



CAPTURE OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES IN CHILEAN ISLAND TERRITORY



IGM
INSTITUTO
GEOGRÁFICO MILITAR
Cartografía Oficial del Estado de Chile

RAPA-NUI OR EASTER ISLAND (REPUBLIC OF CHILE)

The Military Geographic Institute of Chile (IGM) has focused its tasks on gathering the names of the geographic features in the “rapanui” or “vananga” language unique to the inhabitants of Easter Island.

This island is part of Chilean island territory, located 3,700 kilometers from the nearest point on the coast of Chile, which is at the port of Caldera. The Government of Chile has declared the island to be “Rapa Nui National Park”. In December 1995, the UNESCO (United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization) declared it to be a “World Heritage Site”.

For gathering, managing and standardizing geographic names in the Rapa Nui language, the island was visited and toured, in order to obtain from the native people the information about toponyms, together with the contributions made by the members of the Council of Elders, so as to align with the names that they gave originally and which have remained over time; thus these toponyms have entered the Spanish language (the official language of Chile).

JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS (REPUBLIC OF CHILE)

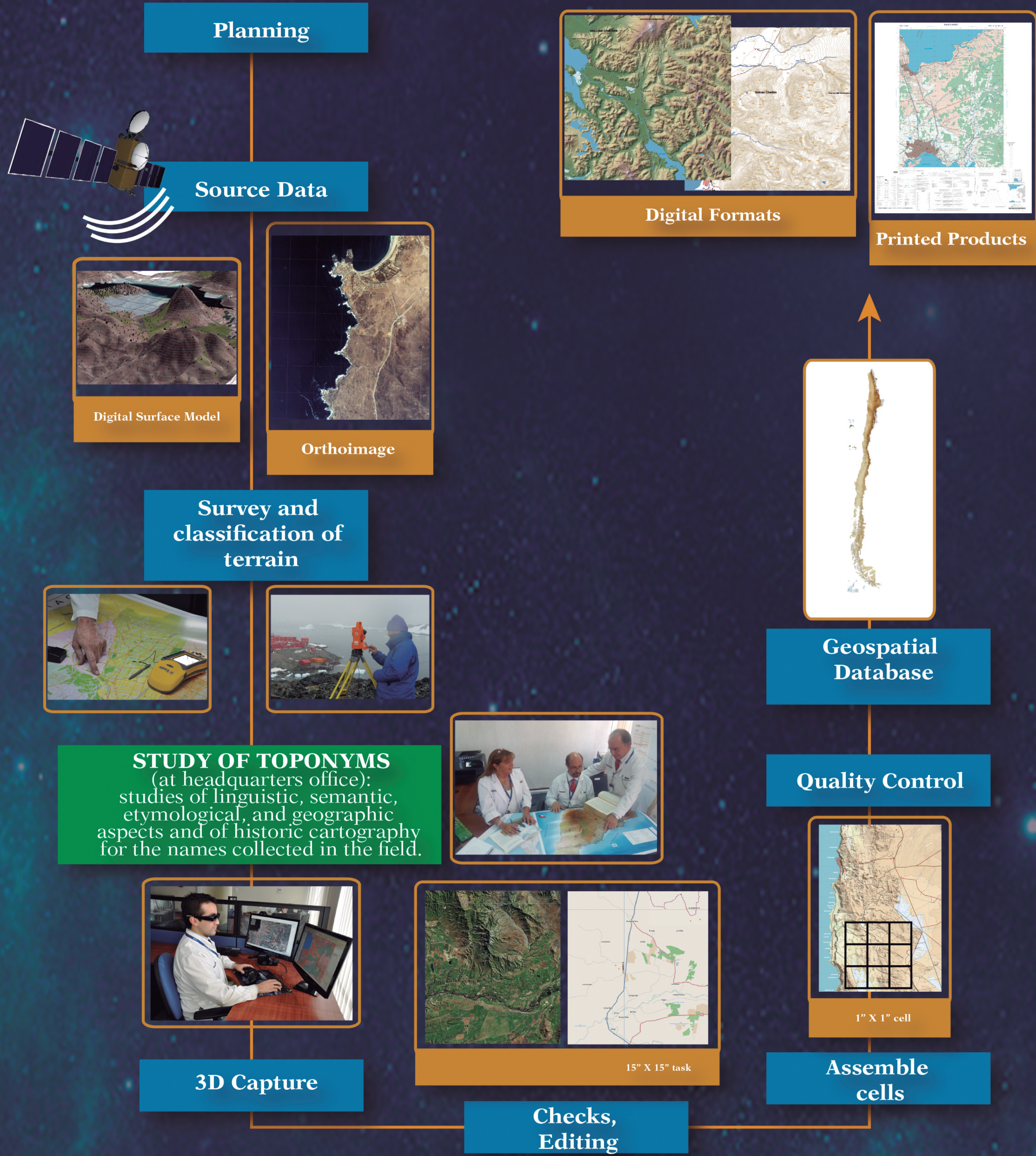
The Military Geographic Institute of Chile (IGM) has visited the Juan Fernández islands, made up of three islands, called Robinson Crusoe island (the largest), Alejandro Selkirk island and Santa Clara island (the smallest), which are located 667 km from the coast, the nearest coastal point being at the Chilean port of San Antonio.

It is rich in endemic species of fauna and flora, having caught the attention of the international community. The Government of Chile, in the year 1935, declared it as “Juan Fernández Islands National Park”, and in 1977, the UNESCO declared it to be a “World Biosphere Reserve”.

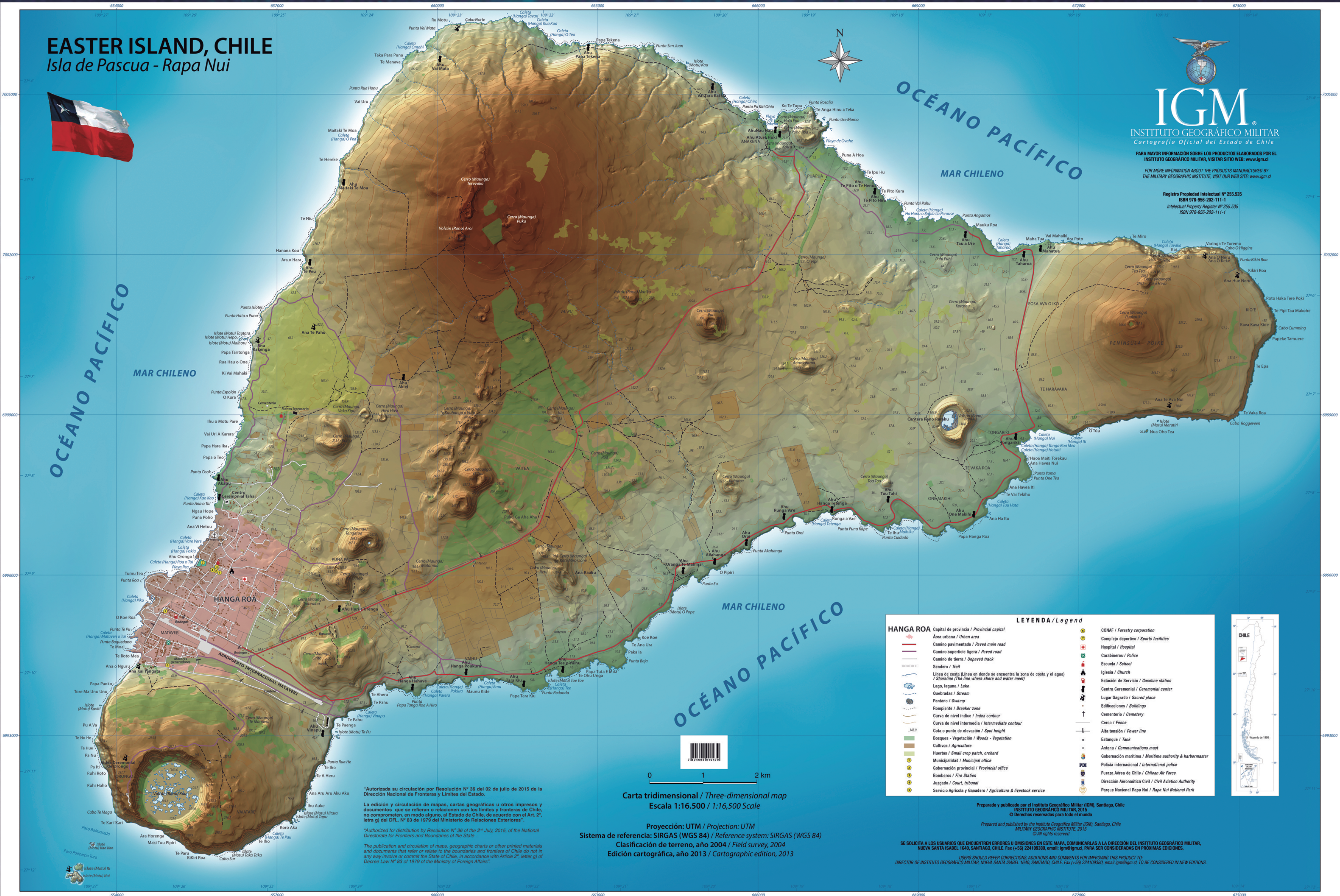
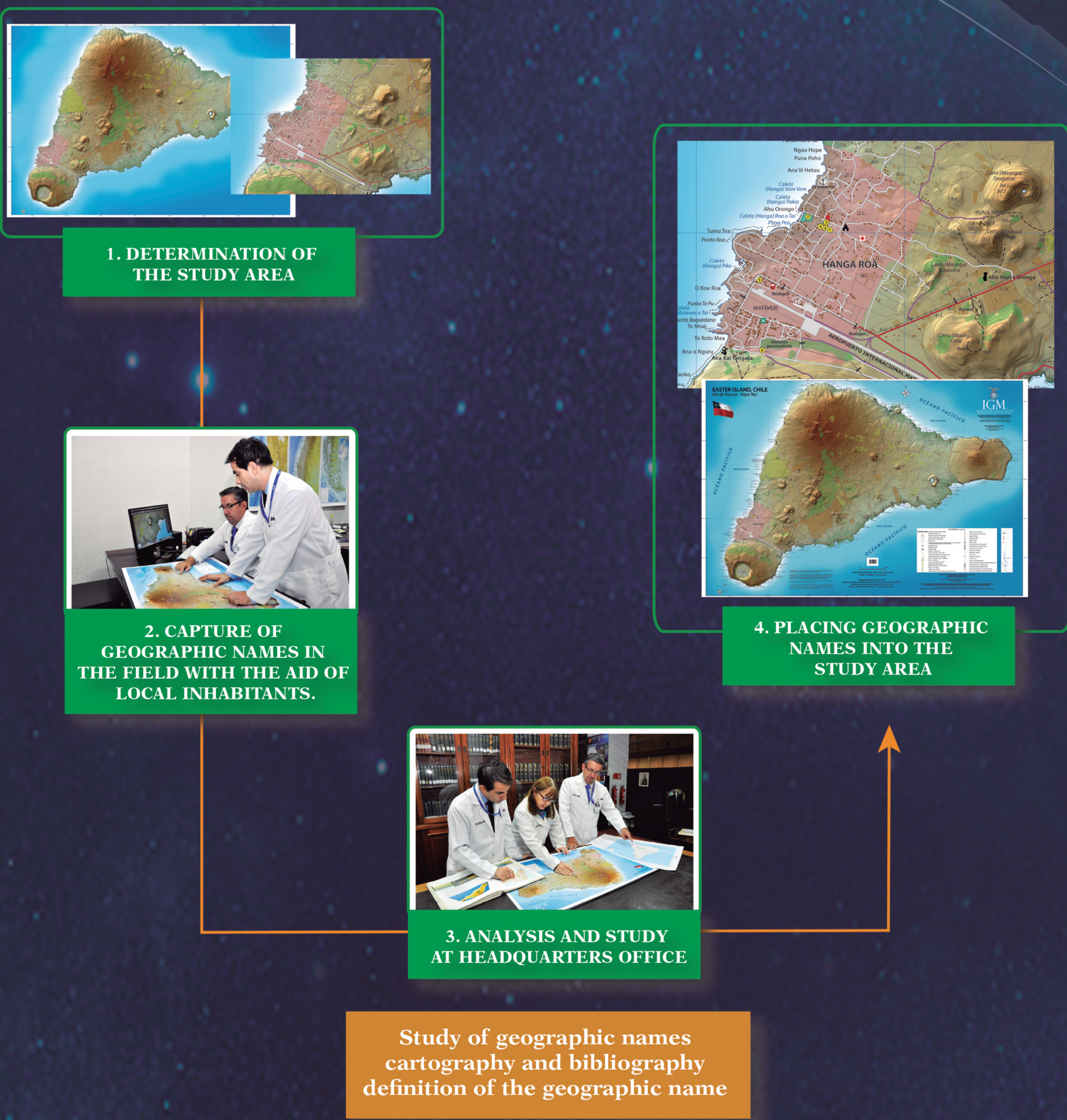
The collection of the toponymic material for these islands was entrusted to specialized technical staff of the Military Geographic Institute of Chile (IGM) who surveyed and classified the terrain, talked with the local inhabitants (or local authorities, mayors, policemen, priests, etc.), for which it was necessary to question at least two or three persons for each place name, in order to verify the reliability of the name collected in the field.

The information that was obtained in the field was given to the Toponyms Section of the IGM, these being professional staff who, through established methodologies and procedures, performed the geographic, historical, philological and etymological analyses and studies of each name obtained in the field. This enabled the toponyms to be used by the IGM for naming the existing geographic features in both Chilean island territories to be finally defined and adopted.

STAGES OF A CARTOGRAPHIC SURVEY INCLUDING THE STAGES FOR TOPONYMS HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN



STAGES IN THE CAPTURE OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES AND THEIR ANALYSIS



Military Geographic Institute of Chile:

Victoria Aguirre B. (Cartographer)
Juan Carlos Montero S. (Surveying Eng.)
Paula Olguin O. (Graphic Designer)
Edwin Hunt W. (Translator)