FEATURES BEYOND A SINGLE SOVEREIGNITY:
ANTARCTIC PLACE-NAMES

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) approach to Antarctic place-names

Submitted by SCAR **/
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approach to Antarctic place-names

- The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) ist the scientific and advisory body of the Antarctic Treaty.

- The SCAR Working Group on Geodesy and Geographic Information consists of some 20 SCAR Member nations actively conducting mapping programmes in the Antarctic.

- A work programme was set up at the XXII SCAR Meeting held at Bariloche, Argentina, in June 1992, attended by 16 of the Working Group Members.

- The work programme approved by XXII SCAR covers 9 main subjects relevant to geodesy, photogrammetry, remote sensing, geographic information systems and place-names.

- The work programme Antarctic place-names is co-convened by Italy and Germany.

Terms of Reference of the Work Programme Antarctic Place-Names

(1) Facilitate the correct and unambiguous identification of geographic features in the Antarctic.

(2) Develop a proposal for guidelines to be internationally used for
- the future naming of Antarctic features,
- the use of already existing place-names.
(3) Begin with
- the writing of place-names in the Roman script, including diacritical marks,
- place-names used on topographic and thematic maps and other scientific publications of the Antarctic.

(4) Collect all available Antarctic gazetteers, preferably in digital form, issued by different nations.

(5) Adhere to the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the United Nations Conferences on the Standardisation of Geographical Names.

Other relevant activities.

The Working Group has produced a digital data base of all of the Antarctic continent from maps of scales 1:250,000 to 1:2,000,000. This project was lead by the British Antarctic Survey. It will engender considerable activity on place-names in the Antarctic in the future.