

Mid-year review 2020



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GIWACAF

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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 organizes 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 organizations 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



A word from the team - GI WACAF and the Covid-19 pandemic: adapting to the new situation

Since 2006, GI WACAF focuses on delivering capacity-building activities in-region to achieve its strategic objective: to improve national capacities in oil spill preparedness and response in 22 countries in order to protect the marine environment and sustain the blue economy. Our way to operate is deeply rooted in our long-standing experience. Our network in the region is strong thanks to our industry and government focal points. As a result of our work, the level of oil spill preparedness and response in the region has steadily improved since 2006.

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions strongly challenged our way to operate in many aspects. For

example, it became impossible to travel and lead activities in region, and, logically, the focus of many members of our network was reoriented towards the response to the pandemic. In what was to become the “new paradigm”, the GI WACAF team had to innovate and to strategically rethink the way the Project supports the region.

The reconstruction of our way to operate is based on three main pillars:

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

As this mid-year review shows, several projects have been delivered or are

currently underway under each of these three pillars. Even if we do hope to be back soon in the region and deliver face-to-face activities again, this reorganization allows for the continuation of the journey towards better oil spill preparedness and response capacities in the region.

We appreciate that this reorganization was made possible only with the constant and constructive support from our members and stakeholders, and we seize this opportunity to deeply thank our community.

The GI WACAF team



2020 Mid-Year Review 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 Secretariat prepared a strategic action plan and a work programme for the 2020-2021

biennium, which were both approved by the Project's Steering Committee.

Unfortunately, the implementation of the work programme by the GI WACAF Secretariat has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The implementation phase should have started in March 2020 with a national workshop in Togo, followed in April by 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 (see above "GI WACAF and the Covid-19 pandemic: adapting to the new 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, the GI WACAF Project was contacted by the PRCM to contribute to the design, approval and subsequent implementation of the Cobia initiative (see below for more details) and by the World Bank to contribute to the West Africa State of the Coast Report 2020.

Calendar of events 2020

INITIAL DATES	NEW DATES (when known)	LOCATION	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	TOPIC
13-14 January 2020	–	PORTUGAL	External engagement	GoGIN coordination meeting
09-13 March 2020	–	SENEGAL	External engagement	Mid-term evaluation meeting of the COBIA initiative
25-27 March 2020	TBC	TOGO	National	Workshop on the compensation regime for damage caused by marine oil pollution
April 2020	May – September 2020	THE GAMBIA	remote legal assistance	Transposition of IMO Conventions
April 2020	May – September 2020	NIGERIA	remote legal assistance	Transposition of IMO Conventions
April 2020	May – September 2020	NAMIBIA	remote legal assistance	Transposition of IMO Conventions
April 2020	May – September 2020	LIBERIA	remote legal assistance	Transposition of IMO Conventions
Q2 2020	TBC	MAURITANIA	National	National workshop to define a national policy for dispersant use
Q2 2020	TBC	SENEGAL	National	National training on the use of dispersants and update of the national policy
April 2020	2021 ?	CONGO	External engagement	COP 13 of the Abidjan Convention
May 2020	May 2021	USA	External engagement	IOSC
June 2020	–	Online	External engagement	Oil Spill Group
August 2020	Q3 2020	SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	National	National system for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to oil spills – Assistance to start the development of the NOSCP

Key

Red: activity or external event cancelled **Green:** ongoing or implemented remote assistance

Grey: activity or external event on hold – postponed **Yellow:** external meeting attended

2020 review of GI WACAF activities

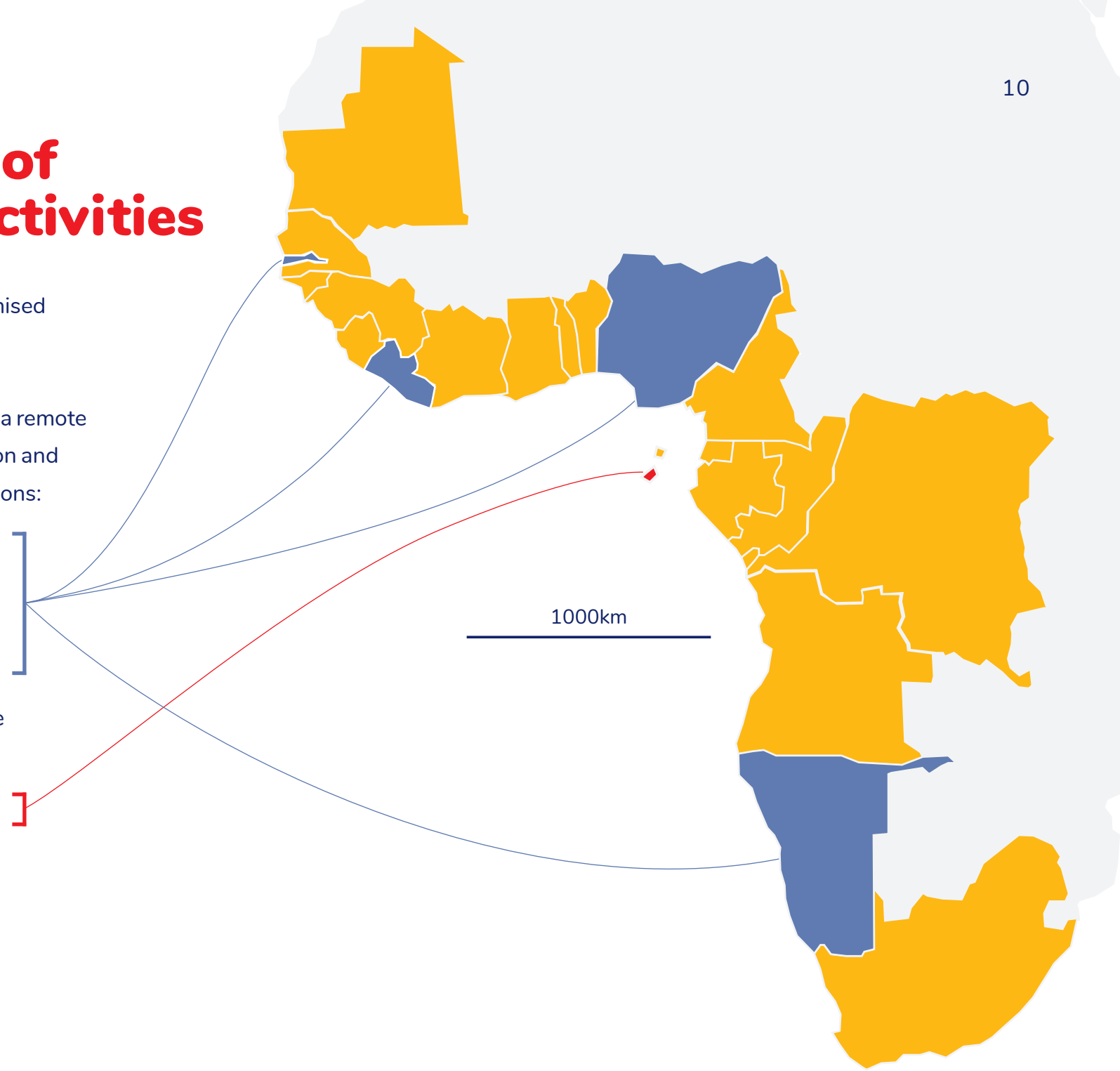
So far, 5 activities have been organised in 2020 with 5 countries:

- 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



Remote activities

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 current Coronavirus 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.

OPRC Convention

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON
OIL POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS,
RESPONSE AND CO-OPERATION, 1990

Limitation de la responsabilité en matière de créances maritimes

Édition de 2016

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 organized for the restitution of the results and to start a dialogue 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, the idea is to organize the sub-regional workshop on regional harmonization with a view to developing a regional action plan next year. A report with general lessons learned useful for other countries in the region will also be drafted.



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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 National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. 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 provide recommendations. A tailored report with observations and recommendation 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 will notably be based on the recommendations made during the last GI WACAF workshop in Sao Tome on contingency planning [that took place in 2016.](#)



Online trainings

GI WACAF Webinar Series on 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.

This series aims at presenting the key aspects of oil spill preparedness and response. Various aspects (legal, institutional, and technical) are covered, from the regulatory international framework to the shoreline or at sea response techniques as well as the importance of contingency planning. The first webinar of the series was held in June 2020. All the GI WACAF webinars are free and open to everyone.

Two sessions are organized for each webinar, one in French in the morning and one in English in the afternoon. The webinars are recorded and available in replay on the [Project's website](#).



Webinar #1 – Introduction to oil spill preparedness and response – 24th June

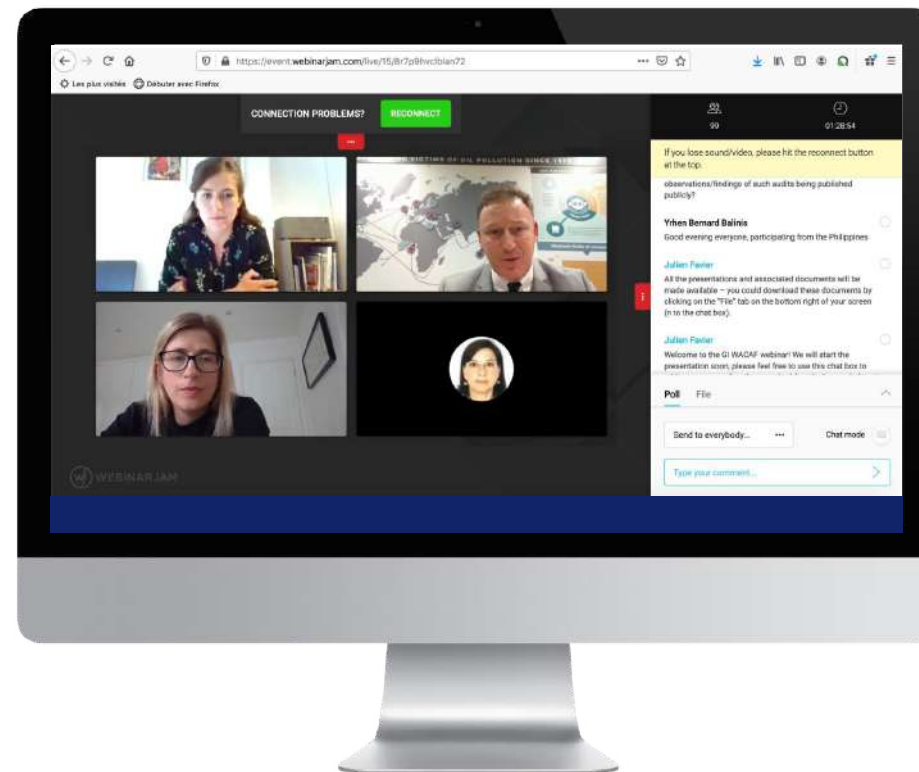
In this first session, 3 experts from leading institutions (International Maritime Organization, ITOPIF, Cedre and OSRL) provided an introduction to oil spill preparedness and response. After a presentation on the risk and sources of oil spills, a second speaker highlighted the potential socio-economic and environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures. Finally, the critical role of technical cooperation and the work of the Global Initiative were explained.



Webinar #2 – Preparedness and response to oil spills: focus on the international legal framework – 15th July

This second live webinar with experts from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) was dedicated to the international legal framework, which governs many aspects of oil spill preparedness and response at the global and national levels. The aim was to give an understanding of the functioning of IMO as a regulatory body; of the key conventions relating to the marine environment and oil spill preparedness and response; of basic principles of the transposition of international conventions

into national law; of the OPRC Convention and its main dispositions; of the liability and compensation regime, the difference between tanker spills and non-tanker spills; and of the functioning of the IOPC Funds.



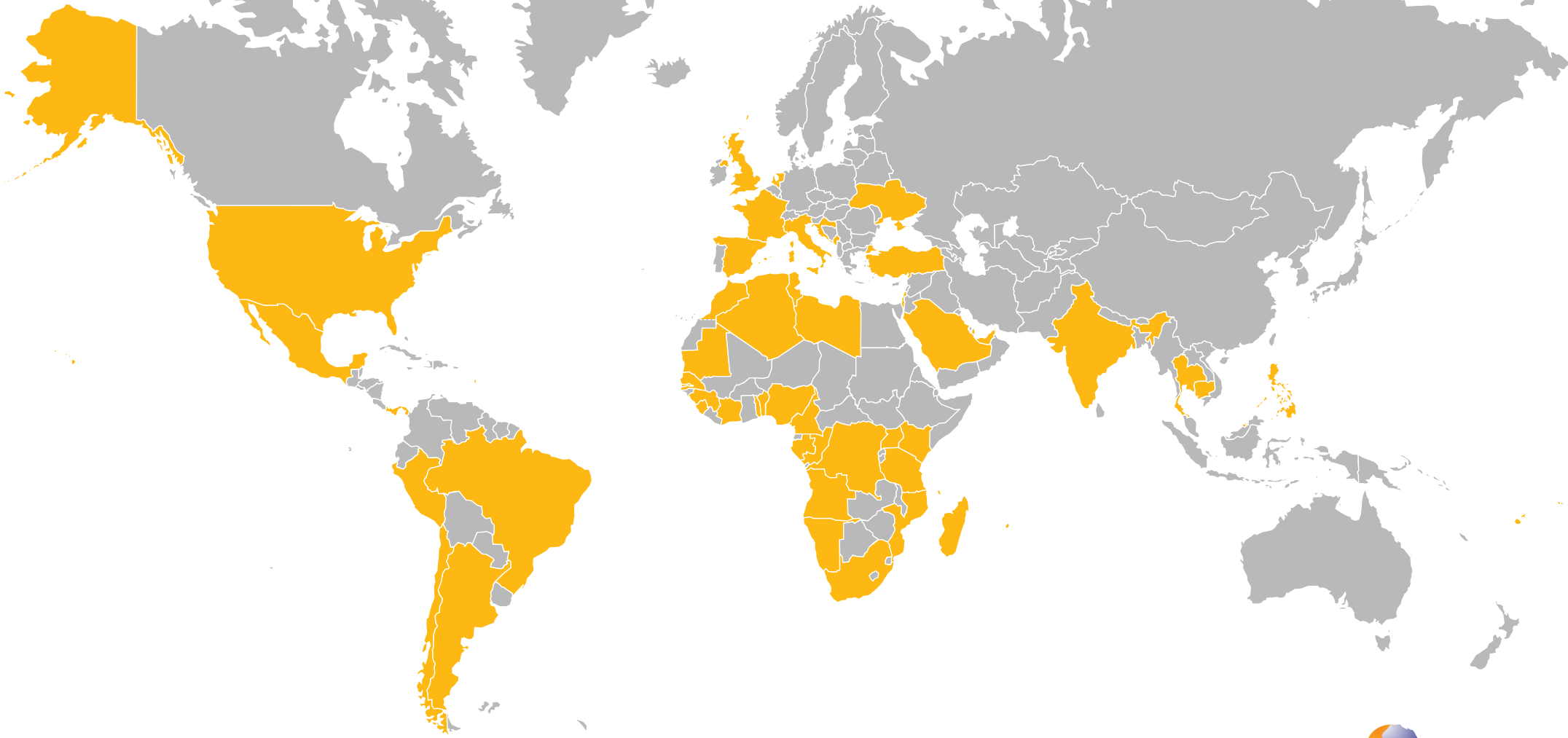
**Results and outreach:
a worldwide audience**

Overall, the first two webinars were a real success. Both were well attended with a total of more than **250 participants** from more than **50 different countries** (see map on p18). The French session is important to reach the focal points in the French-speaking countries of the GI WACAF region. The English session was attended by people from the WACAF region as well, but also from the Pacific, South East Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean, thanks to the relay of the sister projects within the Global Initiative. Actors from other international organisations working in the field of disaster risk management or environmental

protection also participated. In light of these figures, the webinar series is continuing in September and until the end of the year.

250
participants
from
more than
50
different
countries

A worldwide audience



Overview of external events and projects in which the Project has been involved

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

Along with major institutional partners such as EMSA, the European Fisheries 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 hand-in-hand 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 recognised 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 coastal pollution and pressures in West and central Africa. This study was launched in the framework of a program called WACA. The WACA programme aims to federate the different initiatives working for the Resilience of coastal zones in West Africa and provide a concerted, coherent, and harmonised 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 Africa State of the Coast Report is to be carried out. The objective is to have a document composed of chapters / or sub-sections directly written by different partners and this is why the GI WACAF has been contacted. It is a source of pride to see that the Project is now fully recognised as a key actor and expert in the field of oil spill preparedness and response in the region.

Cooperation with international stakeholders

a brief presentation of new stakeholders

GI WACAF is working with

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.



World Bank

Since 2020 GI WACAF is cooperating with the World Bank, which is managing a programme called WACA West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (see above), 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 our

respective activities to see in the longer term the possibilities of collaboration. Possible synergies and coordination possibilities on this component are under study in order to avoid duplication and to convey a coherent message to the different national and port actors.



Future activities for 2020

The end of the year is dominated by uncertainty about the possibility of resuming field missions. However, the following activities are planned:

- Continuation of the series of webinars.
- Preparation of tripartite consultations between Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola to develop a sub-regional contingency plan; and
- Review of Senegal NOSCP with the aim to better develop the at sea-shoreline response interface.



INITIAL DATES	NEW DATES (when known)	LOCATION	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	TOPIC
Q3 2020	Q3 2020	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, CONGO, ANGOLA	Sub-regional	Sub-regional workshop on cooperation and definition of an action plan to address the issue of transboundary oil spills
Q4 2020	–	GUINEA BISSAU	National	National system for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to oil spills – Assistance to review and finalize draft NOSCP
Q4 2020	–	SENEGAL	National	Support to the review of the NOSCP of Senegal to integrate shoreline response
Q3-Q4 2020	–	CABO VERDE	National	National system for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to oil spills – Test and update of the NOSCP
Q3-Q4 2020	–	MAURITANIA	National	Organization and facilitation of a deployment exercise to test the NOSCP with offshore considerations

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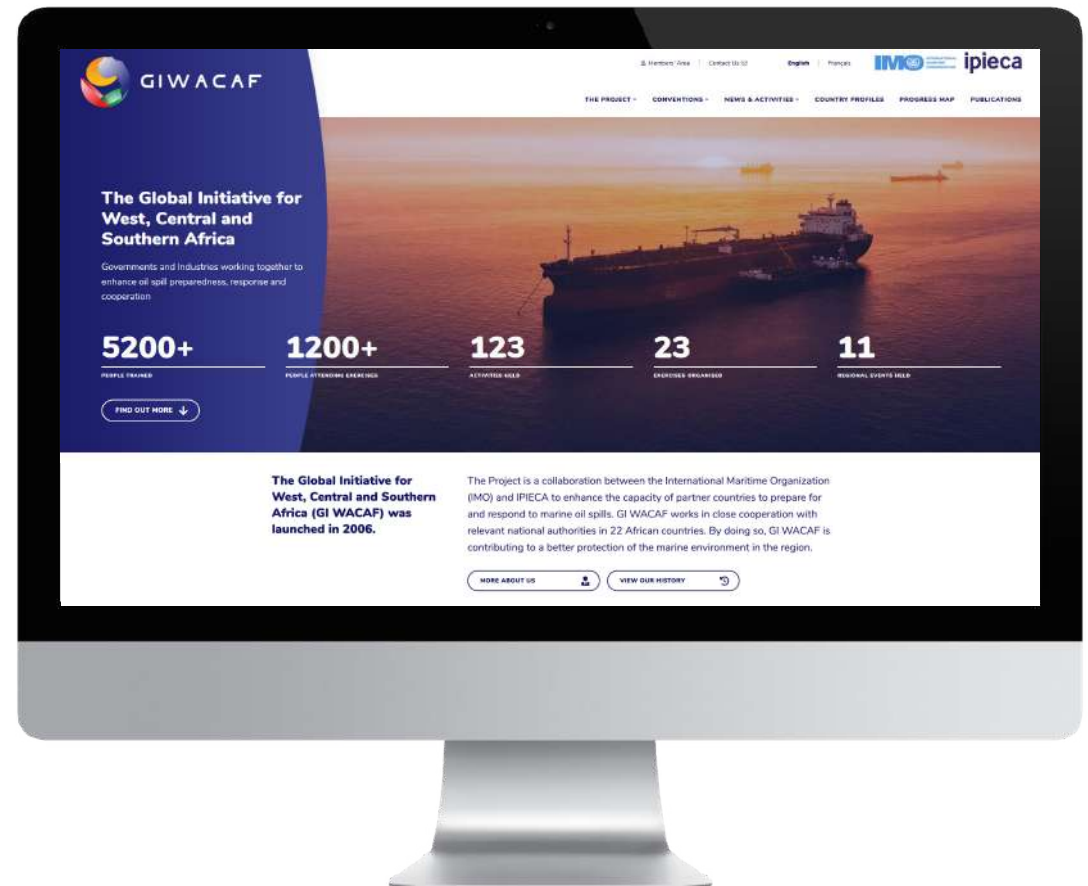
Communication

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 (half-yearly and annual activity reports, reports of the workshops, information on project countries, 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:

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



New concept note

Our new concept note presenting the Project and its results achieved over the past 13 years is now available in [English](#) and in [French](#) on our website in an updated and more visual version.



LinkedIn page

The [project's LinkedIn page](#) has reached almost 300 subscribers. It is a very useful to keep abreast with the project's latest activities, including the recently launched webinars.

IMO & IPIECA joint letter on Covid-19 pandemic

In a [joint letter](#), IMO and IPIECA, as the principal authorities underpinning the Global Initiative (GI) Programme, 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.



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