Maracaibo Lake, Venezuela (2009 – 2010)

Growth stimulation of native microorganisms in the water and sludge that break down and degrade hydrocarbon molecules of stable oil-water emulsions, caused by oil spills. Absorption of floating oil with special hydrophobic fabrics.

INVOLVED NOTIFYING BODIES:

- Guardia Nacional de Venezuela
- ICLAM (Instituto de conservación del Lago Maracaibo)

PLACE OF EXECUTION

- Maracaibo, Venezuela

SCOPE OF WORK

A setup of 4 sets of 2 tanks (750liter each) with mechanical agitation was constructed. The tanks were filled with water obtained from the Maracaibo lake and an oil spill was simulated by adding a certain amount of crude oil into the tanks. The duration of the test was 4 days and repeated 3 times. With the most optimum dosage of a new biological activator a reduction of 40 to 50% of the emulsified oil was metabolized by the present microorganisms in the water.
A full report (Spanish) is available for sponsors.