



**Preliminary Information Indicative of
the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf
Beyond 200 Nautical Miles
for the Mussau Ridge and Eauripik Rise Areas
submitted by**

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



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Continental Shelf Beyond 200 Nautical Miles
for the Mussau Ridge and Eauripik Rise Areas
Submitted by Papua New Guinea**

1. The Independent State of Republic of Papua New Guinea is a Party to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ('the Convention'), having signed the Convention on 10 December 1982 and ratified it on 14 January 1997.

2. Papua New Guinea is mindful of its obligations under the Convention and of the importance of the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ('the Commission') for coastal States and the international community as a whole.

3. Papua New Guinea notes that a Submission concerning the Ontong Java Plateau region was lodged with the United Nations prior to the 13th of May 2009. The Submission was lodged jointly by the Governments of Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia and the Solomon Islands. In the Submission it was noted by the three coastal States that the submission was a partial submission in respect of one portion of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (M) from the territorial sea baselines of each of the three coastal States.

4. 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 fulfil 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)* (SPLOS/183), Papua New Guinea has prepared the following preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 M in respect of two separate areas:

- (a) The Mussau Ridge area; and,
- (b) The Eauripik Rise area.

5. Papua New Guinea recognises that, in respect of each of these areas, there are overlapping claims to continental shelf beyond 200 M by opposite or adjacent coastal States. Papua New Guinea submits this preliminary information on the understanding that it is without prejudice to the delimitation of the continental shelf in these areas.

6. Papua New Guinea also notes that several maritime delimitations remain outstanding between Papua New Guinea and opposite and adjacent coastal States. Pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 10 and Article 9 of Annex II to the Convention, this preliminary information is submitted without prejudice to these

delimitations and to any other maritime delimitation between Papua New Guinea and any other coastal State.

7. In accordance with operative paragraph 1 (a) of SPLOS/183, preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M in the Mussau Ridge and Eauripik Rise areas is depicted in Figures 1 and 2, respectively, relating to each area, and is also submitted as A0 maps (PNG-MAP-SPLOS/183-MUS and PNG-MAP-SPLOS/183-EAU).

8. Papua New Guinea has commenced work on the preparation of submissions in respect of each of these areas. In this regard, Papua New Guinea has assembled and trained the necessary legal, policy and technical expertise to engage in the preparation of the submissions. Also, the compilation of available public domain data has been completed; the analysis of existing data in accordance with article 76 of the Convention is nearing completion; and the preparation of materials that will be contained in the submissions has commenced. Papua New Guinea is examining avenues for acquiring further and better data relating to the Mussau Ridge and Eauripik Rise areas for the purposes of completing its submissions. Papua New Guinea is also engaged in ongoing discussions with the relevant opposite and adjacent coastal States.

9. In addition to the resources that the Government of Papua New Guinea has committed to this work, it has also sought and obtained funding through the *“Trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”* for the purchase of specialised software and technical training for this purpose.

10. Papua New Guinea intends to lodge submissions in respect of the Mussau Ridge and the Eauripik Rise areas by the end of 2012, mindful of the need to support the Commission in the performance of its functions under the Convention in an efficient and timely manner. In this regard, Papua New Guinea will continue to take advantage of available data and opportunities for scientific and technical capacity building, advice and assistance in order to prepare the submissions.

11. Papua New Guinea notes that in accordance with operative paragraph 1(b) of SPLOS/183, pending the receipt of its submissions concerning the Mussau Ridge area and the Eauripik Rise area, the preliminary information submitted by Papua New Guinea shall not be considered by the Commission.

12. Papua New Guinea notes also that in accordance with operative paragraph 1(c) of SPLOS/183, the preliminary information submitted is without

prejudice to its future submissions concerning the Mussau Ridge area and the Eauripik Rise area and their consideration by the Commission.

13. Papua New Guinea requests that the Secretary-General inform the Commission and notify member States of the receipt of this preliminary information in accordance with operative paragraph 1(d) of SPLOS/183.

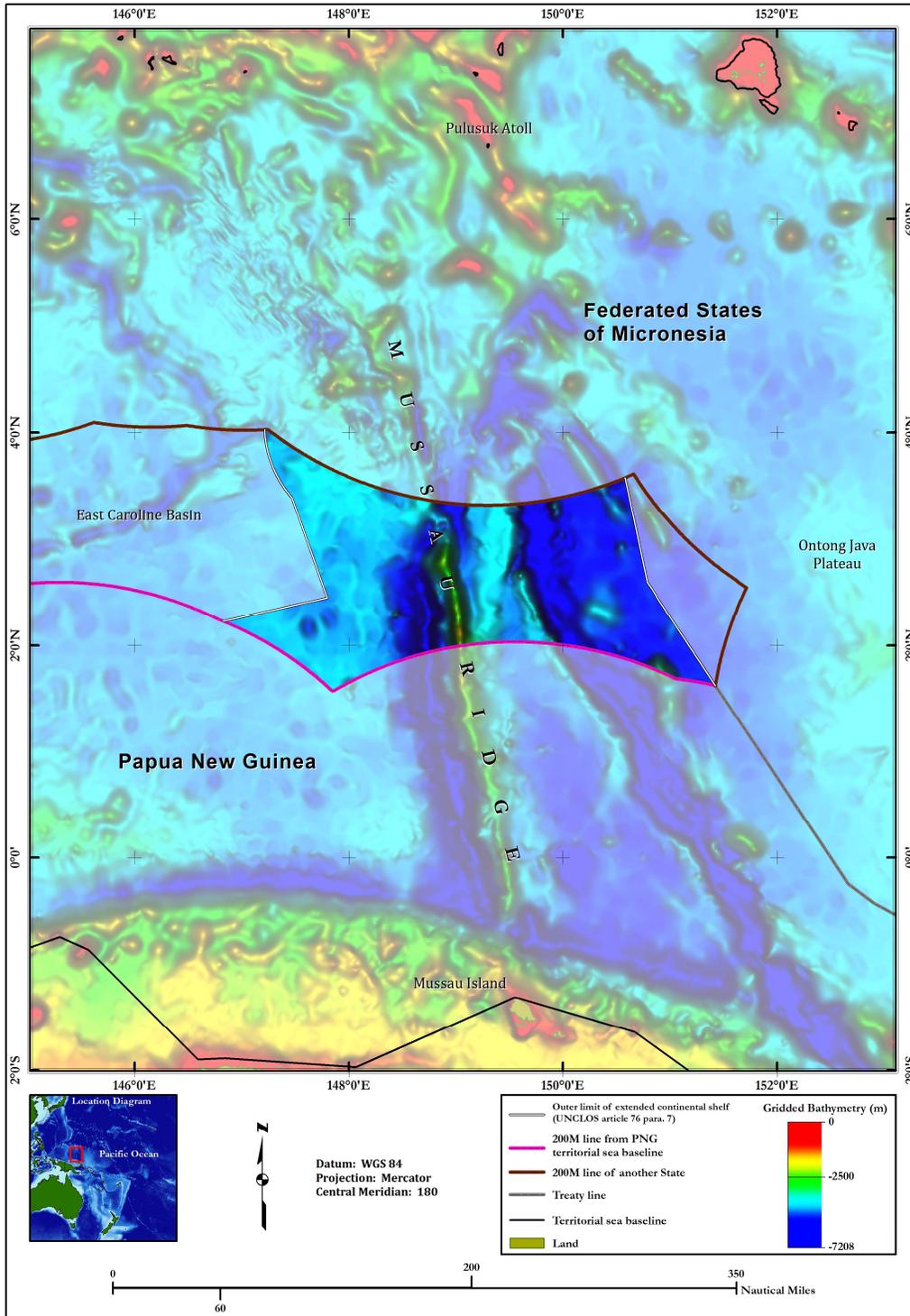


Figure 1. Preliminary outer limit of the continental shelf of Papua New Guinea in the Mussau Ridge region showing the outer limit line and the area of continental shelf that extends beyond 200 nautical miles from its territorial sea baselines.

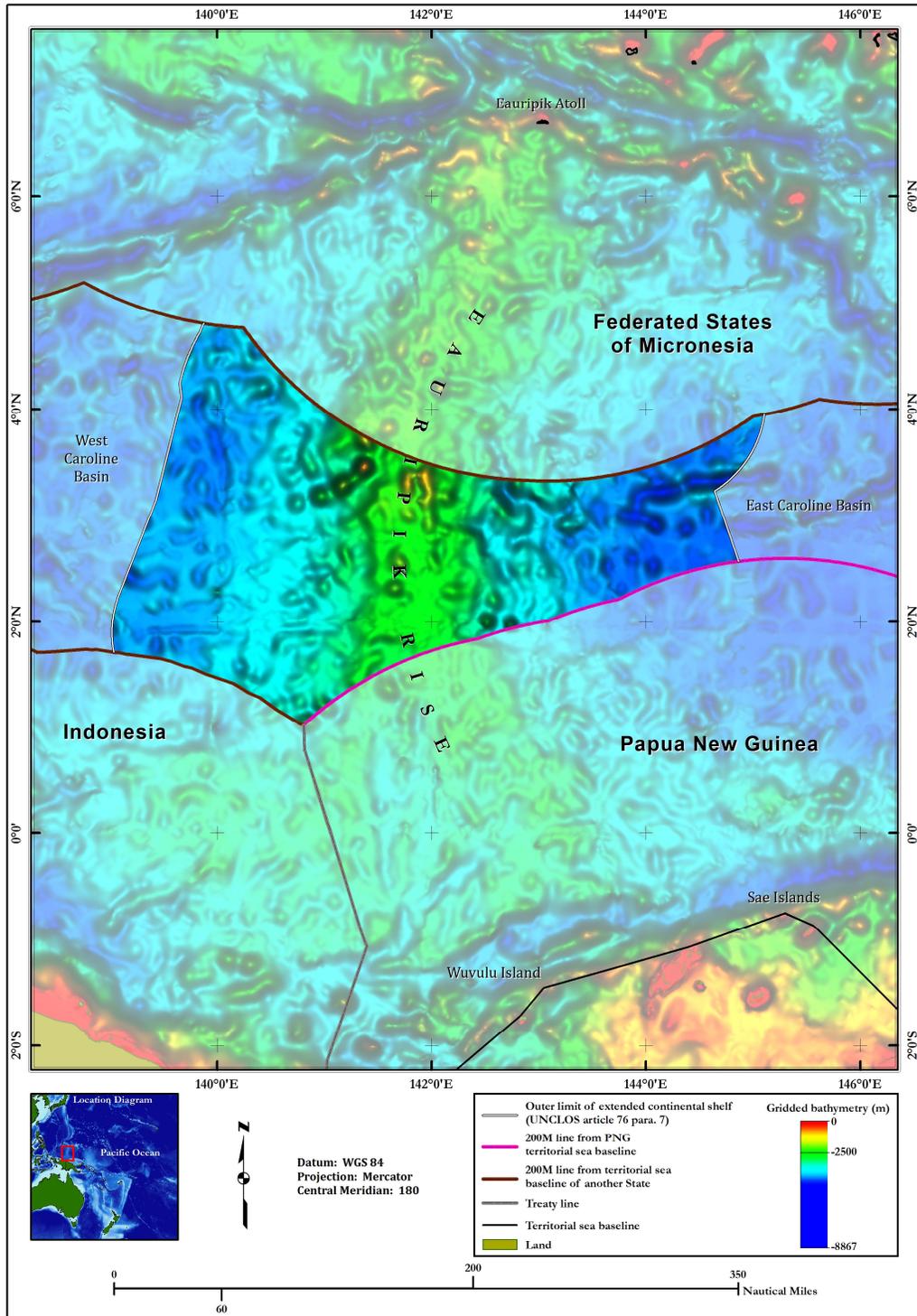


Figure 2. Preliminary outer limit of the continental shelf of Papua New Guinea in the Eauripik Rise region showing the outer limit line and the area of continental shelf that extends beyond 200 nautical miles from its territorial sea baselines.