WORKSHOP REPORT

Introduction to

National Oil Spill Response Plans

and

Relevant International Conventions

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea 30 July – 2 August 2007









Workshop Report of the August 2007 WACAF Equatorial Guinea Mission:

National Oil Spill Contingency Planning Process and the International Convention

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Executive Summary

A 4-day workshop, held from 30 July to 2 August 2007, was the first activity in the process for development of a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Equatorial Guinea supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) under the Global Initiative for West and Central Africa (GI WACAF). More than 35 delegates participated in the workshop held in Malabo and hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries. Global concepts of oil spill preparedness and response were introduced by IMO and IPIECA experts and training specific to the CLC 92 and FUND 92 convention was conducted by experts from the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds).

The final day of the workshop was used to capture an understanding of current oil spill planning and related activities in Equatorial Guinea and to develop a framework for future actions that would help to advance development of a National Contingency Plan. The workshop consensus was that Equatorial Guinea should ratify CLC 92 and FUND 92 conventions and therefore progress toward adopting international oil spill response readiness standards.

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Overview of Activities

A workshop on oil pollution preparedness, response and cooperation and on claims from oil spills was held in Malabo (Republic of Equatorial Guinea) from 30 July to 2 August 2007. These activities were organized by IMO and IPIECA through the Global Initiative for West and Central Africa (GI WACAF Project) and with the support of the IOPC Funds.

The four-day workshop had defined the following workshop objectives:

- Support Equatorial Guinea in developing a national structure for oil spill preparedness and response;
- · Provide information on the Conventions including:
 - International Convention on Oil Pollution, Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC Convention), and the
 - Conventions relating to Liability and compensation (1992 Civil Liability Convention (CLC) and 1992 Fund Convention)
- Support delegates in establishing an Action Plan based on the specific needs of Equatorial Guinea

Expectations for the delegates were:

- to have an overview of the actual elements and initiatives in place in the country for oil spill preparedness and response;
- to be informed of the Oil Spill Preparedness Response and Cooperation mechanisms to be put in place (OPRC 90 Convention);
- to have a good understanding of the IOPC Funds system; and
- to participate in the development of an action plan toward establishment of a national structure for oil spill preparedness and response

The four-day program was initiated by an opening speech provided by the Head of the Ministry for Fisheries and the Environment, Mr. Simon Osa, Mr. Sergio Rodríguez-Carbonel IMO consultant and Dr. Elliott Taylor IPIECA Consultant followed with presentations on Days 1 and 2 of oil spill response readiness and key elements of planning (see Annex A, Program Agenda). Lessons learned and actions implemented in the wake of response to the *Prestige* spill provided by examples of some of the challenges that face Equatorial Guinea and other countries from vessels in innocent passage.

The Head of the IOPC Claims Department, Mr. José Maura, and Ms. Ana Cuesta from the Claims Department made various presentations on the international compensation regime set up by the 1992 Civil Liability Convention (CLC 92) and the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 (Fund 92). Procedures for oil spill compensation claims were detailed to delegates. The seminar and workshop were attended by 37 delegates from various government departments (Ministries of Fisheries and Environment, Transport & Communications, National Defense, Social Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Health, Information, Culture and Tourism), the oil industry, and other relevant organizations (see Annex B - Participants List).



Summary of Presentations

The focus of the presentations made on days 1-3 were on spill response planning and preparedness, lessons learned in Spain from the *Prestige* spill, and the claims/compensation process through the IOPC fund. These are summarized in the following.

Contingency Plans - Spain

- Established at multiple levels, ranging from local to vessels (SOPEP), regional and National plans
- IMO guideline are provided for multiple levels
- Response typically is scaled to spill size and threat, or tiers
- International model for plans typically recognize Tiers 1 (local), Tier 2 (regional), and Tier 3 (national to international)
- Plans fit within international framework, such as MARPOL 73/78, HNS 2000, OPRC 90
- OPRC 90, Article 6.1.b establishes requirement for signatory countries to have National Contingency Plan
- Spain ratified OPRC 90 on 12 January 1994
- Spain's NCP is approved in 2001, furthermore recognizing recommendation for development of interior and territorial contingency plans for spill emergencies

Prestige

- Aerial surveillance
- · Organization of response teams along coast
- National and international resources (equipment and personnel)
- Coastal contamination assessment, terms used, and cleanup requirements
- Shoreline cleanup activities and restoration
- Armed Forces participation
- Logistical challenges: personnel, transportation, and waste

Spill Response and Contingency Planning

- Sources of spills: historical perspectives, tankers, and non-tanker vessels
- Types of oil: fate and behavior
- Spill impacts: factors, environmental, socioeconomic
- Participants in contingency planning: government, industry, ports, environmental organizations
- Plan organization: legislated requirements, policy vs. operational driven
- Planning guidance:
 - ARPEL- National Contingency Plans
 - International Maritime Organization
 - o International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation, Ltd. (ITOPF)



- International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA)
- o APELL (Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies on a Local Level) UNEP
- IMO Contents for International Plans
 - Introduction
 - o Policies and Responsibilities
 - o Elements of Planning and Response
 - Response Operations
 - Reporting and Communications
 - Administration and Logistics
 - o Public Relations / Protocols
 - Annexes
- Example contents for Response Plans
 - Introduction
 - Checklists for Initial Response Actions
 - Notifications and Reporting
 - Command
 - Safety and Security
 - Response Operations
 - o Planning Function: Assessment, Action Plans, Environmental Priorities
 - Logistical Support
 - Resources
 - Training and Exercises
 - Scenarios
- Incident Command for Spill Management
 - o Command: Liaison, Safety, and Public Relations
 - o Operations: Field Organization and Divisions
 - o Planning: Environmental, Situations, Documentation, Actions Plans
 - Logistics: Communications, Services (Food, Facilities), Transportation
 - Finance and Administration: Costs and Cost Controls, Documentation, Claims and Investigation
- Sensitivity Mapping and Tactical Plans
 - Ecological resources and timing
 - o GIS and Standard Map Presentation
 - Socioeconomic Resources
 - Setting Priorities and Public Participation
 - Protection Strategies and Tactical Plans for Priority Sites
- Spill Response Strategies, Tactics and Equipment
 - o Skimmer Systems: Pumps, Types of Skimmers, Advantages & Disadvantages
 - o Surveillance Systems: Radar, Satellite, FLIR, and others
 - o Boom: Protection, Containment and Recovery
 - Dispersants
 - Beach Cleanup Operations



- Waste Management: Sorting, Temporary Storage, Waste Reduction
- Final Disposal Options

IOPC Fund, Claims and Compensation

- Civil Responsibility Convention: 17 States
- Fund Convention 1992: 101 StatesComplementary Fund: 21 States
- International System
 - o Indemnity for spills of persistent oil from tank vessels
 - o Process outside of courts; without need for judicial suit
 - Applied homogenously
- Exception and limitations
- Roles of P&I Clubs
- Funding procedures for IOPC and State Participation
 - Complementary Fund Protocol in place from March 2005
 - Maximum level set at 750 million DSG (US\$1,114 million), including payments through the 1992 convention
 - Contribution to the Complementary Fund paid for by Member Status that receive oil
- Compensation for Damages: Process and Pitfalls
 - o Admissible Claims
 - o Property damages
 - Environmental damages
 - o Impacts to fisheries and mariculture
 - o Impacts to tourism
- Recovery of cleanup and response costs
 - Groups worked on an example claim problem for cost recovery of equipment and personnel used on a hypothetical spill



Welcome and Opening Speeches



Presentation of IOPC Fund





National Contingency Planning - Status Tables

Days 3 and 4 of the workshop also were used to address planning actions for a national contingency plan. These activities were initiated by organizing three work groups, each tasked to review six key themes, and corresponding sub-themes, in national contingency planning in order to capture an understanding of the current status of these topics. Key themes discussed and reviewed were:

- Legislation
- Designated Authorities
- Contingency Plans
- Trans-Boundary Agreements
- Training and Exercises
- Resources (Technologies, Equipment, and Human Resources)

Each group discussed their understanding of the state of the topic and subtopics in Equatorial Guinea. Specifically, each group was asked to provide input for each subtopic on:

- what information exists and available references.
- who has the initiative (focal point) and/or who participates in the subject area, and
- what recent developments or activities have been accomplished or are or in progress.

One person from each group was assigned to take notes of the major highlights discussed. The IMO-IPIECA experts help facilitate discussions and to keep groups on task. Summaries of each theme were prepared based on the responses provided independently by each group. These theme summaries are provided in the following.



THEME: Legislation

Example Sub-themes:

- Laws
- Regulations
- National
- Regional
- Conventions (OPRC, CLC, etc.)
- Dispersants

Status of Each Sub-Theme

What exists (references)?
Who has the initiative (focal point)?
Recent Activities / In Progress?

Law No.7/2003, Environmental Regulations in EG Law No. 10/2003, Ref. Fisheries Activities in EG Region Law No. 8/2006, Hydrocarbons Law

Offshore and Coastal Law in approval stages

There is no law regulating oil spills

Missing regulations for environmental protection

There is an Environmental Committee formed by representatives from various ministries that are focusing on environmental issues.



THEME: Designated Authorities

Example Sub-themes:

- Ministry in Charge
- Designation in Law
- Other Ministries and Participants
- Duties and Responsibilities
- Central Coordination
- Inspection

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What exists (references)?
Who has the initiative (focal point)?
Recent Activities / In Progress?

There is no designated authority.

Currently coordination with industry is through Ministry of Mines, Industry and Energy (MMIE).

Government agencies that would participants in a National Contingency Plan (NCP) would be:

- 1. National Defense
- 2. Mines, Industries and Energy
- 3. Fisheries and Environment
- 4. Exterior Relations
- 5. Sanitation
- 6. Interior
- 7. Transport, Technology, Mail and Telecommunications

One group indicated that the Ministry of Defense likely would be the focal point and responsible agency for a NCP.

There currently is a national committee for emergencies, the Crisis Committee, which is invoked by the President for major disasters or incidents (e.g., jet crash into sea in 2004). The discussion group indicated that the committee effectively fulfilled is function during that crisis.



THEME: Contingency Plans

Example Sub-themes:

- Industry Plans (Contents, Dates)
- Local Plans (Ports)
- Central Notification Points
- Risk Analysis
- Sensitive Areas (GIS?, ESAs?)
- Response Management Organization
- Response Tiers
- Command Post (s)

Status of I	Each S	iub-1	Theme
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What exists (references)?

ш	What exists (references).
	Who has the initiative (focal point)?
	Recent Activities / In Progress?

Plans in the petroleum industry sector: ExxonMobil, Hess, EG LNG, Marathon

Ministry of Mines, Industry and Energy approves industries environmental plans (not the same as a response plan)

Ships have SOPEP: Who verifies or inspects these vessels, other than industry?

Uncertain what emergency plans exists at port level (Ministry of Public Works) or by Captain of the Port.

Current central communications point for emergencies is POLICE (tel. 17) and FIRE Dept. (tel. 18)

Some sensitive areas are identified in industry plans and in general by the GCLME (Guinea Coast Large Marine Ecosystems) Project, which addresses oceanography and ecology.

Captains of Port and Defense Ministry (Navy) have information on currents.

Industry has identified Incident Command Posts for Tier 2 or higher than just the facility itself are located at: Bome – Hess, Abaya – ExxonMobil, Puerto Europa – LNG & Marathon

Industry uses the Incident Command System (ICS) as its response model. EM and Hess have field guides and checklists for ICS roles and responsibilities.



THEME: Cross-Border Agreements

Example Sub-themes:

- Participating countries
- Regional agreements
- Customs facilitation
- Immigration facilitation

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What exists (references)?
Who has the initiative (focal point)?
Recent Activities / In Progress?

Customs is handled by Treasury and Budget Ministry

Immigration is handled by National Security

Preferential cooperation agreements are in place with: China, Cuba, North Korea, United States

A regional cooperative agreement, CEMAC (Comunidad Económica y Monetaria de África Central- Central Africa Economic and Monetary Community), is in place with six participating countries: Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Cameroon, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Central Africa Fed. (Sao Tome participates only as an observer)

A regional contingency plan initiative exists between Fisheries-Environment and Transport, Technologies, Mail and Telecomm ministries.

In a crisis, the National Emergencies Committee can speed up customs and immigration procedures (e.g., as was done during the jet crash incident)



THEME: Training and Exercises

Example Sub-themes:

- Trained personnel
- Types of training (approved)
- Minimum training requirements (by level)
- Frequency (including refreshers)
- Coordination between industry and government
- Exterior programs (IMO)
- Trainers (Train-the-Trainer)

Status of Each Sub-Theme

- □ What exists (references)?
 - \Box Who has the initiative (focal point)?
 - □ Recent Activities / In Progress?

EXERCISE AND TRAINING

Industry:

Training and exercise programs are part of spill preparedness. Exercise programs (generally done with some training) are:

ExxonMobil
 Hess
 exercise every 2 months; next to be jointly with Defense Ministry every 3 months; Includes notification to MMIE, VP Marathon, VP

ExxonMobil; Last exercise was July 2007

Marathon annual exercise with training

Emergency exercises (fire and evacuation) are typically done every week (platforms)

Government

Defense Ministry carries out exercises, but not aimed toward environmental issues

TRAINED PERSONNEL

Industry:

Personnel are trained to operator and to management levels. ICS is used as the response management model. Qualified personnel at the Incident Commander level at any given time are:

ExxonMobil
Hess
Marathon
5 ICs
3 ICs
5 ICs





THEME: Resources (Technologies / Equipment / Human)

Example Sub-themes:

- Equipment and distribution lists
- Mutual Aid agreements
- Minimum levels
- Inspections and Audits
- Dispersants
- Approved products, decision-making, tests
- Wildlife
- Labor forces / Intervention

Status of Each Sub-Theme

What exists (references)?
Who has the initiative (focal point)?
Recent Activities / In Progress?

EQUIPMENT

Industry:

Each company has its own containment (boom), collection (skimmers and sorbents), and dispersants stockpile.

A Mutual Aid agreement for equipment exists between the oil production companies (on file with MMIE)

Industry can request support for other regional operations in neighboring countries (e.g., ExxonMobil in Cameroon & Chad)

Helicopters available from private company: CHC

Government

Coast Guard can support response with helicopters and boats

Navy can provide vessels to establish and maintain exclusion and security perimeters

PERSONNEL

Public Works, Ministry of Interior, and Coastal Ministry can provide labor force for beach cleanup

LOGISTICAL CENTERS

- Malabo
- Luba
- Bome/Bata
- Ko5



Recommendations

Following the discussion on the status of key topics, the workshop re-convened groups for a general discussion on priorities and next steps in to be taken to progress toward the development of a National Spill Contingency Plan. Actions were listed following the same themes discussed for status, with the intent being that participants would identify steps and priorities for future actions during the final day of the workshop. After heated discussion, it was decided to not attempt to set priorities and discussion was limited to a review of suggested activities. These activities are listed in the following.

LEGISLATION

Adhere to CLC92 and OPRC

Elaborate the legal framework (law) that obligates a National Contingency Plan Request government approval for an initiative to develop the legal framework to require a NCP (legal pre-project)

Convene (identify) a National Committee to elaborate the above legal framework (law)

DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

Define what agency or entity should be responsible for the development of a NCP

Create an "agency" for environmental protection

Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Ministry for the Environment

Define national participants (in NCP process)

Define a focal contact point for notification (responsibility of Ministry of National Defense)

Convocar (Identificar) un Comité Nacional para elaboración de la ley (anterior)

CONTINGENCY PLANS

Coordinate with industry plans to adapt toward a national plan level

Develop a NCP

Recommend the NCP de the responsibility of, and executed by, the Ministry of Defense

Develop future seminars related to NCP

Request assistance for development of the NCP

Create an entity specifically for emergency notifications

Obtain data on coastal currents from Port Captains

Strengthen the capacity of the GCLME Project (Guinea Coast Large Marine Ecosystems) - oceanography, sensitive areas

Determine if/where Command Posts exist within the government



TRANS-BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS

Request the negotiation of trans-boundary agreements in the Gulf of Guinea (in coordination with CEMAC)

Involve Treasury and Budget (customs) and National Security (immigration) in process to develop procedures to streamline cross-border movements in cases where external resources are required for spill response

Support the Regional Contingency Plan developed by GCLME and use to coordinate at National level

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

Send personnel from various Ministries to attend training and exercises with industry

Request support from IMO for training Model Courses Levels 1, 2, and 3.

Define ICS training programs at technical and management levels for government

Development of a NCP must be undertaken in parallel with development (training) of human resources from the various ministries and from other participating groups to be identified

RESOURCES (EQUIPMENT / TECHNOLOGIES)

Acquire equipment for oil spill response

Develop inter-ministry cooperation agreements

The NCP should be led by the Ministry of National Defense

The Ministry of National Defense should present a list of equipment to be purchased

Establish government agreements with neighboring countries

Identify the equipment needed for the NCP

Determine the resources available from Ministry of National Defense

Request equipment (and distribution) lists from industry

Understand the details of the Mutual Aid agreement between oil industry producers

Identify the existing infrastructure in Bome/Bata



Conclusions

The workshop concluded with closing statements by the Ministry representative and by the IMO expert (see closing speech in Annex D). The workshop consensus was to ratify CLC 92 and OPRC conventions and therefore progress toward adopting international oil spill response readiness standards. A key priority identified as necessary to increase the national oil spill response capability is to have the designation of the competent national authority or authorities with responsibility for oil pollution preparedness and response. Once this is defined and provided with appropriate recognition and authority, Equatorial Guinea can be expected to make significant strides toward international cooperation in pollution response and the development of a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan.



Annex A - Workshop Program

Workshop to introduce the National Planning Process for Hydrocarbon Spills and Relevant International Conventions

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, July 30 – August 2, 2007

Workshop Objectives:

- To provide support to Equatorial Guinea in the development of a national structure for preparedness and response to hydrocarbon spills:
- To provide information on Conventions, including:
 - INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON OIL POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND CO-OPERATION, 1990 (OPRC- CO-OPERATION CONVENTION 1990) AND THE HNS PROTOCOL OF 2000.
 - INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CIVIL LIABILITY FOR OIL POLLUTION DAMAGE OF 1992 (CLC, 92) AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR COMPENSATION FOR OIL POLLUTION DAMAGE OF 1992 (FUND, 92).
- To provide support to participants in order to establish an Action Plan based on the specific needs of Equatorial Guinea.

Expectations for Participants and Related Professional Achievements:

- To understand the existing elements and current initiatives in the country for oil spill preparedness and response
- To be informed about the OPRC 90 Convention established in the country
- To have a good understanding of the IOPC Fund system
- To develop an action plan to establish a national structure for oil spill preparedness and response



Proposed Program

	Day 1: Monday - July 30, 2007	
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Official Opening Ceremony	
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Coffee break	
11:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m.	Global IMO/IPIECA Initiative	Philippe de Susanne
	GI WACAF Project	Philippe de Susanne
	OPRC Convention	Sergio Rodriguez
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	General Scheme for Oil Spill Response International Cooperation	Sergio Rodriguez
	Video: Working Together	
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Coffee break	
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Presentation on the Current Status of Preparedness in Equatorial Guinea Current Status of Government's Preparedness and Arrangements Current Status of the Industry	Local actors



	Day 2: Tuesday - July 31, 2007	
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Causes and Consequences of Oil Spills Impact of oil spills on coasts and resources Factors affecting oil spill costs	Elliott Taylor
	Contingency Plans, Organization and Response Management Oil spill monitoring Operational planning Maps of sensitive areas	Elliott Taylor
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Coffee break	
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Response Options to Oil Spills	Elliott Taylor
	Public Relations Communication and dissemination of information	Elliott Taylor
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	 1992 Convention on Civil Liability for Damages Legal structure Defined compensation Oil spill reports and Contributions to 1992 Fund 	FIDAC
	Claims for cleanup costs and prevention measures	FIDAC
	Claims for property damages	FIDAC
	Claims for fishing and mariculture losses	FIDAC
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Coffee break	
4:00 – 5:30	DVD presentation – Erika Oil Spill	
p.m.	Claims for Economic Losses to the Tourism Industry	FIDAC
	Claims for Environmental Damages	FIDAC



	Day 3: Wednesday - August 1, 2007	
8:30 - 10:30	Review of Today's Presentations/ Discussions	FIDAC
a.m.	Cost Recovery Exercise for Oil Spills: Introduction	FIDAC
	Calculation of Applicable Rates for Equipment	FIDAC
	Exercise Part I – Simulated Response to an Oil Spill	FIDAC
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Coffee break	FIDAC
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Presentation and Discussion of Selected Strategies	FIDAC
1.00 p.m.	Exercise Part II – Preparation of Compensation Claims	FIDAC
	Presentation of Claims and Critique by Workshop Instructors	FIDAC
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Review of previous days	Elliott Taylor
2:30- 3:30 p.m.	Historic Case AEGEAN SEA (SPAIN)	Sergio Rodríguez
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Coffee break	
4:00 — 5:30 p.m.	Opportunity to Reinforce Oil Spill Preparedness Work groups analyze the country's status with a focus on the main elements for preparedness, including: Legislation Designated authorities Contingency plans Cross-border agreements Training Exercise Resources (Equipment)	Work groups



Day 4: Thursday - August 2, 2007							
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Action Plan Work groups identify and develop subjects and issues discussed on previous days in order to draft an Action Plan with priorities (3 work groups).	Work groups					
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.							
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Finalization of National Action Plan Preparation of summaries and recommendations to be presented in the plenary meeting.	Work groups					
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.							
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Plenary Meeting and Approval of Recommendations						
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Coffee break						
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Official Closing Ceremony						



Annex B - Participants List



Delegates

	NAME	TITLE	Division	Representing	Telephone:	Cell:	E-MAIL
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Annex C - Certificate Issued

A sample certificate is provided in the attached. All workshop participants were issued a certificate. A set of CDs with copies of:

- Agenda
- Presentations
- Reference Documents
- Workshop Tables

were distributed to representatives of the various agencies and companies.



CERTIFICADO



Se otorga el presente a Don/Doña

Santiago Francisco Engongo

por su participación en

Taller de Introducción al Proceso de Planificación Nacional a Derrames de Hidrocarburos y Convenios Internacionales Relevantes

30 Julio – 2 Agosto 2007 Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Sergio Rodríguez IMO Vicente Rodrigues Siusa Ministerio de Pesca y Medio Ambiente Philippe de Susanne IPIECA



Annex D - Closing Speech

Prepared and presented by the IMO representative, Mr. Sergio Rodriguez.

"To the Excellencies from the Ministry of Fisheries, General Director of Waters and Environment....

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) requested a consultant from the Spanish Government to participate in an important mission for IMO: to relay knowledge needed to help Equatorial Guinea in the creation and implementation of a national system that would protect the marine environment within the area of its responsibility.

You are the only Hispanic country in the African continent, and this makes Spaniards feel specially proud of Equatorial Guineans for having being designated by the IMO for development of this mission.

On this occasion, we are here to contribute necessary tools to you with the objective of providing a capacity to ratify, in the near future, the OPRC Convention (1990). The convention was elaborated by the IMO with participation from Member States from around the world.

Logically, you may be thinking there is a long road still ahead; however, remember that "where there is a will, there is a way" and that through this seminar you are gaining a way through which to make this happen. Through this activity, Equatorial Guinea will form part of the group of countries from around the world that concern themselves with clean seas.

When there is an environmental catastrophe, and generally a crisis situation requiring emergency response, citizens do not worry so much about who caused the accident (such as an oil spill that contaminates shorelines) but instead demand that Governments provide an efficient response and coordinate to quickly provide solutions. Bottom line: they demand good COORDINATION.

And furthermore, that an adequate funding mechanism be in place such that all of those affected, in our case by marine contamination, can quickly receive the money needed to address the losses that any catastrophe may have caused them.

Therefore, Governments are expected to provide solutions. Governments must create the necessary framework, together with petroleum industries that operate in the country, such that they find ways to prevent (spills) before responding. And, of course, recognize the importance that companies have in a country, yet the same companies must respect the environment and invest in prevention such that the necessary means for response to an undesired emergency situation are available and commensurate with the activities in the country.

The OPRC Convention was ratified in Spain in 1994 and became effective in 1995. We then spent 6 years to develop our National Plan, which was finally approved in 2001.



Nevertheless, you may be able to undertake this work much quicker and, of course, ratify the Cooperation Convention as soon as possible if that is what your Authorities decide.

The petroleum companies in Equatorial Guinea are undertaking an investment to advance these preparations to the corners of the country such that the benefit for the general population are ever increasing, including the preservation of the environment.

Honourable Mr. Minister, the IMO and Government of Spain appreciate your initiatives for a cleaner and safer sea."

Note: The Minister was given a pair of silver Salvamento Marino pins presented on behalf of the Spanish Maritime Administration.



References

This report has been written within the framework of an IMO and IPIECA mission, in August 2007.

Report reference: E. Taylor, P. de Susanne. 207. WORKSHOP REPORT Introduction to National Oil Spill Response Plans and Relevant International Conventions Malabo, Equatorial Guinea 30 July – 2 August 2007. GI WACAF Project. 31 p.