UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Information Bulletin

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UNGEGN website:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo

U N G E G N

Information

Bulletin

(formerly NEWSLETTER**)**

The *Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (formerly UNGEGN Newsletter) is issued approximately twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group. The Secretariat is established within the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. It publishes contributions/reports from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/ Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups. Contributions for the Information Bulletin can only be considered when they are made available in digital form. They

should be sent to the following address:

Preface

Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues,

As this is the first UNGEGN Bulletin since the 25th Session of UNGEGN held in Nairobi in May this year, I would like to thank the UN Secretariat and all experts who made the meeting a success. A copy of the group photo taken at UNON in Nairobi is included on page 50 of this Bulletin and results of the Africa essay and poem contest and news from the Task Team for Africa are on pages 24 and 21.

As you know, the report of the 25th Session, all the technical working papers, and information on special presentations are now available on the UNGEGN website, and we can start looking forward to the 26th Session in 2011. Please see the Secretariat's message for more details of ECOSOC's approval of UNGEGN's report and possible arrangements for 2011. Before that time we have much work to continue – in individual countries and through our working groups and divisions. The synergy generated from the meeting of experts from around the world is very encouraging, but the difficult task is following this up to sustain the momentum as we return to our everyday tasks.

Template for gathering material on national names authorities

In the past we have received requests to have material available from different countries, about names authorities, gazetteers, databases, etc. with some templates that could be used universally. In the UNGEGN *Manual for the national standardization of geographical names* we provided general guidance to all interested parties on establishing national names authorities and processing names in the office. Mr. Botolv Helleland (Norway) followed up the theme of national names authorities during a workshop in Nairobi, and you will find a template being proposed (see page 34 of this Bulletin) to gather such information. We need your help to develop this template for data collection purposes.

UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database

Many experts have contributed the city/town data (populated places >100,000) of their country to this project. However, we are still missing names information from countries around the world. If your country is still to submit information for this project, please send an Excel file including:

1. Endonym. (If more than one name is approved for a place, each should be provided, with the language to which each applies and their relative status for international use.)
   1.1 If appropriate:
      (a) the romanized form should be included and
      (b) the romanization system noted;

2. Latitude and longitude coordinates in decimal degrees.

In addition, we have the capability to include individual pronunciation files for the populated place endonyms (.wav files preferred). Sound

files can be sent at any time, with separate .wav files for each city/town.

A report on the progress of the UNGEGN database will be found on page 6 of this Bulletin, with a request for you to test and verify information, before the database is released to the general public in the near future.

Projects for the UNGEGN website

In 2010, there may be opportunity to expand the material on the UNGEGN website. We intend to work towards:

1. Continuing updates on the pages referring to Division, Working Groups, meetings, national authorities, web links, etc.

2. Updating and expanding the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database, which by that time will be available through the UNGEGN website.

3. Adding further material to the country summaries about their national names authorities (see article on page 34 of this Bulletin).

We invite your input for other projects you might wish to see undertaken to add to the usefulness and functionality of the UNGEGN website.

We look forward to hearing your news and views during the coming year.

Helen Kerfoot
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News from Secretariat

Dear UNGEGN Experts,

The UNGEGN Secretariat would like to inform you that the report of the 25th United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) has been taken note of by ECOSOC on its tenth session in July 2009. The electronic copy of the report of the 25th session of UNGEGN (E/2009/58), which took place from 5 to 12 May in Nairobi Kenya, is now available in the six United Nations languages at *http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/24thungegnsessionreport.htm.*

The twenty-sixth session of UNGEGN will be held in the second quarter of 2011 either at the United Nations Office at Geneva or at the United Nations Office in Vienna, to facilitate and prepare the work of the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to be held in 2012. The exact date and venue for the session will be posted on the UNGEGN website, with useful information on hotels, transport and the like in due course.

The Secretariat has been active in support of the work of the experts. As you may know, UNGEGN in collaboration with UNSD has created a geo-referenced database to store the names of countries and major cities in different languages, with a web interface to present the geographical information online utilizing the services of a Web Map Server. Further detail on the Database is given in the section following this under the title "The UNGEGN Geographical Names Database: an update". We have received many useful comments from many experts on the content and structure of the database so far. The Secretariat would appreciate if experts could access the database using the following URL, user and password information to verify information, as necessary.

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/Default.aspx
Login: **tester**
Password: **geonames**

It is expected that the Database will be made public on the UNGEGN web in the near future.

The Secretariat also provides support for two regional cartographic conferences: the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (UNRCC-A) and the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific. The UNGEGN Secretariat is continuing to forge ties with the UN Regional Cartographic Conferences, in recognition that cartography, GIS and Geographical Names are crucial to the promotion of geographic information.

The 9th UNRCC-A was held in New York from 10-14 August 2009. The report is available at *http://unstats.un.org/unsd/METHODS/CARTOG/unrcca.htm.* The 18th UNRCC-AP will be held in Bangkok from 26 to 29 October 2009. Documents of the Conference are available at *http://unstats.un.org/unsd/METHODS/CARTOG/Asia_and_Pacific/18/18th-UNRCC-AP-Docs.htm.* I hope this information will help

you to plan ahead if you intend to participate in this meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank those who contributed to this *Bulletin*. The next Information Bulletin will be issued in early 2010.

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The UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database: an update

Over the last six months the geographical names team at the United Nations Secretariat focused on including information for the geographical names database submitted by UNGEGN. Most of the information received has been included; the database now includes city names for 54 countries.

In more detail, the database holds information for 192 countries and about 2790 cities for which about 5200 names are available. Most of the city entries are endonyms supplied by national names authorities or their equivalents. However, some are based on the United Nations terminology and for few of the cities

variant names (e.g. exonyms) have been collected. China, one of the most populated countries, has recently submitted nearly 700 of their city names in Chinese and in their romanized form.

Sound files assisting users with the correct pronunciation of city names have been supplied for more than 20 countries, as of now. Over the last couple of months the files have been linked and uploaded for the cities of at least 5 countries, including Brazil with over audio 220 files.
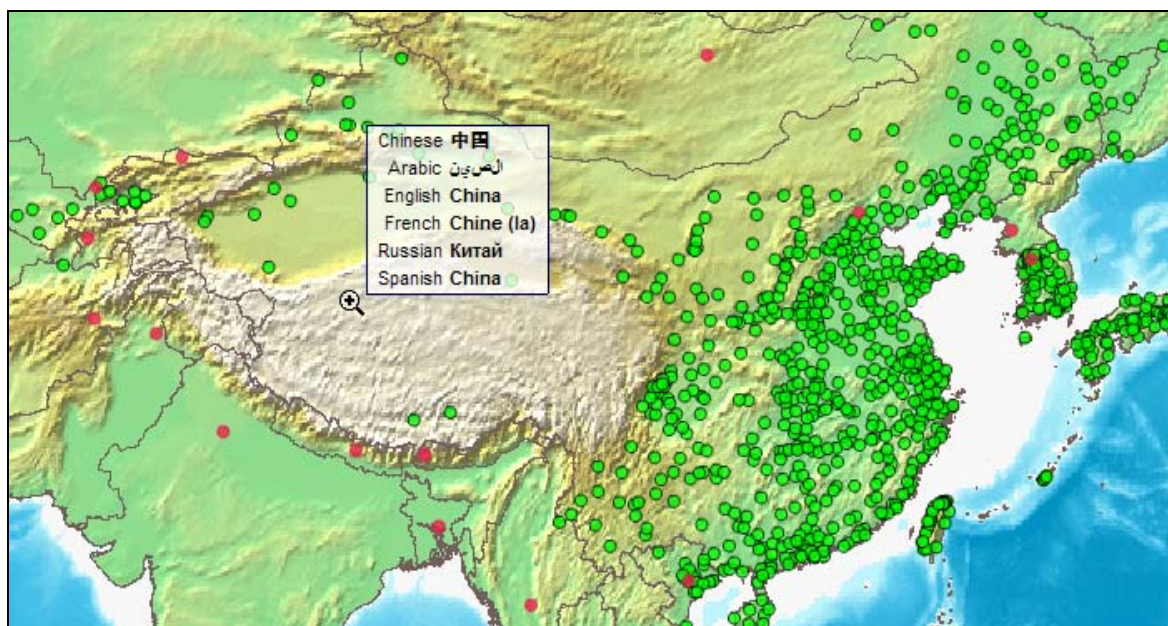
The web application has undergone further changes to meet the requirements of a growing collection of geographical names and their dissemination. Furthermore, pages have been added to the interface: FAQs are a first attempt, trying to answer frequently asked questions regarding the data collection as well as the web site itself. A feedback page allows users to send an email to the Secretariat and UNGEGN with their suggestions and comments.

It is planned to go online with this new service within the next months. Therefore the team currently focuses on interface testing and the verification of the geographical names information displayed.

You are invited to provide us with your feedback before we open the data base to the general public.

Additional information and updates are welcomed from authoritative sources on an ongoing basis.

For further information please contact *geoinfo_unsd@un.org*

The Secretariat would appreciate if experts could access
the database using the following URL,
user and password information to
verify information, as necessary.

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/Default.aspx
Login: **tester**
Password: **geonames**

Africa East Division

A meeting attended by 6 representatives from 3 countries of the Africa East Division was held during the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi.

Discussion centred on ways to make the Division active. It was decided that a bureau must first be formed from participants attending UNGEGN Session. (Former Division Chair, Mr. Nasr Ibrahim HASSANEIN, from Sudan had retired since the 24th UNGEGN and 9th Conference in 2007). The committee will be as follows:

  Chairperson: Mrs. Nivo RATOVOARISON
          (**Madagascar**)
  Secretary: Mr. Charles MWANGI
          (**Kenya**)
  Rapporteur: Mr. Solomon Kebede MAMMO
          (**Ethiopia**)

The first task is to undertake contacting all the other countries in the Africa East Division not represented at the Session. This will be done with the help of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS) and the UNGEGN, in order to obtain a focal point for each country.

Follow up since Nairobi

Since the UNGEGN Session, the process of rebuilding the contacts in East African countries has been started, as a step towards gathering information on names standardization from each country. Thanks to RCMRD, a list of the representatives from those countries represented in the Centre was made available and an invitation for collaboration has been sent to each of them.

After the UNGEGN Session in Nairobi, I organized a special meeting for my colleagues at the National Institute for Cartography and Hydrography of Madagascar where I demonstrated the need for geographical names standardization (in Madagascar and in the entire world) and therefore the relevance of the Komitim-Pirenena Miandraikitra ny Anarantany (KPMA), which is the relevant national committee for Madagascar. I also reported on the work undertaken by UNGEGN, the East Africa Division problems and the decisions taken. As well, I offered a short briefing about the UNGEGN Session in Nairobi to the Sampana Teny Malagasy, Academia Linguistic Department. They are very interested and have requested a presentation on the work of names standardization in October.

We hope to be able to provide more news from the Division for the next UNGEGN Bulletin.

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MADAGASCAR
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Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division

Since the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Bulletin 36 was published in March 2009, the activity of this Division has covered the following:

1) **At the 25th UNGEGN Session held in Nairobi, 5-12 May 2009** an informal divisional meeting was organized during lunch time, and was attended by Australia, Indonesia, and Thailand.

   Several issues brought up at the meeting were the following:

   - The 16th Divisional meeting and International Symposium on Geographical Names would be held on 4 and 5 August 2009 in Bali, Indonesia
   - Special grants for countries in the Pacific region to participate in the divisional activities would be sought through UNGEGN
   - Communication improvement among member countries in the Division would be enhanced
   - The possibility of proposing a sub-Division of Pacific South-West within the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division for better communication among those island countries within the sub-Division.

2) **The 16th Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Divisional Meeting**, 4 August 2009, was organized concurrently with the **International Symposium on Geographical Names**. These events were organized in conjunction with the 40th commemoration of the establishment of the National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping (BAKOSURTANAL).

The 16th ASEPSW meeting was conducted in conjunction with the 10th South East Asian Survey Congress (SEASC) and hosted by the Association of South East Asia Federation of Landsurveyors and Geomatics (AseanFLAG) and the National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping of Indonesia (Bakosurtanal).

Among the Keynote Speakers of the 10th SEASC were the following: Head of ASEPSW, Rudolf W. Matindas; UNGEGN Chairperson, Ms. Helen Kerfoot; the Indonesian Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Mardiyanto; and the Head of Land Agency of Indonesia, Mr. Joyo Winoto. The President of ICA, Mr. William Cartwright, and Vice President of FIG, Mr. Teo Chee Hai, also delivered their keynote speeches. Excerpts of the keynote speeches will be published in a separate proceeding.

a) The 16th ASEPSW Meeting was attended by the UNGEGN Chairperson, Ms. Helen Kerfoot, and the following member countries (with number of delegates in brackets): Vietnam (3), Indonesia (29, including observers), Malaysia (2) and Singapore (2); a total of 41 participants. Australia, Brunei Darussalam, and New Zealand sent their apologies for being absent from the meeting, but Australia and New Zealand each submitted a written report.

   There is a need for scientific/academic cooperation among toponymic experts in the Division, especially in the project of "Generic Terms across Languages in the Region". This Division is home of more than 5000 ethnic/local languages, of which Indonesia alone covers 746 ethnic languages. The generics are the

terms for spatio-morphological features on Earth, in the respective ethnic languages of the people, including those living in the distant past. Through the exchange of information on toponymic data one can learn about the history of naming, the origin of the languages and the history of human mobility in the past.

Fig. 1. Participants at the 16th ASEPSW Divisional Meeting.

b) International Symposium on Geographical Names

This symposium was held on 5 August 2009, with a theme entitled "Geographical Names as part of the Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region". The participants consisted of local participants from government's institutions, and officials, while the foreign participants were invited speakers from Canada (Ms. Helen Kerfoot, UNGEGN Chairperson), Netherland (Prof. Dr. Ferjan Ormeling, Jr., and Drs. Tjeerd Tichelaar), and South Africa (Dr. Peter E. Raper, former UNGEGN Chairman).

Interesting papers relevant to the symposium theme were presented by the respective foreign and local participants, such as the following: 1. Decolonizing Indonesia Placenames (Prof. Dr. Ferjan Ormeling, Jr).; 2. The Roles of Indonesian Maritime History for Geographical Names (Prof. Dr. Susanto Zuhdi);

3. Generic Names Across the Languages in the Region (Prof. Dr. Jacub Rais); 4. Undersea Feature Names, under the Bluish of the Banda Sea, Eastern Indonesia: its Influence of Human and Cruise Names (Dr. Kumala Hardjawidjaksan); 5. The Uniqueness of Geographical Names from Generic to Specific Names (Mr. A. Gaffar Ruskhan); 6. Indigenous Toponymy in Canada (Ms. Helen Kerfoot); 7. Validation Techniques of Indigenous Toponyms (Dr. Peter E. Raper); 8. Pitfalls of Cultural Bias in Geographical Names (Drs. Tjeerd Tichelaar); 9. Development and Visualization of Toponym Spatial Databases (Dr. Trias Aditya).

Abstracts and the full text of the papers will be printed in proceedings and distributed to all participants.

At the end of the event on the 6th August 2009, the participants were invited to join a tour to historical places related to geographical place names in the Bali area, such as Kerthagosa Klungkung, Bali Museum, Badjra Sandhi Museum, and Traditional Market. A full day of enjoyment and enchantment in a mystical environment of the Balinese tradition, art and culture was experienced by all.

Efforts such as these should be followed up, and the cooperation among member countries encouraged in the future.

Fig.2. Ms. Helen Kerfoot presented "Indigenous Toponymy in Canada"

Fig.3. Prof. Ormeling presented "Decolonizing Indonesian Placenames"

Fig. 4. Keynote speakers at the opening of the 10th SEASC

Fig. 5. Some of participants of SEASC, AFLAG, ASEPSW Division at the entrance of the Westin Hotel, Bali International Convention Center at Nusa Dua, Bali

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Baltic Division

The XIIIth Workshop of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN

This year is very special for Vilnius and Lithuania. Following the EU Council Decision No 2005/815/EC, Vilnius was officially given European Capital of Culture status in 2009, and Lithuania celebrates the Millennium Anniversary of its name this year.

The National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania in cooperation with the State Commission of Lithuanian Language is organising the 13th workshop (Toponymic 2009) of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN, *http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo, http://www.eki.ee/knn/ungegn/index.htm*).

Experts will be from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Belarus and Ukraine.

This workshop will take place at the National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture (Gedimino pr.19) in Vilnius, from 1 to 2 October, 2009.

Lithuania's Millennium
http://lietuva1000.lt/en

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Dutch- and German-speaking Division

Results of the 23rd Division Meeting in Nairobi

In the framework of the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi, the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) held its 23rd Meeting on 11th May, 2009.

It was decided to have the next DGSD meeting 28-30 April 2010 in Tainach (Carinthia, Austria) in conjunction with meetings of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (26-28 April) and the Working Group on Exonyms (28-30 April). This will also be an occasion to pass the DGSD chair from Austria to Belgium in accordance with the principle that the chair of the Division shifts between member countries after five years, in alphabetical order of the English country name.

It was also decided to continue the tradition of GeoNames symposia with the topic "place name changes". A preliminary program is already to be submitted to the next DGSD meeting in Tainach by the Austrian chair.

The Division will also take a strong effort to support Suriname in its efforts to co-operate within the Division.

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Norden Division

Division meeting, Nairobi, 9 May 2009

The latest Norden Division meeting was held on Friday 8 May, in connection with the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi, 5-12 May. Three items in particular were discussed, namely the Norden Division website homepage, a project idea for a minority names application, and the next Division meeting.

Norden Division homepage

A status report was given on the development of the Norden Division homepage (http://nordendivision.nfi.ku.dk). Although some details still need to be added, the Norden Division homepage has a wealth of overview information about geographical names, minority names and standardization issues of the countries of the Norden Division area.

During the Division meeting, it was suggested that an overview of digital projects concerning geographical names could be added to the homepage. Additionally, Nordic "Toponymic Guidelines" should be linked from the Norden Division homepage, as well as UNGEGN-papers presented by Norden Division members could be made available from the Norden Division homepage. It was also discussed if there should be links to other homepages relating to the subject of geographical names.

Minority names application

Apart from Iceland, all Norden Division countries have one or more minority languages. Thus, it would be sensible for the Norden Division to back the development of an internet application of minority language geographical names within the Norden Division area. A possible development of such

an application involves a joint Nordic cooperation and financial support from funds or other interested parties for development of the application is necessary.

It was stressed that the aim should be an internet application rather than a database structure on its own. The application could possibly be built according to the INSPIRE-model. This agenda point will be resumed at the next Norden Division meeting.

Next Norden Division Meeting

It was agreed that the next Norden Division Meeting should preferably be held in the autumn of 2010. Several meeting options were discussed:
a) A meeting in Uppsala for only the Norden Division.

25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi

b) A meeting in relation to the annual meeting between the Norwegian Mapping Authority (Statens Kartverk) and the Norwegian Language Council (Språkrådet) in Oslo.

c) It was also suggested that the Norden Division Meeting could be held in connection with a meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetters possibly in September 2010.

No decision on the form, time and place for the coming Norden Division has yet been made, but watch this space, we should have more information for the next Bulletin.

Peder Gammeltoft
Chair of the Norden Division
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Working Group on Country Names

The Working Group on Country Names currently consists of the following members (those marked with an asterisk [*] are new members):

Bahram Amirahmadian* (**Islamic Republic of Iran**)

Hubert Bergmann* (**Austria**)

Élisabeth Calvarin (**France**)

Caroline Burgess (**United Kingdom**)

Catherine Cheetham (**United Kingdom**)

Leo Dillon (**United States**)

Peter Jordan (**Austria**)

Catherine Hatinguais (**UN Terminology Section**)

Andre Lapierre (**Canada**)

Eman Ahmed Orieby* (**Egypt**)

Peeter Päll (**Estonia**)

Giannis Papaioannou (**Greece**)

Ahmet Saraç* (**Turkey**)

Alexandrous Stavropoulos (**Greece**)

Danielle Turcotte (**Canada**)

Abdülvahit Torun (**Turkey**)

Paul Woodman (**United Kingdom**)

The Working Group held an informal meeting on May 11, 2009 during the 25th Session of UNGEGN in Nairobi. After welcoming four new members, the Working Group discussed the status on updating its principal document, the UNGEGN List of Country Names. This list provides the names of countries in their official language(s) and script(s), and also in the six official languages of the United Nations, as found on the UN Multilingual Termi-nology Database (UNTERM - http://unterm.un.org/).

The current official version of that document was presented to the Ninth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) in New York in August 2007. It is available from the UNGEGN website, in that Conference's "List of documents" page: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/9th-UNCSGN-Docs/E-CONF-98-89-Add1.pdf.

The main job of the Working Group at present is to update this document for the next UNCSGN in 2012. To aid the Group in this process, an unofficial "working version" of the document is posted on the Working Group's section of the UNGEGN webpage, which contains updates that were informally agreed to by Group members based on information collected from various sources. This list, which was initially updated in October 2007, has been updated again in August 2009 and will be posted to the webpage soon. This version has not been officially approved by the Working Group and is offered for informational purposes, to stimulate discussion within the Working Group and UNGEGN.

The following changes have been made from the official version of August 2007:

Bangladesh: Corrected the romanization and Bengali-script of the national official formal name.

Belarus: Updated national official spellings to reflect revision to Byelorussian romanization system (now Bielaruś / Respublika Bielaruś).

Bolivia: Updated the UN official and national official forms of formal name from Republic of Bolivia to Plurinational State of Bolivia, and changed UN official forms of short names from Bolivia to Bolivia (Plurinational State of).

Central African Republic: Added Sango language forms as national official forms.

Eritrea: Changed the romanized forms of the Tigrinya script short and formal national official names from the BGN/PCGN 1994 Agreement on Amharic to the BGN/PCGN 2007 System for Tigrinya.

Ethiopia: Altered the romanization system employed for national official forms to reflect UN-approved system for Amharic. Now

Ityop'iya / Yeltyop'iya Federalawi Dimokrasi-

yawi Ripeblik

Kiribati: Added Gilbertese language forms as national official forms.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: Removed the variant national official Arabic form ليبْيَة and corrected the word order in the UN Arabic formal name.

Moldova: Updated the UN official short forms and entry header to Republic of Moldova.

Montenegro: Removed Republic from all formal name forms.

Nepal: Updated the UN official and national official forms of formal name from Nepal to Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

Somalia: Removed 'Democratic' from the national official formal names and altered the spelling to 'Jamhuuriyadda' in the Somali form.

South Africa: Changed five of the national official short names and nine of the national official formal names.

Sudan: Added English as a national official language and provided English short and formal names.

Tunisia: Changed the romanization of the national official Arabic from Tūnus to Tūnis.

Sri Lanka: Corrected the presentation of the national official Sinhalese forms to display the ligatures.

Tuvalu: Added Tuvaluan language forms as national official forms.

United States of America: Changed the entry header to read UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): Altered entry header to VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF). *[Source: UNTERM]*

The Working Group on Country Names is also working with other UNGEGN working groups concerning the adoption of a standard set of ISO 639 language codes.

The Working Group invites any interested experts to become a member of the group. Please contact the convenor at the address below if there are any questions.

Leo Dillon
Convenor, Working Group on Country Names
Email: *dillonli@state.gov*

Working Group on Exonyms

Working Group on Exonyms: side-events in Nairobi

During the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi, the Working Group on Exonyms held a short workshop titled "The nature of the endonym" as well as its 9th Meeting. Peter Jordan was re-elected in his function as a co-convenor (and convenor in charge) after having been active four and three years, respectively.

The workshop continued an e-mail discussion evolving from a paper by Paul Woodman on the application of the terminological endonym/exonym divide on names of seas. The two principal views (a name has the status of an endonym only in this portion of a trans-boundary feature, where its language is spoken *versus* a name has this status also in all other portions of the same feature) could be clarified, but not reconciled.

In the 9th Meeting it was agreed to make another effort to elaborate guidelines for the use of exonyms, however, not to aim at a comprehensive and detailed resolution, but at a concise resolution text with reference to an extended and comprehensive list of criteria for the use of exonyms – the latter just as a paper of the Working Group.

It was also agreed to continue the discussion on the nature of the endonym with a focus on the name/language/feature relation as well as to encourage comparative investigations into current practice, trends and policies of exonym use in several countries and to provide thus for an empirical basis for the elaboration of guidelines for the use of exonyms.

Finally it was decided to convene the next meeting in Tainach, Carinthia, Austria, 28-30 April 2010.

10th Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, 28-30 April 2010

The next meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms will be held in Tainach (Carinthia, Austria) in conjunction with meetings of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (26-28 April) and the UNGEGN Dutch- and German Speaking Division (DGSD). This meeting is open for all UNGEGN experts and other persons interested and not confined to members of the Working Group.

The meeting will take place in the Catholic Adult Educational Centre "Sodalitas" (www.sodalitas.at) located in Tainach (*Tinje* in Slovene), a small village about 20 km east of Klagenfurt, the capital of Carinthia, Austria's southernmost federal province (www.tiscover.com). The price for accommodation and full board is €55 (USD 78) per night (This includes accommodation in a single bed room, breakfast, lunch, dinner, no drinks). The price for accommodation and breakfast is €37 (USD 52) per night (This includes accommodation in a single bed room and breakfast). There will be no participation fees.

Wednesday, 28th April 2010, will be reserved for an excursion regarding issues of the Slovenian minority in Carinthia, Thursday, 29th, and Friday, 30th April 2010, 9.00-12.30 and 14.00-17.30, for paper presentations and discussions.

Topics for papers and discussions are (1) name/language/feature relation with trans-boundary features, (2) guidelines for the use of exonyms, (3) practice, policies and trends of exonym use in various countries. All experts are invited to submit papers for presentation.

For more details and registration, please write to *peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at*.

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Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers (WG TDFG)

A meeting of the WG TDFG was held on May 9, 2009, 08:45 – 09:45 on the occasion of the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi, Kenya. The Working Group session was attended by 27 participants from 18 countries.

The WG TDFG discussed the objectives of the WG, e.g. whether or not they are still up-to-date. Amongst others it was identified that countries are no longer looking for data exchange formats but for complete solutions to set up multipurpose databases. This should be reflected in the objectives of the WG TDFG. Generally it was proposed that the co-convenors will revise all objectives and send a proposal to the other WG members for comments. It was also proposed to add as an objective, supporting UNECA for its "AfricanGaz" initiative.

The minutes of the WG TDFG meeting and further information are available through the WG website: http://www.zrc-sazu.si/ungegn/WG_TDFG/gazetteers.htm

Succession of the WG TDFG convenorship

Shortly after the 25th UNGEGN Session, the convenor of the WG TDFG, Mr Randall Flynn, informed the UNGEGN secretariat and the co-convenor that he would be retiring from Federal service on June 1st, 2009.

On behalf of the WG TDFG the co-convenor cannot adequately express his thanks to Randall

Flynn for his contributions to the world of UNGEGN, in particular, to the developments in databases and associated standards as well as for all he has accomplished in UNGEGN joint endeavours in serving as Working Group Convenor and chairing the WG activities and meetings. Randall assumed the WG TDFG convenorship at the 1998 UNCSGN in New York and he has been involved with UNGEGN since 1994 (also New York). All of us could always rely on his chairing being done in an effective and efficient manner. With all good wishes for his future activities the WG members hope to see him again before too long as he has retired but continues to be interested in the UNGEGN activities!

Fig. 1. Randall Flynn

With the approval of the UNGEGN chairperson, Randall proposed that co-convenor, Mr Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, succeed him as the new convenor of the WG TDFG. The new convenor will also take over the liaison of UNGEGN to the ISO TC 211 standard group.

Fig. 2. Randall Flynn and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

Update of the WG TDFG website

The WG TDFG website was recently re-structured and information updated (July 2009). The WG members are kindly requested to revise its content and to provide the website administrator, Ms Mimi Urbanc (email: mimi@zrc-sazu.si), and the conve-nor (email: pier.zaccheddu@bkg.bund.de) with any amendments, material to be uploaded or other comments.

Next meeting of the WG TDFG in 2010 and/or 2011

It has been proposed by the WG member of Croatia to have a meeting in 2011 in conjunction with the meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division.

As for 2010, a WG member from Finland offered to find out whether a meeting in conjunction with the Norden Division would be feasible.

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Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

Report on the UNGEGN training course held in Nairobi, 1-3 May 2009, at the premises of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development.

Prior to the 25th session of the UNGEGN at the UN office in Nairobi, the Task Team for Africa and the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, on behalf of their sponsors, the AOCRS and UNSD, organized a 3-day course in that city, directed also at participants of the UNGEGN-session. In the past, in Berlin and Vienna, such a combined course had proved to be most effective.

The course structure answered a new concept in which we started from the need for standard-ized geographical names as part of the national geospatial data structure. In the first session we highlighted the eminence of the national toponymic database, and its benefits for ad-ministration, development, emergency mapping and preserving the cultural heritage. Then there was an evaluation of current international name servers, which showed that these contained outdated names, or would have limited numbers of names only. On the other hand some showed very user-friendly interfaces, and different types of functionality linked to their main use, such as disaster support or artistic research, finding hotels or providing meteorological information.

Work in the computer classroom with the AfricanGaz Database programme

As this would prove the need for each country to standardize its own names, and not depend on foreign initiatives to do so, the next session dealt with name collecting: how to prepare for the necessary fieldwork, organize its logistics, find informants, show awareness of socio-cultural characteristics of informants, and document its results. As a special case study the practice of collecting place names in South Australia amongst the Aboriginal groups was dealt with by Mr. William Watt. As sometimes the names are entered already provisionally in a database during the fieldwork, at this point the technical aspects of setting up such a database were covered. Then, following real-life sequence, the next session dealt with processing the names at the office. To this end organizing a names board, and the role of national names authorities were dealt with, as were the standardization criteria. We included for the first time also the actual management of a national names programme, with finances, administration, legal issues and human resources included. As frequently assistance is required in this work, there were presentations about the help UNGEGN can provide through its publications and working groups, and in the case of this particular course held in Nairobi, the Task Team for Africa showed how it could support initiatives as did the African Organisation for Cartography and Remote Sensing. The AOCRS support is also visible in the fact that after Tunis (2006) and Ouagadougou (2008) this is already the third toponymy course it organizes within a short time.

The following sessions were called Outreach and Interaction, both necessary elements of the names standardization work which would be useless if standardized names in gazetteers or databases would not reach the users they are intended for. Outreach was behind the attempts to make the names data available on the internet: to this end the functionality of a number of current official website providing geographical names was compared. As a case study, the EuroGeoNames project was presented, integrating the differently structured national names databases into one virtual Europe-wide geographical names server. The need of specific user groups, in case school atlas editors, was assessed, and, under the Interaction heading, the South-African website was dealt with by Mr Truman Kubheka, showing the potential to allow the public to propose names for new objects or name changes for the consideration of the names board.

It was in the last session, termed 'African Solutions', that the major contribution to this course was presented: at UNECA headquarters in Addis Abeba the IT specialists had produced a freely-available database programme for geographical name, currently baptized AfricanGaz, and Mr Yoseph Mekasha provided now hands-on experience of this package for the course participants, meant as an evaluation: it worked very well, and the Working Group hopes it can be demonstrated at future courses as well. It could easily be adapted to specific national requirements, while retaining the possibility to join these national databases into a regional one, if so required.

The course had 24 participants from 8 African countries (D.R. Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe). Lecturers came from Algeria, Australia, Canada, Germany, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Netherlands, South Africa as well as the UNECA in Addis Abeba. Lecture notes were provided to the students as well as the power point presentations. These will also be put on the WGTCT website shortly for downloading.

The success of such a course is also a factor of the local facilities, and this time we were lucky in the permission of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development in Nairobi to have the course take place on their premises. The RCMRD acted as the local organizer, organized transportation and catering and the WG acknowledges its debt to RCMRD Director General Dr Hussein Farah and GIS officer Vincent Mtaroni.

Participants and lecturers in front of the RCMRD

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Task Team for Africa

Efforts consentis par le GENUNG pour la promotion des noms géographiques en Afrique.

Si l'activité toponymique enregistre une réelle avancée dans les pays dit développés mais également dans les pays d'Asie, nous remarquons par contre très peu de progrès à l'échelle du continent africain notamment pour les pays dit sub-sahariens malgré que se soit les pays qui ont le plus besoin de bénéficier des bienfaits de la normalisation des noms géographiques.

Si certains pays africains ont été précurseurs dans la mise en place de structures de gestion de la toponymie, à l'instar du Libéria, qui dès 1955 était déjà doté d'un établissement en charge de ce problème, et que plusieurs d'entre eux y participaient dès la première aux travaux de la Conférence en 1967, (la troisième Conférence a été co-présidée par un Nigérian en l'occurrence Monsieur R.O. Coker ainsi que la sixième qui a été également présidée par un Africain) il n'en demeure pas moins que nous enregistrons par la suite, une

très faible participation de ces pays aux travaux de l'UNGEGN et une faible activité toponymique au niveau de leurs pays respectifs.

Le groupe des experts des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques, conscient de la spécificité africaine en matière toponymique dont les langues sont en majorité issues de langages non écrit, s'est préoccupé dès la première conférence de la problématique toponymique en Afrique. En effet dans son rapport, il est clairement mentionné qu'il faudrait entamer une réflexion sur les modalités pratiques à même d'aider les pays africains à gérer convenablement leurs toponymes.

Devant le peu de progrès réalisé depuis et afin de mieux faire avancer les choses, un Task Team pour l'Afrique a été mis en place lors de la 23ème session du GENUNG. Celui-ci ne cesse depuis, de mener des actions pour la promotion de la toponymie en Afrique.

Ce Task Team est chargé notamment de faire un diagnostic et de proposer les solutions

adéquates pour la promotion des noms géographiques en Afrique et d'initier les actions adéquates pour cela.

Dans son diagnostique, cette équipe est arrivée à relever que les obstacles que rencontrent les pays africains pour participer aux travaux du GENUNG, sont dus essentiellement aux problèmes financiers, à l'éloignement du lieu des réunions, qui généralement se tiennent au siège de l'ONU à New York et à la manque de formation de compétences africaines dans ce domaine.

A cet effet, la 25ème session du GENUNG, s'est tenue en terre africaine, à Nairobi (Kenya) du 5 au 12 mai 2009 afin de permettre une participation substantielle des pays africains aux travaux du GENUNG.

La participation africaine aux travaux de cette Session a été jugée très modeste ou nous avons enregistré un nombre de participants pas très différent des autres Sessions.

Ceci peut s'expliquer par plusieurs causes.

En plus des causes déjà diagnostiquées et citées ci-haut, la plus importante à notre avis, est .du à la tenue des travaux de CODIST à Addis-Abeba pratiquement aux mêmes dates que celles du GENUNG. Les délégations africaines étaient dans l'impossibilité de participer simultanément aux travaux des deux manifestations.

Si la participation des pays africains était jugée modeste, par contre nous avons enregistré une activité très intense des pays africains participants ou pratiquement tous les pays ont présentés des rapports très détaillés sur les efforts déployés par leur pays respectifs pour la promotion des noms géographiques.

En outre un cours de toponymie a été organisé en marge, au profit des états de l'Afrique de l'Est et auquel ont participé 24 étudiants venus de huit pays d'Afrique orientale et des conférenciers d'Afrique du Sud, d'Algérie, d'Allemagne, d'Australie, du Canada, des Pays-Bas, de la Libye et de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique. Le cours était financé par l'Organisation africaine de cartographie et de télédétection et la Division de statistique de l'ONU.

Par ailleurs, au cours des travaux du GENUNG, un représentant de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique a fait un exposé sur le projet « AfricanGaz » (titre provisoire), un logiciel libre de gestion de base de données élaboré à l'intention des États Membres pour enregistrer les noms géographiques. Ce logiciel contenait des données sur le nom, le type, l'emplacement des entités géographiques ainsi que des données métalinguistiques, et permettait de stocker des données sonores et visuelles sur chaque entité. Il pouvait facilement être adapté aux besoins particuliers d'un pays. La Commission proposait d'aider les pays à définir la structure de leurs bases de données. Le Groupe d'experts s'est vivement félicité de ce projet.

Les perspectives :

-D'autres projets sont programmés notamment un stage au profit des pays de l'Afrique central, au Cameroun.
-La problématique des noms géographiques est désormais inscrite dans l'agenda des travaux de CODIST.

Les organisations spécialisées africaines sont également impliquées dans la promotion des noms géographiques en Afrique, à l'instar de l'UN/CEA, de l'Organisation Africaine de Cartographie et de Télédétection, du Centre de Télédétection des pays d'Afrique du Nord et du Centre de Télédétection de Nairobi.

Nous invitons vivement les pays africains à participer massivement aux travaux futures du GENUNG.

Nous encourageons également les organisations continentales spécialisées à continuer à fournir plus d'efforts pour mieux sensibiliser les pays africains aux bienfaits de la normali-sation des noms géographiques tant du point de vue économique que culturel, social, histo-rique etc.

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Summary in English –
Efforts of UNGEGN to promote geographical names standardization in Africa

Although records may show advances in toponymic activities in countries referred to as "developed" and also in countries of Asia, we notice very little progress on the African conti-nent, particularly in sub-Saharan countries, where the need to benefit from the results of geographical names standardization is the greatest. Some countries in Africa were in-volved early in the management of toponymy. Already by 1955 Liberia had established au-thority for this problem and a number of Afri-cans participated in the First Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1967. The Third Conference had a Nigerian, Mr. R.O.Coker, as First Vice-President and the Sixth Conference was presided over by an Af-rican. However, we have seen relatively little participation of African countries in the work of UNGEGN and a low level of toponymic ac-tivity within the countries themselves.

UNGEGN, conscious of particular issues in African toponymy, such as the question of many languages not having a written form, has since the First Conference addressed toponymic problems in Africa. In the first report it is clearly stated that practical measures needed to be initiated to help African countries suitably manage their toponymy.

Considering the little progress that had been made up to 2004 and in order to make greater advances, a Task Team for Africa was set up during the 23rd session of UNGEGN and has since then been leading activities to promote toponymic standardization in Africa. In par-ticular, the Task Team is charged with diag-nosing, proposing appropriate solutions, and initiating actions for this purpose.

In its diagnosis, the Team established that the obstacles preventing African countries taking part in work of the UNGEGN are primarily due to financial problems, with the distance to the place of the meetings, often held at UNHQ in New York, and with the lack of African competence in this field.

For this reason, the 25th Session of UNGEGN took place in Africa, at UNON in Nairobi (Kenya) from 5-12 May 2009, so that substantial participation of African countries would be encouraged. The participation of African countries in the Session could be considered as modest and not very different from other sessions. There are several possi-ble explanations for this in addition to items diagnosed above. Most important it would seem is that the meeting of CODIST-I in Ad-dis Ababa was being held on almost the same dates and it was impossible for African dele-gations to participate simultaneously in the work of both groups. If the participation of the African countries was considered modest, on the other hand we recorded very intense activity of the African participants, with nearly all countries presenting detailed re-ports on their efforts to promote work on geographical names.

Moreover a toponymy training course was organized in association with the UNGEGN session, for the benefit of East African countries. 24 students took part from eight countries of Eastern Africa, with lecturers from South Africa, Algeria, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Ethiopia, Germany, Australia, Canada, and the Netherlands. The course was financed by the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS) and the United Nations Statistics Division.

In addition, during the work of UNGEGN, a representative of the Economic Commission for Africa gave a presentation and a workshop on the project "AfricanGaz" (provisional title), a free database management software developed for the possible use of UN Member States to maintain their geographical names records. This software (in the format demonstrated) included data on the name, the feature type, the location of the geographical features, as well as metadata, and makes it possible to store sound and visual data on each entry. The software could easily be adapted to the particular needs for a country and ECA proposed to assist countries to define the structure of their databases. UNGEGN was very pleased with this project and put their support behind this development.
Future prospects:

- A training course to be planned for the benefit of Central African countries, in Cameroon.
- The management of geographical names will from now on be included on the agenda of CODIST.

In addition to the relationship between UNGEGN and ECA, other specialized African organizations are involved with UNGEGN in promoting geographical names standardization in Africa, for instance the AOCRS, the North African Centre for Remote Sensing (CRTEAN) and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Nairobi.

We strongly invite African countries to take an active part in future work of UNGEGN. We also encourage the specialized African organizations to increase their efforts to sensitize African countries about the benefits of the standardization of the geographical names, from economic, cultural, social, and historical viewpoints.

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Winners of the Africa Toponymy Essay and Poem Contest

The first UNGEGN poem and essay contest was held in conjunction with the 25th Session of UNGEGN in Nairobi. On this occasion the competition was open to individuals from countries of Africa.
We congratulate all participants and especially our 2009 winners:

M. Pax MBUYI MUCICI
Institut Géographique du Congo, République Démocratique du Congo

M. Farid BENMANE
Université de Mostaganem, Algérie

Mrs. Eman Ahmed ORIEBY
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Egypt

M. Pax MBUYI MUCICI

Poème de la Toponymie

Toi la toponymie, fille de la cartographie,
Toi qui nous donne l'accès facile à la lecture
    sur la carte géographique et localisation des
    espaces,
Nous facilitant le passage sur les différentes
    frontières entres états,
Nous facilitant les déplacements dans les mi-
    lieux inconnus,
Nous facilitant la reconnaissance des lieux de
    travail,
Tu n'es pas le moindre dans l'usage des pa-
    piers géographiques qui existent sur cette
    terre des vivants,
Toi qui nous oriente dans la gestion durable de
    l'environnement,
La toponymie, une dame si jolie dont les ges-
    tionnaires des espaces environnementaux
    ont besoins pour l'identification des lieux,

Te voilà dans ce monde de conservation de la
    nature, la gestion des ressources naturelles
    dépend de l'identité toponymique,
Vas-tu contribuer positivement ou négative-
    ment ?
Bien sûr, nous savons que tu es excellente,
Car ailleurs, on ne cesse de témoigner de tes
    bienfaits,
Dans les différents domaines dont
    l'environnement,
Ceci dépendra aussi de la manière dont les
    toponymes contribuent à la gestion de
    l'environnement (forestier, urbain, rural,
    etc.).
Peut-on seulement parler de l'identité sans se
    référer de toi, la toponymie ?
Fille chérie de tous les utilisateurs des cartes,
Elément utile dans la gestion durable de
    l'environnement,
Elle est plus influente dans la comptabilité en-
    vironnementale,
Au niveau des différents écosystèmes, son im-
    portance ne pas a démontré,
Tu n'es pas limitée seulement dans le domaine
    cartographique mais aussi dans les domai-
    nes socioculturelle et économique, cadres
    où tu règne en maîtresse,
Sans toi sur la carte de l'Afrique, Nairobi et
    Kenya ne serons pas connus**.**

Pax Mbuyi Mucici

Groupe de travail sur les entités culturelles de la Commission de toponymie du Canada

Dans les derniers mois, la Commission de toponymie du Québec a participé à un groupe de travail pancanadien sur les entités culturelles, chapeauté par la Commission de toponymie du Canada (CTC) et composé de 10 acteurs du domaine de la toponymie. L'objectif de ce groupe de travail était de créer une nouvelle catégorie d'entités géographiques pour permettre la classification des noms d'entités culturelles dans les bases de données toponymiques des autorités toponymiques du Canada.

Pour la classification de ses toponymes, la Commission de toponymie du Québec utilise actuellement trois grandes catégories d'entités géographiques, qui regroupent l'ensemble des types d'entités : les entités naturelles, les entités artificielles (construites) et les entités administratives. De plus en plus, le besoin se fait sentir d'inventorier, de classifier et de cartographier certains toponymes à référence culturelle qui entrent difficilement dans l'une ou l'autre des catégories précitées. Il s'agit principalement de noms de lieux autochtones mais également de toponymes issus des traditions ou de l'histoire liés à divers groupes culturels. Ces noms désignent des réalités qui ne sont pas concrètes pour tous, des entités qui ne sont donc perceptibles que pour un groupe de personnes partageant un certain nombre de référents culturels. Un territoire de chasse, un lieu naturel servant de point de repère, une région d'appartenance, un lieu lié à la mythologie ou un lieu de sépulture sont des exemples d'entités nommées qui correspondent à cette description. L'émergence ré-

cente de la toponymie de ce type de lieux, pourtant souvent ancienne, a mené à la création d'une quatrième catégorie d'entités géographiques : les entités culturelles.

Une définition *d'entité culturelle* a d'abord été élaborée par le groupe de travail. Pour ce faire, plusieurs concepts ont dû être discutés, comme le fait que l'existence de ces entités ne repose que sur la perception du lieu, et non sur ses caractéristiques physiques. La définition qui a été retenue par le groupe de travail est la suivante : ***Entité géographique dont l'importance ou la délimitation reflètent la perception du lieu par un groupe culturel donné pour des raisons spirituelles, historiques ou sociétales.***

Par la suite, des sous-catégories ont dû être définies. Les entités reliées aux déplacements, qui incluent, entre autres, les circuits touristiques, les portages et les voies d'eau, en sont un exemple. Le groupe de travail a tenté de créer des sous-catégories assez larges pour permettre l'ajout éventuel de tous les types d'entités culturelles qui n'ont pas encore été rencontrés ou envisagés. Évidemment, c'est avec l'utilisation de ce nouvel ajout à notre système de classification que nous pourrons valider la pertinence de chacune des sous-catégories proposées.

Ce travail forcera par la suite les autorités toponymiques à revoir l'ensemble des catégories préexistantes, puisque certains types d'entités qui y figurent déjà seront appelés à migrer vers cette nouvelle catégorie. Au Québec, on pense par exemple aux lieux-

dits, aux portages et aux sites historiques, qui ne sont pas concrets mais découlent plutôt de la perception du territoire par un ou plusieurs groupes culturels.

Cet exercice inédit au Canada a mis en lumière plusieurs difficultés découlant de la nécessité de catégoriser de façon objective des noms d'entités culturelles qui reposent sur le caractère subjectif des perceptions. La question de la cartographie de ces entités, par exemple, est encore à résoudre puisque les entités culturelles ont bien souvent des limites géographiques imprécises ou changeantes. La difficulté de travailler en simultané dans les deux langues officielles, soit l'anglais et le français, et avec des réalités géographiques et culturelles variant d'une

province ou d'un territoire à l'autre a cependant permis de pousser plus loin chacune de nos réflexions terminologiques afin d'en arriver à des concepts clairs et précis.

Le travail est toutefois loin d'être terminé. Le tableau présenté ici n'est encore qu'un canevas, qui nécessite maintes validations et améliorations. Néanmoins, le travail effectué à ce jour par ce groupe de travail rendra plus accessible l'étude de toponymes qui font partie intégrante du patrimoine culturel intangible du Québec et du Canada.

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Geographical Names Board of Canada's working group on cultural generics in Canada

In recent months, the Commission de toponymie du Québec has taken part in a Canada-wide working group on cultural generics and entities, headed by the Geographical Name Board of Canada (GNBC), in which 10 representatives involved in the toponymic field took part. The purpose of the working group was to create a new category of geographical features to allow classification of all names of cultural entities in the toponymic databases of both authorities.

In Québec, the Commission de toponymie currently uses three categories of geographical features to classify its different feature types: natural features, artificial or constructed features, and administrative features. The need to record, categorize and map toponyms with a cultural reference which could barely fit in any of the fore mentioned categories has become more and more pressing. These place names are mainly aboriginal but also stem from the

traditions or history related to various cultural groups. They name realities that are not understood by everyone, features only perceptible to a group that shares a number of cultural referents. A hunting area, a natural landmark, a perceptual region, a mythological place or a burial place are examples of named features that fit the picture. The relatively new emergence of the toponymy of these types of places, although often ancient, led to the creation of a fourth category of geographical features: cultural entities.

Firstly, a definition of *cultural entity* was built up by the working group. Many concepts had to be discussed, like the fact that these entities exist only because of the human perception of them, not because of their physical characteristics. The definition the group agreed on is the following: ***A (named) geographical feature or place whose importance and/or delineation reflects the spiri-***

tual, historical, or societal perception of the site by a cultural group.

Secondly, sub-categories needed to be defined. Travel-related features, including tourist routes, portages and waterways, are an example. The working group tried to create sub-categories large enough to allow any cultural feature types that haven't come to light yet to be added on later. Evidently, the use of this new addition to our classification system will determine the appropriateness of the proposed sub-categories.

This exercise will prompt the toponymic authorities to review all existing categories, since some feature types currently included in these may have to be moved to this new category. In Québec, locales (*lieux-dits*), portages and historic sites, for instance, are not based on a concrete reality but stem rather from the perception of the landscape by one or more cultural group.

This Canadian initiative has brought to light many problems resulting from the need to objectively categorize cultural entity names that are based on the subjective nature of perceptions. As an example, portraying these entities cartographically is awkward since the boundaries of cultural entities are often vague or can change over time. Working simultaneously in both official languages (French and English) and with different geographical and cultural realities in each province and territory was a challenge that allowed us to further our terminological discussions to end up with clear and precise concepts.

There still is a lot of work to be done. The overall picture presented is only a framework that needs validation and improvements. Nevertheless, the work accomplished so far by this working group will facilitate the study of toponyms that are an integral part of Québec and Canada's intangible cultural heritage.

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Egypt

1. Egypt and UNGEGN

Egypt participated for the first time in many years in the activities of UNGEGN, at the 25th Session in Nairobi. Two experts took part, three working papers were presented, three posters supplied for the poster exhibition (GIS applications, Egypt's demographic atlas, Census2006 geographical names) and three entries were submitted in the African toponymy poem and essay contest.

Fig. 1. Egypt's contributions to the poster exhibition

Ms. Eman Ahmed Orieby was one of the successful winners of the contest with an essay (in Arabic) entitled "Present challenges and future hopes toward standardization of Egypt's geographical names". Egyptian experts were involved in several lunchtime workshops, division and working group meetings.

Fig. 2. Ms. Orieby being presented with toponymic materials, as a winner in the Africa essay and poem contest

On returning to Cairo, the results and activities of UNGEGN 25 were shared with officials and colleagues, increasing the awareness of UNGEGN's work. CAPMAS has made a link to the UNGEGN website, has supplied data on major cities for the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database, and helped to resolve difficulties in displaying Arabic script on this database. In the future, a workshop will be held to discuss steps for developing a national names authority and providing toponymic training in Egypt.

2. Towards national geographical names standardization in Egypt

Although Egypt does not yet have a national committee for the standardization of geographical data, there are committees for standardizing statistical data and NSDI on:

- **CAPMAS** (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics) http://www.capmas.gov.eg CAPMAS has a consultant statistical committee for standardizing data used on censuses including geographical names like administrative areas, streets and landmarks etc… The committee consists of officials from different National authorities. So CAPMAS can be the focal point for contacting all national organizations and agencies that deals with statistical data including geographical names data.

- **EGN** (Egyptian Geography Network) is a national network of geographic information users and providers. It uses the infrastructure of the Internet to deliver organizations' geographic content to user browsers and desktops. It has different committees for implementing NSDI in-

cluding a map to be used by different agencies (http://www.egn.gov.eg/Portal/).

Examples of National authorities that collect geographical names

- **CAPMAS** (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics) http://www.capmas.gov.eg/

- **ESA (The Egyptian Survey Authority)** is considered as a specialist and technical authority in map production and geographic information systems http://www.portal.esa.gov.eg/ar_Portal/ ; http://www.esa.gov.eg

- **NARSS** (National Authority for Remote Sensing And Space Sciences): www.narss.sci.eg

Examples of Authorities that have a searchable geodatabase:

- **CAPMAS** (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics) has the biggest searchable geodatabase but it has not yetestablished a website to disseminate the data.

- **CULTNAT** (Centre for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage), which is affiliated with Bibliotheca Alexandrina and supported by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The Center's mandate is to document the various aspects of Egypt's tangible and intangible cultural heritage (http://beta.cultnat.org/).

It has two projects:

- **Eternal Egypt** is a web site representing a living record of a land rich in art and history, people and places, myths and religions. The stories of Eternal Egypt are told using the latest interactive technologies, high-resolution imagery, animations, virtual environments, remote cameras, three-dimensional models and more http://www.eternalegypt.org
- **Archeological Geographical Information System** (GIS) http://beta.cultnataspx

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Project to standardize the geographical names of Viet Nam

At present Viet Nam is carrying out a significant project on standardization of geographical names for the whole country, starting from the Northeast mountain area. This area of Viet Nam includes 11 provinces with a total area of 64,025 km^2 and a population of 9.458 million inhabitants from 44 ethnic groups.

The standardization is taking place under the regulations and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), based on principles of UNGEGN and following these steps:

1. Training persons to participate in the project implementation (for all administrative levels of each province);

2. Data capture:

- Collecting all official state documents related to geographical names (State Decree, Decisions, Agreements on international boundaries between Viet Nam and neighbouring countries, etc.);

- Collecting all kinds of maps containing geographical names, like topographic maps of scale 1/100 000 for the whole country in Bonne projection, made by the French from the early 20th century; topographic maps of scale 1/50 000 for the whole country in UTM projection made by the Americans from 1954-1975; topographic maps of scale 1/25 000 and 1/50 000 for the whole country in Gauss-Kruger projection made by the Survey and Mapping agencies of SR Vietnam from 1954 to 2000.

3. Listing all geographical names represented on the topographic map sheets at scales 1/25 000, and 1/50 000 in VN-2000 projection (the new cartographic map projection of Viet Nam). Classifying them, by types of objects, to several layers (population, mountains, rivers, transportation, relief, social-economic features) and arrange all layers of the names by administration units (commune, district, province).

4. Determining and recording coordinates of all geographical objects having the names to be standardized (by point, area and line);

5. Checking and comparing all listed geographical names of the objects represented on topographic maps in the VN-2000 projection with the same object's names represented on the other collected maps and as shown in the official state documents to identify the differences that need to be solved during standardization;

6. In-office geographical name standardization: In this step the language experts and cartographic experts are considering differences of geographical names with regard to spelling, writing and meaning; verifying them and suggesting standardized names.

7. Field checking: This step is for verifying and determining those names that could not be standardized in the office. Coordinates of some objects that need clarifying should be verified or determined by using portable GPS equipment in the field. Names that are unclear and originate from different ethnic minority groups should have the pronunciation recorded by aboriginal peoples for further standardization.

8. Getting agreement with local authorities on standardized geographical names: In this step all geographical names standardized by experts have to be shown to the local au-

thorities of all levels in the province, in order to get agreement on the final standardized names. After agreement between experts and local authorities the final list of standardized geographical names has to be signed and sealed by local authorities of all levels, before establishing the gazetteers of the provinces.

9. The last step of geographical names standardization is establishment of the provincial geographical names gazetteers and issuing them for use.

By implementation of the project on the standardization of geographical names for the Northeast mountain area, there will be about 300 000 geographical names standardized for this area by the end of 2009. The present results show that there are about 30-40% of names on the maps of scales 1/25 000 and 1/50 000 that are not correct (misspelling, incorrect position or writing, etc.) and need to be replaced by new standardized names. Many missing geographical names have been added to the maps and many geographical names now have their correct meaning and written form.

Viet Nam will continue the project of standardization for the Northwest mountain area and hopefully by the end of 2011, the standardization of geographical names for the whole country will be completed. Based on the results of the geographical names standardization, Viet Nam is also creating a geographical names information system, which will be completed when work on the whole country is finished.

This is the first time that Viet Nam has carried out such a significant project on the standardization of geographical names in this thorough way. Experience has been gained from the first phase, and when the project is finished and the geographical

names information system created, Viet Nam will be in a position to create a gazetteer for the country.

Fig. 1 Location of the Northeast area of Viet Nam where geographic names standardization is taking place

Fig. 2 The Northeast area of Viet Nam

Fig. 3 In-office geographical names standardization

Fig. 5 Recording geographical name pronunciation

Fig. 4 Determining coordinates of object in the field by portable GPS equipment

Fig. 6 Name of the object as shown on the road sign

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Special Projects and News Items

Overview being developed for data on national standardization of geographical names

During the 25th Session of UNGEGN in Nairobi, a lunchtime workshop on national standardization of geographical names was organized by Mr. Botolv Helleland (Norway). Since that time I have worked with Mr. Helleland as he developed a template that could be used by any country to provide a brief, but useful, overview of their national names authorities and their work. At this time, Mr. Helleland, with the cooperation of Mr. Peeter Päll and Mr. Trueman Kubheka, has gathered data to provide samples from Estonia, Norway, and South Africa. Ultimately it would be useful if such information on standardization could be prepared by every country and kept up to date on the UNGEGN website.

Before we finalize the outline for the contents and broaden the survey, we request your input (to Helen Kerfoot, hkerfoot@nrcan.g.ca; Botolv Helleland, botolv.helleland@iln.uio.no; Yacob Zewoldi, zewoldi@un.org) for improvements to make the template as universal as possible. We want the resulting documents to form a useful body of information, providing samples for countries developing their own national names authorities and for the public seeking information from individual countries. Is this approach helpful? Some division chairs have already collected data from countries within their divisions – please share your ideas with us on what data are most important to gather.

We realize that the production of *Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors* is an

ongoing project of UNGEGN. This project on the overview of names authorities and the approval process is designed to supplement the Guidelines already in progress for many years.

Helen Kerfoot, UNGEGN Chair

National names authorities and procedures for standardizing geographical names

CONTENTS (for each country):

Country + date and contact of the individual supplying the information

1. Summary of regulations, acts, etc.

2. Responsible bodies

3. Process of authorization

4. Storage and availability of authorized geographical names

5. Use of authorized geographical names

6. Availability of national toponymic guidelines

7. Relevant websites

8. Email contacts

Sample Data From Countries

I.   Estonia

Provided by Peeter Päll (peeter.pall@eki.ee) ... August 2009

1. Summary of regulations, acts, etc.

Standardization of geographical names in Estonia is governed by the Place Names Act which was adopted by the Parliament in December 1996. The Act came into force in 1997 and was revised in 2003.

2. Responsible bodies

• The municipality (local government) is responsible for names of all features that are exclusively in its territory (streets, squares, public transport stops, natural features, etc.) except for those that are listed below.

• The government decides upon names of administrative units (rural and urban municipalities, counties). Decision is taken on the basis of applications by local governments.

• The Minister for Regional Affairs decides upon names of populated places. Decision is taken only on the basis of applications by local governments (i.e. the Minister does not initiate any naming).

• Depending on the type of named feature, names are established for features located in the territory of more than one municipality or for water area features located outside the territory of municipalities either by the government or by the relevant minister according to his or her area of government.

• The Place Names Board of Estonia has the right to approve official place names for features for which place names have not been established by any other authority. This provision is used mainly when approving national listings of lakes, islands, etc.

3. Process of authorization

• Anyone can initiate officialization of place names. The names authority concerned, i.e. under whose authority the naming of the feature lies, will take the decision after consultations with parties concerned, adhering to the requirements set out in the Place Names Act, concerning the language and orthography of names, restrictions on the use of identical place names and requirements for the selection of place names (includes provisions on commemorative naming). Special provisions apply for the use of double names or non-Estonian names or changing existing place names.

• A draft on naming has to be published at least 15 days prior to the actual decision-making.

• Name disputes may be resolved by an administrative court, or extra-judicially by the Place Names Board if the dispute involves local governments and/or individual persons.

4. Storage and availability of authorized geographical names

• All official place names are entered into the National Place Names Register which is administered by the Estonian Land Board under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior.

5. Use of authorized geographical names

• Official geographical names are to be used by all official Estonian bodies.
• Where a locality has two official names, both names should be used in all official documents, on signs, in maps, etc.

6. Availability of toponymic guidelines

The latest toponymic guidelines (3rd edition) were presented at the 9th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, August 2007, Document E/CONF.98/CRP.2) in the form of a booklet and are not currently available online.

The 2nd edition (October 1997) is available online:
http://www.eki.ee/knn/ungegn/un7_gdl.htm

7. Relevant websites

A. Place Names Board of Estonia (information in Estonian, English and Russian):

 http://www.eki.ee/knn/index2.htm

B. Place Names Act of Estonia (English translation of the original text without later modifications):

http://www.eki.ee/knn/kns2.htm

C. The National Place Names Register (with Estonian and English interface):

http://xgis.maaamet.ee/knravalik/

8. Email contacts

Ministry of the Interior (Place Names Board of Estonia): Aule Kikas (Secretary)

aule.kikas@siseministeerium.ee

Estonian Land Board (National Place Names Register): Aime Renser
aime.renser@maaamet.ee
General inquiries (concerning both the Place Names Board and the Place Names Register): kohanimeregister@siseministeerium.ee
Institute of the Estonian Language (appointed as the office of onomastic expertise under the Place Names Act), contact person: Peeter Päll, peeter.pall@eki.ee

II. Norway

Provided by Botolv Helleland (botolv.helleland@iln.uio.no) August 2009

1. Summary of regulations, acts, etc.

Until 1990 the standardization of geographical names was authorized through a governmental regulation giving detailed rules for the spelling. In 1990 a geographical names act was passed by the Norwegian Parliament. The Act came into force in July 1991 and was revised in 2005.

2. Responsible bodies

• The Norwegian Mapping Authority is responsible for authorizing most geographical names in public use, such as names of natural features, tunnels, bridges, light houses, churches, inherited farms (in practice most geographical names on official maps). The authorization is carried out by five regional Mapping Authority officials, each being responsible for one of five regions. A Geographical Names Council of five members within the Mapping Authority monitors the authorization process. The Council meets three times a year.

• The government or the responsible Ministry decides upon names and the spelling of administrative divisions.

• The local administration/municipality decides upon names of settlement and habitation names, street names and names of other local entities such as schools, squares etc.

3. Process of authorization

Before authorizing a geographical name:

• All parties concerned (official bodies organizations, owners) should be heard before the spelling of a geographical name is authorized.

• The geographical names consultancies should give their advice to the authorization body before a name is authorized.

Geographical names consultancies:

• according to the Act, positions for two place name consultants and one secretary were created for each of the four university regions in the country, in addition to consultants and secretaries for Saami and Kven (Finnish) place names in Norway. This advisory service is organized by the Norwegian Language Council and financed by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The consultants and the secretaries should have linguistic competence.

Spelling regulations:

• in addition to the Act itself, a set of spelling regulations has been established; the written form of a geographical name should be based on the traditional, local pronunciation, while at the same time complying with current spelling rules (with acceptance of some regional variations).

 Appeal Committee:
• an Appeal Committee, under the chairmanship of a High Court judge, was set up to

handle complaints about the standardized forms of place names.

4. Storage and availability of authorized geographical names

• All names recognized under the Act must be reported to a central computerized register administered by the Norwegian Mapping Authority.

5. Use of authorized geographical names

• Geographical names authorized in accordance with the Geographical Names Act are to be used by all official Norwegian bodies.

• Where a locality has a Saami name and/or a Kven name in addition to a Norwegian name, both/all should be used according to the authorized spelling.

6. Availability of toponymic guidelines

http://www.statkart.no/Toponymic+Guidelines.9UFRrM5Y.jps

7. Relevant websites

Survey of some available items:
- http://www.statkart.no/nor/Land/Fagomrader/Stedsnavn/Internasjonalt/
See the files:
- Organisation of the Place-Name work in the Land Mapping Division
- The Geographical Names Act
- The Central Place-Names Register (SSR)

8. Email contacts:

Geographical Names Consultancies (the Norwegian Language Council):

Botolv Helleland
botolv.helleland@iln.uio.no,
Terje Larsen terje.larsen@iln.uio.no,

The Norwegian Mapping Authority:
Johnny Andersen
Johnny.Andersen@statkart.no, Anne
Svanevik Anne.Svanevik@statkart.no

Geographical Names Central Register, contact person: Johnny Andersen
Johnny.Andersen@statkart.no

Minority names, contact persons:
lisa.monica.aslaksen@samediggi.no (Saami)
Irene Andreassen
Irene.Andreassen@hifm.no (Kven)

III.   South Africa

Provided by Trueman Kubheka
(trueman.khubheka@dac.gov.za) August
2009

1.   Summary of regulations, acts, etc.

The South African Geographical Names
Council Act of 1998 (Act No.118 of 1988),
enacted in 1998 authorises the establishment
of the South African Geographical Names
Council. The Act requires that there should
be one name standardised for geographical
feature. The name should be in any of the
eleven official languages. The Act also provide for the establishment of the South African Geographical Names Council which is
responsible for recommending geographical
names for the Minister of Arts and Culture
approval.

2.   Responsible bodies

South African Geographical Names Council
Provincial Geographical Names Committees
in all nine Provinces
Local Municipalities
Chief Directorate of Surveys and Mapping
Post Office
Pan South African Language Board

3.   Process of authorization
 An application is initially authorised at the
local level where consultation and research
take place; it is then forwarded to the relevant Provincial Geographical Names Committee. The Provincial Geographical Names
Committee will then forward it to South African Geographical Names Council which
will make a final recommendation to the
Minister. Thereafter the names will be published in the government gazette to officialise them.

4.   Storage and availability of authorized geographical names

The names are stored in different government gazetteer publications and the South
African Geographical Names Unit maintains
a digital geo-referenced database to store
authorised geographical names. The database is available for official use and for the
public.

5.   Use of authorized geographical names

All approved names are used for official
purposes and by the public in general.

6.   Availability of national toponymic guidelines

Since the approval of the policy of eleven
official languages there have been consulta-

tions with the language bodies to finalise language rules which will then feed into national toponymic guidelines.

7. Relevant websites

http://sagns.dac.gov.za

8. Email contacts

trueman.khubheka@dac.gov.za;

thulile.mthembu@dac.gov.za; dimpho.makhema@dac.gov.za and *rendani.mudau@dac.gov.za*

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Supplied by
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Use of Geographical Names as First Level Internet Domain Names by ICANN

As discussed at the recent UNGEGN Session in Kenya, the Internet Corporation on Assigned names and Numbers (ICANN) proposed to expand the current list of first level domain names (such as .COM, .ORG etc), allowing the use of a range of names for this purpose.

This includes the use of geographical names, primarily those of countries, states/territories and provinces, and cities/towns.

An Applicant Guidebook has been devised to assist prospective applicants to understand both the requirements and the process. This guidebook is currently in its second draft version, which was released for comment in February 2009 (ICANN_Applicant_Guidebook_V2_18feb09.pdf).

Comments relating to the geographical names section have been processed and a revised document for this part of the guidebook is also available (ICANN-draft-geographical-names-30May09-en.pdf).

Version 3 of the Applicant Guidebook is expected to be released late in September. This will be the final opportunity to comment on this proposal, both in the policy and

direction of the proposal, and also make any suggestions that may assist the process once applications are made.
Some of the areas we may want to comment on are:

- The correct list for Country names – which one is best – ISO or UNGEGN
- The recognition of the appropriate agency / person in governments to act as the point of permission to use a geographical name.
- Whether or not, in the case of unresolved disputes between competing communities, whether consideration should be given to creating a set of parameters that give more weight to an particular applicant – for example historical use – should the community with the longest historical association with a name have preference over those places named after the original.

Attention should also be paid to the administrative method proposed for this, being the setting up of a panel of experts to process the applications.

I believe that this is going to happen, and feel that it is in our best interest to have some input into the process while the opportunity is still available.

I welcome comments and concerns from UNGEGN experts and will collate your ideas and submit them to ICANN for consideration.

William Watt
UNGEGN's liaison with ICANN's project on top-level domain names
E-mail: *William.Watt@sa.gov.au*

News on the use of the UNGEGN basic manual

Afghanistan

The UNGEGN *Manual for the national standardization of geographical names*, published in the six languages of the United Nations in 2006 continues to be used for training, both in UNGEGN toponymic training courses and in nationally organized training. The latest news we have on the helpfulness of this manual is that in Afghanistan, Part One, Chapter 9, Field Collection of Geographical Names, has been translated into Dari for local use. The UNGEGN Secretariat has received a copy of this file and can make it available to anyone interested.

New websites

- Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatistica (IBGE) has established a new website to distribute information on their geographical names activities: http://www.ngb.ibge.gov.br (in Portuguese)

- IBGE has also created a website for the new UNGEGN Portuguese-speaking Division http://www.dlpng.ibge.gov.br (in Portuguese)

Look for more news from Brazil in the next issue of the Bulletin.

UNGEGN has been encouraged to include in the Bulletin research material that relates to geographical names and their standardization. While this is seen as most useful to recipients of the Bulletin and a way for researchers to spread their knowledge for the assistance of UNGEGN experts, we must include a caveat. No formal review process has been initiated by the UNGEGN Secretariat or the UNGEGN Bureau for research articles, facts have not been verified and no editing process has been put in place; information included is solely the author's responsibility and does not reflect any position held by UNGEGN. Questions about the articles or their content should be directed to the authors.

In this issue of the Bulletin we have included two commentaries on toponyms and toponymy in countries of Africa.

Toponymic research (Africa): Burkina Faso and Namibia

A. Note de sociolinguiste sur les doublés toponymiques à l'Ouest du Burkina Faso

Zone linguistique la plus complexe, en apparence, l'ouest du Burkina Faso est pourtant celle où l'unification linguistique est la plus réussie. En effet, à l'instar des autres régions des pays voisins dans de la même contrée, le mandingue, communément appelé *dioula-kan*, *bamanankan* a réussi à défier toutes les lois du morcellement linguistique africain. L'urbanisation aidant, des ethnies culturellement différentes et appartenant à des familles linguistiques différentes sont arrivés à des convergences linguistiques à tel enseigne qu'aucune différence n'est encore perceptible surtout chez les nouvelles générations[1]. En remontant le cours de l'histoire,

on se rend à l'évidence que l'influence du dioula, pour nous en tenir à la région Ouest de notre pays, est loin d'être un phénomène récent. Dans nombre de villages où nous avons menée nos enquêtes comme à Noumoundara, Djigouera, Banzon, Tiéfora, Sakabi, Kiri, Dafinso, Kouintou, Sibi… un substrat de dioula ethnique est en survivance chez l'ancienne génération tandis que la jeunesse continue à répandre le dioula véhiculaire (Sanogo 2000)[2]. Alors, tout porte à croire que l'influence du dioula sur ces communautés longtemps dominées et/ou conquises est le produit d'une histoire remontant à la période pré-coloniale et cela

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[1] Sanogo M.L. 2008, « Maintien, divergence et convergence linguistique à Bobo-Dioulasso intégration sociolinguistique des Toussian en ville», dans *Revue gabonaise des sciences du langage,* publié par le Groupe de Recherche en Langue et Cultures orales

(GRELACO), Université Omar Bongo, Libreville/ Gabon, N°03, janvier 2008, pp.55-84.

[2] Sanogo M.L. 2000, *« A propos de jula à Bobo-Dioulasso »*, dans les *Cahiers du CERLESHS*, 2ème numéro spécial, ed. Nikiéma Norbert, Université de Ouagadougou, pp.73-83.

n'est pas sans conséquence sur l'onomastique de la région.

Aussi, dans la présente note, nous allons attirer l'attention de ceux qui comptent faire des recherches onomastiques dans la région sur les causes des doublets toponymiques. A la suite de nos travaux sur le toussian[3], nous allons nous intéresser ici à d'autres groupes ethniques comme les Bobo, les Noumou, les Samogo (Prango, Dzungo), les Sénoufo, les Cerma… Les éléments soumis à l'analyse dans le cadre de cette note ont été collectés, au cours de nombreuses enquêtes, dans les trois provinces constituant la région des Hauts Bassins : le Houet, le Kérédougou et a Kossi.

Notre intérêt pour ces recherches se justifie par l'énorme contribution de la linguistique aux autres domaines de recherche, notamment l'histoire, l'anthropologie, l'ethnologie, l'ethnographie… En effet, en remontant aux manifestations et aux causes des doublets onomastiques, nous sommes en mesure de retrouver un pan important de l'histoire de ces communautés, de comprendre leur mode d'organisation et de percevoir les courants d'influences qu'ils subissent. Nous partons, pour cela de l'hypothèse selon laquelle les doublets toponymiques ne sont que la traduction d'une influence culturelle remontant à une période assez éloignée dans l'histoire de ces communautés. De même, ils témoignent des rapports historiques que ces populations ont entretenus avec les « Dioula », les plus grands conquérants militaires et marchands de cette partie de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Ainsi, après un aperçu sociolinguistique de la zone, nous allons donner quel-

ques pistes d'investigation la recherche onomastique dans la région.

1. Aperçu sociolinguistique de la zone d'étude

La région Ouest du Burkina Faso est considérée comme celle qui compte le plus grand nombre de langues soit plus 1/3 des ressources linguistiques en usage chez les groupes techniques locaux. En plus des langues des autochtones, on note une présence assez importante des langues du plateau central comme le moore[4] avec les vagues successives de migrants agricoles. A cela, il faut ajouter que certains hameaux linguistiques fulaphones grandissent aux côtés des villages dont le nombre de langues ne cesse de croître comme dans nombre de villages du Kénédougou et des Cascades. Dans certains villages comme de la zone Nord de la Province du Houet et du Nord du Kénédougou, on compte plus de Moose que de Bobo, de Senoufo ou de Bolon. C'est le cas Sindo (Naneregué), de Djigouera (Nanerégué), de Mangorotou, de Fo et Bamogodougou. Ce dernier qui était jusque là un hameau de culture abritant des migrants moose est, du point de vue démographique, plus important que le village d'accueil.

Rappelons que l'une des particularités de cette population migrante agricole dans la zone et plus particulièrement du Kénédougou Nord est le type de migration. En effet, les Moose que l'on rencontre dans cette partie de la région sont dans doute arrivé par vague successive de la même région d'origine par une migration monogénétique polygène. En outre, ils pratiquent une endogamie de faite. Ainsi, les hommes arrivent en premier en partent chercher épouse dans leur région d'origine. Il en est de même pour des jeunes nés au cours de cette migration, produisant une sorte de côtoiement matri-

[3] « Eléments de sociolinguistique d'une minorité linguistique : le cas de l'onomastique chez les Toussian », dans *ONOMASTICA CANADIANA*, Revue de la Société canadienne d'onomastique, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, vol. 89, n°2, décembre 2007, pp. 51-73.

[4] Langue des *Moose*, singulier *Moaaga.*

monial avec les autochtones sénoufo, bolon, bobo…Par conséquent, nombre des ces hameaux de culture sont la réplique de villages moose. Malgré l'islam qui unie le plus souvent ces migrants et les autochtones, les droits coutumiers sont respectés et l'harmonie est maintenue grâce, en partie, à l'organisation interne des migrants et à la volonté manifeste de cohabiter.

Cette dynamique actuelle de population succède elle-même à une dynamique historique ancienne dont les origines remonteraient plus loin, d'après Person Y. 1969[5]

> *« Il paraît vraisemblable que l'expansion des langues mandé est à rapprocher de la cristallisation d'un berceau d'agriculture sur le Haut Niger, au deuxième millénaire avant notre ère. La supériorité initiale de cette culture serait due à la domestication du riz africain (Oriza glaberrima). L'acquisition de la métallurgie du fer l'aurait renforcée avant le début de notre ère, bientôt relayée par l'extraction de l'or, qui allait animer le commerce transsaharien. Au long de plusieurs millénaires la famille mãndé, en mutation constante, aurait donc été le principal épicentre culturel de l'Afrique occidentale.*

En effet, l'on se rappelle bien que la zone Ouest du pays correspond à l'ancienne zone d'influence des marchands dioula, les principaux acteurs noirs du commerce transsaharien. On reconnaîtra que la conséquence de cette histoire est sans aucun doute la dynamique langagière actuelle comme on peut le voir avec les travaux de Maurice Delafosse[6]. De nos jours, la dynamique linguistique se caractérise par l'expansion d'un dioula ur-

bain assumant la fonction véhiculaire. Langue de la ville de Bobo-Dioulasso, ce parler idéalisé est de nos jours l'épicentre de la langue de l'Ouest du pays. Ainsi, si dans les anciennes implantations le dioula urbain se superpose à un substrat de dioula ethnique en survivance chez l'ancienne génération, les nouveaux foyers linguistiques sont formés directement autour de ce que tous considèrent comme le dioula de la ville de Bobo-Dioulasso. (Sanogo M. L. 2000).

2. des doublets toponymiques

La longue implantation du dioula dans la zone d'étude a pour conséquence, on le voit, un nivellement culturel qu'ont subit les minorités linguistiques. C'est là aussi le prix de l'intégration de ces différentes communautés qui forment désormais un creuset. Nombreux sont les minorités de cette zone dont « l'histoire commence » plus ou moins avec cette page des Dioula comme le démontre bien Dacher M.2005[7]. En effet, lors des enquêtes que nous avons menées dans certain villages toussian, tiéfo, dzungo, wara… on a l'impression que les ancêtres fondateurs seraient tous venus du mandé soit à la recherche de terre cultivables, soit en chasseur ou encore en escale sur la route du commerce ou des lieux saints de la Mecque.

Ce dernier cas est tellement rare dans notre zone d'étude qu'il nous a paru nécessaire de le relater ici. En effet, d'après les notables du village de Samogoyiri, le village serait créé par un certain Lamine Cissé un érudit dioula, de retour de la Mecque. Il aurait retrouvé abondamment de volailles à cet endroit même où il avait perdu son poulet sur le chemin de l'allée. Il aurait alors conclu que ce lieu est propice (*jidi* « prospère ») à la production de biens agricoles.

[5] **Yves Person, Samori. Une révolution dyula**, Mémoires de l'Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire. N° 80, IFAN. Dakar. 1968, 1970, 1975. Trois Tomes. 2377 pages.
[6] Maurice Delafosse, 1929, *La langue mandingue et ses dialectes (Malinké, Bambara, Dioula)*, Paris, P. Geuthner.

7 Dacher M. 2005, *Cent ans au village : Chronique familiale gouin (Burkina Faso)*, Paris, Karthala (« Hommes et sociétés »), 399 pages.

Ainsi, rares sont les villages, de nos jours où le toponyme authentique est connu comme nous l'avons démontré dans le cas des Toussian. Il en est de même chez les Bobo où les villages comme Dafinso, Santidougou, Kouintou, Samangan, Yéguéréso pour ne citer que ceux-là sont des villages où seulement quelques aînés connaissent encore le toponyme authentique. Ce cas est loin d'être isolé car l'administration coloniale n'a fait que renforcer les consonances mandés au détriment des appellations d'origine si elle n'a pas tout simplement procédé à des substitutions. C'est le cas de Banfora, de Dingasso de Karfiguela, de Baguera, de Koundougou, de Moussobadougou, de Kimidougou, de Blédougou, de Desso et Diguera, de Orodara…

Certains doublets toponymiques sont la conséquence même de regroupements de plusieurs villages comme le cas de Toussiana avec ses trois villages qui sont Toussiamba, Yorogofesso et Gnenaba.

L'émergence des nouveaux toponymes dans la zone laisse voir une prédominance de la langue véhiculaire de la région. Ainsi, les nouveaux villages sont le plus souvent forgés directement dans la langue véhiculaire, ce qui laisse croire que la dynamique langagière est en faveur de cette langue. C'est le cas de *Badara* (bord du fleuve), de *Kotoura* (dans la gallérie forestière), de *Mangorotou* (dans le verger de manguiers), de *Bamogodougou* (chez Bamogo), de *Kangoura* (nouvelle langue).

En conclusion à cette note sur les doublets toponymiques de la zone ouest du Burkina Faso, nous pouvons dire que le phénomène est très peu étudié alors qu'il pourrait apporter un éclairage assez important pour la connaissance des habitants de cette zone. Ensuite, les doublets onomastiques sont le résultat d'une influence remontant à la période pré-coloniale et la dynamique du groupe mandé en est le principal moteur.

Cette influence est loin d'être suffisamment analysée car on découvre de jour en jour que nombre de traits dit authentiques sont les produits de cette domination culturelle qui a été longtemps phagocyté par la communauté qui la reçoit. Enfin, la dynamique langagière en faveur du dioula véhiculaire continue de gagner du terrain à tel point que les toponymes dits authentiques sont menacés de disparition, à jamais. A ce niveau, il est urgent de mener des recherches car avec ces toponymes, c'est bien des chapitres de l'histoire des communautés qui risquent de disparaître à jamais.

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B.   State of Research on Place Names in Namibia

1. Introduction

Little has been done on place name research in Namibia. Research on place names does not seem to receive a priority in Namibia. So far no comprehensive study has been conducted and there is comparatively little information available on place names in print. There are, however, a few publications that deal with place names in Namibia.

2. Research on place names in Namibia

Kamupingene (1985) examines the meaning of place names and phenomenon of nomenclature in Otjiherero. He mentions several prefixes that are common in place names in Otjiherero, such as *oka-, e-, oma-, omi-, o-, omu-*. He further explains the meaning of Otjiherero place names and emphasises that every place name has a praise poem which reflects an incident in history that occurred during a certain era. As a result places are referred to by various names. He also gives examples of Otjiherero place names that have been misspelled and consequently have lost their meaning. He also mentioned the names of places that have been replaced with names from other languages, e.g. Otjomuise was renamed Windhoek.

In the final analysis Kamupingene suggests that proper research be conducted to correct the past injustices with regard to place names. He, however, fails to point out that various towns bear names from different African languages in Namibia, for example, Windhoek is known as *Otjomuise* in Otjiherero, *Omukuto* in Oshiwambo and /*Gai*//*gams* in Khoekhoegowab. As a result the previous administration seems to have had difficulties in pleasing one group at the expense of other groups. If the authority had chosen Otjiherero names, it could have been regarded as unfair practice by the other language groups. Besides, some names which have been retained for official purposes are taken from Khoekhoegowab, e.g. Karibib, Tsumeb and Usakos. Some Otjiherero names have also been retained for official purposes, e.g. Okahandja, Otjiwarongo and Omaruru.

Writing on Otjiherero place names, Kavari (1990) disagrees with Kamupingene that place names of Otjiherero are found only in certain noun classes as he finds that place names occur in all noun classes. He further gives the morphological analysis of some Otjiherero names and demonstrates how place names are linked to Otjiherero tradition. He also shows how Otjiherero names are connected to songs and praises and touches on place names from other languages such as Nama-Damara and European languages. Kavari simply lists place names without giving explanation. Kavari's article contains little information on the meaning of place names. Kavari's argument, however, on the link between names and noun classes appear to be valid, because there is a relationship between all noun classes and place names. Place names are common nouns that have been turned into proper nouns, for example in Oshiwambo, *iiyale* (palm bushes), class 8 and *Iiyale* (name of village): a place with many palm bushes.

Brezinger (2000) presents the source and origin of Khwe place names as a supplement to the pronunciation by marking the tones of each syllable in each name. He mentions animals, trees and physical phenomena as the major source of place names. He gives the few examples of place names which bear more than one name. He lists 371 place names and gives the literal meaning of each place name, e.g. Daota means 'path-other'. He does not give the detailed information on the etymology of the place names. Some of the meanings of the place names have been omitted and only a question mark has been placed next to the name to indicate that the meaning of a name is unknown. The list thus contains deficiencies which need to be remedied because a lot of information has been missed.

In her study on German place names in Southwest-Africa, Möller (1983) discusses the Germanisation of place names in Southwest-Africa. The early germanising of place names was started by the missionaries and merchants who gave the mission stations the German names such as Lieveberg, Vogel-

sang and Wilhemfeste. Möller gives the reasons why the Germans decided to rename the places. These reasons are that: they wanted to keep ties with their ancestral land; they were eager to retain their cultural identity through the use of German names; the Otjiherero and Nama names were difficult to spell and pronounce, especially the long Otjiherero names such as *Otjihaenamaparero*, *Ondundozonanandana* and *Otjiamanongombe*. The Germans could not pronounce the clicks of what is today known as Khoekhogowab. The German colonial government established the guidelines regarding the germanising of the indigenous names. The guidelines emphasised the retention of Otjiherero names and the consideration of other language groups when places are given names.

Despite these guidelines, the replacement of Otjiherero and Nama names with the German names continued. However, the hybrid forms of names occurred in some instances. The Otjiherero- German hybrid forms, e.g. *Klein Otjikango Ost*, *Omahoro Gross*, *Klein Otjiruse*, etc. came into being. The Afrikaans-German hybrid, e.g. *Kameelmund*, *Kuduskuppe* as well as the Nama-German hybrid, e.g. *Naosfelsen*, *Garuchabfluss* were introduced. Some indigenous and Afrikaans names were translated into German e.g. the Afrikaans name Kromnek was translated into *Krumneck*, the Otjiherero name *Okamaruru* was translated into *Salzbrunnen* .

Pettman (1985) lists some places in Namibia and gives the places named after people. Luderitz: (the name of town) is named after a Bremen merchant, Herr A Luderitz. Caprivi: (name of region) has been named in honour of George Leon, Count von Caprivi, the German Imperial Chancellor (1900-04). Keetmanshoop is named after the principal of the missionary society, J Keetman.

Of all the researchers, Raper (1972) gives the most detailed information on place names in South Africa and South West Africa. He divides the place names into categories, such as places named after: plants, animals, people, tribes, places, shapes and colours. He also gives the languages from which some place names originated such as Portuguese, Bantu languages, Hottentot languages. He adds that there are a number of names that came from the Bible.

There are, however, several Oshiwambo place names from Nguni languages and it is assumed here that several Nguni words came into Oshiwambo because during the contract labour system the Aawambo worked in South Africa. The presence of names from Portuguese is attributable to the fact that Portuguese has been the official language in Angola and there have been trade relations between Namibia and Angola. During the liberation struggle many Namibians who lived in Angola learned Portuguese to break the communication barriers. The Namibians in Diaspora learned several languages and there are a few names from languages such as German, Spanish and Russian. A large number of the Oshiwambo place names come from English. Only a few names are derived from Afrikaans, although it was the official language of the then South West Africa for many years. This situation can be ascribed to the fact that Afrikaans had been regarded as a language of the colonizers because Namibia had been under the rule of Afrikaans speaking people whereas English was seen as the language of emancipation. Raper also lists the place names and gives their etymology. However, the place names he gives are not analysed morphologically or syntactically. The information provided is limited considering the vastness of the country especially Namibia. Some important towns and districts have been omitted in this work.

In addition, in his dictionary on Southern Africa place names, Raper (1987) gives the

meaning of important places from Namibia which included Oshiwambo place names but it has not covered all relevant aspects of place names. Besides, the meaning of some Oshiwambo names included in the dictionary is not explained properly.

Nienaber and Raper (1980) present place names from the Hottentot languages including Khoekhoegowab. They give an explanation of place names on lexical and connotative levels. They also give information on the history of the place names. They list the categories of names such as names from plants, animals and historical events.

Albertyn (1984) compiles an encyclopaedia of place names in South-West Africa. The encyclopaedia includes the meanings of place names from Otjiherero, Khoekhoegowab and Oshiwambo. The greatest inadequacy in the encyclopaedia is that it gives the literal meaning of the place names and ignores the cultural and historical aspect of place names. The given meanings of most place names in the encyclopaedia leave a lot to be desired. Some place names have been misspelled. The weaknesses of the encyclopaedia lead to the conclusion that there is a great need to conduct research on place names in Namibia to update and remedy what is available in print in order to give an accurate etymology of place names.

Berry et al (1998) compile a small dictionary of place names from Etosha Pan. They provide the names from Otjiherero, Oshiwambo, Hai//hom and try to give the etymology of the names. The merit of this dictionary is that they reconstructed the Oshiwambo place names which originate from the Hai//hom language. However the dictionary contains misspelled place names and the meanings of some names have been reconstructed incorrectly. From the preface to the dictionary it appears that the researchers relied on written sources and young people

for their information. The name *Amutuni* has been misspelled as *Namutoni*. It goes without saying that young people often have little information about the history and culture, because of their exposure to western culture and their tendency to look down on their culture and history.

3. Conclusion

From the few publications on place names in Namibia, it is evident that none of the publications provides adequate information on place names in Namibia. A lot needs to be done in order to give sufficient information on toponyms in Namibia. The studies conducted so far seems to be outdated as no study was carried out for the past sixteen years. There is, however, one study being conducted by the author of this contribution for the envisaged dictionary of place names but such study is being hampered by the lack of financial support, as such naming and renaming of places are not informed by scientific evidence. There is also no naming authority in Namibia to spearhead the research activities in this regard. It is thus recommended that a naming authority be established for the country.

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Upcoming Meetings of Groups Associated with Geographical Names

Map Africa 2009 – 4th Annual African Conference and Exhibition on Geospatial Information, Technology and Applications (http://mapafrica.gisdevelopment.net/), 16-18 September 2009, Johannesburg, South Africa.

International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) – Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) (http://www.iho-ohi.net/english/committees-wg/ircc/gebco/scufn.html) – 22-26 September 2009, Brest, France.

United Nations Geographic Information Working Group – UNGIWG 10th Anniversary Plenary (http://www.ungiwg.org/pipermail/unspider/2009-March/000187.html), 19-21 October, Bonn, Germany.

United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific – 18th UNRCC for Asia and the Pacific (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/METHODS/CARTOG/unrccap.htm), 26-29 October 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.

Africa GIS 2009 – International Conference, Geo-spatial Information & Sustainable Development in Africa; facing challenges of global changes (http://www.africagis2009.org/), 26-30 October 2009, Kampala, Uganda.

ICC 2009 – 24th International Cartography Conference (http://www.icc2009.cl/), 15-21 November 2009, Santiago, Chile.

FIG 2010 – XXIVth International Federation of Surveyors (http://www.fig2010.com), 11-16 April 2010, Sydney, Australia.

American Association of Geographers (AAG) – Annual meeting 2010 (http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2010/index.htm), 14-18 April 2010, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

International Geographical Union (http://www.igu-net.org/) IGU Regional Conference 2010 – 12-16 July 2010, Tel Aviv, Israel IGU Regional Conference 2011 – November (?) 2011, Santiago, Chile IGU International Geographical Congress 2012 – 26-30 August 2012, Köln, Germany

Names Society of Southern Africa (Bertie Neethling, bneethling@uwc.ac.za) NSA 2010, 26-28 October 2010, South African West Coast (Atlantic Ocean)

International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) (http://www.icosweb.net/index.php/home.html) – 24th ICOS Congress, summer 2011, Barcelona, Spain

Participants at the 25th Session of UNGEGN, UNON, Nairobi, 5-12 May 2009