

CONCEPT NOTE

Regional Workshop on Managing Environmental Emergencies in the Oil and Gas Industry

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Background

The United Nations Environment is collaborating with the Government of Norway's Oil for Development Programme on strengthening environmental management capacities in the oil and gas sector in 14 OfD-supported countries. UN Environment is working with national and local government authorities as well as universities and civil society to enhance management of environmental issues associated with oil and gas exploration and production in a more sustainable manner. This collaboration with OfD includes development and delivery of a number of training programmes. One specific area for capacity building is the management of environmental emergencies associated with oil and gas exploration and production.

The Nairobi Convention is a partnership between Governments, civil society and the private sector, working towards a prosperous people, with healthy rivers, coasts and oceans. It provides a mechanism for regional cooperation, coordination and collaborative actions. Contracting Parties to the Convention include Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and the Republic of South Africa. The Convention enables Contracting Parties to harness resources and expertise from a wide range of stakeholders and interest groups and hence collectively address inter-linked problems in the region's coastal and marine environment.

The Nairobi Convention is also in the process of developing its capacity building programme for the oil and gas sector in the Western Indian Ocean region, and emergency preparedness and response was identified as a priority issue. In Decision CP8/7 of the Eighth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention on Environmental Management of Oil and Gas development, the Nairobi Convention was requested to (i) prepare regional guidelines on environmental management for oil and gas development based on best practices, for consideration by the Contracting Parties (ii) seek support of other countries and partners, such as GRID-Arendal, involved in oil and gas development to conduct and implement a regionally-coordinated strategic assessment of social and environmental sustainability of oil and gas in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Threat of industry-related emergencies in the Western Indian Ocean Region

In the past 10 years, there has been explosive growth of oil exploration activities in the Western Indian Ocean region. Reserves have been found along the eastern coast of Africa, and current efforts to harness hydrocarbon resources are ongoing. While the pace of development of oil fields has been moderated by the drop in global oil prices, nonetheless, establishment of new production facilities along the coast of Somalia to Mozambique are foreseeable in the near future. During development

and production phases, blow-outs and other potential oil spills are possible, thus requiring robust emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

In addition to the oil industry related activities taking place in the countries, a significant amount of oil and gas shipping traverse the Western Indian Ocean, which further warrants robust emergency systems to be in place in the region. As oil spills can cross boundaries, it is important that countries in the region are able to coordinate with one another in advance, so that systems are able to coordinate a national and regional response to emergencies.

Governments in the Western Indian Ocean region have made the effort to address environmental risks associated with the oil and gas sector through initiatives, such as the '*Western Indian Ocean Marine Highway Development and Coastal and Marine Contamination Prevention Project*' which ran for 5 years from 2008. One of the main goals of the project was to strengthen the capacity of countries to respond to oil or chemical spill emergencies in the region. This resulted in the development of National Oil Spill Contingency Plans (NOSCPs) in some countries and upgrading of existing plans in others. Countries with NOSCPs include: Mauritius, Seychelles, Kenya, Reunion (France), Comoros, Mozambique and Madagascar. Plans for Tanzania and South Africa are being reviewed. Somalia has not yet developed their NOSCP. Environmentally Sensitive Area maps were also produced to support the NOSCPs; however, further development was constrained by the lack of data in some countries.

Another major goal of the project was to establish cooperation between the eight participating countries (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania) on oil spill response. A regional agreement was signed by the eight countries to ensure cooperation among the countries in case of major oil spills for which the affected country lacks adequate capacity to respond on its own. A Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (ROSCP) was developed under the project to define roles and responsibilities in case of a transboundary oil spill. The ROSCP was signed by the eight countries but was not adequately tested in a simulation exercise. Stakeholders have since highlighted the need for organizing a regional response capacity to combat major oil spills.

This Regional Workshop seeks to build on ongoing efforts to strengthen both national and regional capacities for oil spill contingency planning. This notes outlines the scope and delivery of the workshop. Annex 1 describes the proposed Workshop Agenda.

Scope of issues to be addressed in the workshop

1. Risk Assessment, involving local/national oil and gas exploration and production, natural-industrial (so-called "natech") hazards, international oil tanker transport as well as local ports and shipping operations;
2. Vulnerabilities Assessment, including coastal environmental sensitivity mapping in the region;
3. National plans and capacities for oil spill-related emergency preparedness and response;
4. Regional and international capacities and systems for emergency preparedness and response for oil spills and accidental gas releases;

5. Regional and international agreements relating to environmental protection, oil/gas industry and emergency response;
6. Insurance and other compensation regimes for dealing with oil spill and other related emergency response.

Format of the Workshop

The workshop will be a 4-day residential course, following an interactive and case study approach to teaching and learning. Presentations will be undertaken through videos, case studies, panel discussions, and short lectures, followed by group work by participants. Each participant will have an opportunity to contribute based on their experience and expertise. Participants will be given UN Environment Course Certificates for the successful completion of the course.

Expected outputs

- Network of national focal points on environmental emergencies related to the oil and gas sector from the Nairobi Convention
- Reference and training materials which will be shared to all participants for future reference
- Individual Participant Assessment
- Action Plan for strengthening emergency preparedness and response related to oil spills and accidental gas releases in countries and in the region

Participants

The workshop will have a maximum of 30 participants invited from Member States of the Nairobi Convention. Participants from the Ministries of Environment, Disaster Management, Maritime Authority, and/or Energy may be nominated, and they should have roles/responsibilities relevant to on emergency preparedness and response related to oil spills and accidental gas releases.

In addition, international and national experts will contribute to facilitating various sessions.

Duration and location of the workshop

The workshop will be scheduled for four days in Zanzibar, to be hosted by the Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA) and Zanzibar Environmental Management Authority (ZEMA). The workshop will include a field visit.

Proposed dates

17-20 October 2017

Contact Information

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Annex 1. Workshop Agenda (Draft)

October 16	Participants arrive	Facilitator
Day 1, 17 October		
08:30 – 10:00	Opening Session, Introductions Course Expectations / Safety Briefing / Logistics	Country Host UN Environment, Geneva
10:00 – 11:00	Country Presentations: Oil and Gas Exploration and Production in the Western Indian Ocean Region Countries having oil and gas exploration and production activities in the region will each be given 10 minutes to present	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
11:00 – 11:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:30	Country Presentations – Continued	World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	Interactive Group Exercise on Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Introduction to Risk and Vulnerability Assessment	UN Environment, Geneva OfD / Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA)
15:00 – 16:00	Case Study on major disasters in the Maritime and during sea accidents	OfD/ NCA
16:00 – 16:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
16:30 – 17:30	Coastal Environmental Sensitivity Mapping Case study presentation on ZANSEA Initiative Facilitated Discussion and Overview	State University of Zanzibar WCMC
17:30	End of Day 1	
Day 2, 18 October		
8:30 – 9:00	Recap of Day 1 and Energizer	WCMC
9:00 – 11:00	Country Presentations on their National Contingency Planning efforts for oil spills and accidental gas releases OfD-supported countries also present on ongoing work undertaken within the OfD country programme	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
11:00 – 11:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:30	Technical Session on Emergency Preparedness and Response – Basic Features of contingency planning for oil spill and accidental gas releases	Oil Spill contingency expert
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	Interactive Group Exercise – Role Play Emergency Scenario	UN Environment, Geneva + NCA
15:00 – 16:00	Use of Dispersants – Preparedness and Precautions	World Maritime University (WMU)

16:00 – 16:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
16:30 – 17:30	Preparation for the Field Visit	
17:30	End of Day	
Day 3, 19 October		
8:30 – 9:00	Recap of Day 2 and Energizer	UN Environment, Geneva
9:00 – 10:00	Regional Systems and Resources for Emergency Preparedness and Response	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
10:00 – 11:00	UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination System + case study	UN Environment, Geneva
11:00 – 11:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:30	Field Visit Briefing and Preparations	UN Environment, Geneva
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 17:00	Field Visit	
Day 4, 20 October		
8:30 – 9:00	Recap of Day 3 and Energizer	WCMC
9:00 – 10:00	Tiered Response Systems and External Assistance	Oil spill contingency expert
10:00 – 11:00	Insurance and other compensation regimes	World Maritime University
11:00 – 11:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:30	Building a Plan of Action – Group Work Preparations	UN Environment, Geneva
12 :30 – 13 :30	Lunch	
13 :30 – 15 :30	Building a Plan of Action- continued Group presentations by country	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
15 :30 – 16 :00	Final Assessment – Participant Evaluation	UN Environment, Geneva
16:00 – 17:00	Closing and Awarding of Certificates	Country Host + Nairobi Convention Secretariat
Participants Depart		