

**Twenty-ninth session  
Bangkok, Thailand, 25 – 29 April 2016**

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**Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda**

**Report of the Divisions**

## **Africa East Division Report**

Submitted by Africa East Division\*

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\* Prepared by Nivo Ratovoarison (Madagascar), Africa East Division Chair, UNGEGN

## AFRICA EAST DIVISION REPORT

### Summary

This report concerns the activities of the Africa East Division since the 28<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in New York. Notwithstanding the lack of meeting during this period, the contact between members has been maintained through email exchange. Thus, after the training course in 2013 in Madagascar, they continue to communicate their feedback on implementation and evolution as it is mentioned in the joined country reports.

- Among the 16 countries recorded in the UNGEGN list for the Africa East Division, 10 are still untraceable despite of many tentative to find a contact point. The six remaining countries fortunately showed themselves to be active members, meaning that they have attended times to times to UNGEGN session or at least they participated to email exchanges.
- These countries (Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda, joined lately by Burundi), participated to the training held in Antananarivo Madagascar in 2013 and a strong relationship was created between them. In fact, most of them noted a more or less perceptible achievements: for some, like Kenya, it was home trainings so that they could share their knowledge to their colleagues, for information or for the need of the job. In another level, some could organize workshops, such as Botswana, with the highly appreciated contribution of our colleague Mr. Trueman Kubheka from South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC).
- In general, the training in itself was undoubtedly a success but moreover, the post training extend much more than expected. The report made by the representative of Burundi particularly point out the good result of training when those who are beneficiary are willing to implement (see item 8).

### **Information:**

- We note that two active members are now retired: Ms. Lucy Phalaagae from the Botswana and Mr Charles Mwangi from the Kenya. The first one is the chair of Africa South Division but we used to join our effort considering that we have identical problems. The latter hold the position of secretary of the Africa East Division and he was particularly involved in finding ideas for making GAP a success. Both of them leave undoubtedly a certain lack because they showed a real interest and dynamism for GN project. We wish them a well deserved retirement and we hope that they will continue to contribute for the continuity of the work.
- We welcome the two members Ms. Baboloki Gabalape who is already used to represent Botswana and Mr Charles Kiruma who is representing Kenya. Let us wish them to be as motivated as their predecessors.

- Lately, we were trying to contact the new representative of Kenya to get some news from to follow the activities in this country. We know from the previous report that Kenya has already its Standing Committee on Geographical Names (SCGN), and the standardization of GNs is complete. Moreover, a possible collaboration with the Kenya Institute of Surveying and Mapping (KISM) was in view. We are hoping that there is some achievements in this side.
- We note also more interaction because Burundi was communicated City names data to UNGEGN through the division and he has also asked for assistance
- Concerning the recommendations reported in previous session (organizing further hands-on training in the GEONYMS software package, request the continuation of UNECA support for the follow-up of relevant recommendations from the Gaborone Action Plan (GAP), organize more training activities and to revitalize the existing committee), we are still working on them.

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*Report prepared by Nivo Ratovoarison (Madagascar), Africa East Division Chair, UNGEGN*

## **ADDITIONAL COUNTRY REPORTS**

### **BOTSWANA**

After the Training of trainers course in Madagascar in June 2013, more efforts have been made to raise awareness on geographical names and their standardization in the country. And another engagement is being more involved with the activities of the recently established Interim Committee on Geographical Names which I do sit in as a secretary. This committee was set up to put more emphasis on geographical names issues, look into some possible interventions and give advice to the relevant authorities in resuscitating the Botswana Place Names Commission. Notwithstanding, the contributions to the UNGEGN bulletins.

After the training course, the plan was to raise awareness on geographical names standardization. Three workshops have been held to date. These were facilitated by three experts who have been involved with the issues of geographical names in the country, thus Ms. Lucy Phalaagae, Ms. Baboloki Gabalape and Mr. Kabelo Kgari, the latter two being the beneficiaries of the previous Training of Trainers course hosted by Madagascar in 2013.

The first awareness workshops was organized for management staff in the department in April 2014 (1 day).

The Second one was for the interim committee was held in early September 2014 (1 day) and the third workshop was organized for the interim committee and Mr. Trueman Kubheka from SAGNC was the guest facilitator.

It was also an added advantage to have recently been a member of the task team engaged in drafting of national guidelines on Road and Street Naming by Ministry of Local government and Rural Development roads in the country. With the basic knowledge on the subject of geographical names the task could not be a difficult one especially with regard to the proposed procedures of naming, naming sources and naming materials.

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By Ms. Baboloki Gabalape

### **BURUNDI**

## **SITUATION ACTUELLE DU BURUNDI SUR LA MISE EN PLACE DE LA COMMISSION NATIONALE DE NORMALISATION DES NOMS GEOGRAPHIQUES.**

De retour de la formation des formateurs en toponymie qui a eu lieu à Antananarivo – MADAGASCAR du 17 au 21 Juin 2013, le participant du Burundi a donné le rapport de mission à l'Institut Géographique du Burundi (IGEBU) d'abord, puis au Gouvernement qui l'a délégué via le Ministère de tutelle. Au cours du 2<sup>ème</sup> semestre de la même année, il a pu expliquer le bien fondé de la formation qu'il venait de bénéficier aux agents de l'Institut parmi lesquels il fait partie surtout ceux du Département de la Cartographie et de la Topographie. Ses explications et échanges portaient notamment sur le rôle aussi important de la commission nationale de normalisation des noms géographiques ainsi que les avantages qu'il a observés ailleurs mais qui n'existent pas encore au Burundi. Suite à ses informations et échanges au sein de notre Institut, l'idée de mettre en place cette commission au sein de notre pays s'était s'avéré nécessaire. La même idée a été portée très loin jusqu'au sein de notre ministère via le Directeur de la Cartographie et de la Topographie en collaboration avec Madame le Directeur Général de notre Institut au cours des différentes réunions dans lesquelles ils participaient au sein de notre ministère au cours de l'année 2015. C'est ainsi qu'après l'exposé sur l'importance de cette commission au sein d'un pays qui vient d'être animé lors d'une réunion du comité technique du Bureau de Centralisation Géomatique de la 2<sup>ème</sup> Vice-présidence de la République tenue le 10/2/2016, la même idée a été acceptée à l'unanimité et une cellule a été mise sur place pour préparation des textes légaux permettant la mise en place de cette commission dans notre pays. Notons que le Bureau de Centralisation Géomatique a été créé au sein de la 2<sup>ème</sup> Vice présidence a le rôle primordial de gestionnaire de toutes les données du SIG du pays. A l'état où nous en sommes, on est en train de préparer les textes légaux permettant la mise en place de cette commission dans notre pays.

Nous espérons que cette commission verra le jour avant la fin de l'année en cours après adoption des textes par l'Assemblée Nationale et promulgation par le Président de la République.

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By Mr Barakamfitiye Benoît

## **MADAGASCAR**

After the famous training of trainers held at home in 2013, four teams of four technicians each who are carrying out data collection for administrative boundary delineation have been trained also in toponymy collection by the new trainers.

The topic is to get definitely a unique name for each place for it happens that name differs, depending on the source: the Ministry of Interior, the National Institute for Statistics or the National Institute for Mapping.

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By Ms. Nivo Ratovoarison