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Exonyms

The new list of Polish geographical names of the world

Submitted by Poland**

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The new list of Polish geographical names of the world (summary)

At the beginning of 2010 the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland commenced work on the official list of Polish geographical names of the world. The list should be completed by the second half of 2012 and will be published in late 2012 or early 2013. This list is based on the Commission's previous publication, printed in the years 2004-2010 in twelve volumes and entitled "Geographical Names of the World". These volumes include about 10,000 features with Polish names. The list currently being prepared is the second such Polish publication. The previous list, entitled "Polish Geographical Names of the World", was published in four volumes in the years 1994-1996.

Preparation of the names to the official list of Polish geographical names of the world comes to completion. The Commission has already adopted the Polish names of geographical features situated in Asia (excluding Russia), Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania (Polish names were accepted for 3162 geographical features), and also a large number of names from Europe and Antarctica.

The new list of Polish geographical names of the world

At the beginning of 2010 the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland commenced work on the official list of Polish geographical names of the world (Polish names of geographical objects located outside Poland). The list should be completed by the second half of 2012 and will be published in late 2012 or early 2013. Preparation of the list is a direct result of the regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on the manner and scope of activity of the Commission¹. It can also be considered an indirect result of Resolution No. 28, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1972, which recommended that such lists be prepared².

The newly developed list of Polish geographical names of the world is based on the Commission's previous publication – printed in twelve volumes of “Nazewnictwo geograficzne świata” (“Geographical Names of the World”). “Geographical Names of the World” was developed by a large group of specialists: geographers, historians, linguists and cartographers (primary group of authors consisted of 28 people, moreover lists were verified by reviewers, and were discussed during the meetings of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names). As work has progressed, from the year 2001, volumes with the names of separate regions of the world were published – this collection consists of twelve volumes: 1. “Ameryka, Australia i Oceania” (“The Americas, Australia and Oceania”), published in 2004; 2. “Bliski Wschód” (“Middle East”), in 2004; 3. “Afryka” (“Africa”) in 2004; 4. “Azja Południowa” (“South Asia”) in 2005; 5. “Azja Środkowa i Zakaukazie” (“Central Asia and Transcaucasia”) in 2005; 6. “Białoruś, Rosja, Ukraina” (“Belarus, Russia, Ukraine”) in 2005; 7. “Azja Południowo-Wschodnia” (“Southeast Asia”) in 2006; 8. “Antarktyka” (“The Antarctic”) in 2006; 9. “Azja Wschodnia” (“East Asia”) in 2006; 10. “Morza i oceany” (“Seas and oceans”) in 2008; 11. “Europa – część I” (“Europe – part 1”) in 2009; 12. “Europa – część II” (“Europe – part 2”) in 2010³. The volumes include about 53,000 names of geographical features, i.e. features with Polish exonyms (about 10,000) and those that do not have Polish exonyms.

¹ Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration of 24 March 2000 on the manner and scope of activity of the National Council of Geodesy and Cartography and Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland and principles governing payment of their members (Journal of Laws of 2000, No. 26, item 316 and of 2009 No. 107, item 897): § 3. 1. The scope of activity of the Commission of Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”, shall involve: 2) compiling official lists of Polish names of states, non-self-governing territories, administrative units, localities, physiographical objects, and other geographical objects located outside the Republic of Poland with geographic coordinates thereof.

² Resolution II/28 “Lists of exonyms (conventional names, traditional names)”:

The Conference,

Desiring to facilitate the international standardization of geographical names,

Recognizing that certain exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) form living and vital parts of languages,

Recognizing further that certain exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) remain in the language after the need for them has diminished,

Recommends that national geographical names authorities prepare lists of exonyms currently employed, review them for possible deletions, and publish the results.

³ All volumes of “Geographical Names of the World” are available in electronic version (PDF format) at the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, but in Polish only: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/wydawnictwa_ngs.php.

The Polish names contained in the 12 volumes of “Geographical Names of the World” were adopted with the necessary additions and changes that took place during completion of the new list of Polish geographical names of the world. The new list is arranged similarly to the volumes of “Geographical Names of the World” and is divided into units corresponding to parts of the world (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania, The Antarctic, undersea features). Each part opens with a list of recommended names of oceans and large regional units, the size of which are bigger than the area of several countries. To follow are the names according to countries and territories. Then the names of individual geographical features have been listed, with a division into categories of objects. Within each category, the names have been listed alphabetically.

Nowa Kaledonia

(Francja)

Nowa Kaledonia; Nouvelle-Calédonie

stolica: **Numea**; Nouméa

język urzędowy: francuski

Jednostki administracyjne

Prowincja Południowa; Province Sud; *21°50'S, 166°10'E*

Prowincja Północna; Province Nord; *21°00'S, 165°00'E*

Wyspy Lojalności; Province des îles Loyauté; *21°00'S, 167°15'E*

Miejscowości

Numea; Nouméa; *22°16'20"S, 166°26'30"E*

Morza

Morze Fidzi; Mer de Fidji; *23°S, 169°E (27°S, 175°E)* [również *Fidzi, Norfolk, Nowa Zelandia, Tonga, Vanuatu*]

Morze Koralowe; Mer de Corail; *19°S, 164°E (18°S, 157°E)* [również *Australia, Papua-Nowa Gwinea, Vanuatu, Wyspy Morza Koralowego, Wyspy Salomona*]

Fig. 1. Example of names arrangement.

Entries relating to individual geographical features contain a name in the Polish language and next to it the original name in the official language (endonym) – or original names if there are more than one official languages or a feature has official names in several languages. For each object geographic coordinates are also given (for transboundary features both: coordinates for the part of feature, which is situated in the given country, as well as coordinates of the whole geographic feature).

If two or more Polish names are given for one object (e.g. *Mała Syrta; Zatoka Kabiska*), the first name is the one which the Commission considers as preferable, while the second name is considered as an acceptable (the only exception applies to the formal (long) names of administrative units). Sometimes only an exonym is provided; it means that a given geographical feature is not named in the country where it is situated or no correct local name of any such feature was found. For some features an important historical Polish name has also been included in brackets at the end of the entry.

Wielka Zatoka Australijska; Great Australian Bight; 35°S, 131°E
Kotlina Konga; Bassin du Congo; 2°00'S, 22°00'E
Seszele; *ang.* Seychelles Islands; *fr.* îles Seychelles; *kreol.* Sesel; 5°00'S, 55°00'E
Prowincja Przylądkowa Wschodnia; *afz.* Oos-Kaap; Provinsie Oos-Kaap; *ang.* Eastern Cape; Eastern Cape Province; *kosa* Mpuma-Koloni; iPhondo yaMpuma-Koloni; 32°00'S, 27°00'E
Pustynia Arabska; Pustynia Wschodnia; Aş-Şahrā' ash-Sharqiyyah (*trl.*), As-Sahra asz-Szarkijja (*trb.*); 26°00'N, 33°30'E
Aleuty; Wyspy Aleuckie; Aleutian Islands; 52°10'N, 174°20'W
Stambuł; İstanbul; 41°00'30"N, 28°58'00"E [hist.: *Konstantynopol*]
Ho Chi Minh; Hồ Chí Minh; thành phố Hồ Chí Minh; 10°46'30"N, 106°42'00"E [hist.: *Sajgon*]

Fig. 2. Examples of entry arrangement.

Efforts were made to include in the list the official forms of endonyms originating from national names lists, topographical maps and other official sources. When it proved impossible, the most reliable international publications were used. Therefore sometimes the official name forms may be disputable because, in spite of the fact that they were established with great care, there were sometimes obstacles which were difficult to overcome. They may have resulted from inaccurate source materials or even from differing, contradictory versions of names provided in official publications of governmental institutions or legislative authorities.

For names in the languages using a non-Roman script the romanized form has been provided in accordance with the rules recommended by the Commission, to be applied in Poland for geographical names from a specific language. In the case of the majority of such languages, both the Polish transcription form and transliteration form have been provided (with exception for some Asian languages – for the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Lao, Burmese and Khmer only transliteration is recommended).

Wyżyna Abisyńska; Ye Ītyop'ya Terarama Botawoch (*trl.*), Je-Itjopja Terarama Botauocz (*trb.*); 10°30'N, 38°00'E [*również Erytrea*]
Wyżyna Kokczetawska; *kaz.* Kôksetau kÿraty (*trl.*), Kôksetau kÿraty (*trb.*); *ros.* Koksetauskaja vozvyšennost' (*trl.*), Kokssetauskaja wozwyszennost' (*trb.*); 52°30'N, 69°00'E
Półwysep Indyjski; *ang.* Indian Peninsula; *hindi* Bhāratīy Prayadvīp (*trl.*), Bharatīj Pradjadvīp (*trb.*); *gudźarati* Bhāratīy Dvīpakalp (*trl.*), Bharatīj Dwīpakalp (*trb.*); *kannada* Bhāratīya Dvīpakalpa (*trl.*), Bharatīja Dwīpakalpa (*trb.*); *Bhāratīya Paryāya Dvīpa* (*trl.*), Bharatīja Parjaja Dwīpa (*trb.*); *marathi* Bhāratīy Upamahādvīp (*trl.*), Bharatīj Upamahadvīp (*trb.*); *malajalam* Upadvīpīya Intya (*trl.*), Upadvīpīja Intja (*trb.*); *tamil* Intiya Muvalantīvu (*trl.*), Indija Muwalantiwu (*trb.*); Intiya Tīpakarpam (*trl.*), Indija Tīpakarpam (*trb.*); *telugu* Bhārat Dvīpakalpan (*trl.*), Bharat Dwīpakalpan (*trb.*); 18°00'N, 78°00'E
Elburs; Reshteh-ye Kūhhā-ye Alborz (*trl.*), Reszte-je Kuhha-je Alborz (*trb.*); 35°50'N, 52°20'E
Szanghaj; Shanghai; 31°13'00"N, 121°28'00"E
Pjongjang; P'yŏngyang (*M.-R.*), Pyeongyang (*MOE*); 39°01'30"N, 125°45'00"E
Delta Irawadi; Eyawadi Myitwanya; 16°30'N, 95°10'E

Fig. 3. Examples of entries with romanized form of names.

The list include the names of geographical features which, solely from the linguistic point of view, were considered by the Commission to be correct and in line with the knowledge gathered so far. In no case do these recommendations have anything in common with the Commission taking any stand on political matters or those relating to administrative status of each territory. Any stands on political

issues, if they have to be taken, are always in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as for example was the case with recognizing Kosovo as a separate country⁴ or using the name *Macedonia*⁵.

Preparation of the names to the official list of Polish geographical names of the world comes to completion. The Commission has already adopted the Polish names of geographical features situated in Asia (excluding Russia), Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania. A large number of names from Europe and Antarctica was also accepted. For areas of Asia, Africa, North America, South America, as well as Australia and Oceania, Polish names were accepted for 3162 geographical features. Additionally, 66 variant Polish names (allonyms) were approved, as well as 166 formal (long) names for countries, territories and administrative units.

Region	Total number of names	Number of main names (geographic features)	Number of variant names	Number of formal names
Asia	1673	1569	42	62
Africa	779	720	9	50
North America	487	460	7	20
South America	189	170	5	14
Australia and Oceania	266	243	3	20
Total	3394	3162	66	166

Table 1. Number of adopted Polish names.

Among the number of geographic objects for which a Polish name was adopted, 207 are the names of countries and territories, 605 are administrative units, 431 are localities and their parts, 251 are marine waters, 256 are inland waters, 523 are features of topographic elevation, 350 are islands, peninsulas, capes and coasts, 539 are other objects (e.g. regions, deserts, areas of environment protection, ruins).

The list currently being prepared is the second such Polish publication. The previous list, entitled “Polskie nazwy geograficzne świata” (“Polish Geographical Names of the World”), was published in four volumes in the years 1994–1996⁶. A comparison of the numbers of Polish names for geographical objects used in the five regions in both publications (the present and previous one) clearly shows that many more Polish names have been included. The first list of Polish names included 724

⁴ In accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland, of February 26, 2008.

⁵ In accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland, of August 23, 2005.

⁶ Part I. “Europa bez Europy Wschodniej” (“Europe without Eastern Europe”), published in 1994;

Part II. “Europa Wschodnia i Azja” (“Eastern Europe and Asia”), in 1996;

Part III. “Afryka, Ameryka Północna, Ameryka Południowa, Australia i Oceania, Antarktyka” (“Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania, the Antarctic”), in 1994;

Part IV. “Oceany i morza” (“Oceans and seas”), in 1994.

All volumes of “Polish Geographical Names of the World” are available in electronic version (PDF format) at the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, but in Polish only:

http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/polskie_nazwy_geograficzne_swiate_1.pdf (part I),

http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/polskie_nazwy_geograficzne_swiate_2.pdf (part II),

http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/polskie_nazwy_geograficzne_swiate_3.pdf (part III),

http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/polskie_nazwy_geograficzne_swiate_iv_oceany_i_morza.pdf (part IV).

objects from Asia (excluding Russia), 434 from Africa, 398 from North America, 97 from South America and 180 from Australia and Oceania (Polish names for 1833 objects in all). The new list contains Polish names for 3162 objects from the same regions – which means an increase by 72%.

This vast number of Polish names is theoretically not in line with the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names resolutions, as both Resolution No. 29 of the Second Conference (1972)⁷ and Resolution No. 20 of the Fourth Conference (1982)⁸ specifically call for a reduction in the number of exonyms.

This increase in number is due to several reasons. Firstly, the Commission's view is that names should not be removed if they are well-established in Polish, proving relations between Poland and sometimes very distant countries, are part of the Polish cultural heritage and therefore should not be impoverished. It also refers to the territories historically associated with Poland and inhabited by a large Polish minority; for these areas it is particularly important to correctly establish names recommended to be used in Poland.

Secondly, the list includes a vast number of names of administrative units which, in Polish as well as in other languages, have mainly been translated (e.g. *Uturu Prowins* in the Maldives as *Prowincja Północna*, called the *North Province* in English) as well as names of protected areas, especially national parks and biosphere reserves, named after the geographical features for which exonyms have already been established (e.g. the exonym *Park Narodowy Jeziora Chubsugul* was established for the Mongolian *Khövsgöl nuuryn baigaliin tsogtsolbort gazar* because its name comes from the lake's name, *Khövsgöl*, for which the exonym *Chubsugul* is fixed; the exonym *Lake Hovsgol National Park* exists for this park in English).

Thirdly, the so-called 'quasi-exonyms' were also included as Polish geographical names of the world. These 'quasi-exonyms' constitute a group of names, established by the Commission as recommended for use in the Polish language, which are, however, endonyms if treated formally. These include four types of names:

⁷ Resolution II/29 "Exonyms":

I The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of limiting the use of exonyms,

Recommends that, within the international standardization of geographical names, the use of those exonyms designating geographical entities falling wholly within one State should be reduced as far and as quickly as possible.

II The Conference,

Recognizing that exonyms are losing ground, even in national use,

1. Recommends that in publications intended only for national use the reduction of exonyms should be considered;

2. Further recommends that in those cases where exonyms are retained, the local official forms should be shown in

addition as far as possible.

⁸ Resolution IV/20 "Reduction of exonyms":

The Conference,

Noting that, in accordance with resolutions 18 and 19 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, further progress has been made in the reduction of the number of exonyms used and a number of States have prepared lists of their own exonyms,

Realizing that the reduction of exonyms used has not been carried out with the same intensity by all States,

Realizing further that the methods and principles aimed at a reduction of the number of exonyms used should constantly be reviewed for expeditious implementation of the resolution and understanding that not all countries can govern the content of maps and atlases published within their territories,

Recommends that exonyms giving rise to international problems should be used very sparingly and published in parenthesis with the nationally accepted standard name.

- geographical names for transboundary features coinciding with at least one standardized endonym used in one of the countries through which the given feature runs, but simultaneously differing from at least one of these endonyms – for instance, the name *Dunaj* being the Slovak endonym and the transcription of the Ukrainian name *Дунай* – *Dunaj*, is treated as a Polish name and used for the river along its entire length, i.e. apart from Slovakia and Ukraine, also in Germany and Austria (German endonym: *Dunau*), Hungary (Hungarian endonym: *Duna*), Croatia and Serbia (Croatian and Serbian endonym: *Dunav*), Bulgaria (Bulgarian endonym: *Дунав* – *Dunav*) and Rumania (Romanian endonym: *Dunărea*)
- geographical names for features possessing several endonyms in the official language or languages in a given country and identical to one of the names of the feature – for instance, the capital of Ireland is exclusively called *Dublin* in Polish, which means the English endonym is recommended, while the Irish endonym *Baile Átha Cliath* is not recommended for use in Polish; similarly, for the capital of Finland only Finnish endonym *Helsinki* is recommended, not Swedish endonym *Helsingfors*
- geographical names whose formal endonyms are written in non-Roman script, identical to the name of the given feature written *via* one of the Romanization methods recommended by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland – for instance, for mountains in Russia the Commission set a name *Ural*, i.e. Russian endonym *Урал* written in transliteration (in transcription this Russian name has form *Ural*), and for republic name *Altaj*, i.e. Russian endonym *Алта́й* in transcription (in transliteration it has form *Altaj*)
- geographical names applied in Poland which differ from the official endonym only *via* translation or omission of the generic form – for instance, *Zatoka Alaska* for gulf officially called *Gulf of Alaska*)⁹.

In the newly elaborated list of Polish geographical names of the world, quasi-exonyms are included only for the most important features. A total of 500 such names can be found in the lists of already adopted names of objects from the areas of Asia (excluding Russia), Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania.

The list of Polish geographical names of the world, including a name index, will be published in a hard copy, as well as in PDF format on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland.

⁹ Names of this type are exonyms according to Resolution No. 19 of the Third Conference of 1977.