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REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

National Report on the Activities in the Field of
Standardization of Geographical Names*

*Submitted by Turkey

NATIONAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF STANDARDISATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

SUBMITTED BY TURKEY

1. Introduction

1.1. Legislation/Authority for Standardisation

Activities to standardise geographical names in Turkey have started in late 1930's with the establishment of a special committee by the Ministry of Interior to standardise the names of populated areas. At presents, as the responsible institution, the Ministry of Interior has still been coordinating the works of the various national bodies on standardisation of geographical names.

Announcement of standardised names are being made through publications of the Ministry of Interior and topographical maps produced by the General Command of Mapping of Ministry of Defence, as well as nautical charts produced by the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography.

1.2. National Authorities Dealing With Standardisation of Geographical Names

Ministry of Interior is the responsible authority for standardisation of geographical names. As the activities in this field require the involvement of different institutions, standardisation efforts are being carried collectively with the coordination of the Ministry of Interior.

The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, Ministry of Interior: Ministry of Interior has established a permanent committee on geographical names in 1952. This Committee, composed of experts from universities and national institutions was authorised to standardise names of administrative units, inhabited areas and natural geographical features, except roads, parks and streets of the district municipalities. Works of the Committee ended in 1975. Efforts to set up an effective coordinating permanent body have continued following years. In 1983, a national board which was called "Committee of Experts for Standardisation of Geographical Names" was established with a government decree. Due to the difficulties faced in implementation process, the government decided to terminate the activities of the Board in 1986.

Eventually, General Directorate of Provinces Management of the Ministry of Interior has initiated a project for the establishment of a committee for standardisation of geographical names with the participation of experts form the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkish Language Institution, Turkish History Institution, Universities, General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre and General Command of Mapping. The Committee, composed of ministerial and academic staff as well as experts, will carry out its tasks in parallel with UNGEGN and will be authorised to standardise geographical names of all categories, including exonyms, maritime names and undersea features as well as extraterrestrial name proposals.

Local Municipal Boards: Municipal boards have the authority to standardise only the names of city-quarters, streets, roads, squares, parks, etc.

General Command of Mapping-Ministry of Defence (GCM): GSM is the national mapping agency of Turkey and responsible for producing and updating nation-wide topographic maps of different scale ranging from 1:25.000, to 1:500.000. In carrying out this task GCM collects geographical names from the relevant institutions, both local and central. GCM standardise the geographical names on the base map (1:25.000). Toponomical data on the base map is accepted as official, particularly for unclear cases.

2. Geographic and Statistical Regions, Administrative Units, Gazetteers, Populated Places Database

2.1. Nomenclature Territorial Units for Statistics of Turkey and Geographical Regions of Turkey

The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) of Turkey was agreed on in 2003 for EUROSTAT by a group of experts from several organisations. NUTS are used for collecting regional statistics and defining statistical units within European Union (EU). NUTS are marked out in accordance with regional variation lines of territory of Turkey at three levels. Number of divisions at NUTS level one and two of Turkey are 12 and 26 respectively. At level three, number of divisions is as many as provinces. These regional divisions were published by the State Statistical Institute (SSI) in 2002 (Official Gazette, issue September 22, 2002, decree number 2002/4720).

Names and boundaries of geographical regions of 7 divisions of Turkey were already determined and these 7 divisions have been used as a base for mapping, statistics, research, education, etc. Nonetheless, there are some researches, studies, carried out by research institutions, universities, experts and scientists, to re-determine geographical regions on the basis of different criteria such as demography, vegetation, geomorphology, climate, etc. Non of these works however are widely accepted by the society of geography and mapping and are officially approved yet.

2.2. Administrative Units of Turkey

Several studies on standardising names of administrative units, populated areas and natural features have been carried out since 1930 and some of them were published by the Ministry of Interior at different times.

Establishment and naming of administrative units- provinces, districts, villages and other settlements-are being done in accordance with the Administrative Law of Provinces (no:5442). In order to rename an administrative unit or a natural geographical feature other than villages or populated areas smaller than villages, decisions of General Council of Province, Administrative Committee of Province and positive opinion of governor and triple decree (approval of Minister of Interior, Prime Minister and President) are required. Establishment and naming of a province or a district can also be decided by the Parliament with a special law. The General Directorate of Province Management, in addition to its role of serving as executing

secretariat for these efforts, is also responsible to register and standardise the names of villages with the approval of the Minister of Interior. The names for geographical features are determined in close cooperation and consultation with linguists and historians.

A gazetteer titled “Name of Physiographic (natural) Features” was prepared by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, Ministry of Interior for the periods of 1965-1970, and 1975-1976. The gazetteer containing names of physiographic features and also their former names was published by the General Directorate of Province Management of the Ministry of Interior in 1977.

On behalf of Turkey, GCM has been participating in EuroGlobalMap (EGM), a project of EuroGeographics, the association of national mapping agencies of Europe. As part of this project, Turkey provided approved names of geographical names and boundaries as well as provinces and districts to the central database of EGM in 2003.

2.3. Gazetteers

The first gazetteer of Turkey containing 30.000 entities collected from topographic maps of 1:500.000 was published by GCM in 1977, as a list of geographical names together with their coordinates, which was annexed to “The New Atlas of Turkey” that contained topographical maps of 1:500.000.

A new gazetteer containing features rendered on maps of Joint Operation Graphic (JOG) at scale 1:250.000 was finalised during the period of 1997-1998 and almost 45.000 names published in ESRI ArcInfo coverage and spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel) format. Prepared in accordance with the NATO STANAG-2213, it comprises some 58 geographical features such as populated areas, places of cultural importance, transportation, lakes, streams, mountains, physiography, vegetation and regions of major importance. The gazetteer will be updated upon completion of the preparation of the third edition of JOGs, % 30 of which were finalised at the end of 2003. The attributes captured for each feature are as follows: name, feature type, easting, northing, longitude, latitude, JOG sheet and date of publication.

The third edition of base map series is being prepared through digital techniques. Almost 1500 sheet were published. The resultant raster and vector maps are being stored in a geographical database. In parallel with this work, geographical names in this database will be utilised to construct digital toponomy database in Turkey.

A list of Turkish exonyms of Aegean Islands submitted to the meeting of UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names in 1986 (WP 29), and a short list of standardised names of undersea and maritime features around Turkey in 1987 (E/CONF.79/INF/58). A new gazetteer of “Standardised Names of Undersea and Maritime Features around Turkey” prepared by the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography in 1992.

2.4. Annual Book of Administrative Divisions-Ministry of Interior and Populated Areas Database of Turkey (PPDB-T)

The Ministry of Interior updated the registry of all residential areas in Turkey in 2001 and provided this information to the public in printed and electronic forms. This information is still available.

The residential entities (populated areas) in hierarchical order from top to bottom are province, district and village. Data about populated areas on topographic maps of 1:25.000 were maintained in a conventional data store (paper archive) at GCM. This archive was mapped into a relational database of populated areas (PPDB-T) in 2000 after three years of data entry and software implementation. Some of the information collected for populated areas have a unique ID number, nationally authorised name of the place, position (title of the 1:25.000 map sheet and grid numbers), geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude), population, old names of the place and elevation of centre of the town. The main objective expected from PPDB-T is not only to provide information about the populated areas for digital topographic map production but also to support users who need information for the purpose of census and statistics, urban and regional planning, map and atlas production, emergency, security, tourism and commerce etc. PPDB-T is updated using both the toponomy collected during field campaigns and the reports on renaming or establishment of populated areas supplied by the Ministry of Interior. Initial work has been done to disseminate PPDB-T through internet by GCM.

3. Standardisation of Terminology and Toponymy

3.1. Country Names and Exonyms

List of country names and their capital cities in Turkish Language were collated and compiled with in accordance to the ISO 3166 standard (1997-2002) and published as UNGEGN document number E/CONF.94/CPR.11 by GCM. The list is an extended version of exonyms (European Countries and their Capitals in Turkish) published by GCM in 1992. Exonyms of country names and capital cities have been examined by the Turkish Language Institute and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to generate a list for nation-wide use. The list of exonyms will be improved by adding information about feature type, latitude, longitude and date. Draft version of country names and exonyms is going to be finalised until 22nd meeting of UNGEGN.

3.2. Toponomic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors and Glossary of Geographical Features and Scripting Rules

The first edition of Toponomic Guidelines of Turkey was presented at UN Fourth Conference on the Standardisation of Geographic Names, held in Geneva in 1982. Following the completion of updating of the Toponomic Guidelines of Turkey, new version will be submitted to the 23rd meeting of the UNGEGN as the second edition. While this study has been initiated by GCM, experts from the Ministry of Interior, Universities (experts on cartography, geography, and linguists), Turkish Language

Institute, Turkish History Institute, General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre are participating actively to the process.

Multilingual Glossary of Geographical Features has been prepared by the Romano-Hellenic Division and submitted to the 21st meeting of UNGEGN. As one of the members of the division, GCM on behalf of Turkey prepared a list of translations of names of geographical features to be added to the glossary in 2003. List of “Multilingual Glossary of Geographical Features” is merged with geographical features on base topographic maps of Turkey. After verification and revision by experts (cartographers, geographers and linguists) the extended list will contain features and their definitions in Turkish and English. The final list of geographical features will be part of the second edition of Toponomic Guidelines of Turkey.

In the meantime, a study, initiated by the Turkish Language Institute, on scripting rules of Turkish Language for geographical features is continuing. Result of this study will be used for new edition of Toponomic Guidelines of Turkey as well as by the map and other editors.

3.3. Glossary of Terms for the Standardisation of Geographical Names

The “Glossary of Terms for the Standardisation of Geographical Names” version 4 submitted by UNGEGN working group (E/CONF.91/L.13), (ST/ESA/STA/SER.M/85) at Seventh UN Conference on the Standardisation of Geographic Names is being translated into Turkish. There are 375 terms containing cross-references. Terms are categorised into three groups: the first group of terms have unique and precise Turkish translation. In the second group, terms have multiple meaning or multiple terms have unique meaning in Turkish. In the third group, terms have no translation in Turkish or there are words with close meaning according to their definition. GCM and the Turkish Language Institute have carried out this work. This glossary will be published for national use as the work ends and be submitted to UNGEGN during 23rd meeting.

3.4. Studies to Preserve Cultural Heritage and Historical Names

Studies to collect and preserve cultural heritage and historical information have been carried out by different bodies, particularly by the Turkish History Institute (THI). A comprehensive inventory of cultural heritage in Turkey and in its surroundings is being prepared by THI. A historical database containing detailed information on the structure of administrative units in three different regions, namely Middle North of Anatolia, Ankara and Adana, at different points in time in order to examine the changes in socio-economic and cultural structure of these regions. In the long run, this work will be extended to the other parts of the country. Another research conducted by THI aims to determine structure of settled and non-settled population between 15th - 17th centuries in Turkey. As a result of this study extensive information about historical names of settlements and other geographical names is stored in database which may help to define relationship between old and modern society, and historical and actual geographical names. “Atlas of Turkic World” form beginning to present and publications on historical geography are other works regarding cultural heritage names.

3. Participation in Activities of Regional Divisions

4.1. Division 8: Asia South West Division (Other than Arabic)

A list of 50 features were taken from Gazetteer of Turkey at scale 1:250.000 and submitted to the division's secretariat in Tehran. The list that was submitted contains geographical features such as populated areas, rivers, mountains, islands, seas, lakes etc. together with information on their positions (latitude, longitude), feature type, source material and updates.

4.2. Division 20: Romano-Hellenic

Multilingual Glossary of Geographic Features in Italian, French, Greek, Spanish and Roman has been prepared and presented during 21st meeting of the UNGEGN in 2002. Names of geographical features have been translated into Turkish and added as a column to the Glossary in 2003 by GCM. This work has been revised by the Geography Department of the Faculty of Language, History and Geography (Ankara University). Although names of features in Turkish attached as a new column to the list, an additional list of features which do not exist in the list, but frequently portrayed on maps of Turkey are yet to be added to the list by the secretariat (Italy) of the Division..