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The Benefits of Geographical Names Standardization

Geographical Names Standardization





UNGEGN Information Bulletin

The *Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (formerly UNGEGN Newsletter) is issued twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group of Experts. The Secretariat is served by the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. Contributions and reports received from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups are reviewed and edited jointly by the Secretariat and the UNGEGN Working Group on Publicity and Funding. Contributions for the Information Bulletin can only be considered when they are made available digitally in Microsoft Word or compatible format. They should be sent to the following address:

Secretariat of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)
Room DC2-1678
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Tel: (212) 963-5823
Fax: (212) 963-9851
E-mail:
blake1@un.org
geoinfo_unsd@un.org



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Previous issues of the Bulletin (formerly Newsletter) can be found at

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn_info_bulletins.htm



Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues,

Thanks again for the secretariat for providing this opportunity to communicate with you.

It is not long before our next UNGEGN session and I am looking forward to seeing you there. Again, I will ask you to come prepared to participate fully in the all aspects of the session. As normal, we will have the sessions itself, the divisional and working group meetings and special presentations but the most important part of the process is your willingness to share your thoughts concerning the aspects that are open for discussion.

Please remember that we are a technical committee and we will stress the need for delegates or countries to avoid bringing any of the political issues, either in papers or reports or during the discussions. I will be asking the convenors to be particular aware of this so we can avoid any un-necessary complications.

As well as the normal session business, we have two other subjects to discuss, being:

- The current operational modalities of UNGEGN.
- The relationship between UNGEGN and UNGGIM.

These matters were discussed at the recent combined Evaluation & Implementation and Publicity & Funding Working Group meeting. Ideas have been documented and there will be a presentation and discussion on these issues when we meet. Any implementation will need to wait until the 2017 United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.



As we consider any changes as to how UNGEGN operates, we must remember that UNGEGN has been a very successful organisation in achieving its mandate and if we are to change the operations we what to ensure that we build on that success.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy end of year holiday season, and again, look forward to seeing you in April.

Bill Watt

Chair, UNGEGN

Email: William.Watt@sa.gov.au



Message from the Secretariat



Dear UNGEKN Experts,

This 49th edition of the Information Bulletin is the third issue of our "new look" which features the *Benefits of Geographical Names Standardization*. We aim to provide our readers with interesting and relevant information on the work of the experts and featured theme which we hope our readers will enjoy.

The UNGEKN Secretariat and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding are delighted to offer you this 49th issue of the UNGEKN bulletin. In this issue there are four articles in the special feature section on the Benefits of Geographical Names Standardization, from Botswana, Cyprus, the Republic of Korea and Ukraine. There are the usual divisional and working group reports and a few articles from Geographical names Authorities in Member States. A must read article is that on "How Surface Features on Bodies in the Solar System are Named" which I found to be very informative.

It is widely accepted by Toponymists that the national standardization of geographical names provides clarity, prevents ambiguity and should result in savings in time and money, with increasing operational efficiency across all levels of government. The benefits span a wide range of areas and activities from the production of maps and atlases, census operations, commerce and trade, land air and sea communication, postal and shipping deliveries to search and rescue operations. Names standardization is said to eliminate duplication of work where more than one office or organisation identifies correct and consistent name usage. The four featured articles share how national place names standardization has positively influenced and benefited their countries.

The 29th Session of UNGEKN is just about five months away, you are encouraged to begin preparing your papers for timely submission and making arrangements for your travel to Bangkok, Thailand for 25-29 April 2016. We kindly ask writers when submitting their papers to indicate the related resolution of the UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names and whether the paper is for information or discussion.

The note verbale, provisional agenda and documentation for the session will be posted in due course. As has been the custom over the past years, rooms will be made available for side events and special presentations on current topical technical issues will be delivered. Side events, such as meetings of Working Groups and Divisions are encouraged and should be registered. Should you wish to have a side event and or have any related questions please contact the Secretariat. Side event requests will be accommodated on a first come first served basis. General information on conference logistics, meeting rooms, identification passes, hotel accommodation, visas and other matters will be provided in the Bangkok Resource Guide. Please visit the UNGEKN website for updates regarding preparations for the 29th Session
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungekn/default.html>.

Member States and national institutions responsible for geographical names are reminded to submit their information for the UNGEKN World Geographical Names Database. We also wish to remind our global experts and persons wishing to learn more about toponymy that they can pursue the online BSc level, web course at:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/_data_IC_Acourses/index.html

It is a 20 module program, subdivided in chapters, complete with self-study guides, exercises and resource documents.

Your comments on this issue and contribution to forthcoming bulletins are welcomed. Please circulate the bulletin among your colleagues and we hope you enjoy reading.

Cecille Blake
UNGEKN Secretariat
E-Mail: blake1@un.org

Special Feature

Benefits of Standardization of Geographical Names

The Benefits of Geographical Names Standardization in Cyprus

1. Introduction

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, after Sicily and Sardinia, with an area of 9.251 sq. km (3.572 sq. miles). It is situated at the north-eastern corner of the Mediterranean, at a distance of 350 km north of Egypt, 102 km west of Syria, and 68 km south of Turkey. Cyprus lies at a latitude of 34,5° - 35,7° North and longitude 32,3° - 34,6° East. The Republic of Cyprus is a member of the United Nations since 1960 and member of the European Union since 2004.

The United Nations, with the decision of the Economic and Social Council in April 1961, undertook international efforts for implementing the standardization of geographical names. The Republic of Cyprus, complying with this mandate, and also complying with the related UN resolutions, participates actively in all Conferences, Sessions and Divisions' meetings, trying always to fulfill its obligations on these very important matters.

The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) was officially established by the decision of the Council of Ministers no.15.769 of 21.4.1979 and constitutes the only competent National Authority for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Cyprus. According to law N.66(I)/98 and the regulations ΚΔΠ 443/2001, the Committee operates under the Minister of Education and Culture.

2. Geographical Names in Cyprus

Cyprus is privileged to have most of its geographical names bequeathed in ancient texts from Homer to Herodotus, the tragic poets and Strabon, up to ancient cartographers, like Claudius Ptolemaeus, and from medieval cartographers, like Abraham Ortelius, up to lord Horatio H. Kitchener, who mapped Cyprus in the 19th Century, at the beginning of the British rule of the island. The name of the island "Kypros" was mentioned by Homer 3000 years ago.



Map of Cyprus (Abraham Ortelius), 1573



Map of Cyprus (G. Mercator, J. Hondius), 1607

The last two conquerors of Cyprus were the Ottoman Turks, from the 16th to the 19th century, and subsequently the British until 1960. All geographical names, which survived through the centuries, in writing or in oral tradition until 1960, which was the year of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus, are fully acknowledged and preserved by the Government. Many of them have been collected from texts, historical documents, left by the British and the Ottoman Turks and other previous conquerors. All the conquerors of Cyprus imposed their own systems, but never proceeded to massive changes of the traditional



geographical names. Following the tragic events of 1974, a significant number of geographical names were completely changed in the northern part of Cyprus. This issue is pending and it is carefully attended by the Republic of Cyprus. It must be noted that all official geographical names of Cyprus include Greek, Turkish and other names that pre-existed 1974 for several hundreds of years. All official geographical names of Cyprus are included in the Toponymic Gazetteer (please see par. 5 below).

3. Standardization of Geographical Names

Up to 1967, the year of the 1st UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, no significant work was done in relation to standardization, except the verification of the material collected after field checking and minor orthographical corrections.

After 1967, the Department of Lands and Surveys, complying with all relevant UN resolutions, within the context of the systematic mapping project, which was initiated in 1969 (at scale 1:5000), and which was based on photogrammetric methods, decided to proceed systematically with the collection of supplementary names and the standardization of all geographical names.

The methodology adopted was the following:

- Step 1: On every completed photogrammetric plot at scale 1:5000, all the toponyms were transferred from the cadastral plans that were already approved.
- Step 2: An experienced team of cartographers and land surveyors visited the area covered by each photogrammetric plot (1X1.5 Miles), and came into direct contact with the respective Community Authorities and the inhabitants.
- Step 3: The Communities appointed their experienced representatives who accompanied the team in the field.
- Step 4: A re-verification or correction of the toponyms that already were transferred on the plot was done, and where necessary, new toponyms were recorded.
- Step 5: After the completion of the field work for every photogrammetric plot, all geographical names were transferred in special lists with their co-ordinates, along with the description of each item.
- Step 6: The lists were examined by linguists, who submitted them to the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) for checking and approval.
- Step 7: *The CPCSGN, proceeded next with the standardization into Greek and then with the transliteration of the Greek characters into the roman system ELOT 743. This system has the advantage of reversibility and can be computerized.*

All of the above described toponyms which were gathered in the field by authorized bodies and checked repeatedly, constitute all the official toponyms, Greek, Turkish and others, of the Republic of Cyprus, which are used by its people. Many

of the geographical names belong to ancient texts from the depths of history.

4. Standardization of Odonyms

Odonyms (street names) in Cyprus are given and maintained by Municipal and Community Councils. These odonyms, are under the approval of the respective District Officers, which operate under the Ministry of Interior. All official street names are communicated to the Cyprus Permanent Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names, for checking and correction, in order to achieve uniformity all over the island.

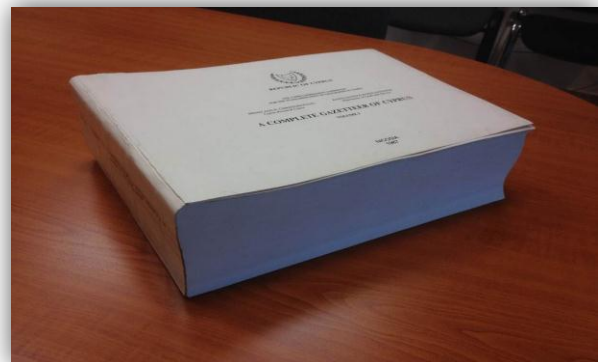
The Greek odonyms, as these are expressed with the terms “Οδός/Odos” (Street), Λεωφόρος/Leoforos (Avenue), Πλατεία/Plateia (Square), are all in genitive case. For the Greek odonyms of Cyprus, the following principles are applied:

- a) All given names are complete (they are not abbreviated), to identify the persons, in honour of whom these are given.
- b) Names in ancient language are recorded in the genitive case of each ancient name, as it happens with surnames of citizens. The names in modern language are recorded in the genitive case of each modern name.
- c) The transcription to the approved Roman system, where it is applicable, is obligatory.
- d) In the road signs, the Greek characters of the names are written on top and the Roman characters of the names at the bottom. The Roman transcription is done following each letter of the Greek characters. The same principle is followed for foreign names as well. The foreign writing of foreign names is not used on road signs.

5. Gazetteers of Cyprus

The existing national gazetteers prepared by the CPCSGN in 1982 and 1987 respectively are:

- (i) The “*Concise Gazetteer of Cyprus*” (about 2000 entries)
- (ii) The “*A Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus*” (about 67000 entries)



Complete (hardcopy) Gazetteer of Cyprus, 1987



Complete On-line Gazetteer of Cyprus

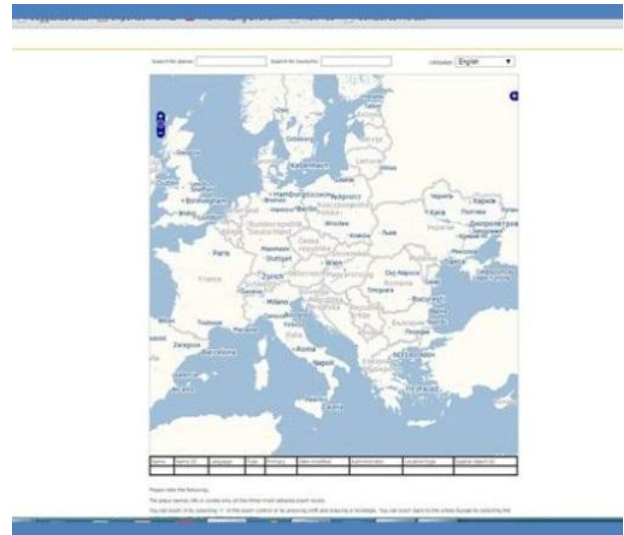
All geographical names and toponyms included in these gazetteers were derived from the official large scale cadastral map series of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus was digitized, and is currently available on CPCSGN's website (www.geonoma.gov.cy).



CPCSGN's website (www.geonoma.gov.cy)

All cadastral maps of Cyprus have already been digitized and their information was categorized and stored in digital relational databases and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Based on these databases, it is possible today to produce a new, more precise gazetteer. Furthermore, complex queries using geographical names can be performed with GIS, producing thematic maps of variable content, according to specific requirements.

All geographical names and toponyms were included in a distributed European database named "EuroGeonames" through EuroGeographics, and they are available on line at: <http://ec2-50-19-212-160.compute-1.amazonaws.com/EGNol/>



EuroGeonames Database

6. Benefits

Geographical names of Cyprus are more than just labels on a map. They are a connecting point between man and the land. They are needed to identify, describe, and analyse geographical entities. They carry the hopes and challenges of culture and identity of all Cypriots. Misuse of geographical names can cause friction. The official geographical names of Cyprus depict the island's history and culture through the years. They constitute significant evidence for citizens, researchers, historians, archaeologists and others, for analyzing, understanding, and preserving the identity of the nation.

Benefits from standardization and use of geographical names can be categorized in four main groups, these being:

- Technical,
- Social,
- Economic, and
- Cultural

Following strict rules, based on international standards, a complete standardization of all official geographical names of Cyprus was completed in the 80's followed by transliteration into roman characters. This fact made possible the homogeneous representation of geographical names in



digital databases, geographical information systems, maps, books and internet applications. It is very easy today for all foreigners, tourists, external researchers, academic institutions, organizations and others, to read correctly all official Greek, Turkish and other geographical names of Cyprus.

Geographical names are an important part of our geographical and cultural environment. They identify geographical entities of different kinds and represent irreplaceable cultural values of vital significance to people's sense of well-being and belonging. Ancient monuments, ancient settlements, churches, monasteries, mosques, cemeteries and other significant topographical features, along with their respective geographical names, are solid examples and inseparable part of the cultural history of Cyprus.

Many concrete examples could be mentioned regarding the benefits gained by using standardized geographical names in Cyprus. Uniformity is achieved in all central government and local government organizations in their computerized and manual systems, web-applications, official reports, hardcopy and digital interactive maps, communication with citizens, street names, street signs etc. Geographical names are very important datasets within the spatial data infrastructure of Cyprus, included in the integrated Land Information System and the INSPIRE spatial datasets required by the European Commission.

Geographical names in Cyprus are therefore of major importance. Society must bear the responsibility for respecting geographical names heritage and assuring that place name planning is carried out in such a way as to ensure that the place names are preserved and the cultural heritage protected in a rapidly changing environment.

A new Law (N.71(I)/2013), was recently voted for by the Parliament of the Republic of Cyprus, and an amendment was added to the basic law, by creating a new article, which criminalizes the alteration of geographical names and toponyms and the illegal issue, import, circulation, supply, distribution and trade of maps, books or other documents, in conventional or digital form, which contain geographical names and toponyms of the Republic, imprinted differently than those specified in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Law, or those contained in the official Toponymic Gazetteer. This was an additional measure taken by the Republic of Cyprus for safeguarding its invaluable cultural heritage.

7. Conclusion

Technical, social, economic, and cultural benefits have been observed from standardization and use of geographical names in Cyprus. Information technology makes it possible today to store, maintain, access, use, and analyze geographical names, along with other geographical information, in a very effective manner. They are an inseparable, very important component of the spatial data infrastructure of the country. Uniformity is achieved through standardization and transliteration into the roman alphabet, based on strict rules and international standards.

The CPCSGN, realizing the benefits, strongly supports the efforts undertaken by the U.N. for the standardization of geographical names, and aims to comply and implement the U.N. and UNGEGN Conferences resolutions for the standardization of geographical names. The Republic of Cyprus gives a great importance on the implementation of the U.N. Conference resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, as a part of its duties for safeguarding the cultural heritage.

Andreas Hadjiraftis

President of Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus
Ag. Chief Lands Officer,
Cartography/Geodesy/Hydrography/Photogrammetry,
Department of Lands and Surveys, Ministry of Interior,
Lefkosia, Cyprus
Email: ahadjiraftis@dls.moi.gov.cy



International Workshop on Toponymy: Place Names to the Public, Jeju, Republic of Korea, 8–10 October 2015

A workshop on *Place Names to the Public* was held at the International Convention Center Jeju, Jeju-do, 8-10 October 2015, organized and sponsored by the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of the Republic of Korea. It was a part of the 20th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific organized by NGII.

The workshop featured one special lecture, two paper sessions and one panel discussion session:

Special lecture

- SONG Seongdae (Jeju National University): Cultural geographical specificities and place names in the Jeju Region

Session I: The Nature of Place Names: Functions and Uses (Chair: RYU Yeon-Taek, Chungbuk National University)

- Paul WOODMAN (Former Secretary, PCGN): The use of geographical names as brands
- Asep KARSIDI (Geospatial Information, Indonesia): Geographical names as spatial identifier to support one map policy in Indonesia
- CHI Sang-Hyun (Kyung Hee University): Place name as a key to understanding others: The publication of *Place Names of Korea*

Session II: Place Names by the People, for the People (Chair: KIM Young-Hoon, Korea National University of Education)

- Peder GAMMELTOFT (University of Copenhagen): Public participation in naming decisions: Advantages and problems identified in Denmark and Norway
- Shazlin binti OMAR (Survey and Mapping Malaysia): Standardization of public geographical names in Malaysia
- Thanh Lam PHUNG THI (Vietnam National University): Hanoi's street names: Interpreting now from the past

Session III: Panel Discussion: Place Names to the People (Chair: CHOO Sungjae, Kyung Hee University)

A few premises were shared: Place names are spatial identifiers; Standardization with appropriate principles is a prerequisite (Karsidi); Place names are very near to the public.



Participants of the Workshop at the Opening Ceremony

Place names are coming to the public through procedures of branding by producers in the primary sector, companies and public organizations (Woodman). Place names are reaching out to differentiated groups of the public, within or outside of a country or a language group (Chi). For place names to be easily accessible to the public, the role of conveyors of place names, e.g. media, broadcasting, social network services, YouTube, has to be noted. User-friendly technical frameworks, e.g. toponymic database (Omar), should also be provided.

The public also reaches to place names. The public participated in naming places through the stages of initiating, using, changing (or 'complaining') and even phasing out (Gammeltoft). Names authorities of many countries guarantee public participation in their naming principles. Sometimes, the public initiates identity finding, based on their emotions, perception and memories on places (Phung Thi). Now, the question is raised: How do place names get closer to the public?

The workshop was followed by a one-day excursion to the natural and cultural attractions of Jeju Island, including Seongsan-ilchulbong (volcanic mountain), Haenyeo (woman diver) Museum and Jeju Stone Park.

Sungjae CHOO

Professor, Kyung Hee University

Email: sichoo@khu.ac.kr



Botswana – Geographical Names Standardization

Standardization of Geographical Names plays a very important role in different disciplines. The establishment of the Botswana Place Names Commission in 1967 was mainly to examine all the Geographical Place Names in the country and correct their spelling, check correct location, research origin and derivation of names.

The other challenge has been the absence of accessible and authorized geographical names data used on all official contexts and most importantly informing the user of any location. Despite all these challenges Botswana (DSM) has been pushing for the resuscitation of the commission to address issues of standardization of names.

Standardization of Geographical Place Names in Botswana has been regarded as a way to integrate activities that enhance socio-economic development. Although the commission has not been functional for some time, duplication of efforts by various agencies has been noticed and this has led to variations and conflicts in the usage of names.

Geographical Names Standardization_Botswana Settlements



Published by the Dept. of Surveys and Mapping,2015

© Republic of Botswana

The table contains multiple columns of text, likely representing different versions or standardizations of geographical names. It is organized into several sections, possibly corresponding to different districts or regions of Botswana. A small map of Botswana is located in the upper right corner of the table area.



Progress has been made towards the resuscitation of the commission, the main aim being to provide the basis for the official standardization and use of Botswana Place Names. This will allow the Commission to function with a clear mandate. The established interim committee has submitted the proposed structure and terms of reference to Ministry of Lands and Housing and this is being looked into and will finally be submitted to cabinet.

The interim committee held a Geographical Names Workshop from 12 - 13 August 2015 mainly to raise awareness to the interim committee members on the importance of names standardization and these issues should be addressed. Mr. Kubheka from the South African Geographical Names (SAGNC) was invited to assist and share the experiences on the field of geographical place names and how South Africa has handled issues of Geographical Names.



The workshop recommended the types of structure that could be adopted for the resuscitation and which best suits Botswana. That is either office, central or, the decentralized type of structure was the most suitable and its composition, terms office, commission members, meetings and functions were outlined. This was compiled into a report and submitted to Ministry of Lands for approval and appointment of members.

It is therefore vital for Botswana to keep abreast with changes in the country to be consistent in naming of cities, villages, land and water features to improve provision of essential services and trade at national and international level. In conclusion it is important to refer locations of areas by standardized names to avoid conflicts in service delivery.



Lucy Phalaagae

Interim Chair; Africa South Division
Department of Surveys and Mapping

Email: lphalaagae@gov.bw ; lucyphala@hotmail.com



From the Divisions

Norden Division

News from the Norden Division Meeting in Copenhagen, 12 September 2015

The Norden Division held its annual meeting in Copenhagen in connection with the joint meeting of the Working Groups for on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, Evaluation and Implementation, Publicity and Funding and the Norden Division in Copenhagen, 9-12 September 2015.

The Division meeting took place at the Department of Nordic Research at Copenhagen University on Saturday 12 September. The discussions showed that a number of developments have been under way in many of the Division's member countries, such as: Changes to acts dealing with geographical names in Norway and Sweden, as well as a geographical names law being proposed by Finland. A Danish pilot project focused on land mapping in Greenland, and the implementation of road and street addresses in Norway.

In addition, Norway and Denmark are working on new geographical names registers, whereas Finland is working on integration between its Geographical Names Register and its Map Name Register. Sweden has a crowd sourcing project between its national mapping agency, Lantmäteriet, and the Swedish municipalities. The result is 70.000 reported names of buildings, of which 36.000 have been incorporated in the Swedish geographical names register. Finland is working on a complete scanning of the geographical names archive. The actual scanning is complete, and the work is now focusing on making the information searchable.

Of additional items discussed were the homepage of the Norden Division, news from INSPIRE and EGN and the next Norden Division Meeting. For more information, please see the minutes from the meeting on the Norden Division homepage:
<http://nordendivision.nfi.ku.dk/about/meetings/cph150912/>.

Next Norden Division Meetings

The next Norden Division Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 29th UNGEGN Session, 25-29 April 2016, Bangkok, Thailand. In addition, it is hoped that it will be possible to hold the pre-Conference 2017 Norden Division meeting in Kárášjohka/Karasjok in Northern Norway.

Kárášjohka/Karasjok is the centre for Sámi culture in Norway, and it is an expressed ambition of the Norden Division to visit this language community.

Additional news

Division Secretary, John Jensen, retired just after the Copenhagen Norden Division meeting after serving as a representative of Denmark with UNGEGN for decades and Norden Division secretary since 2008. Danish Geodata Agency's Rune Lyngbo Kristensen is stepping in instead of John Jensen as new Norden Division secretary. Likewise, Leif Nilsson has also retired just after the Norden Division meeting as a long-serving representative for Sweden at UNGEGN. Replacing him is Leila Mattfolk, formerly representing Finland.

A number of new members have been added to the Norden Division since last, namely Ulla Onkamo and Maria Vidberg, both from the Institute for the Languages of Finland, Helsinki, as well as Berit Sandnes from the Norwegian Language Council, Trondheim. Welcome to the division! From 1 October 2015, Peder Gammeltoft, chair and representative of Denmark, has been appointed chairman of the Danish Place-Names Commission for the period 2015-2017.

The Norden Division homepage has received a slight overhaul with the most recent changes in regulations and procedures among the division countries now being up to date, as well as all text and links having been checked. Please visit our homepage: <http://nordendivision.nfi.ku.dk/>.

Peder Gammeltoft

Chair, Norden Division
E-mail: gammelt@hum.ku.dk



La division francophone

Après la conception d'une brochure présentant de façon synthétique son mandat (création, composition, principes et missions), ses grands chantiers et ses réalisations (un site Web, un Bulletin d'information, Le tour du monde en français), la division francophone poursuit son avancée.

Dans le but de faire un état des lieux sur la gestion des noms géographiques dans les pays francophones et francophiles, la division francophone a élaboré une fiche d'information « Autorités nationales de toponymie », et l'a distribuée à ses membres en mars 2015. Toute notre reconnaissance va aux membres qui ont bien voulu répondre à cet appel, et nous encourageons vivement les autres à faire de même, compte tenu de la qualité des informations contenues dans les réponses. À ce jour, nous avons reçu 14 dossiers, qui seront mis en ligne à la rubrique « États francophones et francophiles : les autorités toponymiques et cartographiques » dès que possible.

Élisabeth Calvarin

Présidente de la division francophone
Email : e-calvarin@wanadoo.fr

Africa South Africa Division

Botswana as interim chair has made efforts to invite members to a meeting in Gaborone, there has not been a response. However the Gaborone Action Plan (GAP) has been circulated among member countries to get more information on how challenges of Geographical Place Names activities in their respective countries can be improved.

Lucy Phalaagae

Interim Chair; Africa South Division
Department of Surveys and Mapping
Email: lphalaagae@gov.bw ; lucyphala@hotmail.com

Portuguese-speaking Division

The Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG) of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), focused on improving and promoting the access to information about standardization of geographical names in Portuguese-speaking countries, is pleased to disclose the conclusion of the complete Portuguese translation of the UNGEEN Media Kits documents and the UNGEEN "Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names".

Ana Cistina da Rocha Bérenger Resende

IBGE - DGC - Coordenação de Cartografia
Centro de Referência em Nomes Geográficos
E-mail: ana.resende@ibge.gov.br



From the Working Groups

Working Group on Publicity and Funding

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding held its annual meeting in Copenhagen in connection with the joint meeting of the Working Groups for on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, Evaluation and Implementation, Publicity and Funding and the Norden Division in Copenhagen, 9-12 September 2015.

Of items discussed were funding activities relating to various items, such as the Toponymy Training Courses, the Toponymic Terminology Database and translation of publicity material; how to improve public outreach, such as: the Information Bulletin, the UNGEGN website including Wikipedia information and through social media (e.g. Facebook and twitter) and the Media kit. The latest liaisons with the IGU/ICA Joint Commission on Toponymy and with Onomastic and Cartographic fora were also touched upon.

In addition, a substantial part of the meeting was devoted to discussions about how to improve the work of UNGEGN in the light of the questionnaires submitted at the 28th UNGEGN Session and integrate these into UNGEGN/UNCSGN operation modalities. The planning of the 29th UNGEGN Session in Bangkok 2014 was also an item of the meeting and suggestions for optimizing the 5-day session were

reviewed, as were ideas for special presentations, displays and workshops. It was also discussed how to proceed with the World Geographical Names Day project, UNGEGN Resolutions – and not least the progress of the Task Team for Africa.

Next working group meeting

Next Working Group meeting for Publicity and Funding will be held in conjunction with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation in connection with the 29th UNGEGN Session in Bangkok, April 2016.

Other news

The Working Group for Publicity and Funding is pleased to announce Mr. Gerhard Rampl as the group's new rapporteur. We are very pleased to have such a competent rapporteur for both our working group as well as the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation.

Peder Gammeltoft

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding
E-mail: gammelt@hum.ku.dk

Working Group on Exonyms

17th Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, Zagreb, Croatia, 14-16 May 2015

The WG met in the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography [Leksikografski zavod Miroslav Krleža] in Zagreb, Croatia, and was kindly hosted by this Institute, including an invited dinner in the first evening, with Ivana CRLJENKO functioning as the main local organizer. Thirty two (32) experts from 15 countries attended the meeting. Ivana CRLJENKO (Zagreb, Croatia) reported already in the opening on activities regarding exonyms conducted at The Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography, and Dunja BROZOVIĆ RONČEVIĆ (Zadar, Croatia) highlighted the toponymy of Zagreb and its surroundings. The first two days of the meeting then saw a sequence of three sessions with a total of 16 papers:

Session 1: Criteria for the use of exonyms – comprehensive approaches

(Chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria)

JORDAN, Peter (Austria): Criteria for the use of exonyms – resuming an interrupted discussion

WOODMAN, Paul (United Kingdom):

Advice on exonyms and their usage

ZYCH, Maciej (Poland):

Criteria for the use of exonyms – the Polish perspective

PÄLL, Peeter (Estonia):

Evolution of criteria on the usage of exonyms in Estonian

CHOO, Sungjae; CHI, Sang-Hyun; KIM, Heesu (Republic of Korea):

Exonym use in Korean geographical names: Implications for the “criteria”

HEČIMOVIĆ, Željko; DIVJAK, Dragan (Croatia):

Croatian practice and policies of endonym and exonym use considering INSPIRE and NSDI

MIKESY, Gábor; POKOLY, Béla; BÖLCSKEI, Andrea (Hungary):

Examples of exonym use in Hungary

**Session 2: Exonyms – concept and terminology**

(Chair: Paul WOODMAN, United Kingdom)

BUŠS, Ojārs (Latvia):	Exonymoids and endonymoids?
MÁCHA, Přemysl (Czechia):	Exonyms as metaphoric endonyms: World history and geography in local landscapes
BELL, Herman (United Kingdom):	The goal of an exonym: Networks of intangible culture
GERŠIČ, Matjaž; KLADNIK, Drago (Slovenia):	The Croatian-Slovenian bilateral project on exonyms

Session 3: Specific fields of exonym use

(Chair: Maciej ZYCH, Poland)

PAULIG, Helge (Germany):	The use of exonyms in German school atlases since 1945
STANI-FERTL, Roman (Austria):	Non-official toponyms (exonyms and other name variants) in national names data bases
WATANABE, Kohei (Japan):	Scale matters – names of large seas and continents
MAREK, Tomáš (Czechia):	Czech names of seas and international territories
CEKULA, Zane (Latvia):	The use of exonyms when a geographical feature extends across language boundaries

The papers will be published as Volume 6 of the toponymic book series *Name & Place*, edited by Paul WOODMAN and Peter JORDAN.

A general discussion in the afternoon of 15 May on criteria for the use of exonyms resuming the state already achieved at the 10th Working Group on Exonyms (WGE) Meeting in Tainach (Austria) in 2010 focused on the following issues and results:

- An earlier list of criteria discussed in Tainach and submitted as a Working Paper (WP 11) to the 25th UNGE GN Session in Nairobi 2009 (and at that time regarded as too permissive) is regarded as too restrictive.
- The opinion prevails that countries and languages are not to be restricted in using their exonyms.
- Exonym use is well accepted, regarded as a matter of national sovereignty and corresponding to the aim of preserving a cultural heritage, while international, more specifically United Nations intervention into this field is regarded as inadequate.
- The vast majority of participants expresses explicitly or

implicitly opinions disfavouring the definition of guidelines.

- The suggestion is accepted to present at the next UNGE GN session a working paper just noting the current trends in exonym use and avoiding any normative attitude. This could be taken as a guideline by those looking for advice. It will thus fulfil the same purpose as explicit guidelines for the use of exonyms and comply to the WG's task of formulating guidelines.
- The convenor expresses his intention to elaborate such a working paper for the next UNGE GN session in Bangkok on behalf of the WG.

The day after the workshop most participants joined a bus excursion to the Hrvatsko zagorje, the northern hinterland of Zagreb, including visits to the fortified castle of Veliki Tabor, Tito's birthplace and an ethnographical museum in Kumrovec and a Franciscan monastery in Klanjec. Mladen KLEMENČIĆ most competently guided the excursion.

Peter JORDAN

Convenor, Working Group on Exonyms

Email: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

Three "permanent" participants of WGE meetings during the excursion to the hinterland of Zagreb – from the left: Paul WOODMAN, Herman BELL, Ivana CRLJENKO (Photo: Peter JORDAN)



Peter JORDAN & Paul WOODMAN (eds.), Confirmation of the Definitions. Proceedings of the 16th UNGEKN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014 (= Name & Place, Vol. 4). Hamburg, Verlag Dr. Kovač, 244 p.

As a new volume of the toponymic book series *Name & Place*, edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN, this book on exonyms was published in Spring 2015. It can be ordered from the publisher via the website <http://www.verlagdrkovac.de/>

Soon after their implementation, the 2007 UNGEKN definitions of endonym and exonym were called into question; on the one hand because of problems with their practical application in standardization, and on the other hand because of a perceived lack of comprehensiveness (i.e. that they perhaps do not include all possible eventualities). So discussions on the definitions continued, latterly conducted for the most part within the annual meetings of the Working Group: in Vienna [Wien] in 2011, in Gdańsk in 2012, and in Corfu [Kérkyra] in 2013. The Gdańsk and Corfu discussions are documented in the proceedings of those meetings:

WOODMAN Paul (ed.) (2012), *The Great Toponymic Divide. Reflections on the definition and usage of endonyms and exonyms*. Warszawa, Główny Urząd Geodezji i Kartografii.

JORDAN Peter, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2014), *The Quest for Definitions. Proceedings of the 14th UNGEKN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Corfu, 23-25 May 2013*. Hamburg, Verlag Dr. Kovač.

The discussions centred mainly on these questions:

- Who is the local community defining and “possessing” the endonym?
- How far does the “territory” of the local community extend?
- Can the endonym/exonym divide exist within a given language, and is *language* a necessary criterion for the endonym/exonym divide?
- Is an official name *ipso facto* an endonym?
- With regard to a new migrant community, at what point does its name for a place qualify for endonym status – how large does the community need to be and for how long do they have to have lived in that place?

In addition, a predominantly linguistic concept of the endonym/exonym divide was also suggested, deviating from the traditional UNGEKN understanding of this divide in regarding endonyms as names conforming to a certain language irrespective of where the features assigned by them are located in geographical space (and defining exonyms as the opposite).

By 2014, it had become clear that a complete reconciliation of the diverging opinions within the Working Group was most unlikely. All the major arguments had been exchanged and the discussion could not be perpetuated indefinitely at the expense of other relevant agenda items. So the Working Group declared that its 16th meeting in Hermagor in 2014

would mark the final opportunity to arrive at an agreement on new definitions of *endonym* and *exonym*. The 18 papers presented on this subject at the Hermagor meeting therefore highlighted the final stage of the discussions on the definitions, and perhaps displayed all the arguments and positions in their most comprehensive form. They clearly show the dichotomy between advocates of all-comprehensive umbrella terms and those preferring terms, which meet the practical needs of standardization, as well as the dichotomy between linguistic and cultural-geographical (space-related) approaches.

The presentation of these 18 papers at the Hermagor meeting was followed by a general discussion on the definitions, the outcome of which was a decision that no new definitions would be proposed by the Working Group to a future UNGEKN session. The 2007 definitions would be retained, and the various alternative proposals brought forward in the meeting – and reflected in some chapters of this book – would not be accepted.

This book comprises the 18 papers presented at the 2014 Hermagor meeting of the UNGEKN Working Group on Exonyms as part of the final deliberations on the definitions. Each paper forms a chapter in this book. These chapters are supplemented by a contribution from the Carinthian toponymist Heinz-Dieter POHL on the namescape of south-western Carinthia – the region where the meeting took place.

These are the chapters of the book:

The endonym/exonym divide – general aspects

JORDAN, Peter (Austria):	The endonym/exonym divide – On the state of our discussions
NYSTRÖM, Staffan (Sweden):	Endonym and exonym: definitions and some useful subterms
BUŠS, Ojārs (Latvia):	Don't we have at least some endonyms for foreign geographical features?
CRLJENKO, Ivana (Croatia):	Practical benefits of knowing the definitions of exonym and endonym when creating the list of exonyms/foreign names
ZYCH, Maciej (Poland):	A few comments on the new proposals for the definitions of 'exonym' and 'endonym' discussed in the forum of the UNGEKN Working Group on Exonyms
MATTHEWS, Phil (New Zealand):	Endonyms, exonyms, boundaries and standardization
HAUSNER, Isolde (Austria):	Are exonyms and endonyms onomastic or toponymic terms?
PÄLL, Peeter (Estonia):	Spelling differences and exonyms



- BELL, Herman
(United Kingdom): A multilingual environment: Its relevance for defining 'endonym' and 'exonym'
- SABBÄR, Halim
(United Kingdom): Disenfranchising indigenous languages. The need to define 'endonym' and 'exonym' with accuracy and fairness

The endonym/exonym divide – macroregional aspects

- TANABE, Hiroshi
(Japan): Difficulties of the exonym/endonym dichotomy from the view-point of East Asian place names
- CHOO, Sungjae;
KIM, Heesu
(Republic of Korea): The endonym/exonym divide in the context of the Korean language
- ZAGÓRSKI,
Bogusław R.
(Poland): Endonym-exonym divide: observations based on Polish-Persian toponymic equivalences
- POKOLY, Béla;
BÖLCSKEI, Andrea; Mikesy, Gábor (Hungary): The exonym/endonym divide: Examples highlighting different aspects in Central Europe

The endonym/exonym divide – experiences in individual countries

- GERŠIČ, Matjaž;
KLADNIK, Drago
(Slovenia): Slovenian geographical names as exonyms
- MAREK, Tomáš
(Czech Republic): View of members of the Czech Commission on Geographical Names on exonyms
- ZYCH, Maciej
(Poland): The new list of Polish exonyms
- WOODMAN, Paul
(United Kingdom): Endonyms and exonyms in the "Near Abroad": The role of Russian in the toponymy of Kazakhstan

The crucial decision of the Hermagor meeting to retain the 2007 definitions of *endonym* and *exonym* was taken following the presentation of papers, and it therefore forms an update to the chapters of this book.

Peter JORDAN

Convenor, Working Group on Exonyms
Email: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

Working Group on Country Names

In connection with information from the UN Terminology Section's online database ([http://unterm.un.org/dgaacs/unterm.nsf/0/\\$searchForm?SearchView&Seq=1](http://unterm.un.org/dgaacs/unterm.nsf/0/$searchForm?SearchView&Seq=1)), the document named "UNEGN WG Country Names Document - 10th UNCSGN" is currently under review. This review will update names that have evolved, languages which have become official, notes that are out of date, etc. The revised document will be made available for consultation of the Working Group experts shortly before the Bangkok session (25-29 April 2016).

Furthermore, if the competent authority in your country has developed, validated and put online a "Country Names" list, we would appreciate it if you would forward to us the link.

Élisabeth Calvarin and Leo Dillon

Co-convenors, Working Group on Country Names
Email : e-calvarin@wanadoo.fr ; DillonLI@state.gov

Le groupe de travail « Noms de pays »

En rapport avec la base en ligne du Service de la linguistique des Nations unies ([http://unterm.un.org/dgaacs/unterm.nsf/0/\\$searchForm?SearchView&Seq=1](http://unterm.un.org/dgaacs/unterm.nsf/0/$searchForm?SearchView&Seq=1)), le document nommé « UNEGN WG Country Names Document – 10th UNCSGN » est actuellement en révision. On relève des noms qui ont évolué, des langues qui sont devenues officielles, des notes qui ne sont plus à jour, etc. L'extrait révisé du document sera mis à la consultation des experts peu avant la session de Bangkok (25-29 avril 2016).

Par ailleurs, lorsque l'autorité compétente de votre pays a élaboré, validé et mis en ligne une liste « noms de Pays », nous vous saurions gré dès à présent de nous en faire connaître le lien.

Élisabeth Calvarin et Leo Dillon

Co-convenors du Groupe de travail « Noms de pays »
Email : e-calvarin@wanadoo.fr ; DillonLI@state.gov



Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation



Participants of the Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and Working Group on Publicity and Funding, Copenhagen, Denmark, 10-12 September 2015

Working Group Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark, 10-12 September 2015

The Working Group (WG) on Evaluation and Implementation held a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding at the Department of Nordic Research, University of Copenhagen, 10-12 September 2015. Twenty-one experts from twelve countries participated, including convenors and rapporteur of two WGs, United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGE GN) chair, vice chairs and former chair (See participant list). Director and staff of UNSD and UNGE GN Secretariat participated through teleconference for a part of the meeting. The meeting was sponsored by National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea and The Danish Place-Name Commission.

Current working conditions and status of the UNGE GN were reviewed, including completed or on-going items since the 28th Session and status quo regarding arrangements for the 29th Session in Bangkok, 2016. Special attention was paid to UNGE GN/United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) operation modalities, with specific focus on meeting interval and sequence and on the relationship with the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). It was decided that a few proposals discussed at the meeting would be summarized and circulated. Possible revision needs of the UNGE GN statute, i.e. adding elements of cultural heritage, were also noted.

Evaluation of the 28th Session in 2014

Basic findings from the evaluation survey carried out at the 28th Session were reported:

- Most of the respondents evaluated positively (expectations were met to 52 out of 53; 49 out of 53 evaluated the meeting as being successful or very successful).
- Documents were evaluated as being the most useful, followed by talking/ networking with experts, workshops, special presentations and WG meetings, while exhibitions/displays and division meetings were regarded less useful.
- With regard to the logistics of the session, retaining WG and division meetings as agenda items was evaluated most positively, along with allocation of time and summarizing groups of documents, while negative responses were given to such items as time for WG and division meetings and duration of the five day session.
- Most of the respondents indicated that resolutions were useful for the standardization of geographical names (44 out of 49) and rated highly the importance of implementing resolutions in each country's geographical names management (46 out of 48).
- Some suggestions were made for future sessions; having more chances for networking, more social events, more discussion on topical issues, more special presentations, etc.



Implementing resolutions

It was reported that 33 out of 79 working papers presented at the 28th Session (41.8%) referred to resolutions. Frequently referred resolutions included I/4 (national standardization), I/7 (regional meetings), V/6 (promotion of national and international geographical names standardization programs) and VIII/6 (integration of geographical names data into national and regional spatial data infrastructures). The evaluation survey informed that major factors hindering the implementation of resolutions were lack of awareness or understanding, absence of coordination, and low level of human and financial resources. It was suggested that drawing attention to implementing resolutions should be continued. One measure would be to maintain the requirement in the "Documentation for the Session" that resolution(s) to which the documents refer should be indicated.

In the afternoon of 11 September, participants of the meeting joined a guided tour and lecture in UN City Copenhagen. A possibility to organize a UNGEGN session at this facility was explored.

At the meeting, the two WGs welcomed a new rapporteur, Mr. Gerhard Rampl from Austria. The next meeting of the Working Group will be scheduled within the framework of the 29th Session in 2016. As an extension of the idea developed at the Copenhagen meeting, the Working Group plans to sponsor a workshop on implementing resolutions, specifically sharing each country's experience of commemorative naming. Any expert interested is kindly advised to contact the convenor.

Participants of the meeting:

1. Lisa Monica Aslaksen (Norway)
2. Brahim Atoui (Algeria)
3. Élisabeth Calvarin (France)
4. Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)
5. Naima Friha (Tunisia)
6. Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark)
7. Botolv Helleland (Norway)
8. Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
9. Jinyoung Kim (Republic of Korea)
10. Sun-Bae Kim (Republic of Korea)
11. Young-Hoon Kim (Republic of Korea)
12. Teemu Leskinen (Finland)
13. Leila Mattfolk (Sweden)
14. Leif Nilsson (Sweden)
15. Ulla Onkamo (Finland)
16. Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands)
17. Sirkka Paikkala (Finland)
18. Gerhard Rampl (Austria)
19. Yeon-Taek Ryu (Republic of Korea)
20. Annette Torensjö (Sweden)
21. William Watt (Australia)

Through teleconference:

1. Stefan Schweinfest (UNSD)
2. Amor Laaribi (UNSD)
3. Cecile Blake (UNSD/UNEGGN)

Sungjae CHOO

Convenor, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation
Email: sichoo@khu.ac.kr

Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

WG meeting

The WG arranged a meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 9-10, 2015, dealing with various aspects of place-names, such as names in multilingual areas and the connection between the tangible and the intangible cultural heritage. The co-convenors also arranged a workshop dealing with the organization of the work in the WG, methodology, main issues and activities. For your information, we attach the minutes from the meeting and the workshop by our rapporteur Leila Mattfolk. Please also note some changes in our e-mail addresses.

Co-Convenors

Annette Torensjö
E-mail: annette.torensjo@lm.se

Leif Nilsson

E-mail: leifnilsson2013@bredband.net

Rapporteur

Leila Mattfolk
E-mail: leila.mattfolk@sprakochfolkminnen.se

Steering Group

Peder Gammeltoft; Sungjae Choo; Teemu Leskinen; Naima Friha; Michel Simeu Kamdem; Eman Orieby.

Working group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage
Meeting in Copenhagen, September 9-10, 2015
Venue: Department of Nordic Research, Njalsgade 136

Present:

Sweden: Annette Torensjö and Leif Nilsson (co-convenors),
Leila Mattfolk (rapporteur)
Australia: William Watt
Austria: Gerhard Rampl
Denmark: Peder Gammeltoft, John Jensen, Rune Lyngbo
Kristensen
Canada: Helen Kerfoot
Finland: Teemu Leskinen, Ulla Onkamo, Sirkka Paikkala



Norway: Lisa Monica Aslaksen, Botolv Helleland, Berit Sandnes
South Korea: Jinyoung Kim, Sun-Bae Kim, Sungjae Choo, Young-Hoon Kim, Yeon-Taek Ryu

Agenda:

September 9

1. Opening of the working group meeting
2. Introduction and background
3. Geographical names as cultural heritage – the example of Sweden
4. Geographical names in multilingual areas – the example of Saami names in Sweden.
5. Discussion
6. Other aspects on geographical names as cultural heritage

September 10

Workshop dealing with the organization of the work in the WG, methodology, main issues and activities.

September 9

1. Opening of the working group meeting

The meeting was opened at 1 pm by the co-convenors Annette Torensjö and Leif Nilsson.

2. Introduction and background

The co-convenors put forward a wish to set up a program for the WG for the coming years and to consider and discuss some central questions, priorities and how to organize the work, meetings etc. They would like to draw up new directions for the group, making use of the results the WG previously has reached.

Two proposals:

1. Aspects of the connection between the tangible and the intangible cultural heritage.
2. Aspects of geographical names in multilingual areas.

These aspects were illustrated by two examples from the current situation in Sweden (presented in items 3 and 4 on the agenda).

3. Geographical names as cultural heritage – the example of Sweden

Leif Nilsson illustrated the connection between the tangible and the intangible cultural heritage through examples of the relationship between humans and nature/landscape from Öland in Sweden. The field names used today is not the same names as were used 50 years ago. The names change with new owners and new types of cultivation, and a name not used is soon forgotten. This leads to a loss of the historical cultural knowledge that the names transmit and it shows the importance of recording geographical names into archives. The safeguarding of names is possible only through documentation.



4. Geographical names in multilingual areas – the example of Saami names in Sweden

The presence of Saami names in maps over Sweden was presented by Annette Torensjö. The Saami languages in Sweden are North Saami, South Saami, Lule Saami, Ume Saami and Pite Saami. North Saami in the Nordic countries has a common orthography since 1978 and North Saami names were introduced on maps in 1983. The orthography of other Saami languages are younger, but since 2001 names in all Saami languages but Pite Saami are included in data bases, and mostly shown also on maps. Pite Saami has no commonly recognized orthography.

5. Discussion

A discussion followed, where the following questions, among others, were discussed:

- The very knowledge that someone is interested in finding out about the names that (the indigenous) people themselves use is crucial for the (indigenous) population. It is also important for them to be given the possibility to experience how names are gathered, standardized and written onto maps.
- The relation between names in different languages within an administrative community: do they have different weight/importance? Is one to be favored to another?
 - Sweden: In a foreign-language context: the Swedish name is prioritized.
 - Finland: In a foreign-language context (except the Nordic languages and Finno-Ugric languages): If the majority language of the municipality is Finnish, the Finnish name is recommended, if the majority language is Swedish, the Swedish name is recommended.
- The registration of names: how to find the right



sources/informants, and how to decide who has the right to speak for the community/group. A further challenge is also that there has to be someone (in the community) with the ability to write down the names. If the names are to be used on maps, etc. there has also to be experts who know how to standardize the names.

6. Other aspects on geographical names as cultural heritage

Ulla Onkamo showed how place name as concept is introduced in Finland's implementation of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, ratified in 2013. A detailed action plan for the implementation is still forthcoming. Regarding geographical names, the Institute for the Languages of Finland has stressed that preserving names as cultural heritage should consist of at least two actions: a) Protecting and maintaining existing name archives, and b) verifying the correct usage of place names, which requires the enactment of a place name law.

Discussions followed, where, among others, the following issues were raised:

- The importance of digitizing material
- The importance of showing examples of
 - The implementation of the UNESCO convention – how are the names recognized in the implementation in different countries?
 - Name registration as a preserver of cultural value
 - The scientific value of the name archives
 - The importance of name registration, because the names remembered are the names used at this moment
 - The effect name legislation can have

Sirkka Paikkala suggested changes in the UNGEGN statutes, so that these would recognize cultural heritage as more prevalent for the UNGEGN mission. The changes she suggested would stress the importance for registering the names for other reasons than cartographic reasons. When the authorities show interest in names, in stories behind the names, and when the names are presented in a linguistically correct manner, name users are shown respect and thus encourage name users to preserve the names themselves.

- The suggestion was found important, and was transferred to the working group for evaluation and implementation for consideration.

September 10

Workshop dealing with the organization of the work in the WG, methodology, main issues and activities

Present:

Sweden: Annette Torensjö and Leif Nilsson (co-convenors),
Leila Mattfolk (rapporteur)
Algeria: Brahim Atoui
Australia: Willam Watt
Austria: Gerhard Rampf
Denmark: Peder Gammeltoft
Canada: Helen Kerfoot
Finland: Teemu Leskinen, Ulla Onkamo, Sirkka Paikkala
Norway: Botolv Helleland, Berit Sandnes
South Korea: Jinyoung Kim, Sun-Bae Kim, Sungjae Choo,
Young-Hoon Kim, Yeon-Taek Ryu
Tunisia: Naima Friha

On the basis of some questions and topics suggested by the co-convenors, the workshop discussions resulted in the following:

- The WG will until the Bangkok meeting continue with the steering group appointed in New York
- Focus groups will be introduced
- The WG will build up a website with:
 - documents prepared by the WG
 - examples of good naming practices
 - guidelines (e.g. regarding commemorative naming)

Topics for the WG:

- The names of minorities
- Geographical names as cultural heritage
- Legislation and policies
- Fieldwork and the registration of names
 - Presentation of good practices, e.g. the Guide to the field collection of native geographical names (Provisional Edition), 1992, by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/rncan-nrcan/M86-29-1992-eng.pdf
 - urban names
 - feature classification
- Research
- Commemorative names
- Commercialization of geographical names

Leila Mattfolk

Place-Name Consultant

Email: Leila.Mattfolk@sprakochfolkminnen.se



Joint meeting of Working Groups and Division in Copenhagen

Copenhagen was the venue for the joint meeting of the Working Groups on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, Evaluation and Implementation, Publicity and Funding and the Norden Division, 9-12 September 2015. We were honoured with 27 participants from 12 different countries, namely Algeria, Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, The Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Tunisia.

The venue started with the meeting of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, on 9-10 September, followed by the joint meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, 10-11 September and finishing with the Norden Division meeting on 12 September. 11 September in the afternoon was set aside for a trip to the recently opened UN-City in Copenhagen where we admired the stunning architecture of this magnificent new UN facility and was given a talk on some of the activities taking place from the Copenhagen UN-City.

The 9-12 September were four days of intense but interesting and stimulating meetings where a number of important issues for the future of UNGEGN were discussed. You can read more about the individual Working Group meetings and the Division meeting on pages 16, 20, 21 and 14.

Peder Gammeltoft

E-mail: gammelt@hum.ku.dk



From the Countries

Brazil

News from Brazil

In the context of the 27th International Cartographic Conference (ICC), the Center of Corporate Intelligence (CIC) of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) hosted at Rio de Janeiro the Pre Conference Symposium on Atlases, Toponymy and the History of Cartography, from 19 to 21 of August, 2015, organized by the Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG). The symposium was attended by various national and international experts, with interactive and informative presentations filled with insights and debates, regarding topics from ethnocartography to toponyms and statistical atlases. The already replete 23-presentation program also included a special technical visit to the *Historica Cartographica Brasiliis* exhibition at the National Library, with rare cartographic items like a first edition piece of the *Geographia* of Ptolemy, and a visit to the memorable inauguration of the "Rio de Janeiro in Nautical Charts" exposition at the Navy Museum.

Ana Cistina da Rocha Bérenger Resende
IBGE - DGC - Coordenação de Cartografia
Centro de Referência em Nomes Geográficos
E-mail: ana.resende@ibge.gov.br



Dr. Elri Liebenberg, Chair of the ICA Working Group on the History of Cartography, presenting



Dr. Paulo Menezes, Chair of the Joint IGU-ICA Commission on Toponymy during his presentation of "Place names and Historical Cartography"



Dr. Peter Jordan, Chair of the UNGEGN's Working Group on Exonyms, during his presentation



Some of the attendants at the National Library

Burkina Faso

Toponymes et mise à jour de la cartographie à l'échelle 1/200.000 au Burkina Faso

Introduction

Dans le cadre de la mise à jour de la cartographie à l'échelle 1/200.000 du Burkina, débuté en février 2011, il s'est avéré nécessaire de revisiter l'ensemble des toponymes dans la mesure où les cartes existantes sont issues de photos aériennes des années 1950 et d'enquêtes toponymiques comportant des erreurs ou des évolutions par endroit.

Ce constat est à l'origine du déclenchement d'un ensemble d'actions qui ont conduit à la revitalisation de la Commission Nationale de Toponymie (CNT) dans le but de valider les toponymes des nouvelles cartes.

Conformément au processus de mise à jour des cartes à l'échelle 1/200.000, l'objectif visé est de mettre à jour l'ensemble des toponymes figurant sur les anciennes cartes topographiques du Burkina Faso.

1- Rappel sur le projet de mise à jour de la cartographie à l'échelle 1/200.000

La mise à jour de la cartographie à l'échelle 1/200.000 du Burkina est un projet qui a été financé par l'Union européenne à travers le 10^e FED (Fonds Européen de Développement) dans le but de contribuer à l'accélération de la croissance économique par l'amélioration de la gestion du secteur des infrastructures et des transports.

Ce projet a été réalisé sur quatre ans (de février 2011 à février 2015) par l'Institut Géographique du Burkina (IGB) avec l'assistance technique de l'IGN France International.

Le processus de production (Fig1) a consisté dans un premier temps à corriger les images satellitaires RapidEye à 5m de résolution couvrant tout le territoire en utilisant entre autre le modèle numérique d'élévation (MNE) SRTM recalé et les points GPS issus de missions terrain réalisées par l'IGB.

La deuxième étape a concerné l'interprétation des images corrigées en se servant d'un ensemble de données et informations externes existantes (cartographiques ou non). Les résultats de ces travaux d'interprétation ont fait l'objet des missions de complètement terrain et de contrôle qualité dans lesquels le traitement des toponymes a occupé une place importante. L'ensemble de ces opérations ont permis de disposer d'une base de données à partir de laquelle les différents produits cartographiques attendus ont été réalisés.

Aux termes de ce projet, les résultats tangibles ci-après sont disponibles :

- La capacité technique de l'IGB est renforcée pour la



Fig.1 : Schéma du processus de production

conduite de sa mission de cartographie du territoire ;

- Les feuillets cartographiques du territoire à l'échelle 1/200.000 sont imprimés ;
- Les fichiers géocodés des feuillets cartographiques sont disponibles ;
- Une nouvelle Base Nationale de Données Topographiques (BNDT) est disponible à l'échelle 1/200.000 ;
- Des ortho-images de haute résolution (RapidEye à 5m) et de très haute résolution (GeoEye à 5cm) sont disponibles sur le territoire ;
- Une nouvelle carte routière et touristique est disponible sur le pays à l'échelle 1/1.000.000 ;
- Un Atlas routier et touristique du pays est disponible à l'échelle 1/200.000.

2- Rôle du projet de Mise à jour de la cartographie dans la relance des activités de toponymie au Burkina

La première Commission nationale de toponymie, dénommée CONATOP, a été créée par KITI N°86-048/CNR/PRES/MATS du 13 février 1986 à la faveur de la période de la révolution démocratique et populaire au cours de laquelle, le Gouvernement d'alors a exprimé un fort besoin de recouvrer notre identité culturelle en valorisant le patrimoine toponymique. C'est dans cette dynamique que le nom du pays est passé de « la République de Haute Volta » à « Burkina Faso ». Il en a été de même pour les principaux cours d'eau et

certaines rues et places publiques dans les villes de Ouagadougou et de Bobo-Dioulasso.

Cette commission n'a malheureusement pas produit les résultats escomptés alors que les besoins d'harmonisation et de normalisation sont grandissants entre autres dans le domaine de la production cartographique, la signalisation routière et le tourisme. Elle n'a pas pu édicter les règles de transcription des noms locaux avec l'alphabet latin, laissant libre cours aux pratiques multiformes pour la transcription de nos toponymes. A la faveur de la communalisation intégrale, sont nés des commissions communales dont celles de la commune de Ouagadougou qui a fait des émules. Si cette dynamique est à saluer car permettant de commémorer les héros nationaux, il ne fait aucun doute que leur fonctionnement doit être encadré par l'adoption d'une réglementation commune aux entités nationales de toponymie.

C'est à partir de 2008 qu'on notera un regain d'intérêt au niveau national avec la tenue à Ouagadougou d'un atelier régional de formation en toponymie, fruit d'un engagement soutenu de l'Institut Géographique du Burkina et du soutien du Groupe d'experts des nations unies pour les noms géographiques (GENUNG).

Les activités de toponymie au Burkina ont été véritablement relancées à la faveur du projet de Mise à jour de la cartographie à l'échelle 1/200.000 dans lequel, l'actualisation des toponymes se posait comme un impératif. Les principales actions qui sous-tendent cette relance se caractérisent par :

- le renforcement des capacités et la relecture du CONATOP ;
- l'adoption des outils de traitement des toponymes ;
- le soutien à la tenue des sessions de la CNT (Commission Nationale de Toponymie).

2.1- Renforcement des capacités et redynamisation de la CONATOP

Les premières actions se sont traduites par des rencontres d'échanges et de formation sur la toponymie en générale et les approches pour la normalisation des toponymes à porter sur les nouvelles cartes à l'échelle 1/200.000.

Avec l'assistance technique de Mme Élisabeth CALVARIN, membre du GENUNG et actuellement Présidente de la Division Francophone, les techniciens et ingénieurs du projet ainsi que les représentants de structures membres de l'ancienne CONATOP ont bénéficiés de formations sur la toponymie, les techniques d'enquêtes toponymiques et le processus de normalisation des toponymes.

Parallèlement à cette action de formation, l'IGB a mis en place un comité technique dans le but de redynamiser la Commission créée en 1986. Ce comité a travaillé à

élaborer le nouveau décret (n°2012-1015/PRES/PM/MID/MATDS/MEF) qui fut adopté par Conseil des Ministres en sa séance du 25 juillet 2012. Ce décret consacre en effet la création d'une nouvelle commission nationale de toponymie, en abrégé, CNT qui est chargée d'élaborer les règles et d'harmoniser les pratiques relatives à la toponymie au Burkina Faso. Elle est composée de membres statutaires (Fig.2) issus d'horizon divers (administrations, universités, centres de recherches, etc.) et de personnes ressources dont les compétences peuvent être mises à contribution pour l'atteinte de ses missions, elle se réunit au moins deux (02) fois par an.

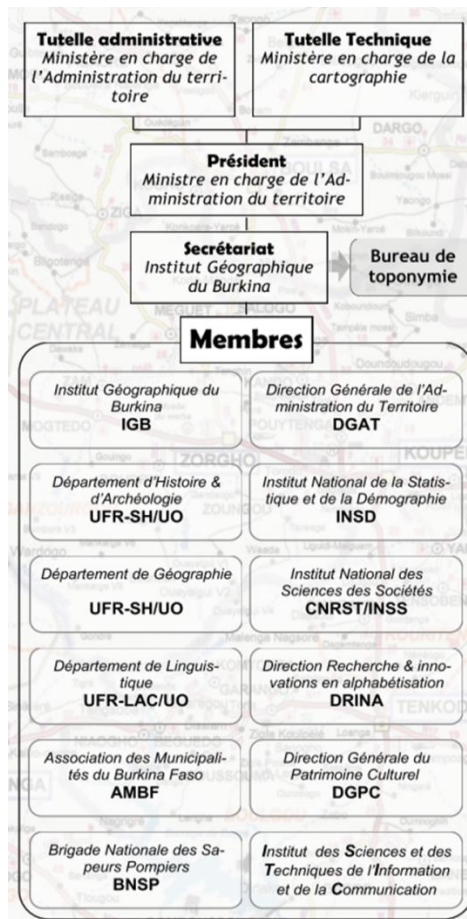


Fig.2 : Composition de l'actuelle CNT du Burkina

Dans le but de mener à bien les travaux de normalisation des toponymes des nouvelles cartes à l'échelle 1/200.000, l'adoption des règles ou outils de traitement des toponymes du pays était un préalable.

2.2- Adoption des outils de traitement des toponymes

Les outils de traitements des toponymes est un ensemble de principaux et de règles dont la première version a été adoptée lors de l'atelier de validation des



toponymes des premières cartes en production. Fondée sur la problématique des toponymes au Burkina qui est caractérisée par un manque d'homogénéité, ces outils font l'objet d'une mise à jour continue et constituent aujourd'hui une feuille de route pour la CNT dans ces travaux d'harmonisation et de normalisation des toponymes.

On distingue les outils d'harmonisation parmi lesquels, nous retrouvons la connaissance de la composition des toponymes, la charte de toponymie et les outils de normalisation.

2.2.1- Les outils d'harmonisation

2.2.1-1. La composition des toponymes

Premier outil de traitement, elle se traduit par la connaissance de la composition des toponymes (constitués d'un ou de plusieurs mots) et la connaissance de leur catégorie (noms administratifs ou noms de lieux en usage).

Les éléments d'appréciation à prendre en compte dans la transcription des noms sont les suivants :

- 1) Beaucoup de toponymes ont une signification.
- 2) Le plus souvent, ils sont composés d'un terme générique suivi d'un ou plusieurs termes spécifiques (nom commun, nom propre, adjectif, phrase verbale, etc.).
- 3) En général, on isole le terme générique du reste du toponyme, surtout quand celui-ci a deux ou plusieurs syllabes.
Exemples: Séno Mango (grande dune); Tilouguel Babadiayé (hauteurs du père Diayé); Tondi Gariol (colline du poisson pilé); Wamdé Baléré (montagne noire).
Contre-exemple : Oufaré Baba Amadou (terre salée du père Amadou) à cause des deux "a" successifs.
- 4) En revanche, sans terme générique précis, les termes s'accolent.
Exemples : Tinomowari (se dépêcher de venir); Mormossol (terre chaude du four).
- 5) Quand l'étymologie du toponyme est ignorée, ou s'est perdue, ou lorsque le toponyme a grandement évolué, il est laissé en l'état.

2.2.1-2. La charte de toponymie

Le deuxième outil correspond à la charte de toponymie sur laquelle la CNT se base pour traiter les règles d'écriture. Le premier draft se résume entre autre à l'utilisation :

- des majuscules et minuscules ;
- des accents (signes diacritiques) ;
- des traits d'union ;
- des mots courants (termes génériques).

- *Utilisation des majuscules et minuscules*
 - a) La première lettre de tout toponyme sera écrit en majuscule et le reste en minuscule ;
 - b) Les toponymes des entités administratives devront être transcrits en lettre capitales (majuscule) ;
 - c) Juste après le trait d'union d'un toponyme composé, on utilise une majuscule
 - d) Lorsqu'un toponyme contient un mot-outil (conjonction, adverbe, préposition, article contracté, article défini, etc.) interne, celui-ci s'écrit toujours en minuscule.

Exemples :

Dar es Salam: toponyme d'origine arabe, composé de deux mots du vocabulaire courant, dont l'un comporte un article défini. Grammaticalement, il s'agit d'un complément de nom.

Composition du toponyme: le terme générique "dar" = maison est complété par le terme spécifique "salam" = paix, lui-même augmenté de l'article défini interne "es" = la. Signification du toponyme: maison de la paix.

Cella de Loanga: le toponyme "Cella" est lié au toponyme "Loanga" par la préposition interne "de" qui, dans ce cas, a en plus une fonction d'appartenance: elle signifie que "Cella" fait partie de "Loanga" ou est connu comme tel.

- *Utilisation des accents*
 - (a) Ces signes diacritiques sont particulièrement utilisés afin de transcrire correctement les toponymes en fonction de leur prononciation ;
 - (b) Les toponymes en majuscules sont accentués en fonction de la prononciation.
- *Utilisation des traits d'union*
 - (a) Les traits d'union sont utilisés pour l'écriture des toponymes reconnus par l'administration (village administratif) composés reconnus comme tel ;
 - (b) Les toponymes des entités administratives devront être transcrits en lettre capitales (majuscule).
- *Utilisation des mots courants (termes génériques)*

Il s'agit de termes utilisés dans les principales langues du pays, qui ont fait l'objet d'un premier draft de glossaire des toponymes burkinabè élaboré à partir de la documentation existante et dont la mise à jour continue est assurée par la CNT.

Dans tous les cas, le traitement des toponymes par ce premier outil nécessite la disponibilité d'un glossaire des termes génériques dans les différentes langues locales, dont le premier draft a été élaboré à partir de la documentation existante et fait l'objet d'une mise à jour continue par la CNT.



- *Autres règles à prendre en compte*

Outre les éléments de charte ci-dessus, il est important d'intégrer la prise en compte de la prononciation dans la langue locale des différents toponymes. Cela n'est pas toujours aisé dans la mesure où le mode de transcription des langues nationales semble se rapprocher du mode phonétique. Il s'en suit évidemment la nécessité de recourir souvent à la signification des noms. Le sens seul permet souvent d'établir la graphie avec certitude et de vérifier que le nom s'applique à un objet désigné.

Cependant, ces langues peuvent avoir des sons voisins, et parfois les mêmes sons, mais qui peuvent avoir des sens très différents, ce qui fait que la signification peut échapper. Il faudra dans ce cas se contenter d'écrire ce que l'on aura entendu selon des règles d'écriture particulières, sans édicter pour autant des dispositions définitives, mais selon des règles pratiques permettant d'aboutir à une certaine homogénéité d'écritures cartographiques.

Par ailleurs, la transcription se fait à l'aide des signes de l'alphabet latin en donnant aux lettres la valeur qu'elles ont normalement en français et sans addition d'aucun signe spécial ; l'**orthographe** devrait être simple, uniforme, normale.

- Simple c'est-à-dire éviter des lettres qui habillent sans rien exprimer de plus ou compliquant les graphies : « y » lorsqu'il n'indique rien de plus qu'un « i ».

- Uniforme ou cohérent dans tous les mots ayant une partie commune qui devrait être écrite de la même manière. Par exemple, lefori (rivière) et Yefory (village).

- Normale pour permettre aux usagers de se faire comprendre.

Toutefois, certaines graphies sont entrées dans l'usage et ne sauraient être modifiées « Comoé » reste, alors qu'il semblerait logique d'adopter « Komoé ».

2.2.2- Les outils de normalisation

Ils sont relatifs aux principes de transcription des toponymes burkinabè qui, à l'instar de ceux des pays de l'Afrique francophone, ont toute une histoire qui débute avec la conférence de Bamako en 1963 et s'achève avec les résultats du séminaire régional de Toponymie de Ouaga en 2008 en passant par les propositions de la première conférence du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques (GENUNG).

Ces principes, qui s'appuient sur le socle des principes généraux de transcription en langue française, ont été ajustés et augmentés lors des ateliers techniques préparatoires et de la formation en toponymie avec l'assistance technique de Mme Élisabeth CALVARIN (Assistant technique IGN-FI, Experte en toponymie et ex membre du Bureau Français de Toponymie).

En règle générale, on peut retenir la mise en forme

normalisée des toponymes comme suit :

Il est retenu une lettre (ou un digramme) pour un même son, sachant que le français peut transcrire de plusieurs sortes un même phonème (son), par exemple la lettre « è » note le son [è] ouvert que le français représente par les graphies « e, è, ë, ai, ei, ay, et... ».

- les lettres B D F K L M N P S T V Z n'offrent aucune difficulté et traduisent correctement le son ;
- de même ne posent pas de difficultés les groupes et les affriquées : TS DZ TCH DJ ;
- certains sons propres aux langues africaines se rendent par un groupe de consonnes qui suggère assez bien le son homogène et unique qu'il transcrit : KP GB KPW GBW BL GL KL ;
- LR L R (son analogue au R roulé provençal et italien) sont des linguales ;
- le passage de R à L et réciproquement est fréquent ;
- la spirante vélaire sonore Rh bien qu'elle ait été entendue et notée r n'est pas transcrite Rh mais G (occlusive vélaire sonore) par souci d'homogénéité de la cartographie du Burkina, et pour laquelle la phonétique n'a pas toujours été notée et où il est plutôt difficile de la distinguer ;
- H et Y dont il est fait un emploi abusif sont inutiles et ne se justifient que dans certains cas, dont les suivants :
 - o mettre un H là où l'on entend effectivement une aspiration forte ;
 - o là où il n'y a pas de voyelles à l'initiale des mots, noté « Yi, Yé ».
- bannir les graphies équivoques qui présentent plusieurs valeurs ;
- les groupes tels que ER ET AIS AIT se rendent plus simplement par É et Ê ;
- la lettre C prend les valeurs S et K. De même, Ç, dont le son n'est autre que S ;
- le son [s] intervocalique se note –SS– ;
- G devant les voyelles e et i est le son dur [g], qui se note en français GU ;
- J CH Il faut réserver à J la valeur de son chuintant, et à CH le phonème sonore (en anglais SH et en allemand SCH) ;
- toutes les consonnes mouillées doivent être rendues par cette consonne + I ;
- il y a assimilation de « n » en « m » devant les occlusives bilabiales « b » et « p » ;
- l'apostrophe du phénomène de nasonnement qui modifie la consonne et en fait une consonne nasalisée est dommageable, mais d'usage avéré : Fada-N'gourma. Mettre une minuscule après l'apostrophe afin d'atténuer la prononciation erronée de deux émissions de son « en-g » et restituer ainsi la prononciation correcte d'une unique émission de son « ng » ;
- W est une semi-consonne ;
- X peut conserver sa valeur, mais à ma connaissance les langues africaines n'utilisent guère ce phonème ;



- ne plus souligner les voyelles nasales suivies d'une consonne nasale ;
- « ou » ne se souligne plus ;
- les gémérations sont justifiées au Burkina.

Outre ces règles générales, il a été convenu de prendre en compte quelques règles qui constituent des spécificités au Burkina Faso. Le tableau ci-dessous résume ces nouveaux principes de base retenus.

Son	Transcription/ Ecriture	Exemple
"in" "en" (donnant le son "ain" comme dans "examen")	"en" (zone moréphone)	Tinga = Tenga
"gn"	"ny"	Gnangbalandou = Nyangbalandou
"j"	"dy", "gy"	Didyr,
"o" ouvert	ô	kô (cours d'eau)
"i" final (kuy)	i (kui)	Békuy = Békui
Consonne final "n" (principe de stabilisation)	"hn"	Dissih ⁿ ,
"que" (Eviter la lettre ambiguë "C")	K	Cassou = Kassou

2.3- Soutien à la tenue des sessions de la CNT

Cette action se résume à la prise en charge du budget de sessions de la Commission Nationale de

Toponymie conformément aux dispositions du nouveau décret portant création, attribution et fonctionnement de ladite commission. Cette prise en charge, qui a couvert la période de mise en œuvre du projet entre 2012 et 2014, a permis de tenir au total 4 sessions ordinaires et une session extraordinaire soit de façon précise, une session ordinaire (juillet – août) en 2012, deux sessions ordinaires (mars et novembre) et une session extraordinaire (août) en 2013 et deux sessions ordinaires (février et mars) en 2014

SANON Oumar Issa

Directeur des Prestations et de la Recherche à l'Institut Géographique du Burkina
Bureau de Toponymie de la Commission Nationale de Toponymie du Burkina Faso
Email: oi_sanon@yahoo.fr

BAKO Ferdinand

Directeur de la Cartographie du Territoire à l'Institut Géographique du Burkina
Membre de la Commission Nationale de Toponymie du Burkina Faso
Email: bakoferd@yahoo.fr

TAPSOBA Paul

Spécialiste des Questions Foncières à l'Agence du Partenariat pour le Développement (APD-Burkina)
Email: tapsoba_p@yahoo.fr

Senegal

ETAT DES LIEUX AU SENEGAL

APPUI DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

Considérant que, parmi les quelques 207 résolutions adoptées à l'occasion des dix Conférences des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques, trois revêtent un intérêt particulier pour le Sénégal

- Résolution V-6 : Promotion des programmes nationaux et internationaux de normalisation des noms
- Résolution VII-1 : Création d'une division francophone
- Résolution VII-9 : Normalisation des noms géographiques par le biais d'Internet

Se référant :

Au travail du comité scientifique international pour la rédaction d'une histoire générale pour l'Afrique qui a pris dans les années 1969-70 la décision de réaliser une étude systématique des ethnonymes, anthroponymes et toponymes afin de mieux appréhender l'histoire Africaine.

A l'UNESCO qui entama dans ce sens un travail scientifique remarquable dans le but principal de mieux favoriser la compréhension mutuelle des peuples et des nations.

Au PROJET DE MEMORANDUM, qui pose la problématique fondamentale de la gestion par les pays africains anciennement colonisés de leur propre destin historique par rapport à l'évolution politique, culturelle et sociale du monde en développement.

L'Etat du Sénégal a pris un certain nombre de mesures qui relevaient à cet effet, dans l'exposé des motifs de la loi 74-57 du 28 novembre 1974, relative à la transcription des noms propres sénégalais en français.

- Le 18 mars 1999, réunion du comité d'initiative chargé de la création d'une instance pour l'étude de la toponymie
- Les 10 et 11 mai 2006 tenue du Premier atelier séminaire sur la toponymie au Sénégal tenue à la facultés des lettres et sciences humaines de l'Université Cheikh Anta DIOP : UCAD
- Du 16 au 18 Juin 2006, tenue des journées nationales du



patrimoine (PNJ), Hôtel Novotel Dakar, présentation du rapport de l'atelier national des 10 et 11 mai 2006 suivi discussion

- Le 23 mai 2007, réunion du comité de toponymie au département de géographie de la faculté des lettres et sciences humaines de l'UCAD.
- Juin 2007 Atelier régional de sensibilisation sur la gestion des noms géographiques en Afrique de l'Ouest Francophone, tenue à Ouagadougou au Burkina Faso par le groupe d'experts
- Le 27 novembre 2012 réunion du Comité interdisciplinaire de Toponymie à la Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines, de l'UCAD.

En 2014, à l'initiative de l'Agence nationale de l'Aménagement du Territoire (ANAT), le groupe d'experts a décidé la relance du comité qui a revisité.

- Le rapport du premier atelier séminaire sur la toponymie (10 et 11 mai 2006)
- Le compte rendu des journées nationales du patrimoine (16 au 18 juin 2006)
- le procès-verbal de la réunion du 23 mai 2007, réunion de la commission de toponymie

Il a par ailleurs, analysé :

- la Note de contribution à la 26^{ème} session du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies sur les noms géographiques (GENUNG) tenue à Vienne en Autriche du 2 au 6 mai 2011 sur le Thème: La toponymie et le problème de l'harmonisation de la transcription des noms des lieux : cas de l'édition des cartes topographiques
- La Présentation du Sénégal à la dixième (10^{ème}) conférence sur la normalisation des noms géographiques, tenue à New York du 31 Juillet au 9 Août 2012 sur le Thème:

Le problème des toponymies au Sénégal: Plaidoyer pour une action concertée de normalisation des noms géographiques.

Après étude de l'état des lieux et les analyses faites sur la problématique de la toponymie et son évolution, le groupe d'expert a décidé sous la conduite de l'ANAT de mettre en place, en Mars 2014, trois groupes de travail (avec termes de référence précis), chargés de préparer un Atelier national sur la Toponymie au Sénégal avec la participation d'experts nationaux et

Atelier National Sur La Toponymie au Senegal

Rapport de synthese

Dr Alla MANGA (Université Cheikh Anta DIOP)
M. Mamadou THIAM (Agence Nationale de l'Aménagement du Territoire)
M. Ibrahima NDIAYE (Agence Nationale de l'Aménagement du Territoire)
M. Papa Djibril BA (Agence nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie)

internationaux

- Groupe de travail 1 : Aspects juridiques et institutionnels
- Groupe de travail 2 : Moyens et modes de financement
- Groupe de travail 3 : Plan de travail et activités

L'ANAT en partenariat avec le Groupe inter institutionnel de Concertation et de Coordination (GICC) pour l'élaboration, la mise en œuvre, le suivi du Plan national Géomatique du Sénégal (PNG/S) et le Projet d'Appui canadien au PNG, (PAC), a organisé les 23 et 24 Octobre 2014, l' Atelier national sur la Toponymie qui a regroupé une dizaine d'experts nationaux, les principaux acteurs concernés et trois experts internationaux.

- Monsieur Claude Aubin TAPSOBA, Directeur général de l'Institut géographique du Burkina Faso, Chef de la Division Afrique de l'Ouest du Groupe des Experts des Nations-Unies pour la normalisation des noms géographiques.
- Madame Marie-Ève Bisson, membre de la Commission de toponymie du Québec, Canada
- Andre Nonguierma, Senior GIS Officer African Centre for Statistics CEA
Geoinformation and Sectoral Statistics Section, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Les travaux de l'atelier ont été sanctionnés par :

- Un Projet de Décret portant création de la Commission nationale de Toponymie introduit dans le circuit administratif.
- Un rapport de synthèse des travaux
- La mise en place d'un Comité technique intersectoriel, chargé du suivi des activités de la toponymie,

Pièce jointe: le Rapport de l'atelier

Mamadou DJIGO

Directeur général
l'Agence nationale de l'Aménagement
du Territoire (l'ANAT)
Email : mamadou.djigo@anat.sn

Introduction

Le séminaire s'est déroulé durant deux jours (23 et 24 octobre 2014) en sessions plénières et en travaux de groupes (3 groupes de travail) avec une soixantaine de participants venant de structures publiques (Agence nationale, Ministères, Université...) et des collectivités locales (Union des Associations des Elus Locaux du Sénégal, UAEL).



L'ouverture du séminaire est présidée par Me Omar YOUM Ministre de la Gouvernance Locale, du Développement et de l'Aménagement du territoire et la clôture par le Directeur Général de l'Agence nationale de l'Aménagement du Territoire, M. Mamadou DJIGO.

I. RAPPEL DU CONTEXTE ET DE LA JUSTIFICATION

Les toponymes sont une source très importante de connaissances du passé et de conservation de la mémoire des peuples, ils représentent une partie intégrante de notre patrimoine historique national. Actuellement, ils occupent également une place prépondérante dans la gestion, le partage et la diffusion de l'Information Géographique ainsi que le développement des Systèmes d'Information Géographiques (SIG).

Cependant, au Sénégal, il est noté que chaque structure utilise sa propre manière d'écrire les noms des localités, des lieux-dits, des éléments hydrographiques du pays, etc. Il en résulte ainsi une diversité de transcriptions des toponymes qui se rapportent pourtant aux mêmes entités géographiques, créant la confusion sur les noms des lieux et la mobilité orthographique de ces noms.

Plusieurs tentatives ont été initiées dans le but de mettre un terme au vide institutionnel constaté dans le domaine de la toponymie et regrouper les acteurs concernés au sein d'un organe national chargé de gérer les aspects liés à ce secteur.

L'Agence nationale de l'Aménagement du Territoire (ANAT) du Ministère de la Gouvernance Locale, du Développement et de l'Aménagement du territoire (MGLDAT), en collaboration avec le Groupe Interinstitutionnel de Concertation et de Coordination (GICC) et le Projet d'appui canadien au Plan national géomatique du Sénégal (PAC-PNG/S), ont organisé une rencontre regroupant l'ensemble des acteurs et structures concernés au niveau national ainsi que des personnes ressources de la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA) et du Groupe des Experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques (GENUNG) afin de statuer sur la question des toponymes au Sénégal notamment dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Plan national de géomatique du Sénégal (PNG/S) en cours d'élaboration.

La mise en place de la base de données géospatiales prioritaire, une des activités phare du PNG et l'implémentation future de l'Infrastructure de Données Géographiques du Sénégal (IDGS), requièrent un consensus et des décisions majeures relatives à la normalisation des noms géographiques.

II. OBJECTIFS

L'objectif général de l'atelier qui était de réunir tous les acteurs producteurs et/ou utilisateurs de l'Information Géographique afin de partager la problématique des toponymes en vue de faire des propositions de solutions concrètes allant dans le sens d'une prise en charge adéquate de cette importante question a été largement atteinte.

Sur le plan spécifique, le séminaire a permis :

- De faire l'état des lieux de la toponymie au Sénégal ;
- De recueillir les expériences des autres pays dans le domaine de la toponymie ;
- De proposer un cadre institutionnel et juridique pour la création et le fonctionnement d'une commission nationale chargée de la toponymie ;
- De dégager les voies et moyens pour la mise en œuvre des activités de la commission qui sera mise en place ;
- De mettre en place un Comité Technique intersectoriel chargé du suivi des conclusions qui seront retenues lors de l'atelier ;
- D'établir un programme de travail en vue de préparer les futures activités de la Commission nationale.

III. DEROULEMENT DES TRAVAUX

Au cours de la matinée de la 1^{re} journée (23 octobre), il y a eu une session plénière durant laquelle les autorités ont procédé à des allocutions. Il s'ensuivit une constitution de trois (03) groupes de travail.

1. ALLOCUTIONS

Les discours du Directeur Général de l'Agence nationale de l'Aménagement du Territoire (ANAT), du représentant de la Coopération canadienne et du Ministre chargé de l'Aménagement du territoire ont mis l'accent sur la bonne initiative et l'opportunité de mettre en place une structure nationale chargée de la toponymie.

La toponymie, de par son rôle, son importance dans la planification, le développement durable et l'intégration régionale, continentale et internationale est mise en exergue pour réconcilier l'homme avec son terroir. Elle révèle un sentiment individuel et collectif, notre identité et les vestiges de l'histoire des peuples. Sa prise en compte s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'aménagement du territoire national soutenu par la normalisation des noms géographiques. La dénomination des lieux, la bonne transcription des noms géographiques et la mise en place d'un cadre institutionnel et juridique permettront d'aboutir à un développement harmonieux du territoire national.

En effet, il s'agit d'un creuset qui constitue une bonne opportunité de promotion économique avec l'Acte III de la décentralisation vers un développement durable.

2. PRESENTATIONS DES EXPERTS

M. André NONGUIERMA, de la CEA a fait une présentation de « Application GeoNyms Afrique » développée par sa structure depuis 2007. Il s'agit d'un logiciel Open source en développement, fonctionnant sur toutes les plateformes connues, qui permet aux pays africains de faire la capture et la validation des noms géographiques. Ces derniers sont devenus très accessibles ces dix dernières années avec la couverture de l'Afrique par les fournisseurs globaux de services à référence spatiale comme Google et Bing Maps. Le projet assiste et encourage les pays africains à mettre en place des structures nationales en charge de la toponymie. Ces dernières seront



l'autorité suprême qui validera et approuvera les noms géographiques en conformité aux patrimoines culturels, sociaux et historiques. A terme, cela facilitera entre Etats : l'échange de données entre utilisateurs (au sein d'un pays et entre pays) ; la mise en place d'une base de données nationale sur les noms géographiques par les États membres ; la constitution d'une base de données régionale africaine des noms géographiques. La base de données africaine devrait pouvoir renforcer in fine la base de données globale de GENUNG.

GeoNyms est utilisé à Madagascar, des tests sont entamés au Botswana, en Égypte et en Éthiopie. Le Cameroun et le Kenya ont exprimé leur intérêt formel et entamé la phase de pré-test de l'outil.

Pour le Sénégal, GeoNyms favorise l'utilisation d'un mécanisme standardisé et internationalement partagé. Il permet le respect des obligations internationales du pays en contribuant à l'effort global de mise en place des bases de données toponymiques mondiales, utiles à la communauté des utilisateurs.

M. Claude Obin TAPSOBA, Directeur Général de l'Institut Géographique du Burkina, responsable de la division Afrique de l'Ouest du GENUNG a présenté une communication sur « la situation de la toponymie en Afrique ».

Il a rappelé que tout lieu, qu'il s'agisse d'une localité, d'un cours d'eau, d'un relief naturel, a un nom donné par les populations qui le fréquentent.

Les noms de lieux lorsqu'ils sont normalisés procurent des avantages qui peuvent être technique, économique, social ou culturel. Le contraire peut évidemment engendrer des conséquences fâcheuses surtout en cas de catastrophes. La participation africaine aux conférences du GENUNG est très faible et la plupart des Etats (4 divisions en Afrique) n'ont pas d'autorité de gestion des noms de lieux. Les pays qui en ont créé (Libéria, Burkina Faso, Nigéria...) éprouvent des difficultés (manque de formation des acteurs, l'absence de budget pour animer les commissions ou pour prendre part aux conférences) à les faire fonctionner convenablement.

Madame Marie-Ève BISSON, de la Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada) a présenté « la gestion des noms de lieux au Québec : mandat, structure et outils ».

Au Québec, la Commission de toponymie, créée depuis plus de 100 ans, est chargée de la gestion des noms de lieux. Sa composition, son mandat et ses compétences sont définis par la Charte de la langue française, une loi adoptée en 1977. Le travail de la Commission est encadré par des politiques, des critères de choix et des règles d'écritures, normes qu'elle a elle-même développées et adoptées au fil du temps. Elle établit et normalise la terminologie géographique ; procède à l'inventaire et à la conservation des noms de lieux ; officialise les noms de lieux, diffuse la nomenclature géographique officielle du Québec et donne son avis au Gouvernement.

Le cadre normatif renvoie à des procédures de gestion toponymique bien définies, des règles d'écriture précises, des

critères de choix clairs (Pratiques contre-indiquées, sources d'inspiration) et 5 politiques générales (normalisation, linguistique, aux noms de lieux autochtones, terminologique, désignation toponymique commémorative).

La commission est composée de sept (07) membres dont un président, un directeur et secrétaire, treize (13) autres personnes y sont employées. Elle tient cinq à six (05 à 06) réunions par an.

Pr Alioune BA, expert sénégalais, a fait enfin une présentation sur l'histoire de la toponymie au Sénégal, son importance et les travaux déjà entamés.

Au Sénégal, les autorités gouvernementales ont pris très tôt un certain nombre de mesures. Elles relevaient, dans l'exposé des motifs de la loi 74-57 du 28 novembre 1974, relative à la transcription des noms propres sénégalais en français que :

« Le colonisateur français, dans la transcription qu'il a effectuée dans sa langue des noms propres sénégalais, a commis d'assez nombreuses erreurs matérielles. » Même si cette loi ne visait pas directement la fixation des noms de lieux, elle était suffisamment pertinente pour suggérer de corriger l'orthographe des noms géographiques qui était fantaisiste.

A titre d'exemple, la transcription en français des noms de villages sérères (FIMLA et JILLOOR) comportait respectivement une mutilation linguistique voire culturelle FUMELA et GUILOR. En essayant de franciser des formes dont la transcription n'est pas toujours aisée en caractère latin, se pose un problème de graphie et de phonie. La difficulté provient du fait que les langues nationales n'étaient pas écrites mais également que les décrets relatifs à la transcription des langues nationales (décret numéro 71-566 du 22 mai 1971, décret numéro 72-702 du 16 juin 1972) ne s'appliquent pas aux noms géographiques portés sur les cartes du Sénégal.

Malheureusement, la question est restée en l'état jusqu'en 1979 où l'idée de création d'un Organe national chargé d'étudier les toponymes et les anthroponymes a vu le jour. Les travaux divers (Son Excellence Saliou KANDJI, René MONY, Théodore MONOD, l'Abbé BOILAT, Pr Babacar DIOP dit Buuba...) sont notés et devraient être rassemblés par la commission nationale pour impulser la poursuite des recherches déjà entamées dans les universités et autres institutions du Sénégal.

3. DISCUSSIONS

Suite aux présentations, des discussions sont ouvertes et les participants ont eu des échanges fructueux qui ont permis de rendre plus clair la problématique des toponymes au Sénégal, en Afrique et dans le monde.

L'application GeoNyms permettra à notre pays d'avoir un outil standard. Elle se situe en aval du processus et continue d'être améliorée. L'appui pour une formation au Sénégal est souhaité.

En matière de toponymie, il n'y a pas de règles rigides, c'est la commission qui doit s'accorder sur les règles spécifiques pour chaque pays en intégrant les préoccupations de la base. Il est



indiqué de commencer au début sur des problématiques simples comme la transcription toponymes de la base de données géospatiales prioritaires.

L'odonymie dépend de la municipalité mais la commission propose des règles qui devront être appliquées au niveau local. Cependant la base de données mise en place doit être dynamique tout en renfermant les informations passées et actuelles.

En résumé, le débat a tourné autour des problèmes de transcription des noms géographiques, les enjeux (politique, culturel, économique...). Une proposition de démarches articulées est proposée en tenant compte des associations de la société civile, les collectivités locales, les communautés... Il est également rappelé d'inclure dans la base de données les aspects dynamiques qui sauvegardent l'historique des changements, et gèrent le développement durable

A ce titre la place des institutions devra être réaffirmée à travers des échanges et concertations à tous les niveaux (collecte, recherche, vulgarisation, adressage...).

4. CONSTITUTION DES GROUPES DE TRAVAIL

Après la pause-café, trois (03) groupes de travail sont constitués :

- Groupe 1 : Aspects juridiques et institutionnels ;
- Groupe 2 : Moyens et modes de financement ;
- Groupe 3 : Plan de travail et activités.

Le modérateur de l'atelier est le Pr Babacar DIOP dit Buuba.

Ces groupes se sont retirés dans des salles consacrées pour réfléchir chacun en ce qui le concerne aux termes de référence assignés.

5. RESTITUTION DES TRAVAUX DE GROUPE

La 2^e journée, présidée par le Directeur Général de l'ANAT, a débuté par la présentation des rapports des groupes de travail suivie de débats.

Ces discussions ont porté essentiellement sur la réduction des membres de la commission, l'opportunité de mettre en place des commissions ou des points focaux au niveau des départements, l'intégration de la dimension internationale au niveau de la Commission.

Il est recommandé d'harmoniser les actions pour les 3 groupes de travail.

6. PRESENTATION DU RAPPORT DE SYNTHESE ET CLÔTURE

En fin de matinée, le rapport final de l'atelier est présenté et les discours de clôture ont été faits par le Modérateur, le Représentant de la CEA, de la Coopération canadienne, de l'UAEL et le Directeur Général de l'ANAT qui a prononcé le mot de clôture.

CONCLUSION

Quatre axes majeurs sont retenus

1. Le Projet de constitution de la commission nationale ;
2. Le plan de travail adopté ;
3. Les cadrages pour les financements définis ;
4. La représentation (structure de l'Etat, les collectivités locales et les Universités) adoptée, une démarche qui met en exergue la concertation de tous les acteurs.

Pour le suivi des recommandations, le comité de pilotage chargé de l'organisation de l'Atelier sera transformé en comité technique intersectoriel piloté par l'ANAT. L'ancrage institutionnel est au niveau du Ministère de l'Aménagement du territoire.

Le Rapporteur

Dr Alla Manga, UCAD

Fait à Saly Portudal, ce 23 octobre 2014

South Africa

In UNGEGN Bulletin 44 it was announced that the Joint IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy had been established at the initiative of the UNGEGN, the IGU and the ICA. It was further announced that the work of the Commission would be coordinated with that of the UNGEGN and serve to augment the work of the UNGEGN.

At the 27th International Cartographic Conference, held in Rio de Janeiro from 23 to 28 August 2015, the Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy was approved by the 16th General Assembly, in accordance with the Statutes of the ICA.

In pursuance of UN resolutions recommending the preservation of geographical names as cultural heritage, the "International Symposium on Place Names: Diversity and Heritage" was held in Clarens, Free State Province, South Africa, on 16 and 17 September 2015. It was organized by the Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy and the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment (ULFE) of the University of the Free State.

The Symposium was hosted by Prof. L. Theodorus du Plessis, Director of the ULFE, who welcomed the delegates, and officially opened by the IGU Chair of the IGU/ICA Commission, Prof.



Cosimo Palagiano. The ICA Chair of the Commission, Prof. Paulo Marcio Leal de Menezes, presented a paper on "A diachronic study under a diversity and cultural heritage approach of the toponymy of Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil".

Prof. Peter E. Raper, member of the Commission and chairman of UNGE GN from 1991 to 2002, presented the keynote address on "Diversity and heritage reflected in southern African place names". The director of the South African Geographical Names Unit, Mr. Trueman Kubheka, was special guest speaker, addressing the topic of "Transformation of the heritage landscape in South Africa with special reference on geographical names." Professor Peter Jordan, convener of the UNGE GN Working Group on Exonyms, closed the Symposium.

The following papers were presented at the Symposium:

- De Menezes, Paulo Marcio Leal (Brazil): A diachronic study under a diversity and cultural heritage approach of the toponymy of Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil.
- Du Plessis, Theodorus (South Africa): The standardization and public display of street names in the City of Bloemfontein (Die standaardisering en openbare vertoon van straatname in die stad Bloemfontein.)
- Geldenhuys, Corrie (South Africa): Conflict and place names in South Africa.
- Geršič, Matjaž & Kladnik, Drago (Slovenia): Oeconyms (house names) and choronyms (field names) as important part of Slovenian cultural heritage -- case study of selected cadastral municipality in Gorenjska Region.
- Jenjekwa, Vincent (Zimbabwe): The transition from Kwamudzviti (Native Commissioner) to Mupandawana Town: a toponymic perspective.
- Jordan, Peter (Austria): The meaning of bi- or multilingual naming in public space for the cultural identity of linguistic minorities.
- Koopman, Adrian (South Africa): From Armagh to Slieve Gullion: creating a historical landscape in Hewitt's poem "Ulster Names".
- Lombard, Carol (United States of America): Beyond the branding iron: cattle brands as heritage place names in the State of Montana.
- Lubbe, Johan (South Africa): Geographic and climatological conditions as factor for Afrikaans place names (Bodemgesteldheid en klimatologiese toestande as faktor by Afrikaanse pleknaamgewing).
- Mangena, Tendai & Muzambi, Prosper (Zimbabwe): A reflection on Catholic toponyms in Masvingo Diocese of Zimbabwe.
- Marais, Johan Lodewyk (South Africa) & Morrison, Christa (Canada): The role and meaning of place names in the travel writing of Ibn Battuta (1304-1368).
- Meiring, Barbara (South Africa): From 'space' to 'place' to 'name' to 'heritage' -- preservation of a cultural heritage.
- Moller, Lucie A. (South Africa): Toponyms with Bushman (San) onomatopoeic and metaphoric origins.
- Muchemwa, Kizito Z. (Zimbabwe): literary naming and mapping in Zimbabwean nationalist literature.
- Neethling, Bertie. (South Africa): The contested etymology of Devil's Peak/Duiwelspiek alongside Table Mountain.
- Ntuli, Sibusiso L. (South Africa): The historical dimension of some place names in KwaZulu-Natal.
- Palagiano, Cosimo (Italy): Some geographical names: their origin and meaning.
- Raper, Peter E. (South Africa): Diversity and heritage reflected in southern African place names.
- Senekal, Burgert (South Africa): Street naming and name changes, road networks and the Afrikaans literary canon: Langenhoven Park in Bloemfontein as literary history. (Straatnaamgewing en -verandering, padnetwerke en die Afrikaanse literere kanon: Langenhovenpark in Bloemfontein as literatuurgeskiedenis).
- Steenkamp, Joan & Du Plessis, Theodorus (South Africa): Equal representation and distribution of toponyms in small towns: a case study of Mossel Bay.

These papers will be published as peer-reviewed articles in *Nomina Africana*, the accredited journal of the Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA).

Place names dictionary translated.

In pursuance of UN resolutions recommending the dissemination of geographical names and the preservation of geographical names as cultural heritage, the Dictionary of Southern African Place Names, by Peter E. Raper, has been translated into Chinese by Dr Zhao Xiaoyang, former delegate of China to the UNGE GN, and published by the Social Sciences Academic Publishers (China) in Beijing.

The fourth edition of this Dictionary, by Peter E. Raper, L. A. Moller and L. Theodorus du Plessis, published by Jonathan Ball in 2014, is being translated into Afrikaans and will be published by Protea Publishers.

Peter E. Raper

Member of the IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy;
Former UNGE GN Chairman
Email: raperpe2@gmail.com



Standardization of Geographical Names in Ukraine in 2012 – 2015

National authorities on standardization of geographical names

The State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (*Ukrgeodescartographia*), which was responsible for the coordination of the activity in regard to standardization of geographical names was abolished in February 2012, its functions were moved to the State Agency of Land Resources of Ukraine (Hoszemahenstvo of Ukraine), the government body in composition of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine.

In September 2014, the State Agency of Land Resources of Ukraine was reorganized into the State Service of Ukraine on Questions of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (Hosheokadastr). Today, it conducts the coordination of the activities with regard to determination, standardization, accounting, registration, use and preservation of geographical names, provides creation and management of State Register of Geographical Names, and organizes carrying out of suggestions and decisions of the state bodies in regard to naming and renaming of geographical objects.

In November 2014 the functions of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine with regard to the national policy on standardization of geographical names were moved to the Ministry of Regional Development, Building and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine.

The State of Legal and Normative Basis in the Sphere of Geographical Names

The Ukrainian Law “On Geographical Names” (2005) establishes the legal foundations regulating the activity with respect to naming and renaming of geographical objects, as well as standardization, use, registration and preservation of geographical names. According to the Law, the central body of the executive power implementing national policy in the sphere of topographic, geodetic and cartographic activity is a specially authorized body of the executive power in issues of geographical names.

In 2012 some amendments to the Ukrainian Law “On Geographical Names” have been made.

Taking into account the Ukrainian Law “About Foundations of Government Language Policy” adopted in June 2012 the article 6 of the Law of Ukraine “On Geographical Names” was amended regarding writing of toponyms in state, regional and minority languages.

Because of changes in the system of bodies of state administration of Ukraine some amendments specifying responsibility of central bodies of the executive power in the sphere of geographical names, excluding extrinsic powers of the President of Ukraine, determining fundamental legal

principles of the activity of the Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names were made to the Law “On Geographical Names”.

Related amendments were made to the Provision on the State Register of Geographical Names (2006) and the Order of Carrying out of the Expertise of Suggestions and Decisions of the State Bodies in regard to Naming and Renaming of Geographical Objects (2009).

In March 2015 the Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical names was abolished by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (since 1993 until 2006 it was called National Council on Geographical Names).

Because of changes in the system of bodies of state administration of Ukraine the regulatory framework in the sphere of topographic, geodetic and cartographic activity including activities in the sphere of geographical names were subjected to review.

In 2013–2014 regulatory documents on approval of Rules of Rendering of Geographical Names and Terms of Albania, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Greece, Netherlands, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia, Estonia as well normative documents on approval of accounting-and-registration forms of the State Register of Geographical Names and Rules of Spelling of Ukrainian Geographical Names on Maps and in Other Editions were registered in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

Rules of Spelling of Ukrainian Geographical Names on maps and in other editions are listed in the new version of Toponymic Guidelines (for map and other editors) for Ukrainian users.

Regulatory documents are available on official website of Hosheokadastr <http://land.gov.ua/>

In May 2015 the Law of Ukraine “On Disapproval of Communist and National Socialism (Nazi) Totalitarian Regimes in Ukraine and Ban on Propaganda of their Symbols” was adopted, through this Law the articles 5 and 8 of the Law of Ukraine “On Geographical Names” were amended: it is prohibited to name geographical features after names and pseudonyms of persons who were leaders in Communist party, higher bodies of state authority of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian SSR, other Soviet Republics, as well to give names to geographical features connected with the activity of the Communist Party, establishment of the Soviet power. It does not apply, however, for names connected with the development of Ukrainian science and culture or the expulsion of Nazi invaders from Ukraine.

Bodies of state authority and self-governing authorities have to hold public consultations over a six-month period and give



proposals to Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine concerning renaming of settlements, raions (districts) and oblasts (regions), streets, squares, boulevards, embankments, bridges and other toponymic features of settlements, names of which are connected with symbols of communist and Nazi totalitarian regimes.

From 2015 the reform of local governance and administrative and territorial division is being conducted in Ukraine. On 5 February 2015, Verkhovna Rada adopted the Ukrainian Law «On Voluntary Amalgamation of Local Communities». According to this Law, neighboring town and village councils may amalgamate into one community that will have one common local government body. The name of amalgamated territorial community derives as a rule from the name of the place (village town, city) which is the capital of the community. Names of territorial communities need to be standardized.

In 2012 and 2014 All-Ukrainian Conferences “National mapping: condition, problems and prospects for further development” took place in Kyiv where problems of national toponymy were considered.

The State of Activities Aimed at Creation of State Register of Geographical Names

The State Register of geographical names is being formed as a database of standardized geographical names of the territory of Ukraine and outside of Ukraine, using an automated data retrieval system according to the Provision of the State Register of Geographical names approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 2006.

The database on geographical names of the territory of Ukraine has been being in existence since 2011 according to administrative and territorial units (AR of Crimea, oblasts/regions, raions/districts, cities, village and town councils) on the base of topographic map of Ukraine at scale 1:100 000.

Currently, the State Register of geographical names (as of 01.01.2015) houses 58,759 accounting-and-registration forms of names of administrative-and territorial units, physiographic and socioeconomic features of Ukraine.

As it is necessary to settle laws of function of the administrator of the State Register of Geographical Names government decree draft of amendments to the Provision on the State Register of Geographical Names has been prepared.

National Romanization System for Geographical Names

The Tenth United Nations Conference on standardization of geographical names adopted the resolution X/9 “Romanization of Ukrainian Geographical Names” (E/CONF.101/84), that

recommends Ukrainian Romanization system be adopted as the international system for the Romanization of Ukrainian geographical names. Table of Transliteration of the Ukrainian alphabet by means of the Latin Alphabet was officially approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 2010 and has been well implemented in official documents, in maps and on public signs and in other spheres of life.

International Cooperation in the Sphere of Geographical Names

Ukraine is a member of two divisions of United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names: 1) the Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Division and 2) the East Central and South-East Europe Division. Ukraine also takes part in the meetings of the Baltic Division as an observer.

Representatives of Ukraine took part:

- In the Tenth United Nations Conference on standardization of geographical names and the 27th Session of UNGE GN (New York, 2012);
- In the meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of UNGE GN (New York, 2012);
- In the meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGE GN (New York, 2012; Warsaw, 2015);
- In the meetings of the UNGE GN Working Groups on Romanization system, Exonyms, **Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers** (New York, 2012);
- In the Tenth Session of the Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Division (Baku, November 2012).
- In Ukraine in Koreiz, AR of Crimea, on 22-26 April 2013, the 11th Session of the Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Division of UNGE GN took place. As observers were Latvian and Lithuanian representatives from the Baltic Division of UNGE GN.

Iryna Drohushevska

Chief of the Department of standardization of geographical names, SSPE "Kartographia"
e-mail: elvy@online.ua ; drogushevska@i.ua

Iryna Rudenko

Acting Director, SSPE "Kartographia"
e-mail: chief-editor@ukrmap.com.ua



Special Projects and News Items

Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy

The Joint International Geographical Union/International Cartographic Association (IGU/ICA) Commission on Toponymy was established at the IGU Regional Geographic Conference in Santiago, Chile, 14-18 November 2011, and has subsequently been approved by the relevant ICA bodies. Besides creating a network of toponymists with a cartographic or geographic background and approach, its main task is to foster toponymic research in cartography and geography complementary to UNGEGN with its main orientation towards standardization, and the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) with its predominantly linguistic approach.

While this new platform had on the side of the IGU commission status from the very beginning, it was on the side of the ICA – according to ICA rules – at first just a working group. By the ICA General Assembly during the 27th International Cartographic Conference (ICC) in Rio de Janeiro, 23-28 August 2015, however, it was also by ICA upgraded to commission status due to its range of activities in the first four years of existence and its already respectable membership. Paulo DE MENEZES (Brazil) continued to be the chair from ICA side and Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy) his IGU counterpart. Peter JORDAN (Austria) has been appointed common vice-chair of the Commission in Rio. In addition, Sungjae CHOO (Republic of Korea), Yaïves FERLAND (Canada), Ferjan ORMELING (Netherlands), Peter RAPER (South Africa) and Kohei WATANABE (Japan) continue to function as the steering board and full members. Corresponding membership is open to everybody interested and comprises already quite a large number.

The Commission organized and or co-organized in 2015 the following toponymic events:

1. in the framework of the **IGU Regional Conference, Moscow [Moskva], 17-22 August**, a session without a specific thematic focus with 10 papers. The local organizer was Andrey HERZEN (Russian Federation). The papers were presented by (in the sequence of presentation) Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy), Ruth AGHEYEVA (Russian Federation), Riemer REINSMAN (Netherlands), Peter RAPER (South Africa), Natalia ALEXEENKO & Svetlana MIKAHEEVA, Tatiana SOKOLOVA, Dominique BADORIOTTI (all Russian Federation), Jack KEILO (France), Tomasz WITES (Poland) and Andrey HERZEN (Russian Federation).
2. as a pre-conference event of ICC Rio de Janeiro a **Symposium on Atlases, Toponymy and the History of Cartography, Rio de Janeiro, 20-21 August**, jointly with the ICA Commission on Atlases and the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography as well as the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), which hosted the event with Ana RESENDE (Brazil) as the main organizer. The symposium had a majority of Brazilian
3. in the framework of the **27th International Cartographic Conference, Rio de Janeiro, 23-28 August**, two sessions with nominally four papers each, but just Yaïves FERLAND (Canada), J.M. YOUNG (United States), G.R. MOREIRA et al. (Brazil), A. REIMER (Netherlands), I. FARAGÓ & J. JENEJ (Hungary), Catherine DOMINGUES (France) and Teimo LESKINEN (Finland) presented.
4. in the framework of **EuGeo Budapest, 30 August – 2 September**, a session with a focus on the role of place names in geographical education, organized by Peter JORDAN (Austria) with 12 papers presented by (in the sequence of presentation) Hein RAGHOEBAR (Suriname), Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy), Peter JORDAN (Austria), Peter RAPER (South Africa), Ivana CRLJENKO & Ružica VUK (Croatia), Joan TORT DONADA (Spain), Botolv HELLELAND (Norway), Wojciech WŁOSKOWICZ (Poland), Peter KANG (Taiwan), Zane CEKULA (Latvia), Isaeva EKATERINA (Canada) and Federica FRONDIZI et al. (Italy)
5. the **Symposium “Place names, diversity and heritage”, Clarens, Free State, South Africa, 17-18 September**, jointly organized with the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment of the University of the Free State, Theodorus DU PLESSIS, Peter RAPER and Chrismi-Rinda ROTH (all South Africa) were the main local organizers. The symposium had 26 participants



The participants of the Symposium “Place names, diversity and heritage”, Clarens, Free State, South Africa, in front of the venue (Photo courtesy to Cosimo PALAGIANO)



from 7 countries (South Africa 18, Zimbabwe and Slovenia 2 each, USA, Brazil, Italy and Austria 1 each). Nineteen papers were presented by (in the sequence of presentation) Peter RAPER, Barbara MEIRING (both South Africa), Peter JORDAN (Austria), Lucie MÖLLER, Johann LUBBE (both South Africa), Matjaž GERŠIČ & Drago KLADNIK (Slovenia), Carol LOMBARD (USA), Burgert SENEKAL (South Africa), Tendai MANGENA & Prosper MUZAMBI (Zimbabwe), Johan Lodewyk MARAIS & Christa MORRISON, Adrian KOOPMAN (all South Africa), Kizito MUCHEMWA (Zimbabwe),

Bertie NEETHLING, Joan STEENKAMP & Theodorus DU PLESSIS, Theodorus DU PLESSIS (all South Africa), Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy), Paulo de MENEZES (Brazil), Corrie GELDENHUYS and Sibusiso NTULI (both South Africa). Trueman KUBHEKA (South Africa) gave a dinner speech.

Peter JORDAN
Commission vice-chair
Email: Peter.Jordan@oeaw.ac.at

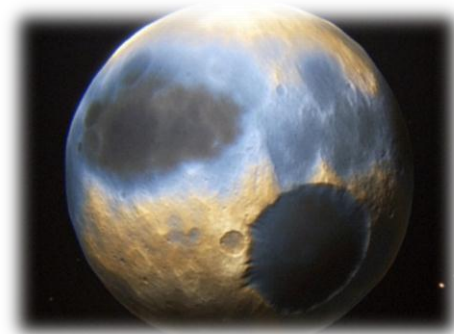
How Surface Features on Bodies in the Solar System are Named

In 1973 the International Astronomical Union (IAU) established *Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature* (WGPSN) which is responsible for naming surface features on the bodies in the solar system. WGPSN is headed by a president who now is Dr. Rita Schulz from Germany. The undersigned is a Norwegian member of the working group and served between 1991 and 2006 as president. WGPSN selects names on the recommendations of six expert groups for the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, the outer planets, and the small bodies (satellites, asteroids and comets). More information about WGPSN and a list of all approved names can be found at the website <http://planetarynames.wr.usgs.gov/>.

Until 1970 only craters, mountains and plains on the Moon and some fuzzy features on Mars had received names. When spacecraft began to map the heavenly bodies in much detail, a great need for new names arose. The custom of naming craters and other features on the Moon for distinguished persons was continued and extended to other bodies. A Latin word is put before or after a person's name to identify the type of topographic or geologic feature; e.g. the mountain *Mons Hansteen* or the valley *Vallis Bohr*. Many new Latin words were introduced to describe the variety of landforms uncovered on planets, satellites and asteroids.

A number of guidelines and rules have been established (see website). The names should be as simple, clear and unambiguous as possible. Although many names are meant to commemorate persons, the names are primarily a tool for cartographic and scientific use. With the exception of a few astronauts, only persons who have been dead for at least three years can be commemorated. The names should represent many countries and cultures on the Earth. Names with political, military or religious meanings are not allowed. The spelling in the country of origin is preferred but transliteration to various alphabets is allowed.

For each body special name themes are selected. Mercury craters are named for well-known artists, musicians, painters (e.g. *Munch*) or authors, while scarps (*rupes*) are named for ships of discovery or exploration, e.g. *Fram Rupes*. Big craters on Venus are named for famous women (e.g. *Undset*) whereas small craters get women's first names. With the only male name, *Maxwell Montes* towers 12 km above the women,



Pluto. Picture taken by the spacecraft New Horizons, July 2015

honoring Maxwell for finding the laws of electromagnetism that made it possible to penetrate the thick atmosphere on Venus with radar. On Mars the most prominent feature is the 3000 km long *Valles Marineris* named for the spacecraft that mapped that valley. Jupiter's ice covered moon Callisto has received many names from Norse mythology, e.g. *Valhalla Regio*, while the sulphur sputtering moon Io has borrowed names of mythological gods and creatures associated with volcanoes, fire, thunder and other destructive forces.

At the time of writing, WGPSN is occupied with finding names for features on the dwarf planet Pluto and its moon Charon which were mapped during the flyby of the spacecraft New Horizons in July 2015. Pluto is named after the god who presided over the underworld. It is therefore natural to choose names for the underworld in various cultures and mythologies and names of the gods and creatures who lived there. One source is the Norse poem *Voluspá* which contains more than 70 dwarf names. Other sources are heroes who fought against the underworld, and deceased scientists who studied Pluto and the surrounding Kuiper belt of similar objects. One heart shaped region on Pluto will undoubtedly be named *Tombaugh Regio* after the astronomer who discovered Pluto in 1930.

Kaare Aksnes
prof. em. University of Oslo
Email: kaare.aksnes@astro.uio.no



Are you in need of funding for the 29th UNGEGN Session?

In order to determine the need for funding for participation in the upcoming 29th UNGEGN Session in Bangkok, experts knowing they will have difficulty in obtaining funding are asked to inform the Convenor from the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, Peder Gammeltoft (e-mail: gammelt@hum.ku.dk) about their funding needs. Please state your name, work address and who has commissioned you as an UNGEGN expert. If you hold any positions within the UNGEGN structure, please state this also, and, most importantly, please state how much funding you need.

It should be stressed that neither the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, nor UNGEGN have any funds of their own to support experts in need of funding for session participation. Therefore, there is no guarantee of funding. Instead, this survey is being done in order to obtain a picture of the funding needs so that relevant funding bodies can be approached.

Should funding be found for one or more persons to attend the 28th UNGEGN Session, prioritization will be made at the discretion of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.

Funding available for participants from the Francophone areas

We are pleased to announce that funding is available for 2-3 experts from the Francophone areas for participation in the 29th UNGEGN Session. This funding has been made available through the International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF). Applications should be addressed to Mrs. Élisabeth Calvarin (e-mail: e-calvarin@wanadoo.fr) as well as Peder Gammeltoft (e-mail: gammelt@hum.ku.dk)

Any person granted funding will be required to submit a report on the session attendance to the Working Group Convenor and the funding body shortly after the 29th Session.

Peder Gammeltoft

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding
Email: gammelt@hum.ku.dk

Élisabeth Calvarin

Chair, French-speaking Division
Email: e-calvarin@wanadoo.fr



Upcoming Meetings of Groups Associated with Geographical Names

Norden Division Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 29th UNGEKN Session, 25-29 April 2016, Bangkok

Working Group meeting for Publicity and Funding will be held in conjunction with the Working Group on Evaluation