To assist the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) of Brazil with its work on the standardization of geographical names, some particular activities were cooperatively undertaken with Canada in early 2007 to address the issue of the translation, design and publication of toponymy-related documents in the Portuguese language. These materials were produced in time for use in a five-day in-house training course at IBGE held in Rio de Janeiro in March 2007 — training designed particularly for those surveyors and other fieldworkers who would be involved in the collection of locally used geographical names during the forthcoming field season.

The documents were produced as part of the National Geospatial Framework Project (Projeto da Infra-estrutura Geoespacial Nacional), an international cooperation project coordinated by IBGE and the University of New Brunswick in Canada. The Project is sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency through an international agreement with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Agência Brasileira de Cooperação (ABC)).