the remote review of its NOSCP:

-  Sao Tome & Principe

- 1 country has benefited from the remote review of the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map:

-  Liberia

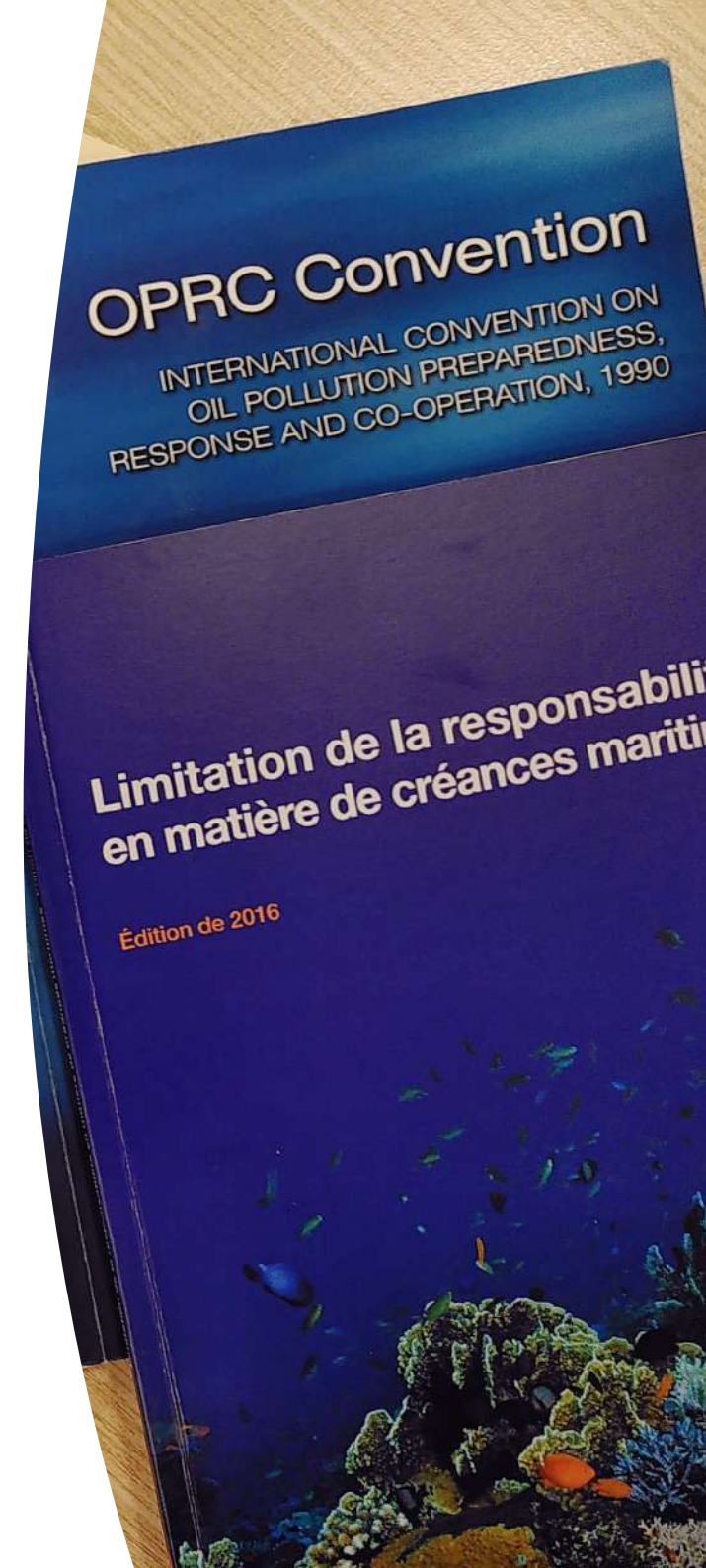


2020 GI WACAF activities overview

Remote legal assistance on the ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation – Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, The Gambia

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GI WACAF team launched its first fully remote assistance activity to support four countries in the review of their relevant national implementation texts. The objective of these remote activities was to assist policy makers who are responsible for the implementation of IMO conventions into their domestic legislation in understanding the principles and legal implications of relevant IMO instruments (i.e. OPRC 1990, CLC 1992,

FUND 1992, and Bunkers 2001) when updating national laws. Activity reports have been published on the GI WACAF website: [Liberia](#), [Namibia](#), [Nigeria](#) and [The Gambia](#) and more information on this remote legal assistance is provided in the next section (cf. “2020 highlights”) below.



GI WACAF first webinar series on the basics of oil spill preparedness and response – online

As a result of its adaptation process to the new circumstances, the GI WACAF Project launched its webinar series on oil spill preparedness and response to continue to pursue its capacity building objective remotely and reach a worldwide audience. This series aimed at presenting the key aspects (technical, legal, institutional, and technical) of oil spill preparedness and response, from the regulatory international framework to the shoreline or at-sea response techniques as well as the importance of contingency planning. More information on this webinar series is provided in the next section (cf. “2020 highlights”) below and on the dedicated [Project’s website area](#).



**Review of the draft National Oil
Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP)
– Sao Tome and Principe**

Sao Tome and Principe is currently in the process of drafting its NOSCP. GI WACAF is supporting this effort and is working with experts to remotely review the draft NOSCP in contact with the authorities of Sao Tome and Principe, before providing them with feedback during a face-to-face national workshop that will be organised in 2021. A tailored report including a gap analysis and a set of recommendations will be consequently drafted and sent to the authorities to provide them with a different perspective and trigger discussions and potential improvement of the document. It is notably based on the recommendations made during the last GI WACAF workshop on contingency planning that took place in 2016 in Sao Tome and Principe.



Critical review of the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map – Liberia

Following a request made by the authorities of Liberia, GI WACAF agreed to provide support to constructively review and comment the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map of Liberia. The GI WACAF team was supported during this endeavour by experts from ITOPF, who provided high-level and specific comments in the form of a separate document. The GI WACAF team also reviewed and commented the main document.

The objectives of this remote assistance activity are to (1) assist policy makers

and national authorities, responsible for oil spill preparedness and response in Liberia; and (2) provide the policy makers and national authorities with comments made by experts well versed in the field of oil spill preparedness and response, and oil spill sensitivity mapping, in order to support the policy makers and national authorities during the review process of the sensitivity map.

Both the experts and the GI WACAF team presented their findings during a virtual meeting organised by the GI WACAF Project team in January 2021, before leaving the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map to the final revision of the Liberia Maritime Authority.





2020 highlights

Feedback on remote legal assistance on the ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation – Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, The Gambia

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided to postpone until further notice the sub-regional workshop on the ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation that was supposed to take place in Accra, Ghana, from 27 to 30 April 2020, in the interest of the health and safety of participants, experts and host-country. This workshop should have mirrored the successful workshop held in March 2019 in Abidjan on the same topic with Francophone countries.

However, GI WACAF remained committed to remotely supporting the countries invited to the Ghana workshop. After consultations with the Focal Points of the seven invited countries on the feasibility of a remote activity, four countries ([Liberia](#), [Namibia](#), [Nigeria](#) and [The Gambia](#)) volunteered for a remote review of their relevant national implementation texts.

The overall objective of these remote activities remains the same, which is to assist policy makers, legislative advisers and/or drafters, responsible for the implementation of IMO conventions into their domestic legislation in understanding the objectives, principles and legal implications of relevant IMO instruments (relevant IMO Conventions, i.e. OPRC 1990, CLC 1992, FUND



1992, and Bunkers 2001), and to guide them on legislative mechanisms that should be applied when developing and updating national laws.

The assistance took place in three phases from May to September.

1. May

Questionnaires on the ratification and implementation of the IMO Conventions on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response, and on Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage were sent to Focal Points located in national authorities, who also provided relevant legislation to be reviewed.

2. June - August

A regional expert hired as a consultant, in liaison with the national authorities, the IMO Secretariat and the IOPC Fund, did a remote review of the questionnaires completed by the authorities as well as the study of the national implementing legislation and drafted a report with a gap analysis of the current national legislation. He also provided recommendations to be discussed with each country.

3. September

Finally, online debriefings with each national delegation were organised for the restitution of the results. A national action plan was collectively

drafted, and discussions were held on the implementation of the recommendations in the future, which can be the basis of future activities.

Depending on the global health and sanitary situation, we aim to organise the sub-regional workshop on regional harmonization with a view to developing a regional action plan next year.

Feedback on the first GI WACAF webinar series on the basics of oil spill preparedness and response

As a result of its adaptation process to the new circumstances, the GI WACAF Project launched its webinar series on oil spill preparedness and response to continue to pursue its capacity building objective remotely and reach a worldwide audience. This series aimed at presenting the key aspects (technical, legal, institutional, and technical) of oil spill preparedness and response, from the regulatory international framework to the shoreline or at-sea response techniques as well as the importance of contingency planning.



The first GI WACAF webinar series addressed the following topics between June and December 2020:

Webinar	Topic	Date	Presentations
#1	Introduction to oil spill preparedness and response	24/06/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources and fates of maritime oil spills • Environmental and economic impacts of oil spills • The key role of IMO in oil spill preparedness and response and technical cooperation
#2	The international legal framework	15/07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IMO and the OPRC 90 convention • The international liability & compensation regime for tanker oil spills • The compensation and liability regime for non-tanker oil spills and the principle of transposition of this convention into national law
#3	Oil spill contingency planning	16/09/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to oil spill contingency planning • South Africa National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSP) and case study • Oil spill contingency planning in the oil and gas industry in Angola
#4	At-sea response techniques	18/11/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-sea response techniques • Case study on at-sea response techniques • Response strategy decision-making – Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) and Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA)
#5	Shoreline response techniques	09/12/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Technique (SCAT): a decision-making tool • Shoreline clean-up techniques • Case study on shoreline response techniques

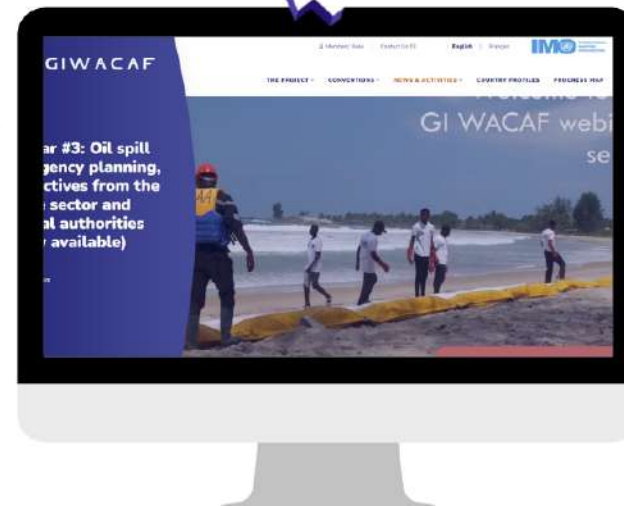
Two sessions were organised for each webinar: one in French in the morning and one in English in the afternoon. The GI WACAF team decided to deliver 90-minute webinars as topics covered during this first series were key for participants with different backgrounds to understand the basics of oil spill preparedness and response from various angles. The webinars were recorded and are available in replay on the [Project's website](#), as well as all the webinars' material – including presentations and other related documents.

Efforts have been made by the GI WACAF team to enhance both communication around webinars and interaction with the audience during sessions. These efforts as well as the high quality of presentations delivered during the entire series were much appreciated by the audience.

All webinar resources are freely accessible

On the GI WACAF website

- > www.giwacaf.net
- > "Videos & webinars"
- > select "2020" as filter



On the Youtube channel
> "GI WACAF Project"

Results and outreach: a worldwide audience

In total, the GI WACAF first webinar series gathered 22 renowned experts and more than 1000 attendees worldwide. In all sessions, the GI WACAF region represented the highest shares of both the Francophone and Anglophone audiences. Other Global Initiatives and associated centres were also represented, especially by REMPEC and REMPEITC participants – thus demonstrating the transnational aspects of topics covered by GI WACAF webinars during this first season. Regarding the top countries represented in all sessions, there were many participants attending GI WACAF webinars from South

Africa, Angola and Nigeria. In Francophone audiences, the most represented GI WACAF countries were Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal, and many Focal Points or former participants to GI WACAF workshops attended the webinars. In total, participants from more than 95 countries have been attending GI WACAF webinars during the first season.



Lessons learned for the next webinar series

The GI WACAF team drafted a report to analyse data collected throughout the first webinar series and suggest recommendations for the 2021 edition. Through the evaluation survey conducted at the end of 2020, former attendees suggested that such specialized topics as wildlife response, waste management and liability and compensation are addressed in the next webinar series. These suggestions highlight the fact that after a first webinar series that was dedicated to the basics of oil spill

preparedness and response, expectations are now to address both more technical and regional-specific themes regarding oil spill preparedness and response. The GI WACAF team is now willing to adapt its format so that 2021 webinars are even shorter, livelier, and practice-oriented (relying on experience-sharing by GI WACAF Focal Points).



External meetings and conferences

GoGIN coordination meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, 13-14 January 2020

Along with major institutional partners such as EMSA, the European Fisheries Control Agency or UNDC (the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), GI WACAF attended the GoGIN coordination meeting of maritime international partners in the Gulf of Guinea, which took place in Lisbon, Portugal, on the 13th and 14th January 2020.

The objective of this meeting was to favour mutual knowledge and information sharing between the different

initiatives and to identify possible areas of cooperation between the different partners working on maritime safety, security and protection of the environment issues in the Gulf of Guinea.

GoGIN (Gulf of Guinea Inter-regional Network) is an EU-funded project that aims to foster inter-regional cooperation from Senegal to Angola on maritime safety and security issues, including accidental pollution of the marine environment. GI WACAF and GoGIN have been working together since 2018 and successfully implemented a [joint activity in Benin in 2019](#).



Mid-term evaluation meeting of the COBIA initiative in Dakar, Senegal, 09-13 March 2020

GI WACAF is working in close collaboration with the COBIA initiative, a project funded by the MAVA foundation. GI WACAF and COBIA share common goals in terms of the strengthening of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plans and implementation of IMO's OPRC Convention. This is why GI WACAF has been invited by the MAVA foundation to attend this mid-term evaluation meeting.

After three years of implementation,

MAVA organized the mid-term evaluation of the action plan "Environmental Management of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities" in March 2020, in Dakar, Senegal. The purpose of this meeting was essentially to assess the progress made by the Outcome Action Plan, in particular the level of achievement of results, progress in implementing strategies and collaboration between implementing partners. It also allowed participants to revisit the Theory of Change (results chain) developed at the beginning of the Outcome Action Plan and to focus on the strategic priorities to be pursued in the second phase.

As a result of comments made by the GI WACAF team during this meeting, the oil spill preparedness and response strategy of the COBIA initiative was reconstructed, improved and validated by the grants allocation committee of the MAVA Foundation for a phase 2 that will last until 2022.

Oil Spill group, online, 09 June 2020

The Oil Spill Group is an IPIECA working group that aims to develop and disseminate good practices worldwide to enable industry and stakeholders to improve oil spill preparedness and response. The GI WACAF, as a Project involved in the dissemination of good practices, is invited to participate in the biannual meetings of this group in order to keep abreast of developments in the field (new IPIECA publications, ongoing work on dispersants, studies on new low-sulphur fuel oils, etc.). The Oil spill group was held by videoconference due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which was at the centre of the discussions. Different actors gave feedback on the different ways of adapting to the current crisis and on how to ensure a response in case of an oil spill.



Participation in the drafting of the 2020 West African State of the Coast Report, World bank (WACA Program)

As a recognized regional actor in the field of pollution preparation and response, GI WACAF was contacted by the World Bank to participate in the drafting of a report on marine and costal pollution and pressures in West and Central Africa. This study was launched in the framework of a program called WACA, which aims to federate the different initiatives working for the resilience of coastal zones in West Africa and providing a concerted, coherent, and harmonized response to the different countries. The creation of the Regional Observatory of the West African Coast (ORLOA) and the regular

publication of the West African State of the Coast Report are among the tools developed to meet this objective. In 2020, the update of the West African State of the Coast Report was to be carried out, with the objective of having a document composed of chapters or sub-sections directly written by different partners – therefore the GI WACAF has been contacted. It is a source of pride to see that the Project is now fully recognized as a key actor and expert in the field of oil spill preparedness and response in the region.



**Oil Spill Group, online,
30 September 2020**

This second Oil Spill Group meeting of the year was held by videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and featured discussions on the progress report on the pandemic responses workstream, which highlighted both physical and virtual response considerations; and the start of the review of the Good Practice Guide.

**Oil Spill Group, online,
1 December 2020**

This third Oil Spill Group meeting of the year was held by videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and allowed for discussions on the proposed updates to the Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™) software and the project to upgrade the RETOS™ knowledge database with the latest available information and science; dispersant uses and misuses in recent incidents; and the work of IMO with regards to the OPRC Convention and its involvement in recent incidents.





Institutions we work with

GoGIN

The Gulf of Guinea Inter-Regional Network (GoGIN) aims at enhancing inter-regional maritime safety and security cooperation, including accidental pollution of the marine environment, from Senegal to Angola through direct support to the implementation of the conclusions of the Yaoundé Summit and Code of Conduct. GoGIN and the GI WACAF are cooperating on oil spill related topics in the region since 2018 and successfully implemented a [joint activity in Benin in 2019](#).



World Bank

Since 2020 GI WACAF is cooperating with the World Bank, which is managing a program called WACA (West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program), to participate in the drafting of a report on marine and coastal pollution and pressures in West and Central Africa. This first cooperation with the World Bank and the WACA Program is promising and places the action of the GI WACAF within a broader perspective of protection of the marine and coastal environment, giving its full meaning to the Project.



WeCAPS

GI WACAF was contacted by the European project WeCAPS following the first webinar. Launched in January 2019 for 4 years, the mandate of WeCAPS is to help improve port security in West and Central Africa. The WeCAPS project, funded by the European Union, is implemented by Expertise France on the same model as the GoGIN project with which GI WACAF is collaborating (see [Mid-Year Review 2019](#) and the [joint activity in Benin](#)). The third component of its action on crisis management in ports covers anti-pollution and oil spill response.

It was decided to share information on WeCaps and GI WACAF respective activities to see in the longer term the possibilities of collaboration. Possible synergies and coordination possibilities on this component are under study to avoid duplication and to convey a coherent message to the different national and port actors.



The MAVA Foundation

The MAVA Foundation supports conservation that benefits people and nature through four formal Programmes, among them one in the Coastal West Africa. Under this programme, the action plan number 4 aims at promoting a sustainable management of oil and gas activities. This action plan is implemented by a project known as the COBIA project. Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone are the four countries benefiting from this initiative. Part of this project is devoted to oil spill contingency planning in the region., which is the precise aspect on which GI WACAF and MAVA collaborate.



PRCM

Following the mid-term evaluation of the COBIA initiative (see above), the coordination and facilitation of the initiative was handed over to a single regional partner, the PRCM (Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone of West Africa.) A new cooperation has been established between GI WACAF and the PRCM on oil spill contingency planning aspects. The dialogue has been fruitful and has enabled the integration of the priorities of GI WACAF within COBIA's work programmes to avoid duplication of efforts.



A network of trained and dedicated GI WACAF Focal Points across the region

The GI WACAF Project relies on a network of Focal Points from governments and industry that ensure the effective implementation of the Work Plan. Every year, the involvement of our Focal Points is critical to the successful delivery of our program. We seize this opportunity to thank all the Focal Points and particularly those acknowledged below, for their commitment and proactive contribution to the achievements of the GI WACAF objectives during the 2020-2021 biennium.

Abdou Sene – Senegal

Captain Abdou Sene is currently the Secretary General of the HASSMAR (High Authority responsible for the coordination of marine safety, marine security and the protection of the marine environment). With a sovereign coordination mission in all areas relating to safety, security, and environmental protection in both maritime and river waters under Senegalese jurisdiction, the HASSMAR is the central structure of the State which oversees the application of security

policies throughout the maritime and river sector and the country's shoreline. Fully aware of the increasing risks of oil spill given the recently growing exploration and production activities off Senegal, Captain Abdou Sene regularly engages with the GI WACAF team to design activities that will improve Senegalese oil spill preparedness and response capabilities. Currently, the GI WACAF Project is working with HASSMAR on the development of the at-sea/shoreline interface preparedness and response plan.

Daniel Tarr – Liberia

Daniel Tarr is currently working with the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) as the Director of Marine Environmental Protection. On behalf of the government of the Republic of Liberia, LiMA is mandated to design and enforce laws and regulations directly and indirectly relating to the functioning, growth and development of the maritime sector, and national maritime awareness. As GI WACAF Focal Point in Liberia, Director Daniel Tarr was highly involved in GI WACAF remote legal

assistance on the ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation. Together with the GI WACAF team, he is currently working on the critical review of the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map of Liberia.

Manuel Rosario – Sao Tome and Principe

Manuel Fernandes de Ceita Vaz do Rosario is currently working at the General Directorate of Environment, at the Ministry of Infrastructure Natural Resources and Environment in Sao Tome and Principe. As GI WACAF Focal Point, he is involved in the critical review of the draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP).

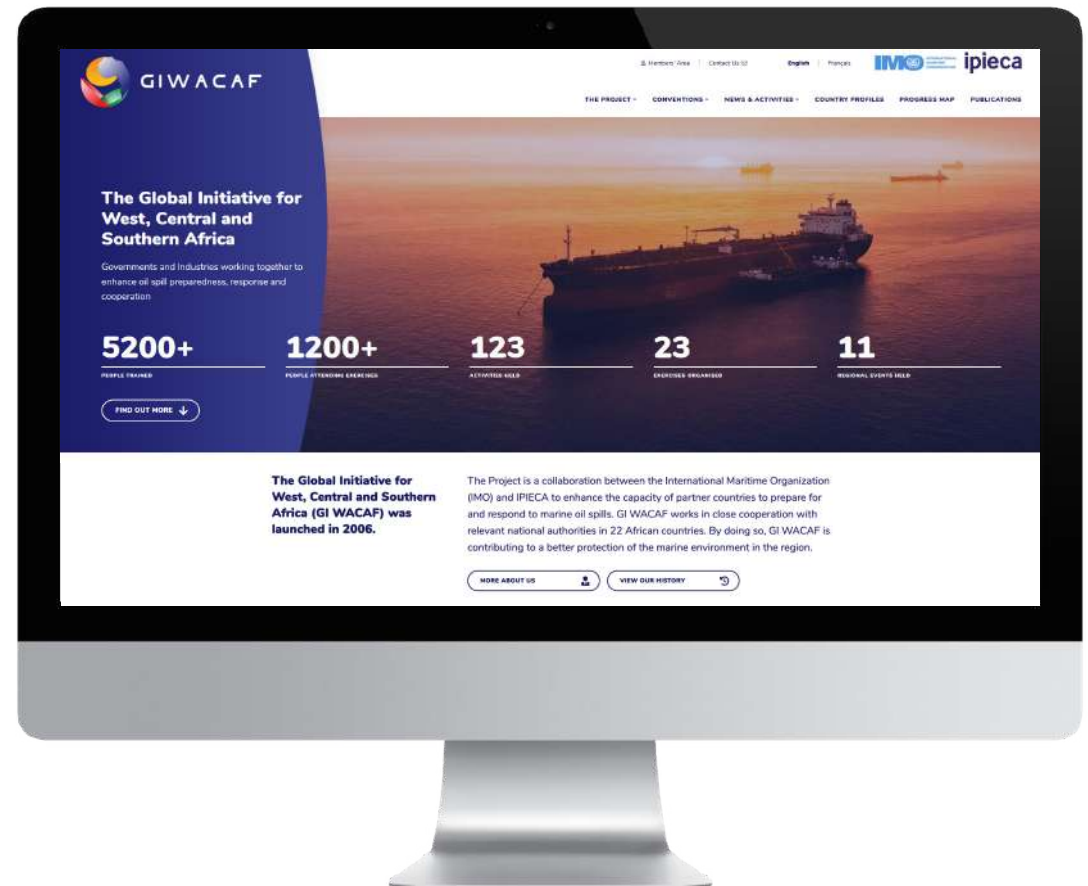


Communication

New website

The website is the main external communication tool of the GI WACAF Project. It was decided to redesign the website to make sure it is an efficient tool both for the industry and for the partner countries. It is important to remember that all documents related to the project (both midyear and annual reviews, activity reports, countries information, etc.) are available on the [GI WACAF website](#) which is regularly updated.

The new website was officially launched on 15 January 2020 and is available at the same address as before to ensure maximum continuity.



New concept note

The new concept note presenting the GI WACAF Project and its results achieved since 2006 is now available in English and in French [on the website](#) in an updated and more visual version.



LinkedIn page

The newly created Project's [LinkedIn page](#) has now over 500 subscribers thanks to the GI WACAF team's efforts to implement a new content strategy and provide the followers with both regular and diversified updates. Among other new posts, the team decided to launch an animated weekly press review to gather the most recent news regarding the maritime sector, the oil and gas industry and the marine environment of the GI WACAF region. Building upon the Project's concept note, [animated infographics](#) in both French and English were regularly published on the LinkedIn page to welcome new followers and explain the purpose, geographical scope and objectives of the Project.

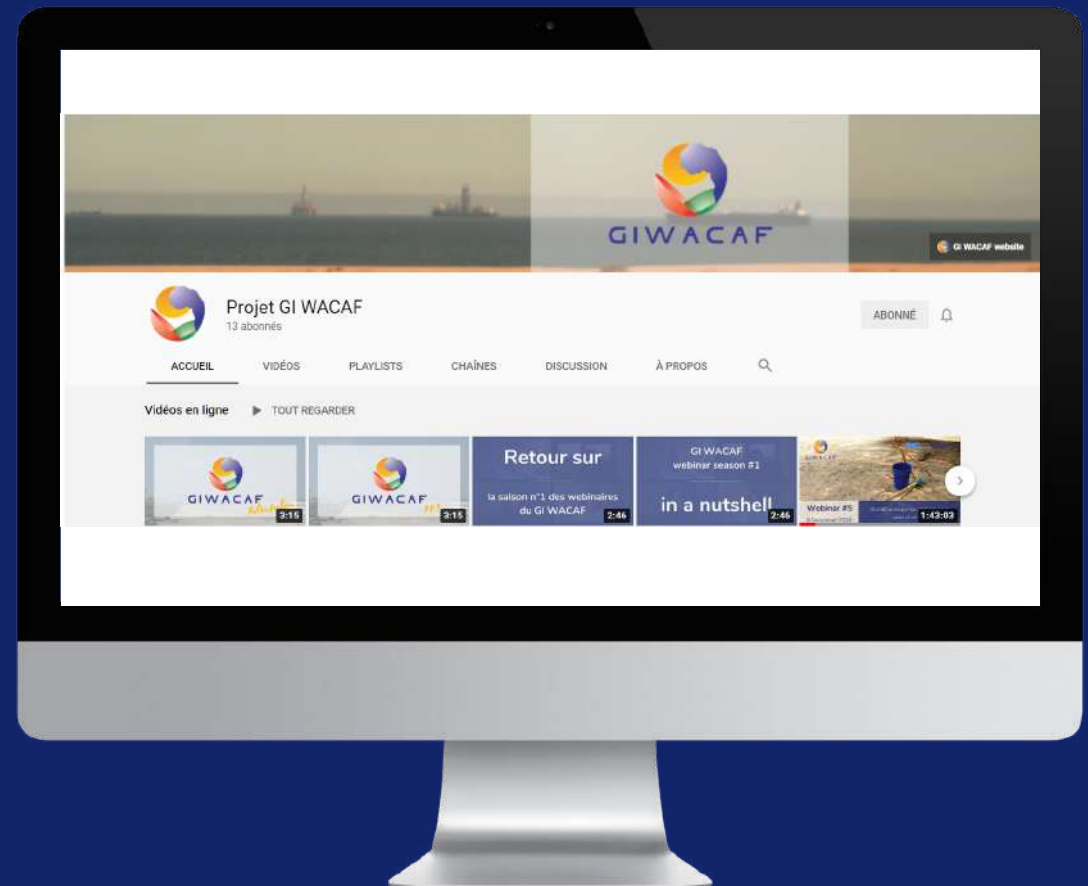


To sum up, the Project's LinkedIn page is a very useful tool to keep abreast with the Project's latest activities, including the recently launched webinars.



YouTube channel

GI WACAF also launched a [YouTube channel](#) to broadcast webinars' replay videos, as well as animated infographics to illustrate the activities carried out and the results obtained.

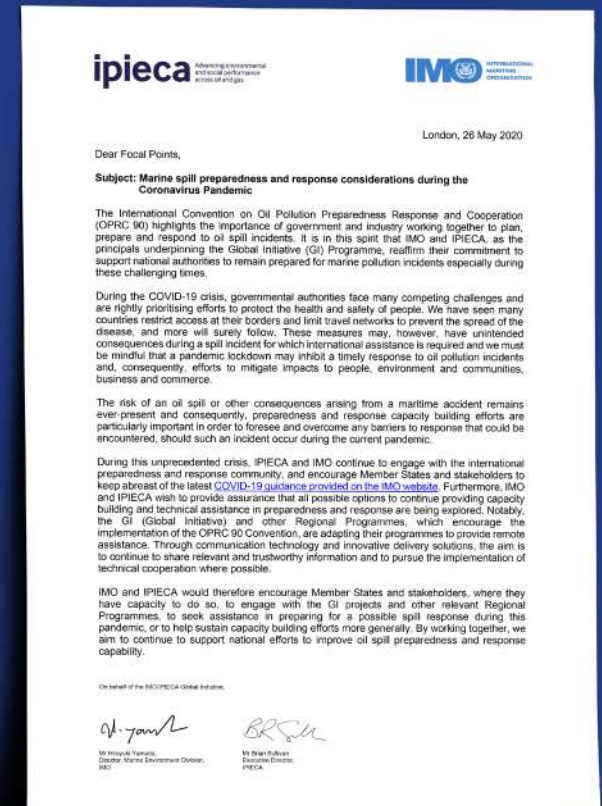


IMO & IPIECA joint letter on Covid-19 pandemic

In a joint letter, IMO and IPIECA, as the principal authorities underpinning the Global Initiative (GI) Program, reaffirmed their commitment to support national authorities to remain prepared for marine pollution incidents especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. They underlined the fact that the risk of an oil spill or other consequences arising from a maritime accident remains ever-present.

During this unprecedented crisis, IPIECA and IMO continue to engage with the international preparedness and response community, and encourage

Member States and stakeholders to keep abreast of the latest COVID-19 guidance provided on the [IMO website](#) and to engage with the GI Projects, such as GI WACAF, to seek assistance in preparing for a possible spill response during this pandemic, or to help sustain capacity building efforts more generally.



2020 Mid-year review

In mid-2020, the GI WACAF published the Mid-year Review 2020. It includes details about the adaptation of the work program to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as remote assistance activities and external engagement organised during the first half of the year. The document is available on the website in [English](#) and in [French](#).



Planned activities for 2021

As current travel restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic are challenging the implementation of the 2021 work program, the GI WACAF team keeps working on remote assistance activities, online training and partnerships while expecting to resume in-countries activities as soon as possible in safe conditions.



TENTATIVE DATE	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	TOPIC
January	Remote assistance	Liberia	Critical review of the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map of Liberia
January	Remote assistance	Angola, Congo, DRC	Launch of a study on transboundary oil spill contingency planning in Central Africa
March	Remote assistance	Senegal	Critical review of the draft Shoreline Response Plan
March	External engagement	Online	Coordination Meeting - International Maritime Partners in the Gulf of Guinea (CRIMSON)
March	Webinar	Online	GI WACAF webinar #1, season #2
April	External engagement	Online	Oil Spill Group meeting
April	Webinar	Online	GI WACAF webinar #2, season #2
April/May	Online Training	Togo	Liability and compensation in case of an oil spill
May	External engagement	Online	International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC)
May	Webinar	Online	GI WACAF webinar #3, season #2
June	Webinar	Online	GI WACAF webinar #4, season #2
July	Webinar	Online	GI WACAF webinar #5, season #2

Legend:

Green: external engagements **Blue:** GI WACAF activities **Red:** Biennial regional conference

TENTATIVE DATE	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	TOPIC
September	Webinar	Online	GI WACAF webinar #6, season #2
Q3	National workshop	Sao Tome and Principe	Review of the draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP)
Q3	National workshop	Togo	Need assessment and Development of terms of reference concerning oil spill response equipment and subsequent training
Q3	National workshop	Namibia	Test of NOSCP and industry contingency plans
Q4	National workshop	Mauritania	Defining a national policy for dispersant use (as part of the “Environmental Management of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities” program)
Q4	National training	Senegal	Use of dispersants and update of the national policy (as part of the “Environmental Management of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities” program)
October	Webinar	Online	GI WACAF webinar #7, season #2
Q4	National workshop	Guinea-Bissau	Assistance to review and finalize draft NOSCP (as part of the “Environmental Management of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities” program)
Q4	National workshop	Sierra Leone	National Workshop on the development of the annexes of the NOSCP (waste management plan, dispersants use policy...) (as part of the “Environmental Management of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities” program)
Q4	Regional Conference	22 countries	9th Regional Conference of the GI WACAF
November	Webinar	Online	GI WACAF webinar #8, season #2

Governance and Secretariat

Strategic level

Anatole Cramer from Total was elected as Industry Vice-Chair.



Rupert Bravery
Industry Chair



Patricia Charlebois
Chair (IMO)



Richard Santner
Industry Vice-Chair



Andy Keane
Industry Vice-Chair



Anatole Cramer
Industry Vice-Chair



Clément Chazot
IMO



Rob Cox
IPIECA

Implementation level

During autumn 2020, the GI WACAF Project has welcomed in a new team. Chloé Gondo joined as Project Coordinator in October, replacing Emilie Canova, who then took over from Julien Favier as Project Manager in February 2021. Together they form a complementary team ready to pursue the important objectives of the Project.



Emilie Canova
GI WACAF Project Manager
emilie.canova@ipieca.org



Chloé Gondo
GI WACAF Project Coordinator
cgondo@imo.org



ExxonMobil



ipieca

The GI WACAF Project is
an IMO / IPIECA Cooperation