

MAP OF THE BICONTINENTAL ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AND ITS MARITIME SPACES



Secretaría de
Malvinas, Antártida
y Atlántico Sur
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores,
Comercio Internacional y Culto
Argentina

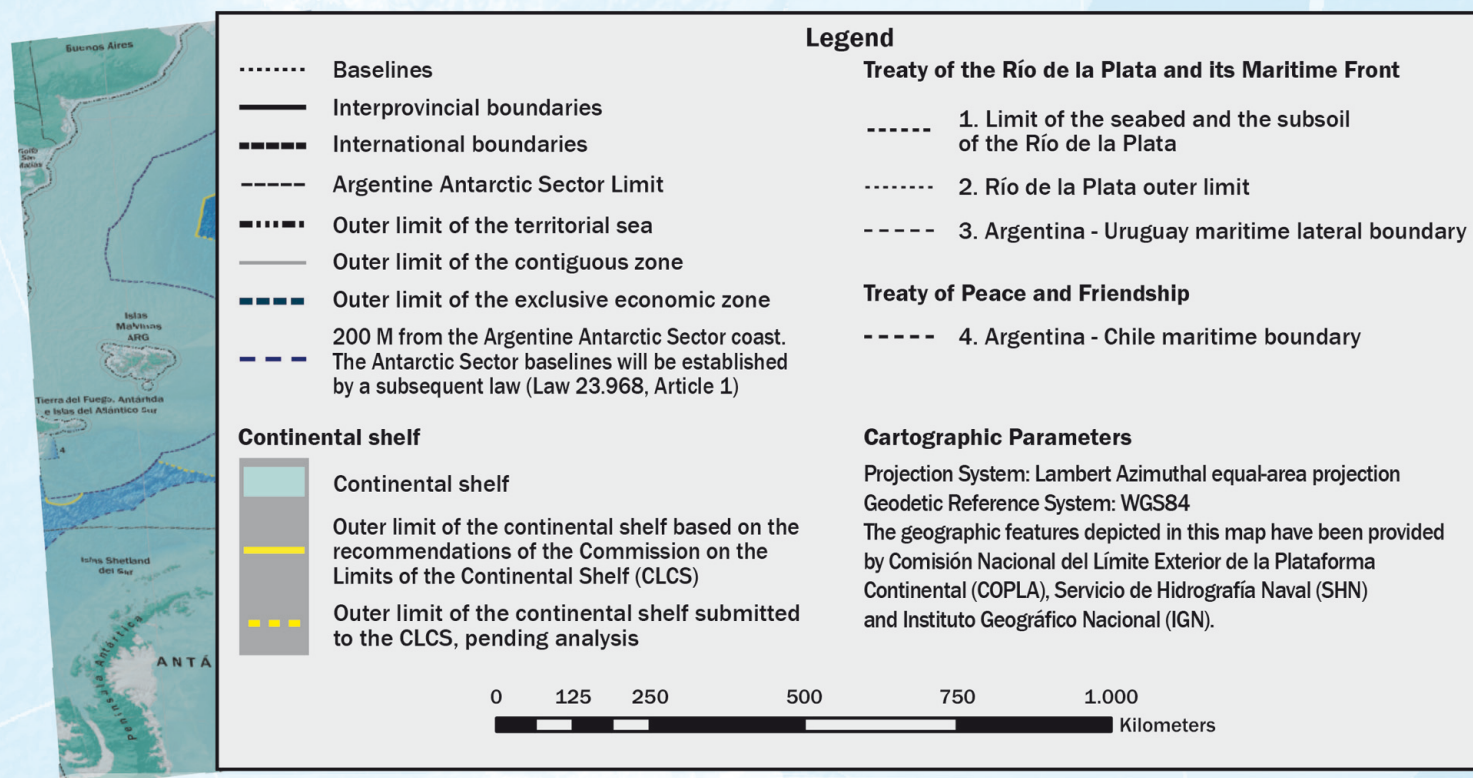


Comisión Nacional del Límite Exterior
de la Plataforma Continental

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The front cover of this leaflet shows the bicontinental map of the Argentine Republic and its maritime spaces. This graphic representation is important because it shows the extent of our geography from La Quiaca to the South Pole, so that Tierra del Fuego is located in the center of our country. At the same time, the map shows the territorial dimension of the British usurpation which, since 1833, has prevented us from exercising sovereignty, rights and jurisdiction over part of the Argentine maritime spaces.

On this bicontinental map, the maritime spaces are represented with different cartographic symbols, described in the "Legend," which is generally found at the bottom.



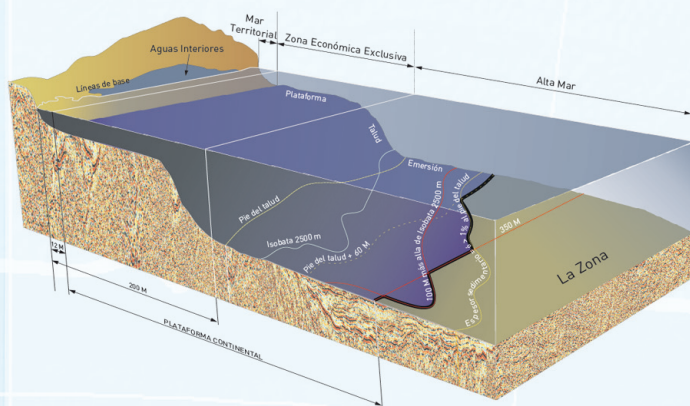
In keeping with the provisions in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and Law No. 23.968, the Argentine maritime spaces represented on the map are detailed below:

► **Territorial sea:** it extends up to 12 nautical miles (M) from the baselines, that is, a little more than 22 km. This space is part of the State's territory, and the Argentine Republic has and exercises sovereignty over the waters, airspace, seabed and subsoil. Foreign vessels are acknowledged the right of navigation with innocent passage.

► **Contiguous zone:** it is the area which extends between the outer limit of the territorial sea and 24 M from the baselines. There our country may prevent and punish infringements of its fiscal, sanitary, customs and immigration laws and regulations committed within its territory or territorial sea.

► **Exclusive economic zone:** it extends from the outer limit of the territorial sea up to 200 M measured from the baselines. The Argentine Republic exercises sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and its subsoil, and with respect to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds. It also has jurisdiction with regard to the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures, marine scientific research, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment. In this space, all States enjoy freedom of navigation and overflight.

► **The continental shelf:** it is the maritime space which comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that constitute the natural prolongation of Argentina's territory under the sea. It extends beyond the territorial sea up to the outer edge of the continental margin –submerged prolongation of the land mass of the coastal State–, or up to a distance of 200 M from the baselines where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.



In this maritime area, Argentina exercises sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring and exploiting its natural resources: hydrocarbons, minerals, and living resources which are in constant physical contact with the seabed, referred to as sedentary species (scallops, spider crabs, mussels, corals, etc.). It also has exclusive jurisdiction for the establishment of artificial islands, installations and structures. In the areas where the continental shelf extends beyond 200 M, the sovereign rights only apply to resources of the seabed and subsoil; the waters above the continental shelf beyond 200 M are high seas, governed by the principle of freedom of fishing.

Unlike the other maritime spaces, what is important to determine the outer limit of the continental shelf is not a fixed distance but the scientific demonstration of the

natural prolongation of the territory in keeping with the criteria and constraints established in article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Argentina, by means of the National Commission on the Outer Limit of the Continental Shelf (COPLA), developed for more than 20 years a true State policy to delineate the outer limit of its continental shelf, with the aim of strengthening the Argentine presence, preserving our resources and reaffirming our sovereign rights in an area of such political, economic and strategic relevance as the South Atlantic.

COPLA gathered the existing scientific and technical information and conducted oceanographic surveys to acquire hydrographic, geological and geophysical marine data throughout the Argentine continental margin. These data were processed, analyzed and interpreted, making it possible to prove that the natural prolongation of our territory exceeds 200 nautical miles in most of its extent, in some areas extending up to 370 nautical miles. As provided for in UNCLOS, the scientific basis of the outer limit of the continental shelf was submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) at the United Nations.

Between 2012 and 2017, the CLCS considered all the material submitted, except for those areas subject to a sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom and the sector governed by the Antarctic Treaty. By not pronouncing itself on the area surrounding the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, the CLCS tacitly acknowledged the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

After this long process, marking the pinnacle of more than 20 years of work, the CLCS concluded that it was proven that the part of the outer limit of the Argentine continental shelf that was considered met the provisions in UNCLOS, and adopted positive recommendations by consensus on March 11, 2016 and March 17, 2017.

Islas



Law 27.557

On August 4, 2020, the National Congress unanimously passed Law 27.557, which demarcates the outer limit of the Argentine continental shelf.

The analysis made by the CLCS and the adequacy of Law 27.557 to the international rules are reflected on the map representing the outer limit of the continental shelf by means of different symbols:

► A solid yellow line representing the outer limit demarcated on the basis of the Recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), which, according to UNCLOS, shall be acknowledged as final and binding by the international community.

► A dotted yellow line representing the outer limit submitted to the CLCS whose consideration is pending. This happens in two areas:

- In the continental shelf extending from the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, which has not been considered by the CLCS due to the existence of a sovereignty dispute, the limit is pending the recommendations and it is demarcated on the basis of the Argentine submission to the CLCS.
- In the continental shelf pertaining to the Argentine Antarctic Sector, the limit is not demarcated in the law and, therefore, the coordinates of this area are not included in the Annex. This part of the Argentine submission is pending the recommendations, given that the special territorial status of Antarctica under the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, including its article IV, must be taken into account, and the baselines of such sector still have to be determined.

The enactment of the law and the consequent publication of the coordinates of the outer limit points of the Argentine continental shelf will make it possible to update the official cartography and will increase the legal certainty to grant concessions aiming at exploring and exploiting the resources, which will benefit the entire Argentine people and the future generations.

Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands

The recovery of the full exercise of sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgias, South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime spaces is one of the main objectives of our foreign policy.

This is a sovereignty dispute over an integral part of the national territory inherited from Spain and usurped in 1833 through an illegitimate act of force by the United Kingdom, which was immediately rejected and protested by the Argentine authorities.

It is a matter of sovereignty, but also of conceiving a national development strategy that takes into account the enormous wealth potential of the region.

On December 16, 1965, the United Nations General Assembly approved Resolution 2065 (XX), which recognizes the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom and invites both countries to proceed with negotiations with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the dispute, bearing in mind the provisions and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV) and the interests of the population of the Malvinas Islands. This Resolution contains the essential elements that frame the Question of the Malvinas Islands, a case of decolonization that must be governed by the principle of territorial integrity, and has been reaffirmed by subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly and the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, as well as by multiple declarations from multilateral organizations.

The First Transitory Provision of the Argentine National Constitution ratifies the legitimate and imprescriptible sovereignty of the Argentine Nation over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime and insular areas, and establishes that the "recovery of those territories and the full exercise of sovereignty over them, while respecting the lifestyle of their inhabitants and in accordance with the principles of International Law, are a permanent and unrenounceable goal of the Argentine people".

In compliance with the constitutional mandate and in accordance with the statements made by the international community, Argentina urges that the dialogue be resumed without delay to advance in the negotiation of the peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute. It also calls for strict compliance with UNGA Resolution 31/49, which calls upon the two parties to refrain from introducing unilateral modifications in the disputed area. Also, and in accordance with the provisions of UNGA Resolutions 2621 (XXV) and 41/11, it demands scrupulous respect of the South Atlantic as a Zone of Peace and Cooperation.