

# Oil Spill Preparedness. Is South Africa Ready?

By  
**FINSA reporter**  
-  
18 September 2020



One of the earlier photos of the oil cleanup operation on Mauritius.

The state of preparedness for oil spills hinges on South Africa's effective management of its maritime and marine environment. The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) says this is work in progress.

Oil and gas drilling of the Luiperd-1 well led by Total E & P recently got underway after its rig platform vessel arrived at Mossel Bay on 21 August. The project will run for 12 to 18 months.

Environmentalists are concerned that there seems to be no consideration of how the environment could be negatively impacted by the project and the ripple effects on the tourism and fishing industries.

With the oil spill off Mauritius a fresh reminder, this webinar is a valuable platform that presents the key aspects of contingency planning in preparedness and response to oil spills.

It offers different perspectives and viewpoints. This includes SAMSA, Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) and ExxonMobil Angola.

The webinar was hosted by the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa Initiative (GI WACAF).

It involves 22 African countries, all member states of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and global private sector oil organisation, (International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA).

It is the third in a series of webinars aired after the GI WACAF's activities were cancelled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

You can watch a replay of the webinar here:

<https://event.webinarjam.com/replay/18/w804zf6sxiktrov>

Outcomes of the webinar include:

- understanding the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders involved in contingency planning. This includes national authorities, the oil and gas industry and others);
- information about the main tools used in contingency planning. This includes Oil Spill Contingency Plans and National Oil Spill Contingency Plans.
- an understanding of concrete implications of the **OPRC Convention**;
- sharing knowledge about the challenges and successes faced when planning for oil spills, including examples of case studies.

