THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Athens, Greece
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Item 7 of the agenda

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS
AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Submitted by the Government of the Republic of Kenya

National standardization of geographical names in Kenya has continued steadily
since the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical
Names under the guidance of the Standing Committee on Geographical Names (SCGN)
as was constituted by the Survey Act. Work has been intensified in field collection
of names, office treatment of names and the national gazetteer.

Over 150 maps at 1/50,000 scale have either been revised or constructed since
1972 and new additions produced. About 100 of these maps have been produced by the
technical assistance of the Governments of Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom.
In every case our surveyors and cartographers have been sent out to verify the old
names and collect additional names. As a result of their experience, the surveyors
and cartographers have returned with more names, most of which have the correct
spelling. The field collection has been made easier by sending surveyors or
cartographers who speak the local dialect of the particular area and the results have
been very good.

It was the intention of the Government of Kenya after the Second United Nations
Conference to re-organize the local committees in the various districts but this has
not been effectively done due to the Government's development priorities. Our
surveyors, however, work very closely with the administrative officers in the
districts during their collection of names. Greater progress in the collection of
geographical names which has been realized can also be attributed to the number of
people who can speak Kiswahili, the national language. Since education at lower
primary school was declared free by the Government, more children have been able to go
to school hence the increase of people who can speak both Kiswahili and English.

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