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**Economic and social benefits of the national and  
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**Islands Naming in Indonesia**

Submitted by Indonesia \*\*

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## **Islands Naming in Indonesia**

### **Introduction**

Development of islands, particularly small islands has become a new policy direction in Indonesia since the inception of Ministry Of Marine Affairs and Fisheries in the year 2000. Indonesia is often called the largest archipelagic country but previously there has not been a coordinated effort to administer this important geographical aspect based on four observations. Firstly, from the total of 17,504 islands, around 9,634 (more than half) are still unnamed. Secondly, there is wide variation on the number of islands published by different government officials. The above cases demonstrate that standardization of the naming of islands in Indonesia is urgently needed. This paper reports the progress of island - naming in Indonesia

### **Survey Planning**

Among the three working groups established for geographical naming activities in Indonesia, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) is entrusted to chair the working group on naming of islands. The three main objectives of the working group are: (1) to lead the survey, (2) to provide results of survey data to the central government agencies for standardization and approval, (3) to produce gazetteers or official lists of the final standardized island names.

The field survey procedure follows guidelines published by MMAF in 2003 entitled “A Guidelines for Toponymic Survey of Islands in Indonesia”. The activity began in 2005. Data collection from direct field surveys has been conducted by the Directorate for Small Islands Management. Survey teams consist of representatives from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mappings (Bakosurtanal) and the Indonesian Naval Hydro-Oceanography Office. Field data collection is planned to be completed in 2007. Table 1 lists the provinces targeted for surveying from 2005 to 2007.

Table 1. Targeted provinces to be surveyed from 2005 to 2007

2005	2006	2007
1. Kepulauan Riau	1. N A D	1. Riau
2. Kep. Bangka Belitung	2. Sumatera Utara	2. Jambi
3. Sumatera Barat	3. Lampung	3. Bengkulu
4. Kalimantan Selatan	4. Jawa Timur	4. Sumatera Selatan
5. Kalimantan Timur	5. Jawa Barat	5. Banten
6. Maluku Utara	6. Jawa Tengah	6. DKI Jaya
7. Nusa Tenggara Timur	7. Kalimantan Barat	7. Jogjakarta
8. Nusa Tenggara Barat	8. Gorontalo	8. Kalimantan Tengah
9. Sulawesi Utara	9. Sulawesi Selatan	9. Bali
10. Sulawesi Tengah	10. Maluku	10. Sulawesi Barat
11. Sulawesi Tenggara	11. Papua	11. Irian Jaya Barat

### **What is an island?**

To do a survey on island-naming one should understand what is meant by “island”. According to UNCLOS 1982 (article 121): an island is a naturally formed land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide. By definition, islands could be formed naturally in the seas and rivers as well as lakes. However, the focus of the present survey is islands at sea because they are great in number. With the present survey, apart from islands, features such as rocks, sand banks and group of mangrove are also recorded then verified in the verification process (see pictures) meaning that every single island or island-like feature has to be visited.

### **The Processes of Island-Naming**

The process for the island-naming activity is presented in Figure 1. The steps are as follows: Firstly, prepare secondary data such as maps specific to the area of survey and coordinates of listed islands in the region. The information is treated as a reference in the field. Secondly, conduct a workshop on island toponyms involving participants from

local government officials, NGOs and local Members of Parliament. The aim of the workshop is to teach the participants on how to name an island in general. Thirdly, conduct the field survey in accordance with the plan immediately after the workshop. Finally, analyze and compile the data. This procedure is repeated in each locality.

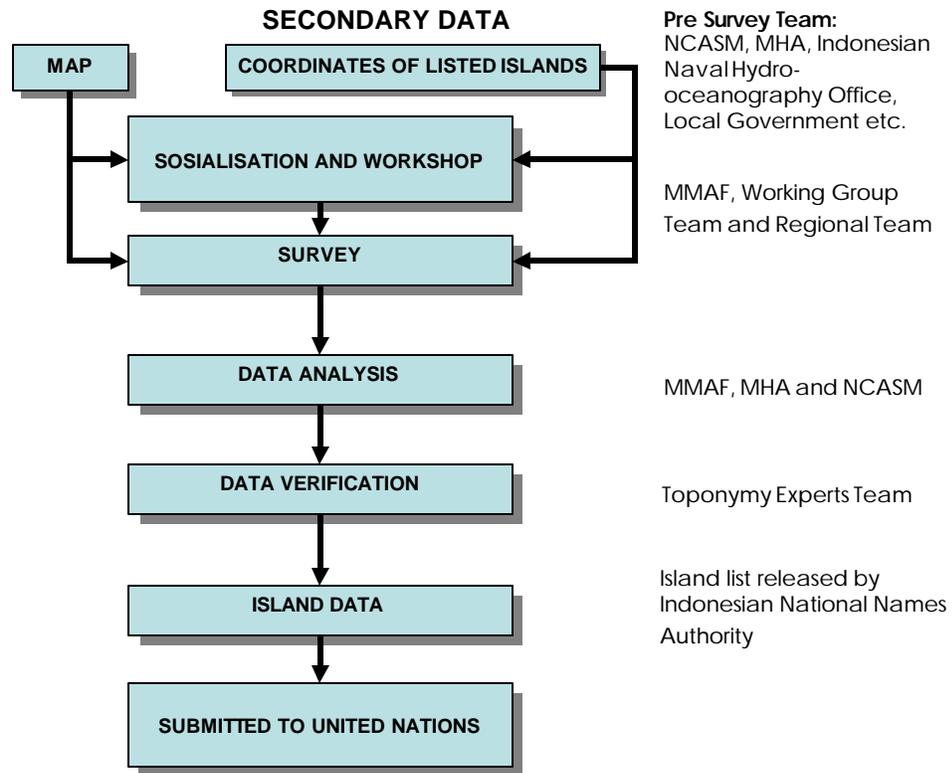


Figure 1. Flowchart of island-naming process

Recently Secretariat of National Team for Standardization of Geographical Names, Indonesia is verifying the name of the islands province by province.