

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on  
the Standardization of  
Geographical Names

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PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted by Kenya

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No regional meetings (for Africa, South of Sahara) have been held. Several National Committees are known to be functioning in English-language countries. Some work continues in Ethiopia. No information has been received from French and Portuguese language areas. There is no communication with South Africa and Rhodesia. The official adoption of Arabic script by Somalia introduces a new complication.

In Kenya a minor change in legislation provides that spellings recommended by the S.C.G.N. will now have force when published on official maps without the necessity of having to be published first in lists in the official Kenya Gazette.

The main work on names in Kenya has been the formation of a card index. The U.S.B.G.N. used the computer tape to print out each line of the Kenya Gazetteer on a standard index card (6 x 4 inch, 15 x 10 cm.) and shipped the 26,000 cards to Kenya. The printed line gives in black type the name, reference number, alternative spelling (if any), class of feature, latitude and longitude, and province code number.

We have printed in blue on the cards additional headings: District, grid reference, relevant map numbers, language, vernacular spelling, meaning or derivation.

The additional information will be added to the cards from existing field record sheets and maps.

New cards will be added for new names, and all new or revised information on existing names coming in can be added to the cards. Such information is most usually obtained during revision of maps.

It is hoped that eventually much of the indexed information will be published in a new gazetteer which will inevitably be more than double the size of the current one.