



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

21 May 2012

Original: English

Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

National standardization

b) Office treatment of names

Address names of islands with identical names

Submitted by Finland**

* E/CONF.101/1.

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Address Names of Islands with Identical Names

There are over 100 000 lakes and ponds in Finland – and up to nearly 60 000 islands. Most of them are located in the south-western archipelago and the Finnish Lake District.

According to the analyses based on new methods of gathering topographic data, Finland has probably the largest proportion of islands inhabited permanently or part-time in Europe. In 2011 a total of nearly 20 000 islands without fixed road connections had either permanent or part-time settlement. The islands with regular settlement were inhabited by nearly 9 000 permanent and 60 000 part-time inhabitants.

The islands with no permanent settlement had over 75 000 free-time residences, used regularly by some 300 000 people. (Communication by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy 20 June 2011.)

Guidelines by the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities 2006

The Finnish archipelago is inhabited by more people than ever before. The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities has paid attention to this by issuing guidelines for how islands and locations beyond the road network should be given address names. According to the Association, municipalities shall give names to these locations if there are buildings in them.

According to the guidelines by the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, island names that are in use must not be changed. However, no municipality shall have two identical address names. If there are several islands with identical names, the island names may be specified by adding, e.g., the name of the village, lake, or a wider area, e.g.: *Sikosaari, Kesamonsaari* (Sikosaari island located close to Kesamonsaari island; fi *saari* ‘island’). The guidelines in Finnish: <http://hosted.kuntaliitto.fi/intra/julkaisut/pdf/p080729095154U.pdf>.

The normal way of forming names in Finnish favours the genitive, *Kesamonsaaren Sikosaari* (‘*Sikosaari island of Kesamonsaari island*’). This type of names also complies with the recommendations by the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities.

The problem of homonymy does not only concern island names but it may even cover other traditional place names. The issue may be even more complicated in bilingual areas, since places may have identical names in one language and different names in the other language. For example, in the bilingual capital of Helsinki, there is fi *Vasikkasaari* ‘Calf Island’/ sv *Kalvholmen* ‘Calf Island’ and fi *Vasikkaluoto* ‘Calf Islet’ / sv *Kalvholmen* ‘Calf Island’, where the contents of the first pair of names correspond to each other totally, but the contents of the second pair do not.

Recommendation by the Institute for the Languages of Finland 2011

This topic was discussed at the Institute for the Language of Finland with the name planning officials of the cities of Espoo and Helsinki, and the following joint recommendation was issued:

1. Basic and guide map names

- The main principle is that the traditional place names are preserved; the names on the basic map and the municipal guide maps are not changed. The guide maps are supplemented with new address names.

2. Address names

- In general, traditional place names (e.g. island names) can be used as address names as such.

- In case homonymy causes problems, one of the names is turned into an address name by forming what is called a specified name.

3. Turning into an address name by specification

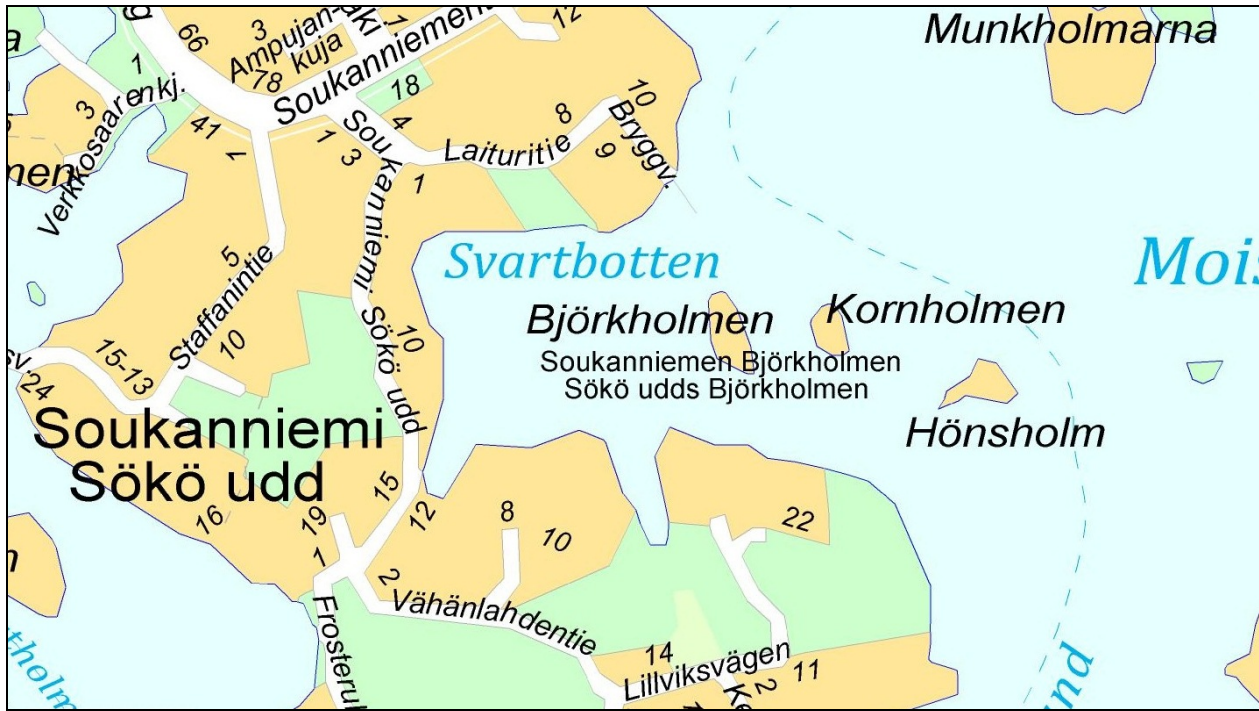
- The attributes used to specify a name may include names of a part of town, village, lake, or some other larger nearby location.
- Specifying only covers identical names. If there is no risk of confusion involved in the name of a location in the other language, nothing is added. For example, fi *Vasikkaluoto* / sv *Kalvholmen* (district fi *Vartiosaari* / sv *Vårdö* and *Vasikkasaari* / *Kalvholmen* (district fi *Suomenlinna* / sv *Sveaborg*) → address names *Vasikkaluoto* / *Vårdö Kalvholmen* and *Vasikkasaari* / *Kalvholmen*.
- Identical names are understood to cover certain problematically similar name types and name types that are hard to distinguish from each other, including names in singular and plural and the definite and indefinite forms of Swedish names.

4. Number of specified names

- The number of specified names shall be kept as small as possible.
- Out of two locations with the same name, it is not necessary to supplement the names of both locations.
- In general it is enough to supplement just the secondary name with a specifying attribute (island name *Isokari* 'Great Island' → address name *Ruonin Isokari*, 'Isokari of Ruoni'), whereas the primary name is retained as such (island name *Isokari*, address name *Isokari*).
- Whether a name is deemed primary or secondary is determined case by case according to, e.g., the following criteria: familiarity, size, permanent settlement, number of residential buildings.
- In special cases, there may be need to specify the names of both identically named locations.

5. Names marked on the guide map

- A name that has been given as an address name shall be marked on the guide map. The address name status shall be clearly indicated by a font that distinguishes it from a traditional place name.



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There are two islands named *Björkholmen* in the archipelago of Espoo. One of them is located off Soukanniemi. The specified name *Soukanniemen Björkholmen* was formed in order to be used as the address name for a summer