

Extended Continental Shelf Submissions to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf by the Republic of Mauritius

Department of Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration & Exploration,
Prime Minister's Office, Republic of Mauritius

Abstract

The Republic of Mauritius is Party to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention), which it signed on the day it was opened for signature on 10 December 1982, and subsequently ratified on 4 November 1994. The Maritime Zones Act 2008 provides that the provisions of the Convention have the force of law in the Republic of Mauritius, and establishes maritime zones in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including provisions relating to the outer limits of the continental shelf.

The Republic of Mauritius has, for the purposes of preparing submissions to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), applied the relevant provisions of Article 76 of the Convention, together with the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and, the recommendations contained in the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

The Republic of Mauritius has already made two partial Submissions and a Preliminary Information.

Submission in Mascarene Plateau Region

- In December 2008, the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles made a Joint Submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for an Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) area in the region of the Mascarene Plateau.
- ECS Area: Approximately 396,000 sq. km
- In March 2011, the CLCS made its recommendations which resulted in Mauritius and Seychelles being jointly conferred the jurisdiction upon the joint area.
- In March 2012, Mauritius and Seychelles signed two treaties allowing the establishment of the Joint Management Area (JMA) in which the two States exercise sovereign rights jointly for the purpose of exploring the continental shelf and exploiting its natural resources.

Submission in the Region of Rodrigues Island

- In May 2009, the Republic of Mauritius submitted the Preliminary Information in respect to an area of its Extended Continental Shelf in the region of Rodrigues Island.
- ECS Area: Approximately 182,000 sq. km

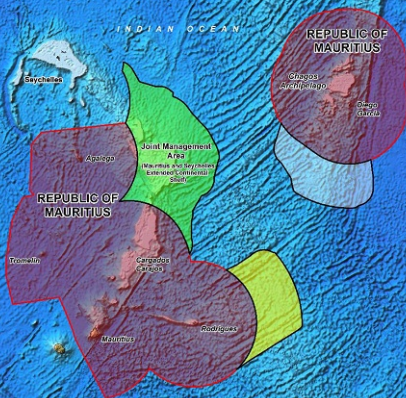
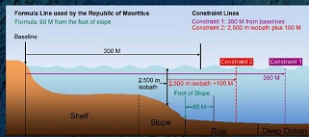
Preliminary Information in Chagos Archipelago Region

- In May 2009, the Republic of Mauritius submitted Preliminary Information in respect to an area of its Extended Continental Shelf in the region of Chagos Archipelago.
- ECS Area: Approximately 182,000 sq. km

Acknowledgement

The preparation of the Submissions by the Government of Mauritius was supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat through the provision of legal and technical expertise.

Article 76 of UNCLOS



Legend

- Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Mauritius
- Joint Management Area (Mauritius & Seychelles)
- Submission in the Region of Rodrigues Island
- Preliminary Information in the Chagos Archipelago Region

Contact

Director General
Department of Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones
Administration & Exploration, Prime Minister's Office
mzadministration@govmu.org