

**Twenty-sixth session
Vienna, 2-6 May 2011**

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda

Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

South Africa: Geographical Name Database*

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Res VIII-6: Integration of geographical names into national and regional spatial data infrastructures

South Africa: Geographical Name Database

According to Section 6(2)(b) of the South African Geographical Names Act the Department of Arts and Culture should establish and maintain a research section and the necessary infrastructure, incorporating a computerized database, a library, reference material and document archives.

The South African Geographical Naming system was officially established from 2002 and it has since undergone number of enhancements to accommodate its user requirements.

It has since enabled the South African Geographical Names Council and the Department of Arts and Culture to deliver on the following:

- the management and monitoring of national place names;
- capturing new place names on the national place names database;
- monitor and facilitate the progress with regards to applications;
- to retrieve this information easily for the SAGNC and DAC use;
- improve co-ordination and reduce duplication in naming;
- spatial representation of national place name database;
- facilitation of management information reports; etc.