

**The IMO/IPIECA Global Initiative Project in West and Central Africa
Keeping the focus, changing the strategy**

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1. *Background information on the Global Initiative and the role of Governments and Industry in oil spill preparedness and response*

The Global Initiative (GI) is an umbrella programme for various activities, whereby the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and industry, through the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and other partners, co-operate to:

- support national and regional implementation of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC Convention), the conventions regarding liability and compensation (1992 Civil Liability Convention (CLC) and 1992 International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (FUND) and other international conventions related to national and regional oil spill preparedness, response and co-operation;
- enhance oil spill preparedness and response capacity through the mobilisation of external assistance and industry support at the national and regional levels.

The overall aim of the GI is to improve and sustain the capability of developing countries to protect their marine and coastal resources at risk from a maritime oil spill incident.

To achieve this aim, the strategy of the GI is to facilitate co-operation between the relevant government authorities and the oil industry at the national and regional levels. This is being accomplished through educational workshops and seminars, jointly organised with the IMO. These workshops have frequently benefited from the support of industry or semi-governmental organisations (the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF), Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), and the Centre de Documentation de Recherche et d'Expérimentations sur les Pollutions Accidentelles des Eaux (CEDRE), to name a few).

Partnership development plays an important role in the implementation of these activities. IMO encourages cooperation between Industry and Governments at every opportunity and IPIECA's effort concentrates on catalyzing and initiating activities - recognising that involvement of local industry is crucial.

2. *History of Global Initiative work in Africa*

The GI was launched in Africa in 1996 and initial activities were focused on that region, with a number of technical missions to countries receiving GI support. These missions have borne some fruit as some countries have developed and adopted national oil spill contingency plans and others are in the process of doing so. As a result of the process several African States have now ratified or are in the process of ratifying a number of the relevant international conventions. (See Appendix 1). Training, exercises and sensitivity mapping projects have been undertaken as part of the wider contingency planning effort.

However more needs to be done for the establishment of the right level of preparedness in all the countries of the region.

From an industry point of view, a number of initiatives have been undertaken within the same period to improve the state of preparedness of their Business Units operating in the region. These have included:

- Support to GI activities;
- Development of oil industry national associations or groups;
- Development of co-operative response arrangements (e.g. WACAF Aerial Services).

Unfortunately, the lack of co-operation between governments and industry in several of the West and Central Africa (WACAF) countries has been a major impediment towards the development of co-ordinated response arrangements. According to a recent review of the situation, in 2004, of the 21 countries comprising WACAF (from Mauritania to Namibia) few of them could be considered to have an acceptable state of preparedness, and a number of them still had no national contingency plan in place, despite all the activities implemented in the region since 1996 (see Appendix 2)

Also at the regional level, co-operation was sometimes perceived to be missing, because of the limited implementation of the Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region, (Abidjan Convention, 1981). Whilst there has been good cooperation during certain conferences and workshops, at present a permanent structure for implementation (e.g. a Permanent Secretariat) of the Convention is not yet in place because of funding issues. In other parts of the world, regional conventions, protocols and action plans have been very useful tools to drive and support regional initiatives.

3. *New WACAF project – New resources for tangible results*

In 2004, the IMO and the IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group (OSWG), recognising the value of having a planned, budgeted regional approach supported by the business units in targeted countries, as evidenced by the Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI) group in the Caspian and Black Sea region, made a decision to follow a similar approach for the WACAF region. Following a number of preliminary meetings, both with IMO and between industry representatives, the decision was taken to launch this WACAF Group and project.

The IMO supported the approach and committed to providing a substantial contribution to the project, both financial and in kind.

On the industry side, the project is organised around a consortium of core members which are representatives of the major international oil companies present in the region (see Appendix 3). These members are involved in steering the project and normally operate at corporate level. In a number of cases these members are also OSWG members: a specific IPIECA working group, which has produced many 'good practice' reference documents on spill response related topics over the years (see Appendix 4).

To be operational, however the WACAF project also needs close involvement from Business Units, and the nomination of in-country focal points. These focal points are expected to prepare and follow up on actions after a workshop has taken place, in a given country.

Finally, the project is being coordinated by a dedicated Project Coordinator, who liaises closely and regularly with IMO, Authorities and Industry. He is engaged with the GI process and is expected to travel extensively to the region as workshops and other activities take place.

The project is now fully operational, with seven oil companies having accepted to financially contribute to a mutually agreed programme and to support activities. A number of preliminary visits have been made and contacts established with in-country industry focal points in preparation for upcoming workshops.

4. Discussion

Given the past history of GI work in Africa, it is important to review why we believe this project has more chances of bearing fruit than past activities.

The view of the OSWG, and of most of the contributing companies is that a number of factors, both structural and situational are likely to favourably influence the outcome of the project:

- Structural factors
 - *Dedicated Project Coordinator:* specific efforts have been made to improve the organisation of the project and to secure long term commitment from a number of companies to financing a dedicated project Coordinator. It is expected this project coordinator acting on behalf of IMO and industry, will drive the programme and build the necessary momentum around workshops. That person will also be tasked to track, jointly with in-country industry focal points, the follow up actions identified.
 - *Close cooperation with IMO:* any GI project needs close involvement from the IMO to ensure that both industry and governments are aligned in their desire to progress. This project benefits from a shared analysis of the situation and a shared desire to improve preparedness in the region. This has led to the joint establishment of work programmes, workshop contents, definition of expected outcomes and identification of priority countries
- Situational factors
 - *Existing international focus:* A UN multi-Agency project (GEF/UNDP/UNEP/ UNIDO/IMO) entitled 'Combating living resources depletion and coastal area degradation in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem through ecosystem based regional actions (GCLME)', comprising a component of regional arrangements for combating oil pollution is to be implemented by UNIDO and IMO, including cooperation with industry
 - *Funding availability:* IMO recently established a "Public-Private-Partnership Fund" to develop joint activities with the Industry in addition to their normal Technical Co-operation programme;

- *New response developments*: The oil industry response community developed a faster and more efficient dispersant spraying capability in the region, thus opening up new avenues for co-operation at the regional level;

5. Conclusion

Whether the project will eventually deliver all its promises still remains to be seen. It is likely that all goals will be achieved in some countries, thanks to the preliminary work that had been carried out over the years, and as a result of the dedication of a number of people both from Government and Industry, and possibly also thanks to favourable circumstances (timing, personal commitment). For those countries that do not achieve everything, it is to be hoped nevertheless that the IMO/IPIECA WACAF project will still have brought a higher awareness to oil spill response and an improvement in the ability to respond in the event of a crisis.

It should be our aspiration to see as many countries as possible be fully prepared should a spill happen, having ratified the relevant international conventions (preparedness, response, compensation) and having developed and tested national, sub-regional and regional contingency plans.

Appendix 1: Ratifications in African Countries 1996 – 2006

	1996	2006
1990 OPRC Convention	4	20
1992 Civil Liability Convention	1	24
1992 Protocol to Fund Convention	1	23

Appendix 2 : WACAF Regional status

	OPRC	CLC/ FUND	National Plan	IMO & IPIECA Activities
Angola	Yes	CLC 92 FUND 92	Adopted	4 NCP Workshops, from 1997-2000
Benin	No	CLC 69 FUND 71	Draft	2 NCP Workshops , 2000, 2003
Cameroon	No	CLC 92 FUND 92	Adopted	NCP Workshop, 2005
Cape Verde	Yes	CLC 92 FUND 92		
Congo	Yes	CLC 92 FUND 92	Adopted Implementation on-going	NCP Workshop, 2000 NCP implementation Workshop, 2001
Congo Dem. Rep.	No	No		
Côte d'Ivoire	No	CLC 69 FUND 71	Adopted	NCP Workshop, 2001
Equatorial Guinea	No	CLC 69		
Gabon	No	CLC 92 FUND 92	Adopted In force: 2003	NCP Workshop, 2001 NCP Workshop, 2003 Dispersants policy Workshop, 2004 NCP Workshop, 2005
Gambia	No	CLC 69 Fund 71		
Ghana	No	CLC 92 FUND 92	Adopted	OPRC Level 3 training Course and NCP Review 2005
Guinea	Yes	CLC 92 FUND 92	Draft	NCP Workshop 2003
Guinea Bissau	No	No		
Liberia	Yes	CLC 69 FUND 92		

Mauritania	Yes	CLC 69 FUND 71	Adopted Approval expected 2005	4 NCP Workshops, 1998-2003 Implementation document
Namibia	No	CLC 92 FUND 92	Adopted Tested through tabletop exercise	NCP Workshop 2004
Nigeria	Yes	CLC 92 FUND 92	Final Draft	3 NCP Workshops, 2000, 2003 and 2005
Sao Tome	No	CLC 69		
Senegal	Yes	CLC 69	Draft	3 NCP Workshop, 1999, 2003 and 2004
Sierra Leone	No	CLC 92 FUND 92		
Togo	No	No		
Regional Level				IMO/IPIECA Workshop Angola, 2000 IMO/IPIECA Workshop Gabon, 2003 IMO/UNEP Meeting (Abidjan Convention) Ghana, 2000 IMO OPRC Course, French speaking Countries Congo, 2004

Appendix 3: Signatories to the WACAF agreement

BP
Chevron
Eni
ExxonMobil
Marathon
Shell
Total
IPIECA

Appendix 4: IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group Reports and Translations

Reference	Title	English	Spanish	French	Russian	Italian	Chinese	Japanese
Volume 1	Guidelines on Biological Impacts of oil pollution	•	•	•	•	•		
Volume 2	A guide to Contingency Planning for oil spills on water	•	•	•	•			•
Volume 3	Biological Impacts of oil pollution: Coral Reefs	•	•	•				
Volume 4	Biological Impacts of oil pollution: Mangroves	•	•	•				
Volume 5	Dispersants and their role in oil spill response	•	•	•	•		•	
Volume 6	Biological Impacts of oil pollution: Saltmarshes	•	•	•	•			
Volume 7	Biological Impacts of oil pollution: Rocky Shores	•	•	•	•			
Volume 8	Biological Impacts of oil pollution: Fisheries	•	•	•	•			
Volume 9	Biological Impacts of oil pollution: Sedimentary Shores	•	•	•	•			
Volume 10	Choosing spill response options to minimize damage: Net Environmental Benefit Analysis	•	•	•	•			•
Volume 11	Oil Spill Responder Safety Guide	•	•	•	•			
Volume 12	Guidelines for oil spill waste minimisation and management	•	•	•	•			
Volume 13	A guide to oiled wildlife response planning	•	•	•	•			
IMO/IPIECA Volume 1	Sensitivity Mapping for oil spill response	•	•	•	•			
IMO/IPIECA Volume 2	Guide to oil spill exercise planning	•	•	•	•			
IPIECA/ITOPF	The use of international oil industry spill response resources : Tier 3 centres	•	•	•	•			
IPIECA/ITOPF	Oil spill compensation : a guide to the International Conventions on Liability and Compensation for oil pollution damage	•	•	•	•			