



**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION
EMERGENCY, INFORMATION AND TRAINING CENTRE - WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

Country Profile 2015

COUNTRY Republic of Panama

Seru Mahuma z/n, Aviation and Meteorology Building
Willemstad, Curacao
Tel: (+5999) 868 - 4612 / 868 - 3409

E-mail: rempeitc@cep.unep.org
Fax: (+5999) 868- 4996

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to complete this important questionnaire. The thorough and accurate information you provide will be used by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to:

1. fulfill the exchange of information requirements of the Cartagena Convention and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Prevention, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC 90),
2. determine your country's specific training and exercise expectations and needs,
3. determine the regional training and exercise needs within the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR),
4. inform the working group currently developing RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's new, 10-year strategic plan,
5. share with other organizations like UNEP, IMO and ITOFF.

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe has been serving the marine environmental training, communication and exercise needs of the Wider Caribbean Region for over 20 years. Completing the questionnaire below will ensure RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe meets your needs and expectations well into the future. Thank you.

Person responsible for this questionnaire

Last Name	
First Name	
Title/Position	
Telephone	
E-mail	

COUNTRY PROFILE

1. Conventions and Agreements Ratified and/or Implemented

	Oil Spill Response			Prevention and Safety						Compensation						Other					
	OPRC 90	OPRC HNS	Cartagena Conv. Oil Spill Protocol	MARPOL 73/78, protocol 97 Annexes						CLC			Fund			HNS Conv	HNS Prot.	Anti fouling	Bunkers Conv.	Ballast water	
				1	2	3	4	5	6	'69	'76	'92	'76	'92	'03	'96	'10	'01	'01	'04	
Year of ratification	No	No	No	X	X	X	X	X										X	X	no	
Year of implementation						8	1												01	01	01
Expect to Ratify (yes / no)																					

COUNTRY PROFILE 2015
1.1 What, if any, International Convention is your Country most likely to ratify next?

Nairobi International Convention for the Removal of Wrecks, 2007

1.2 Additional Comments

None

2. National Focal Points

2.1	MINISTRY OF LEAD AGENCY	Panama Maritime Authority	POC: Jorge Barakat Pitty TEL: (507)501-5000 CELL: FAX: EMAIL: amp@amp.gob.pa
		Address: Panama, Diablo Heights, Building 5534	
2.2	LEAD AGENCY	Panama Maritime Authority	POC: Jorge Barakat Pitty TEL: (507)501-5000 CELL: FAX: EMAIL: amp@amp.gob.pa
		Address: Panama, Diablo Heights, Building 5534	
2.3	SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT	Panama Maritime Authority Directorate General of Ports and Maritime Ancillary Industries Pollution, Prevention and Control Department	POC 1: Eng. Gerardo Varela – General Director of Ports and Maritime Ancillary Industries TEL: (507) 501-5000 CELL: FAX: EMAIL: gvarela@amp.gob.pa POC 2: Eli Alvarez-Head Pollution, Prevention and Control Department TEL: (507) 501-5155 CELL: FAX: EMAIL: elialvarez@amp.gob.pa
		Address: Panama, Diablo Heights, Building 5534	
2.4	RESPONSE AGENCY	Panama Maritime Authority Directorate General of Ports and Maritime Ancillary Industries Pollution, Prevention and Control Department	POC 2: Eli Alvarez-Head Pollution, Prevention and Control Department TEL: (507) 501-5155 CELL: FAX: EMAIL: elialvarez@amp.gob.pa

COUNTRY PROFILE 2015

		Address:	
2.5	NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CONTACT FOR MARPOL	<p>Panama Maritime Authority</p> <p>Directorate General of Ports and Maritime Ancillary Industries</p> <p>Directorate General of Merchant Marine</p>	<p>Directorate General of Ports and Maritime Ancillary Industries</p> <p>POC 1: Eng. Gerardo Varela – General Director of Ports and Maritime Ancillary Industries TEL: 501-5000 CELL: FAX: EMAIL: gvarela@amp.gob.pa</p> <p>POC 2: Eli Alvarez-Head Pollution, Prevention and Control Department TEL: 501-5155 CELL: FAX: EMAIL: elialvarez@amp.gob.pa</p> <p>Directorate General of Merchant Marine</p> <p>POC : Eng. Jose Luis Ortega, Head Segumar Office Panama CELL: 501-5000 FAX: EMAIL:</p> <p>POC : Eng. Reinaldo Garibaldi Navigation and Security Department CELL: 501-5000 FAX: EMAIL:</p>
2.6	NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CONTACT FOR BALLASTWATER	<p>Panama Maritime Authority</p> <p>Directorate General of Ports and Maritime Ancillary Industries</p> <p>Directorate General of Merchant Marine</p>	<p>POC: TEL: CELL: FAX: EMAIL:</p>
		Address:	

COUNTRY PROFILE 2015

3. Risk Assessment

3.1	What is your Countries greatest risk for an oil spill?	N/A
3.2	Date of last oil spill risk assessment?	None
3.3	Topics covered?	None
3.4	Geographic area?	None
3.5	What area is considered a priority?	The Provinces of Chiriquí and Bocas del Toro, and the terminals of Melones and Decal, as they are the highest risk areas for oil spills. Please see attached map for reference purposes, with the strategic places to give responses to oil spills.
3.6	Additional comments / Difficulties encountered?	None

4. Sensitivity Maps

4.1	Sensitivity Maps exist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (go to 4.5)
4.2	Date of map or last update?	
4.3	Geographic area covered?	
4.4	Format used: paper or electronic?	
4.5	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	Budget restraints and lack of technical support within the Institution to draw the maps in conjunction with the National Tommy Guardia Geographic Institute.
4.6	Will you share with RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe data layers for your sensitivity maps if any?	We are willing to share the requested information, provided by other government authorities.

5. National Contingency Plan

5.1a	National Contingency Plan exists?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – Status of Plan <div style="margin-left: 150px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft <input type="checkbox"/> To be developed Details: ...Status: Approval subject to Enactment of National Legislation on this matter. </div>	
5.1b	Is there a National Contingency Plan for HNS incidents? (& if so, is this an extension of the oil spill contingency plan or a separate document?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – Status of Plan <div style="margin-left: 150px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of the NCP <input type="checkbox"/> Separate document <input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To be developed Details: ...It will be a separate document. </div>	
5.2	Date Plan was developed or updated?	N/A	N/A
5.3	Date approved?	N/A	N/A
5.4	Is the Plan in electronic format?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
5.5	Date of the last evaluation with the assessment tool, the “Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™)”	None	
5.6	What is the National policy on dispersant use and in-situ burning?	At present time, we don’t have any approval for dispersant or in-situ burning; nevertheless, same is included in the draft of the National Contingency Plan.	
5.7	Agreements with other organizations for response? (Please provide details)	None	
5.8	Does the country have regulations for managing waste? (Please provide details)	Yes, pursuant ADM Resolution N° 222, dated November 7 th , 2008 same which sets forth the Rules and Regulations of the Republic of Panama on Integral Management of Waste Generated by Ships and Cargo Residue.	
5.9	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	None	

6. Exercises / Training / Incidents

6.1	What is the national agency in charge of personnel training?	Panama Maritime Authority and Panama Canal Authority
6.2	Does a national center exist to train personnel?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Located at the "Ascanio Arosemena" Center. <input type="checkbox"/> No
6.3	Date of last national exercise?	January 14 th and 15 th , 2015 organized by the Panama Canal Authority
6.4	Has there been any experience of ship-source Oil pollution related incidents?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6.5	Has there been any experience of ship-source HNS related incidents?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please provide details) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No contamination
6.6	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	We are willing to participate in exercises and training to be provided by third parties

7. Regional Cooperation

7.1	What are the bilateral or multilateral agreements for the country?	None
7.2	What are the opportunities in developing a regional exercise in the country?	We may evaluate the possibility of carrying out regional exercises, through appropriate _____ with other public authorities, such as the Panama Canal Authority, the National Environmental Authority, the Panama Aquatic Resources Authority, among others.
7.3	Is there a mechanism in place to facilitate the clearance of equipment through Customs in an emergency situation? What is the process?	At present time it does not exist, but the draft of the National Contingency Plan contains a section which deals with Customs facilities which are required when contingency equipment is returned to country of origin. The Government Institution in charge of applying said procedures is the National Customs Authority.
7.4	Additional comments?	None

8. Equipment

8.1	Does your country maintain a list of oil spill cleanup equipment and materials?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (basic response materials only) <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to 8.4)
8.2	Is this equipment list in electronic format?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8.3	What equipment is available for Oil pollution	

COUNTRY PROFILE 2015

	incident response? (a general indication of the types and amounts of response equipment and materials available from both government agencies and private companies within the country).	No equipment is available, only absorbent materials
8.4	What equipment is available for HNS incident response? (a general indication of the types and amounts of response equipment and materials available from both government agencies and private companies within the country).	None
8.5	Are there agreements in place to facilitate additional support (i.e. aerial support, medical support, manpower, communications) (possibilities for deploying dispersants with planes or helicopters)?	No, but we are willing to enter into any such agreement
8.6	Additional comments?	No

....

FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

Expectations

Introduction	<p>The objective of this part is to identify a country's needed support from various regional and international organizations (activities, manuals, guidelines, etc). This will allow RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to update their strategic plan to meet the country's expectations and to further develop the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan. While RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe will consider all proposed recommendations, there may be cases where certain expectations will not be met due to financial constraints and/or other commitments.</p>
---------------------	---

9. Technical Support

9.1	With respect to the activities developed by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, list three activities that	1. Equipment
-----	---	--------------

COUNTRY PROFILE 2015

	are needed in order to improve your country's pollution response posture.	<p>2. Personnel Training</p> <p>3. Implementation of our National Contingency Plan</p>	
9.2	What guidelines or technical manuals does your country use in regards to pollution response preparedness (title & author)?	None, but we are in the process of having said guidelines or manuals in force upon approval of our National Contingency Plan. In the meantime, we use as a guideline, the "Incident Command System" Manual. Said system is included and mentioned in the Draft of the National Contingency Plan, as an Annex thereof.	
9.3	What guidelines or technical manuals does your country use in regards to pollution response (title & author)?	Same as in number 9.2, above.	
9.4	How does your country stay informed of the latest response guidelines or obtain updates to the technical manuals (seminars, internet, personal relationships)?	None	
9.5	How does your country access these updates (mail order, internet, seminars)?	None	
9.6	Which of these topics would your country need more guidance on? <i>Note: Please be specific and add more comments if necessary.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sensitivity Maps <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response Techniques (conventional / alternative) <input type="checkbox"/> National Contingency Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARPOL (Annex VI)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ballast Water Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anti-fouling Systems <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research & Development <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ...
9.7	Why did you choose these topics?	Because we consider that our country needs to improve on all topics marked, for information and development purposes.	

COUNTRY PROFILE 2015

9.8	How would you like these topics to be presented (technically, practically, theoretically, etc.)?	Technically, practically, and theoretically, as well as financially.
9.9	What are your expectations from the international technical groups?	To teach us to face oil spills, and to provide us with resources and know-how therefore, on a short-term, medium-term, and long-term basis (if need be).
9.10	Additional comments?	We are in great need of technical support in the area of handling oil spills in our country.

10. Expectations

10.1	During an actual oil spill situation, what are your response expectations at each of the below levels (i.e. initial intervention, organization, coordination, equipment, waste management, compensation, etc.)?	
	TIER 1	X
	TIER 2	X
	TIER 3	X
10.2	What are your expectations in regards to bilateral or multilateral agreements?	Our expectations in entering into bilateral or multilateral agreements, are to learn about how to face oil spills in our country, and to become properly equipped with proper and efficient equipment and materials.
10.3	What are your expectations in regards to the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan?	Same as in number 10.2, above.
10.4	Additional comments?	We expect the help and support from those countries which have state-of-the-art technology and know-how on issues dealing with oil spills.