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COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES
AND OTHER BODIES: COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL AGENCIES

The First Results of the Activity of the Working Group
on Geographical Names of the Inter-state Council
for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and the
Earth Remote Sensing of the CIS
State-members

Paper submitted by Russia**

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** Prepared by Roskartografia, Russia

**The First Results of the Activity of the Working Group on Geographical Names
of the Inter-state Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre
and the Earth Remote Sensing of the CIS State-members**

Summary

In 1996 the Inter-state Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and the Earth Remote Sensing of the state-members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) decided to establish the Working Group on geographical names as an advisory body, that would make suggestions and recommendations to take the agreed to decisions on the CIS geographical names unification and usage.

The report enlists the terms of reference of the Working Group on geographical names:

- consideration of the issues pertaining to geographical names which could be of interest to the Inter-state Council, making the appropriate suggestions and recommendations;
- compilation and preparation for publishing of information bulletins on changes in geographical names in the CIS countries.

The report informs on the first meeting of the Working Group held in Moscow in July, 1996. The meeting considered the draft of the Information Bulletin "Changes in geographical names in the CIS countries" prepared by the Federal Service of Geodesy and Cartography of Russia (Roskartografia) based on the materials provided by the cartographic geodetic services of 5 CIS state-members, and discussed suggestions on further exchange of information on place-names.

According to the agreement achieved at the first meeting of the Working Group, the information bulletin was improved and published together with its electronic version.

It was recommended for the cartographic geodetic services of the CIS countries to gratuitously exchange with current information on changes in geographical names by shipping to each other copies of the appropriate official documents both in the local and Russian languages, and the samples of newly issued small scaled maps covering the entire territory of a CIS state-member by one or two sheets, regardless of the language they are published in.

As its prospective goal, the Working Group decided to investigate the possibility to prepare and publish the master reference-book "Changes in geographical names in the country-members of the CIS from 1991 to 2000".

**The First Results of the Activity of the Working Group on Geographical Names
of the Inter-state Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre
and the Earth Remote Sensing of the CIS State-members**

In 1996 the Inter-state Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and the Earth Remote Sensing of the state-members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) decided to establish the Working Group on geographical names as an advisory body, that would make suggestions and recommendations to take the agreed to decisions on the CIS geographical names unification and usage.

The Working Group on geographical names has the following terms of reference:

- consideration of the issues pertaining to geographical names which could be of interest to the Inter-state Council, making the appropriate suggestions and recommendations;
- compilation and preparation for publishing of information bulletins on changes in geographical names in the CIS countries.

The first meeting of the Working Group was held in Moscow in July 1996. It was attended by the representatives of cartographic geodetic services of seven states (Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Uzbekistan, the Ukraine.) The representatives of Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland and Estonia participated as observers.

The meeting considered the draft of the Information Bulletin "Changes in geographical names in the CIS countries" prepared by the Federal Service of Geodesy and Cartography of Russia (Roskartografia) based on the materials provided by the cartographic geodetic services of 5 CIS state-members. The suggestions on further exchange of information on place-names were also discussed at the meeting. It was decided to approve and recommend to prepare for publication the Information Bulletin on changes in place-names as of January 1, 1996.

It was acknowledged expedient, beginning from 1996 and further on, to prepare the materials as annual supplements to the Bulletin, and to publish them in the journal "Geodesy and cartography", with the national forms of place-names provided.

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As its prospective goal, the Working Group decided to investigate the possibility to prepare and publish the master reference-book "Changes in geographical names in the country-members of the CIS from 1991 to 2000".

Due to the agreements achieved at the first meeting of the Working Group on geographical names, some additional materials were prepared and sent to Roskartografia. On the instructions of Roskartografia, CNIIGAiK integrated the materials provided by the

cartographic geodetic services of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Ukraine, and prepared the bulletin to be published. It comprises the data on changes in nearly 400 place-names of the mentioned countries in 1993-1995, confirmed by the decrees, resolutions and decisions of legislative and executive bodies in these countries.

The information on name changes is classified and presented in the Bulletin according to the following scheme:

1. The feature location (republic, krai, oblast', okrug, region).
2. The former name of a feature in the Russian spelling with a generic.
3. New name of a feature in the Russian spelling suggested by a CIS country-member with a generic.
4. The date of the name changing.
5. The standardised Russian spelling of a new name based on the Russia's current official documents on the orthography of the Russian place-names and Russian rendering of foreign names.
6. The application of the name of the renamed feature on topographical and other maps to provide the continuity among the old and new names.

The Bulletin was issued in 1997, and its electronic version was prepared on a diskette. The Bulletin was disseminated to the cartographic geodetic services of the CIS country-members to employ the results of the mutual efforts.