


# Country profile 2024 – Ghana

## Part 1. General information

### 1. Country information

	Full name of the country	REPUBLIC OF GHANA
	Capital	ACCRA
	Official language(s)	ENGLISH
	Main ports	TEMA AND TAKORADI
	Coastline (km)	550

## 2. Contacts

### *GI WACAF Focal point*

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*National representatives completing this document*

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### 3. Industry

Industry presence in the country	
Which industry partners from the <i>Oil &amp; Gas</i> sector are present and operating in your country?	Tullow Oil, ENI Exploration and Production Ltd, Aker Energy Ltd, bunkering operations, petroleum terminal operations, port operations
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.	Yes. There are five (5) working group that operates under the framework of the NOSCP
Is there sharing of human resources and equipment between industry and government during exercises and/or training?	Yes. This arrangement is provided under the framework of the NOSCP, but no formal agreement exist between industry and government.
Please list any other aspects relevant to cooperation between industry and government.	Joint training, exercises and capacity building

## 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	Environmental Protection Agency
Contact person responsible for oil spills at sea	Lawrence Kotoe
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<i>Shoreline response</i>	
Ministry/Department/Agency	Environmental Protection Agency
Contact person responsible for shoreline oil spills	Kojo Agbenor-Efunam

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<i>Authority(ies) responsible for implementation of IMO conventions</i>	
Ministry/Department/Agency	Ghana Maritime Authority
Contact person	Inusah Abdul Nasir
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*Other comments on the institutional context:*

*The Ghana Maritime Authority coordinates the activities of the various Competent Authorities in the implementation of IMO Conventions in Ghana.*

## 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 7378	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Preparedness and response				
OPRC 90	Yes	Yes	Yes	
OPRC-HNS Protocol	No	No	No	
Liability and compensation				
CLC 69	Yes	Yes	Yes	
CLC 92	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Fund 92	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Fund Prot. (2003)	No	No		
Bunker Oil (BUNKER 2001)	No	No		
LLMC 76	No	No		

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LLMC 96	No	No		
HNS 2010	No	No		

National legislation			
Maritime policies and regulatory framework	Do maritime policies or strategies exist? What is the responsible entity?	Yes. The lead entity is the Ghana Maritime Authority. Other institutions include the Environmental Protection Agency	
Ratification of IMO conventions	What are the main challenges/obstacles to ratification?	Inadequate coordination	
		Inability to see it as a priority	
		Inadequate legal expertise	
		Inadequate technical expertise	
		Inadequate 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stakeholder engagement</li><li>- Cabinet Memo prepared giving justification including a report of the stakeholder engagement</li><li>- Minister Responsible presents to Cabinet</li><li>- Submission to Attorney-General's Department</li><li>- Parliamentary consideration and approval</li></ul>	

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Incorporation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1992 Fund Convention</li><li>• Supplementary Fund Protocol</li></ul>	Does the related law identify the national authority responsible for the submission of oil reports?	Yes
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## *II. National Oil Spill Contingency Plan*

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

Document	
Name of NOSCP	Ghana National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP)
Status of NOSCP	Approved. Recently updated (2021)
Administrative act of initial approval – Number and date	Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Act 490) Maritime Pollution Act 2016 (Act 932)
Date of last approved update	Already provided in Law and only updated periodically with the latest version being 2021.
Committee/working group responsible	The steering committee and the five (5) working groups established under the NOSCP
Has the NOSCP been tested? Date and main comments	Yes. Annually. The last is 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?	Updates are initiated through identification of gaps during exercises, changes in legislations and change in personnel within institutions. Updates do not go through administrative Act because it is already provided for in the Law.
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## 2. Coordination, notification policies and organisation of response

Organisation of response	
Does the NOSCP utilise concepts from the <i>Incident Management System</i> (IMS)?	Yes
Is each defined role assigned to a person/function?	No. Roles are assigned to institutions instead of persons because personnel are changed very frequently in the key institutions.
Are the contact details of the responsible persons contained in an annex?	The contact details of each response organization/institution is provided in the annex.
Does the NOSCP incorporate the different preparedness levels (Tiers 1, 2, 3)?	Yes
<p>Organisation chart:</p>	

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. They are provided as annexes to the NOSCP
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?	Yes. But it is the other way round. The NOSCP provides the framework and the facility plans are to follow this framework and reference the NOSCP.
Involving the local communities	
Is the involvement of local communities in case of oil spills and during exercises planned?	Yes
Follow-up and archive; compensation	
Is there a follow-up plan and archiving system that allows evidence to be stored?	Yes
Are compensation and the procedures for requesting compensation defined and integrated?	Yes

### 3. Components of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

Policy on use of dispersants	
Status of the policy on the use of dispersants	Finalized and Published
The use of dispersants is considered as (first/second/last option/not an option).	Second option
State the name of the administrative act which details the policy on use of dispersants.	Administrative mandate already provided for under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490)
Is there a list of approved dispersants? If yes, is it public?	Yes. It is public at <a href="http://www.epaoilandgas.org">www.epaoilandgas.org</a>
Is there an approval procedure? If yes, which authority is responsible for this?	Yes. Environmental Protection Agency
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?	Beyond 20 meters water depth
Is there a stock of dispersants?	Yes
Location of the storage sites	With the oil companies

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Name	Owner	Quantity
Sensitivity mapping and risk evaluation		
<i>Sensitivity maps</i>		
Status of sensitivity maps	Finalized and published	
Responsible working group/committee	Environment Working Group under the framework of the NOSCP	
Are sensitivity maps included in the NOSCP?	Yes	
Date of validation and last update	2020	
Does the map cover the whole shoreline?	Yes	
Are the sensitivity maps public?	Yes	

In what format are the sensitivity maps available? Print or digital?	Electronic and Hardcopy
Risk evaluation	
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

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Is the Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) included in the NOSCP?	Yes
Shoreline evaluation and response plan	
Status of the shoreline response plan	Under development
Which authority is responsible for shoreline response?	Environmental Protection Agency
Date of validation and last update	Same document with at sea response
Is the shoreline response plan part of the NOSCP?	Yes
Does the shoreline response plan incorporate the Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT)?	Yes
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	Finalized
Responsible working group/committee	Waste Management Working Group under the framework of the NOSCP
Date of validation and last update	Validation not required. Already part of the last version of the NOSCP

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?	Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 (Act 917) Hazardous, Electronic and Other Waste (Classification) Control and Management Regulations 2016 (LI 2250)
Contingency plan for the safety of oiled wildlife	
Status of the contingency plan for the protection of oiled wildlife	Under-going stakeholder consultation
Responsible working group/committee	Environment Working Group under the framework of the NOSCP
Date of validation and last update	Validation not required. Already part of the last version of the NOSCP
Is the contingency plan for the protection of oiled wildlife part of the NOSCP?	Under development
Are there national bodies responsible for this? If yes, which ones?	Yes. Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission (but lack capacity). Institutions that could help include the Ghana Wildlife Society and other NGOs
Are there cooperation agreements with international specialised organisations?	The Oil Companies have corporation agreement with specialized organization as part of their response obligation.
<i>In-situ</i> burning policy	

Status of the <i>in-situ</i> burning policy	Finalized and part of NOSCP
Responsible working group/committee	Operations Working Group under the framework of the NOSCP
Date of validation and last update	Validation not required. Already part of the last version of the NOSCP
Does the <i>in-situ</i> burning policy form part of the NOSCP?	Yes
What is the authorization procedure in case of an incident?	Determined at the time of incident if considered the best option
Other technical elements	
Does the NOSCP cover preparedness and response in the case of spills of hazardous and noxious substances (HNS)?	No

### *III. Response equipment, training/exercises and international cooperation*

#### 1. Transboundary cooperation and international assistance

Regional agreements	
What bilateral and/or regional cooperation response mechanisms are included in the NOSCP?	NOSCP has identified bilateral corporation with neighbouring countries. However, there are no bilateral agreement currently in place.

Are transboundary exercises organised regularly? If yes, how often?	No
Date of the last transboundary exercise	2017
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?	The Administration Working Group under the framework of the NOSCP has Customs and Immigration as member institutions to facilitate the import of equipment and/or experts as part of their existing procedures.
Assistance mechanisms	
Does your country participate in cooperation with projects/institutions aimed at improving preparedness and response? If yes, which ones?	<p>Yes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil for Development Programme (OfD), NORAD, Norway</li> <li>• MARENDA Project</li> <li>• Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL)</li> </ul>
Is there mutual support between government and industry for the exchange of response equipment?	No formal mutual support arrangement in place
Are mechanisms for mobilisation and access to public and private international assistance in place?	Yes



## 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)?	Yes. No training policy in place, and some training is provided But not at all staff levels
<i>Exercises</i>	
Does the country organise national exercises (involving local and private sectors) at least once a year?	Yes
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

### 3. Equipment and national resources

Response equipment	
Government:	Private sector:
Yes	Yes
Centre for storage and maintenance of response equipment	Yes. With individual institutions and oil companies
Planned acquisition of response equipment by the government	Yes
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	No
Crisis control centre (rooms for meetings and communication)	Yes
Centre for resources, training and documentation for oil spill preparedness and for response management	No

Capacity for intervention	
In case of TIER 1 <sup>1</sup> 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?	Yes
In case of TIER 3 oil spills, is there sufficient national oil spill response capacity to enact intervention measures?	Yes

#### 4. Communication

Communication with the media and the public	
Are standard procedures in place for communication with the media during exercises and actual incidents?	No
Is there a practical and strategic training programme on communicating with the media, for decision-makers and other response stakeholders?	Yes

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<sup>1</sup> The definition of tiers 1, 2, 3 varies by country

