

**Twenty-eight session  
28 April – 2 May 2014**

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**Item 17 of the Provisional Agenda**

**Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors**

**Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for  
international use \***

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**Agenda item 17 - Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use**

**SUMMARY**

Madagascar is starting a feasibility study of toponymic guidelines development project of for map and other editors for international use. The present report informs on the undertaken actions.

During the 10th United Nations Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Coordinator of the toponymic guidelines had a discussion with the representative of Madagascar during which they agreed that it is time for Madagascar to initiate the development of its own toponymic guidelines.

He made several recommendations about the project conception, the model and the principal measures to be considered, including the need for a linguist intervention.

Therefore, a feasibility study of the project was initiated. Actions are summarized as follows:

- To surmount the lack of financial resources for the linguistic part of the document, a request for cooperation has been sent to the Language Section of the National Academy
- The Director General expressed her willingness to cooperate and to send a linguist to assist, unfortunately, the latter availability is not for soon because the Section is still involved in a huge project
- In the meantime, she suggested some documents as a temporary solution
- A first look at those documents confirms that they can be effectively used at least for a first draft
- Therefore the documentation process has already begun, added to publications from other countries as well as the UNGEGN manual on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
- The list of abbreviations on the maps will be provided by the Mapping Service of the National Geographic and Hydrographic Institute