



Government of the Republic of Suriname

Submission on the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



SUBMISSION

by the

Government of the Republic of Suriname

for the

**Establishment of the Outer Limits of
the Continental Shelf of Suriname
pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 8 of
the United Nations Convention on the
Law of the Sea**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

prepared for the

Republic of Suriname

by Project Manager

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Table of Contents

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 2 | The continental shelf | 1 |
| 3 | Provisions of Article 76 invoked | 1 |
| 4 | Absence of disputes | 2 |
| 5 | Description of the outer limits of Suriname's continental shelf | 3 |
| 6 | List of government agencies and consultants involved | 3 |
| 7 | Commission members who provided advice on the Submission | 4 |

List of Figures

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Figure 1: | Map showing the region with the Demerara Plateau and the Suriname-Guyana Deep Water Basin | 5 |
| Figure 2: | Map showing the outer limit line of the continental shelf of Suriname | 6 |

List of Tables

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| Table 1: | The geographical coordinates of the fixed points defining the outer limits of Suriname's continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and the length of the straight line segments connecting them | 7 |
|----------|---|---|

Executive Summary – Continental Shelf Submission of the Republic of Suriname

1 Introduction

The Republic of Suriname (Suriname) signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter the Convention) on the day it was opened for signature and ratified it on 9 July 1998.

The present submission fulfils Suriname's obligation under Article 76 and Annex II, Article 4 of the Convention to submit to the Commission information on the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

2 The continental shelf

The present submission deals with the outer limits of the continental shelf of Suriname in the Atlantic Ocean. The continental shelf of Suriname is located at the base of the continental margin of the Atlantic Ocean. The dominant features of this area are the Suriname-Guyana Marginal Basin, the Demerara Plateau, and the Suriname-Guyana Deep Water Basin (*see* Figure 1).

3 Provisions of Article 76 invoked

The outer edge of the continental margin where it extends beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured has been defined in accordance with the provisions of Article 76, paragraphs 3, 4(a)(i) and 4(b) of the Convention.

The outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured have been delineated by fixed points connected by straight lines not longer than 60 nautical miles in accordance with the provisions of Article 76, paragraph 7 of the Convention.

In accordance with Article 76, paragraph 5 of the Convention, all fixed points comprising the line of the outer limits of the continental shelf of Suriname are not more than 350 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Suriname is measured.

Executive Summary – Continental Shelf Submission of the Republic of Suriname

4 Absence of disputes

Some unresolved questions remain in relation to the bilateral delimitation of the continental shelf of Suriname with neighboring States. Suriname has considered these questions with its neighboring States in accordance with Article 76, paragraph 10 of the Convention and Rule 46 and Annex I of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. This submission and the recommendations of the Commission made in respect of it are, in accordance with Article 76, paragraph 10 of the Convention and Article 9 of Annex II to the Convention, without prejudice to the delimitation of maritime boundaries between States.

Suriname and its eastern neighbor, France, share a maritime boundary that extends up to the outer limit of the continental shelf. Suriname has held consultations with France concerning Suriname's submission of information to the Commission. The Government of France has agreed not to object to the consideration by the Commission of this submission. The present submission of information to the Commission by Suriname is without prejudice to the delimitation of the maritime boundary with France.

The maritime boundary between Suriname and its adjacent western neighbor, Guyana, has been established up to the outer limit of the exclusive economic zone of both states. The boundary of the continental shelf of Suriname beyond the outer limit of Suriname's exclusive economic zone remains to be established.

Suriname has held consultations with its western neighbors concerning Suriname's submission of information to the Commission. This concerns Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. The Governments of Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela have each agreed not to object to the consideration by the Commission of the submission of Suriname.

In accordance with paragraph 2(a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, Suriname wishes to inform the Commission that there is no dispute related to the present submission. Suriname provides the Commission with the assurance that its submission can be

Executive Summary – Continental Shelf Submission of the Republic of Suriname

treated without prejudice to issues related to the delimitation of the continental shelf between neighboring States.

5 Description of the outer limits of Suriname’s continental shelf

A total of seven (7) foot of the slope points have been selected along the continental margin in the area of the Suriname-Guyana Basin and the Demerara Plateau. From these foot of the slope points, five (5) points have been established at which sufficient sediment thickness has been demonstrated to allow the application of the 1% sediment formula of Article 76, paragraph (4)(a)(i) of the Convention. These five points (OL-SUR-1, OL-SUR-2, OL-SUR-3, OL-SUR-4, and OL-SUR-5) have been used as fixed points in accordance with Article 76, paragraph 7 of the Convention.

In addition, fourteen (14) fixed points defining the outer limit are located at 350 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Suriname is measured. The fixed points and the straight line segments connecting them are shown in Figure 2. The geographical coordinates of the nineteen (19) fixed points and the length of the straight line segments connecting them is indicated in Table 1.

6 List of government agencies, statutory corporations, and consultants involved in the preparation of the Submission

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Justice and Police

Ministry of Defense

Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname N.V.

Maritime Authority of Suriname

The following acted as advisors to the Government of Suriname in the preparation of this submission:

Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea

Sovereign Geographic, Inc.

7 Commission members who provided advice on the Submission

No active member of the Commission provided advice to Suriname in the preparation of this submission.

Dr. Karl Hinz, ex-Commission member, was involved in advising the Government of Suriname in the preparation of the submission.

Executive Summary – Continental Shelf Submission of the Republic of Suriname



Figure 1: Map showing the region with the Demerara Plateau and the Suriname-Guyana Deep Water Basin.

Executive Summary – Continental Shelf Submission of the Republic of Suriname

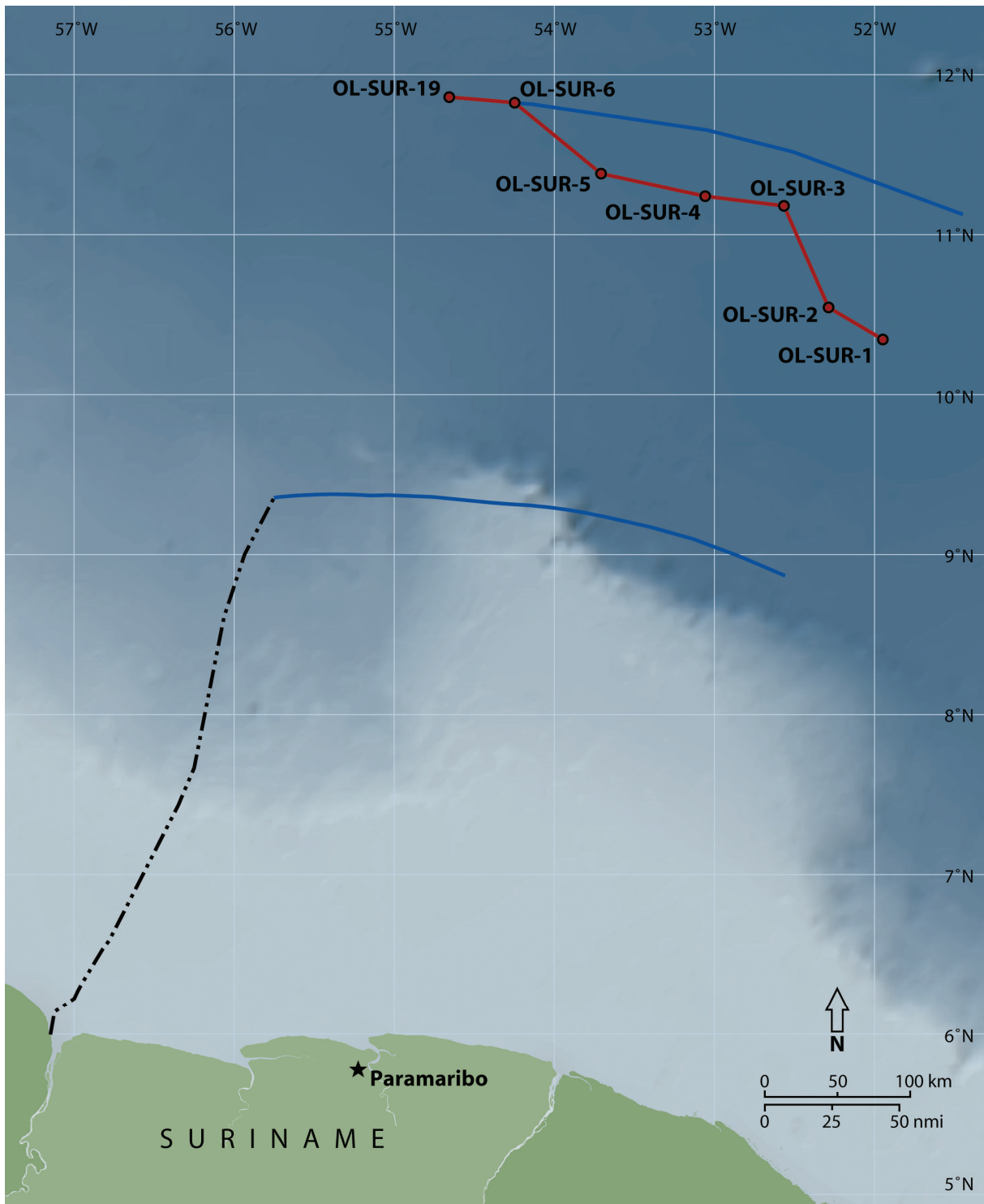


Figure 2: Map showing the outer limit line of the continental shelf of Suriname.

Executive Summary – Continental Shelf Submission of the Republic of Suriname

| OL Point Numbers | Latitude (N) | Longitude (W) | Article 76 provision invoked | Distance to next Point (M) |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| OL-SUR-01 | 10° 20' 41.0255" | 51° 56' 53.4917" | 76(4)(a)(i) | 23.41 |
| OL-SUR-02 | 10° 32' 42.5394" | 52° 17' 13.6281" | 76(4)(a)(i) | 41.44 |
| OL-SUR-03 | 11° 10' 47.8018" | 52° 33' 57.1475" | 76(4)(a)(i) | 29.29 |
| OL-SUR-04 | 11° 14' 25.3949" | 53° 03' 27.7128" | 76(4)(a)(i) | 39.31 |
| OL-SUR-05 | 11° 22' 52.7738" | 53° 42' 28.7868" | 76(4)(a)(i) | 41.36 |
| OL-SUR-06 | 11° 49' 28.6000" | 54° 14' 51.6084" | 76(5) | 1.03 |
| OL-SUR-07 | 11° 49' 34.3091" | 54° 15' 54.6448" | 76(5) | 1.96 |
| OL-SUR-08 | 11° 49' 45.0006" | 54° 17' 53.9395" | 76(5) | 1.96 |
| OL-SUR-09 | 11° 49' 55.6781" | 54° 19' 53.2367" | 76(5) | 1.96 |
| OL-SUR-10 | 11° 50' 06.3417" | 54° 21' 52.5365" | 76(5) | 1.96 |
| OL-SUR-11 | 11° 50' 16.9913" | 54° 23' 51.8389" | 76(5) | 1.96 |
| OL-SUR-12 | 11° 50' 27.6270" | 54° 25' 51.1438" | 76(5) | 1.90 |
| OL-SUR-13 | 11° 50' 37.1952" | 54° 27' 47.1663" | 76(5) | 1.90 |
| OL-SUR-14 | 11° 50' 46.7503" | 54° 29' 43.1911" | 76(5) | 1.90 |
| OL-SUR-15 | 11° 50' 56.2921" | 54° 31' 39.2182" | 76(5) | 1.90 |
| OL-SUR-16 | 11° 51' 05.8207" | 54° 33' 35.2474" | 76(5) | 1.90 |
| OL-SUR-17 | 11° 51' 15.3362" | 54° 35' 31.2789" | 76(5) | 1.90 |
| OL-SUR-18 | 11° 51' 24.8384" | 54° 37' 27.3126" | 76(5) | 1.90 |
| OL-SUR-19 | 11° 51' 34.3274" | 54° 39' 23.3486" | 76(5) | |

Table 1: The geographical coordinates of the fixed points defining the outer limits of Suriname’s continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and the length of the straight line segments connecting them. Coordinates are referenced to WGS84.