

# Threats to Ocean Rights and Cameroonian Law: A Critical Appraisal

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## Abstract

Oceans are a primary source of biodiversity, food and life. Mindful of these great value of oceans to mankind, the United Nations Assembly, in order to limit and eliminate illegal human activities from the oceans established the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth which upholds the rights of the oceans, an essential aspect of nature, chiefly; the rights to life and health. Unfortunately, these rights of the ocean are continuously threatened by human activities such as maritime pollution and climate change. This has greatly resulted in depletion of fish stocks limiting their rate of reproduction and alteration of the ocean ecosystem. The objective of this article is to examine the major threats to ocean rights and to critically appraise the extent to which oceans rights have been incorporated within the Cameroonian legal framework. In undertaking this analysis, the article discusses reasons for protecting this valuable natural resource, such as its promising frontier for new drugs, the types of ocean rights, major threats to oceans rights and critically appraises the applicability of the international and national legal instruments governing oceans rights. We adopted a doctrinal methodology, a content analysis of primary and secondary data. Our findings reveal that, oceans do have rights protected under international law which are threatened principally by maritime pollution, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and climate change. These threats to ocean rights are persistent today because some States have failed in honoring their responsibilities at international law to protect the ocean. Many States have incorporated the provisions of the Law of Mother Earth, but Cameroon has not enacted a local legislation or incorporated into national law these provisions. We very much recommend that enacting a local legislation or incorporating provisions of the Law of Mother Earth into the Constitution will go a long way in reducing the legal activities carried out in the ocean.

**Keywords:** Biodiversity, climate change, oceans, maritime pollution, international law

## INTRODUCTION

The world's oceans are the planets' life support system but are under the greatest threat in history [1]. As a life support system of the planet, the ocean produces half of the world's oxygen and provides a source of food and livelihoods. The human population depends on the ocean for their primary source of protein, jobs and income [2]. It provides key medicinal components and treatments, such as the anti-cancer drugs and an enzyme to treat asthma [3]. Being near and on the ocean, is proven to boost

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human mental and physical health [4]. These make human life and well-being depend on the ocean [5]. An estimated 50–80 percent of all life on earth is found in the ocean [6]. Society uses marine environments in many ways including fishing, tourism, aquaculture, and energy production. But nowadays, many people have a stark believe that the oceans have reached a crisis point and are under threat as never before in human history. Climate change is causing ocean temperatures to rise, bleaching the corals which are vital as nurseries for

ocean life. The noise from shipping, tourism and fossil fuel exploration is also revealed as harming sea life [7]. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, climate change, and Maritime pollution (plastic pollution) [8] have therefore left the ocean in a rapid state of decline and in imminent danger of losing its capacity to support life [9]. As a result, sixty percent of the world's major marine ecosystems are degraded or used unsustainably, leading to a decline in marine biodiversity of 49 percent, roughly half of what it was 50 years ago [10]. Considering that the ocean, an aspect of nature is a legal person, these maritime crimes are a primary threat to oceans' rights, requiring adequate legal address nationally and internationally. Though Internationally, the Convention on the Rights of Mother Earth has clearly brought out and protected the rights of the oceans, not all states have incorporated the provisions of this Convention into their Constitution or local laws, a case in point being Cameroon. We must protect the ocean for its own benefit, and for the benefit of the earth, not just for humans, and recognize both the rights of future generations and the rights of the ocean itself [11]. States, in order to unravel this problem, have to incorporate these oceans rights into their Constitutions and local legislation as provided in the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth.

### **DEFINITION OF OCEAN RIGHTS**

An ocean is the whole body of saltwater [12] that covers nearly three fourths of the surface of the earth [13]. Sheltering virtually 70% of the total earth's surface and being so prominent, it is different from the sea in terms of depth (around 10,924 meters), [14] area and marine life and further away from the land thus reducing aquatic life. Oceans are deeper than seas [15]. A right in ordinary usage is a reasonable claim to freedom in the exercise of certain activities, [16] things that one is morally or legally entitled to do or have such as the animal's rights and voting rights [17]. They are socially established ways of acting or ways of being treated [18]. Oceans Rights requires humans to treat the ocean as fellow member of the earth community. In other words, the ocean is not property or a resource, nor solely extant for human benefit. We do not own the ocean. She is an entity, a legal person, with rights including but not limited to: the rights to a healthy, functioning climate system, the right to restoration and regeneration, and to continue her vital functions and cycles [19]. Oceans are an evolutionary and innovative solution, one that is necessary for the literal changing climate [20].

### **REASONS FOR PROTECTING OCEAN'S RIGHTS**

The principle reasons highlighted in this article include; enabling power of the ocean, benefit of ocean to human health and promising frontier for new drugs and the dependence of human rights and indigenous rights on ocean's rights.

#### **Enabling Power of the Ocean**

Oceans regulate our climate and hold vast and, in some cases, untouched resources. They provide food, materials, energy and transportation [21]. Their importance has evolved, mainly, thanks to the possibilities the maritime spaces offer for trade, natural resources exploitation, transport of persons and military operations and contribute to diversity of ideas [22]. The oceans have also become an important source of biological and energy resources and minerals [23].

#### **Benefit of Ocean to Human Health and Promising Frontier for New Drugs**

The nutritional benefits of eating fish, rich in protein and omega-3 fatty acids, make the ocean an indispensable, but not unlimited source of healthy food. Ocean science is revealing many other ways the ocean can benefit human health, from providing new sources of drugs to helping unravel many of the mysteries of human disease. In 1945, a young organic chemist named Werner Bergmann set out to explore the waters off the coast of Southern Florida. Among the marine organisms has been identified and extracted a black sponge, spongothymidine, called Cryptotethyacrypta which has eventually led to the development of a whole class of drugs that treat cancer and viral diseases and are still in use today. Zidovudine (AZT), for example fights the AIDS virus, HIV, and cytosine arabinosides (Ara-C) is used in the treatment of leukemia and lymphomas. Acyclovir speeds the healing of eczema and some

herpes viruses. These are just a few examples of how the study of marine organisms contributes to the health of thousands of men, women, and children around the world. Other marine derived drugs are being tested against herpes, asthma, and breast cancer [24]. One of the most tangible ecosystem services from the deep sea are fish stocks, which are increasingly finding their way into human diets, [25] and in certain cases is transferred back to the surface water and ultimately into the human food cycle [26].

### **Human Rights and Indigenous Rights Depends on Ocean's Rights**

Recognition and respect for nature's rights promotes human and indigenous rights. The exercise of human rights depends on a healthy planet to support them. By respecting, protecting and restoring the ocean, the following human and indigenous rights as provided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) are also respected and validated. The impacts of declining marine biodiversity implicate many potential violations of human rights recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), such as the right to life, liberty and security of person [27]. The right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment [28]. The decline in marine biodiversity from human activities also implicates many potential violations of the UNDRIP, including: The right of indigenous people to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of a person [29]. Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources. This is considering that indigenous cultures and identities are based on fishing and hunting [30]. The right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources [31].

### **TYPES OF OCEAN RIGHTS**

The ocean, as a legal entity, has the following inherent rights [32].

#### **Right to Life**

The right to maintain the integrity of living systems and natural processes that sustain the ocean and earth as a whole, and capacities and conditions for regeneration. All species of the ocean, plants, animals and microorganisms, have the right to life. The right to have critical and significant areas set aside for the continuation of cycles and processes where no human activity may occur (no take zones). The ocean has a right to live in perpetuity, and for humans to ensure that the pursuit of human well-being contributes to the well-being of the ocean now and into the future. Violating this right of the ocean, such as through overfishing, leads to a classic lose-lose system where ecosystems, economies and the social well-being of people are all negatively affected [33].

#### **To Health and Well-being**

Where health is defined in terms of the ocean's own well-being and in relation to its natural state. The right to live free from torture or cruel treatment by human beings and to exist in its natural state and habitat. The right to be free from contamination, such as plastic and noise pollution and toxic or radioactive waste. By managing human activity in defined areas, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), offer an opportunity to address the suite of threats to ocean health including overfishing, pollution, vessel traffic and noise, and oil and mineral extraction. Focused management of MPAs deliver several benefits [34].

#### **Right to the Diversity of Life**

The ocean has the right to biodiversity and to evolve. It is the right to the differentiation and variety of beings that make up the ocean, without them being genetically altered or structurally modified in an artificial way, so that their existence, functioning or future potential would be threatened.

#### **To Water**

The right to water as a source of life. The right to preserve the functionality of the water cycle, its existence in the quantity and quality needed to sustain living and non-living systems, and its

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protection from pollution for the reproduction of the life of the ocean and all its components. This includes the right to maintain ocean temperature and chemical composition (carbon dioxide proportions) at a level which the right to not threaten the ocean's integrity or vital and healthy functioning.

### **To Clean Air**

The right to preserve the quality and composition of air, and the functionality of the carbon cycle, for sustaining living and nonliving systems and its protection from pollution, for the reproduction of the life of the ocean and all its components. Overfishing, climate change, and plastic pollution [35] have left the ocean in a rapid state of decline and in imminent danger of losing its capacity to support life [36].

### **To Equilibrium**

The right to maintenance or restoration of the interrelationship, interdependence, complementarity and functionality of the components of the ocean in a balanced way for the continuation of its vital cycles and processes. The ocean has a right to live in harmony with humans and exhibit normal form and function. Climate change can greatly affect this potential legal right of the ocean.

### **To Restoration and Representation**

The right to timely and full restoration of impacts by direct or indirect human activities. The right to recognition everywhere before the law and before any decisions or activities, which may impact the ocean and its rights. A marine protected area as a legal entity requires the responsibilities, management options, restrictions, and basis for protection and enforcement to be carried out consistently with the Earth Law Framework. Defining the marine area as a legal entity requires humans to recognize, respect and protect its rights; provides for prompt and full restoration; and prohibits activities that will violate the marine area's rights. This essential element of the Earth Law Framework allows for the transformation of the current worldview. Legal rights for the ocean represent a breakthrough, a paradigm shift and a pathway to restoring ocean health [37].

## **MAJOR THREATS TO OCEAN RIGHTS**

The three major threat to ocean rights include, maritime pollution, climate change and illegal unreported and unregulated fishing. They are a threat to life, health, restoration which are the principal rights of the ocean.

### **Climate Change**

Climate is the average weather condition of a place over 30 years [38]. Climate change is a lasting alteration in patterns of weather caused by factors such as oceanic circulation, variations in solar radiation, plate tectonics, volcanic eruptions and human factors [39] and may impact global or local temperature, humidity, rainfall and weather extremes [40]. It refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and that is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods [41]. Persistently rising temperatures are having a cavalcade of effects on marine life. Warmer waters cause coral bleaching, threaten to cause mass migration of marine species in search of the right conditions for feeding and spawning. Change in water temperatures can affect the development and growth of most fish and cephalopods such as octopus and squid [42]. Direct consequences of cumulative post-industrial emissions such as increasing global temperature, rising sea levels, acidifying oceans are affecting marine biological processes from genes to ecosystems, over scales from rock pools to ocean basins impacting ecosystem services and threatening human food security [43]. Coral reefs are very sensitive to ocean warming and acidification. They have suffered extensive losses in the past three decades due to temperature. Projections suggest that 90% of coral reefs worldwide could be lost if warming exceeds 1.5 Degree Celsius [44]. Climate change is therefore a threat to the right to life, equilibrium and rights to restoration of the ocean.

## **Maritime Pollution**

Pollution is the release of undesirable substances into the environment [45]. Marine pollution occurs when hazardous materials enter the ocean and can take the diverse forms; [46] garbage, sewage, oil, debris, noise [47] and nutrients. They have destructive effects on ecosystems and seafood [48].

### ***Effects of Marine Debris on Seafood***

The following list represents the main types of litter found in the marine environment; plastics (fragments, sheets, bags, containers), polystyrene (cups, packaging, buoys), rubber (gloves, boots, tyres), Wood (construction timbers, [49] pallets, fragments of both), Metals (drink cans, oil drums, aerosol containers, scrap, sanitary or sewage-related debris (tampons, condoms, faeces), paper and cardboard, cloth (clothing, furnishings, shoes), glass (bottles, light bulbs), Pottery/Ceramic, munitions (phosphorus flares) [50]. Ingestion of litter by animals usually occurs when litter items are mistaken for food, or by secondary ingestion with prey items. In certain seabirds, ingested items can be passed from parent to chick by regurgitation. The occurrence of litter ingestion can reach 100% in some seabird species [51]. The accumulation of plastics in our environments is a result of improper disposal or shipping spills [52]. Since they are lightweight and durable, plastics are capable of travelling long distances, ending up in terrestrial environments, along shorelines, or floating in the open ocean.

Not only do itinerant plastics end up in animal's stomachs or around their necks, but there is also growing concern that plastics are acting as a medium for invasive species.<sup>[53]</sup> With undesirable changes in beach areas, the economies of coastal communities may be significantly affected by a loss in tourism revenue [54]. People do not want to visit trash-covered beaches. Therefore, coastal municipalities often have to spend extra money and resources on beach clean-ups [55]. Plastic debris, discarded fishing nets and other similar items that are there purely because of human negligence act as severe agents of marine pollution and have an effect that cannot be imagined unless witnessed [56]. A large-scale death of animal results from plastic consumption, like the sea turtles which consume it thinking it to be jellyfish [57]. In addition to aesthetic problems, ingestion of marine debris and entanglement in debris can harm seabirds, marine mammals, and other sea life. Entrapment and ingestion may lead to death if the animal is not able to move, consume food, and avoid predators [58]. Many marine species are already threatened or endangered, and the effects of debris only make matters worse [59]. For procellariid forms such as the albatrosses, shearwaters, or petrels, the appearance of eroded plastic pieces is similar to many types of food they consume. Microplastics resemble phytoplankton which is eaten by fish and cetaceans. Ingested plastic debris has been found to reduce stomach capacity, hinder growth, cause internal injuries, and create an intestinal blockage. Plastic entanglement with fishing nets or other ring-shaped materials can result in strangulation, reduction. Due to natural curiosity, pinnipeds often become entangled in marine debris at a young age, which can constrict their body as they grow thus reducing the quality of life of feeding efficiency, and in some cases drowning. This greatly violate the rights to life, health and restoration of these ocean organisms.

### ***Negative Effects of Man-made Ocean Noise on Seafood***

There is growing concern that noise proliferation exacerbated by drilling, construction, offshore oil and gas production rigs, underwater explosions to test ship strength poses a significant threat to the survival of marine mammals, fish and other marine species [60]. Bottlenose dolphins and pilot, sperm and killer whales have altered their call rates when exposed to low and mid-frequency noise sources. When Gray whales were exposed to industrial sounds, they left one of their breeding sites for more than five years, returning only several years after the noise stopped [61]. Intense noise exposure may cause death or physical injury, even at low levels for some vulnerable species including temporary or permanent hearing loss, as well as increased stress leading to detrimental consequences [62] for animals' immune systems and reproductive health [63]. Human-made ocean noise may mask sounds that are vital to marine animals and fish such as those indicating the existence and location of prey,

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predators and mates, as well as navigational information. Intense low-frequency sounds interfere with communication during important activities such as spawning. One study in the North Sea found that when cod and haddock were exposed to airgun noise from seismic surveys the result was an immediate reduction in trawl catches for both species. When the noise reaches a critical level, the whales begin making longer calls, an indication that they are struggling to communicate [64]. Noise causes stress to porpoises which results in changes in blood pressure, heart rate, cardiac output and vasoconstriction [65]. The large-scale consequences of noise pollution are not well-understood, but evidence points to adverse effects on some marine mammals. communication needed for reproduction and navigation [66]. Noise may also force animals into smaller areas of habitat. Exposure to high levels of noise could even lead to a permanent hearing loss [67]. In one well-documented incident in March 2000, fourteen beaked whales and two minke whales suffered traumatic injuries and stranded themselves in the Bahamas after naval sonar was used nearby [68]. Six of the beaked whales died. Autopsies revealed bleeding in the inner ears of three of the beached whales and around the brain of a fourth. The US Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reported that the extended use of their mid-range sonar had likely set off a series of events that culminated in internal bleeding [69]. The above analysis is obvious that noise pollution seriously threatens the rights to life, health, restoration and equilibrium of these ocean organisms, particularly marine mammals.

### ***Effects of Oil Pollution***

Oil pollution of the rivers kill fish, their food sources, the fish larvae and damage the ability of fish to reproduce, causing both immediate damage and long-term, cumulative harm to fish stocks [70].

### **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**

The main effects brought out here include the environmental impact, and impact on vulnerable and protected specie.

### ***Environmental Impacts***

Damage to fish stocks caused by overfishing induced by IUU activity tends to reduce future catching opportunities and therefore leads to a consequent loss of potential economic rent [71]. The majority of our case studies indicate that excessive unregulated fishing effort means that overall catch levels rise above sustainable levels, leading to over-exploitation and depletion [72]. Similarly, IUU fishers may use explosives or poisons or other destructive fishing practices which are not used by legitimate fishers [73]. This violates the rights to life, health and restoration of the fish.

### ***Impact on Vulnerable and Protected Species***

Marine animals preyed upon by pirate fishing are also some of the most depleted, including abalone, spiny lobster, sharks, seahorses, sturgeon, aquarium fish, groupers, wrasses and other reef fish [74]. In addition to the ecological value of endangered species like sea turtles [75] and sharks on a coral reef, scuba divers are willing to pay more for a dive where they are likely to see these species, adding up to hundreds of millions of dollars annually in added value for countries where these species are protected [76]. Dolphins and whales are killed by illegal fishing using banned gears, with severe consequences for their populations. At the peak of their illegal use, driftnets in the Mediterranean captured up to 10,000 dolphins, porpoises and whales each year. These illegal nets are one of the main reasons for dolphin stranding's on European beaches [77]. Destructive small-mesh nets are also used illegally in West Africa and other regions. Like sea turtles, sharks are slow-growing and long-lived, making them particularly vulnerable to overexploitation [78]. The ecosystem provides [79]. All these indicate that the ocean organisms are literally suffering owing to the aforementioned maritime crimes threatening their rights to life, health, restoration and equilibrium. This therefore require legal redress by all states surrounded by water.

## **LEGAL PROTECTION OF OCEAN'S RIGHTS**

The main international legal instrument highlighted here is the Convention on the Rights of Mother Earth, also known as the earth law framework. Nationally, this article critically examines the

provisions of some laws in Cameroon such her Constitution and her law on environmental management.

### **Legal Protection under International Law**

Chiefly, Oceans' rights are legally protected internationally by the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth [80]. Recognizing that Mother Earth is a living being [81] just as human beings have human rights; all other beings also have rights which are specific to their species or kind and appropriate for their role and function within the communities within which they exist. The Convention defines the term "being" to include ecosystems, natural communities, species and all other natural entities which exist as part of Mother Earth [82]. Mother Earth and all beings of which she is composed have the following inherent rights which include; [83] the right to life and to exist, [84] the right to be respected, [85] the right to regenerate its bio-capacity and to continue its vital cycles and processes free from human disruptions, [86] the right to maintain its identity and integrity as a distinct, self-regulating and interrelated being, [87] the right to water as a source of life [88], the right to clean air [89], the right to integral health, [90] the right to be free from contamination, pollution and toxic or radioactive waste, [91] the right to not have its genetic structure modified or disrupted in a manner that threatens it integrity or vital and healthy functioning; [92] the right to full and prompt restoration for violation of the rights recognized in this Declaration caused by human activities [93].

Concerning obligations of human beings to Mother Earth, every human being is responsible for respecting and living in harmony with Mother Earth. Establish precautionary and restrictive measures to prevent human activities from causing species extinction, the destruction of ecosystems or the disruption of ecological cycles. Promote and support practices of respect for Mother Earth and all beings, in accordance with their own cultures, traditions and customs. Promote economic systems that are in harmony with Mother Earth and in accordance with the rights recognized in this Declaration. From the definition of the term being, which means a living creature or a state or fact of existence, he inherent rights of this Convention are applicable to the oceans.

### **Legal Protection under National Law**

Three principal laws examined here have no expressed provision protecting oceans' rights. They are more focused on the threats to oceans' rights and include; the Cameroonian Penal Code, [94] the law on environmental management, [95] the law on fishery [96] and the constitution of Cameroon [97].

The Cameroonian Penal Code prohibits the pollution of any drinkable water and the air [98]. Regarding illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, the Cameroonian law relating to forestry, wildlife and fisheries prohibits the use of trawlers or fishing vessels equipped with trawling gear within a 3 nautical mile zone of the basic line fixed by decree, the use for fishing of any diving suit equipped with a respiratory device, the presence on board a fishing vessel of respiratory equipment such as a diving suit, a harpoon or of a dangerous fishing weapon, except as a safety precaution and the use for fishing of explosives, chemicals, poisons or other noxious substances, electrical currents or headlamps, fire-arms, light or automatic traps or any other devices likely to destroy aquatic fauna and the aquatic environment [99].

Concerning maritime pollution, the environmental law in Cameroon forbids the discharge and immersion into the maritime waters, under Cameroonian jurisdiction as well as the incineration of all substances likely to endanger human health and maritime biological resources, hinder maritime activities including, navigation, aquaculture, and fishing, alter the quality of maritime waters from the point of view of their use, downgrade the value of authorization and the touristic potential of the sea and the coast [100]. The list of these substances shall be specified by enabling decree of this law [101]. The provisions necessary to prevent or fight against any marine pollution originating from

ships and plants situated at sea and or on land shall be stipulated by an enabling decree of this law [102]. The Constitution in Cameroon does not expressly proscribe the above listed threats to ocean rights, however the preamble states that security shall be guaranteed to each individual subject to respect for the rights of others and the higher interest of the State [103]. The Constitution also states that every person shall have a right to a healthy environment and that the protection of the environment shall be the duty of every citizen. The state shall ensure protection of the environment. As concerns the protection of oceans rights, the constitution is completely silent, however it incorporates the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, upholding the right to life as a fundamental human right [104].

### **ASSESSING AN APPLICATION OF THE LAW ON OCEAN RIGHTS IN CAMEROON**

The laws listed above; the Laws on fisheries, pollution, the Penal Code of Cameroon and the Cameroonian Constitution, though have express provisions pertaining to the environment, have no clear-cut provisions for the protection of oceans rights. The Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon, for example, enshrines the rights to life of humankind, not the rights to life of oceans or nature. We therefore esteem that if the 2008 Constitution of Cameroon can enshrine the provisions of the UDHR, it can also incorporate the provisions of the Convention of Mother Earth. To add, if the parliament of the Republic can make local laws governing the fishery sector, the protection of the environment, then it can also make laws protecting the Rights of Mother Earth, ocean rights inclusive. Bolivia for instance passed the Law of Mother Earth in 2010 with the objective to recognize the rights of Mother Earth and ensure respect for those rights [105]. The Law grants seven rights to Mother Earth; the right to life, to the diversity of life, to water, to clean air, to equilibrium, to restoration and to pollution-free living [106]. Additionally, in 2012, Bolivia passed the Framework Law of Mother Earth and Holistic Development for Living Well. The major aim of the framework being to guide the specific laws, policies, rules, strategies, plans, programs and projects, through integral development in harmony and balance with Mother Earth [107]. On January 11, 2017, Mexico City adopted the Rights of Nature into its Constitution. The new Constitution entered into force in September 2018, with relevant sections [108] affirming the right to the preservation and protection of nature by the authorities of Mexico City [109]. In the United States, over three dozen municipalities recognized the nature's rights in local ordinances [110].

### **CONCLUSION**

An attempt has been made to examine the major threats to ocean rights and to critically appraise the extent to which oceans rights have been incorporated within the Cameroonian legal framework. The ocean is a valuable resource to mankind, providing her with seafood, source of income and a job. However, maritime crimes, principally marine pollution, IUU fishing and climate change are a threat to the rights of the ocean. The ocean, being accorded legal personhood by the Mother Earth Convention, has rights such as the rights to life, health and restoration. Being a legal instrument, just like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, conducted under the United Nations Assembly, its provisions has still not been incorporated in the national laws of some countries, the Constitution of Cameroon, a case being in point [111]. This article therefore highlights that States still to do so can greatly learn from other countries such as Bolivia, Mexico and the United States of America, who have taken steps to incorporate these rights in their local legislation and passed the Earth Law framework. This will go a long way to enhance sustainable management of ocean resources and protect the future of man which lies in the oceans.

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