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NAMES OF THE INLAND WATERS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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Concerning item 13 of the provisional agenda

NAMES OF THE INLAND WATERS OF THE  
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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1. In the German Democratic Republic there were carried out studies on the implementation of resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names referring to national standardization. As a result of the studies a standardized spelling of geographical names of the GDR's coastal waters has been defined and documented in cartographical papers on scales of 1 : 100,000 and 1 : 200,000. Therewith, standardized documents on the uniform spelling of names for the different objects, such as waters, the subsea surface, islands, peninsulas, points and capes, are available, as far as the GDR's coastal area is concerned. Furthermore, the most important regional geographical names existing in the GDR have been listed and documented in a general map on a scale of 1 : 750,000. Regional geographical names are:

names of landscapes, mountains, ridges and lowlands.

The general map contains information on the size of these objects, as well. On the occasion of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Geneva, 1982) the GDR reported on the results of this project.

(See Resolution 7 of the Fourth Conference)

The present contribution takes these results as a basis and deals with tasks of national standardization for the names of inland waters.

2. The names of the following objects, as far as inland waters are concerned, are registered:

- lakes, storage reservoirs/barrages, ponds
- rivers, creeks, canals, furrows
- ~~blind~~ <sup>seasonal</sup> lakes, rivers and creeks

- springs and headwater regions
- retaining basins
- fairways
- cascades and riffles
- locks, boat elevators, weirs, barrage dams and retaining dams.

In that context the standardized and correct spelling of the names of these objects and their attribution to the hydrographical objects in cartographical products shall be laid down. For the GDR's territory and for the documentation of the results, the scale of 1 : 100,000 has proved to be the most suitable one.

3. It is necessary to make a thorough analysis of geographic, cartographic and hydrologic sources within the framework of studies for defining the spelling of the names and the attribution in question. In the course of the time the spelling of the names, for instance, has changed; two or more names have been attributed to the same object or the opinions concerning the size of the territories or the scope of application for the names of linear waters have changed. These studies, if the occasion arises, also require local investigations and interrogations as well as co-ordination with the competent local public authorities, institutions and departments.

When defining the spelling of names of the inland waters one has to follow at the same time the "Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names" generally defined in the directions set up for all geographical names. With regard to that, at present the fourth edition of the "General Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names of the German Democratic Republic" (Berlin, 1989) is in force.

4. The documentation of the names of waters occurs in conformity with binding definitions on the basis of the Topographical Map on a Scale of 1 : 100,000. The documentation's original consists of a sheet of plastic material wherein, by drawing, all available names and selected conventional signs are entered. The entries are made in a form that allows duplication. There are special instructions for the elaboration of the documentation's original, e.g. for the colour layout, the characters, the procedure in case of lack of space, the abbreviations to be used if necessary, etc. The entry indicating the beginning and end of a linear water is of specific importance. In this context it will also be necessary to complete or update the graphic representation of waters in the topographical map on the scale 1 : 100,000. The topographical scale for surveying in the GDR is 1 : 10,000.

Covering the whole territory of the GDR, all hydrographical names are documented in this density. The specific conventional signs for the mentioned objects are graphically represented, as well (eleven different conventional signs).

The documentation's original needs to be examined and authorized. Furthermore, a register of origin in form of a reference is set up. This register contains data on the origin of names, change of names as well as on the reconciliation of the definition for the current spelling of names including their definite attribution to the objects in question. In the GDR this work is systematically performed by those institutions responsible for the topographical mapping of the country.

5. The standardization of the spelling for names of the inland waters is a necessary task of the national standardization of geographical names. The method of mapping out the names in a reproducible documentation's original including the entries on the boundaries of the different hydrographical objects is appropriate because it allows to solve a variety of tasks.

These documents are of importance, e.g. for

- the standardized spelling of the names for inland waters in all the cartographical products of the GDR,
- the correct attribution of names to the objects in question and their scopes of application,
- the proper selection and generalization of these names in general geographical and thematic maps,
- the reconciliation of the spelling of hydrographical objects that are situated on the borders with the neighbouring countries.

These extensive activities to document the names of inland waters initiated in the GDR represent a further contribution to the implementation of Resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, as far as national standardization is concerned.

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