

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

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PREFACE

This Preliminary Information document was prepared by the following Ministries and Statutory Corporations of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius:

Prime Minister's Office
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration & International Trade
Attorney-General's Office
Ministry of Housing and Lands
Mauritius Oceanography Institute

The following persons have acted and/or will act as advisers to the Government of the Republic of Mauritius in the preparation of the Submission by the Republic of Mauritius concerning the extended continental shelf in the Chagos Archipelago Region:

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Continental Shelf
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of the Continental Shelf



MAPS

Figure 1 Map indicative of outer limits of the extended continental shelf of the Republic of Mauritius in the Chagos Archipelago Region

MCS-PI-MAP-1

1. INTRODUCTION

1-1 This Preliminary Information document has been prepared by the Republic of Mauritius pursuant to the *Decision regarding the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and the ability of States, particularly developing States, to fulfill the requirements of article 4 of annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as well as the decision contained in SPLOS/72, paragraph (a)*, adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the

- 1-3** The Republic of Mauritius is Party to 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 The *Maritime Zones Act 2005*, which repealed the *Maritime Zones Act 1977*, provides that the provisions of the Convention have the force of law in the Republic of Mauritius, and establishes maritime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 defining the outer limits of the continental shelf.
- 1-4** Under Article 4 of Annex II to the Convention, as supplemented by the decisions contained in SPLOS/72 and SPLOS/183 respectively regarding the 10-year period established by Article 4 of Annex II to the Convention, 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 United Nations



2-2 The Republic of Mauritius also intends to make a submission for an extended continental shelf in respect of the Chagos Archipelago Region. The preparation of a submission concerning this region is currently being undertaken and has reached an advanced stage. The Republic of Mauritius expects to complete the Submission by 2012. Pending the lodgement of the submission, this Preliminary Information document is submitted consistent with operative paragraph 1(a) of the decision contained in SPLOS/183 in order to satisfy the requirement of Article 4 of Annex II to the Convention.

2-3 The Republic of Mauritius notes that, in accordance with operative paragraphs 1(b) and 1(c) of the decision contained in SPLOS/183, pending the receipt of the submission concerning the Chagos Archipelago Region, the Preliminary Information submitted by the Republic of Mauritius shall not be considered by the Commission and further, that the Preliminary Information is without prejudice to the submission and its future consideration by the Commission.

2-4 The part of the continental shelf lying beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius measured from the Chagos Archipelago is referred to in this Preliminary Information document as the 'extended continental shelf'.

3. INDICATION OF THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO REGION

3-1 As provided for under paragraph 1 of Article 76 of the Convention, the Republic of Mauritius has a continental shelf comprising the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extends beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer

edge of the continental margin, up to the limits provided for in paragraphs 4 to 6 of Article 76 of the Convention or, to a distance of 200 M from the territorial sea baselines where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

3-2 Article 121 of the Conventio



4. MAP INDICATIVE OF OUTER LIMITS OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO REGION

4-1 A map at an appropriate scale which provides an overview of the indicative outer limit of the extended continental shelf in the Chagos Archipelago Region is included in this Preliminary Information document as **Figure 1 (MCS-PI-MAP-1)**.

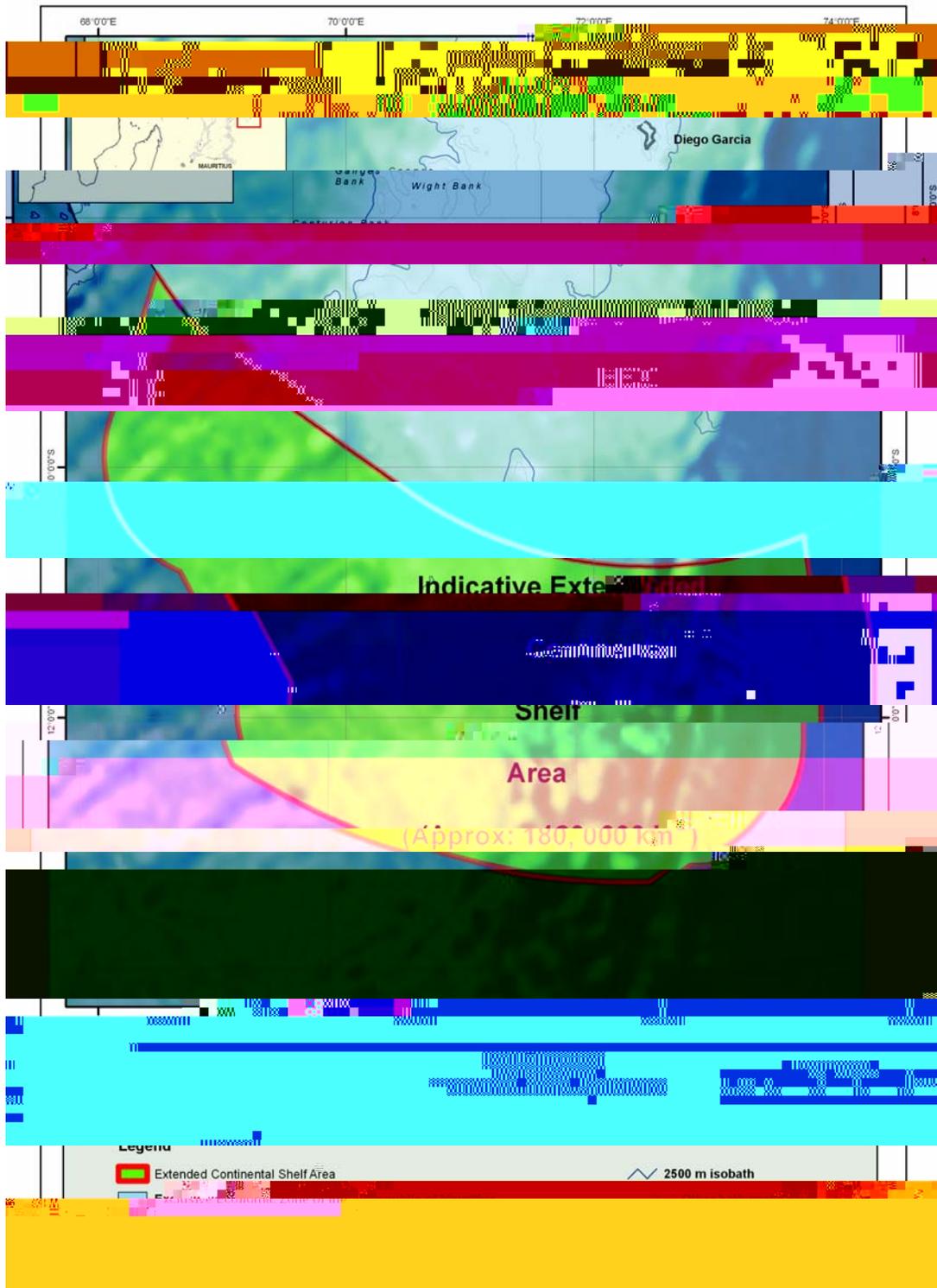


Figure 1 Map Indicative of the outer limits of the extended continental Shelf of the Republic of Mauritius in the Chagos Archipelago Region. MCS-PI-MAP-1

5. PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 76 INVOKED

The Republic of Mauritius has applied paragraphs



Ocean known as the Laccadive-Chagos Ridge. The latter extends as a continuous physiographic ridge from the Laccadive Islands, through the Maldives, to the Chagos Ridge.

7-3 The Chagos Ridge is associated with submarine volcanic accumulations that resulted from the northward passage of the Indian Plate over the Reunion Hotspot.

7-4 The Republic of Mauritius is of the view that the elevations and banks that are surmounted by the Chagos Archipelago represent the submerged prolongation of the relevant land territory of the Republic of Mauritius in this region.

8. PUBLICATION OF INDICATIVE OUTER LIMITS OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO REGION

The Republic of Mauritius has the honour to request the Secretary-General to inform the Commission and notify member States of the receipt of this preliminary information, and make such information publicly available in accordance with operative paragraph 1(d) of the decision contained in SPLOS/183.