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Reports by divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the situation in their divisions and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Eighth Conference.

Africa South Division Report for the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

Submitted by the Africa South Division **

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**AFRICA SOUTH DIVISION REPORT FOR THE NINTH UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

New York

21 – 30 August 2007

The Africa South Division comprises Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Unfortunately, the Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Swaziland reports, regarding the standardization of geographical names activity are not included on this document, in spite of the request by emails and faxes that have been sent. Anyway, some information about the geographical names in Namibia, Lesotho and Zambia was given by the representatives of these countries during the Africa South Division meeting in Berlin by occasion of the realization of the 21st Session of the UNGEGN in 2002.

The Africa South Division Report contains only the Mozambique and South Africa activities regarding the standardization of geographical names. The Botswana and Madagascar reports are the same that were given in Vienna (Austria) during the 22nd UNGEGN Session in 2006.

BOTSWANA

Place Names Commission of Botswana has not been functional for the past 10 years after its activities were halted primarily as a result of concerns expressed by Government Authorities and other stakeholders on the continuous misspelling of some names. The problems in the validity or authenticity in the spelling of names had caused disputes between village communities despite several meetings, which were held to clarify the uncertainties among different ethnic groups. As a result these differences impacted negatively on the desired plans for the rural areas.

Department of Surveys and Mapping (DSM), being the national, mapping agency then took the responsibility of initiating the drafting of the Place Names Act. The main aim of the act is to provide a solid legal basis for the existence of the Place Names Commission and allow the Commission to function with a clear legal mandate stipulated within the Act.

During the years when the commission was functional, place names, collected from the field by Surveyors and Cartographers, were compiled and field verified. In later years the locations of names collected in the field were carried out using hand held GPS. This exercise continues to date and it is hoped that on completion, the Fifth report of the Place Names will be published.

Composition of Place Names Commission

Place Names Commission was composed of seven members, with the Director of Surveys and Mapping as an ex-official member and Chairman of the Commission. These members were mainly retired former public officers and former members of parliament, with vast experience and knowledge of their regions.

Despite the Commission having been inactive for such a long period of time, the Dept. of Surveys and Mapping continues to provide the core expertise and secretariat for the commission. Requisite staff from DSM has attended UN sponsored courses on the study of Geographical Names.

In 2004 two officers from this Department attended the UN Toponymy course in Maputo, Mozambique. Such courses are essential to our future development and expansion of the functions of the Commission.

Creation of a Place Names Database

The Department has also embarked upon an Integrated Geographic Information System project. The aim of this project is to build a multiuse, centralized storage for all geodata (topographic, cadastral and geodetic), which will be easy to access and manage both internally and externally. The creation of the Place Names database is therefore currently being undertaken for integration into the geodatabase.

LESOTHO

The information bellow was reported in Berlin in 2002 by the representative from Lesotho during the Africa South Division Meeting *“Mr. Tsoene from Lesotho indicated that there is no names authority and has there been one before. He added that there is written evidence, though, in the form of follow-up minutes, that at one stage the establishment of Lesotho Names Commission was proposed. The minutes were made by the Chief Physical Planner (CPP) in 1985 and the Senior Survey (around the same time as the CPP). The two were both from the Department of Lands, Survey and Physical Planning. In the minutes they expressed their support for setting up such structure and made a recommendation for selection criteria of prospective members.”*

MADAGASCAR

National Committee for Geographical Names (KPMA)

The nomination of the KPMA’s members became official since the 22nd of September 2005. It was one of the resolutions during the last meeting taken in order to avoid the repetitive change of representatives and to guarantee the continuity of the work.

The annual meeting in October 2005 allowed the election of the Permanent Bureau members who worked immediately on a fund request document to be presented to the government.

A task team was also created to establish a pertinent document about KPMA and its ongoing activities to be submitted to potential sponsors.

A working group was appointed to examine the research and studies report about 4 names to be proposed for standardization.

Dissemination

The involvement of some organizations for the dissemination of standardized names proved to be productive, thus:

- The Linguistic Section of the Malagasy Academy organized a national TV program including information and competition about the standardized names (origin, story, ...).

It was interesting since the national TV reaches a wide audience.

A pack containing various documents, sent to about 100 schools that cooperate with the Linguistic Section, included also the information paper about the new standardized names.

- The National Institute for Cartography (FTM) organized exhibition and games during the GIS Day. Information about the National Committee and its activities has been included in the program. School maps were distributed to the public mainly composed by students.

- The Ministry of Justice published the list of the standardized names through all the courthouses existing in Madagascar, as it was promised by its representative.

- The Service of Meteorology enjoined each Weather Reporter in every TV to use those standardized names.

However, much work remains and many circumstances revealed that it is still hard to get rid of former names. Moreover, Malagasy people must also face change of currency and it is obviously rather hard to deal with both.

Another fact is that Madagascar is a wide country and the cooperation of the responsible at each administrative level is needed to get control of the situation, at least to improve KPMA's efficiency.

Gazetteer

The project of a gazetteer based on the 1:100 000 scale map series and containing 51 236 entries is definitely too pretentious at the moment. The work will be then started at a much smaller scale. The recommendations and the examples given by other countries will be taken in account; to the attributes feature, category, geographical coordinates, administrative level will be added some other information such as historical origin.

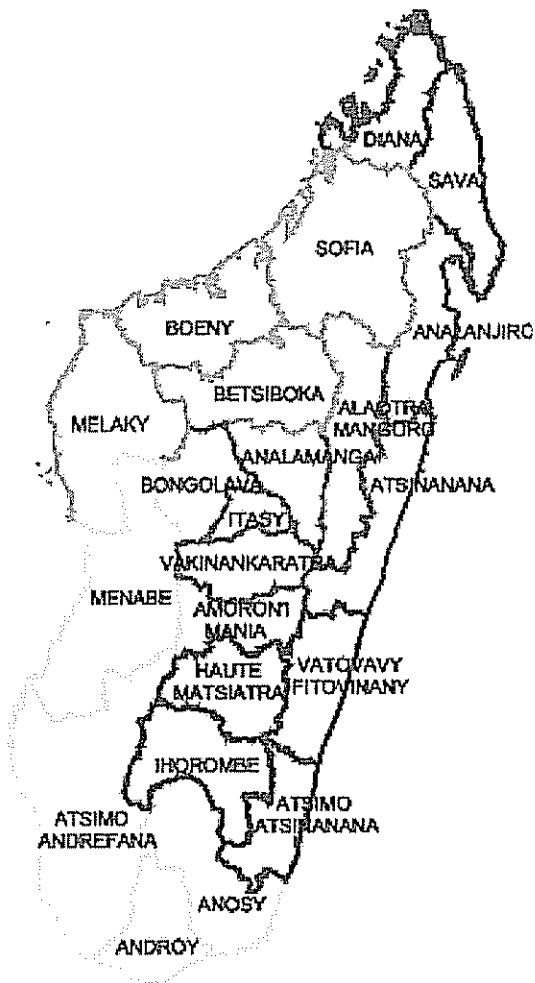
The KPMA and the National Institute for Cartography are in close cooperation for updating the existing Toponymic Data Base.

Other Informations

New Administrative Level Boundary in Madagascar

The second administrative level of Madagascar has changed since June 2004 and is actually constituted by 22 Faritra (regions), replacing the 113 "Fivondronana".

Those regions were established to facilitate management by grouping areas with economic and linguistic affinities. The 22 new names are frequently used and are already communicated to the Secondary Administrative Level Boundary (SALB) Project.



<i>FIRST LEVEL FARITANY (Province)</i>	<i>SECONDARY LEVEL FARITRA (Region)</i>
<i>ANTSIRANANA</i>	DIANA
	SAVA
<i>MAHAJANGA</i>	SOFIA
	BOENY
	BETSIBOKA
	MELAKY
<i>TOAMASINA</i>	ANALANJIROFO
	ALAOTRA MANGORO
	ATSINANA
<i>ANTANANARIVO</i>	ANALAMANGA
	BONGOLAVA
	ITASY
	VAKINANKARATRA
<i>FIANARANTSOA</i>	AMORON' I MANIA
	HAUTE MATSIATRA
	VATOVAVY FITOVINANY
	IHOROMBE
	ATSIMO ATSIANANA
<i>TOLLARA</i>	MENABE
	ATSIMO ANDREFANA
	ANDROY
	ANOSY

Coding System

A single coding system is in study jointly by the Ministry of Interior, the Postal service, the Service of Meteorology and the National Institute for Cartography. It is supposed to resolve the problem of the too many duplicated names and different code depending on the user that exist in Madagascar.

GSDI-8

The representative from Madagascar was selected to present a paper about GIS and TDB as Support to the National Standardization Program on Geographical Names in April 2005 in Egypt during the 8th International Conference on the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure. Unfortunately, funding support was lacking and in spite of the free conference registration offered by the organizer FIG, she couldn't seize that opportunity.

MOZAMBIQUE

One of the main objectives of the National Directorate of the Territorial Organization (DNOT) is to undertake the territorial division and the toponymy of Mozambique in order to enable or to facilitate the local governments in the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented for a good governance.

As we already mentioned in the last UNGEGN Session in Vienna in 2006, the National Directorate of Territorial Division, taking in account that the names of the localities are not yet approved by the government, is in the process to undertake the field work for the delimitation and description of the locality boundaries as the first step for approval by the Government. This task was started in the Maputo Province which has 76 localities and the 996 for the remaining Provinces.

We are also in the process of study for the cities and districts reclassification.

National Geographical Names Authority

The documents to set up the Geographical Names Authorities in Mozambique are already concluded. Meanwhile some administrative formalities are not yet finalized for approval by the Government as we mentioned in the last session held in Vienna in 2006.

UNGEGN Training Course on Toponymy (Maputo – Moçambique), 18-25 September 2006

The second UNGEGN Training Course on Geographical Names for the Africa South Division was held at the Offices of the Eduardo Mondlane University from 18 – 25 September 2006 in Maputo. The Course was organized in conjunction with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and by the Government of Moçambique through the Ministry of State Administration taking into account the revitalization and coordination of geographical names activities in Africa, an issue of special concern, and one that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa had requested the assistance of UNGEGN in addressing. The opening ceremony was officiated by Her Excellency the Vice-Minister of State Administration Dr. Carmelita Namashulua.

Aims of the Course

- To introduce participants to:
 - the importance of standardized geographical names for various applications; concepts and understanding of the processes of standardization;
 - the UNGEGN and UN Conferences on the standardization of geographical names and to resolutions pertaining to geographical names;
 - means of and the importance of establishing names authorities;
 - collecting, researching, treating, standardization and dissemination of geographical names.
- To promote co-operation and future training opportunities between divisions of UNGEGN, in particular the member countries of the Africa South Division.

Attendance and lectures

The course was attended by 38 participants from Angola, Brazil, Botswana, Moçambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, representing countries of the Africa South, Africa East, Africa Central and the Latin America Divisions, respectively.

The lecturers were:

- Ms Helen Kerfoot, Chairperson of the UNGEGN – **Canada**;
- Prof. Ferjan Ormeling, Convenor of the Working Group on Training Course on Toponymy- **Netherlands**;
- Dr. Peter E. Raper, former Chairman of the UNGEGN- **South Africa**;
- Dr. Lucie Möller, UNGEGN expert- **South Africa**
- Mr. Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, UNGEGN expert- **Germany**; and
- Mr. Luís Abrahamo- Chairman of the Africa South Division of the UNGEGN- **Moçambique**

Programme

The programme was divided into modules, covering:

- Introduction to standardization and UNGEGN; introduction to and standardization of geographical names, rationale for names committees, role of the United Nations;
- Introduction to standardization, toponymic terminology, sources and field collection;
- Office treatment and dissemination of geographical names, recording and storage, data base management, digital production of names lists and gazetteers;
- National geographical names authorities, establishment of national authorities, functions and practical standardization;
- International issues: languages, scripts, transliteration and transcription; endonyms, exonyms, trans-boundary features, etc;
- Preparation workshop for fieldwork, collection procedures, planning, consideration, compiling lists for data capture, language issues and GPS use, introduction to cartographic applications, coordinate and reference systems;
- Practical fieldwork exercise in the area of the Manhiça District (78 km north of Maputo city) and Palmeira Locality at the same district; meeting with local authorities (governmental and traditional leaders);
- Multilingual situations (national consideration): multilingual areas, orthographic rules and international issues;
- Automation: geographical names system, demonstration and practical workshop in automation and populating databases from lists of names, questionnaires, field work and verification processes and output.

- Technical visit to National Centre of Cartography and Remote Sensing (visit to Toponymy Data Base Section).

Course Facilities

The National Centre of Cartography and Remote Sensing provided the topographic maps at 1:50 000 scale and GPS's for fieldwork. For each participant the training course included ongoing network computer access. UN Resolutions arranged alphabetically by subject were prepared by Dr. Raper and Möller, and training manuals were provided by all lecturers and the UNGEGN secretariat. Power Point Presentations of all lectures on C.D-ROM were provided to the trainees.

Graduation and Closing Ceremony

The graduation and closing ceremony was done by Dr. António V. Soares de Pombal, National Director of the Territorial Organization, on behalf of Her Excellency the Vice- Minister of State Administration , Dr. Carmelita Namashulua

CREATION OF THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING DIVISION

During the UNGEGN Training Course held in 2006 in Maputo (Moçambique) was discussed with Madam Chairperson, Ms. Helen Kerfoot, the creation of the Portuguese-Speaking Division. This division comprises 8 countries namely Angola, Brasil, Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau, Moçambique, Portugal, São Tomé e Príncipe and Timor-Leste.

Taking in account the common language and the cultural aspects, the benefits of the creation of this division are the following:

- exchange of geographical names experience in Portuguese;
- to use the common language by the 8 countries in the sessions/conferences in order to facilitate their participation in the work of the UNGEGN; and
- to use the common language in training courses in toponymy as well as the training course material, etc.

NAMÍBIA

The information bellow was reported in Berlin in 2002 by the representative from Namibia during the Africa South Division Meeting. *“ Mr. Okapor from Namibia indicated that they do not have geographical names authority supported by legislation. There has been Cabinet decision that this authority will be under the Minister of Basic Education, Sports, Arts and Culture. He requested assistance from South Africa with the Act they have to employ to make sure that this structure is functioning in their country”.*

AFRICA SOUTH

The past financial year saw the SAGNC recommending to the Minister standardization of some geographical feature and most notably is the name change of the Johannesburg International Airport to O R Tambo International Airport. There were also a number of correction of spelling for a number of geographical features in KwaZulu-Natal e.g. eMhlanganweni correction of spelling from Mhlanganisi, KwaNkomfe correction of spelling from Nkomfe, eMabophe correction of spelling from Mabophe and eMatshamnyama correction of spelling from Matshamnyama.

According to Section 2(1)(a) of the South African Geographical Names Act of 1998 (Act No. 118 of 1998) one of the objectives of the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC) is to facilitate the establishment of Provincial Geographical Names Committees. The SAGNC has facilitated the establishment of nine provincial committees to bring closer to the people the processes and policies of the SAGNC. Each PGNC is will be supported by a small, streamlined team of well-trained, competent, efficient staff that will be attached to the Department of Arts and Culture of the Province. The SAGNC and the Department took upon itself in this financial year to drive capacity building and Human Resource Development for PGNC's in all nine provinces in order to build capacity for provinces to be able to enforce policies of the SAGNC and facilitate the standardization of geographical names at provincial level.

According to section 1(b) of the South African Geographical Names Act, Act 118 of 1998, the Council must establish and maintain a research section and the necessary infrastructure, incorporating a computerised database, a library, reference material and document archives.

The system was enhanced to be more users friendly. More columns and file formats were included on the database for extraction purposes, to make the database easily accessible to the users. Based on comments and request from the users the following documents were made available on the system, government gazettes, printable application form etc. The enhancement included the GIS mapping tool and search facility being altered; e-mail facility being incorporated on the system, duplicate names can be traced before capturing.

Table 1: Geographical Names approved per province and language for 2006/2007 Financial Year.

Language	Provinces									Total number of names
	¹ WC	² EC	³ NC	⁴ FS	⁵ ZN	⁶ NW	⁷ GP	⁸ MP	⁹ LP	
Afrikaans	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
English	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
isiNdebele	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
isiXhosa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
isiZulu	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	23
Sesotho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sesotho sa Leboa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	11
Setswana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SiSwati	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
Tshivenda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Xitsonga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
¹⁰ Other languages	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
Total number of names	0	0	0	0	22	1	2	17	7	49

The table above gives an overview of how many geographical names were approved for 2006/2007 Financial Year and the language in which the names were approved

¹ Western Cape Province

² Eastern Cape Province

³ Northern Cape Province

⁴ Free State Province

⁵ KwaZulu-Natal Province

⁶ North West Province

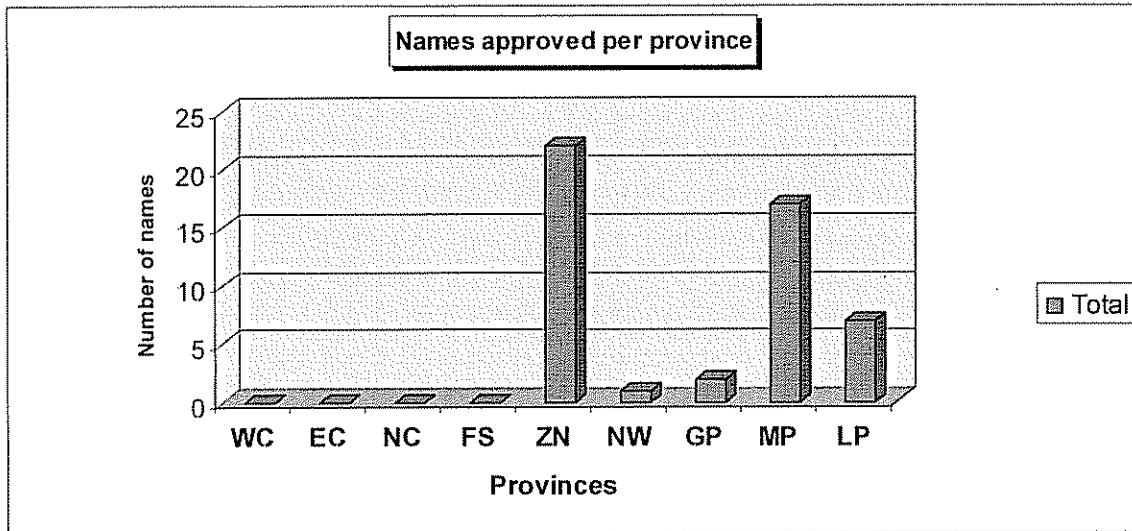
⁷ Gauteng Province

⁸ Mpumalanga Province

⁹ Limpopo Province

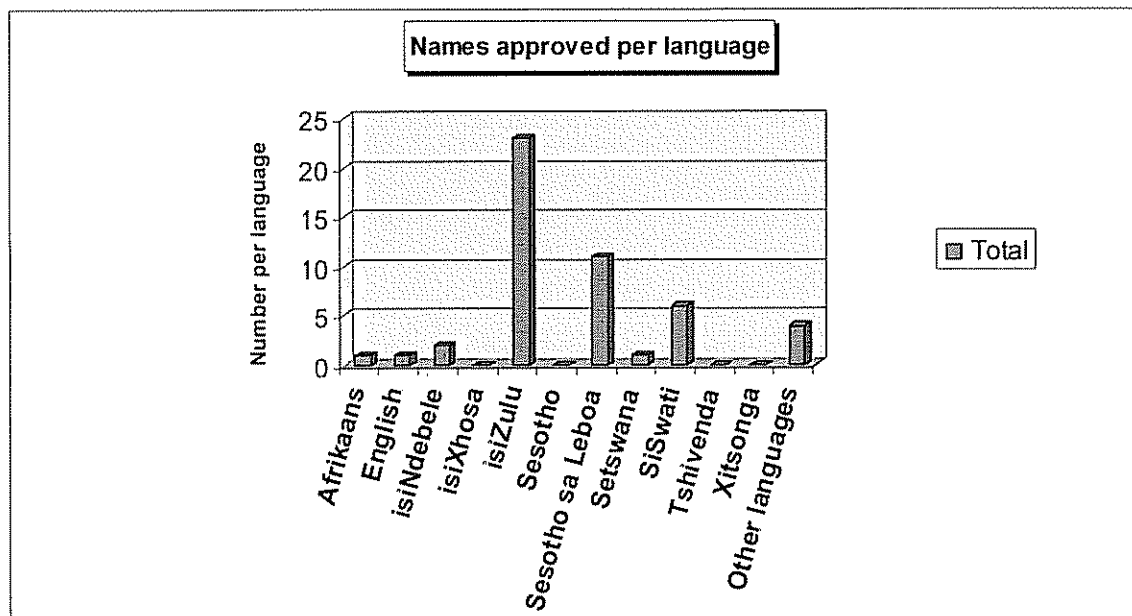
¹⁰ Other Languages includes foreign, multiple, san languages etc

TOTAL NAMES APPROVED IN EACH PROVINCE



The chart indicates the number of names approved per province. KwaZulu-Natal has 22 approved names, Mpumalanga with 17, respectively for 2006/2007 Financial Year.

TOTAL NAMES APPROVED PER LANGUAGE



For 2006/07 financial year, most names approved were in isiZulu with 23 names, followed by Sesotho sa Leboa with 11, SiSwati with 6, respectively.

ZAMBIA

The information bellow was reported in Berlin in 2002 by the representative from Zambia during the Africa South Division Meeting." *Mr. Mwanza from Zambia reported that there is no such structure in Zambia and there have never have been any before that was functioning under the guidance of resolutions taken by United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The only thing that existed was government Notice in 1953 for this structure to be formed."*

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