



# MID-YEAR REVIEW 2019



[WWW.GIWACAF.NET](http://WWW.GIWACAF.NET)



ExxonMobil



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Project	3
2019 Mid-Year Review of the GI WACAF Project	4
Calendar of Events 2019	5
<hr/>	
2019 Review	
GI WACAF Activities	5
Feedback on the sub-regional workshop on implementation of conventions in Côte d'Ivoire	8
External meetings and conferences	11
Cooperation with international stakeholders	12
<hr/>	
Future activities for 2019	14
GI WACAF communication	14



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](#)





# 2019 MID-YEAR REVIEW OF THE GI WACAF PROJECT

2019 marks the second half of the 2018-2019 biennium. The Project Secretariat has continued to implement the strategic action plan drawn up following the GI WACAF Regional Conference in 2017. The overview for 2018 is provided in the [2018 Annual Report](#).

The first activity of the year was a sub-regional workshop, followed by several other national workshops and exercise. This sub-regional workshop, involving 6 francophone Western and Central African countries, was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March to discuss the domestication of IMO conventions in national law. This type of workshop was a first for the Project. It is a key stage that is vital for ensuring that the conventions are fully implemented and enforced. For its first activity of the kind, GI WACAF worked both with the Marine Environment Division and the Legal Affairs Office of the IMO Secretariat, as well as the IOPC Funds.

At the same time, the Project took part in external initiatives dedicated to oil spill preparedness and response in Africa and the United States.

The Project team was consequently able to highlight the Project's effective, sustained approach in supporting efforts in the region in preparing for and responding to oil spills, as well as presenting the internationally recognised good practice in this field, which GI WACAF endeavours to promote in the region. This culminated with the Project collaborating for the first time with GoGIN (the Gulf of Guinea Interregional Network) to implement a national training followed by an exercise in Benin in June.

Finally, the Project Secretariat has been continuing to update and improve the Project website and communication tools. A new updated brochure has been published.



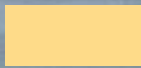
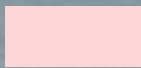

The brochure is available in English on the [Project website](#)



The 2018 Annual Report is available in [English](#) and [French](#) on the Project website.

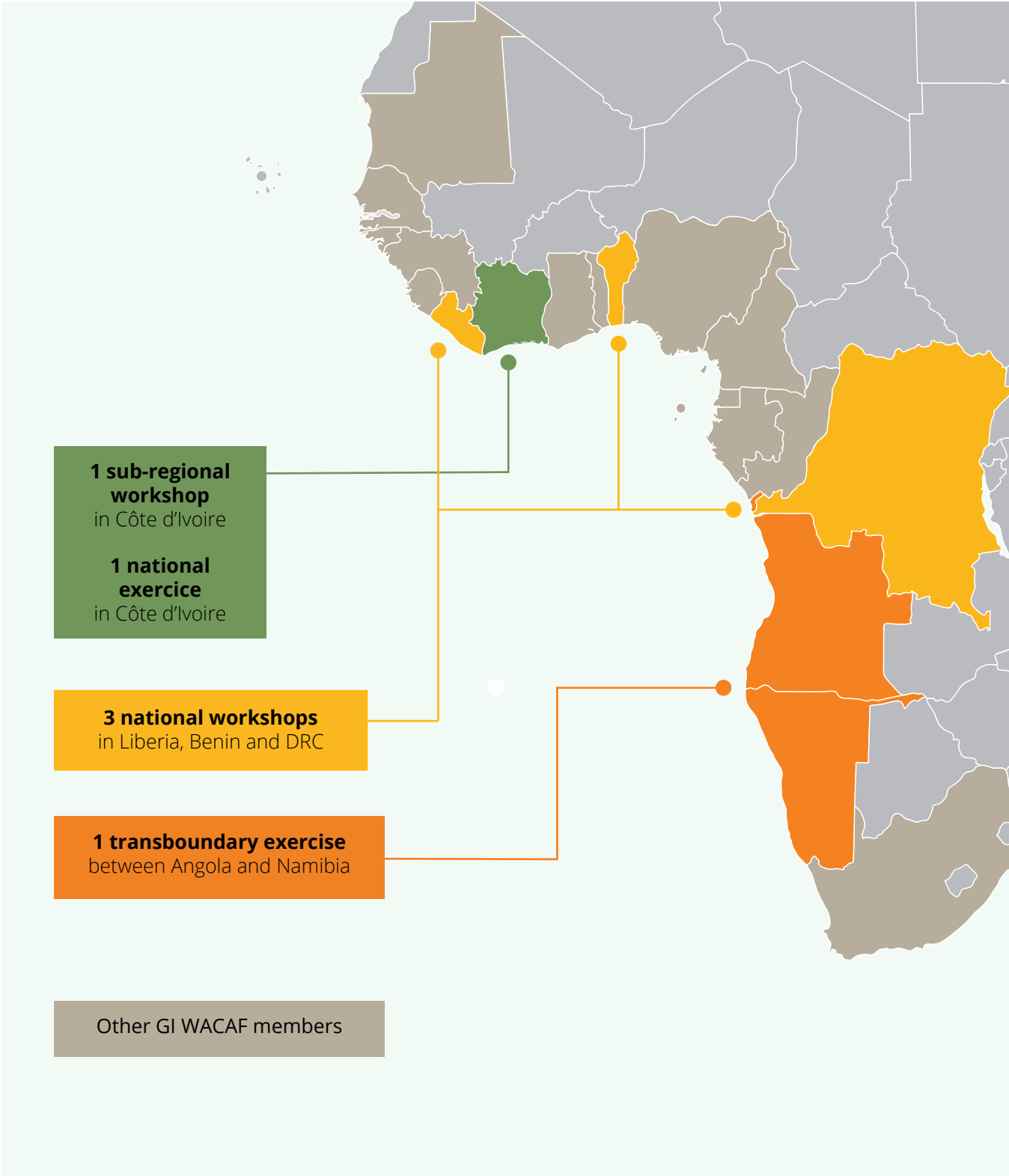
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

March		Côte d'Ivoire	Sub-regional workshop on the transposition of relevant IMO conventions in national law
March		Senegal	GoGIN Project advisory committee
March		USA	IPIECA week
April - May		Liberia	National workshop on IMS
June		Côte d'Ivoire	National exercise to test the NOSCP
June - July		Bénin	Joint national training and exercise with GoGIN
July		Democratic Republic of Congo	National workshop on contingency planning and update of the NOSCP
August		Namibia/Angola	Transboundary oil spill response training and exercise

-  EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT
-  JOINT ACTIVITY
-  IN REGION ACTIVITIES

# GI WACAF ACTIVITIES

In total, 7 activities have been organised so far in 2019 in 6 countries:



## MARCH, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**Sub-regional workshop on the ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil spill response preparedness and response and to liability and compensation**

It focused on the transposition and effective implementation of various IMO Conventions relevant to preparedness, response, liability and compensation in the event of oil spills and gathered delegates of 6 French-speaking countries. In addition to the technical staff who usually attend, the workshop was also attended by legal specialists from the different administrations. The workshop proved to be very useful to enhance their knowledge of the IMO instruments, and enabled them to reflect that knowledge when drafting domestic legislation. The workshop also addressed the importance of ensuring a follow-up to adopted amendments to IMO instruments in domestic legislation, as well as the key role of the judiciary in ensuring enforcement of IMO instruments.

The participants identified underlying causes representing a barrier to implementation and effective enforcement of the different IMO conventions, and produced an action plan with recommendations.

*This action plan is annexed to the full [Activity Report](#)*



## APRIL, LIBERIA

**National training workshop on Incident Management System 300 (IMS 300)**

The event brought together key stakeholders that have been instrumental in the development of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan as well as representatives from government, agencies, non-government organisations, private sector and industry who could be called upon to form an Incident Management Team in the event of a disaster in Liberian maritime waters. The aim of the IMS 300 Course was to introduce delegates to a system that enables the effective management of an unforeseen escalating oil spill incident. It focused on how the Command and Management component supports the management of expanding incidents and on the implementation of the incident management process on a simulated incident through a table-top exercise.



The course was mainly theory based with interactive sessions and exercises to assist in the learning process. This mixture of activities allowed for dialogue, discussion, enthusiasm and the sharing of knowledge from within the group.



JUNE, CÔTE D'IVOIRE  
National exercise to test the NOSCP

For several years, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d'Ivoire has been organizing an annual exercise to test this plan and ensure it is up to date. In 2019, the scenario involved an oil pollution incident following a collision between an oil tanker and a container carrier off San Pedro. The exercise was prepared and led by CIAPOL.

During this exercise, the national organization was set out of Abidjan to assess the possible articulation between the National Crisis Cell of the POLLUMAR Plan (name of the NOSCP) and the organization of the regional ORSEC Plan in a coastal locality.

At CIAPOL's request, the GI WACAF project sent a team of observers to evaluate the exercise and make recommendations on how to improve.



*These recommendations  
will be included in the full  
report soon to be available  
on the [GI WACAF website](#)*

JUNE, BENIN  
Joint national training and exercise with GoGIN

This 3-day training was the first joint event organised by GI WACAF in cooperation with the Gulf of Guinea Interregional Network (see below). It sought to foster the ongoing update of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) of Benin and the organisation of a simulation exercise aimed at managing an incident of illegal release of hydrocarbons at sea planned on the following week. Topics covered included: general information on marine oil pollution; organization and management of oil spill response operations; response techniques at sea and onshore; aerial observation and

characterization of oil spills at sea; identification, collection and preservation of evidence and samples; and international compensation regime for accidental spills.

Following the presentations and group discussions a number of recommendations were identified regarding the ongoing development of the NOSCP and the implementation of the provisions of liability and compensation conventions and the development of mechanisms to control illegal discharges at sea. Thanks to GoGIN, 4 Togolese delegates could participate in this training.

JULY, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO  
National workshop on contingency planning

The overall objective of the workshop was to review and update the national marine oil spill response plan, named nationally the "POLMARC plan". In order to do that effectively, precise objectives were set: first train national authorities on oil spill response management and strategies; then carry out a table top exercise to review and test RDC's POLMARC plan; and following the exercise, discuss and identify recommendations for the improvement of the POLMARC plan. The active participation and the expertise of all delegates were greatly appreciated and were key to the success of this workshop.



AUGUST, ANGOLA / NAMIBIA  
Transboundary oil spill response training and exercise

A 2-day training followed by a transboundary table-top exercise between Angola and Namibia was organised by GI WACAF in cooperation with national authorities in charge of oil spill preparedness and response in Angola (*Ministério dos Recursos Minerais e Petróleos*) and Namibia (Ministry of Works and Transport).

It was held simultaneously in Luanda and Walvis Bay to test, the communication links between Angola and Namibia, test each NOSCPs in case of a transboundary oil spill incident and the cooperation mechanisms in the sub-region. Thanks to the participation of the BCC ([Benguela Current Commission](#)), 3 South African delegates were invited as Observers.



# FEEDBACK ON THE SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP

## On the transposition and effective implementation of conventions relating to preparedness, response, liability and compensation in the event of oil spillage

This sub-regional activity aimed to respond to a request made at the 7<sup>th</sup> GI WACAF regional conference in 2017. The States in the region had specifically asked for assistance relating to the domestication of IMO conventions in national law. This is a key stage that is vital for ensuring that the conventions are fully implemented and enforced.

This workshop was a first for GI WACAF as it was organised with the support of both the Marine Environment Division and the Legal Affairs Office of the IMO Secretariat, as well as the IOPC Funds. It was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 18 to 22 March 2019 and gathered delegates from 6 French-speaking countries: Benin, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Senegal.

The global and local traffic in these countries as well as the number of offshore oil exploration projects in the region are increasing rapidly. These developments underline the importance of fully implementing the provisions of the IMO conventions covered during the workshop and to which States are parties in order to adequately protect their marine environment and coastline.

The conventions covered during the workshop were the:

- International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990;
- the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992;
- the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage;
- the Bunkers Convention 2001; and
- the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976, amended by the Protocol of 1996.

The workshop brought together for the first time legal specialist administrators from the invited States in addition to the technical administrators usually invited. The presence of legal specialist administrators served to enrich the discussions by providing a complementary perspective.

The training of jurists and drafters of legal texts, which seems to be the missing link in the current system of cooperation, is important in enabling those actors to improve their knowledge of IMO instruments, the drafting of them and the procedures for amending them, as well as of the methods for transposing them effectively into domestic legislation.

In accordance with its aim, the workshop produced a set of conclusions and recommendations, as well as a strategy presenting the priority actions which should be undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in order to meet needs in domains identified as priority.



The full report including the Action plan in annex is available on the [GI WACAF website](#)

# EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

## MARCH, USA IPIECA Oil Spill Group Meeting

The Oil Spill Group meeting organised in Washington was an opportunity to exchange on activities of the different GI programmes. The GI WACAF Project Manager presented the outcomes of the Regional Conference and gave an update on the work that was carried on during the biennium 2018-2019. Participants also discussed international conferences and workshops on oil spill response organised in 2019.





## COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

### MARCH, SENEGAL

#### GoGIN Advisory Committee

GI WACAF attended the second GoGIN Advisory Committee, which was held in Dakar, Senegal on 9-10 April 2019. **GoGIN – Gulf of Guinea Inter-regional Network** – aims to foster inter-regional cooperation from Senegal to Angola on maritime safety and security issues. This particular event was gathering all representatives from GoGIN partner countries, maritime centres, regional organisation and maritime international partners.

The two days were dedicated to the presentation of what has been done so far by the project and to discuss what is foreseen in the months to come. It was also be the occasion to officially present the new orientations of GoGIN to all stakeholders. Following these new orientations, GI WACAF and GoGIN are seeking to cooperate on oil-spill related topics in the region. A first joint activity took place in Benin in June (see next page).



### JUNE, BENIN

#### First joint activity GI WACAF / GoGIN

GI WACAF organized the 3-day training course that preceded an operational training in Benin in the field of oil spill response organized by GoGIN (Interregional Network for the Gulf of Guinea). This training was the result of the first collaboration between the GI WACAF and GoGIN Projects. Its purpose was to prepare the simulation exercise aimed at managing an incident of illegal oil release at sea and its possible consequences.

The technical training took place from 25 to 27 June 2019 in Cotonou. It covered various aspects useful to participants in the following week's anti-pollution operation (emergency planning, recognition and characterization of oil spills at sea and the international regime of liability and compensation in the event of an oil spill). Recommendations were made on how to improve the NOSCP that is currently being drafted in Benin and on how to include the various aspects covered during the training in it. Four Togolese delegates participated in our workshop while 4 Beninese delegates were in Togo, where GoGIN was organizing a workshop on illegal fishing.

Working together with GoGIN has proved very fruitful for several reasons. First of all, GoGIN and GI WACAF have complementary fields of expertise. While GI WACAF is focusing on institutional and technical aspects of oil spill response and emergency planning, GoGIN's core theme is crisis management.






This allowed the activity to have two different aspects. The lessons learned during the technical training could be directly put into practice and operationalized during the exercise.

Moreover, GoGIN is working with a different network of focal points in Africa and during the training all the Benin administrations involved in oil spill response at sea gathered and discussed their respective responsibilities. Working together thus prevented duplication of efforts and helped delivering consistent messages. This training was also the occasion for GI WACAF to be known by other key regional actors such as the Yaounde architecture that GoGIN is supporting in securing the Gulf of Guinea.



© FLICKR

FUTURE ACTIVITIES 2019

September		Nigeria	National workshop on liability and compensation
October		South Africa	8 <sup>th</sup> Regional conference
November		South Africa	National workshop on IMS 300 and 3 <sup>rd</sup> joint government / industry exercise
November		Togo	National workshop on liability and compensation
November - December		Gabon	National workshop on OPRC and MARPOL Conventions

GI WACAF COMMUNICATION

2018 Report

At the beginning of 2019, GI WACAF published the Annual Report 2018. It includes details about in-region activities as well as external engagement organised during last year. The document is available on the website in [English](#) and in [French](#).



Website

The Secretariat has been continuing to update and improve the [Project website](#).

New brochure

In 2019, GI WACAF produced a new updated brochure. It is available in [English](#) on the Project website.



THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK





The GI WACAF Project is  
an IMO / IPIECA Cooperation