

**Twenty-fifth session
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Reports of the liaison officers and international organizations

**Report on the UNGEGN liaison with the
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research ***

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Report of the UNGEGN Liaison with the
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) *

Since 1959 forty seven countries have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty with nineteen non-consultative parties invited to attend Consultative Meetings. (Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty)

Gazetteers or lists of geographical names and guidelines for naming features in the Antarctic have been issued by some 22 countries in various grades of completeness with place-names appearing in 15 or more languages and five scripts.

In 1992 the need for a composite gazetteer of Antarctica was recognized, with the aim of bringing some order to the complex toponymy of Antarctica. Work began by collating existing gazetteers or lists of geographical names issued by countries adhering to SCAR as Full Members or Associate Members.

A printed version of the Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA) was published in 1998. The Italian web site at www3.pnra.it/SCAR_GAZE operated till January 2009 with the SCAR CGA being transferred to the web site of the Australian Antarctic Division Data Centre over the previous year. The SCAR CGA continues to be compiled by Italy and updated on a quarterly basis. Italy as an administrator of the SCAR CGA has the authority to download and upload data from Australia for editing purposes.

As of 1 January 2009, there were 36,191 name entries assigned to 18,290 different geographical features in Antarctica. The collaborating countries in the CGA project are (listed as ISO three-letter code): ARG, AUS, BEL, BGR, CAN, CHL, CHN, DEU, ECU, ESP, FRA, GBR, IND, ITA, JPN, NOR, NZL, POL, RUS, URY, USA, ZAF and the International Hydrographic Organization / International Oceanographic Commission.

A first Supplement to the CGA was printed in 2000, while in 2004 a second Supplement, superseding the first one, was printed and distributed at the SCAR Open Science Conference (Bremen, July 2004). It is not intended to print any further supplements as the information is now readily available on the web and printing by contrast is relatively expensive.

With the transfer of the SCAR CGA database to the Australian Antarctic Data Centre new fields have been added that allow:

1. The accuracy of coordinates to be shown,
2. The source of the data that coordinates have been determined from to be shown,
3. Photos of a feature to be shown and
4. The feature type of a feature. The feature type in languages other than English have been mapped to the English feature type. For example Aleksandra Gora has been mapped to the feature type mountain.

The SCAR CGA has also been linked to the:

1. SCAR map catalogue
2. SCAR Feature catalogue
3. SCAR flora and fauna databases.

APPENDIX A
SCAR CGA - LIST OF FIELDS
DEFINITIONS

Name - existing field

Name of a feature in a national gazetteer.
Mandatory

Description – existing field

Who, what or why the feature was named for.
Optional for existing names
Mandatory for new names

Latitude - existing field

Decimal degrees in data base with option of entering data in degrees, minutes and seconds.
Mandatory

Longitude - existing field

Decimal degrees in data base with option of entering data in degrees, minutes and seconds
Mandatory

Coordinate accuracy (Coord_accu) – new field

The estimated accuracy of the coordinates in metres.
Optional for existing information
Recommended for new names and when updating coordinates.

Elevation - existing field

Height of feature in metres
Optional if height is not known,
Recommended for new features if height is known.

Elevation_accuracy – new field

The estimated accuracy of the altitude in metres
Optional for existing information,
Recommended for new names and when updating heights if the information exists.

Feature Type – new field

Feature type - derived from the generic feature term and mapped to the SCAR Feature Catalogue.

Feature type code

Code in the SCAR Feature Catalogue relating to a particular Feature Type.

Feature class – existing field

Feature classes will be mapped to the SCAR Feature Catalogue using the features described on the SCAR Composite Gazetteer web site Annex F and G.

Institution – new field

The name of the institution that provided or calculated the coordinates and elevation.

Optional for existing information
Recommended when updating coordinates.

Person – new field

Name of the person in the institution that derived the coordinates.
Optional for existing and new information.

Accepted and / or Verified by – new field

The name of the institution that either accepted, verified and / or checked the coordinates, levation, coordinate accuracy and elevation accuracy.
Optional for existing information,
Recommended when updating or accepting new coordinates.

Gazetteer – existing field

Name of country and custodian responsible for the feature name and where the gazetteer information came from.
Pick list from existing list of countries, Australia, USA, United Kingdom etc.,
Mandatory

SCAR_GAZ_ID

The unique identifier in the SCAR Composite Gazetteer Antarctica.
Automatically generated

Source type – new field

Origin of the coordinates.
Pick list from Topographic map, GPS hand held, GPS differential, survey control, satellite image, geo-referenced aerial photo, unknown
Optional for existing information.
Recommended when updating coordinates and adding new features.

Source name – new field

Name of the map, satellite image etc where the coordinates were derived from.
Pick list from Map name, satellite image type (pick list ASTER, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, SPOT 1, SPOT 2, SPOT 3, SPOT 5, Landsat, date and number and or path, row.)
Optional for existing information
Recommended when updating coordinates.

Publisher

Where coordinates are derived from a map, the publisher of that map.
Recommended if information is known.

Source Identifier

Where a coordinate or elevation is derived from a map, the unique identifier of that map in the national catalogue.
Recommended when updating coordinates

Map scale – new field

Scale of the map from which the coordinates were derived.
Optional
Recommended if a map has been used to improve the location of the feature.

National map number - new field

Where agencies have a map number then include that wherever possible. For example the scanned USGS topographic maps
Optional
Recommended if a map has been used to improve the location of the feature and national identifier exists for the map.

SCAR map catalogue number - new field

Catalogue number of the map in the SCAR map catalogue used to derive the coordinates of a feature.
Optional for existing information,
Recommended when updating coordinates from a map that is in the SCAR map catalogue or that should be in the SCAR map catalogue.

Status

This is to show the status of a name if it is different from other names – for example if a feature has disappeared or if the name does not meet place name standards in a national gazetteer.

Pick list from historical, disappeared or acknowledged.

Historical – where a feature was incorrectly identified or may never have existed but was shown on maps and is now recognised as being incorrect. The information is preserved for historical and research purposes.

Disappeared – where a feature did exist but due to natural or human forces now no longer exists.

The term “Acknowledged” is used by the UK Antarctic Place Names Committee where names are acknowledged as being in use but insufficient evidence exists for their approval.

Mandatory if the status is changed.

Status notes

Note on status – notes on when it was discovered it was incorrectly identified or links to historical research, when it disappeared or why a feature is acknowledged.

Mandatory if the reason for the status change is known.

Comments – new field

Notes by those updating the coordinates or other fields.

For example, if the location of a feature is still in question or unable to be determined from the quoted coordinates or description

APPENDIX B

Example of Feature Name with New Fields Completed

Name Details - Windows Internet Explorer
http://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/gaz/display_name.cfm?gaz_id=2230

Google Search

Australian Antarctic Division
Antarctic Gazetteer Name Details

Navigation
Maps, charts, and geographic information > A catalogue of Antarctic Names from the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica, the Australian Antarctic Gazetteer and lists of other less formal names.
Observational data >
Online tools and guidelines >

David Range

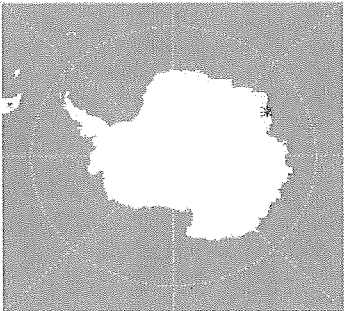

Australian Gazetteer Id 2230

This name originates from Australia. It is part of the Australian Antarctic Gazetteer.

A range about 11 km west of and parallel to the Masson Range in Mac.Robertson Land. BANZARE saw the peaks of this range, together with those of the Masson and Casey Ranges, mirrored on the horizon during the evening of 4 January 1930. They were again seen the following day from the aeroplane. The range was mapped on 14 February, 1931, from the Discovery. Named by Sir Douglas Mawson after Professor Sir T. W. Edgeworth David, a member of the BANZARE Committee.

Latitude: 67° 50' 00.0" S -67.833°
Longitude: 62° 32' 17.0" E 62.538°

Region: Framnes Mountains	Altitude: 1444.2 m
Feature Type: Range	Lat/Long Precision: 30 m
Date Named: Unknown	Alt. Precision: 20 m



IMAGERY: IA16470 - link to preview
Caption: View of the David Range from the Central Masson Range looking west. In the foreground, an ice wave feature appears in the evening light.
Location: David Range
Photographer: Filipatrik Mal
Date: 22 December 2002
© Mr Filipatrik 2002

Toggle display of extra information

Accepted By: Unknown **Verified By:** Unverified

Comments: None

Source Type: Topographic data	Display Scales: 1:2,000,000
Source Name: Framnes Mountains 1:25000 Topographic GIS Dataset	1:1,000,000
Source Identifier: Metadata_ID_fram25k	1:500,000
Source Scale: 2000	1:250,000
Source Institution: Australian Antarctic Division	1:100,000
Source Person: Broisma	1:50,000
Source Publisher: Australian Antarctic Division	

Remote Sensor Info: Not Applicable

Meeting Date: Not Applicable **Meeting Paper:** Named by Mawson

Status: Official
Status Notes: None

- Species seen - Fauna, Flora or All within 1.0 degree of this location
- Australian Maps - Large scale (upto 100 000) | Medium scale (100 000 to 250 000) | Small scale (above 250 000)
- Maps (from all countries) - Large scale (upto 100 000) | Medium scale (100 000 to 250 000) | Small scale (above 250 000)
- Australian Place names within 1.0 degree of this location
- Place names from all countries within 1.0 degree of this location

Australian Antarctic Data Centre > Maps, charts, and geographic information > Australian Place Names (Gazetteer)

Australian Government
Antarctic Division

APPENDIX C

Sources of the SCAR Composite Gazetteer Antarctica

Annex D - Sources of the Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica

	Country	ISO Code	No. of names	Data taken from:	Authorised	Validated
1	Argentina	ARG	2544	"Nomenclador Antártico Argentino", 1993. Diskette at Bariloche. Letter A updated 1999	Yes	No
2	Australia	AUS	2371	Sent by the Manager of the Australian Antarctic Data Center in 1997. Continuously updated.	Yes	Yes
3	Belgium	BEL	117	Letter of the Embassy of Belgium at Canberra, 1994. No updating.	No	No
4	Bulgaria	BGR	340	Bulgarian Place-names list. Continuously updated.	Yes	Yes
5	Canada	CAN	1	Fax of O. Loken 18.12.2000.	Yes	Yes
6	Chile	CHL	1865	"Diccionario de Nombres Geográficos de la costa de Chile". 2ª Edición - 1999	Yes	Yes
7	China	CHN	279	Diskettes updating 2004.	Yes	Yes
8	Ecuador	ECU	9	Letters from Capt de Navio O. Morán (1998-99)	Yes	Yes
9	France	FRA	208	"Toponymie de Terre Adélie". Last updating 2003.	Yes	Yes
10	Germany	DEU	393	Gazetteer 1993 and updating from the German web site.	Yes	Yes
11	India	IND	21	Letter by Dr A. Mitra, Principal Scientific Officer (Antarctica), 12/1/98.	Yes	No
12	Italy	ITA	44	Italian gazetteer, 2003. Continuously updated.	Yes	Yes
13	Japan	JPN	314	Japanese gazetteer (1997). Updating 2000.	Yes	Yes
14	New Zealand	NZL	2558	Many sources. Continuously updated.	Yes	Yes
15	Norway	NOR	1647	"Lists of Nonwegian Place-Names (preliminary)", 1992. Diskette in 1994. Updated 2006.	Yes	Yes
16	Poland	POL	365	List of the Place-names of Antarctica introduced by Poland in 1978-90 (1992). Continuously updated.	Yes	Yes
17	Russia	RUS	4808	Dictionary of geographical names in the Antarctic, 1987. Last updating 2002.	Yes	No
18	South Africa	ZAF	2	Letter of R. T. Wonnacott, Survey Services director, 15/12/1997.	Yes	No
19	Spain	ESP	30	Bol. R. Soc. Esp. Hist. Nat. (Sec. Geol.) 93 (1-4), 1997, 227-334.	Yes	No
20	UK	GBR	4862	Gazetteer of the British Antarctic Territory, 1993. Continuously updated.	Yes	Yes
21	Uruguay	URY	5	Letters of the president of the "Instituto Antártico Uruguayo", 1997-98.	Yes	No
22	USA	USA	12990	"Geographic Names of the Antarctic", 1995. Continuously updated.	Yes	Yes
23	GEBCO	GBC	185	GEBCO (IHO) gazetteer. Updating from the IHO website.	Yes	Yes
	TOTAL		35958			