The Conference, recognizing the enormous benefit of reliable and authoritative geospatial information and maps in decision-making for the sustainable use of natural resources, economic development, and for community well-being, ...., recommends the International Cartographic Association to proclaim and organize an International Map Year in 2015.
Specific purposes of IMY were to:

- Make maps more visible to citizens and school children
- Give all students an opportunity to learn more about cartography and about its associated geospatial sciences
- Show how maps and atlases can be used in society;
- Encourage all to experience how information technology can be used in acquiring and handling geographic information, and how it is possible to produce one’s own maps;
- Display and show different types of maps and map production;
- Demonstrate the necessity of a sustainable development of geographic information infrastructures
why should IMY have been relevant to UNGEGN?

- Because geographical names are an essential part of maps; **without names**, maps would be like photographs or satellite imagery: unable to provide proper links with our environment.
- Because in a freely downloadable manual ICA incorporated a chapter on **toponymy**
- Because within the framework of IMY the ICA demonstrated how maps with **standardized names** can support reaching the 17 Global Sustainability Development Goals
Toponymy allows us to analyze the relations between and among people, history, geography and culture, space and time. Toponymy, place names or geographical names are one of the most commonly and widely used way of geoinformation, consisting of official and local names of administrative, cultural and geographic features, including streets and roads.
The World of Maps is a book produced to accompany the International Map Year. The perspective of the book is to broaden the knowledge of cartography and geographic information among the general public and especially among school children. Basically, we want to spread the love for maps 😊

The World of Maps includes individual chapters covering a variety of cartographic topics and issues that form a coherent introduction, reference volume and workbook for those who are interested in investigating the nature of contemporary mapping. Please note that chapters may be replaced with new versions when needed.

Proceed to the ebook of the World of Maps

International Map Year (IMY) is a worldwide celebration of maps and their unique role in our world. It's organized by the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and supported by the United Nations (UN). Learn more...
Samples from the toponymy and map use chapters in *The world of maps*