

SUBMISSION
by
Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
for the
**Establishment of the Outer Limits of the
Continental Shelf of Côte d'Ivoire
pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 8 of the
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CI-DOC-ES

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The present submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ('the Commission') is made by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire ('Côte d'Ivoire') pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ('the Convention') in support of the establishment by Côte d'Ivoire of the outer limits of the continental shelf that lies beyond 200 nautical miles (M) from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Côte d'Ivoire is measured (hereinafter referred to as 'the territorial sea baselines') in Côte d'Ivoire's Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region.
- 1.2 Côte d'Ivoire is a West African coastal state with a population of 18,373,060 bordering the Gulf of Guinea along a 520 km long coastline between Liberia and Ghana. The total land area is 322,462 km². Côte d'Ivoire is a contracting party to the Convention having signed the Convention on December 10th 1982 and ratified it in March 1984.
- 1.3 Under Article 4 of Annex II to the Convention, as supplemented by the decisions of the Eleventh and Eighteenth Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention respectively, regarding the ten-year period established by article 4 of Annex II to the Convention (SPLOS/72) and (SPLOS/183), a coastal State for which the Convention entered into force before 13 May 1999 is required to submit particulars of the outer limits of the continental shelf to the Commission, together with supporting scientific and technical data by May 13th 2009. This submission by Côte d'Ivoire satisfies that obligation.
- 1.4 Côte d'Ivoire has for the purposes of preparing this submission applied the relevant provisions of Article 76 of the Convention, the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure and the recommendations contained in the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS/11) adopted by the Commission on May 13th 1999 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Guidelines').
- 1.5 In accordance with the specifications of the Commission set out in Annex III of the Rules of Procedure and paragraphs 9.1.3 to 9.1.6 of the Guidelines, the submission of Côte d'Ivoire consists of three separate parts comprising an Executive Summary, a core analytical and descriptive part of the submission ('the Main Body'), and a part containing all required supporting scientific and technical data ('supporting scientific and technical data').
- 1.6 Côte d'Ivoire wishes to emphasize that this submission has been prepared notwithstanding significant challenges posed by technical capacity and financial resources. In this regard, Côte d'Ivoire has received technical assistance from Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR, Hanover, Germany) during the preparation of the submission.

2. OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF COTE D'IVOIRE

- 2.1 As provided for under paragraph 1 of Article 76 of the Convention, Côte d'Ivoire has a continental shelf; comprising the seabed and subsoil of a submarine area that extend beyond its territorial seas throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin. This extends up to the limits provided for in paragraphs 4 to 6 of Article 76 or, to a distance of 200 M from the territorial sea baselines of Côte d'Ivoire where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend beyond that distance.
- 2.2 Paragraphs 4 to 6 of Article 76 of the Convention elaborate provisions by which a coastal State may establish the outer edge of its continental margin, and its extended continental shelf, wherever that margin extends beyond 200M measured from the territorial sea baselines.
- 2.3 As set out in paragraph 7 of Article 76 of the Convention, a coastal State is to delineate the outer limits of the extended continental shelf by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length, connecting fixed points ('fixed points') defined by geographic coordinates of latitude and longitude.
- 2.4 The data submitted by Côte d'Ivoire in support of the submission establish that the outer edge of the continental margin appurtenant to the relevant land territory of Côte d'Ivoire extends beyond 200 M measured from the territorial sea baselines of Côte d'Ivoire in the regions named in this submission 'the Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region'.

3. PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 76 INVOKED

- 3.1 For the purposes of this submission Côte d'Ivoire invoked paragraphs 4(b) and 7 of Article 76 of the Convention to support the submission delineating the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines. Paragraphs 4 (a)(i) of Article 76 is also invoked in respect of fixed points as outlined in Section 6 of this Executive Summary.

4. EXISTING AND OUTSTANDING MARITIME BOUNDARIES

- 4.1 Côte d'Ivoire has overlapping maritime claims with adjacent States in the region, but has not signed any maritime boundary delimitation agreements with any of its neighbouring States to date.

5. ABSENCE OF DISPUTES

5.1 Article 9 of Annex II to the Convention provides that the actions of the Commission shall not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States with opposite or adjacent coasts. The Commission has therefore adopted a practice, contained in Annex I of the Rules of Procedure that is intended to prevent the consideration of a submission in respect of disputed continental shelf without the consent of the parties in dispute.

5.2 The ECOWAS member States Republic of Benin, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Ghana, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Togo held a meeting from 24th to 26th February 2009 in Accra. During this meeting, issues of the limit of adjacent and opposite maritime boundaries were discussed with the following result:

"Issues of the limit of adjacent/opposite boundaries shall continue to be discussed in a spirit of cooperation to arrive at a definite delimitation even after the presentation of the preliminary information /submission,

Member States would therefore write "no objection" Note to the submission of their neighboring States"(Minutes of Experts Meeting of ECOWAS member States on the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf held in Accra from 24th to 26th February 2009).

5.2 This submission of information to the Commission on the Limits of the continental shelf of Côte d'Ivoire is without prejudice to delimitation of the maritime boundaries with the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of Benin, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Republic of Togo.

5.4 Further, in accordance with paragraph 2(b) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure, Côte d'Ivoire wishes to inform the Commission that in its view, the consideration of this submission will not prejudice matters relating to the determination of boundaries between Côte d'Ivoire and any other State(s).

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF

6.1 This section deals with an extended continental shelf polygon, referred to in Côte d'Ivoire's submission as the 'Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region' (Figure 6.1). The Outer Limit of Côte d'Ivoire's Eastern Extended Continental Shelf is defined by six fixed points (Table 6.1), of which 5 (Points OL-CI-1, OL-CI-2, OL-CI-3, OL-CI-4 and OL-CI-5) are points which are defined by the sediment thickness formula (Article 76. Paragraph 4 (a)(i). 1 (Point OL-CI-6) is a point where the outer limit line intersects the line 200 M from Côte d'Ivoire's territorial sea baseline.

Table 6-1 Geographical Coordinates of the Outer Limits of Côte d'Ivoires Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region

OL-Points	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)	Article 76 criterion	Distance to next point (km)
OL-CI-1	1°01'16.238"	4°05'36.007"	(a)(a)(i)	14.025
OL-CI-5	0°59'08.047"	4°12'51.392	(a)(a)(i)	77.722
OL-CI-2	0°51'56.981"	4°46'53.064"	(a)(a)(i)	79.404
OL-CI-3	0°45'40.681"	5°27'32.777"	(a)(a)(i)	81.950
OL-CI-4	1°15'06.495"	6°00'39.812"	(a)(a)(i)	10.164
OL-CI-6	1°18'22.034"	6°05'05.423"	(200M)	

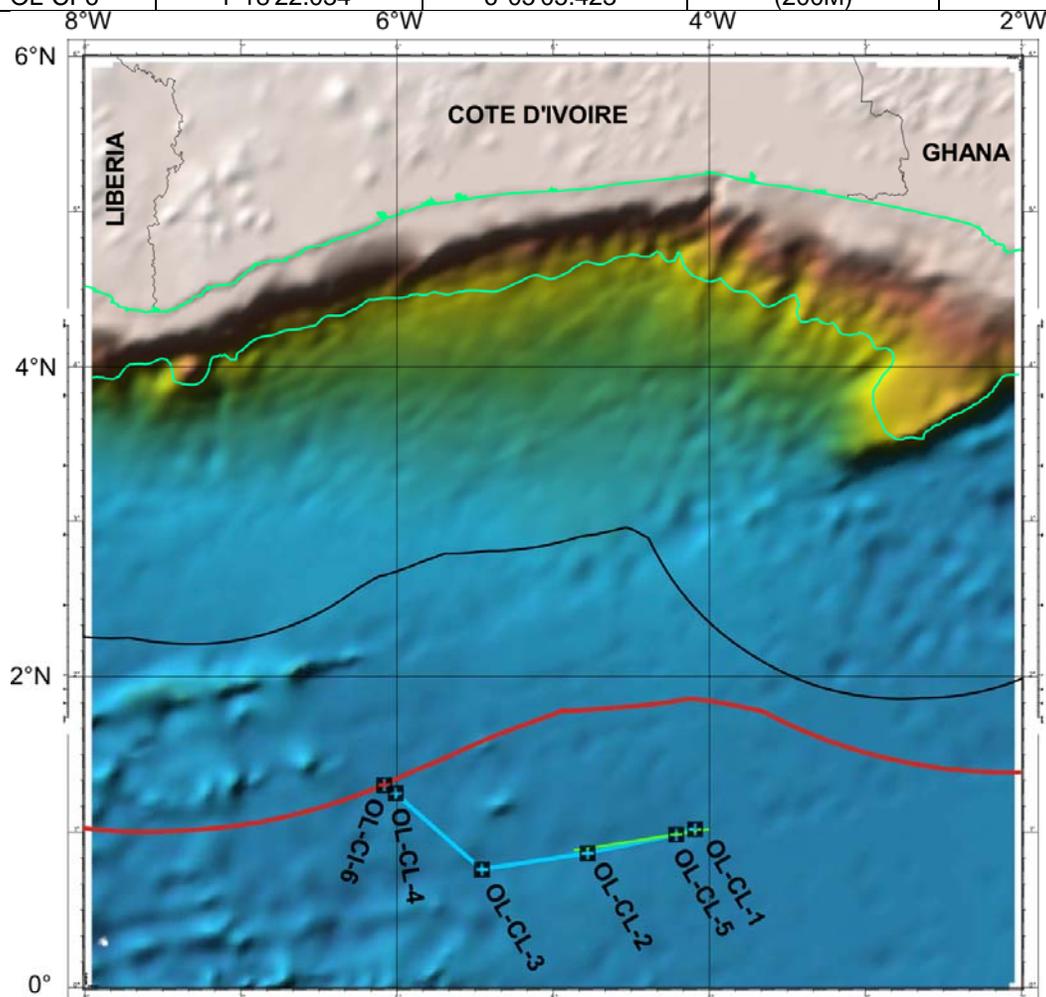


Figure 6-1 Location of the fixed Outer Limit Points of Cote d'Ivoires Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region

7. LIST OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS/CORPORATIONS, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS SUBMISSION

7.1 Ministries

- Office of President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Mines & Energy
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Environment & Water and Forest
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of High Education
- Ministry of Economy & finance
- Ministry of Halieutic resources

7.2 Corporations

- Société National d'Operations Pétrolières de Côte d'Ivoire (PETROCI)
- Bureau National d'Etudes Techniques et de Développement (BNETD)
- Centre Universitaire de Recherche Appliquée en Télédétection (CURAT)

7.3 Institutions

- Commission Nationale de Délimitation des Frontières Maritimes de Côte d'Ivoire
- Université d'Abidjan-Cocody
- ECOWAS (CEDEAO) Commission

7.4 External Organisations

- Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR, Germany)

7.5 Commission Members who provided advice on the Submission

- Dr. Karl Hinz, ex-Commission member, was involved in advising the Government of Côte d'Ivoire