

# Identification of Islands and Standardization of Their Names

Submitted by INDONESIA

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**Agenda Item 9: National Standardization**



# Introduction

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- Indonesia is one of the largest archipelagic countries worldwide.
- The number of islands in Indonesia that widely quoted in many literatures is **17,504**
- However, there is no official legal documents that confirm the number and names of islands published.
- Island has an important role for an archipelagic country like Indonesia since it contributes to **the country's territory and sovereignty**. The naming of the island is very important particularly in the context of outer islands in accordance with United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982 which was then ratified by Law no. 17 Year 1985.
- The government of Indonesia has planned for the standardization of names as follows:
  1. natural features (**islands**, mountains, rivers and lakes)
  2. administrative places (provinces, regencies/municipalities, districts and villages)
  3. man-made geographical features (streets, buildings, industrial estates, etc)

# Definition of island

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## *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 Article 121 : Regime of Islands*

- 1. An **island** is a land naturally formed, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide;*
- 2. Except as provided for in paragraph 3, the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, and the continental shelf of an island are determined in accordance with the provisions of this Convention applicable to other land territory;*
- 3. **Rocks** which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own shall have no exclusive economic zone or continental shelf.*

# The role and important of island names

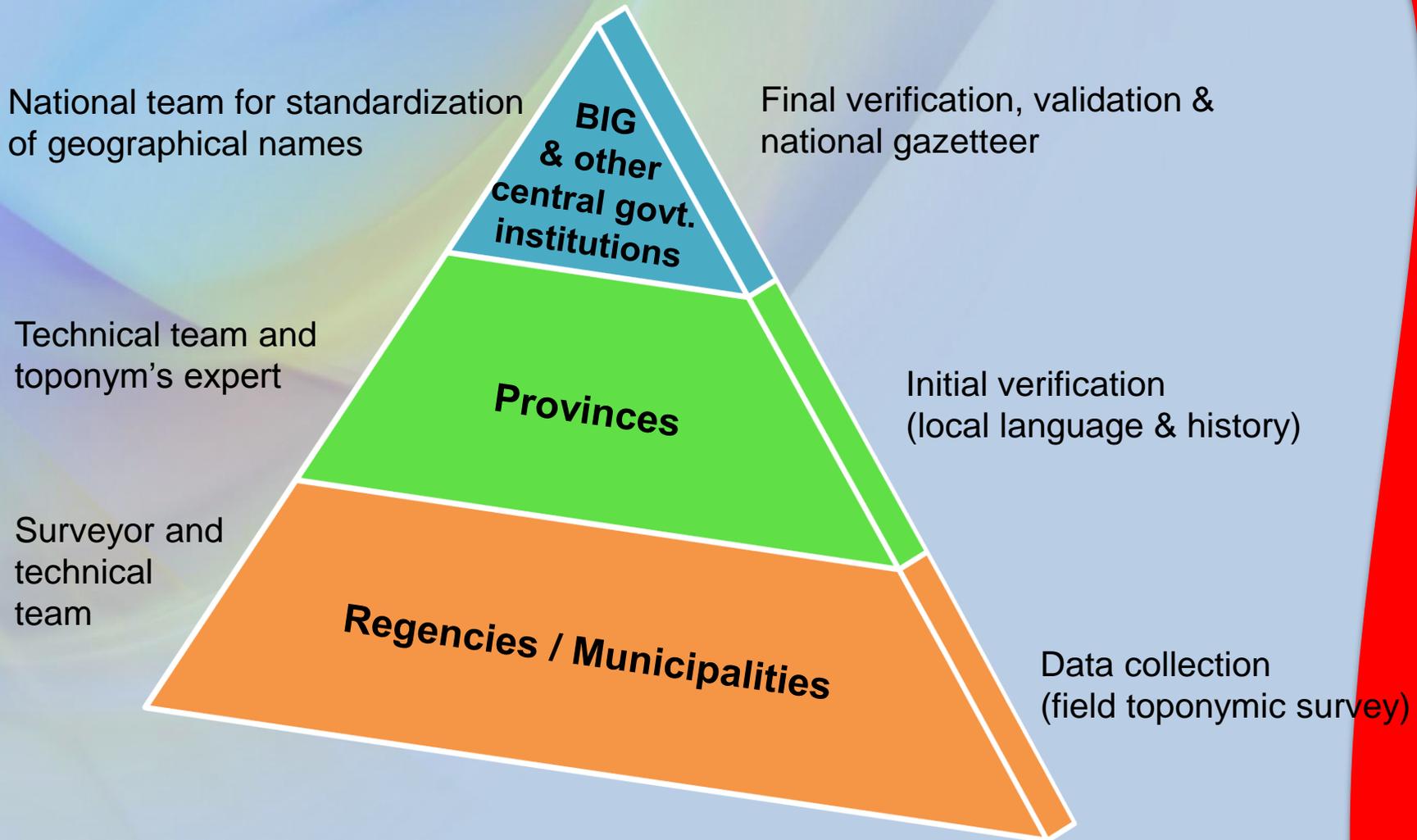
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- It shows a territorial integrity and sovereignty of Indonesia
- Law no. 22 of 1999 and Law no. 32 of 2004 on Regional Government regulates the rights and obligations of regional spatial planning and management in Indonesia hence naming the island becomes increasingly important.
- The identification and inventory of island names should be systematically conducted through a **toponymic survey** and report it as a **national gazetteer**
- Toponymic survey activities of the island therefore have played an important and strategic roles nationally and internationally

# Procedure of Toponymic Survey Verification in Indonesia



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# Toponymic Survey



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Interview with local people to collect the toponyms information  
e.g., name, meaning, history, etc



**Interview with tribe leader**



**Interview with fisherman**

# General Principles of geographical naming in Indonesia

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Based on Home Affairs Minister Regulation No. 39/2008: The guidelines of the Standardization of Geographical Names

The main principles are as follows.

- 1) Use the Roman script;
- 2) Use one name per geographic feature;
- 3) Preserve local language names;
- 4) Comply with government legislation;
- 5) Respect the existence of ethnicity, religion, race, and class;
- 6) Do not use proper personal names of people who are still alive;
- 7) Prefer to use Indonesian language (*Bahasa Indonesia*) rather than foreign languages; and
- 8) Limit names to a maximum of three words

# National Gazetteer and Geodatabase of Indonesian island names



- The national gazetteer of Indonesian island names is stored in a **geodatabase**
- The national gazetteer database can be divided into:
  1. Simple gazetteer  
name, feature code, geographical coordinates
  2. Complete gazetteer  
name, feature code, geographical coordinates, name information and topo sheet index number, pronunciation, language origin, genealogy / history / accessibility, potency and other relevant information in more detail.
- At the UNCSGN/UNGEGN event in 2012, Indonesia reported a total number of islands **13.466**
- Additionally, **2590** more islands are reported this year during UNCSGN/UNGEGN meeting in New York, USA, 7-18 August 2017.

# The archipelago of Indonesia with thousand of islands



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★ 13.466 islands (reported to the UN in 2012)

★ 2.590 islands (reported to the UN in 2017)

Total number of islands that have been reported to the UN as of 2017 is **16.056**

# Island of Indonesia



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*Impodi Kecil Island in Tomini Bay  
Central Sulawesi Province*



*Pulau Tembalan Island in Nunukan Regency  
East Kalimantan Province*



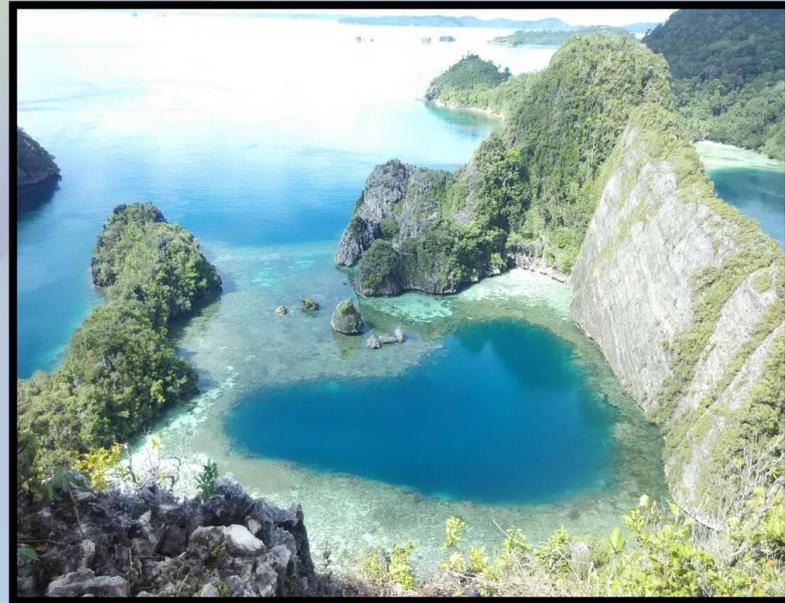
# Island of Indonesia



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*Kapacol Sasulut island*



*“love”-like lagoon in Papua  
(Eastern Indonesia)*



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# Thank you