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Item 12 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Toponymic data files and gazetteers: Data services, applications and products
(for example, gazetteers and web services).

**Provision of an ISO / OGC-conform web service for
Physiogeographic Regions of Germany – Names and Boundaries**

Submitted by Germany**

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Provision of an ISO / OGC-conform web service for Physiogeographic Regions of Germany – Names and Boundaries

The map at 1:1,000,000 scale shows a total number of 750 names, the spellings of which are all standardized. This number includes nine minority names in Frisian languages (mainly of North Sea islands) as well as seven minority names of regions (located southeast of Berlin) in Sorbian languages which are listed in addition to the respective German names.

In general, the areas of physiogeographic regions are not precisely delimited. As against administrative units (e.g. communes, counties) the boundaries of which are unambiguously and legally recognized by cadastral surveys, the limits of physiogeographic regions can only be delineated by border seams or fringes. This uncertainty also leads to the fact that sometimes physiogeographic regions are overlapping with each other.

As a consequence there are different border types in the map: for naturalized regions, uncertain borders, subterritories, historical regions with broadly retained administrative boundaries, historical regions without administrative boundaries and economic landscapes.

The dictionary of the geographical regions provides a description for each of the physiogeographic regions in the map. They consider the linguistic origin as well as the historical and cultural background. The book has been published as: Liedtke, Herbert (2002): *Namen und Abgrenzungen von Landschaften in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*, 3. Ausgabe, *Forschungen zur deutschen Landeskunde*, Band 239, Deutsche Akademie für Landeskunde, Selbstverlag, ISBN: 3-88143-050-4.

Both products come together in the new Web Map Service (WMS) for physiogeographic regions.

Der Westerwald gehört zu den deutschen Mittelgebirgen.
Je nach der Höhenabstufung unterscheidet man den Nieder- und Oberwesterwald und den Hohen Westerwald.
Ursprünglich bezog sich der Name „Westerwald“ nur auf den Hohen Westerwald, dessen kaltes und feuchtes Klima auch die Ursache für den sprichwörtlich- und volksliedbekannte Unwirtlichkeit ist.

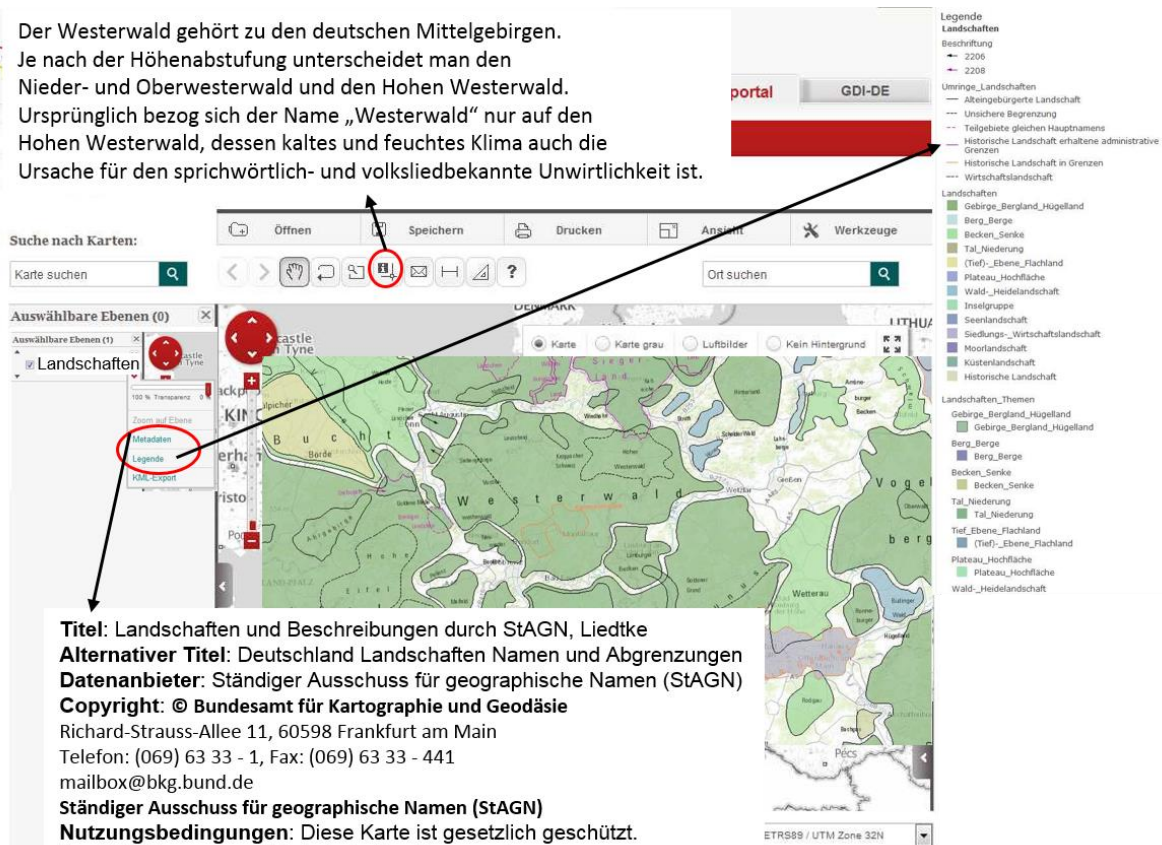


Figure 1: Web Map Service (WMS) for physiogeographic regions in the Geoportal.de

Figure 1 shows the outcome of the WMS which is integrated in the www.geoportal.de. From the web interface you can access the map, the map symbology, the metadata and the description of the geographical regions – with only one click. It is now also possible to combine the physiogeographic regions with other thematic spatial data, e.g. natural reserve. The implementation of the WMS for physiogeographic regions in Germany was done by BKG in consultation with the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN).