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# Annual Report 2022



GIWACAF

For more information on GI WACAF,  
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# About the project

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

The mission is to strengthen the national system for preparedness and response in case of an oil spill in 22 West, Central and Southern African countries in accordance with the provisions set out in the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC 90).

To achieve its mission, the GI WACAF Project organizes and delivers workshops, seminars and exercises, that aim to communicate good practice in all aspect of spill preparedness and response, drawing on expertise and experience from within governments, industry and other organizations working in this specialized field.

To prepare and implement these activities, the Project relies on the Project's network of dedicated government and industry focal points. Promoting cooperation amongst all relevant government agencies, oil industry business units and stakeholders both nationally, regionally, and internationally is a major objective of the Project during these activities.

GI WACAF operates and delivers activities with contributions from both the IMO and six oil company members of IPIECA, namely BP, Chevron, Eni, ExxonMobil, Shell, and Total Energies.



ExxonMobil



# 2021-2022: the 10<sup>th</sup> work biennium of the GI WACAF Project

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The year 2022 marked the end of the 2021-2022 biennium, which concluded with the GI WACAF Regional Conference, where all our external partners, Government stakeholders, Focal Points and Industry stakeholders discussed on the progress of Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the West African region.

This Regional Conference was organized in Accra, Ghana: a long awaited in-country, face to face reunion, after two years of restrictions and remote working due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendations for the GI WACAF Project were formulated after the Conference, about the project's actions on legislation and regulatory framework, policies and processes, assistance for implementation as well as its transversal aspects (transboundary cooperation).



# 022 activities overview

## Legend:

External engagements attended

GI WACAF Activities implemented

Invitation as facilitator / observer

Regional Conference

Initial date	Location	Type of activity	Topic
February	Togo	National Workshop	Technical assistance for the procurement of oil spill response equipment and development of a training and exercise program
March	Sao Tome e Principe	National workshop	Technical Assistance for the set-up of a National Spill Response System and development of a National Spill Contingency Plan
March	The Gambia	Remote assistance activity	Critical review of the Gambia National Oil Contingency Plan
March	London	External Engagement	Marine Spill Group

**Legend:**

External engagements attended

GI WACAF Activities implemented

Invitation as facilitator / observer

Regional Conference

April New GI WACAF Project Manager			
June	Amsterdam	External engagement	Interspill
August	Liberia	Remote assistance activity	Critical review of Liberia's National Oil Contingency Plan
September	Guinea Bissau	National Workshop	Technical assistance for the set-up of a National Spill Response
October New GI WACAF Project Coordinator			
November	Ghana	9 <sup>th</sup> Regional Conference	Biennial Regional Conference
November	Namibia	National Workshop	Facilitation and assistance in National Workshop on Oil Dispersant Use Policy
December	London	External engagement	Marine Spill Group
December	Senegal	National Workshop	Participation in National POLMAREX Exercise

# 2022 review

For the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the lifting of travel restrictions enabled the GI WACAF Team to physically attend national and regional activities in the region. The year 2022 represents a transition year of the project, both in terms of team members – with a new project manager and a new project coordinator – and in terms of the now 5 main pillars which the GI WACAF works on, with the constant and constructive support from the Project's members and stakeholders:

Number	GI WACAF Project Pillars
1	Remote assistance on technical and policy aspects
2	Online trainings and webinars
3	Networking and partnerships
4	Hybrid National and subregional activities
5	Regional Conference



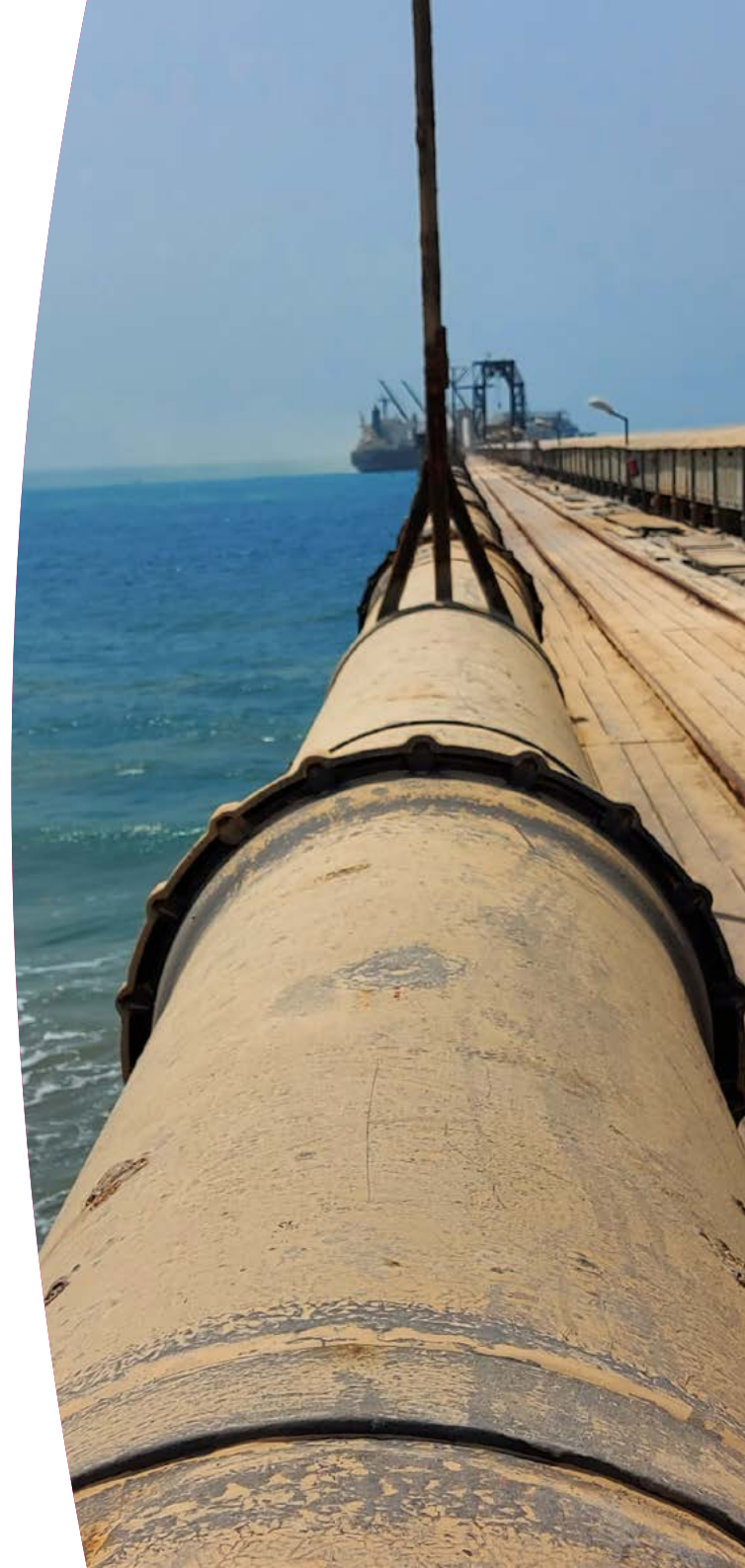


By efficiently facing the challenges of the pandemic, the project has broadened its scope of action by integrating technical webinars and remote assistance to the oil spill preparedness process with the region. Remote activities include commented revision of national plans like The Gambia's and Liberia's (Revisions of National Plans).

The GI WACAF was also able to take part in in-country activities, like the activity of technical assistance for the procurement of oil spill response equipment in Togo, and the development of a training and exercise programme; Sao Tome e Principe benefited from technical assistance for the set-up of a national spill response system and the development of a National Spill Contingency Plan; Guinea Bissau also received technical assistance for the set-up of a National Spill Contingency Plan.

The project continued to take part in external initiatives dedicated to oil spill preparedness and response, such as the Marine Spill Group (previously Oil Spill Group) in London, and Interspill in Amsterdam, as well as integrating the Dispersant Task Force Ipieca initiative. Recognised as a key regional player, the GI WACAF was invited as an observer and facilitator to Namibia's National Workshop on Oil Dispersant Use.

The GI WACAF also took part in Senegal's POLMAREX exercise as an observer. The 2022 activity year successfully found closure with the 9th Regional Conference of the GI WACAF, in Accra, Ghana.



# 2022 GI WACAF activities overview (organised by the GI WACAF Project)

## Technical assistance for the procurement of oil spill response equipment and development of a training and exercise program – Togo

**Dates:** 28 February – 4 March 2022

Location: Maritime prefecture and Ministry of Environment, Sustainable development and nature protection, Lomé

**Mandated expertise:** DEMERI

In 2022, Togo benefited from funding emanating from the World Bank-led WACA Project (West African Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project) to purchase oil spill response equipment.

As part of the country's project to acquire pollution control equipment, Togo has requested the support of the GI WACAF project to better define the resources to be

acquired, and the associated purchasing, reception, storage, maintenance and training strategies. In order to carry out this technical assistance, the GI WACAF project mandated DEMERI to help define this strategy for the purchase of oil spill response equipment.

The objectives of this technical cooperation activity were to (1) conduct an initial assessment on current operational capability and oil spill risk for Togo, including possible transboundary oil spills, as well as to (2) define needs in terms of oil spill response equipment (to maintain in country) to be able to mitigate the impacts of small spills and initiate response to larger spills.

In that sense, the global idea was to develop a subsequent strategic policy regarding equipment and its storage, manpower and technical expertise in line with the spill hazards and ranges of environmental

operating conditions. The GI WACAF supported Togo in the drafting of the technical aspects of the Terms of Reference to be used as part of a public tender process to procure oil spill response equipment.

The DEMERI consultant and the GI WACAF team presented their recommendations in March 2022. The full [activity report](#) is available on the GI WACAF Website.







## Technical Assistance for the set-up of a national spill response system and development of a National Spill Contingency Plan - São Tomé e Príncipe

**Dates:** 29 March-1 April 2022

**Location:** Brazil Cultural Center, São Tomé e Príncipe

**Mandated expertise:** ITOPF

Following a request from Sao Tome e Principe, GI WACAF agreed to provide support to the development of the country's National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP). In order to efficiently support the authorities, the GI WACAF Project invited ITOPF to work alongside the country before the activity.

The main objectives of this national workshop were to (1) remind the participants of the key principles of oil spill survey and response at sea and on the shore, as well as (2) the key principles of incident management process and structures, at local and national levels.

By the end of the workshop, the participants presented, discussed and updated the proposed content for the NOSCP, elaborated by the country with the help of ITOPF prior to the activity. The participants and GI WACAF team discussed the way forward to develop the National Plan and set up a robust national spill response system.

The full [activity report](#) is available on the GI WACAF website.





## Technical Assistance for the set-up of a national Spill Response system - Guinea Bissau

**Dates:** 12 – 16 September 2022

**Location:** Institute of Biodiversity and Protected areas (IBAP), Bissau, Guinea Bissau

**Mandated expertise:** OTRA

Following Guinea-Bissau's request for the joint support of the Regional partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone (PRCM) and the GI WACAF Project to develop its National Spill Contingency Plan, a workshop of technical cooperation was set up between the stakeholders.

This workshop was an important step towards the elaboration of a National Contingency plan for Guinea Bissau.

It unrolled from three previous workshops, organised in 2012, 2014 and 2018, whose objectives were to train authorities of the Republic of Guinea Bissau to contingency planning. The 2018 workshop also led to recommendations as to the response organization and management.

The objectives of the workshop were to (1) present and explain the development process and key content of the NSCP to the national key authorities and stakeholders and (2) initiate the development of the NSCP with the technical work group.

The full [activity report](#) is available on the GI WACAF website.



# 2022 GI WACAF National Plan remote reviews

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## Review of National Spill Contingency Plan – The Gambia

Dates: March 2022

Remote

GI WACAF

At the request of Gambian authorities, the GI WACAF produced preliminary comments on “The Gambia Oil Spill Contingency and Emergency Response Plan for Coastline – Issue 1 (Draft) 2018”. Based on a first review, the GI WACAF outlined some possible improvements to the Gambia Spill Plan that Authorities can consider.

The steps used to review the document were (1) to review – internally - the content provided in the Gambia Spill Plan, (2) to review the Gambia Spill Plan regarding the General Good Practice for National Spill Contingency plans, and (3) to discuss on GI WACAF possible actions to support the Gambia.

By the end of this remote assistance, it was underlined that a teleconference would allow to discuss these proposals and the most suitable support that GI WACAF could provide to the Authorities (workshop, guidance documents...). The outcomes and comments were shared with the country.



## Review of National Spill Contingency Plan – Liberia

Dates: August 2022

Remote

GI WACAF

Similarly to the Gambia's request, Liberian authorities from the Environmental Protection Maritime Agency requested a GI WACAF review of the draft of their National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, written in 2018.

The steps taken to review the mentioned document were the same as those taken during the review of The Gambia Spill Plan: (1) to review – internally - the content provided in Liberia's NOSCP, (2) to review Liberia's NOSCP regarding the General

Good Practice for National Spill Contingency plans, and (3) to discuss on GI WACAF possible actions to support Liberia.

By the end of this remote assistance, it was underlined that a teleconference would allow to discuss these proposals and the most suitable support that GI WACAF could provide to the Authorities (workshop, guidance documents...). The outcomes and comments were shared with the country.

## 2022 GI WACAF Participation to national activities (organized by the countries)

As previously mentioned, the project's adaptation to the COVID-19 pandemic led to a broadening of its scope of action by defining its remote assistance capabilities. In addition to integrating remote assistance as an integral part of its strategy to reinforce preparedness in the region, for the first time in the project's history, the team was invited to participate as technical observers to national workshops organized by the countries themselves. This year, the GI WACAF participated in a national workshop on Oil Dispersant Policy in Namibia, and to a POLMAREX National exercise in Senegal.

### Participation in National Workshop on Oil Dispersant Use Policy – Namibia

**Dates: 24 – 25 November 2022**

Location: Windhoek, Namibia

Mandated expertise: Cedre

The Namibian Ministry of Works and Transport, along with the national team in charge of writing the National Dispersant Use Policy, requested the GI WACAF's presence to a national workshop on the drafting of the policy. The GI WACAF team was invited to provide technical support to the discussions. The first day of the workshop was presented by the GI WACAF team to the Namibian stakeholders, notably through the intervention of our partner from Cedre. The second day of the workshop was dedicated to a review of the current draft of the policy on dispersant use, presented by the Namibian Ministry of Works and Transport and its consultant team from ECUTS (Envirodu Consulting & Training Solutions). This workshop was supported by the Benguela Current Convention (BCC).

The objectives of this workshop were to (1) present and discuss the proposed content of the draft policy, (2) share knowledge, based on case studies and scientific research, on the implications of the use of oil dispersants in the marine environment, and (3) gather final feedback from Namibian government stakeholders on the draft policy before presenting the policy to industry stakeholders.

Recommendations were formulated by the GI WACAF team at the end of the workshop to guide Namibian stakeholders towards a final version of the Dispersant Use Policy. These recommendations can be found in the full activity report, available on the GI WACAF website shortly.



## Participation in SAMAREX / POLMAREX National Exercise – Senegal

**Dates: 7 – 8 December 2022**

Location: Dakar, Senegal

As part of strong working relationships already in place, HASSMAR invited the GI WACAF to attend the National SAMAREX / POLMAREX 2022 Exercise. The aim of this exercise was to test national capabilities in response to marine oil spill pollution impacting the coastline.

As agreed with the Senegalese authorities, the GI WACAF was present only as an observer/evaluator with the other members of the evaluation team, without taking an active part in the exercise.

The main objective of the exercise was to test both plans (at-sea and shoreline) as well as the related manuals, through 2 different exercises: a vessel spill and an industry offshore spill. The exercise took place at the premises of the Navy's Centre for the Coordination of operations.

Both scenarios of the drills took place on waters under Senegalese jurisdiction. The specific objectives of the national exercise were to:

- Assess the coordination capacities of the National Coordination Committee (CNC) in the management of a major oil spill using the operational procedures manual developed by HASSMAR.
- Evaluate and test the capacities of national structures to deploy their own response equipment.
- Assess and test the capacity of oil & gas industry to deal with a spill from their installations.
- Evaluate the reaction of the decentralised and deconcentrated authorities in the implementation of the POLMAR-TERRE plan.
- Disseminate the vulnerability map of the Senegalese coastline to oil pollution.

- Evaluate and test the management capacities in case of a spill at the sea-line of the company named Société Africaine de Raffinage (SAR) and of an emergency in the outer harbour of the Port of Dakar.
- Test dispersant spraying equipment.
- Evaluate the capacity of the municipal and administrative authorities to contain a large-scale protest by the affected population.

Positive points, improvement points and recommendations were transferred to the country after the exercise. More information can be found in the mission report, which will be available soon on the [Activity page](#) of the GI WACAF Website.



MARINE  
NATIONALE

MARINE  
NATIONALE

J. M. ROCH

MARINE  
NATIONALE

# 2022 Highlights

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## Webinars

Considering the return of the GI WACAF activities in the countries after the Covid-19 pandemic, the webinars were not considered a priority for this year. However, webinars are already planned for the year 2023, following the same scheme as previous webinar seasons.

## 2022 9th Regional Conference of the GI WACAF Project

The 9th GI WACAF Regional Conference took place from 7 to 10 November 2022 in Accra, Ghana at the Labadi Beach Hotel. The Conference was organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for advancing environmental and social performance, in close collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Ghana, more specifically the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

It brought together key industry and government representatives from the 22 African partner countries of the GI WACAF project as follows: Angola, Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, with some 120 participants attending the Conference. The programme and the list of participants are set out in Annex 1 and 3 of this report respectively.

The main objectives of the Conference were to:

- Address the challenges of oil spill preparedness and response within the region;
- Review the progress achieved since the last regional conference in 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa;
- Facilitate information sharing and lessons learned;
- Strengthen the network of government delegates involved in oil spill preparedness and response in the region;
- Highlight the benefits of the GIWACAF Project; and
- Determine priority actions for the coming biennium 2023-2024 to enhance oil spill preparedness and response in the region.

In order to address these objectives, the participants were guided through four days of presentations, case studies, working group sessions, discussions, joint exercises and demonstrations of oil spill response equipment.

The Conference recommendations are based on the conclusions of the working groups and on the information provided by the countries over the 4-day event. These recommendations have served as basis for developing the Project's action plan for the 2023-2024 biennium.

The recommendations and details of the 9th Regional Conference can be found in the [Conference Report](#), available on the GI WACAF Website in French and English.





# External meetings, conferences and engagements

## Marine Spill Group, London

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The Marine 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 take part in the biannual meetings of this group in order to stay up to date on the developments in the field. During the year 2022, the GI WACAF team participated in two Marine Spill Groups (March and December).

## The Dispersant Usage Task Force

Budget: £5,000 in 2022

The Dispersant Usage Task Force is an IPIECA initiative, based on the common observation that there is an ongoing need for further outreach and communication on dispersant

use. The GI WACAF Project supports and has been part of this task force since the year 2022.

The audience this work will aim to benefit includes IPIECA members, industry regulators, policy makers, response decision makers in government, the responder community and academia.

IPIECA has previously developed multiple guides and technical reports about dispersant usage, and in early 2022 published a “dispersant decision toolkit”. In the upcoming years, IPIECA aims to put in place a Dispersant Webpage, and to promote IMO guidelines on dispersants and other useful material for regulators, in order to successfully develop a coordinated outreach to maintain a long-term focus on responsible appropriate dispersant usage, supported by NEBA/SIMA within and outside the industry. The first Dispersant Subgroup meeting took

place remotely on the 6th of June 2022: its aim was to gain alignment on direction and scope of work for the sub-group.

## Interspill, Amsterdam

15 - 23 June 2022

The Interspill conference connects the industry, government, national and international authorities as well as Academia to jointly work towards improvement in spill preparedness and response, in the context of an evolving energy mix and emergent fuel technologies. GI WACAF took part in the 2022 Interspill event.

Presentations on a great variety of subjects were delivered by major actors of Oil Spill Response and Preparedness. More information on the 2022 event is available on the dedicated [website](#).

# Institutions we work with



## PRCM

Guinea Bissau, in 2022, has benefited from both GI WACAF and PRCM assistance in its process of writing a National Spill Contingency Plan. PRCM Members include organizations from most of the countries of the western African coast, as well as a few European countries such as Spain or Belgium.



## World Bank – WACA Program

Since 2020, the GI WACAF project has been cooperating with the World Bank through the WACA Program (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 cooperation with the World Bank and WACA Program is promising and places the action of the GI WACAF within a broader perspective in the protection of the marine and coastal environment, giving its full meaning to the project.



## BCC

The Benguela Current Convention (BCC) has acted South Africa, Namibia and Angola since 2007. It sets out these countries' intentions to promote a coordinated regional approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement, and sustainable use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem in order to provide economic, environmental and social benefits. This year, the BCC and the GI WACAF have jointly supported the writing of Namibia's National Dispersant Policy.



# Network of trained and dedicated GI WACAF Focal Points across the region

The GI WACAF relies on a network of Focal Points from governments and industry to 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 GI WACAF Focal Points, and especially those acknowledged below, for their commitment and proactive contribution to the achievements of the GI WACAF objectives during the 2021-2022 biennium.

## Mr. Kojo Agbenor Efunam – Ghana

Currently acting director of Ghana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Mr. Kojo Efunam helped organize the hosting of the 9th Regional Conference in Accra, Ghana, and created connections between the GI WACAF Project and the EPA: these good connections led to a successful Conference, of which he was one of the main facilitators.



Mr. Kojo Efunam



Mr. Shapua Kalomo

## Mr. Shapua Kalomo – Namibia

Mr. Shapua Kalomo is currently employed as Acting Deputy Director of the Marine Pollution Control & SAR at the Ministry of Works and Transport in Walvis Bay, Namibia. His engagement with the GI WACAF led to our team's presence during the national workshop on Namibia's Dispersant Use policy, workshop he organized with the national team in charge of the writing of the policy.

## Mr. Octavio Cabral – Guinea Bissau

Octavio Cabral has been involved in the activities of the GI WACAF since the launch of the project in 2006. Octavio has been involved in the Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) project since 2005 as well as the Canary Islands Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME, 2013) project. This year, he led the national team towards the redaction of a National Spill Contingency Plan – to be reviewed by the GI WACAF in 2023.

# GI WACAF Communication

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## LinkedIn Page

The Project's LinkedIn page has now almost 1000 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. A few communication projects are under way, such as the creation of a specialized platform for all GI WACAF Focal Points to share their experience and to exchange on GI WACAF action in the region. A newsletter will also be soon put in place and shared on the LinkedIn Page to keep both our Industry and National Focal Points in the loop of GI WACAF Activities. Building upon the Project's concept note, animated infographics in both French and English will be 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 replays of the upcoming webinar sessions.

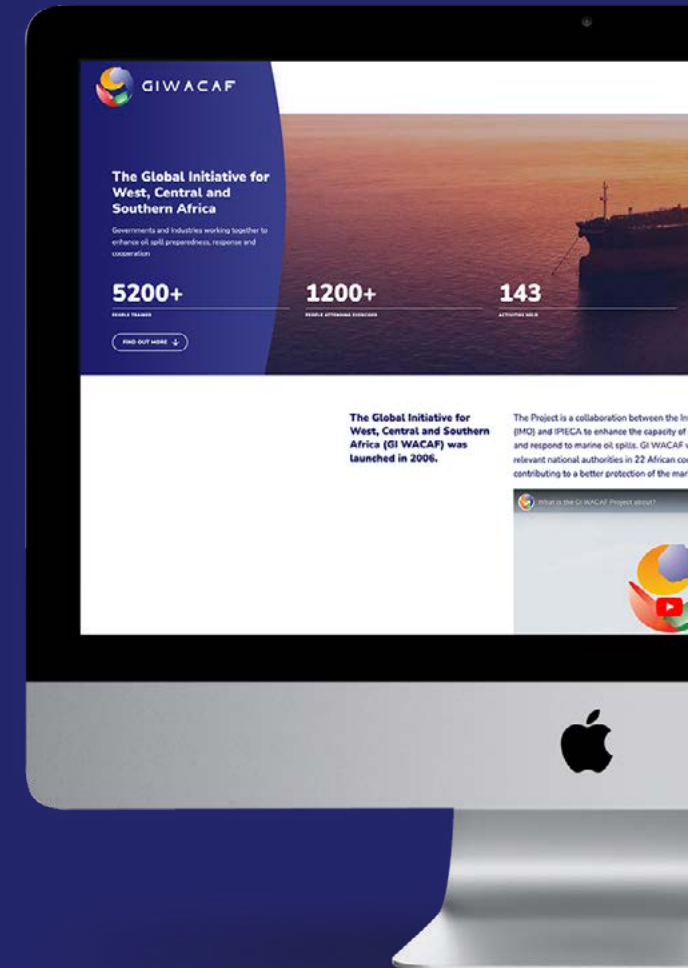


## YouTube

The GI WACAF team has launched, in 2020, a YouTube channel to broadcast webinars' replay videos, as well as animated infographics to illustrate the activities carried out and the results obtained.

## Website

Activities, conferences, workshops and exercises organized by the GI WACAF are regularly summarized and made publicly available on the project's dedicated website.





# Planned activities for 2023

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With the lifting of the travel restrictions due to Covid-19, the GI WACAF Team wants to continue following the progress in its partner countries remotely as well as by organizing and attending in-country activities.

Considering preparedness and response priorities, the GI WACAF's agenda, and the countries' own priorities, a work plan has already been drafted by the GI WACAF Team for the 2023-2024 biennium.

The upcoming activities will deal with the following subjects:

- Modeling studies
- Oiled Wildlife
- NOSCP
- Legal assistance in the implementation of IMO Conventions
- Dispersant use



# Governance and Secretariat

## Strategic Level

Will Griffiths joined the project in May 2022 as an IMO representative, in charge of the OPRC-HNS Convention.

GI WACAF Chair	GIWACAF Vice-Chair	GIWACAF Vice-Chair	IMO	
				
Andrew Tucker (bp)	Tania Augusto (ExxonMobil)	Michael Hunt (Chevron)	Patricia Charlebois Senior Deputy Director	Will Griffiths Technical Officer

## Implementation Level

2022 was a year of great turnover for the GI WACAF Team: Anaïs Guillou became Project Manager in April 2022 following Lindsay Page-Jones, and Rim Al Amir became Project Coordinator in October 2022.

Our new team is delighted to pursue the aims and ambitions of the GI WACAF Project, in cooperation with our partner countries, industry, and external partners.





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The GI WACAF Project  
is an IMO / IPIECA Cooperation