



## N° 236 E – News from June 2015

### Emergency response

Cedre's emergency response team was called upon at the beginning of the month by **PNMI** and **CCPI**, following strandings of paraffin along the shores of the Pays d'Iroise area (Finistère). Cedre's laboratory analysed the samples sent by PNMI to identify the substance and provided recommendations for its removal.

We were also called upon by the Finistère fire brigade (**CODIS 29**), following a spill of 18 m3 of marine diesel in Le Conquet harbour, from a faulty connection between a pump and a pipe coming from an underground tank. Two agents from Cedre were sent on site to provide technical assistance relating to response measures in the harbour.

Cedre also took part in an exercise involving the derailing of 4 rail tank cars containing *Home Heating Oil* and implemented a number of exercises to check its own emergency procedures for its assistance agreements.

Finally, on 30th June, Cedre hosted a meeting organised by **UIC** involving "Level 3" companies (response on site with equipment) in the event of activation through the **Transaid** protocol.

### In short

#### TRAINING

- ▶ From 1st to 5th, "Oil spill response in inland waters", 14 participants
- ▶ From 8th to 12th, "ORSEC/Polmar-Land crisis management course", 11 participants
- ▶ From 15th to 19th, "Response to oil pollution at sea and on the shoreline", session 2, 11 participants

#### PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ The 2014 Cedre **Annual Report** is available



### Meeting of the Board of Governors

Cedre's Board of Governors met at Cedre on 23rd June. The association's President, Mr François Cuillandre, took this opportunity to organise a press conference and present the **Green Star Award** recently attributed to Cedre by **UNEP**, **OCHA** and Green Cross International, in the "Response" category. He emphasised the importance of this international recognition for the organisation.

### Maritime cluster committee meeting

On 24th June, Cedre hosted the annual meeting of the *Comité de Prospective et d'Orientation Stratégique (CPOS)* of the maritime cluster for Brittany and the Atlantic (**Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique**, PMBA). This committee is tasked with providing guidance to PMBA on its strategic focuses and its position within key initiatives at regional, national and international levels.

### Oil sensitivity study on deep-sea species

On 1st and 2nd June, Cedre attended a meeting in Wilmington (US) on the preliminary results obtained from a project funded by the **American Petroleum Institute**. This study aims to determine the LC50 (lethal concentration 50%) of 3 chemicals present in oil. Cedre is tasked with defining the exposure protocols as well as the concentration measurements in the water samples. The other project partners, the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) and **Akvaplan Niva** (Norway), are conducting ecotoxicity tests on deep-sea fish and coral in cold environments respectively.

### Training for a Taiwanese delegation

For the fourth year running, we received a Taiwanese delegation of 25 people, led by the Environmental Protection Administration. They were trained in oil spill response techniques and equipment from 9th to 12th June (in particular through demonstrations of spill response operations at our technical facilities) followed by a chemical spill response course from 15th to 17th.

### Mission in Equatorial Guinea

As part of the revision of Total Equatorial Guinea's maritime contingency plans, two engineers were present in the country from 15th to 19th June. The revision of the maritime contingency plans of Malabo and Bata, developed in 2008 by Cedre, has become necessary due to changes to the oil facilities, in particular following major extension work in the port areas of these two cities, leading to alterations to the tanker unloading and bunkering facilities.

## Clean Pacific 2015

From 16th to 18th June, Cedre attended **Clean Pacific** in Vancouver, Canada. This event began with training workshops followed by two days of conferences and several poster sessions. The exhibition comprised around sixty exhibitors and was concluded with an equipment demonstration.

## MED Programme 2014-2020 kick-off

On 22nd and 23rd June, Cedre's Mediterranean correspondent attended the launch of the new MED Programme 2014-2020 in Marseille. This kick-off event, baptised "Setting sails at the docks", attracted a large number of very enthusiastic participants from all the European countries bordering the Mediterranean. Previously, Cedre was a partner of the **Medess-4ms** project under the MED Programme 2007-2013. This project, which ran for 3 years and 2 months, was successfully completed in March 2015. For this new period, significant changes have been made, in particular with an increase in Interreg-ERDF co-funding from 75% to 85% for all future project partners. Major administrative simplifications have also been introduced to the initiative. This programme, totalling €224M, is due to issue its first call for project proposals on 1st September 2015, although applicants are encouraged to **prepare their application** prior to this date, based on the large amount of information already available. We draw particular attention to Axis 3 on "Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources", which is especially focused on protected areas, whether marine or terrestrial, through Specific Objective 3.2 (To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas) and can therefore support many actions and projects in the field of marine environment protection, especially as the regions specifically targeted by the programme include coastal areas and islands.

## Mission in Canada

Two agents from Cedre were sent to Canada from 22nd to 27th June, upon the initiative of **Transport Canada**, in order to gather information on the Canadian response organisation for aquatic pollution caused by HNS spills. Visits were organised to the competent federal authorities in this field: Canutec, Health Canada, the Safety and Security Group of Transport Canada, the Navigation Safety Division of Transport Canada and the Canadian Ice Service (in charge of satellite tracking of pollution). Following their time in Ottawa, the agents from Cedre were received by the response organisation **ECRC** located near Montreal (Quebec). The information gathered will be taken into account in the drafting of a practical HNS spill response guide for which Transport Canada has contracted Cedre.

## Response product validation

Upon request by GREEN OCEAN B.V., the floating oil sorbent "GO-1" for use at sea or in inland waters, in the form of booms, was tested by Cedre's laboratory. Given its performance, it has been added to the list of floating sorbents published by Cedre, available at [www.cedre.fr](http://www.cedre.fr)

## Columbia: repeated oil spills

In the space of just one month, Columbia has been hit by 16 attacks on its oil facilities attributed to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). On the 8th, the Trans-Andean pipeline, owned by the State oil company Ecopetrol and not in service at the time, was bombed, causing an oil spill into the Rosario river, in the southwest of the country, contaminating rivers used for fishing and water supplies. Booms were deployed despite the presence of rebels, complicating recovery operations for the 640 m<sup>3</sup> of crude oil spill. The same day, the FARC forced the drivers of 19 tanker trucks to release the 610 m<sup>3</sup> of crude oil they were transporting into the environment, in southwest Columbia. While several hectares of nature reserve and water supplies for the surrounding areas were contaminated, booms were deployed to prevent the oil from reaching Peru and Ecuador. Finally, on the 16th, an explosion damaged the Caño Limón-Coveñas pipeline, causing a crude oil spill into the Catatumbo river. The equipment required to contain the spill, close to Venezuela, was deployed by Ecopetrol. The authorities were forced to restrict the drinking water supply of 16,000 inhabitants in Tibu.

## Guatemala: insecticide spill in La Pasión river

On 6th June, a spill of malathion, due to the rupture of an oxidation tank at a palm oil plant following heavy rainfall, polluted a 150 km stretch of the La Pasión river. This spill killed thousands of fish and aquatic fauna and affected over 12,000 people from 17 communities whose livelihood was mainly dependant on fishing. Assistance was requested from UN OCHA by CONRED (Guatemala civil protection).

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