

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

**Report of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
on the Implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolution
80/110 on the resolution “Oceans and the Law of the Sea”**

Reporting Period: August 2025 – March 2026

I. Introduction

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) submits the present report pursuant to the request of the United Nations General Assembly for information on the implementation of resolution 80/110 on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

During the reporting period, ECCAS and its Member States continued to advance regional cooperation in the governance of ocean and coastal resources, recognizing their importance for sustainable development, climate regulation, biodiversity conservation and regional security.

The ECCAS maritime space along the Gulf of Guinea is strategically important for maritime trade, marine biodiversity and the development of the blue economy.

II. Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 80/110

A. Strengthening legal and policy frameworks

ECCAS continued to support its Member States in aligning national legislation with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), including obligations relating to marine environmental protection and resource management.

Several Member States advanced national reforms in maritime, fisheries and environmental legislation, consistent with the call for harmonization of legal frameworks under General Assembly resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea (UNGA resolution A/RES/78/69).

B. Integrated and ecosystem-based ocean governance

ECCAS promoted integrated approaches linking freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. Key initiatives included the continued implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (PARGIRE), which incorporates coastal and marine dimensions.

These efforts are consistent with global recommendations promoting ecosystem-based management and integrated coastal zone management (UNEP, Ecosystem-based Management in Marine Systems, 2020).

C. Strengthening the institutional frameworks

ECCAS continued strengthening the Regional Center for Water Resource Coordination and Management in Central Africa established in 2024 with the mission to ensure coordination of the implementation of the Regional Water Policy and promote Integrated Water Resources Management in Central Africa.

This Centre headquartered in Bujumbura, Burundi has among its key activities: i. harmonization of approaches through support to national and regional water management structures, ii. environmental monitoring of water quality management and protection of water resources, iii. prevention and management of water related conflicts, iv. promotion and establishment of basin organizations and management of transboundary aquifer systems, v. inventory and monitoring of water resources, and ensuring consistency of water information systems, and vi. preparation of regional programs and projects and resource mobilization

D. Protection of the marine environment

ECCAS and its Member States sustained implementation measures to protect marine ecosystems, including strategies to address marine pollution and restoration of mangrove ecosystems.

These actions align with UNCLOS obligations for the protection of the marine environment and commitments under Sustainable Development Goal 14.

E. Maritime safety and security

ECCAS continued strengthening maritime security through the implementation of the Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea. Progress included improved maritime surveillance, coordination among regional maritime centers and cooperation to combat piracy and maritime crime.

These actions are consistent with United Nations Security Council resolution 2634 (2022) addressing piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

III. Main developments since 1 August 2025

1. Several ECCAS Member States have advanced reforms in fisheries regulation, maritime governance, and environmental protection frameworks, reflecting growing commitment to sustainable ocean management. At the regional level, programmes under the Regional Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (PARGIRE) have continued to expand, strengthening cooperation among Member States and with international partners.
2. Efforts to address climate change impacts have also progressed, with the implementation of adaptation initiatives targeting coastal erosion and sea-level rise. These include mangrove restoration and coastal protection projects, which align with the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, particularly as outlined in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on coastal vulnerabilities in Africa.
3. In parallel, ECCAS has continued to promote the development of the blue economy, focusing on sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, marine tourism, and the exploration of marine renewable energy. Enhanced maritime domain awareness and strengthened regional coordination have also contributed to a decline in piracy trends in the Gulf of Guinea, as reported by the ICC International Maritime Bureau.
4. Despite these positive developments, significant challenges remain. These include limited financial resources, persistent technology gaps, insufficient scientific data, and constraints in enforcement capacity, all of which continue to hinder the full realization of sustainable and resilient marine governance in the region.

IV. Way forward and priorities

The Economic Community of Central African States identifies capacity-building and technology transfer as central priorities for strengthening marine governance, while emphasizing the continued importance of regional and international cooperation in addressing transboundary marine challenges. In parallel, ECCAS will sustain its efforts to promote marine environmental protection and intensify actions to combat marine pollution, alongside advancing the development of sustainable blue economy sectors as a key strategic objective.

To support these ambitions, increased investment in ocean observation systems, research networks, and data-sharing platforms is essential, coupled with reinforced measures to enhance climate resilience and coastal adaptation across the region. Nevertheless, achieving these objectives will require sustained and coordinated efforts to overcome persistent structural constraints, particularly those related to limited institutional capacity, inadequate financing, and restricted access to marine technologies.

V. Conclusion

- 1. During the reporting period, ECCAS and its Member States made progress in strengthening ocean governance and regional cooperation.**
- 2. ECCAS reaffirms its commitment to the effective implementation of UNCLOS and General Assembly resolution 80/110, and to advancing sustainable and science-based ocean governance.**