



Cedre

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Emergency response

The summer was a busy period for Cedre's duty team. The main event was the grounding of the bulk carrier *MV Wakashio* on a coral reef off the south-east of Mauritius on 25th July. The vessel was carrying 3874 tonnes of bunker fuel, 200 tonnes of diesel and 90 tonnes of lube oil. Although part of the bunker fuel was pumped out of the vessel, between 800 and 1,000 m³ of oil was released and quickly reached the coast, in particular in a sensitive natural area comprising mangrove forests. Under the auspices of the sub-regional oil spill contingency plan for the Western Indian Ocean Islands, France immediately provided support to the Mauritian authorities by dispatching equipment and personnel from the naval base and Polmar stockpile on Reunion Island. Cedre's response centre was also mobilised, as well as [Météofrance](#) then the members of the [slick drift committee](#) ([IFREMER](#) and [SHOM](#)) to conduct and analyse daily drift forecasts for the oil slicks and any objects potentially lost from the wreck. Experts from Cedre and [Ceppol](#) conducted a joint mission on Reunion Island then in Mauritius to provide their technical support to the French authorities involved in assisting the Mauritian authorities. In early summer, a half-sunken wreck from the Second World War, the *Frisco*, off Gauriac, Gironde, attracted attention when it began to leak. Cedre's laboratory was also called upon to analyse the oil samples collected. Our emergency response team was contacted by a company having caused a spill of 800 m³ of ferric chloride (flocculating agent) on the shoreline of Lavera (Bouches-du-Rhône) to provide advice on the behaviour of the product, response techniques and monitoring of the fate of the flocs in the environment. Several other spills of variable sizes occurred in rivers and on land during the summer: mineral oil in the Guiers Mort, a sensitive river in the Chartreuse Mountains (Isère); dairy sludge (milk residues, potentially acid and caustic soda) causing high fish mortality from Aisne to Challerange (Ardennes); a spill of 400 m³ of digestate from a biogas plant in Châteaulin (Finistère) into the river Aulne, causing an increase in the ammonium hydroxide content of drinking water and restrictions on its consumption across 50 communes, for which Cedre was called upon by the [Préfecture du Finistère](#) to provide advice and conduct site surveys; finally, a diesel spill which contaminated the edge of a road crossing through a forest to the west of Sinnamary (French Guiana) when a tanker truck overturned. The [MAR-ICE network](#) was activated following illegal discharge of tall oil (a by-product of the kraft process of wood pulp manufacture) in the port of Rauma (Finland) and an [ICE exercise](#) was launched by the Czech Republic (sodium hypochlorite).

Explosion in Lebanon: Cedre mobilised

On 4th March 2020 at around 6 pm, a major explosion devastated the Beirut port area as well as the majority of the city centre. Several vessels in dock and off the coast were hit by the violent shockwave generated by the blast involving 2,700 tonnes of ammonium nitrate according to Lebanese Government sources. Faced with the massive scale of the damage, the French authorities rapidly called upon a panel of experts to support the Lebanese authorities in the management of this crisis. On 5th August, Cedre was called upon by the [French Ministry for the Ecological Transition](#) to provide on-site expertise in case of water pollution generated by the blast. In less than three hours, Cedre put forward the name of one of its experts for this assignment. After studying the local situation, our expert was not ultimately dispatched. This event is a reminder of Cedre's capacity to provide on-site expertise in France and abroad at very short notice and reinforces its position in its mission to provide support to authorities.

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ 5th & 6th November: 10th congress on the port of the future in Paris
- ▶ 26th November: Cedre Technical Day, Brest
- ▶ 27th November: Cedre's 52nd Strategy Committee meeting, Brest

Training

- ▶ 7th to 11th September: oil spill response in inland waters
- ▶ 14th to 18th September: oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline
- ▶ 28th September to 1st October: pollution crisis management

Hot off the press

- ▶ See our latest [Sea & Shoreline Technical Newsletter: n°45](#)
- ▶ The [Cedre Annual Report 2019](#)
- ▶ New publication: [Pollustats 2019](#). Worldwide spill statistics. See also [Pollustats 2017](#) and [2018](#).

Training: on-site sessions resume at Cedre

Cedre has been busy all summer organising the return of its **on-site training sessions starting in late August**. We welcomed a first group of 9 German trainees from the **Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (Havariekommando)** at our premises from 31st August to 3rd September for a mainly practical-based spill response course. With this training course, Havariekommando confirmed its confidence in Cedre for the training of its operators liable to be mobilised in the event of a spill on the coasts of Germany. All the necessary materials and measures relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic were implemented to run the course in the best possible conditions. With this new organisation in place, we look forward to welcoming you to one of our inter or intracompany, standard or bespoke training courses. [Further information](#).

Cedre-led MANIFESTS project accepted by DG-ECHO

The research proposal entitled MANIFESTS submitted to the European Commission's **Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO)** in March has been granted funding. The project will aim to enhance our knowledge of spills of hazardous substances and, in particular, the related risks of the formation of toxic and explosive gas clouds. This project, **led by Cedre**, will be carried out by an Atlantic Arc consortium composed of, for **France**, Cedre and the **École des Mines d'Alès**, for **Belgium**, the **Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)** and the **Directorate-General for the Environment (DG-ENV)**, for **Spain**, the **Centro Tecnológico del Mar (CETMAR)** and the **Instituto Tecnológico para el Control del Medio Marino de Galicia (INTECMAR)**, for **Portugal**, the **Instituto Superior Técnico (IST)**, for **Norway**, the **Norwegian Meteorological Institute (MET.NO)**, and for the **United Kingdom**, **Public Health England (PHE)**. This project will also receive considerable technical and logistical support from the **French Navy** through the implementation of offshore exercises and trials. The MANIFESTS project is scheduled to run over a 2-year period.

Cedre appointed leader of EMSA's HNS Technical Correspondence Group

The TCG-HNS (Technical Correspondence Group HNS) is a group of experts established by the **European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)** to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise. The primary objective of this group is to put forward a training programme prepared for Member States by Member States. This training action will aim first and foremost to promote the knowledge acquired in the field of HNS spill preparedness and response. Cedre, as appointed **group leader**, is working with EMSA and expert partners to organise the first module of this programme, which could be held next spring at Cedre's premises in Brest.

Experimentation on HNS behaviour

As part of the "Chemical behaviour at sea and response sheets" project, funded by the **French Navy** and the **French Ministry for the Ecological Transition (MTE)**, Cedre has continued to pursue its experimental study on the fate of chemicals at sea, through trials in floating mesocosms conducted in June and July. Through these trials, the fate of a slick of 5-methylhexan-2-one and 2-butoxyethyl acetate was determined by regular sampling at the surface, in the water column and in the atmosphere. The results obtained will help to fine-tune response strategies, generally established based on the physical and chemical properties determined in the laboratory and to define the risks to which emergency response teams may be exposed. The results of these different experimentation programmes will be used to draft response sheets.

Collaboration meeting between OceanWise project and Helcom

The **OceanWise** project led by the Portuguese Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (**DGRM**) and involving 13 partners (British, French, Irish, Portuguese and Spanish), aims to develop concrete solutions, based on resource-efficiency, circular economy and participatory methods, to reduce the impact of expanded and extruded polystyrene (EPS/XPS) on the marine environment in the north-east Atlantic area. On 2nd July, the project partners, including Cedre, held a virtual meeting with the Danish leader of a **sister project in the Baltic Sea** under the **Regional Sea Convention HELCOM**. The purpose of this meeting was to present the two projects and to share the knowledge acquired in order to develop synergies to respond to the presence of expanded and extruded polystyrene in the marine environment.

MICMAC and "Plastique à la loupe !" internships reach completion

Since the beginning of March, Cedre had been playing host to two students studying for a Master's in environmental management (**Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer, Plouzané**), who were completing internships focusing on litter. The first topic, which came within the framework of the **MICMAC** (Microplastics Macroplastics) project led by **CNRS** and conducted in collaboration with Cedre, aimed to assess microplastic pollution on the shoreline of the Scattered Islands (Indian Ocean). The work conducted highlighted the presence of microplastic contamination of the sediment, confirming the omnipresence of microplastics in the marine environment and raising the question of their impact on systems, in particular on the Scattered Islands which are considered to be biodiversity sanctuaries. The second internship was carried out as part of the creation of the participatory science programme "**Plastique à la Loupe**" (Plastic under the magnifying glass), led by **Fondation TaraOcéan** and in which Cedre is a scientific partner. This programme aims to raise awareness of plastic pollution among school pupils while also acquiring useful data for research and monitoring purposes. In this context, this internship aimed to assess the adequacy of the data collected with the needs of litter monitoring on the banks and shores of mainland France. It showed that the data collected was of good quality and could contribute to national aquatic litter monitoring, in addition to the data provided by national monitoring programmes, in particular the networks led by Cedre. Despite the disruption caused by lockdown, the students were able to finish their internships at the end of August and present their results at an oral defence organised by the university.

Participation in mini-documentary on microplastics

As part of the project entitled "Les Connecteurs" led by [AMCSTI](#) (French association of museums and centres for the development of scientific, technical and industrial culture) in partnership with [Océanopolis](#), Cedre took part, in early July, in the shooting of a mini-documentary on the question "Is there plastic in table salt?". This project aims to foster relations between scientific mediators and the media. As experts in this field, Cedre talked about the origin of microplastics and their breakdown in the ocean. See [here](#) to find out more.

New hydrophobic floating sorbent tested

The new polypropylene sorbent pad Maresorb 350g/m² manufactured by [Mare Sea Cleaning services Inc.](#) meet the performance criteria for this type of product and has therefore been added to the list published by Cedre of [floating sorbents for use at sea and in inland waters](#), available at www.cedre.fr.

Digital learning: an integral component of Cedre training

In association with the [International Office for Water](#), Cedre launched its [online training centre](#) in April. This platform has become an integral part of Cedre's learning ecosystem and allows the participants enrolled in our on-site courses and e-learning courses to access the learning materials and additional resources before, during and after their course. It also allows trainees and trainers to stay in touch via discussion forums and enables us to provide long-term personalised support. In June, Cedre also released two 2-hour e-learning modules: one on surveying sites polluted by oil and the other, developed with support from the [Region of Brittany](#), on the behaviour of chemicals spilt in water. The platform and the module on the behaviour of chemical spills are **now available in English**. With these new learning tools, the scope of Cedre's training range has expanded and is tailored to the needs and constraints of our current and future clients and partners. Want more information, fancy giving it a go? [Visit our online training centre!](#)

Certification of our training services

In order to provide training services to professional standards for both public and private sectors, in France and abroad, Cedre must meet many strict and constantly evolving regulatory and contractual requirements. In this respect, Cedre was referenced on DataDock in 2018, then approved by [Pole Mer Bretagne Atlantique](#) for its training courses. Driven by this momentum, Cedre's team has since put a considerable amount of work into the formalisation, standardisation and internationalisation of its training materials: tools, procedures, syllabuses and manuals. To validate these efforts, this year Cedre has been working towards obtaining [QUALIOPI](#) certification which is due to become mandatory for French training providers from 1st January 2022. This certification will enable Cedre to be referenced under the [Référentiel National Qualité \(RNQ\)](#), to continue to benefit from pooled training funds and be referenced as such. Meanwhile, Cedre is also working towards certification granted by the [Nautical Institute](#) which validates training centres' capacity to run courses to the international standards set out by the [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#). Cedre is due to undergo its certification audit in October.

New port zone at Cedre's technical facilities

Cedre has recently acquired new equipment. A "port pollution" module has thus been deployed in our shallow water basin. This one-of-a-kind zone is composed of floating pontoons, a fuel station, and a drainage network with direct outfall into the water body. Port spills (diesel, waste oil, etc.) can be recreated so that trainees face real-life situations involving the management of small spills in a harbour area.

A national shoreline pollution expertise cluster in Brest

Announced among the [CIMer 2019](#) measures, the [Pôle national d'expertise POLMAR-Terre](#) has now officially been established. Its organisation and missions are laid out in an [order](#) dated 19th August 2020 issued by the French [Ministry of the Sea](#). Based in Brest and using [DIRM NAMO](#) personnel and equipment, this national shoreline pollution expertise cluster is intended to provide technical and operational support for the "POLMAR-Terre" contingency plan for marine pollution affecting the shoreline, both in terms of spreparedness and response in the event of a spill.

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