



**SUB-REGIONAL MARINE OIL POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN BETWEEN CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL**

**MID-TERM ACTIVITIES  
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE  
OIL POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN BETWEEN  
CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL  
DURING 2018 – 2019 BIENNIUM**

**November 2017 (revised July 2018)**

This activity was financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and has been implemented by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

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According to the programme of the overall process of developing and implementing the Sub-regional Marine Oil Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel (hereinafter referred to as the “Plan” or the “SCP”), as outlined in the Terms of Reference for the provision of Consultancy Services to support the preparation of the Sub-regional Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel (ToR) as prepared by REMPEC in August 2016, the entire process has been divided in three phases as follows:

- **Short-term** activities: drafting of the SCP (...) and its adoption through the signature of an “Agreement (...);
- **Mid-term** activities: Technical workshop/trainings aimed at reinforcing capacities and strengthening the cooperation arrangements, and technical assistance to complete and maintain the SCP operational;
- **Long-term** activities: testing of the SCP through communication, table top and full scale exercises.

The Consultant engaged to assist REMPEC in achieving the goals of the short-term phase was *inter alia* required to prepare a “proposed list of technical assistance/training requirements to ensure an efficient implementation of the SCP”.

It was understood that the activities proposed to be implemented during the mid-term phase of the project should primarily depend on (i) the requirements of the three countries concerned and (ii) on the availability of financial resources needed for organizing the planned technical workshops and training activities.

With a view to accomplishing this task and to assisting the national authorities responsible for preparedness and response of the three countries concerned in identifying the most appropriate activities the Consultant prepared a Tentative List of training activities and/or technical workshops that could be organized during the mid-term phase of the development and implementation of the Plan.

The list was submitted for discussion to the Third Meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the preparation of the SCP, held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 11-12 July 2017, under Agenda Item 8 (cf. document REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.3/8). The Annex containing the list of proposed activities is herewith reproduced as the Annex to the present document.

During this Meeting the Consultant outlined each proposed activity and provided a rationale for including it in the list. In the discussion which followed the Consultant’s presentation, the representative of Israel suggested that REMPEC should consider adding two additional workshops/training courses to the list, namely one covering “compensation for pollution damage” (2-3 days duration) and another one covering the “management of operations (situation) room and of the equipment” (1-1½ days duration).

Having taken note of the list proposed by the Consultant and the proposal of Israel the Meeting instructed the Secretariat (REMPEC) to include the two activities suggested by Israel to those already proposed by the Consultant.

The Meeting requested the competent national authorities of Cyprus, Greece and Israel to inform REMPEC, before the completion of the Consultant's contract, which among the proposed activities should be given priority when preparing the work plan of mid-term activities.

It is noted that by the end of October 2017 REMPEC did not receive any suggestions or requests concerning the activities to be included in the mid-term programme from any of the three parties concerned.

During the "Preview Exercise", organized on 23 and 24 October 2017 with a view to testing the SCP, and in particular, the "first phases of activation of the SCP, putting an emphasis on communications, establishing the parties roles and assistance request and reception"; it was noted that all Parties to the Plan need additional, joint training on several issues related to the management and smooth running of the "command post", the Emergency Response Centre (ERC) as called for the purpose of the SCP, established in case of an incident, and possibly also on certain technical aspects of operations management.

Taking into consideration:

- proposed "tentative list of activities" as prepared by the Consultant for the Third Meeting in Nicosia and amended by Israel;
- certain shortcomings observed during the "Preview Exercise" as reported in the Exercise Report dated 23 November 2017;
- the fact that until the last week of November 2017 REMPEC did not receive any suggestions concerning the desired future activities from any of the three Parties; and
- the budgetary limits of REMPEC,

the **following activities** are proposed as desirable and viable **mid-term activities** which REMPEC could organize or support during **2018/2019 biennium**, or at a later stage (long-term) according to the ToR. As already mentioned, all these activities aim at reinforcing capacities of the three countries concerned, at strengthening the cooperation arrangements envisaged in the SCP, and at providing technical assistance with a view to completing and maintaining the SCP operational.

## **1. JOINT SUB-REGIONAL SEMINAR ON COMPENSATION FOR OIL POLLUTION DAMAGE**

**Organizer:** REMPEC with the assistance of the host country and with the support of IOPC Funds and ITOPF.

**Objective:** capacity building of personnel designated to participate in response to marine oil pollution incidents and assigned to tasks concerning financial matters, compiling and ensuring evidence, and not necessarily involved in pure spill response operations.

**Duration:** 1-2 days (depending on the final programme)

**Participants:** approximately 12-15 persons assigned to national ERC (4-5 participants from competent national authorities of each country and/or their (private) maritime and legal sectors).

**Programme:** topics related to compilation of evidence, assessment of damage and preparation of claims at national level, e.g.

- Introduction to compensation for oil pollution damage
- International regime for compensation of oil pollution damage
- Compensation limits
- Compensation claims - elements
- Compensation claims – eligibility and reasonableness
- Case Studies
- Log keeping and recording
- Collection of evidence
- Preparation of a compensation claim *[including an exercise]*

**Period:** It is suggested to organize the above outlined seminar as the first activity aimed at supporting CGI SCP after the signing of the Implementation Agreement concerning the Plan. Taking into consideration the time required for preparing the course programme, soliciting the cooperation of the specialized supporting organizations, availability of their top experts etc. it is reasonable to expect that the seminar could be organized in the **second half of 2018** (i.e. October - November 2018)

## **2. JOIN SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON EMERGENCY**

**Organizer:** REMPEC with the assistance of the host country

**Objective:** capacity building at the level of key personnel designated to work in the national Emergency Response Centres (ERC) in case of a marine oil pollution incident (emergency).

**Duration:** 2-3 days (depending on the final programme)

**Participants:** approximately 20 persons assigned to national ERC (6-8 participants from each country).

**Programme:** topics related to the tasks within ERC of the participants, e.g.

- factors affecting spill response management
- administration of an ERC
- log keeping / recording of events, decisions, actions taken
- spill assessment *[including an exercise]*
- proper use of various communication means
- spill reporting (within the context of the SCP)
- use of standard POLREP reporting format *[including an exercise]*
- coordination of activities within ERC
- relations with media / proactive communication
- press releases/statements; telephone response, interviews, press conferences
- press briefings and their preparation *[including an exercise]*
- post spill evaluation
- post incident (or exercise) debriefing

Other topics that should be included in the programme and would be beneficial for the participants include their familiarization with:

- the contents of the SCP

- existing international agreements and arrangements
- procedures concerning transport (transboundary movement) of spill response equipment
- customs formalities
- immigration procedures.

**Period:** It is suggested to organize such training course following the first suggested seminar on compensation for oil pollution damage, tentatively scheduled for autumn 2018. Taking into consideration that this is not a training course of standard type it may take relatively long time to prepare the course programme, identify qualified speakers, prepare teaching aids, etc. It is therefore reasonable to expect that it could be organized by the end of the **second quarter** (i.e. May – June) or during the **last quarter** (i.e. October - December) **of 2019**. Summer months were not considered to be proper period for organizing this course. *It is emphasized that the possibility of organizing two suggested activities during biennium 2018/2019 will largely depend on the availability of funds which REMPEC could secure for supporting activities related to CGI SCP.*

### 3. JOINT SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON OIL SPILL MODELLING

**Organizer:** REMPEC with the assistance of the host country and with the support of INGV and CMCC (Italy) and OC-UCY (Cyprus)

**Objective:** capacity building of personnel designated to participate in the work of National ERCs in activities related to spill assessment and oil slick movement and behaviour forecasting.

**Duration:** 2-3 days (depending on the final programme/duration of exercises)

**Participants:** approximately 12-15 persons assigned to national ERC (4-5 participants from each national Operational Authority).

**Programme:** topics related to oil spill modelling, spill trajectory forecasting, oil fate and behaviour forecasting.

- Types of oil spill models
- Advantages and limitations of oil spill models
- Oil slick trajectory forecasting
- Oil fate and behaviours forecasting
- Models commonly used in the Mediterranean (MEDSLIK)
- Models commonly used in the Mediterranean (ADIOS)
- Introduction to decision support systems
- MEDESS-4MS decision support system
- Other (commercially) available models and decision support tools
- The use of ADIOS *[including exercises]*
- The use of MEDSLIK *[including exercises]*
- Table top exercise

**Period:** The proposed seminar could be organized, depending on the availability of funds, at any time after the first two suggested training activities or even as the second one, if possible before the **end of 2019** (i.e. December 2019).

#### **4. SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISES**

Despite the fact that the organization of spill response exercises, in particular (i) practical exercises on specific response techniques at sea and on shore, including deployment of equipment, and (ii) complex incident management exercises for testing area/regional or national preparedness and response systems was included among long-term activities, it is recommended to organize during 2018/2019 period at least four (4) simple communication / notification exercises aimed at testing the communication channels and contact details of the three countries concerned. Their cost is negligible and testing the communication between the Parties to the SCP could only be beneficial for all Parties concerned:

**Organizer:** Cyprus, Greece, Israel and REMPEC (successively)

**Objective:** to test and, as necessary, improve communication between the Parties, to verify contact details/information included in Annexes 1, 2 and 5 to the SCP.

**Duration:** 4-8 hours each

**Participants:** NOSC and personnel in charge of communications at national level in each Party.

## ANNEX

### TENTATIVE LIST OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES THAT COULD BE ORGANIZED DURING THE MID-TERM PHASE OF THE DEVELOPEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CGI SCP

This is a list of activities which was originally presented to the Meeting in Nicosia in July 2017 (REMPEC/CGI/SCP/WG.3/8). The training activities could and should continue after the end of the mid-term phase. The attached Annex can serve as a reminder for possible training options.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Sub-regional Training Course (IMO OPRC Level 1)</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To familiarize senior officers, not having previous experience in oil spill response, but designated in their respective national contingency plans to act as Supervisors/On-scene Commanders, with the basic principles of oil spill response, and to prepare them for attending IMO OPRC Level 2 course.
<b>Duration</b>	3-4 days

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Sub-regional Training Course (IMO OPRC Level 2)</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To acquaint with the principles of oil spill management and response senior officers that are designated in their respective national contingency plans to act as Supervisors or On-scene Commanders.
<b>Duration</b>	5 days

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Sub-regional Course on Training-of-trainers</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To enable a core group of experts from the three countries concerned to deliver e.g. IMO OPRC model training courses
<b>Duration</b>	4 days

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Sub-regional Workshop on Oiled Shoreline Assessment (for Supervisors/On-Scene Commanders)</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To enable senior technical personnel of the three countries concerned to independently conduct adequate assessment of oiled shorelines.
<b>Duration</b>	2 days

<b>Activity</b>	<b>National Training Course (POSOW programme)</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To instruct and familiarize operators, the operational personnel and other potential participants in shoreline clean-up operations, from a single country, with the basics of spill response on shore (and wildlife response, as necessary).
<b>Duration</b>	2 days

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Sub-regional workshop on oil spill waste management</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To acquaint senior officers, included in area/regional or national preparedness and response systems, with the best practices in the



	management of waste generated during oil spill response operations
<b>Duration</b>	3 days

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Sub-regional Workshop on dispersants</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To acquaint senior officers, designated in their respective NCPs to act as Supervisors or On-scene Commanders, with the state-of-the-art in theory and practice of using dispersants in oil spill response operations.
<b>Duration</b>	2 days

In addition to the above outlined training courses or workshops other specialised courses or workshops could be developed as a day or two days modules, which could be merged together to form a longer course covering several specific topics, or added to the programme of already proposed training courses.

Potential subjects for such additional courses/workshops/modules may include:

- Communication, coordination, reporting, post spill evaluation, debriefing and reporting;
- Methods and techniques for shoreline restoration (combined with clean-up activities);
- Occupational health, personal safety and protection, protection of the environment;
- Training of pollution response vessels' crews in response vessels formations, manoeuvring, communication, controlling e.g. oil booms, skimmers, floating tanks/barges;
- *(Computer models for forecasting oil slick movement and behaviour, and their use);*
- Aerial surveillance of oil spills and the use of satellite imagery in spill response;
- Maintenance and storage of oil spill response equipment;
- Crisis management.

In addition to workshops/training courses, a part of the training activities aimed at capacity building at sub-regional (and national) level also comprise various types of **spill response exercises**. These can have a form of:

- notification exercises;
- table-top exercises;
- practical exercises on specific response techniques at sea and on shore, including deployment of equipment;
- and complex incident management exercises for testing area/regional or national preparedness and response systems.

However exercises aimed at testing and improving the Plan had been envisaged as part of long-term phase of development and implementation of the Plan, and are not discussed in the present paper.