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**11th United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8 -17 August 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical
names since the 10th Conference (for distribution only).**

Report of Madagascar

Submitted by Madagascar**

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Report presented by MADAGASCAR

Abstract

This report concerns the work carried out by Madagascar since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, in particular the International Training of Trainers on Toponymy, held in Antananarivo, Madagascar in 2013 and the elaboration of toponymic guidelines

The Malagasy Government is aware of the importance of the standardization of geographical names, especially for national sovereignty. It therefore intends to participate effectively in the various activities within the UNGEGN, in this case the implementation of the Gaborone Action Plan (2011) related to Geographical Names in Africa, as in other countries such as Tunis -2007, Ouagadougou-2008, Nairobi-2009, Yaoundé-2010, and the elaboration of toponymic guidelines

International Training of Trainers on Toponymy

Following the consultations between the Malagasy delegation and the Coordinator of the Working Group on Training Courses and the Chair of UNGEGN at the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, an international training of trainers on toponymy was organized from 17 to 21 June 2013 in Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar. Six countries in East Africa, including Kenya, Botswana, Burundi, Uganda, Ethiopia and the host country, participated.

Three (3) international experts from UNGEGN and one expert from the African Union shared knowledge to 28 trainees. The United Nations Statistics Division played a key role in supporting five (5) African participants. The Malagasy Government provided logistic.

The following slogans were used for the occasion:

**" Let not strangers be given the privilege of naming a place in our own country "
And let us work together to ensure that
" The standardization of geographical names in Africa will not be a utopia ".**

The training allowed:

(I) at the global level,

To demonstrate the will and commitment of Madagascar to integrate into the United Nations programs on the standardization of geographical names

(ii) at the regional level,

- to justify the role of coordinator of the host country in the region of East Africa
- to implement the Gaborone Action Plan by providing the countries of the Division with the development of the capacity to respond adequately to the needs related to place names
- to promote the sharing of experience and to create links between the

representatives of each country

- the Division to hold a working meeting

(lii) at the national level,

- to boost activities in each participating country through the formation of trainers for cascading knowledge sharing

- for the host country in particular, to increase the visibility of geographical names by having used the media for the launching of the project

In summary, the training was a real success especially since, having joined the useful to the pleasant, the hosts organized a field visit to Andasibe, a forest area at about 150 km to the East of Antananarivo.

In response to the request of the trainers and trainees, an indicative action plan and the details of the training will be communicated in point 16 of the Provisional Agenda, corresponding to "Teaching of toponymy"

Project for the development of toponymic guidelines

Also at the 10th CNUNNG, the Coordinator of toponymic guidelines met with the representative of Madagascar and it was agreed that it was time for Madagascar to launch a project for the development of toponymic guidelines. He made several recommendations for the design, the model to be followed, the measures to be taken into consideration, including the need for intervention of a linguist.

Thus, a feasibility study was launched and negotiations were carried out to obtain cooperation with a linguist from the National Academy, but finally, for this first essay we have to be content with lot of bibliography. The results will be presented in item 9 / e of the provisional agenda, corresponding to "Principles of toponymy for card readers and other markers".

Other information

- The National Cartographic and Hydrographic Institute assures the Vice-presidency of the KPMA as well as the toponymic works related to its domain. These include the updating of some 250 toponyms through 1: 100,000 database revision in the Analamanga region, province of Antananarivo.
- The integration of these data into the Geonym software, developed by the ECA experts for Africa, has not been completed, as the software is still awaiting development
- For some years, whether by habit, by ignorance, or simply in bad faith, the use of certain old geographical names has increased considerably at the expense of standardized names. The resumption of media actions is imperative to upgrade these standardized names.

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