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# Annual Report 2021



GIWACAF

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# Contents



## **4 About the Project**

## **5 2020-2021: the 9<sup>th</sup> work biennium of the GI WACAF Project**

## **6 2021 activities overview**

## **9 2021 review**

## **10 2021 GI WACAF activities overview**

- 10 Critical review of the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map – Liberia
- 12 Critical review of the draft Shoreline Response Plan – Senegal
- 13 Launch of a study on the development of a sub-regional agreement for oil spill preparedness and response in Central Africa – Angola, Congo, DRC
- 15 Online training on liability and compensation in case of an oil spill – The Gambia
- 16 Joint industry-government national IMS 300 training and exercise – Namibia
- 17 Development of terms of reference for the procurement of oil spill response equipment and subsequent training – Togo
- 18 Review of the draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) – Sao Tome and Principe

## **19 2021 highlights**

- 19 Feedback on the GI WACAF end of 2020-2021 biennium webinar
- 21 Feedback on the second GI WACAF webinar series on oil spill preparedness and response
- 22 14/04/2021 - Webinar #1: The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) and its annexes
- 22 26/05/2021 - Webinar #2: Waste management in case of an oil spill
- 22 21/06/2021 - Webinar #3: The use of dispersants in case of an oil spill in the marine environment
- 22 13/07/2021 - Webinar #4: Wildliferesponse in case of an oil spill
- 23 29/09/2021 - Webinar #5: The international liability and compensation regime
- 23 13/10/2021 - Webinar #6: How to claim for compensation in case of an oil spill?
- 23 Results, outreach and lessons learned

## **25 External meetings and conferences**

- 25 CRIMSON virtual Coordination Meeting - International Maritime Partners in the Gulf of Guinea, 17-18 March 2021
- 25 DMISA Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) Webinar, 17-18 March 2021
- 26 Launch of the MOOC on the environmental management of offshore oil & gas activities in West Africa coordinated by PRCM – online

- 27 Virtual meeting to launch phase #2 of the “Sustainable management of oil & gas activities in West Africa” project (COBIA initiative), 15 April 2021
- 28 Oil Spill Group meeting, 21 April 2021
- 28 Oil Spill Group meeting, 15 July 2021
- 28 Oil Spill Group meeting, 9 December 2021
- 29 Virtual International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC), 10-14 May 2021

## **30 Institutions we work with**

## **32 A network of trained and dedicated GI WACAF Focal Points across the region**

## **33 GI WACAF communication**

## **35 Planned activities for 2022**

## **37 Governance and Secretariat**

# 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 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 organises 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 organisations working in this specialised 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 seven oil company members of IPIECA, namely BP, Chevron, Eni, ExxonMobil, Shell, TotalEnergies and Woodside.



ExxonMobil



# 2020-2021: the 9<sup>th</sup> work biennium of the GI WACAF Project

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2019 marked the end of the 2018-2019 biennium. As per usual, the biennium culminated with the Regional Conference, which took place in October 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa. During the Regional Conference priority actions for the next cycle in view to enhancing oil spill preparedness and response in the region were set and summarized in recommendations. These recommendations were put forward by the national delegates from the GI WACAF participating countries and are all presented in the [Report of the GI WACAF Regional Conference 2019](#). Based on the recommendations, the Project's Secretariat prepared a strategic action plan and a work program for the 2020-2021 biennium, which were both approved by the Project's Steering Committee.

Unfortunately, the implementation of the work program by the GI WACAF Secretariat has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (see the "2021 review" section below). However, the GI WACAF Secretariat has been able to adapt to this unforeseen situation and several remote activities were implemented to ensure continuity in the GI WACAF objectives and priority actions.

The 2020-2021 biennium ended with a half-day online conference to review the progress achieved since the last Regional Conference; share highlights from recent activities; and identify priority actions for 2022 for continued enhancement of oil spill preparedness and response in West, Central and Southern Africa.



# 2021 activities overview

## Legend:

External engagements attended  
 GI WACAF activities implemented  
 GI WACAF webinars  
 Biennial Regional Conference

Initial date	Location	Type of activity	Topic
January	Liberia – online	Remote assistance activity	Critical review of the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map of Liberia
February	Senegal – online	Remote assistance activity	Critical review of the draft Shoreline Response Plan
February	Angola, Congo, DRC – online	Remote assistance activity	Launch of a study on transboundary oil spill contingency planning in Central Africa
March	Online	External engagement	CRIMSON virtual Coordination Meeting - International Maritime Partners in the Gulf of Guinea
March	Online	External engagement	DMISA Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Webinar 2021
April	Online	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #1 (season #2) on the NOSCP and its annexes

April	Online	External engagement	Launch of the MOOC on the environmental management of offshore oil & gas activities in West Africa
April	Online	External engagement	Virtual meeting to launch phase #2 of the “Sustainable management of oil & gas activities in West Africa” project (COBIA initiative)
April	Online	External engagement	Oil Spill Group meeting
May	Online	External engagement	2021 Virtual International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC)
May	Online	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #2 (season #2) on waste management in case of an oil spill
June	Online	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #3 (season #2) on the use of dispersants in case of an oil spill in the marine environment
June	The Gambia – online	National workshop	Training on liability and compensation in case of oil spill pollution
July	Online	External engagement	Closing ceremony of the MOOC on environmental management of offshore oil & gas activities in West Africa
July	Online	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #4 (season #2) on wildlife response in case of an oil spill
July	Online	External engagement	Oil Spill Group meeting
July	Namibia – online	National workshop	Joint industry-government national IMS 300 training and exercise

August	Senegal – online	National workshop	Launch of the coastal sensitivity maps and validation of Senegal's Shoreline Response Plan
September	Online	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #5 (season #2) on the international liability and compensation regime
October	Online	Webinar	GI WACAF webinar #6 (season #2) on how to claim for compensation in case of an oil spill
November	Togo – online	Remote assistance activity	Development of terms of reference for the procurement of oil spill response equipment and subsequent training
November	Sao Tomé and Príncipe – online	Remote assistance activity	Critical review of the draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP)
December	Online	External engagement	Oil Spill Group meeting
December	Online	Biennial Regional Conference	End of 2020-2021 biennium webinar



# 2021 review

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For the second year in a row, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions strongly challenged the implementation of the GI WACAF work program and brought the GI WACAF Secretariat to innovate and strategically rethink the way the Project supports the region. Since March 2020, the Project's way to operate is based on three main pillars, and has been made possible with the constant and constructive support from the Project's members and stakeholders:

1. Remote assistance on technical and policy aspects;
2. Online training;
3. Networking and partnership.

Even if the GI WACAF Secretariat hopes to be back as soon as possible in the region and deliver face-to-face activities again, this reorganisation has allowed for the continuation of the journey towards better oil spill preparedness and response capacities in the region. Many activities have been carried out remotely, such as a workshop on liability and compensation in case of oil spill pollution with The Gambia, and a joint industry-government national IMS 300 training and exercise with Namibia. Furthermore, a second webinar series on oil spill preparedness and response was launched in April and several countries benefited from remote reviews of their draft sensitivity maps or National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP).

At the same time, the Project continued to take part in external initiatives dedicated to oil spill preparedness and response in the region. Recognised as a key regional player, the GI WACAF Project was contacted by the PRCM (Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Area in West Africa) to contribute to a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on the environmental management of offshore oil and gas activities and the launch of phase 2 of the COBIA initiative.

# 2021 GI WACAF activities overview

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## Critical review of the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map – Liberia

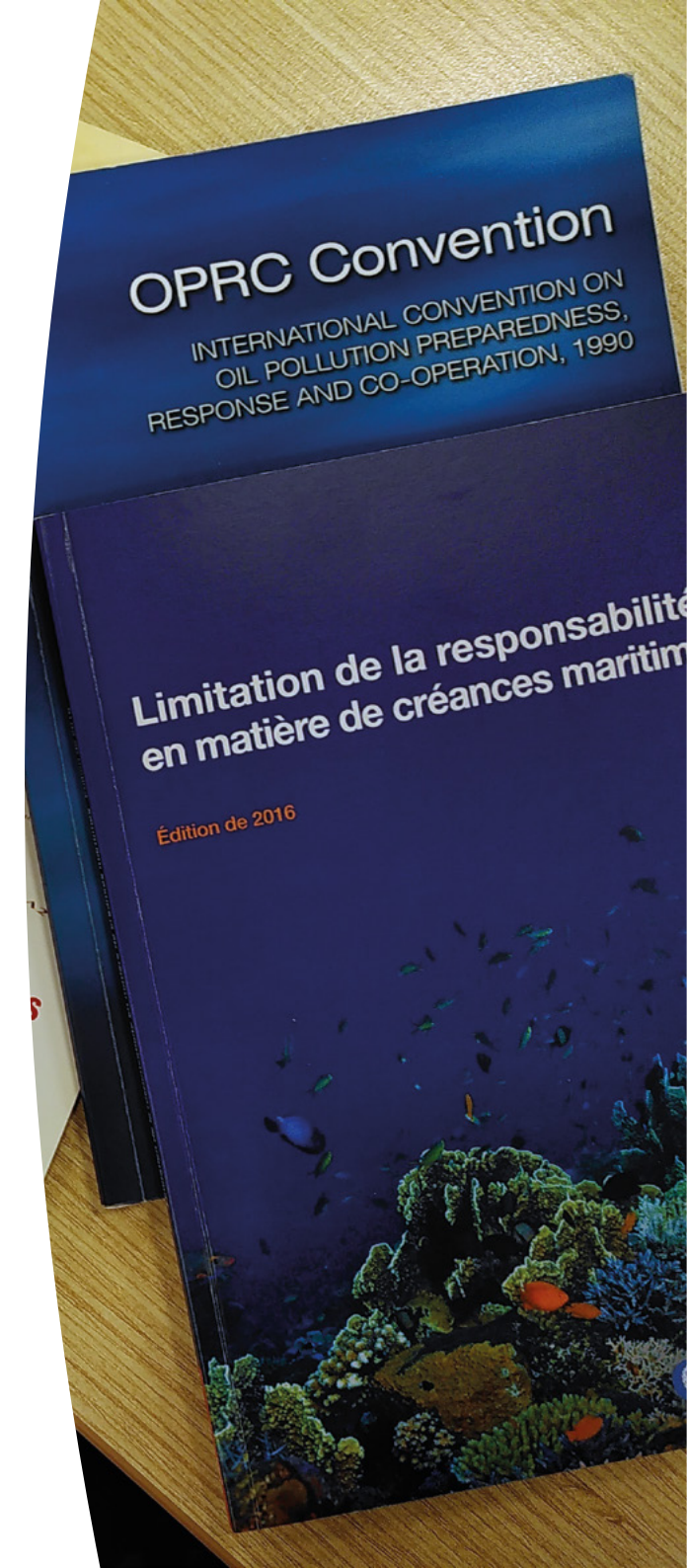
Following a request made by the Liberian authorities, GI WACAF agreed to provide support to constructively review and comment on the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map of Liberia. The GI WACAF team was supported during this endeavour by international experts who provided high-level and specific comments in the form of a separate document.

The GI WACAF team also reviewed and commented on the main document.

The objectives of this remote assistance activity were to (1) assist policy makers and

national authorities, responsible for oil spill preparedness and response in Liberia; and (2) provide the policy makers and national authorities with comments made by experts well versed in the field of oil spill preparedness and response, and oil spill sensitivity mapping, in order to support the policy makers and national authorities during the review process of the sensitivity map.

Both the experts and the GI WACAF team presented their findings during a virtual meeting organised by the GI WACAF Project team in January 2021. Following this rich discussion, the draft Coastal and Marine Sensitivity Map of Liberia has been revised by LiMA. The full activity report is available on the [GI WACAF website](#).





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## Critical review of the draft Shoreline Response Plan – Senegal

National authorities in Senegal are currently updating and improving their national preparedness and response system in view of the rapid development of offshore oil and gas activities. In this framework, the leading authority in Senegal in preparedness and response aspects (HASSMAR) followed recommendations made by GI WACAF following the SAMAREX 2019 deployment exercise held in Dakar (cf. [the activity report drafted by GI WACAF](#)). These recommendations highlighted the need for Senegal to strengthen its at-sea response / shoreline response interface and to develop a national shoreline response plan.

HASSMAR relied on national expertise to develop such a plan and sent a request to GI WACAF to support the final development stages of this shoreline response plan,

namely: (1) provide specific comments; including on the integration of the draft shoreline plan with the at-sea national contingency plan; and (2) provide an overview of the analysis as well as recommendations during a national workshop dedicated to the finalisation of this plan, which was held on 24-26 August 2021. After a first day dedicated to the launch of the coastal sensitivity maps in case of an oil spill, the second day allowed the national consultants to detail the draft Shoreline Response Plan, and international experts to share their experience on a real case of pollution in a mangrove on the African Atlantic shore. The third day ended with discussions following the GI WACAF team's presentation of the critical review of Senegal's draft Shoreline Response Plan, as well as the presentation of the National response centre in case of marine pollution (CNLPM). The full activity report is available on the [GI WACAF website](#).



## Launch of a study on the development of a sub-regional agreement for oil spill preparedness and response in Central Africa – Angola, Congo, DRC

In line with the recommendations made during the 8<sup>th</sup> GI WACAF Regional Conference and upon request from Angola, Congo, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the GI WACAF Project to assist in the development of a transboundary agreement on oil spill preparedness and response, a sub-regional workshop on the matter had been planned in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided to postpone the physical workshop. However, alternative means were explored to keep the momentum and work on developing the basis of a sub-regional agreement for oil spill preparedness and response in Central Africa, such as initiating a preparatory study carried out remotely.

The overall objective of the study is to propose an effective and detailed approach to developing a tailored multilateral agreement between these three countries, and possibly an approach to develop a multilateral oil spill preparedness and response plan. The findings of the study will be used to develop a framework to fully assist the three countries on this particular aspect, during a sub-regional activity bringing together representatives from Angola, Congo and DRC, organised with the support of the GI WACAF Project.

To start with, the Project organised one kick-off online meeting per participating country, to help identify the specific sensitivities, risks, needs and requirements, of the three countries. Based on questionnaires completed by representatives from each country and meetings with the national Focal Points and on the review of

the current regional and transboundary oil spill response arrangements existing in the GI WACAF region and in the world, international experts then drafted a report proposing possible ways forward for the countries to develop a sub-regional agreement or plan. The next step will be for the GI WACAF Project to organise trilateral discussions for all stakeholders to discuss the findings of the study and define an action plan.



## Online training on liability and compensation in case of an oil spill – The Gambia

This fully online workshop was the first of a kind to be delivered by the GI WACAF Project, proving the Project's and partner countries' efforts to adapt to the international travel restrictions linked to the global pandemic.

In the context of current and future oil and gas activities off the coast of West Africa and subsequent growing risks of incidents in the neighbouring countries, the GI WACAF Project and international experts have developed an online 3-half day training course allowing 25 delegates from various governmental agencies in The Gambia to gain knowledge on the liability and compensation key issues in case of an oil spill.

Building upon the [2020 remote legal assistance activity provided to the Republic of The Gambia](#), the training programme has been adapted to consider the specificities of a remote activity: special efforts have been made to provide participants with the most constructive and beneficial training experience possible, including presentations by experts and trainers as well as exercises.

The main objectives of this online workshop were to (1) train the authorities on the scope and implementation of the IMO Conventions relating to liability and compensation in the event of marine oil pollution, in particular through case studies and exercises (evaluation and settlement procedure, cost calculation, etc.); and (2) train the authorities on the practical aspects of liability and compensation, such as how to raise a claim, and detailing the claim assessment process.

The experience proved to be very interactive, with experts answering many questions and offering quizzes and case studies that were highly appreciated by the audience. The final report is available on the [dedicated activity webpage](#).



## Joint industry-government national IMS 300 training and exercise – Namibia

In preparation for the upcoming exploration campaigns off the coast of Namibia, a joint industry / government activity was set up to foster coordination between all stakeholders in case of an emergency. The activity organised by GI WACAF was hosted by the Ministry of Works and Transport of Namibia. While the 3-day IMS 300 training was delivered by international experts, Shell and TotalEnergies facilitated the exercise on the last day.

Due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic the training programme has been adapted to consider the specificities of a remote activity: special efforts have been made to provide participants with the most constructive and beneficial training experience possible, including presentations by experts and trainers as well as exercises.

The main objectives of this joint industry-government training and exercise were to: (1) train the participants who might be involved with incident management to be fully conversant with the process of developing action plans for a complex incident; (2) test the communication links between all stakeholders; (3) test companies' contingency plans in accordance with Namibia's NOSCP in case of an oil spill incident; and (4) expose participants to the key issues related to spill incidents. The final report is available on the [dedicated activity webpage](#).





## Development of terms of reference for the procurement of oil spill response equipment and subsequent training – Togo

Benefiting from funding from the World Bank-led WACA project to purchase oil spill response equipment, Togo requested support from the GI WACAF Project on the development of its national strategy for the procurement of oil spill response equipment (which needs to be commensurate with the risk involved) and programs for its use.

Following a request made by the GI WACAF Focal Point in Togo, a technical cooperation activity was agreed, with the objectives to (1) conduct an initial assessment on current operational capability and oil spill risk for Togo, including possible transboundary oil spills; (2) define needs in terms of oil spill response equipment in order to be able to mitigate the impacts of the identified oil spill risks, and (3) develop a subsequent strategic policy regarding equipment and its storage, manpower and technical expertise appropriate to the spill hazards and ranges of environmental operating conditions. The consultant mandated by GI WACAF will therefore provide training program and cost

estimates for the maintenance of equipment and operational needs; support 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 process of oil spill response equipment; and identify possible changes incurred by the assessment and the procurement of this oil spill response equipment on the NOSCP.

To start with the preparation of the in-country mission (tentatively scheduled in Q1 2022) to be conducted in Lomé in order to assess the current state of the antipollution equipment in Togo, the consultant has drafted a pre-report that has been shared with the Togolese authorities. This document provides details on (1) the Togolese shoreline characteristics and priority sites to protect against oil pollution, (2) an initial assessment of oil spill risk, (3) the analysis of the national preparedness and response plan, (4) the evaluation of national and private stocks of oil spill equipment, oil spill response team and logistic means needed, and (5) the proposal of a first list of oil spill response equipment following the need and the location of the response. This preparatory study will allow to better identify the framework of the in-country mission, the sites to be visited and the national delegates to meet.



## Review of the draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) – Sao Tome and Principe

Sao Tome and Principe is currently in the process of drafting its NOSCP. GI WACAF is supporting this effort and is working with experts to remotely review the draft NOSCP in contact with the authorities of Sao Tome and Principe, before providing them with feedback during a face-to-face national workshop that will be organised in 2022. A tailored report including a gap analysis and a set of recommendations has been drafted and sent to the authorities to provide them with a different perspective and trigger discussions and potential improvement of the document. It is notably based on the recommendations made during the last [GI WACAF workshop on contingency planning that took place in 2016 in Sao Tome and Principe](#).



# 2021 highlights

## Feedback on the GI WACAF end of 2020-2021 biennium webinar

Organised every two years at the end of the biennial cycle, the GI WACAF regional conference forms an integral part of the management of the GI WACAF Project. This event, which is usually held as a four-day conference, was exceptionally being held virtually in this instance due to the ongoing travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The GI WACAF end of 2020-2021 biennium webinar took place remotely on Wednesday, 1st December, from 8:45 to 12:15 GMT. The main objectives of this online event were to: (1) review the progress achieved since the last regional conference; (2) share highlights from recent activities, as well as relevant technical information related to oil spill preparedness

and response; and (3) identify priority actions for 2022 for continued enhancement of oil spill preparedness and response in West, Central and Southern Africa.

Zoom was used as the teleconference platform, with simultaneous interpretation (English – French – Portuguese). The webinar brought together key industry and government representatives from 13 of the 22 African partner countries of the GI WACAF Project, namely Angola, Cabo Verde, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Togo. Around 67 participants attended the GI WACAF end of 2020-2021 biennium webinar.

Patricia Charlebois, Marine Environment Division Deputy Director at IMO, and Anatole Cramer, Industry Chair of the GI WACAF Project, gave a welcoming address, pointing out how the GI WACAF Project has been adapting its programme to continue to provide support through the organisation of a series of trainings and webinars, to ensure the momentum of the Project in supporting preparedness efforts in the member countries was not lost. Then Lindsay Page-Jones, GI WACAF Project Manager, reviewed the Project's achievements during the last biennium. During the next section about 2020-2021 highlights, Wandifa Saidyleigh, from The Gambia Maritime Administration, presented the outcome of the remote legal assistance on the effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation while Jean Marie Bope Bope Lapwong, from the DRC

Marine pollution control & monitoring office, presented the launch of a study on the development of a sub-regional agreement for oil spill preparedness and response in Central Africa.

The third section of the webinar was then dedicated to technical topics and latest developments, with presentations on the low sulphur fuel oils behaviour (by Thomas Sturgeon from ITOPF), Woodside's SANGOMAR project in Senegal (by Chris Bourne) and online education tools (by Julke Brandt, Marine Environment Division Technical Officer at IMO, and Chloé Gondo, GI WACAF Project Coordinator).

The event ended with a presentation on the 2022 way ahead and announcement of the postponement of the 9<sup>th</sup> GI WACAF regional conference, as well as an interactive session on country profile updates, action plans and priorities for 2022.



## Feedback on the second GI WACAF webinar series on oil spill preparedness and response

As a result of its adaptation process to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent international travel restrictions, the GI WACAF Project launched its webinar series on oil spill preparedness and response in June 2020 to continue to pursue its capacity building objective remotely and reach a worldwide audience. This first season was composed of 5 episodes and addressed the key aspects (technical, legal and institutional) of oil spill preparedness and response, from the regulatory international framework to the shoreline or at-sea response techniques as well as the importance of contingency planning. With more than 1000 participants worldwide, the first season was a real success and the GI WACAF team consequently prepared a new webinar series covering more specific topics.

Following season #1's feedback, the purpose was to make the GI WACAF webinars shorter, practically-oriented and more interactive thanks to the emphasis put on the little quiz sessions in-between presentations. Depending on the topic to be addressed, some episodes have included a third presentation, bringing the total duration of the webinar to maximum 75 minutes instead of 60.

Building on the basics delivered by the 2020 GI WACAF webinar series, this new season addressed more specific topics of oil spill preparedness and response, including waste management, the use of dispersants in the marine environment, wildlife response and liability and compensation in case of an oil spill. As last year, each webinar was composed of two sessions: one in French and one in English. More information about the series as well as the replays of previous sessions are available in the [«Videos and webinars»](#) section of the GI WACAF website.



### 14/04/2021 - Webinar #1: The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) and its annexes

This first episode was dedicated to the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) and its annexes. For this webinar, leading international experts from ITOPF and OTRA presented both the development process and the content of a NOSCP. [View recording & download material on the GI WACAF website.](#)

### 26/05/2021 - Webinar #2: Waste management in case of an oil spill

This second episode was dedicated to waste management. For this webinar, leading international experts from DEMERI and TRIOX Environmental Emergencies presented the different types of waste, the whole cycle (including the different phases) of waste management and the importance of planning and inclusion of a dedicated policy in the NOSCP. [View recording & download material on the GI WACAF website.](#)



**Important factors**

- Training of personnel
- Selection of response strategies
- Careful with absorbents and PPE!

**Table 8.3 Operational Issues**

Technique	Logistics Support and Labour	Relative Operational Risk	Waste Volumes (Tons)
Manual Recovery	VERY HIGH - Monitoring teams	HS	None
Skid and Boom	VERY HIGH - Jetties, booms, absorbents, booms, skimmers, skiffs - labour intensive	SLOW	HIGH
Recovery (Skimmer)	VERY HIGH - Jetties, booms, absorbents and skimmers - labour intensive	SLOW	MODERATE
Recovery (Skimmer)	LOW - skimmer tracks	RAPID	HIGH
Recovery (Skimmer)	LOW - skimmer tracks	RAPID	HIGH
In Situ Treatment	VERY LOW - mechanical support, earth-moving or agricultural equipment	RAPID	VERY LOW

From Environmental and Climate Change Centre (ECCC) ISAT Manual Third Edition, 2018

### 21/06/2021 - Webinar #3: The use of dispersants in case of an oil spill in the marine environment

This third episode was dedicated to the use of dispersants in case of an oil spill in the marine environment. For this webinar, leading international experts from OSRL, OSEC Shell and the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa shared their experience through case studies, and presented the conditions of use of dispersants, their role in the event of an oil spill, as well as the importance of including a dedicated policy in the NOSCP. [View recording & download material on the GI WACAF website.](#)

### 13/07/2021 - Webinar #4: Wildlife response in case of an oil spill

This fourth episode was dedicated to wildlife response in case of an oil spill. For this webinar, leading international experts from Sea Alarm and SANCCOB shared their experience through case studies, and presented the oiled wildlife response objectives and management, as well as the importance of including a dedicated policy in the NOSCP. [View recording & download material on the GI WACAF website.](#)



GIWACAF logo and IMO ipieca logo are visible at the top. The banner features a background image of an oil rig at sea. Text on the banner includes: Season #2, Webinar #4, 13 July 2021, and Wildlife response in case of an oil spill.

### 29/09/2021 - Webinar #5: The international liability and compensation regime

This fifth episode was dedicated to the international liability and compensation regime. For this webinar, leading international experts from IMO, IOPC Funds and IG P&I Clubs introduced the CLC, Funds, Bunkers and LLMC Conventions. [View recording & download material on the GI WACAF website.](#)

### 13/10/2021 - Webinar #6: How to claim for compensation in case of an oil spill?

This sixth episode was dedicated to the compensation claim process in case of an oil spill. For this webinar, leading international experts from IOPC Funds and ITOPIF introduced the admissibility criteria and presented the economic losses, clean-up and environmental damages. [View recording & download material on the GI WACAF website.](#)

### Results, outreach and lessons learned

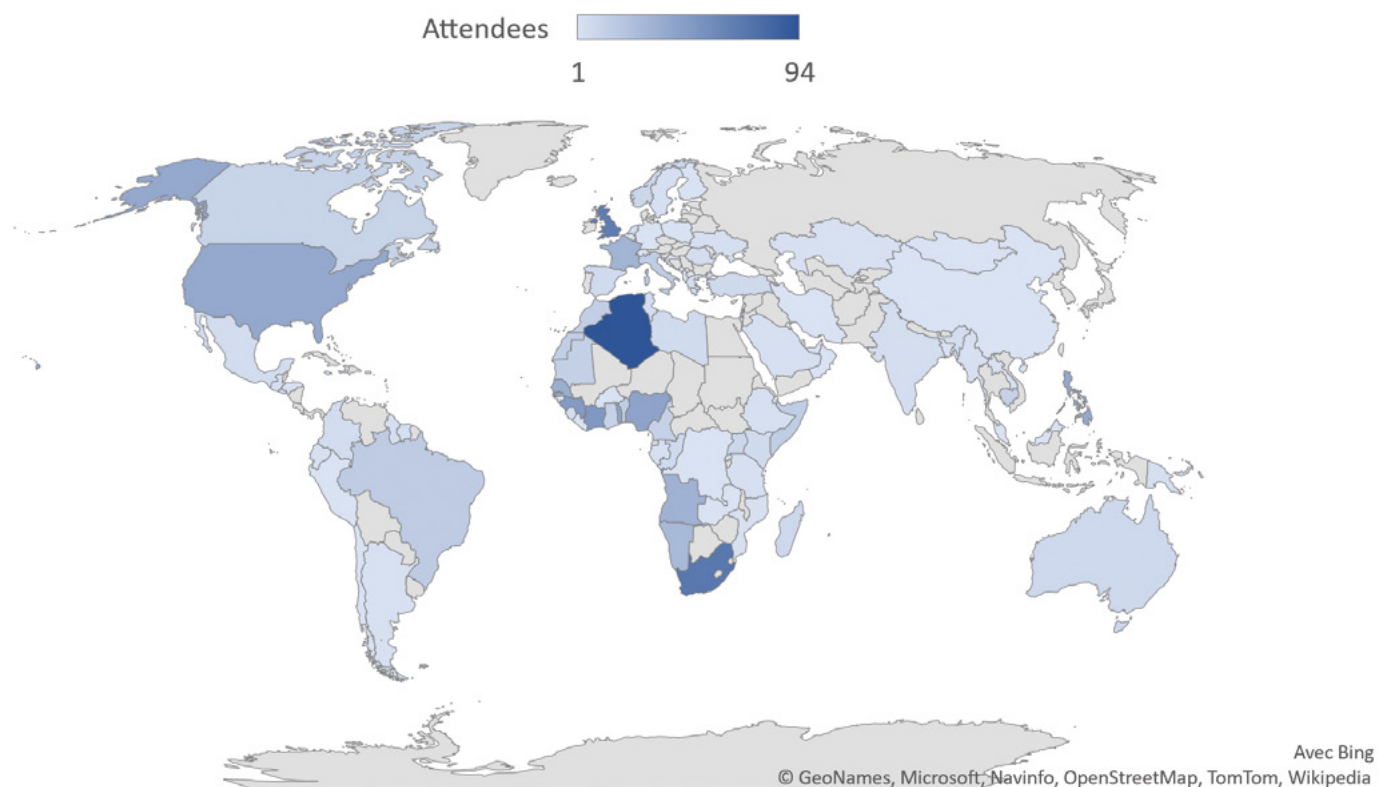
In total, the GI WACAF second webinar series gathered more than 1000 attendees worldwide. In the top countries represented in audiences, one noticed that in Anglophone sessions, the audience was more diverse than in Francophone ones, with many participants attending GI WACAF webinars from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. In Francophone audiences, GI WACAF countries were highly represented, including Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Togo, and Senegal, with a lot of live attendees being Focal Points or former participants to GI WACAF workshops. In total, participants from more than 103 countries have been attending GI WACAF webinars during the second season.

Efforts have been made by the GI WACAF team to enhance both communication around webinars and interaction with the audience during sessions. These efforts as well as the high quality of presentations delivered during the entire series were much appreciated by the audience.

The GI WACAF website now benefits from a dedicated section called “Webinars & videos”, with each webinar webpage now including (1) the webinar learning objectives; (2) a link to the respective speakers' websites; (3) embedded replay video; (4) the possibility to download all webinar-related documents; and (5) Q&As. Along with Portuguese subtitles being currently added to the replay videos, this creates added value to the Project, as well as good quality and freely accessible e-learning material available in three languages for all GI WACAF partners.

While GI WACAF in-region activities will resume in 2022 on a case-by-case basis, it would be relevant to keep creating free online training content in the video section on the GI WACAF website. With Portuguese subtitles being currently added to the existing 11 webinar replay videos, this makes knowledge on oil spill preparedness and response available to all interested English/French/Portuguese-speaking professionals.

## Countries represented in GI WACAF webinar series #2 (by number of live connections)





# External meetings and conferences

## CRIMSON virtual Coordination Meeting - International Maritime Partners in the Gulf of Guinea, 17-18 March 2021

GI WACAF was invited to participate in the virtual Coordination Meeting - International Maritime Partners in the Gulf of Guinea. The goal of this meeting was to gather partners who are currently conducting actions in and around the maritime security domain in the Gulf of Guinea and exchange visions, best practices and experiences.

This year CRIMSON, the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism of the Critical Maritime Routes Programme (CMR), led the event, which constituted the occasion for participants to exchange on recent developments and respective plans of action in order to identify potential synergies and increase

discussions. These fruitful exchanges were key to build a better understanding of the maritime security-related projects, their outcomes and the situation in the Gulf of Guinea. Two roundtables on information sharing and critical infrastructure protections – ports were organised to discuss different approaches the partners have to address these two particular issues.

The GI WACAF team presented the activities implemented during the last 12 months, how it adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 action plan. Participating in this event allows for a better coordination of the various key stakeholders in the region.

## DMISA Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Webinar, 17-18 March 2021

GI WACAF was invited to the Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA) DRR Webinar 2021. This online event replaced the annual DMISA Conference that was planned for 2020, and which had to be postponed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It focused on past and future manifestations of disaster risk in Southern Africa and internationally, and on building consensus towards active disaster risk reduction, resilience and risk governance in both urban and rural settings.

Throughout this 2-day webinar, DMISA wanted to encourage innovate and forward-looking discourse that activates and encourages on a practical level. By enabling participation by a wider audience through

the DRR Webinar 2021, DMISA provided opportunity for a diverse range of stakeholders in disaster management from across Africa and the world to gather and share skills, knowledge and experience in order to promote disaster risk reduction in Southern Africa and beyond.

During this webinar, the GI WACAF team presented the Project as well as activities conducted in South Africa on oil spill preparedness and response, notably those relating to the implementation of IMS (Incident Management System):

- [National training on IMS, June 2015](#)
- [National workshop and training on IMS 300, March 2018](#)
- IMS 300 Training and 2nd Joint industry – government exercise, December 2018
- [IMS 300 Training and 3rd Joint industry – government exercise, November 2019](#)

### **Launch of the MOOC on the environmental management of offshore oil & gas activities in West Africa coordinated by PRCM – online**

The PRCM has set up an online training platform in order to provide conservation actors with continuous training on the challenges of the West African coast and its resources. Recognised as a key regional player, the GI WACAF Project was invited by the PRCM to contribute to the first MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) of the platform dedicated to various aspects of the environmental management of offshore oil and gas activities.

This first MOOC led by the PRCM started on April 15<sup>th</sup> and lasted four weeks. It was designed to address the risks and potential impacts of oil and gas activities on marine ecosystems. While oil and gas exploration and production are increasing off the coast of some West African countries such as

Senegal and Mauritania, it is essential to enhance stakeholders' capacities in the sub-region for a better understanding of the environmental challenges linked to the oil and gas sector.

The MOOC was composed of 5 modules and 16 sub-modules detailing marine and coastal ecosystems, hydrocarbons' geopolitical issues, the typology of oil and gas activities, their environmental impacts, their regulatory frameworks and the tools for their environmental management. The GI WACAF team contributed to this course on the following topics as the leading experts in the field of international cooperation on oil spill preparedness and response:

- The international legal framework;
- Multilateral cooperation frameworks;
- Oil spill preparedness and response at sea.

The MOOC ended with a virtual closing ceremony bringing together the first cohort

and all the project stakeholders to evaluate this experience and identify future perspectives. As partner of the project, the GI WACAF was invited to participate in the closing ceremony. 700 people from 31 countries and with diverse socio-professional backgrounds have registered on the platform, 67 learners validated the course and downloaded their certificate. Among the next steps, the PRCM team is currently working on improving its educational offer, by first getting the MOOC on environmental management of offshore oil and gas activities translated into English and Portuguese, and then by developing other MOOCs.

### **Virtual meeting to launch phase #2 of the “Sustainable management of oil & gas activities in West Africa” project (COBIA initiative), 15 April 2021**

The objective of this virtual meeting was to define project stakeholders’ responsibilities and to clarify the programme and planning of the activities that will be carried out until 2022 in the four countries involved: Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

Considering the growing offshore exploration and exploitation activities in the region, the «Sustainable management of oil&gas activities in West Africa» project (COBIA initiative) aims at improving the management of environmental risks associated with offshore extractive industry in four West African countries.

Following the midterm evaluation meeting of the COBIA initiative, the PRCM was identified as a partner in charge of coordinating and implementing regional actions during the project’s phase #2, which is structured around five strategies:

- Strengthening the Partnership;
- Improving knowledge and capacities for citizen mobilisation;
- Information system and pollution monitoring;
- Preparation and update of NOSCPs;
- Strengthening and enforcing regulations.

GI WACAF has been involved in the COBIA Initiative since the inception. In this second phase, to avoid duplication of efforts, the GI WACAF Project has proudly been identified to implement the strategy #4 to support countries in developing or updating and testing their national response plans

in the event of oil marine pollution. During the virtual phase #2 kick-off meeting, the GI WACAF team presented the Project, its mandate, and its biennial functioning, before emphasising the support offered to countries according to different national situations.

### **Oil Spill Group meeting, 21 April 2021**

The Oil 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 participate in the biannual meetings of this group in order to keep abreast of developments in the field (IOGP Subsea Well Response and Source Control Subcommittee Update, spill reports and case studies, etc.). The Oil Spill Group was held by videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and featured different actors presenting on build-

ing mental resilience for responders and crisis managers under pressure, as well as experiences from the Bahamas oil spill incident and subsequent clean-up.

### **Oil Spill Group meeting, 15 July 2021**

This teleconference allowed for a review of progress on 2021 activities. Then, presenters initiated an interactive presentation to get participants' feedback regarding the organisation of webinars and learnings from hybrid exercises. Finally, the dispersant use cohort presented its latest updates.

### **Oil Spill Group meeting, 9 December 2021**

This hybrid meeting was run face to face in Shell Centre and on Teams and allowed for the status of the 2021 business plan and the proposed business plan for 2022. As part of the 2022 business plan, the group reviewed and agreed the formation of a new Technical

Cohort on new oil formulations. Then each GI gave a quick update on ongoing activities (OSPRI, GI WACAF, GI SEA). Finally, the meeting welcomed four presenters to give talks on the following:

1. Regional Oil Pollution Emergency Plans in Australia: INPEX (Dan Hazell)
2. Design and Technology for Exercises during a Pandemic: ExxonMobil (Travis Hansen)
3. X-Press Pearl Sri Lanka Nurdles response: OSRL (Andy Nicoll)
4. The Multi-Partner Research Initiative: A Network to Advance Oil Spill Response Strategies and Decision Making: MPRI (Ken Lee)

## Virtual International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC), 10-14 May 2021

IOSC is a forum for professionals from the international spill response community, private sector, government, and non-governmental organisations to tackle current challenges with science, practical innovation, social engineering, and global research. IOSC is part of a triennial series of events including Interspill in Europe and Spillcon in Asia. With each of them being attended by 1000 participants or more, the rotating conferences provide a platform for the sharing of oil spill preparedness and response expertise worldwide.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IOSC was fully virtually held from May 10 to 14, allowing for participants to access relevant information as well as an extensive network of people and companies from the oil spill preparedness and response sector. As co-author of the following papers: (1) Domestication of international regulation as a fundamental step to developing preparedness and response; and (2) Measuring

progress in oil spill preparedness, the GI WACAF team participated in IOSC 2021 during the session on “Response Community 10 year Progress Report”, along other GI projects.

Emilie Canova, GI WACAF Project Manager, presented the challenges of measuring progress in oil spill preparedness that have emerged over time, leading to the development of different tools and systems to monitor long-term developments. In her presentation, she first reviewed the metrics and tools used to assess the key elements of preparedness, focusing on regions where IMO - Industry Global Initiative has been active since 1996. Then she explained why the measures should apply both for evaluation and decision-making and explained why it is key to build more comprehensive and sustainable national preparedness systems. Finally, she discussed the need for an enhanced methodology to measure progress in preparedness, and its consistency with the risk exposure.

# Institutions we work with

## GoGIN

The Gulf of Guinea Inter-Regional Network (GoGIN) aims at enhancing inter-regional maritime safety and security cooperation, including accidental pollution of the marine environment, from Senegal to Angola through direct support to the implementation of the conclusions of the Yaoundé Summit and Code of Conduct. GoGIN and the GI WACAF are cooperating on oil spill related topics in the region since 2018 and successfully implemented a joint activity in Benin in 2019.



## World Bank

Since 2020 GI WACAF is cooperating with the World Bank, which is managing a program called WACA (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 first cooperation with the World Bank and the WACA Program is promising and places the action of the GI WACAF within a broader perspective of protection of the marine and coastal environment, giving its full meaning to the Project.



## The MAVA Foundation

The MAVA Foundation supports conservation that benefits people and nature through four formal Programmes, among them one in the Coastal West Africa. Under this programme, the action plan number 4 aims at promoting a sustainable management of oil and gas activities. This action plan is implemented by a project known as the COBIA project. Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone are the four countries benefiting from this initiative. Part of this project is devoted to oil spill contingency planning in the region, which is the precise aspect on which GI WACAF and MAVA collaborate.



## PRCM

Following the midterm evaluation meeting of the COBIA initiative, the PRCM was identified as a partner in charge of coordinating and implementing regional actions during the project's phase #2 (see above). A new cooperation has been established between GI WACAF and the PRCM on oil spill contingency planning aspects. The dialogue has been fruitful and has enabled the integration of the priorities of GI WACAF within COBIA's work programmes to avoid duplication of efforts.



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

The GI WACAF Project relies on a network of Focal Points from governments and industry that 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 Focal Points and particularly those acknowledged below, for their commitment and proactive contribution to the achievements of the GI WACAF objectives during the 2020-2021 biennium.

## Abdel-Ganiou Soulemame – Togo

Abdel-Ganiou Soulemame is currently working at the Directorate of Environment, at the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources in Togo. As GI WACAF Focal Point, he is involved in the development of terms of reference for the procurement of oil spill response equipment and subsequent training.

## Pinehas Auene – Namibia

Pinehas Auene is currently the Deputy Director Marine Pollution Control and SAR at the Directorate of Maritime Affairs of the Ministry of Works and Transport in Namibia. Fully aware of the increasing risks of oil spill given the recently growing exploration and production activities off Namibia, Pinehas Auene regularly engages with the GI WACAF team to design activities that will improve Namibian oil spill preparedness and response capabilities. In July 2021, GI WACAF and the Ministry of Works and Transport of Namibia organised a fully online joint industry-government national IMS 300 training and exercise with Shell and TotalEnergies.

## Wandifa Saidyleigh – The Gambia

Wandifa Saidyleigh is currently working with the Gambia Maritime Administration and was highly involved in GI WACAF remote legal assistance on the ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation. Building upon this activity, GI WACAF and the Gambia Maritime Administration organised a fully online training on liability and compensation in case of oil spill pollution in June 2021.



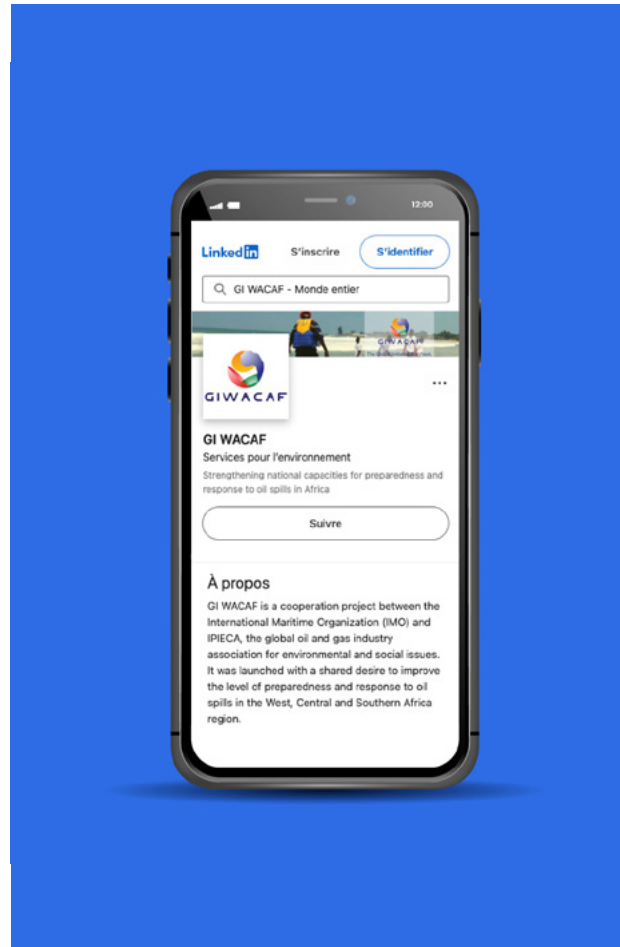


# GI WACAF communication

## LinkedIn page

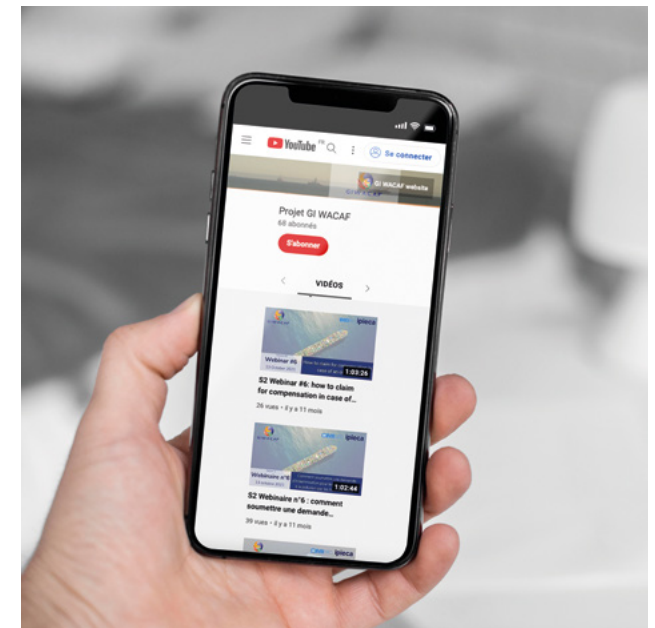
The Project's [LinkedIn page](#) has now over 850 subscribers thanks to the GI WACAF team's efforts to implement a new content strategy and provide the followers with both regular and diversified updates. Among other new posts, the team decided to launch an animated weekly press review to gather the most recent news regarding the maritime sector, the oil and gas industry and the marine environment of the GI WACAF region. Building upon the Project's concept note, [animated infographics](#) in both French and English were 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 webinar sessions.



## YouTube channel

GI WACAF also launched a [YouTube channel](#) to broadcast webinars' replay videos, as well as animated infographics to illustrate the activities carried out and the results obtained.



## 2021 Mid-year review

In mid-2021, the GI WACAF published the Mid-year Review 2021. It includes details about the adaptation of the work program to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as remote assistance activities and external engagement organised during the first half of the year. The document is available on the website in [English](#) and in [French](#).



# Planned activities for 2022

As current travel restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic challenged the implementation of the 2020-2021 work program, the GI WACAF team keeps working on remote assistance activities, online training and partnerships while expecting to resume in-countries activities as soon as possible in safe conditions.

## Legend:

GI Biennial  
GI WACAF webinars

WACAF Regional

activities, Conference,

Tentative date	Type of activity	Participating countries	Topic
Q1	National workshop	Sao Tome & Principe	National system for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to oil spills – Assistance to start the development of the NOSCP
Q1	Field mission	Togo	Development of terms of reference for the procurement of oil spill response equipment and subsequent training
2022	Webinar	Worldwide	GI WACAF webinar season #3
2022	Tri-lateral consultations	DRC, Congo, Angola	Cooperation and definition of an action plan to address the issue of transboundary oil spills
2022	Bi-national workshop	Mauritania, Senegal	Alignment of the dispersant policies of the two countries (or update of the NOSCP, TBC)
2022	National workshop	Guinea-Bissau	Assistance to review and finalize draft NOSCP
2022	National workshop	Sierra Leone	Development of the annexes of the NOSCP (waste management plan, dispersants use policy...)
October	Biennial Regional Conference	22 GI WACAF partner countries	9 <sup>th</sup> GI WACAF Regional Conference



# Governance and Secretariat

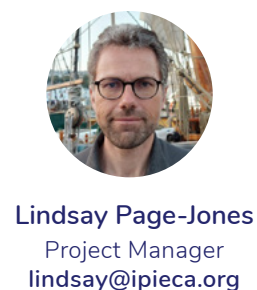
## Strategic level

Anatole Cramer from Total was elected as Industry Chair.



## Implementation level

During autumn 2021, the GI WACAF Project has welcomed in a new team member: Lindsay Page-Jones in September, replacing Emilie Canova as Project Manager. Together with Chloé Gondo, Project Coordinator, they form a complementary team ready to pursue the important objectives of the Project.





GIWACAF



ExxonMobil



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The GI WACAF Project  
is an IMO / IPIECA Cooperation