

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Kenya has made a number of international commitments for the protection of the coastal and marine environment and its resources. Among its laudable obligations are those prescribed by the following international conventions, protocols and other agreements :

- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, London, 1954, as amended in 1962, 1969 and 1971 - Kenya ratified these amendments on 12 December, 1975.
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, London, 1973 (MARPOL). -Kenya ratified this convention on 12 September, 1975.
- Conventions on the High Seas, Geneva, 1958. - Kenya ratified this convention on 20 July, 1969.
- Convention on the Continental Shelf, Geneva, 1958. - Kenya ratified this convention on 20 September, 1969.
- The Treaty for East African Cooperation, 1967.
- Conventions on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of wastes and other matters, London, 1972. Kenya ratified this convention on 17 January, 1976
- Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, Washington / London / Moscow, 1971. Kenya ratified this treaty.
- African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Algiers, 1968. Kenya ratified the convention on 16 June, 1969.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Washington, 1973. Kenya ratified this convention on 13 March, 1979.
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Kingston, 1982. Kenya ratified this convention on 10 December, 1982.
- The Phyto-Sanitary Convention for Africa, South of Sahara, London. Kenya has not yet ratified.
- Kenya and Tanzania signed an agreement concerning the delimitation of territorial waters boundary between the two states in 1975 and was effective from 9 July 1976. (Also provides for fishing and fisheries).
- The International Plant Protection Convention (Rome, 1951). Kenya ratified this convention on 1 July, 1983.
- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Paris, 1972. (Protection of coastal ecosystems). Kenya has not yet ratified.

- Economic Commission for Africa (ECA): - several programmes concerns the protection of the coastal environment.
- Indian Ocean special committee, 1972. Established by UN - General Assembly. Kenya is a member of the committee.

TERRITORIAL SEA AND EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

Kenya's territorial sea and Exclusive Economic Zone extend 12 nautical miles and 200 nautical miles respectively with the total area of EEZ being 118km². Most of the Kenyan statutes that deal with various aspects of coastal area management are applicable within the territorial sea. The EEZ is administered partly under the Continental Shelf Act and partly under the Merchant Shipping Act. Within Kenya's territorial seas the government has rights and responsibilities equal to those it has over the land. While within the EEZ, the Kenya government has the responsibility of regulating fisheries, research and resource exploration and exploitation.



Figure 75 : Mudflats near Ngomeni



Figure 76 : Shells for sale