


Country profile 2024 – Liberia

Part 1. General information

1. Country information

	Full name of the country	Liberia
	Capital	Monrovia
	Official language(s)	English
	Main ports	Port of Monrovia, Port of Buchanan, Port of Greenville and Port of Harper
	Coastline (km)	580

Updated in October 2024

2. Contacts

GI WACAF Focal point

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IMO Focal point

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National representatives completing this document

Name	Job title	Organisation	Country	Email	Telephone
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3. Industry

Industry presence in the country	
Which industry partners from the <i>Oil & Gas</i> sector are present and operating in your country?	None
Cooperation with the industry	
Is there working group/platform that brings together government and industry to address issues related to oil spill preparedness and response? If yes, please provide the name.	Liberia has two groups working on oil spill preparedness and response: 1) Technical Committee on Working on the draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan 2) Public – Private Technical Working Group on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response

<p>Is there sharing of human resources and equipment between industry and government during exercises and/or training?</p>	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between National Port Authority (NPA) and the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC), Liberian Coast Guard (LCG) and private sector working in and around port areas in Liberia.</p> <p>The purpose of the MOU is to establish a framework for sharing resources, technical expertise, personnel, and equipment to enhance collective response capabilities to tackle incidental and operational spills. To formalize the cooperation between the NPA, LPRC, LCG, private sector, and other stakeholders including environmental organizations to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the impacts of oil spills and noxious liquid substances within the port areas. Also, to provide the framework for collaboration, defines roles and responsibilities, and outline response strategies for a coordinated national effort.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Conduct monthly Public Private Sector Oil Spill Engagement meeting;2) Compile and share list of oil spill response equipment in country including capabilities, location, and contact information to access the equipment;3) Conduct quarterly drills and exercises on spill response;4) Ensure testing of equipment for spill response;5) Enhance the knowledge and understanding of each Party's functions;6) Increase the level of collaboration between PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR and NPA on oil spill preparedness and response;7) Establish a pool fund on Oil Spill Response with clear terms of reference and management framework
<p>Please list any other aspects relevant to cooperation between industry and government.</p>	<p>There is a proposal between the industry and government to empower the Liberian Coast Guard with the equipment and other logistics needed to prepare for and respond to incidental spill of oil and noxious liquefied substances.</p>

Part 2. Updating the Country Profile, identification of level of preparedness and priority actions

I. Institutional and legal context

1. Designation of responsible authority(ies)

Competent national authorities responsible for oil spill preparedness and response	
<i>Response at sea</i>	
Ministry/Department/Agency	Liberia Maritime Authority
Contact person responsible for oil spills at sea	Cllr. Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr.
Address	1948 Maritime Drive, Oldest Congo Town, Opposite EJS Ministerial Complex P. O. Box 10 - 9042, Monrovia, Liberia
Telephone	+231886556399
Mobile	
Email	
<i>Shoreline response</i>	
Ministry/Department/Agency	Environmental Protection Agency
Contact person responsible for shoreline oil spills	Dr. Emmanuel King Urey Yarkpawolo
Address	4th Street, Sinkor, P.O. Box 4024, Monrovia, Liberia
Telephone	+231778165702

Mobile	
Email	ureyyarkpawolo@epa.gov.lr
Authority(ies) responsible for implementation of IMO conventions	
Ministry/Department/Agency	Liberia Maritime Authority
Contact person	Hon. John F. Harvey
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2. Ratification of international conventions and national legislation

Ratification of international IMO conventions (related to oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, and to civil liability and compensation) and their transposition into national legislation				
	Status of ratification	National legislation that incorporates the Convention	Status of implementation	Observations/specific actions needed
Prevention				
MARPOL 73-78	ratified	Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia, Liberia Maritime Authority 2010 Act Liberian Maritime Regulations Regulations on Safety of Navigation and Shipping in the Jurisdictional Waters of the Republic of Liberia	Ongoing implementation	A comprehensive, consolidated, and codified version of MARPOL is needed to ensure full implementation.

Preparedness and response				
OPRC 90	ratified	Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia, Liberia Maritime Authority 2010 Act Regulations on Safety of Navigation and Shipping in the Jurisdictional Waters of the Republic of Liberia	Ongoing implementation	The Technical Committee has proposed the domestication on OPRC. The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan needs to be approved by all stakeholders and enacted into law.
OPRC-HNS Protocol	ratified	Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia, Liberia Maritime Authority 2010 Act Regulations on Safety of Navigation and Shipping in the Jurisdictional Waters of the Republic of Liberia	Ongoing implementation	The Technical Committee proposes the domestication of OPRC-HNS National Oil Spill Contingency Plan needs to capture HNS sessions Conduct awareness, training, and drills on OPRC-HNS
Liability and compensation				
CLC 69	ratified	Self-executing, Marine Notices	Ongoing implementation	A comprehensive, consolidated, and codified version of marine environmental pollution law is need to be drafted and enacted.

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CLC 92	ratified	Self-executing, Marine Notices	Ongoing implementation	A comprehensive, consolidated, and codified version of marine environmental pollution law is need to be drafted and enacted.
Fund 92	ratified	Self-executing, Marine Notices	Ongoing implementation	A comprehensive, consolidated, and codified version of marine environmental pollution law is need to be drafted and enacted.
Fund Prot. (2003)	nil	nil	nil	A comprehensive, consolidated, and codified version of marine environmental pollution law is need to be drafted and enacted.
Bunker Oil (BUNKER 2001)	ratified	Self-executing, Marine Notices	Ongoing implementation	A comprehensive, consolidated, and codified version of marine environmental pollution law is need to be drafted and enacted.
LLMC 76	ratified	Self-executing, Marine Notices	Ongoing implementation	A comprehensive, consolidated, and codified version of marine environmental pollution law is need to be drafted and enacted.
LLMC 96	ratified	Self-executing, Marine Notices	Ongoing implementation	A comprehensive, consolidated, and codified version of marine environmental pollution law is need to be drafted and enacted.
HNS 2010	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

National legislation			
Maritime policies and regulatory framework	Do maritime policies or strategies exist? What is the responsible entity?	Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) and all relevant stakeholders have developed, finalized, and operationalized a National Maritime Strategy that addresses marine environmental protection. LiMA primary role in the protection of the marine environment is to regulate shipping activities to minimize or remove the risk of ship source pollution. In accordance with the Liberia Maritime Authority Act of 2010, LiMA is responsible to collaborate with other government agencies to ensure that the marine habitat is protected and illegal activities within the Liberian maritime domain are curtailed.	
Ratification of IMO conventions	What are the main challenges/obstacles to ratification?	Lack of coordination	
		Lack of priority	
		Lack of legal expertise	
		Lack of technical expertise	
		Lack of financial resources	
Incorporation of IMO conventions	What is the procedure for incorporating IMO Conventions related to safety, marine pollution, and liability and compensation, into national legislation?	Once Liberia ratifies or accedes to a Convention through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President will submit any such instrument to the National Legislature to be enacted into law by the House of Representatives and the House of Senate. Upon enactment, the National Legislature forward the enacted instrument to the Office of the President to be signed into Law. Once it is signed into law, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prints the enacted law into handbill.	
Incorporation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1992 Fund Convention • Supplementary Fund Protocol 	Does the related law identify the national authority responsible for the submission of oil reports?	The Liberia Petroleum Refining Company is tasked with the responsibility for the submission of oil reports.	

II. National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

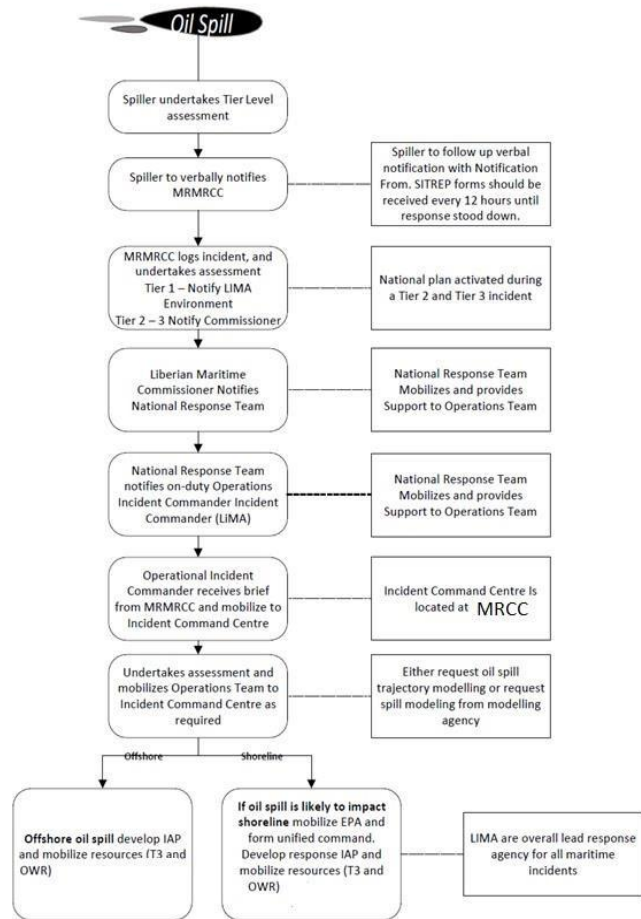
1. Development of a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP)

Document	
Name of NOSCP	National Oil Spill Contingency Plan of Liberia
Status of NOSCP	A core group of technicians from government entities have been reviewing the draft NOSCP compiled by GI WACAF to be transmitted to the Technical Committee working on the NOSCP.
Administrative act of initial approval – Number and date	The NOSCP is pending validation by all relevant stakeholders by June 2025.
Date of last approved update	The NOSCP was updated in September 2024
Committee/working group responsible	Technical Working Group on National Oil Spill Contingency Plan
Has the NOSCP been tested? Date and main comments	Although the NOSCP has not been tested, however, a Memorandum of Understanding on oil spill preparedness and response has been approved and tested on 20 th June 2024 and 19 th November 2024.
What is the procedure for updating the NOSCP? Does the updated NOSCP have to be formalised through an administrative act (e.g. decree, law ...) for it to be applicable?	<p>Periodic revision by the Lead Agency and various sub-committees which is submitted to the Technical Working on National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for acceptance on subsequent update following validation.</p> <p>The NOSCP needs to be formalized through an administrative</p>

1. Coordination, notification policies and organisation of response

Organisation of response	
Does the NOSCP utilise concepts from the <i>Incident Management System (IMS)</i> ?	yes
Is each defined role assigned to a person/function?	yes
Are the contact details of the responsible persons contained in an annex?	yes
Does the NOSCP incorporate the different preparedness levels (Tiers 1, 2, 3)?	yes
Organisation chart:	

Oil Spill Notification and Mobilization Procedure



Notification and reporting procedures	
Are the emergency, notification and follow-up procedures (reports, etc.) well defined? Do they include a template as well as an updated contact list?	yes
Can the NOSCP be activated in case of an oil spill caused by a non-ship source (e.g. offshore platform, pipeline, etc.)?	Yes
Coordination with local plans and the industry	
Are the local plans (port, terminal, etc.) referenced and integrated in the NOSCP?	Yes
Are the contingency plans of oil and gas industry facilities referenced and integrated in the NOSCP?	Currently we do not have in country major oil and gas facilities. Notwithstanding, the plan will be updated as and when such facilities are operating in country.
Involving the local communities	
Is the involvement of local communities in case of oil spills and during exercises planned?	Not yet
Follow-up and archive; compensation	
Is there a follow-up plan and archiving system that allows evidence to be stored?	Not Yet
Are compensation and the procedures for requesting compensation defined and integrated?	Yes, but improvement is required.

2. Components of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

Policy on use of dispersants		
Status of the policy on the use of dispersants	Completed	
The use of dispersants is considered as (first/second/last option/not an option).	Last option	
State the name of the administrative act which details the policy on use of dispersants.	EPA Dispersant Policy	
Is there a list of approved dispersants? If yes, is it public?	Yes	
Is there an approval procedure? If yes, which authority is responsible for this?	Yes, The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia	
Is the same authority responsible for authorising the use of dispersants in emergency situations?	Yes	
Is the policy on the use of dispersants included in the NOSCP?	Yes	
What are the geographic and bathymetric limits for use of dispersants?	The Dispersant Policy from the EPA states that Oil dispersants are not recommended for use in enclosed regions of the sea with a low water exchange rate (inlets, lagoons), in shallow waters.	
Is there a stock of dispersants?	No	
Location of the storage sites	Monrovia Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Center	
Name	Owner	Quantity
Sensitivity mapping and risk evaluation		
<i>Sensitivity maps</i>		
Status of sensitivity maps	Ongoing	
Responsible working group/committee	Technical Working Group on National Oil Spill Contingency Plan	

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Are sensitivity maps included in the NOSCP?	Not Yet
Date of validation and last update	The proposed date of validation is June 2024
Does the map cover the whole shoreline?	The map is being developed to cover the whole shoreline
Are the sensitivity maps public?	The sensitivity maps are still being developed
In what format are the sensitivity maps available? Print or digital?	Once completed the sensitivity maps will be in both printed and digital copies.
<i>Risk evaluation</i>	
Does the plan include drift patterns?	Yes
Does the NOSCP consider air surveillance in case of an incident (radar, satellite, aircraft, helicopter, etc.)?	Yes
Does the plan include a risk register and spill scenarios?	Yes
Is the Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) included in the NOSCP?	Yes
Shoreline evaluation and response plan	
Status of the shoreline response plan	Ongoing
Which authority is responsible for shoreline response?	The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia
Date of validation and last update	Updated September 2024
Is the shoreline response plan part of the NOSCP?	Yes
Does the shoreline response plan incorporate the Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT)?	Yes

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Can volunteers participate in shoreline response? If yes, is there a volunteer management plan in case of oil spills?	Yes
Oiled waste management plan	
Status of the waste management plan	Ongoing
Responsible working group/committee	Technical Working Group on National Oil Spill Contingency Plan
Date of validation and last update	Updated September 2024
Is the waste management plan part of the NOSCP?	Yes
Does the waste management plan include transport, temporary storage and final disposal of waste?	Yes
Does the national legislation consider oiled waste as hazardous waste?	Yes
What legislative framework regulates waste management at the national level?	Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia
Contingency plan for the safety of oiled wildlife	
Status of the contingency plan for the protection of oiled wildlife	Ongoing
Responsible working group/committee	Technical Working Group on National Oil Spill Contingency Plan
Date of validation and last update	Updated September 2024
Is the contingency plan for the protection of oiled wildlife part of the NOSCP?	Yes
Are there national bodies responsible for this? If yes, which ones?	Yes, EPA and the Forestry Development Authority, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority

Are there cooperation agreements with international specialised organisations?	Not Yet
<i>In-situ</i> burning policy	
Status of the <i>in-situ</i> burning policy	Ongoing
Responsible working group/committee	Technical Working Group on National Oil Spill Contingency Plan
Date of validation and last update	Updated 2024
Does the <i>in-situ</i> burning policy form part of the NOSCP?	Yes
What is the authorization procedure in case of an incident?	It is done thru the EPA after a NEBA procedure
Other technical elements	
Does the NOSCP cover preparedness and response in the case of spills of hazardous and noxious substances (HNS)?	No

III. cooperation

1. Transboundary cooperation and international assistance

Regional agreements	
What bilateral and/or regional cooperation response mechanisms are included in the NOSCP?	None
Are transboundary exercises organised regularly? If yes, how often?	Not Yet

Date of the last transboundary exercise	NA
Transboundary transfer of expertise and equipment	
Are there specific customs and immigration procedures in place to facilitate the import of equipment and/or expertise?	Yes
If yes, what are the procedures?	Coordination must be done thru the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Liberia Revenue Authority, Liberia Immigration Services, National Port Authority & Liberia Civil Aviation Authority.
Assistance mechanisms	
Does your country participate in cooperation with projects/institutions aimed at improving preparedness and response? If yes, which ones?	Yes, GI WACAF Regional Workshop
Is there mutual support between government and industry for the exchange of response equipment?	Yes, a MOU on oil spill preparedness and response is being finalized, approved, and operationalized between the National Port Authority, Liberia Petroleum Refining Company, Liberia Coast Guard, and the Private Sector working within and around port facilities.
Are mechanisms for mobilisation and access to public and private international assistance in place?	Not yet

2. Training and exercises

Training	
<i>Courses</i>	
Does the country organise internal training for staff at all levels (based on the needs of the country and in accordance with international standards)?	Not Yet

<i>Exercises</i>	
Does the country organise national exercises (involving local and private sectors) at least once a year?	Yes, so far two (2) drills have been conducted
Education	
Does cooperation with universities to train future experts in environmental management and the management of industrial and environmental risks exist or is it planned?	Yes, it has been planned.

3. Equipment and national resources

Response equipment	
Government:	Private sector:
Centre for storage and maintenance of response equipment	Not yet
Planned acquisition of response equipment by the government	Not yet
Inventories of public and private response equipment (annexed to the NOSCP)	Yes
Procedure for the temporary loan of response equipment from the industry, in case of an incident	Not Yet
Crisis control centre (rooms for meetings and communication)	Yes
Centre for resources, training and documentation for oil spill preparedness and for response management	Yes

Capacity for intervention	
In case of TIER 1 ¹ oil spills, is there sufficient national oil spill response capacity to enact intervention measures?	Yes
In case of TIER 2 oil spills, is there sufficient national oil spill response capacity to enact intervention measures?	Not yet
In case of TIER 3 oil spills, is there sufficient national oil spill response capacity to enact intervention measures?	Not yet

4. Communication

Communication with the media and the public	
Are standard procedures in place for communication with the media during exercises and actual incidents?	yes
Is there a practical and strategic training programme on communicating with the media, for decision-makers and other response stakeholders?	Not yet

¹ The definition of tiers 1, 2, 3 varies by country