
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Analysis of the Specific Laws and Regulations of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea - Conakry

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| ABSTRACT

The analysis of the specific laws and regulations of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry, particularly in Conakry, involves several key aspects. The EEZ, which typically extends up to 200 nautical miles from the coast, grants coastal states sovereign rights to explore and exploit marine resources, as well as to regulate economic activities in this zone. International Legal Framework: The Republic of Guinea Conakry is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which establishes the principles governing EEZs, including the rights and obligations of coastal states.

| KEYWORDS

Law of the sea, analysis of the laws and regulations of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry, regional and international legal framework of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry.

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1. Introduction

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry, located along the West African coast of the Atlantic Ocean, represents a maritime area that extends up to 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) beyond its territorial sea. Its strategic position makes it a key point for maritime economic activities, including fishing, exploitation of mineral and energy resources underwater, as well as maritime security and environmental issues.

This EEZ plays a crucial role in the Guinean economy, significantly contributing to food security, employment, and national revenues through fishing and resource exploitation. Therefore, its management and protection are essential for the sustainable development of the country.

2. International and Regional Legal Framework Influencing the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry.

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry, like those of other coastal states, is governed by international and regional norms aimed at framing the exploitation of marine resources and the protection of the marine environment. This synthesis examines the international and regional legal framework influencing the Guinean EEZ.

2.1. International Legal Framework

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry is influenced by several international legal frameworks.

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2.1.1. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), ratified by Guinea, plays a fundamental role in the delimitation and management of its EEZ. UNCLOS defines the EEZ as an area extending up to 200 nautical miles (approximately 370 kilometers) from the shore, in which a coastal state has sovereign rights to explore and exploit, conserve, and manage the natural resources, whether biological or non-biological, of the overlying waters, the seabed, and its subsoil (Article 56). This also includes energy production from water, currents, and winds. Therefore, the Republic of Guinea Conakry has the right, in accordance with UNCLOS, to regulate the use of its EEZ to ensure sustainable exploitation of its marine resources.

2.1.2. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Although focused on biodiversity in general, the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) also impacts the management of EEZs by promoting the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components. The Republic of Guinea Conakry, as a party to this convention, must take measures to protect and preserve its marine biodiversity within its EEZ.

2.1.3. United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA)

This agreement (1995) aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of transboundary fish stocks (which move between or beyond EEZs) and highly migratory fish stocks. It complements UNCLOS and emphasizes the importance of regional and international cooperation, a crucial aspect for the Republic of Guinea Conakry, which must sustainably manage these shared resources.

3. Regional Legal Framework

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry is governed by a legal framework that combines national texts and international treaties.

3.1. Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP)

The Republic of Guinea Conakry is a member of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, an organization that brings together several West African states for the joint management of their fishery resources. The CSRP aims to promote coordinated management of the region's fishery resources. The CSRP works towards the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Central-East Atlantic, providing a framework for coordinated management of fishing activities in the EEZs of member states, including that of the Republic of Guinea Conakry.

3.1.1. Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in West Africa

This protocol is part of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Environment in the Atlantic Ocean region. It commits the parties, including the Republic of Guinea Conakry, to establish and manage marine protected areas to conserve marine biological diversity.

3.1.2. Implications for the Republic of Guinea Conakry

Implementing the provisions of UNCLOS and other international and regional agreements requires the Republic of Guinea Conakry to adopt compliant national legislation. This involves responsible management of fishery resources, protection of marine biodiversity, and engagement in regional and international conservation and sustainable management efforts. The Guinean EEZ is a vital source for the country's economy, offering opportunities for fishing, underwater mining, and energy potential. However, overexploitation of resources, marine pollution, and the effects of climate change pose significant challenges. Therefore, the Republic of Guinea Conakry must ensure that its national policies and regulations related to the EEZ reflect commitments made at the international and regional levels to ensure sustainable exploitation of this vital area.

3.2. Analysis of Healthy Management

The effectiveness of managing the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry relies on aligning its national legislation with international and regional standards. Regional cooperation through bodies like the CSRP is also crucial for addressing transboundary challenges. Respecting and implementing international commitments allows the Republic of Guinea Conakry not only to protect its marine resources but also to foster sustainable economic development linked to the sea.

3.2.1. Regional and Bilateral Agreements Impacting the Management of the Guinean EEZ

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry, like those of other coastal countries, is subject to both international and regional law provisions, as well as specific bilateral agreements that have direct implications for its

management. The Republic of Guinea Conakry has also signed bilateral and regional agreements with other countries and regional entities, impacting the management of its EEZ. These agreements may include issues such as fishing, underwater mining, environmental protection, and collaboration in research and development. A reliable source for finding these agreements is the official website of the Guinean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This analysis aims to decode the international and regional legal framework influencing the management of the Guinean EEZ and to identify the main regional and bilateral agreements in force.

4. International Legal Framework Governing the EEZ

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is the cornerstone of international maritime law and defines the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as a zone not exceeding 200 nautical miles (approximately 370 km) beyond the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. This convention grants the coastal state sovereign rights for the exploration, exploitation, conservation, and management of natural resources. By ratifying this convention, the Republic of Guinea Conakry commits to respecting these provisions while enhancing its EEZ for the economic well-being of the country.

4.1 Regional Agreements Impacting EEZ Management

The management of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry is influenced by several regional and international agreements.

4.1.1 Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)

As a member of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), the Republic of Guinea Conakry actively participates in the sustainable management of fishery resources. (Detailed information about the SRFC, its objectives, and its activities can be found on their official website: [SRFC - Official Site](<http://www.srfcom.org>)). Established to promote cooperation among West African member countries, the SRFC works towards the establishment of harmonized fishing policies and combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Thus, the SRFC plays a crucial role in regulating the exploitation of resources in the Guinean EEZ.

4.1.2 Abidjan Convention

The Abidjan Convention, concerning the protection, management, and development of the marine and coastal environment of the West, Central, and Southern Africa region, to which the Republic of Guinea Conakry is a signatory, is another significant regional framework. (Abidjan Convention - UN Environment, (<https://www.unep.org/abidjan-convention>, official UN website)). It encourages parties to take measures for the preservation of the marine environment and the sustainable development of exclusive economic zones.

4.2 Bilateral Agreements Influencing the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry

The Republic of Guinea Conakry has also concluded bilateral agreements with neighboring states and distant partners to better manage its EEZ. These agreements can address various issues, such as the delimitation of maritime boundaries, shared management of fish stocks, or collaboration on maritime surveillance and the fight against IUU fishing.

4.2.1 Maritime Delimitation Agreement between the Republic of Guinea Conakry and Sierra Leone

This agreement aims to establish clear maritime boundaries between the two countries, thereby facilitating resource management and surveillance of activities in their respective EEZs. The delimitation promotes responsible exploitation of fishery resources and minimizes neighboring conflicts.

4.2.2 Collaboration with the European Union

The Republic of Guinea Conakry and the European Union have signed partnership agreements in the fisheries sector that allow European fishing vessels to operate in the Guinean EEZ under certain conditions and for financial compensation. (Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Guinea Conakry and the European Union, (Official Journal of the European Union)). These agreements aim to promote sustainable fishing while contributing to the economic development of the Republic of Guinea Conakry.

In conclusion, the international and regional legal framework, enriched by specific bilateral agreements, shapes the management of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry. These provisions jointly aim to protect the economic interests of the Republic of

Guinea Conakry while preserving marine biodiversity and promoting sustainable development. Through these commitments, the Republic of Guinea Conakry seeks to make the most of its maritime resources while contributing to global ocean governance.

5. National Laws Specific to the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry is governed by various national laws and regulations aimed at regulating the exploitation of marine resources and protecting the marine environment.

5.1 Overview of the National Legislative Framework Governing the EEZ

At the national level, the Republic of Guinea Conakry has adapted its legislation to reflect its obligations and rights under UNCLOS while considering the specificities and needs of its maritime space. Several key legal texts structure this governance, including:

a. Law on the Exclusive Economic Zone: This law establishes the guiding principles for the management of the EEZ, including the exploitation of marine resources, environmental protection, and maritime surveillance. (Law No. L/2010/020/AN of November 5, 2010). This law provides a framework for the management of fisheries and marine resources. It establishes rules for regulating fishing activities and preserving fishery resources. It emphasizes state sovereignty over this area and sets up a framework for granting exploitation licenses, scientific research, and preserving marine ecosystems.

b. Fisheries and Aquaculture Code: Given the importance of fishing to the Guinean economy, this code regulates the exploitation of fishery resources in territorial waters and the EEZ. (Decree No. 2013/029/PRG/SGG of February 28, 2013). This decree specifies the implementation modalities of the fishing law, including lists of protected species and fishing closure periods. It defines fishing quotas, fishing seasons, and allowed fishing gear, and establishes measures for the conservation of fish stocks.

c. Law on Environmental Protection: While covering a broader spectrum than just the EEZ, this law includes specific provisions for the protection of marine environments against pollution and other environmental degradation. (National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (PNPA)). A strategic document aimed at guiding the management of marine resources and promoting sustainable fishing. It highlights the need for sustainable and responsible management of marine natural resources.

d. Regulations on Scientific Research: These regulations govern research activities in the EEZ, ensuring they are conducted in a manner that preserves the ecological integrity of the affected areas while promoting knowledge development about marine ecosystems. (National Action Plan to Combat IUU Fishing). This plan aims to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing through national and international measures.

e. Framework for Foreign Investments: Sensitive to the potential economic benefits arising from the exploitation of its EEZ resources, the Republic of Guinea Conakry also has a set of laws and regulations aimed at regulating and encouraging foreign investments in key sectors such as offshore energy exploration and exploitation. (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)). An international treaty that establishes the rights and obligations of states regarding the use of oceans is fundamental for the management of EEZs.

5.1.1. Implementation and Challenges

The effective implementation of these laws and regulations represents a constant challenge. The need to monitor a vast maritime area, combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, as well as protect marine ecosystems from the impacts of resource exploitation and pollution requires substantial resources and regional and international cooperation. (Environmental Code of the Republic of Guinea Conakry). This code regulates environmental protection, including measures to protect marine ecosystems.

In summary, by establishing a solid legislative framework for the management of its Exclusive Economic Zone, the Republic of Guinea Conakry demonstrates its commitment to exercising its sovereign rights while respecting international obligations for the sustainable use of marine resources. However, the challenges related to the enforcement of these laws highlight the importance of strengthening national capacities and developing international partnerships to ensure the preservation of marine wealth for future generations.

It is important to note that this article provides a simplified and non-exhaustive overview of the Guinean legislative framework concerning its EEZ and relies on general principles and information with some specific references to legal texts or regulations, considering the limitations of access to detailed information for a tailored response.

6. Necessity of National Laws Specific to the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry

Guinean legislation regarding the exploitation and protection of its EEZ is structured around several legislative and regulatory texts. Among the most significant are the Fisheries and Aquaculture Code, which has been in force since its reform in 2015, and the law concerning the protection of the marine environment.

6.1. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Code

This code establishes the foundations for the exploitation, management, and preservation of fishery resources in Guinean waters. (Fisheries and Aquaculture Code of the Republic of Guinea Conakry, (2015). Available on the website of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Republic of Guinea Conakry). It aims to ensure sustainable fishing that respects the marine ecosystem. It regulates fishing activities, delineating quotas, fishing seasons, and authorized techniques to minimize the impact on fish stocks and marine biodiversity.

6.1.1. Law on the Protection of the Marine Environment

This law focuses on the preservation of the environment in the EEZ, particularly the protection of sensitive ecosystems and the prevention of marine pollution. (Law on the Protection of the Marine Environment. (Official document available through the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Guinea Conakry). It imposes strict standards for waste discharge by ships and oil platforms and provides for rapid response measures in the event of accidental oil spills.

6.1.2. Sustainable Management of Fishery Resources

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Code of the Republic of Guinea Conakry places particular emphasis on the sustainable management of fishery resources. (FAO. (2016). "Fisheries in the Republic of Guinea Conakry and Sustainable Resource Management." Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.). For example, measures limiting catches and setting minimum sizes aim to prevent overfishing and ensure the regeneration of fish stocks. These measures are essential for maintaining the balance of marine ecosystems and ensuring the sustainability of resources for future generations.

6.2. Protection Against Pollution

The law on the protection of the marine environment illustrates the commitment of the Republic

6.2.1. Protection Against Pollution

The law on the protection of the marine environment illustrates the commitment of the Republic of Guinea Conakry to combat marine pollution by imposing strict regulations on waste disposal and the management of pollution accidents. (UNESCO. (2021). "Report on the Marine Ecosystems of the Republic of Guinea Conakry," Man and the Biosphere Program). The emphasis is on prevention, but procedures are also in place for effective intervention in case of pollution to minimize environmental damage.

6.2.2. Challenges and Perspectives

Although Guinean legislation regarding the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is ambitious, its implementation remains a major challenge. Monitoring and controlling activities at sea require significant resources and regional and international cooperation. Moreover, the Republic of Guinea Conakry must confront illegal resource exploitation, particularly illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which threatens the sustainability of fishery resources. (UNESCO. (2021). "Report on the Marine Ecosystems of the Republic of Guinea Conakry," Man and the Biosphere Program).

To enhance the effectiveness of these laws, it is crucial to improve monitoring systems, encourage international cooperation, and promote responsible fishing practices among local communities and industrial fishermen.

In summary, the specific legislation for the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry reflects the awareness of the strategic importance of these waters for economic development and environmental preservation. Despite the challenges, the laws concerning fishing, marine resource exploitation, and environmental protection in the Republic of Guinea Conakry lay a solid foundation for sustainable and responsible management of the EEZ. The future of this management will depend on the effectiveness of implementing these laws and collaboration among all stakeholders.

7. Management and Exploitation of Resources

Management and exploitation of resources refer to the set of practices and strategies implemented to effectively use the natural, human, financial, and technological resources of an organization or business.

7.1 Mechanisms for Sustainable Management of Fishery Resources

Sustainable management of fishery resources is essential to ensure the longevity of marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of communities that depend on them.

7.1.1 Regulatory Framework

The Republic of Guinea Conakry has adopted several laws and regulations to sustainably manage its fishery resources. The Fishing Code of the Republic of Guinea Conakry, along with international agreements to which the Republic of Guinea Conakry is a party, such as the United Nations Agreement on Fish Stocks (1995) and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995), form the legal foundations for fishery management. These texts aim to promote sustainable exploitation of fishery resources by regulating fishing activities, preserving marine habitats, and controlling marine pollution.

7.1.2. Monitoring and Control

Monitoring and control of fishing in the Guinean EEZ are crucial for combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. To this end, the Republic of Guinea Conakry relies on satellite monitoring systems, vessel inspections, and awareness campaigns for fishermen. Regional cooperation, particularly with countries of the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP), is also essential for the effective management of transboundary fishery resources.

7.2. Fisheries Management

Fisheries management in the Republic of Guinea Conakry involves defining fishing quotas, establishing closed seasons, and creating marine protected areas (MPAs). These measures aim to allow fish stocks to regenerate and protect marine biodiversity. The participation of local communities in decision-making processes and the implementation of conservation measures is also a key aspect of fisheries management.

7.2.1. Management and Exploitation of Mineral Resources

The management and exploitation of mineral resources involve all practices and policies aimed at extracting, recycling, and sustainably managing geological resources, such as metals, minerals, and fossil fuels.

7.3. Legislative Framework

The exploitation of mineral resources in the Guinean EEZ is regulated by the Mining Code of the Republic of Guinea Conakry and by international agreements such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). These texts regulate access to mineral resources, define exploitation conditions, and impose obligations regarding the protection of the marine environment.

7.3.1. Environmental Assessments

Before any mining activity, environmental assessments are necessary to identify potential impacts on marine ecosystems and to implement mitigation measures. The Republic of Guinea Conakry is committed to adhering to the principles of precaution and environmental preservation in the exploitation of its underwater mineral resources.

7.3.2. Benefit Sharing

The sharing of benefits derived from the exploitation of mineral resources in the EEZ is an important issue. The Republic of Guinea Conakry works to ensure that these activities contribute to the economic development of the country while ensuring fair redistribution of revenues and investment in sustainable development projects.

In summary, the management and exploitation of the resources of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry require an integrated approach, considering both the preservation of marine ecosystems and the socio-economic development of the country. Effective implementation of existing laws and regulations, combined with regional and international cooperation, is crucial to achieving sustainable development goals and ensuring responsible exploitation of the marine resources of the Republic of Guinea Conakry.

7.3.3. Economic Impacts of Marine Resource Exploitation on the National Economy

The exploitation of marine resources has significant economic impacts on the national economy of the Republic of Guinea Conakry. Here are some key aspects to consider:

a/Development of the Fishing Industry: The Republic of Guinea Conakry possesses rich marine biodiversity, including fish species, crustaceans, and mollusks (FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995: States principles and guidelines for sustainable fishing). Exploiting these resources can generate income through local sales and exports. It can also help create jobs in the fishing, processing, and distribution sectors.

b/Job Creation: The increase in fishing and aquaculture activities can lead to the creation of direct and indirect jobs. This includes fishermen, factory workers, and those involved in logistics and distribution.

c/Infrastructure Development: To support maritime exploitation, investments in port and transport infrastructure may be necessary. This can also improve living conditions for coastal communities and stimulate other economic sectors (National Institute of Marine Research and Development - Guinea).

d/Maritime Tourism: The valorization of marine resources can also encourage tourism development. Activities related to diving, seabird watching, or sport fishing can attract visitors and generate additional income.

e/Risks of Overexploitation: However, unsustainable exploitation of marine resources can lead to environmental degradation, which could have a negative long-term impact on the economy. Overfishing can reduce future yields and threaten food security.

f/Regulation and Sustainable Management: To maximize economic benefits while preserving marine ecosystems, it is essential to implement sustainable management policies. This can involve regulations on fishing quotas, limiting harmful activities, and promoting environmentally friendly fishing practices.

In summary, the exploitation of marine resources in the Republic of Guinea Conakry presents both economic opportunities and challenges. To make the most of them, it is crucial to promote a balanced approach that considers sustainability and environmental impact.

8. Management and Exploitation of Resources

The management and exploitation of resources in the Republic of Guinea Conakry are crucial issues for the economic and social development of the country. The Republic of Guinea Conakry is rich in natural resources, including bauxite, gold, diamonds, and hydraulic resources. Here are some key points to consider:

a/ Mineral Resources: The Republic of Guinea Conakry has significant bauxite reserves, which account for approximately 27% of global reserves. The exploitation of these resources has a significant impact on the Guinean economy in terms of tax revenue and jobs. However, challenges remain particularly the need to diversify the economy to reduce dependence on a single sector.

b/Sustainable Management: It is essential to adopt sustainable management practices to avoid environmental degradation. This includes regulating mining activities, protecting local communities, and conserving biodiversity.

c/Infrastructure and Development: Improving infrastructure is necessary to facilitate the exploitation and transport of resources. Investments in roads, ports, and energy are needed to support the extractive industry.

d/ Impact on Local Communities: Resource exploitation must be accompanied by measures that consider the needs and rights of local communities. Socio-economic development programs can help mitigate the negative impacts of resource exploitation.

e/ Regulation and Governance: Effective and transparent governance is fundamental to ensuring that the revenues from natural resources benefit the entire Guinean population. This includes combating corruption and promoting responsible financial management.

f/ Development of New Industries: In addition to bauxite exploitation, the Republic of Guinea Conakry could develop other sectors such as agriculture, tourism, or information technology to diversify its economy.

The future of the Republic of Guinea Conakry will largely depend on how it manages and exploits its natural resources while ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.

8.1. Economic Impacts of Marine Resource Exploitation on the National Economy

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry extends about 200 nautical miles offshore, encompassing a vast ocean area rich in biodiversity and resources. This zone enjoys a specific regulatory framework aimed at the sustainable management and optimal exploitation of its marine resources, which are essential for the Guinean national economy. Examining these aspects requires an analysis of the current laws and regulations, as well as an assessment of the economic impact of these activities on the country.

8.1.1. Legal and Regulatory Framework

The legal and regulatory framework of the Guinean EEZ is based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982, which Guinea has ratified. This international convention establishes the rights and responsibilities of states within their exclusive economic zones, particularly concerning the exploration and exploitation of marine resources.

In addition to UNCLOS, Guinea has developed specific national legislation governing maritime activities, including the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law, which aims to promote sustainable exploitation of fishery resources. This legislation also covers the protection of marine ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity, which are essential for the sustainability of exploited resources.

8.1.2 Exploitation of Marine Resources and Economic Impacts

The exploitation of marine resources in the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry plays a prominent role in the national economy. The main sectors are fishing, hydrocarbon extraction, and deep-sea mining.

a/ Fishing: A traditional and vital sector, fishing represents an important source of income for the Guinean economy. It significantly contributes to food security, employment, and poverty reduction. Efforts to regulate and oversee fishing activities aim to prevent overfishing and allow fish stocks to regenerate, thereby ensuring sustainable exploitation.

b/ Hydrocarbons and Minerals: The potential exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons and minerals in the EEZ open promising economic prospects for the Republic of Guinea Conakry. These activities could significantly increase national revenues and contribute to economic development. However, they require strict regulation to minimize environmental impacts and ensure an equitable distribution of benefits.

c/ Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection: The Republic of Guinea Conakry's approach to the exploitation of its EEZ also emphasizes sustainable development and the protection of the marine environment. Initiatives aim to preserve the health of marine ecosystems, which are essential for the continuity of economic activities and the livelihoods of coastal communities.

In summary, the exploitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Guinea Conakry has considerable repercussions on the national economy revolving around fishing, fossil fuels, and deep-sea mining. The existing laws and regulations, aligned with international standards, aim to ensure sustainable resource management. The success of this management hinges on balancing economic exploitation with environmental conservation, allowing the Republic of Guinea Conakry to benefit from its marine resources while preserving them for future generations. The long-term strategy for the Guinean EEZ must, therefore, continue to integrate protection and sustainable development measures for a prosperous future in harmony with the marine environment.

9. Environmental and Sustainability Issues

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry, which extends 200 nautical miles beyond its coasts, presents several environmental and sustainability challenges that deserve particular attention.

9.1. Laws and Measures for the Preservation of Marine Ecosystems

The Republic of Guinea-Conakry, located along the West African coast, has an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that is an essential source of biodiversity and marine resources (Environmental Code of the Republic of Guinea Conakry). This code serves as the legal basis for environmental protection in Guinea, including specific provisions for the conservation of marine ecosystems (Government of the Republic of Guinea Conakry). Governance and protection of this area are crucial for environmental sustainability, food security, and the economic development of the country. This article provides an overview of the specific laws and regulations related to the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry, with a particular focus on environmental and sustainability issues.

9.1.1. Laws and Measures for the Preservation of Marine Ecosystems

The Republic of Guinea Conakry has adopted various laws and measures to protect its marine ecosystems, thus responding to international and regional commitments regarding marine conservation and sustainable resource management (Reports on the state of marine ecosystems in Guinea). Several reports from non-governmental organizations and research institutions address the state of marine ecosystems and the challenges they face. For example, a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

9.1.2. National Legal Framework

At the national level, several laws and regulations specifically address the management and protection of the Guinean EEZ. Among them, the law establishing the Environmental Code in the Republic of Guinea Conakry plays a central role. It establishes the principles for environmental management and the protection of natural habitats, specifically including marine and coastal areas. This law aims to ensure sustainable development by preserving biodiversity and combating marine pollution.

9.2. International Commitments

The Republic of Guinea Conakry is a party to several international agreements that influence the management of its EEZ, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in their maritime areas. As a signatory, the Republic of Guinea Conakry is obliged to protect and preserve the marine environment within its EEZ. Additionally, it is a member of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP), which promotes sustainable management of fishery resources in the West Atlantic. This membership allows the Republic of Guinea Conakry to collaborate regionally for monitoring, control, and surveillance of fishing activities, which are essential for the preservation of fish stocks and marine biodiversity.

9.2.1. Protection of Sensitive Ecosystems

Mangroves and spawning areas (fish breeding zones) receive specific attention within the conservation efforts in the Republic of Guinea Conakry. Measures have been implemented to protect these critical ecosystems, such as the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) within the Guinean EEZ (Mangrove Conservation Initiatives). Research and case studies on the protection of mangrove ecosystems and their role in marine conservation (United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP]). These MPAs aim to conserve biodiversity, replenish fish stocks, and promote sustainable tourism.

10. Challenges for the Sustainability of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry

While making progress in implementing environmental protection laws and measures, the Republic of Guinea Conakry faces several challenges. Overfishing, marine pollution from land and maritime activities, as well as the impacts of climate change threaten the ecological health of the Guinean EEZ. To overcome these challenges, an integrated approach involving regional and international cooperation, as well as the participation of local communities and private sectors, is crucial. In summary, the management and protection of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry are essential for ensuring environmental sustainability and the socio-economic development of the country. The laws and measures in place constitute a significant framework for the preservation of marine ecosystems. Nevertheless, the effective implementation of these measures, improved monitoring, and strengthened regional cooperation remain key factors for the long-term success of conservation efforts in the face of persistent environmental challenges.

10.1. International Cooperation for Sustainable Management of the EEZ

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea-Conakry, like those of other maritime nations, is governed by specific laws and regulations aimed at promoting the sustainable use of marine and oceanic resources. With a coastline extending over 300 kilometers along the Atlantic, it possesses an EEZ rich in biodiversity and natural resources. This section will address the environmental issues and international cooperation efforts for the sustainable management of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry.

10.1.1. Environmental and Sustainability Issues

The EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry faces several major environmental challenges, including overexploitation of fishery resources, degradation of marine and coastal habitats, marine pollution, and impacts related to climate change. The overexploitation of fish stocks threatens not only marine biodiversity but also food security and the livelihoods of coastal communities dependent on fishing. The preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems is essential for maintaining biodiversity and protecting against coastal erosion and storms, phenomena exacerbated by climate change. Moreover, marine pollution, stemming from both land and maritime activities, poses a significant risk to ocean health.

10.1.2. International Cooperation for Sustainable Management of the EEZ

International cooperation plays a key role in the management and preservation of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry. Several international agreements and conventions provide a framework for this cooperation.

a. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS): The Republic of Guinea Conakry, like many other coastal countries, is a party to UNCLOS, which establishes principles for the delimitation of EEZs, the management of marine resources, and the protection of the marine environment. This convention is the cornerstone of global ocean governance.

b. Regional Agreements: The Republic of Guinea Conakry also participates in sub-regional agreements, such as those promoted by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP), which aim to promote sustainable fishing and management of fishery resources in West Africa.

c. Technical Cooperation Programs: Programs supported by organizations such as the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) help the Republic of Guinea Conakry strengthen its monitoring, control, and surveillance capacities regarding fishing activities and implement sustainable fishery resource management practices.

d. Conservation Initiatives: International cooperation also supports the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) within the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry to preserve marine biodiversity. These initiatives can benefit from the support of international partners, including environmental NGOs and development agencies.

10.2. Challenges and Perspectives

Sustainable management of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea-Conakry requires a balanced approach that reconciles economic development with environmental protection. Challenges include strengthening maritime governance capacities, combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and adapting to the impacts of climate change. International cooperation, through experience sharing, technology transfer, and financial support, is essential to overcome these challenges and ensure effective and sustainable management of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry. It is also crucial to involve local communities and stakeholders in decision-making processes regarding the management of marine and coastal resources.

In summary, the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea-Conakry represents a valuable resource for the country, offering significant economic opportunities while posing challenges in terms of conservation and sustainability. International cooperation, based on the framework established by global conventions and agreements, plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable management of these resources. By working together, the international community and the Republic of Guinea Conakry can ensure the protection and sustainable use of the rich biodiversity and natural resources of the EEZ for future generations.

11. Summary of Key Points Regarding the Legislation and Management of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry.

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry, located off the west coast of Africa, is a maritime area extending up to 200 nautical miles (about 370 kilometers) from its coastline, significantly surpassing its territorial waters. This area represents not only a major economic interest for the Republic of Guinea Conakry in terms of fishing, natural resource exploitation, and maritime activities but also highlights the importance of laws and regulations for the management and protection of these valuable resources.

The management of Guinea's EEZ is governed by several legal texts and regulations, both international and national. At the international level, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), adopted in 1982, provides the overarching legal framework regulating all maritime activities, including fishing and the exploitation of seabed resources. As a signatory to UNCLOS, the Republic of Guinea Conakry is obligated to align its national legislation with this international agreement, which serves as the basis for the sovereignty and rights exercised in its EEZ.

At the national level, Guinean legislation regarding the EEZ focuses primarily on sustainable development, marine environmental protection, and the rational management of biological and non-biological resources. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Code, for example, plays a crucial role in regulating fishing activities, aiming to prevent overfishing and promote responsible fishing methods. It establishes quotas, fishing seasons, and technical criteria for fishing equipment, in addition to instituting marine protected areas for certain species and critical habitats.

Another important aspect is the monitoring and control of activities in the EEZ to prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which remains a major challenge. The Republic of Guinea Conakry, with the support of international and regional partners, has implemented measures to strengthen maritime surveillance, including the use of satellite monitoring technologies and information sharing with neighboring countries.

The issue of offshore energy resources, such as oil and natural gas, is also governed by specific laws that define the conditions for exploration and exploitation. These laws encourage investments while ensuring that resource exploitation is carried out ethically and sustainably, with particular emphasis on marine environmental protection and risk management associated with extractive activities.

In summary, the legislation and management of the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry are based on a robust legal framework, drawing on international agreements and national regulations. This approach aims not only to promote the sustainable use of marine resources but also to ensure the protection of the marine environment for future generations. In this context, the Republic of Guinea Conakry continues to face the challenge of balancing its exclusive economic zone management between economic development and conservation while remaining open to improving its legislation in response to technological and environmental changes.

12. Future Perspectives for Sustainable Development and Management of this Strategic Zone

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea-Conakry, extending approximately 200 nautical miles beyond its territorial sea, represents a crucial maritime space for the country. The governance of this zone is framed by a set of national and international laws and regulations, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), ratified by the Republic of Guinea Conakry. This regulation grants Guinea sovereign rights over the exploration, exploitation, conservation, and management of natural resources, both biological and non-biological, in its EEZ. However, it also imposes obligations, such as the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

Within this regulatory framework, the Republic of Guinea Conakry has undertaken several initiatives for the sustainable management of its EEZ. Among these, the creation of marine protected areas and the implementation of sustainable fishing policies are noteworthy. Guinean fishing legislation, for example, seeks to control access to fishery resources in its EEZ to prevent overfishing and ensure the simultaneous achievement of economic benefits and species preservation.

However, managing the EEZ of the Republic of Guinea Conakry faces significant challenges, including a lack of resources for monitoring and control, which facilitates illicit activities such as unregulated fishing. Similarly, the potentially lucrative exploitation of hydrocarbons must be conducted in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts, requiring substantial investments in clean technologies and research.

Future perspectives for sustainable development and management of Guinea's EEZ rely on several pillars. First, national capacities for monitoring and control should be strengthened, which may include regional cooperation with neighboring countries for the shared management of certain resources and combating illegal fishing. Next, the implementation of responsible fishing policies should be continued, and scientific research should be encouraged to better understand marine ecosystems and their vulnerabilities.

Investing in environmentally friendly technologies for offshore resource exploitation is also crucial. The Republic of Guinea Conakry could economically benefit from its EEZ while preserving its marine biodiversity. Finally, it is essential to involve local communities in the management of EEZ resources, raising awareness about the importance of conservation and providing them with sustainable economic opportunities.

13. Conclusion

The analysis of the specific laws and regulations of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Guinea Conakry highlights the challenges and opportunities associated with the management of marine resources. Protecting the marine environment, regulating resource exploitation, and international cooperation are critical aspects. However, gaps remain in the implementation of these laws and the coordination among the various stakeholders involved.

For future research, it would be pertinent to explore the following themes:

- Environmental impact assessment: How do economic activities in the EEZ affect marine ecosystems?
- Role of local communities: What is the involvement of coastal communities in managing marine resources, and how can their traditional knowledge be integrated?
- Regional cooperation: What are the interactions between the Republic of Guinea Conakry and neighboring countries regarding EEZ management and existing cooperation mechanisms?
- Legal framework: How can the existing legal framework be strengthened to better respond to contemporary needs for marine resource management?

Questions that remain unanswered and on which future studies could build:

- What are the main barriers to the effective implementation of EEZ laws in the Republic of Guinea Conakry?
- How can the effectiveness of current policies in protecting marine resources be assessed?
- What are the socio-economic consequences of legislative decisions on coastal communities?
- How do climate changes affect the management and sustainability of resources in the Guinean EEZ?

These research directions will help better understand the issues related to the EEZ in the Republic of Guinea Conakry and contribute to proposing sustainable solutions for the management of marine resources.

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