

Law No. 9/84

Entered into force: July 12, 1984.

Source: Government of Gabon (Translated from French by the US Department of State)

Office of the President of the Republic

Gabonese Republic

Law No. 9/84

Establishing an Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 Nautical Miles

The National Assembly has deliberated and adopted and the President of the Republic and Head of State hereby promulgates the following Law:

Article 1

A maritime zone shall be established, designated Exclusive Economic Zone, located beyond the Gabonese territorial waters and adjacent to them.

Article 2

The Exclusive Economic Zone shall extend over a distance of **200 nautical miles calculated from the** straight baselines and the normal baselines used for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea.

Article 3

In the Exclusive Economic Zone, the Gabonese State shall have sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing, the natural, biological, and non-biological resources of the seabed, subsoil, and superjacent waters.

The sovereignty of the Gabonese State shall assert itself by its right to undertake the economic exploration and the exploitation of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents, and winds.

Article 4

In this zone, the Gabonese State shall have the exclusive right to undertake the construction, use, and exploitation of artificial islands, installations, and structures for the purposes provided for in Article 3 above, or for other economic purposes.

Article 6

All ships must respect these safety zones and shall comply with generally accepted standards regarding navigation within the vicinity of artificial islands, installations, structures, and safety zones.

Article 7

The Gabonese State shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such artificial islands, installations, and structures, including jurisdiction with regard to customs, fiscal, health, safety, and immigration laws and regulations.

Article 8

The Gabonese State shall have exclusive competence within its Exclusive Economic Zone with regard to marine scientific research and the preservation of the marine environment.

Article 9

In the Exclusive Economic Zone, the exercise of fishing rights shall be reserved by priority to ships flying the Gabonese flag or operated by Gabonese nationals, or by individual and legal entities under Gabonese law.

Article 10

The Gabonese State shall determine the allowable catch of the living resources in its Exclusive Zone and shall take the proper conservation and management measures to prevent the over-exploitation of those resources.

Article 11

When the outer boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zone determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 above encroach upon the Exclusive Economic Zone of a bordering or neighboring State, the common boundaries shall be established by agreement with the State in question or in accordance with the generally recognized principles of international law on delimitation.

Article 12

Beyond the outer limit of the territorial sea, the institution of the Exclusive Economic Zone shall not affect the freedom of navigation and overflight, and the freedom to lay submarine cables and pipelines, and internationally lawful uses of the sea related to these freedoms.

Article 13

In exercising the freedoms mentioned in Article 12 above, foreign States and their nationals shall take into account the sovereign rights of the Gabonese State and shall respect the laws and regulations adopted by it in accordance with international law.

Article 14

In exercising the freedoms mentioned in Article 12 above, it shall be forbidden for any foreign ship to engage in any fishing activity in the Exclusive Economic Zone, including the stowing of fishing and research equipment and tackle, or in any activity polluting or damaging the marine environment harmful to the resources of that zone or to the economic interests of the Gabonese State.

Article 15

In an area designated as a contiguous zone, located beyond the territorial sea and adjacent to it, up to a distance of 24 nautical miles calculated from the straight baselines and the normal baselines used to measure the breadth of the territorial sea, the Gabonese State exercises the control necessary to:

- prevent infringement of its customs, fiscal, sanitation or immigration laws and regulations;
- punish the infractions of the above laws and regulations committed within its territory or territorial sea.

Article 16

The provisions of this Law do not obstruct the principles of international cooperation to which the Gabonese State subscribes and which are formalized by agreements with other States, without prejudice to its rights of sovereignty and with respect for its legitimate interests.

Article 17

This Law, which abrogates all previous conflicting provisions, shall be recorded and published in accordance with emergency procedure and executed as Law of the State.

Done at Libreville, July 12, 1984

Signed by the President of the Republic and Head of State, El Hadj Omar Bongo; the Prime Minister and Head of Government, Léon Mebiame; and other Ministers concerned.