



**Revised Executive Summary of the Submission
by the Government of the Republic of Ghana
for the Establishment of the Outer Limits of the
Continental Shelf of Ghana
pursuant to Article 76 of the United Nations
Convention on the Law of the Sea**

Accra, 21 August 2013

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1) Introduction

The submission of data and information to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ('the Commission') was made by the Republic of Ghana ('Ghana') 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 Ghana 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 Ghana is measured (hereinafter referred to as 'the territorial sea baselines') in Ghana's Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region and Ghana's Western Extended Continental Shelf Region.

Ghana is a West African coastal State with a population of 24,658,823 bordering the Gulf of Guinea along a 538 km long coastline between the Togolese Republic and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. The total land area including Lake Volta is 239,460 km².

Ghana is a contracting party to the Convention having signed the Convention on 10 December 1982 and ratified it on 7 June 1983. The Convention entered into force for Ghana on 16 November 1994.

Under article 4 of Annex II to the Convention, as supplemented by the decisions of the Eleventh and Eighteenth Meetings of States Parties to the Convention regarding the ten-year period for making submissions (SPLOS/72 and SPLOS/183, respectively), a coastal State for which the Convention entered into force before 13 May 1999 was required to submit particulars of the outer limits of the continental shelf to the Commission, together with supporting scientific and technical data by 13 May 2009, or to submit at least preliminary information by that date as set out in decision SPLOS/183. Ghana made a full submission on 28 April 2009, thus satisfying that obligation.

Ghana has for the purposes of preparing its 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 (CLCS/11) adopted by the Commission on 13 May 1999 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Guidelines').

In accordance with the specifications of the Commission set out in Annex III to the Rules of Procedure and paragraphs 9.1.3 to 9.1.6 of the Guidelines, the original submission of Ghana of 28 April 2009 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. On 25 August 2009, Ghana submitted additional data and information in the form of an Addendum to its original submission.

The Commission established a Subcommission for the consideration of the submission made by Ghana in August 2012. In the course of the consideration of its submission, Ghana provided additional data and information to the Subcommission in June 2013 defining two new outer limit points at the western edge of Ghana's Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region. Therefore, the Government of Ghana prepared this Revised Executive Summary reflecting the changes in the outer limits of Ghana's continental shelf beyond 200 M as established by Ghana at this stage.

Ghana wishes to emphasise that its submission has been prepared notwithstanding significant challenges posed by technical capacity and financial resources. In this regard, Ghana has received technical assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat (Economic and Legal Section) and the

Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR, Hanover, Germany) during the preparation of the submission.

2) Outer Limit of the Continental Shelf of Ghana

As provided for under paragraph 1 of article 76 of the Convention, Ghana has a continental shelf comprising the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend 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, 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.

Paragraphs 4 to 7 of article 76 of the Convention elaborate provisions by which a coastal State may establish the outer edge of its continental margin and delineate the outer limits of its continental shelf, wherever that margin extends beyond 200 M measured from the territorial sea baselines.

As set out in paragraph 7 of article 76 of the Convention, a coastal State is to delineate the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length, connecting fixed points defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude.

The data submitted by Ghana in support of the submission establish that the outer edge of the continental margin appurtenant to the relevant land territory of Ghana extends beyond 200 M measured from the territorial sea baselines of Ghana in two regions named in this submission ‘the Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region’ and the ‘Western Extended Continental Shelf Region’.

3) Provisions of Article 76 invoked

For the purposes of this submission Ghana invoked paragraphs 4 (b), 4 (a) (i) 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 by determining fixed points as outlined in section 6 of this Executive Summary. All fixed points satisfy the constraint of 350 M measured from the territorial sea baselines (paragraph 5 of article 76 of the Convention).

4) Outstanding Maritime Boundary Delimitations

Ghana has overlapping maritime claims with adjacent States in the region, and has not signed any maritime boundary delimitation agreements with any of its neighbouring States to date.

5) Absence of disputes

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 to 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.

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 24-26 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 neighbouring States.” (Appendix A of the Main Body: Minutes of the Experts Meeting of ECOWAS member States on the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf held in Accra from 24-26 February 2009).

The submission of data and information by Ghana to the Commission is without prejudice to the delimitation of maritime boundaries with the Republic of Togo, the Republic of Benin, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire.

6) Description of the outer limits of the extended continental shelf

This section deals with two extended continental shelf polygons, referred to in Ghana’s submission as the ‘Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region’ and the ‘Western Extended Continental Shelf Region’.

6.1) Ghana’s Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region

The Outer Limit of Ghana’s Eastern Extended Continental Shelf is defined by six fixed points (Table 1), of which

- five (points OL-GHA-5A, OL-GHA-1, OL-GHA-2, OL-GHA-3, OL-GHA-6A) are points which are defined by the sediment thickness formula (Article 76, paragraph 4 (a) (i)), and
- one (point OL-GHA-6B) is a point where the sediment thickness formula line intersects with the 200 M line measured from Ghana’s territorial sea baseline.

Ghana’s Eastern Extended Continental Shelf encloses an area of 13,361.6 km² beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baseline (Figure 1).

Table 1: Geographical coordinates of the outer limit fixed points of Ghana’s Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region from East to West

Outer Limit Point	Longitude	Latitude	Distance to next OL Point	Article 76 criterion
OL-GHA-5A	2.9733719°E	2.5518337°N	7.79 M	4 (a) (i)
OL-GHA-1	2.9078250°E	2.4390917°N	41.01 M	4 (a) (i)
OL-GHA-2	2.3146883°E	2.0979033°N	51.15 M	4 (a) (i)
OL-GHA-3	1.4961533°E	2.3365117°N	50.73 M	4 (a) (i)
OL-GHA-6A	0.9814000°E	1.6622000°N	44.58 M	4 (a) (i)
OL-GHA-6B	0.3614281°E	2.0736017°N	-	200 M

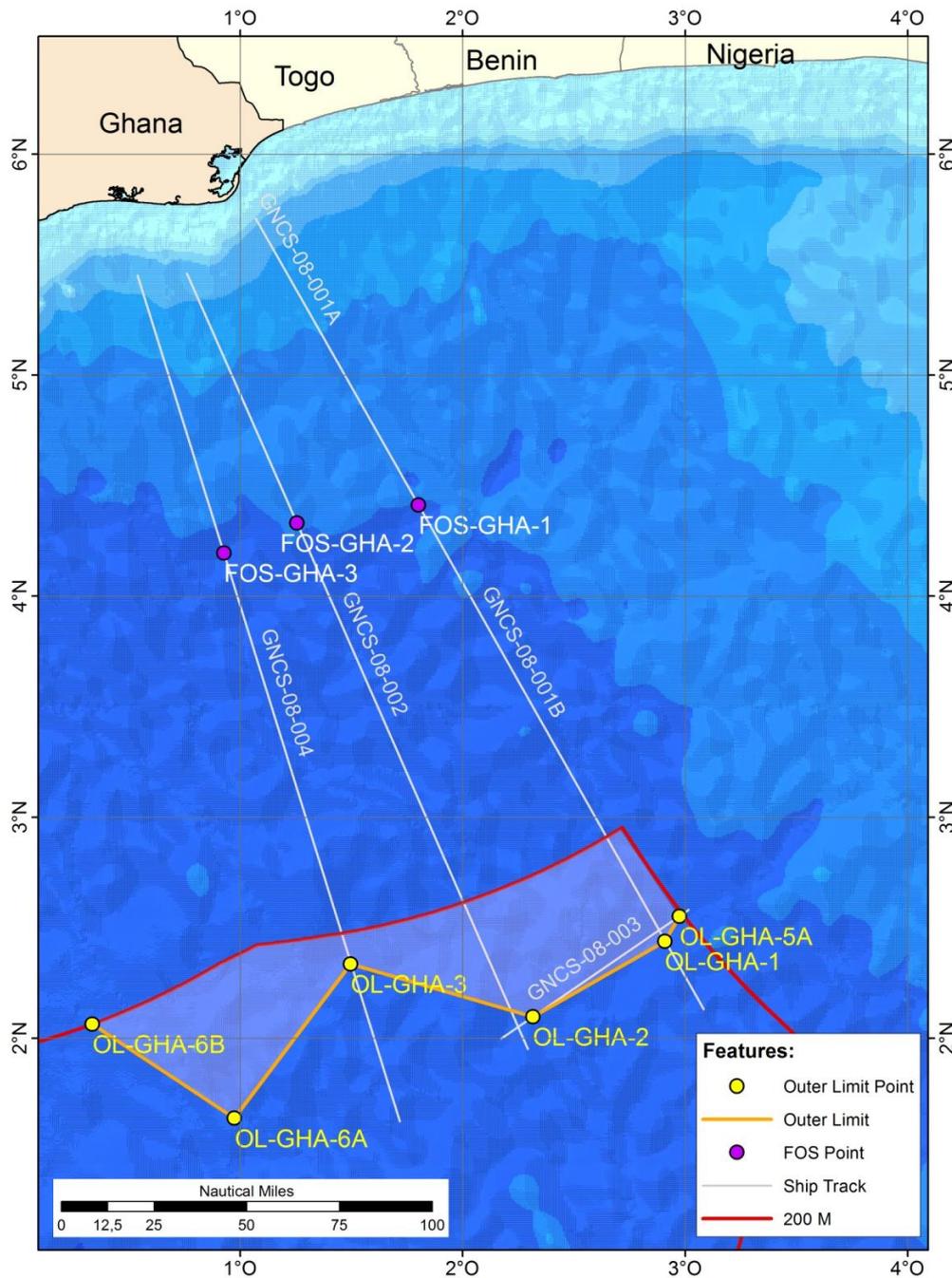


Figure 1: Location of the outer limit fixed points of Ghana’s Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region

6.2) Ghana’s Western Extended Continental Shelf Region

The Outer Limit of Ghana’s Western Extended Continental Shelf is defined by four fixed points (Table 2), of which

- one (point OL-GHA-8) is a point where the sediment thickness formula line intersects with the 200 M line measured from Ghana’s territorial sea baseline,
- two (points OL-GHA-7, OL-GHA-4) are points which are defined by the sediment thickness formula (Article 76, paragraph 4 (a) (i)), and
- one (point OL-GHA-9) is a point where the extended continental shelf joins the equidistance line between Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana.

Ghana’s Western Extended Continental Shelf encloses an area of 6,821.4 km² beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baseline (Figure 2).

Table 2: Geographical coordinates of the outer limit fixed points of Ghana’s Western Extended Continental Shelf Region from East to West

Outer Limit Point	Longitude	Latitude	Distance to next OL Point	Article 76 criterion
OL-GHA-8	2.2379639°W	1.3889691°N	43.66 M	200 M
OL-GHA-7	2.9500450°W	1.2410381°N	51.47 M	4 (a) (i)
OL-GHA-4	3.7865667°W	1.0535450°N	8.30 M	4 (a) (i)
OL-GHA-9	3.9229967°W	1.0756133°N	-	-

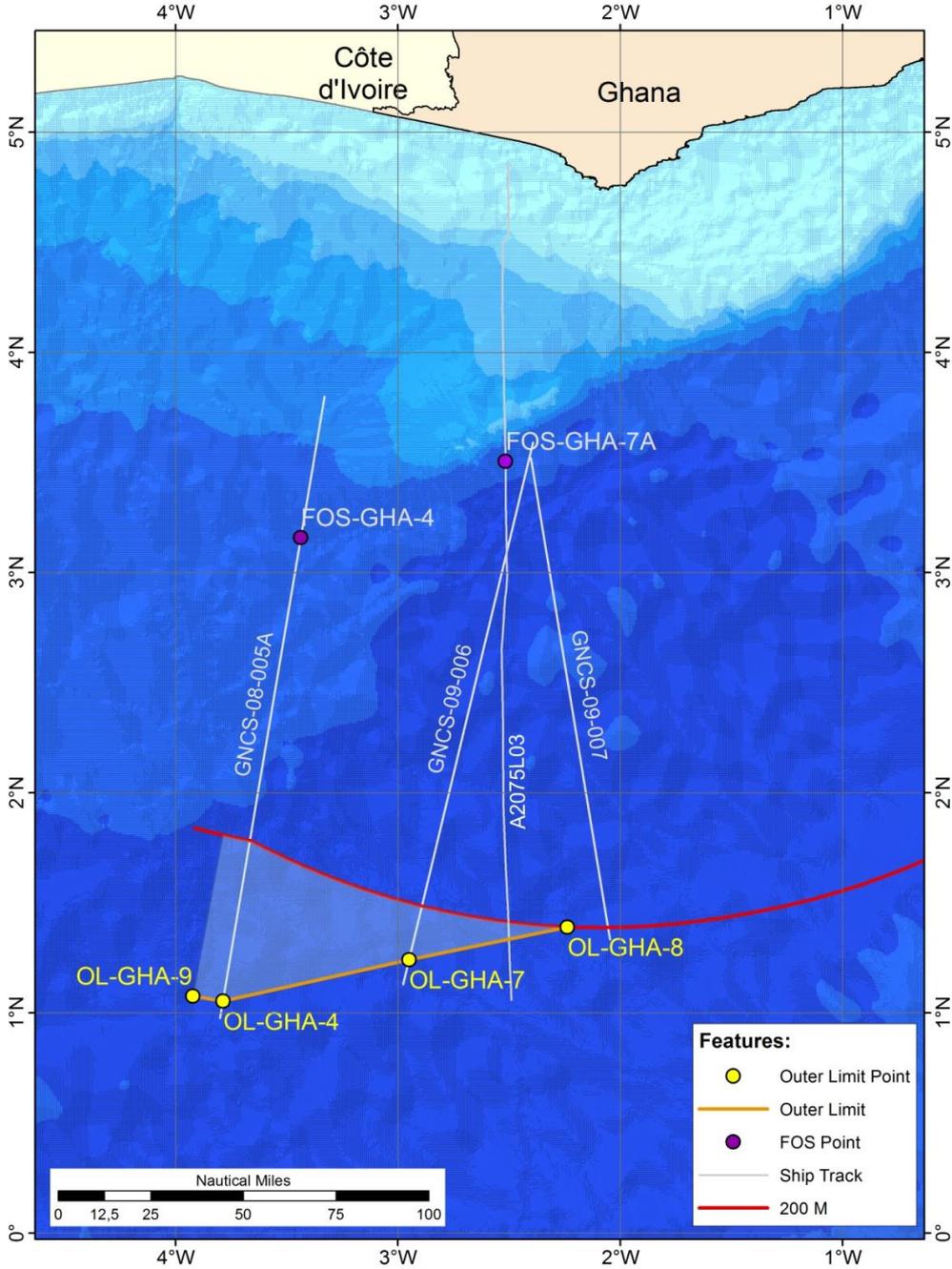


Figure 2: Location of the outer limit fixed points of Ghana’s Western Extended Continental Shelf Region

7) List of Government Ministries, Departments/Corporations, Internal and External Institutions involved in the Preparation of the Submission

A) Ministries of the Government of Ghana

- Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
- Ministry of Energy and Petroleum
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department
- Ministry of Defence
- National Security
- Office of the President (Maritime Boundary Special Project)

B) Departments/Corporations

- Geological Survey Department
- Survey & Mapping Division of the Lands Commission
- Ghana National Petroleum Corporation
- Ghana Maritime Authority

C) Institutions

- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi
- University of Ghana, Legon
- Regional Maritime University, Nungua

D) External Organisations

- The Commonwealth Secretariat (Economic and Legal Section)
- Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR, Germany) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

8) Commission Members who provided Advice on the Submission

Prof. Karl Hinz, former Commission member, was involved in advising the Government of Ghana.