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Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS

Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors  
for international use\*\*

Paper submitted by South Africa

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\* E/CONF.79/1.

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Table of Contents

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1	Languages, 3
1.1	General remarks, 3
1.2	Official languages, 3
1.2.1	General remarks, 3
1.2.2	The alphabet, 4
1.3	Spelling rules for geographical names, 4
1.3.1	General rules, 4
1.3.2	Afrikaans place-names, 4
1.3.3	Dutch place-names, 6
1.3.4	English place-names, 6
1.3.5	Dual forms, 8
1.3.6	Khoekhoen (Hottentot) place-names, 9
1.3.7	Place-names from Bantu languages, 9
1.4	Pronunciation of South African geographical names, 10
1.4.1	General remarks, 10
1.4.2	Afrikaans, 11
1.5	Linguistic substrata recognizable in place-names of South Africa, 12
2	Names authorities and names standardization, 12
2.1	The National Place Names Committee, 12
2.2	Pretoria Urban Advisory Committee on Street and Place-Names, 12
3	Source material, 13
3.1	Maps, 13
3.2	Gazetteers, 13
3.2.1	Official, 13
3.2.2	Private, 13
3.3	Other sources, 14
4	Glossary of words frequently occurring in geographical names as descriptive terms or as specific elements, and which are useful for the understanding of maps, 14
4.1	Afrikaans, 14
4.2	Dutch, 18
4.3	English, 18
4.4	Khoekhoen (Hottentot), 18
5	Generic terms encountered in South African place-names, 21
5.1	General remarks, 21
5.2	Afrikaans, 21
5.3	Khoekhoen, 22
5.3.1	General remarks, 22
6	Administrative division, 24

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## 1 LANGUAGES

### 1.1 General remarks

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South Africa is a country in which many languages are spoken, or have been spoken in the past. The geographical names of South Africa are thus derived from a number of languages: Afrikaans, Dutch, English, French, German, Khoekhoen (Hottentot), Northern Sotho, Portuguese, San (Bushman), Southern Ndebele, Southern Sotho, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa, and Zulu.

In the present edition attention will be given primarily to geographical names from the two official languages of the RSA, namely English and Afrikaans, and to those from Khoekhoen, on which a comprehensive investigation has been carried out.<sup>1</sup> In view of the divergence of the Bantu languages, and the fact that the independent Black states are reformulating their orthographies, the National Place Names Committee (see par. 2.1: Names Authorities and Names Standardization) has appointed a sub-committee to investigate certain aspects of Bantu place-names. These names will receive proper attention when the findings of the sub-committee are made known.

### 1.2 Official Languages

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#### 1.2.1 General remarks

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English and Afrikaans are the two official languages of the Republic of South Africa, and both are written in the Roman script. Place-names in other languages are also written in the Roman script.

Regardless of the language from which a geographical name is derived, that name has official status if it is the name of an official place, cf. par. 2. It is thus recognized that geographical names are not language-specific but equally valid in all languages. Once the spelling of a geographical name has been standardized, its status is equal in all the languages of the country. On an unofficial level, however, names in different languages may be applied to the same entity. Thus Pretoria is also known as Tshwane, a name which occurs alongside Pretoria on station sign-posts. In the same way Johannesburg is also known as Rauteng on an unofficial level.

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1. Nienaber, G.S. & Raper, P.E. Toponymica Hottentotica, 3 vols. Pretoria, Human Sciences Research Council, 1977 and 1980. (1 947) pp.

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1.2.2 The alphabet

In both English and Afrikaans the same alphabet is used:

A a	H h	O o	U u
B b	I i	P p	V v
C c	J j	Q q	W w
D d	K k	R r	X x
E e	L l	S s	Y y
F f	M m	T t	Z z
G g	N n		

In addition to the normal alphabetical sequence there are certain diacritic signs in Afrikaans which are used in conjunction with particular vowels, for example ê, î; â, ê, î, ô, û; é, and the like. Particularly the diaeresis occurs in place-names.

1.3 Spelling rules for geographical names

The rules given below have been formulated by the National Place Names Committee<sup>2</sup> and are implemented by this Committee (see par. 2.1) as well as by the Chief Directorate of Surveys and Mapping, by municipalities, state departments, and other naming bodies.

1.3.1 General rules

- "(i) The recognized spelling and styling of the language from which the name is derived should be adhered to as far as possible.
- (ii) Diacritical signs should be used in accordance with the requirements of the language."

1.3.2 Afrikaans place-names

"1. Simplexes

Names consisting of a simplex should not cause any problems.

2. Compound names

Compound names are normally written as one word. The following two types will serve as examples.

(a) Boesmankop, Bultfontein, Klawerkuil, Koedoedraai.

Each of these names consists of two parts which in a non-onomastic context are two nouns. Sometimes the two parts are also linked with

2. See the Introduction to Official Place Names in the Republic of South Africa and in South West Africa, compiled by the Place Names Committee (Pretoria, Government Printer, 1978); summarized in Raper, P.E., Nienaber, G.S. and Marais, J.S.B. Manual for the Giving of Place Names (Pretoria, HSRC, 1979). Quotes are from the latter publication, but have been adapted.

an -s, for example in Boesmanskraal, Broedersput, Klawershoek.

Note: (i) Sometimes there is uncertainty as to which one of the following pairs is admissible: laagte or leegte, rand or rant, olien or oliewen, wilge or wilger, et cetera. It is suggested that local custom should decide the issue. However, this freedom of choice no longer exists in the case of -stad and -stad. The form -stat is now retained only in Dingaanstat, in all other cases the form -stad is used. (ii) Names of the following kind are also written as one word: Brugo (from Bruwer and Hugo), Krudoring (from Kruger and doring), Palfon (from Palmietfontein); also letter names such as Eljeesee (L.J.C.) and syllable names such as Delmyn (from delwery and mynbou), et cetera.

(b) Diepkloof, Nuweland, Swartrand, Warmbad. These, and most names compounded of an adjective plus a noun, are written as one word.

### 3. Hyphens

The hyphen is used in combinations with contrasting or distinguishing additions, such as Agter, Voor, Groot, Klein; Nuwe, Ou; Bo, Onder; Noord, Suid, Oos, Wes. They occur before or after a place-name, for example Agter-Sneeuberg, Groot-Brakrivier, Nuwe-Mosbank, Noord-Rand, Somerset-Oos, Riebeek-Wes. In an ordinary word which is not a distinguishing place-name, such additions are normally affixed to the ordinary word without a hyphen. In this way one finds Bo-Tautesberg, but Boplaas; Groot-Drakenstein, but Grootvloer; Wes-Transvaal, but Weskoppies.

Note: Where certain vowels occur together in such combinations, a hyphen is used to facilitate legibility, for example Bo-erf (instead of Boerf), Perde-eiland (instead of Perdeeiland), et cetera. Hyphens are also used in place-names consisting of two words linked by en, for example Haak-en-Steek, Rus-en-Vrede, Hoog-en-Droog.

### 4. Compound names that are written separately

Cases do occur in which parts of a compound place-name are written separately.

(i) We write Jan Smutslughawe. All compounds consisting of a Christian name and a surname are treated in this manner. The Christian name or names are written separately, the surname is dealt with according to the rule, and in this case it is joined to the next component. Initials are dealt with in the same manner as Christian names, in other words they are also written separately from the surname, e.g. J.G. Strijdomtonnel.

(ii) We write De Clergville, Du Toitskloof, Le Rouxsrivier, Van Blerkskraal, Van der Merwesus; in other words, when a place-name consists of a surname of the type beginning with De, Du, Van, Van den, Van der, the prefixed parts in the place-name are also written separately.

Note: There used to be a tendency to write names of this kind all as one word, for example Dewetsdorp, Vanderbijlpark, Vanwyksvlei. Where this form of writing has become traditional it must be

retained.

- (iii) Ou is written separately when it precedes a personal name or nickname in place names such as Ou Thomas se Loop, or where the Ou no longer has any distinguishing or contrast value, for example Ou Handelspos.

Note: Compare this to what was said under "hyphen" above.

- (iv) Place-names consisting of combinations with the possessive se between the words are written separately, for example Beck se Plaas, Booi se Kraal, Lof se Dam, and many others.
- (v) Where the definite article Die forms the first word in a place-name, it is written separately, and there is a tendency for the words following it to be written separately as well, for example Die Hollandse Saal, Die Onderste Aar, Die Ou Elands, Die Ou Vaal.
- (vi) The components of place-names consisting of a numeral plus a noun used in the plural form are written separately, for example Drie Susters, Veertien Strome, Twee Riviere, each element beginning with a capital letter. If the numeral is followed by a noun in the singular form, the elements are written as one word: Driefontein, Tweespruit, Vyfhoek.
- (vii) Place-names comprising phrases such as Agter die Berg, Hoek van die Berg, Koppie Alleen, Op die Tradou, are written separately. In these cases only the main words begin with capitals.
- (viii) Place-names consisting of two verbs such as Aanhou Hoop, Help Soek, Kom Kyk are written as separate words."

### 1.3.3 Dutch place-names.

Historically there is a fairly large number of geographical names derived from Netherlandic.

"The Committee maintains the general principle of giving an Afrikaans form to certain names that are submitted in the Dutch form, for example Blouberg, Noupoort, Seekoeivlei and Sondagsrivier. Dutch names are retained where the Dutch spelling has become the accepted form and is being used as such. For example, we write De Doorns, Franschhoek, Volksrust, Zeerust. This rule normally applies to important places. The Dutch spelling can also be retained if a post office or siding, et cetera, is named after the farm on which it is situated and the farm name has a registered Dutch spelling and the Place Names Committee is requested to retain the old spelling. Each case is decided on merit."

### 1.3.4 English place-names

"English names already existing overseas that are given to places in South Africa in most cases retain their original spelling and form. English names that were formed and given in this country, however, may differ in spelling and form from the "imported" names.

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1. Simplex names

There should be no problems in regard to the spelling of simplex names.

2. Compound names

It is not easy to provide guidelines for the spelling of compound English place-names. In practice a certain degree of irregularity is found in the writing of such place-names. For example, names ending in crest, end, gate, hill, ridge, view, may be written either as one word or as two. Thus are encountered Wavecrest but Leisure Crest; Teaksend but Flats End; Westgate but North Gate; Foxhill but Calf Hill; Redhouse but Blue House; Aloeridge but Gravel Ridge; Bayview but Mountain View. The Place Names Committee has studied the written form of English place-names in South Africa. An analysis of certain types of word combinations has indicated that in some cases a pattern, or at least a tendency, can be discerned in the writing of English place-names.

3. Names that are written separately

The following types of place-names are normally written as separate words:

- (a) Most names of which the first part is one of the following adjectives: Bonny, Golden, Lower, Old, et cetera; New, Rocky, Sweet, et cetera. Examples are Bonny Rest, Golden Grove, Lower Adamson, Old Place; New Centre, Rocky Hill, Sweet Hope;
- (b) names in which the generic term is still strongly felt as a common noun, e.g. Amatole Basin, Algoa Bay, Brighton Beach, Nagle Dam, Albert Falls, Cape Flats, Bretby Mine, Table Mountain, Sand River, Berg River Valley;
- (c) most names of which the second part is a plural noun, e.g. Birch Acres, Beecham Woods, Broken Slopes;
- (d) names with Crown, Fort, Loch, Mount and Port as the first part, e.g. Crown Reefs, Fort Beaufort, Loch Maree, Mount Frere and Port Alfred;
- (e) names of which the second part indicates the situation, e.g. Beaufort West, Boksburg North, Modder East, Randfontein South;
- (f) names consisting of a numeral plus a noun, e.g. Four Pines, Three Sisters, Twenty Four Rivers;
- (g) names consisting of Glen plus a personal name, e.g. Glen Karen, Glen Lynden;
- (h) phrases used as place names, e.g. Ascot on Vaal, Henley on Klip, Ebb and Flow, The Hole in the Wall;
- (i) names of which the first part is written with an apostrophe, e.g. Davey's Halt, Gordon's Bay, Eagle's Crag, Lion's Head;
- (j) names consisting of the abbreviation St plus a proper name, e.g. St Andrew's, St Mark's.

4. Names written as one word

The following kinds of place-names are normally written as one word:

- (a) Names ending in bourne, bury, combe, dene, hurst, lea, leigh, mere, wick, et cetera. For example Ashbourne, Woodbury, Ashcombe, Forestdene, Meadhurst, Birchleigh, Buttermere, Thornwick, et cetera;
- (b) names beginning with Broad, Cross, Gay or Middle, e.g. Broadlands, Crossmoor, Gayridge, Middelbrook;
- (c) names beginning with Bal, Brae, Clan, Craig, Dal, Holm, Pen, Sel, Strath, et cetera. For example Balcraig, Braeview, Clanville, Craigend, Dalview, Holmleigh, Pendale, Selcourt, Strathcona, et cetera;
- (d) names composed of syllables or parts of names or words, such as Atcem from (Atlas Cement Company), Corobrick (Coronation Brick), Navex (Navarro Exploration), Soweto (South Western Townships).

1.3.5 Dual forms

"In South Africa where English and Afrikaans are the official languages, one may expect a large number of place-names that are used in the one language also to be used in a translated form in the other language. In the course of time dual forms of names have established themselves for the same places.

Three kinds of translations can be differentiated, viz. (a) names of which all the parts are translated, e.g. Bloedrivier - Blood River; Coffee Bay - Koffiebaai; Drieankerbaai - Three Anchor Bay, et cetera;

(b) names of which both parts are ordinary words in the language concerned, but only the second part is translated, e.g. Bergrivier - Berg River; Melkbosrand - Melkbos Ridge et cetera; (c) names of which the first part is a personal name and the second a generic term, e.g. Boshoffweg - Boshoff Road; Caledonplein - Caledon Square.

In terms of the country's policy of bilingualism the members of each language group have the right to insist on the form they use in the natural context of their own language. For official purposes, however, precedence may be given to one form, that is, the "first of the two equals." This precedence is based on the derivation and linguistic composition of the name, its age, the population group preponderating in the locality concerned, et cetera.

We write Brighton North, but Randfontein-Suid. In combinations of this kind the precedence form in the first type is normally English, and in the second, Afrikaans. In the first type the main word is derived from English, in the second from Afrikaans. The part of the name which indicates the name type or the point of the compass, or which constitutes a descriptive addition will be indicated in the same language as the main word in the precedence form. Thus we write Bay Road (Bayweg), Bergrivier (Berg River), Oos-Rand (East Rand). The precedence form is given in italics. Combinations of which the first part is a word derived from a native language are written as one word if the second part is Afrikaans, and as two words if the second part is English, e.g. Gamtoosrivier, Kaya Fort."

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### 1.3.6 Khoekhoen (Hottentot) place-names

"The Khoekhoen languages have become virtually extinct within the borders of the Republic. The possibilities of these languages producing any new place-names are therefore very slight. There is, however, a large number of farms and other places with Khoekhoen names of which some may be submitted to the National Place Names Committee for approval as official names. The following principles will apply in such cases.

- (a) Khoekhoen place names are normally written as one word.
- (b) Diacritical signs to indicate pitch, nasalization, et cetera, are not rendered in writing.
- (c) Clicks are not indicated.
- (d) Established forms of spelling, such as Henkries, Kango, Knysna, are left unchanged.
- (e) Spelling should be changed as little as possible except that at the end of a name:
  - (i) -p may be standardized as -b;
  - (ii) -bep/-beb/-bes, -beep/-beeb/-bees, -biep/-bieb/-bies may be standardized as -bib/ -bis;
  - (iii) -sep/-seb/-ses/-sieb/-sies, et cetera, can be normalized as -sib/-sis; rep/-res as -rib/-ris, et cetera.
- (f) The sound (x) is represented by ch, except in cases where it has already become established, e.g. Gamka, Khorixas. Compounds of which one element is Khoekhoen and the other Afrikaans, or English, are dealt with according to the principles applying to Afrikaans or English place names. We therefore write Gouritsrivier, Cango Caves, Kei Mouth, Naab se Berg. Khoekhoen place-names that have been taken over via a Bantu language and have been Europeanized, are dealt with according to the principles applying to place names from Bantu languages."

### 1.3.7 Place-names from Bantu languages

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"When place-names from Bantu languages are given to places in a White area, the spelling of the names may be adapted to the pronunciation of the White language concerned. Thus we find Kyalami instead of iKhayalami ("My home"); Silkaatsnek from the Europeanized Silkaats which is Moselekatse in Sotho and uMzilikazi in Zulu.

Firmly established or traditionally adapted Bantu-language place-names in White areas remain unchanged, e.g. Congella, Illovo, Isando, Umbogintwini, et cetera.

Names of places in self-governing territories and in urban areas inhabited by Blacks are written in accordance with the officially recognized orthography of the language concerned. The diacritical signs of the languages are also written in place-names in these areas.

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Personal names and surnames used in or as place-names are also spelled in accordance with the recognized orthography.

In the Nguni languages the locative prefixes e-, o-, ku-, and kwa-, are joined to the component following them. Likewise the "subject" prefixes i-, and u-, are joined to the following component. The initial consonant of the component is always written with a capital letter. If the name is in isolation, or at the start of a sentence, then the first letter (be it vowel or consonant) is also written with a capital letter. Thus we find the following situation:

Isolation/start of sentence

Within sentence

EDuleni

eDuleni

EMpangeni

eMpangeni

UMthatha/EMthatha

uMthatha/eMthatha

KwaJojo

kwaJojo

IGoli/EGoli

iGoli/eGoli

etc

etc

Ga and Ha in the Sotho languages are written as one word with the following component; both the Ga/Ha and the next component begin with capital letters, for example GaDikgale, GaRankuwa.

In Tsonga Ka and eka and the component following them are written as separate words, for example EkaMpofu, EkaMhinga.

In Venda Ha and the personal name following it are written as one word. The Ha begins with a capital letter and the personal name with a small letter, e.g. Hamasia, Hamakuya.

When a place-name consists of a contraction or an abridgement of more than one word, it is written as one word, e.g. Thabatshweu, Intabankulu".

1.4 Pronunciation of South African geographical names

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1.4.1 General remarks

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(a) When geographical names are spoken, they tend to be pronounced as though they belonged to the language of the speaker or to the language in the context of which they are being used. Thus Afrikaans names would be anglicized when spoken by English-speaking persons, and English names pronounced as though they were Afrikaans when pronounced by Afrikaners.

(b) This tendency is particularly strong in the case of Khoekhoen, since the Khoekhoen languages are no longer extant in the Republic of South Africa. Thus not only are the suction consonants or clicks omitted, but the original pitch (high, middle, and low) is ignored, and the names are pronounced as though they were Afrikaans or

English. This phonological adaptation is sometimes reflected in the orthography.

- (c) Geographical names derived from the various Bantu languages, too, are adapted phonologically (and orthographically) to Afrikaans and English.
- (d) For the pronunciation of Dutch, English and German geographical names, see Toponymic Guidelines for The Netherlands, England, Germany, always taking into account (a) above.

#### 1.4.2 Afrikaans

##### Pronunciation Key

Spelling	Pronunciation (IPA symbol)		Spelling	Pronunciation (IPA symbol)	
	primary value	secondary value		primary value	secondary value
a	a a:		n	n	
aa	a:		ng	ŋ	
b	b	p	nn	n	
bb	b		o	o:	o
c	k s		ô	ɔ	
ch	x k		oe	u	oe o:
d	d	t	oë	uə	
dd	d		oei	ui	
e	ɛ e: ə		oo	o:	
ee	e: -		ooi	o:i	
eē	e:ə		p	p	
ei	ɛi		pp	p	
eu	ø:		qu	kv	
f	f		r	r	
ff	f		rr	r	
g	x g		s	s	
gh	g		ss	s	
h	h		t	t	
i	ɪ i		tt	t	
ie	i		u	oe	
j	j		ui	oey	
k	k		uu	y	
kk	k		v	f	
l	l		w	v	
ll	l		x	x ks	
m	m		y	ɔi	
mm	m		z	z	

1.5 Linguistic substrata recognizable in place-names of South Africa  
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A large proportion of place-names in South Africa are of European origin, or have their origin in European languages, e.g. Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and so forth. The linguistic substrata peculiar to each of these languages will ipso facto feature in these place-names. This will also apply to elements from these languages occurring in hybrid place-names in which other elements (San, Khoekhoen, Bantu) are present. Then there are popular etymological (or folk etymological) adaptations which seem on the surface to be, for example, English or Afrikaans names, but which are, or were, Bantu, Khoekhoen or San, e.g. Goodhouse, Koppies, Koringhuis. Certain names of which the lexical meaning is not immediately evident, e.g. The Coombs, Illovo, also reveal Khoekhoen or Bantu substrata when researched. By and large the linguistic substrata can readily be discerned in geographical names which have become adapted into Afrikaans and English from the Khoekhoen and Bantu languages, e.g. Abbabis, Ga-Marota, Hlobane, Kraggakamma, and the like. Less readily discernible is the Khoekhoen substratum in names adapted into Xhosa, e.g. Bulura, Qora.

2 NAMES AUTHORITIES AND NAMES STANDARDIZATION

2.1 The National Place Names Committee (NPNC)

This Committee, established in 1939, is attached to the State Department of National Education and advises the Minister of National Education on the spelling and styling of official place-names, i.e., names of cities, towns, townships, post offices, railway stations, sidings, airports, reserves, and the like. Names of geographical features are submitted to the Committee by the Chief Directorate of Surveys and Mapping. Thus all place-names appearing on official maps have been under the scrutiny of the NPNC. The NPNC comprises experts in English, Afrikaans, Khoekhoen, and the various Bantu languages, as well as the Head of the Onomastic Research Centre, and representatives of the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns (S.A. Academy for Science and Art), the English Academy of South Africa, State Language Services, the office of Surveys and Mapping, and the State Departments of Education and Training, Posts and Telecommunications, and Transport Services. A list of official place-names approved to 1 April 1977 was published in 1978 (vide par. 3.2: Gazetteers). This is to be replaced by a Dictionary of Geographical Proper Names which is being compiled at the request of the Place Names Committee by the Onomastic Research Centre of the Human Sciences Research Council. The terms of reference of the Onomastic Research Centre have been extended to include the standardization in Afrikaans of foreign (i.e. non-South African) place-names.

2.2 Pretoria Urban Advisory Committee on Street and Place-Names

This Committee, established in 1972, comprises experts in English, Afrikaans, local history, and the Head of the Onomastic Research Centre. Its function is to consider proposed names for streets, parks and suburbs of Pretoria and to advise the City Council on these names, and to established a name-bank from which names may be drawn when required.

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### 3. SOURCE MATERIAL

#### 3.1 Maps

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South Africa 1:50 000, 1 920 sheets, 1967-1981.

South Africa 1:250 000 Topo-cadastral edition, 71 sheets, 1954-1981.

South Africa 1:250 000 Topographical edition, 71 sheets, 1954-1981.

#### 3.2 Gazetteers

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##### 3.2.1 Official

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Onomastic Research Centre, comp. Place-Names in the Cape Province and South West Africa. Pretoria: Human Sciences Research Council, 1976. Comprizing some 30 200 entries, this computerized gazetteer was compiled for the Cape Province from the Topo-Cadastral Series 1:250 000 South Africa (Pretoria: Government Printer, 1954-1975), and for Namibia from sheet South West Africa 1966 1:1 000 000 (Windhoek: Surveyor General, 1965; partial revision 1972).

Place Names Committee, comp. Official Place Names in the Republic of South Africa and in South West Africa. Pretoria: Government Printer, 1978. This gazetteer contains an alphabetical list of all official place-names approved to 1 April 1977, some 18 500 entries. An introduction of 121 pages (in English and Afrikaans) is devoted to principles governing the approval or rejection of names, guidelines on the spelling and styling of names in Afrikaans, English, San, Khoekhoen, and the Bantu languages, and to historical aspects of the National Place Names Committee.

##### 3.2.2 Private

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Skead, C.J. Zoo-historical Gazetteer. Grahamstown: Cape Provincial Museums, 1973. Published as Annals of the Cape Provincial Museums Volume 10, this gazetteer contains a list of some 11 000 place-names with alternate (historical) names for the place or entity concerned.

Leistner, O.A. and Morris, J.W. Southern African Place Names. Grahamstown: Cape Provincial Museums, 1976. Published as Annals of the Cape Provincial Museums Volume 12, this gazetteer contains some 42 000 place-names (including names of geographical features) taken from maps, gazetteers, lists of farms and post offices, and other sources.

Rousseau, W.L. Suid-Afrikaanse Pleknaamleksikon. Cape Town: Kennis-uitgewers, 1975. This 'lexicon' of geographical names is contained in the same volume as the index to a children's encyclopaedia entitled Kennis ('knowledge'). It comprises some 130 pages (triple column), about 11 000 entries, and gives the situation of each place in terms of province, grid reference (e.g. K-6, L-3, etc.), and description (e.g. 'west of Springs', 'at Germiston').

## 3.3 Other sources

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Publications such as those in the Onomastic Series of the Human Sciences Research Council's Onomastic Research Centre. Thus the names of regions, for example, are being entered on official maps on the strength of their situation as determined in archival and other historical sources.

4. GLOSSARY OF WORDS FREQUENTLY OCCURRING IN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AS DESCRIPTIVE TERMS OR AS SPECIFIC ELEMENTS, AND WHICH ARE USEFUL FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF MAPS

## 4.1 Afrikaans

=====

Aalwyn	aloe
Aan	at, on
Aand	evening
Aap	monkey
Aar	underground watercourse
Aard(e)	earth
Aasvoël	vulture
Agter	behind
Als	Artemisia afra
Altyd	always
Alwyn	aloe
Amandel	almond
Amper	almost
Anys	aniseed
Apie(s)	small monkey
Appel	apple
Appelkoos	apricot
Arbeid	labour
Arend	eagle
Armoed	poverty
As	ash
Asbes	asbestos
Assegai	assegai
Baai	bay
Bad	bath
Baken	beacon
Baklei	fight, battle
Bakoond	oven
Bak	basin
Bamboes	bamboo
Bank	shelf
Bas	bark
Bees	ox
Berg	mountain
Biesie	bulrush
Bles	blaze, bald
Blink	shiny
Bloed	blood
Blou	blue
Bobbejaan	baboon
Boesman	Bushman, San
Bok	buck, goat
Bont	pied, spotted
Boom	tree
Boonste	top

Bos	wood, bush, thicket
Brak	brackish, saline
Breë	broad, wide
Bruin	brown
Buffel	buffalo
Bul	bull
Bult	hill, hillock
Dagbreek	dawn, daybreak
Dal	dale, valley
Dam	dam, reservoir
Das(sie)	rock rabbit
Deel	divide, portion
Derde	third
Die	the
Diep	deep
Dik	thick
Donker	dark
Doring	thorn
Dorp	town
Draai	bend, curve
Drie	three
Droë	dry
Duin	dune
Dwaal	err, roam
Dwars	transverse, diagonal
Een	one
Eerste	first
Eiland	island
Eland	eland
Esel	ass
Fontein	fountain, spring
Gans	goose
Gat	hole
Geduld	patience
Geel	yellow
Geluk	luck, happiness
Gemsbok	oryx
Genade	mercy
Gif	poison
Glad(de)	smooth
Goeie	good
Gras	grass
Groen	green
Groot	large, big
Gruis	gravel
Grys	grey
Hart(e)bees	Bubalis caama
Helder	clear, bright
Heuning	honey
Heuwel	hill
Hoek	corner, narrow glen
Hol	hollow
Hoog	high
Hout	wood
Jag	hunt
Jakhals	jackal
Jakkals	jackal

Kaal	bare, barren
Kaap	cape
Kalk	lime
Kalkoen	turkey
Kameel(perd)	giraffe
Kanon	cannon
Kat	cat
Keerom	turnabout
Klein	little, small
Klip	stone
Kloof	ravine
Koedoe	kudu
Kop	hill
Koppie	hillock, knoll
Koring	wheat
Kraai	crow
Krans	cliff, crag
Krom	crooked
Kruis	cross, athwart
Lang	long
Leeu	lion
Lekker	pleasant
Lelie	lily
Lemoen	orange
Los	loose
Matjies	bulrush
<b>Meer</b>	lake
Melk	milk
Middel	middle
Modder	mud
Moed	courage
Mooi	pretty
Neus	nose, headland, shoulder (of mountain)
Nooit	never
Noord	north
Nou	narrow
Nuwe	new
Olien	wild olive ( <i>Olea africana</i> )
Olifant	elephant
Onder	lower, under
Ongeluk	misfortune, accident
Oorlog	war
Oos	east
Os	ox
Ou	old
Palmiet	bulrush ( <i>Prionium spp</i> )
Pampoer	pumpkin
Pan	depression, pan
Papkuil	bulrush ( <i>Typha sp</i> )
Patrys	partridge
Perd(e)	horse
Plaat	patch, stretch
Plat	flat
Poort	defile, gorge
Put(s)	well
Rand	edge
Rant	ridge



Reebok	deer, roe-buck
Renoster	rhinoceros
Riet	reed
Rivier	river
Rond(e)	round
Rooi	red
Rots	rock
Ruigte	coppice, thicket
Rus	rest
Saaï	sow
Seekoei	hippopotamus
Ses	six
Sewe	seven
Skaap	sheep
Skiet	shoot
Skilpad	tortoise
Skurwe	rough
Slang	snake
Smal	narrow
Sneeu	snow
Soet	sweet
Sout	salt
Spioen	spy
Spits	pointed, peaked
Springbok	springbok ( <i>Antidorcas euchores</i> )
Stad	city
Steenbok	steenbok
Steil	steep
Sterk	strong
Stil	quiet, silent
Stof	dust
Strand	beach
Stryd	struggle
Suid	south
Suikerbos	sugar-bush ( <i>Protea mellifera</i> )
Suur	sour
Swart	black
Taaibos	'tough bush' ( <i>Rhus</i> sp.)
Tafel	table
Tier	tiger, leopard
Toring	tower
Turf	peat
Twee	two
Twyfel	doubt, uncertainty
Uitkoms	deliverance
Uitkyk	look-out, prospect
Uitsig	view
Uitspan	outspan, unharness
Vaal	grey
Vallei	valley
Vals	false
Vark	pig
Veg	battle
Ver	distant, far
Vet	fat
Vier	four
Vis	fish

Vlak	shallow
Vlei	marsh
Voel	bird
Volstruis	ostrich
Voor	before, in front
Vrede	peace
Vryheid	liberty
Vye	fig
Vyf	five
Waaï	blow
Warm	hot
Water	water
Wei	graze
Wes	west
Wild(e)	wild
Wildebees(t)	gnu, wildebeest
Wilge(r)	willow
Wit	white
Wolve	wolf
Yster	iron
Ystervark	porcupine

#### 4.2 Dutch

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See Toponymic Guidelines - Netherlands

#### 4.3 English

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See Toponymic Guidelines - United Kingdom

#### 4.4 Khoekhoen (Hottentot)

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##### General remarks

The Khoekhoen languages, which have become extinct within the Republic of South Africa, are characterized by suction consonants or 'clicks' which are, or may be, semantically determinative. They are the dental click, represented in writing by the symbol /, the palatal click /ǀ, the lateral click //, and the cerebral click, represented by !. In place-names these suction consonants are generally omitted. Thus for /Ae//gams the form Aegams is written. In appellatives, epithets and other words, these suction consonants are indicated. In the following lists, the suction consonants are given where relevant, for it is from these appellatives etc. from which place-names are derived.

Although some of these elements are not in line with the modern orthography (of Nama) they are listed here because that is how they are encountered in place-names. Only the most frequent elements are listed. For a more comprehensive listing cf. Nienaber G.S. and Raper, P.E. Toponymica Hottentotica, Pretoria, 1980, pp. 71-122.

/...

Ani	bird
Aru	Albizzia tree
Au	bitter
Bi	milk
Dai	milk
Dani	honey
Dawe	Tamarix sp.
Gama	crooked
Ganna	lye-bush, Salsola
Gaxu	long
Gei	large
Goba	speak, argue
Goma	cow, ox
Gu	sheep
Tsao	ash
Tsara	dust
Tsau	well
Tsawi	ebony, Euclea pseudebenus
Tsoari	behind
Tsuni	sand
Uri	louse
Xam	lion
Xau	excrement
Xora	waterhole dug in sand
/A	moist, wet
/Ae	hot, fire
/Ami	ostrich
/An	moist, wet
/Aru	dung
/Asa	new
/Au	fontain
/Ga	grass
/Gam	two
/Garu	leopard, tiger
/Gina	fly
/Giri	jackal
/Goa	child
/Gom	dense, overgrown
/Gowa	dune
/Gowe	wild fig
/Gu	hot, boiling
/Gui	one
/Hara	breast, nipple
/Haru	bulrush
/Hei	grey
/Huni	Boscia tree
/Ra	wild orange, Parkinsonia sp.
/Kara	gully, rift, crevice
/Khawi	grass, (Aristida sp.)
/Khora	rocky, rough, stony
/Kuru	sour
/Nara	Acacia tortilis
/Nera	baboon
/Noma	fig
/O	stinking
/Oro	old
/U	salt

/...

/Ui	stone
//Ara	blunt, truncated
//Ari	raisin bush, ( <i>Grewia</i> sp.)
//Au	fish
//Eixa	angry
//Ga	attack, battle
//Gam	water
//Gana	<i>Acacia giraffae</i>
//Gara	quiver tree, <i>Aloe dichotoma</i>
//Garu	waterhole in rock
//Gu	springbok
//Guru	quartz
//Haraga	korhaan ( <i>Otis afroides</i> )
//Kama	hartebeest
//Kara	gravel
//Khae	sand
//Khu	thorn
//Nui	fat
≠A	reed
≠Are	grass ( <i>Aristida</i> )
≠Ga	cliff; plain
≠Gama	brown
≠Go	pointed
≠Goa	mud
≠Gui	many
≠Ha	flat, plain
≠Hawa	broad, wide
≠Hoa	blue
≠Hui	willow ( <i>Salix capensis</i> )
≠Khari	small
≠Khoa	elephant
≠Nu	black
≠O	narrow
!Am	green
!Are	karee ( <i>Rhus lancea</i> )
!Ari	steenbok
!Ga	poison
!Gam	deep
!Gawa	<i>Catophractes alexandri</i>
!Gho	<i>Acacia hebeclada</i>
!Gom	wild olive ( <i>Olea africana</i> )
!Gou	athwart, transverse
!Gu	wild pear ( <i>Dombeya rotundifolia</i> )
!Guwu	round
!Hau	sill, rock bank
!Hoa	crooked, twisting
!Huni	yellow
!Kae	dark
!Kani	eland
!Kha	wild orange ( <i>Parkinsonia</i> sp.)
!Kho	limestone
!Khoru	limestone
!Khuwi	marsh, swamp
!Na	glistening, shining
!Naba	rhinoceros
!Nae	giraffe
!Nani	finger; six

!Nara        Acanthosicyos sp.  
!Naru        ebony (Euclea pseudebenus)  
!Nau         ochre  
!Nawa        rhinoceros  
!Noa         porcupine  
!Noe         Acacia detinens  
!Nu          far, distant  
!Unia        palm tree  
!Uri         white

## 5. GENERIC TERMS ENCOUNTERED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PLACE-NAMES

### 5.1 General remarks

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For names derived from Dutch, English, German, etc., see Toponymic Guidelines - The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, etc.

### 5.2 Afrikaans

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Aar            underground watercourse  
akker          field, plot of land  
baai          bay  
bad            bath, (mineral) spring  
bank          shelf  
berg          mountain  
bron          spring  
bult          hillock, ridge, rise  
burg          castle, (hence) town  
dal            dale, dell, glen  
dam            dam, reservoir  
deel          part, portion  
dorp          town  
drif          ford  
eiland        island  
fontein        fountain, spring  
fort          fort, stronghold  
gat            hole  
grot          cave, grotto  
heuwel        hill  
hof            court, garden  
hoogte        height, prominence  
huis          house, home  
kamp          camp, paddock  
kasteel        castle  
klip          stone, rock  
kloof         gorge, ravine  
kolk          eddy, pool  
kom            basin, bowl  
kraal         corral, kraal, village  
krans         cliff, precipice  
kruin         crown, summit, crest  
kuil          pool  
laagte        depression, dip, valley  
land          land, field

/...

leegte	depression, dip, valley
loop	watercourse
lughawe	airport
meer	lake
mond	mouth
myn	mine
nek	neck, col
neus	promontory, shoulder (of mountain)
oog	fountain(head)
oord	place, resort
pan	pan, basin, hollow
pas	(mountain) pass
plaas	farm, place
poel	pool
poort	gateway, defile
pos	post
punt	point
put(s)	well
rand	edge, rim
rant	ridge, range of hills
rif	reef
rivier	river
rug	ridge, hill
rus(t)	rest, repose
sloot	ditch, furrow, gully
spits	peak, summit
spruit	creek, stream, tributary
stad	city
stasie	station
stroom	stream
val	fall(s)
vallei	valley
veld	field, pasture
vlakke	plain, flat(s)
vlei	marsh, moor, swamp
vliet	brook, rivulet
wal	bank, embankment, wall of dam
waterval	waterfall
woud	forest, wood

### 5.3 Khoekhoen

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#### 5.3.1 General remarks

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In common with other substantives, place-names generally end in -b (masculine) or -s (feminine). These endings are not reflected in the following lists of generic terms. Here again the elements are sometimes given as they occur in place-names, and consequently they do not always comply with the modern orthography. The click or suction consonants, /, //, ǀ and !, are integral elements of words or morphemes and, although omitted from place-names when these are written, they are semantically determinative. The following lists should, therefore, correctly be systematized under each of these consonants. However, in view of the use for which they are intended, and the fact that the users are not au fait

/...

with the Khoekhoen languages, and since these consonants are not reflected in place-names and one would not know under which consonant to seek the element, the listing is alphabetical according to the letters following the suction consonant. Thus a, /a, //a, ~~a~~ and !a would all be listed under a.

a	hole
/a	marsh, swamp
<del>a</del>	reed
!a	river
am	mouth, fountain, spring
/ara	gully
!are	hill, hillock
/au	fountain
dana	head, hill
dani	honey
dao	mountain pass, road
dawe	Tamarix usneoides
dom	throat, channel, furrow
ei	face, plain
<del>ga</del>	flat, plain
!ga	back, ridge
//gam	water
!gan	path, road
//gana	Acacia giraffae
!gari	river
//garu	waterhole in rock
//gau	place, settlement
/gawa	hat, cliff
<del>go</del>	peak
<del>goa</del>	mud
!goa	ravine
/gowa	dune
<del>gui</del>	nose, cliff
//ha	gorge, ravine
hai	tree
/hara	knoll
!hao	ledge, sill, bank
!hara	kraal
hei	tree
//hoa	cliff; hollow
!homi	mountain
/horo	neck
!hu	earth, ground, land
/huni	Boscia tree
kamma	water, river
/kara	gully
//khae	sand
!khae	place, locality
!kho	lime, limestone
/khom	stone
//khu	thorn
!khuwi	marsh, swamp
koti	marsh, swamp
koe	hill, mountain
<del>kuru</del>	watervein
kuwi	marsh, swamp

mu	eye, spring
//na	horn
!na	stomach, plain
!nani	ridge, edge
*nari	island
//noa	hollow
!nom	head, hill
!noro	hind-head, hill
ob	river
om	house
/ori	iron
ro	round.hill
sam	breast
sana	mole, birthmark
su	pot, depression
toro	Karoo ground
tsau	well
tsawi	ebony ( <i>Euclea pseudebenus</i> )
/ui	rock, stone, mountain
!unia	palm tree
xora	waterhole dug in sand
xanu	drift, ford

## 6 ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Republic of South Africa is divided into four provinces, namely the Cape Province, Natal, the Orange Free State, and Transvaal. Each province is, in turn, divided into magisterial districts, each with its seat of magistracy. In most instances the magisterial district takes its name from the seat of magistracy. Where this is not the case, the name of the seat of magistracy will, in the lists that follow, be given in brackets after the name of the magisterial district.

As may be expected in a country in which there are two official languages, both an English and an Afrikaans name may occur for a magisterial district, particularly when such names contain an easily translatable generic term. In these cases both the English and Afrikaans form will be given, with an asterisk to indicate which form takes precedence for official purposes (vide par. 1.2.3.5). In view of the incorporation from time to time, of certain magisterial districts into neighbouring independent states such as Bophuthatswana, the Ciskei, Transkei and Venda, and self-governing national states such as Kwandebele, Kwangwane, Kwazulu, Quaqua and so forth, the lists are not to be regarded as final.

### 6.1 Cape Province

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Aberdeen  
 Adelaide  
 Albany (\*Grahamstown/Grahamstad)  
 Albert  
 Alexandria  
 \*Aliwal North / Aliwal-Noord  
 \*Barkly East / Barkly-Oos  
 \*Barkly West / Barkly-Wes  
 Bathurst  
 \*Beaufort West / Beaufort-Wes

/...



Bedford  
Bellville  
Bredasdorp  
Britstown  
Calvinia  
Caledon  
Calitzdorp  
Cape (Cape Town/Kaapstad)  
Carnarvon  
Cathcart  
Ceres  
Clanwilliam  
Colesberg  
Cradock  
De Aar  
\*East London/Oos-London  
Elliot  
Fort Beaufort  
Fraserburg  
George  
Goodwood  
Gordonia (Upington)  
Graaff-Reinet  
Hankey  
Hanover  
Hartswater I  
Hartswater II  
Hay (Griquatown / \*Griekwastad)  
Heidelberg  
Herbert (Douglas)  
Hermanus  
Hofmeyr  
Hopefield  
Hopetown  
Humansdorp  
Indwe  
Jansenville  
Joubertina  
Kenhardt  
Kimberley  
King William's Town  
Kirkwood  
Knysna  
Komga  
Kuilsrivier  
Kuruman  
Ladismith  
Lady Grey  
Laingsburg  
Maclear  
Malmesbury  
  
Mdantsane I  
Mdantsane II  
Mdantsane III  
Mdantsane IIII  
Middelburg

/...

