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Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**

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Item 5
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REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report of the Africa South Division

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Divisional meetings and co-operation with member countries

The Africa South Division held no specific divisional meeting, but co-operated by means of correspondence, workshops and training courses between the member countries. This is elucidated in more detail in the separate reports received from member countries.

Botswana

No report received

Lesotho

No report received

Malawi

No report received

Mozambique

National naming authority

The Government of Mozambique, through a ministerial dispatch of 3 June 1999, signed by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister of State Administration, established a working group in order to prepare the terms of reference for the establishment of a National Committee on Geographical Names. This working group comprises representatives from the National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre (DINAGECA) and the National Directorate of Local Administration (DNAL).

On 6 and 7 July 1998, Mr Alexandre Uisse Chidimatembue, Head of the Department of Aerial Photography and Cartography and Mr Luis Abrahamo, Head of the Cartography Division, both from DINAGECA, visited the South African National Place Names Committee. The aim of the visit was to learn about the implementation of United Nations resolutions as pertaining to the standardization of geographical names and the establishment of a national geographical names authority for Mozambique. The meeting was chaired by Dr Peter Raper, Chairman of the UNGEGN and attended by Dr L.A. Möller, Secretary of the Africa South Division of UNGEGN.

In the same period, and with the same objectives, the two officers visited Botswana and established contact with the Botswana Place Names Commission.

During 1999 another group of top officials from DINAGECA namely Mr José Elias Mucombo (National Deputy Director), Mr Simeaoi Velema Cambaco (Head of Department of Geodesy and Photogrammetry), Mr Alexandre Uisse Chidimatembue and Mr Luis Abrahamo visited the Canadian Permanent Committee on geographical names in order to get more information on this matter.

It is expected for Mozambique to have the National Committee on Geographical Names established during the year 2000.

Mozambique Land Information System

Since the last United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in 1998, the National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre has been involved in the collecting of geographical names based on topographic maps at 1:50 000 and 1:250 000 respectively, for the geographical dictionary of Mozambique. In addition new names from topographic maps at 1:50 000, 1:10 000 and 1:25 000 scales, covering Maputo, Beira, Quelimane, Nampula and Pemba cities have been collected according to their local spelling.

According to the activities plan, the field survey brigades also collected geographical names in the cartographic project of Niassa province, which is being partially mapped at 1:50 000.

The National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre is setting up a Toponymic Database of all geographical names including names of rivers, mountains, regions, etc.

Maps of the Administrative Divisions of Mozambique at 1:2 000 000 and regional maps at 1:1 000 000 (South, Centre and North) are currently being updated and will show official names as well.

Namibia

National naming authority and United Nations Training on Geographical Names

The Government of Namibia through its Department of Basic Education and Culture invited Dr. Peter E. Raper and Dr L.A. Möller of South Africa to present a United Nations Training Workshop on Geographical Names in Windhoek, Namibia from 14 to 19 April 1998. It was held at the Rössing Foundation Educational Centre and attended by some thirty-two participants from 13 regions of Namibia. The workshop was also attended by representatives from the Directorate of Surveys and Mapping of Namibia and the President's Office. Sponsored by UNESCO, the aim of the Workshop was to facilitate the establishment of a national geographical names authority for Namibia, and to give guidelines on research methods and the digital compilation of a dictionary of Namibian place names.

South Africa

National names authority

On the recommendations of the South African Working Forum on Geographical Names, the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology by Act 118 of 1998 established the South African Geographical Names Council. This new Council, which replaces the former National Place Names Committee, has the task of standardising the geographical names of South Africa as recommended by resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The former National Place Names Committee still functioned until July 1999 and held several meetings during the past two years to consider names submitted for standardization purposes.

Co-operation with member countries

Visit by Dignitaries from Mozambique

At the request of the Government of Mozambique a special meeting with members of the

National Place Names Committee was held on 6 and 7 July 1998. Two officials from Mozambique were briefed on UN resolutions on the establishment of a national geographical names authority, namely Mr Luis Abrahamo, Mozambique's expert to the UNGEGN and Head of the Cartography Division of the National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre, and Mr Alexandre Uisse Chidimatembue, Head of the Department of Aerial Photography and Cartography of the same Department. The Report on the South African Geographical Names Commission served as basis for discussion. The meeting was chaired by Dr Peter E. Raper. Dr Lucie A. Moeller participated in the meeting as Secretary of the Africa South Division, and at the express request of the Government of Mozambique.

Education and training

United Nations Training Courses on Geographical Names

From 14 to 19 April 1998 the Chairman Dr P. E. Raper and Dr Lucie A. Moeller presented a United Nations Training Workshop on Geographical Names in Windhoek at the invitation of the Government of Namibia. It was held at the Rössing Foundation Educational Centre and attended by some thirty-two participants from 13 regions of Namibia. The training workshop was sponsored by UNESCO and had as its aim the facilitation and establishment of a national geographical names authority for Namibia. It also gave guidelines on research methods, digital database development and maintenance as well as the requirements for compilation of a dictionary of Namibian place names.

The seventh United Nations Training Course on Geographical Names was held in Pretoria from 20 to 25 July 1998. Arranged jointly by the UNGEGN, the Geography Department of the University of Pretoria and the Names Research Institute, the course was attended by some 38 participants from Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. A one day fieldwork trip was organized to coincide with a technical visit to the Topocadastral Information Services of the City Council of Pretoria.

Liaison with international organizations

XXth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences

The XXth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences was held from 20 to 25 September 1999 in Santiago de Compostella, Spain, and for the first time a session was devoted to the standardisation of geographical names. Nine experts to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names participated in this session. The congress was attended by five South Africans namely Professors A. Koopman, B.A. Meiring, S.J. Neethling, Dr C. Hromnik and Dr Peter E. Raper, who also chaired a session.

International Seminar in Korea

Dr Peter E. Raper and Dr Lucie A. Moeller were invited by the UNGEGN expert of Korea, Professor Ki-Suk Lee, to participate in the "Fifth International Seminar on the Naming of Seas". The seminar was held in Seoul, Korea, from 25 to 27 October 1999. It focused on the international standardization of geographical names with specific emphasis on the naming of seas. The paper read by Dr Raper was entitled "Names of Seas and Oceans: the United Nations Perspective", and Dr Moeller discussed "Progress on Naming Issues in South Africa: Who looks out to sea?". Papers were also presented by academics and cartographers from China, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United

States of America.

Swaziland

No report received

Zambia

No report received

Zimbabwe

No report received

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