

**Twenty-second Session  
New York, 20-29 April 2004**

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**Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda**

**REPORTS OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS, REGIONAL MEETINGS AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Report on the UNGEGN liaison with the  
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research\***

Report of the UNGEGN Liaison with the  
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

Today 45 countries signed the Antarctic Treaty. About 30 countries carry out active scientific research programmes in the Antarctic. Place-names appear in 15 or more languages and five scripts. Gazetteers or lists of geographical names and guidelines for naming features in the Antarctic have been issued by some 22 countries in various grades of completeness.

In 1992 the need for a composite gazetteer of Antarctica was recognized, with the aim of bringing some order to the complex toponymy of Antarctica. Work began by collating existing gazetteers or lists of geographical names issued by countries adhering to SCAR as Full Members or Associate Members.

A printed version of the Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA) was published in 1998. Since then the CGA was also accessible at the web site [www3.pnra.it/SCAR\\_GAZE](http://www3.pnra.it/SCAR_GAZE). It is now updated quarterly.

Today 34,355 name entries are assigned to 17,219 different geographical features in the Antarctic (as of 1 January 2004). The collaborating countries in the CGA project are (listed as ISO three-letter code): ARG, AUS, BEL, BGR, CAN, CHL, CHN, DEU, ECU, ESP, FRA, GBR, IND, ITA, JPN, NOR, NZL, POL, RUS, URY, USA, ZAF, and the International Hydrographic Organization / International Oceanographic Commission.

The work on the names database proceeds towards a new publication to be released at the SCAR Open Science Conference (Bremen, July 2004). The publication, to be printed with SCAR's funding, is very comprehensive and supersedes any other updating after March 1998.