

## N° 240 E – News from November 2015

### Emergency response

During November, our Emergency Response Centre was mainly called upon as part of spill response exercises. For the Mediterranean coastline, as part of the Ramogepol exercise, Cedre responded to requests from the maritime authorities, relating to the modelling of crude oil weathering in ambient conditions and provided elements necessary to these authorities to assess the efficiency of response techniques at sea. In the Morbihan area (Brittany), two agents from Cedre were mobilised as part of a POLMAR-Land exercise, to act as technical correspondents within the Departmental Operational Centre, in particular to run ARGEPOL. Finally, on Réunion Island, a POLMAR exercise comprising both on-land and at-sea aspects gave rise to enquiries from CEPPOL on the evolution of the substance spilled at sea and answers enabled CEPPOL to determine the appropriate response methods. Similar discussions were held relating to on-land aspects and the set-up of shoreline clean-up sites, through an agent from Cedre present on site at the POLMAR-Land command post. In terms of support for real spills, the Haute-Loire regional health board (*Agence Régionale de Santé - ARS*) called upon Cedre's duty team and the expertise of its chemists (interpretation of chromatograms) relating to an oil spill at a drinking water inlet.

### In short

#### TRAINING

- ▶ On 3rd and 4th November, "Merchant ships and the role of shipping industry stakeholders in the event of accidental marine pollution" training course (16 participants)
- ▶ From 16th to 18th, "Aerial observation of pollution at sea" training course, session 2 (18 participants)
- ▶ On 23rd, training of port supervisors at CNFPT Bretagne in Vannes (12 participants)
- ▶ From 23rd to 25th, "Chemical spill response principles" training course (16 participants)

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ▶ Meeting of Cedre's Board of Governors in Paris on 8th December

### SOGARA training course and exercise, Port-Gentil, Gabon

Upon request by SOGARA (*Société Gabonaise de Raffinage*), two agents from Cedre ran a training course (theory lectures and a practical exercise) on the theme of response to an oil spill on the shoreline and at an industrial/port site, from 16th to 20th November in Port-Gentil (Gabon). This course aimed to provide the 30 participants with concrete and practical knowledge of the equipment available from SOGARA as well as the appropriate response techniques in the local context.

### Canadian operational guide project

On 9th and 10th November, a representative of [Transport Canada](#) visited Cedre as part of a project to develop a new operational guide for decision-makers and first-line responders in the event of a chemical spill. This two-year project strengthens collaboration between France and Canada in the field of spill preparedness and response. It is also a natural sequel to the learning guide [Understanding Chemical Pollution at Sea](#) and the website: [www.chemical-pollution.com](http://www.chemical-pollution.com)

### POLMAR-Land training courses and exercise, Réunion Island

An agent from Cedre accompanied the [Cerema](#) POLMAR officer on a visit to Réunion Island from 10th to 21st November to run four days of training on the premises of [CNFPT](#) for all its personnel concerned by the issue of maritime pollution. Around 40 people attended these awareness-raising sessions, in particular on the themes of spill response techniques and the development of the spill response section of local contingency plans. An ORSEC-POLMAR-Land crisis management exercise was organised by [EMZPCOI](#) at the Saint-Denis Prefecture (on 19th) and a POLMAR-Land exercise (on 20th) by [DMSOI](#), with deployment of specialised equipment provided by the DMSOI POLMAR-Land stockpile on 3 different sites. During these on-site workshops, the transfer to land of pollutants recovered at sea by the French Navy was tested, as were survey and clean-up techniques on sandy foreshores and in port areas. During this assignment, Cedre was in contact with the Director of DMSOI and representatives of several administrative bodies ([DEAL](#), [ARS](#), [SDIS](#), etc.), and met with representatives of [GPMDLR](#).

### POLMAR exercise in the Morbihan area

Two engineers from Cedre took part in the ORSEC POLMAR crisis management exercise organised by the Morbihan area (Brittany) on 17th November, based on a scenario involving a sinking oil tanker. Cedre played its role as a technical adviser to the authorities at the Departmental Operational Centre set up in Vannes and ran [ARGEPOL](#), a cartographic support system for forecasting drift, recording observations and monitoring clean-up operations.

### Workshop on the use of dispersants to combat oil spills at sea, Berlin

A workshop on the chemical dispersion of oil spills at sea, organised by the [Federal Institute for Risk Assessment](#) (BfR) and the German [Central Command for Maritime Emergencies](#) (HK), was held in Berlin on 12th and 13th November, on the premises of BfR. The aim was to bring together various national ([BfG](#), [BSH](#), [UEG](#)) and European ([EMSA](#)) entities, as well as foreign research institutes and expert organisations ([MMO](#), [MCA](#), [ITOPF](#)) to exchange knowledge and feedback on the risks and the benefits of dispersion, with a specific focus on German coastal waters and with regard to the current dispersion policy in Germany. Cedre gave a number of presentations on the chemical nature of dispersants and how they work, decision-making guidelines concerning their application in an emergency, as well as approval procedures and current application rules in France.

## GI WACAF Regional Conference, Ghana

The 2015 Regional Conference of the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa was held in Accra from 15th to 19th November 2015. Carefully prepared by [IMO](#) and [IPIECA](#), it was hosted by the [Ghana Environmental Protection Agency](#). This meeting was the opportunity for the 22 countries in the region and the oil industry to review the activities carried out over the past two years and to update the country profiles. The international experts invited ([IPIECA](#), [IOPC Funds](#), [ITOPF](#), [OSRL](#), [ExxonMobil](#)) ran working groups on 6 themes and gave a dozen technical presentations. Cedre, which has been following the activities of the [GI WACAF](#) ever since it was first launched, chaired plenary sessions, ran workshops, presented a conference on the use of makeshift resources in response operations and drew up the general recommendations based on the work carried out.

## Clean Gulf 2015

From 10th to 12th November, an engineer from Cedre attended the [Clean Gulf](#) conference held in New Orleans, US. This 3-day event was interspersed with training workshops, oral presentations and poster sessions, and the exhibition hall hosted over 170 exhibitors.

## IPIECA seminar, London

On 5th November, two engineers from Cedre attended a seminar organised in London by [IPIECA](#), at which the progress made in terms of research in the field of spill response was presented. Several projects, funded by the [IOGP](#), were presented, in particular on the themes of in situ burning and subsea dispersion of oil released from the seafloor. In addition to these two themes which are of particular interest to Cedre, this event was the opportunity to hold discussions with the oil industry on emerging issues such as the fate of oil in cold waters. In terms of communication, [IPIECA](#) has developed a [website](#) which presents the projects currently in progress as well as those already completed.

## Be-Aware II project final conference

Representatives of the *Secrétariat Général de la mer*, Cedre and the French maritime authority for the Channel and North Sea (*Préfecture Maritime*) attended the final conference of the [Be-Aware II](#) project, held on 18th and 19th November in Ronneby (Sweden). The projects [Be-Aware I](#) (2012-14) and [II](#) (2013-15), co-funded by the European Commission, the Bonn Agreement Secretariat and certain countries in the region, enabled a risk analysis relating to oil and HNS spills to be implemented for the geographical region covered by the Bonn Agreement. The final outcomes (risks, vulnerability, modelling of the efficiency of response resources) and their possible use for the definition and assessment of national strategies and response resource planning were presented to [representatives of 9 countries](#), contracting parties to the [Bonn Agreement](#).

## 42nd session of the Cedre Strategic Committee

The members of the Strategic Committee met in Brest on 19th November. Following an opening discussion on the conclusions of a strategic analysis of Cedre's medium-term objectives, the meeting was mainly devoted to the presentation of 48 proposals for the 2016 technical programme. Alongside the permanent activities and the continuation of projects in progress, a few new propositions of research projects, operational guides and training actions were put forward in concordance with the priorities defined by the committee members. A review of Cedre's activities over the past 6 months gave rise to exchanges on the recent call-outs for real spills and on the expected evolution, given the budget cuts resulting from the drop in oil prices.

## 13th Technical Day

The Cedre Technical Day, held the day before the Strategic Committee meeting, was the chance for Cedre and a few of our external partners to [present their work](#) on the detection of surface pollutant, in water or sediment, and to address opportunities for further work. In particular, representatives of [ONERA](#), [French customs](#), [Actimar](#), [Ifremer](#) and the University of Rennes gave presentations alongside engineers from Cedre. This event, intended for members of the Strategic Committee together with a wider audience, was the opportunity for constructive discussions and confirmed the need to pursue research and experimentation in this field, as well as the benefit drawn from this partnership between teams with varying skills and approaches and from access to Cedre's experimental facilities.

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