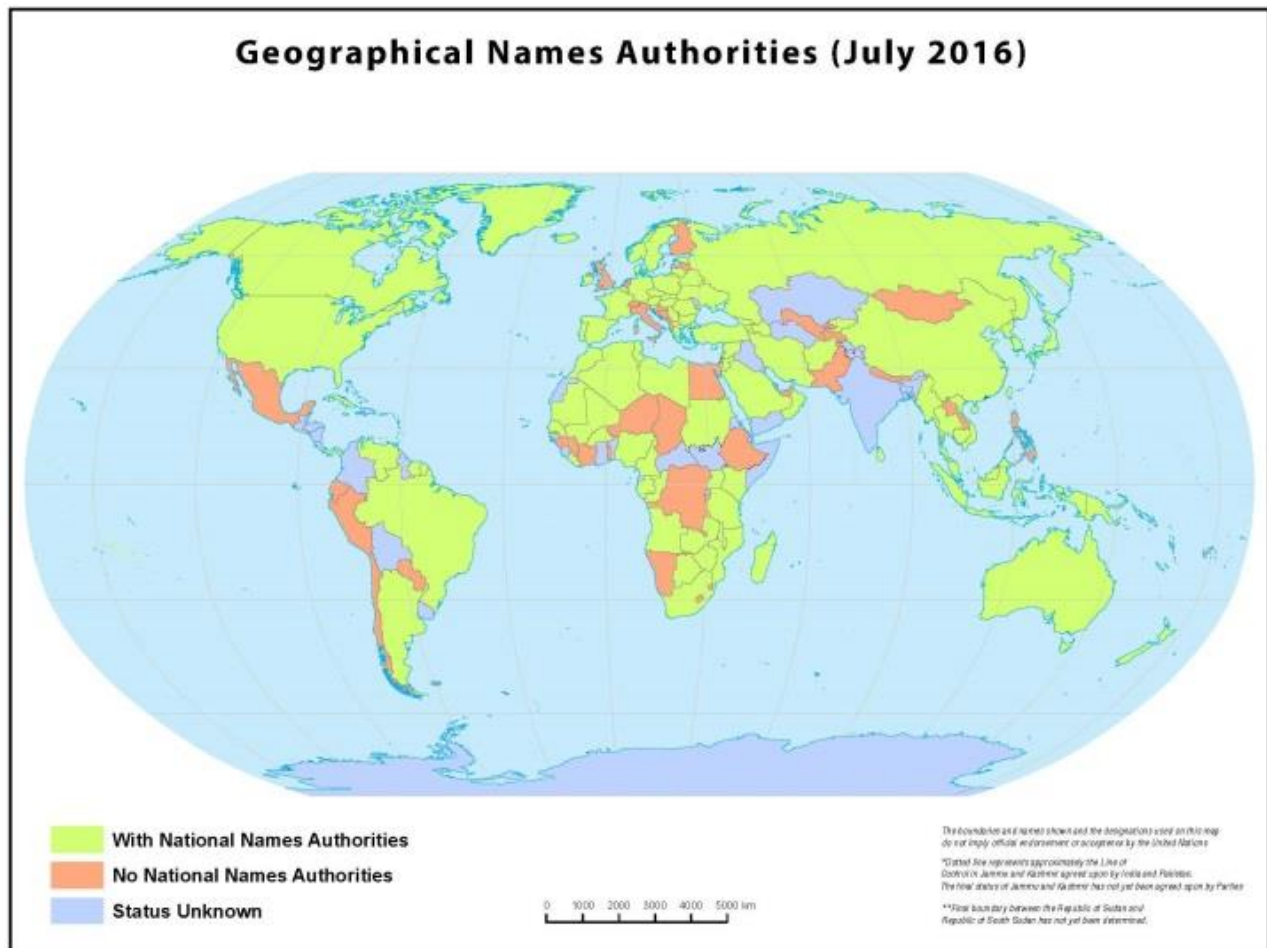




National Names Authorities - structures and operations



Map No. 4564 United Nations
April 2016

Department of Field Support Geospatial
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)



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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:

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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,



I read with a great deal of interest the articles below relating to the national structures in a number of countries, noting both the similarities and differences in the structures presented.

As I read this I had a question coming into my mind. Why are we doing this? I was quite comfortable that I knew the answer to this, but

wondered if we are promoting the reasons for the place names work that we do widely enough so that the why is very clear.

We have had the benefit of a comparatively recent addition to the staff involved in place names work who is not simply willing to accept established process and continually asked why do we do this or why do we do it that way. I have found this quite refreshing as it makes me assess our processes and rational rather than simply accepting the status quo.

I would like to encourage us to take this approach on occasions so that we can ensure that the reasons we undertake this work are relevant and current and that we are in a position to articulate these reasons in a manner that is understandable and acceptable to the wider community.

I am mindful of the UNGEGN brochure – “Consistent Use of Place Names” – and the summary of the benefits to be gained and felt that these bear repeating and perhaps enlarging as necessary.

The benefits can be summarised as follows and please recognise that I have done this under the main benefit only and there are some that have multiple benefits:

- Commercial benefits - for trade and commerce, property rights and planning,
- Environmental management benefits that impact on conservation and sustainable development,

- Emergency service benefits – covering every aspect from local issues, search and rescue, emergency preparedness through to natural disaster and emergency relief operations,
- Security strategies, map production and more modern GIS based applications and in time automatic navigation and driverless cars,
- Tourism benefits, and
- General unambiguous communications about place.

Since this brochure was first produced, we have greatly expanded our understanding and awareness of the cultural aspect of place names, so we are now in a position to add to the list above such benefits as:

- Cultural awareness, recognition and equality,
- Heritage protection,
- Language retention and, in some instances, revitalization, and
- Reconciliation benefits.

I would hope that we keep all these benefits in the public eye and understand that we have to sell these points to the community as necessary to ensure that this work commences, continues or accelerates as required in each of our jurisdictions.

On a different matter, work continues on the investigations of the potential future operational methods for UNGEGN and on the relationship with UN-GGIM. I would like to thank the bureau, working group convenors and the Secretariat for the efforts that have been made so far. We should be in apposition very soon to release two documents covering this matter for general consideration and comment and look forward to getting your feedback.

Bill Watt

Chair, UNGEGN

Email: William.Watt@sa.gov.au



Message from the Secretariat

Dear UNGEGN Experts,



National geographical names standardization including the creation of names authority administrative structures, legislation, policies and procedures is a core objective of the Group of Experts; a mandate that was adopted (Resolution I/4) at the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) in 1967, in Switzerland. In furtherance of this

objective at its fifth UNCSGN in 1987, resolution V/15 urged countries not having national geographical names authorities to create them. This topic has been a staple item on the UNCSGN agenda and continues to be a major area of work of the Group of Experts. Based on the data available as at March 31 2016, of 193 Member States, 91 or 47% have established national geographical names authorities; further strengthening the need for continued focus on supporting their creation.

Based on the forgoing, the Working Group on Publicity and Funding and the Secretariat are pleased to present this issue of the Bulletin on “*National Names Authorities- structures and operations.*” Once again this unique professional community has prepared over 10 articles that share valuable information on their names authorities’ evolution, creation, structure, operations and achievements. This information should serve not only those Members States wishing to create naming bodies but also those in transition wanting to resuscitate and strengthen existing ones.

Having reviewed the articles on names authorities, I wondered, are there any commonalities and or differences in terms of structure, membership etc. among them? To satisfy my curiosity a comparative table featuring 11 names authorities was created, as shown below. It was found that the names authorities largely shared one common thread, which was inter-agency membership. You are invited to review the articles and make your own assessment.

Should readers wish to gain additional information on this topic, they are encouraged to visit the UNGEGN website, as it is a comprehensive repository of valuable resource information, accessible via manuals, links to national names authorities and databases, and

conference and session documents. The “[Manual for the national standardization of geographical names](#)” is one such resource; it is available in all six United Nations languages and Korean, and may be downloaded or purchased from the UNGEGN website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN/publications.html>.

Readers will note that in addition to the featured articles this issue includes an article on the steps taken to prepare and submit a resolution on the strengthening of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). Other articles cover Member State activities, training and education and a schedule of upcoming meetings. At the time of preparing this article we were still awaiting updates from the divisions and working groups.

The Secretariat is delighted to report that the collection, scanning and uploading of conference and session documents, a work item originating from Resolution VII/14 is more or less completed, with the small exception of the Spanish documents from the first conference. Under this reference collection building exercise, over 1,700 technical session documents and some 2,351 conference documents were scanned and uploaded to the UNGEGN website. The Secretariat recognises Ms Helen Kerfoot for her commitment and perspicacity and Mrs Vilma Frani whose diligence and cogency carried this exercise to its completion.

Experts wishing to identify and access earlier documents, the easiest route is:

1. To check through the pdf or Excel file of:
 - a. UNGEGN documents (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN/general.html> then List of documents of all UNGEGN sessions)
 - b. Conference documents (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN/confGeneral.html> then List of documents of all Conferences)

The Excel files can be searched by year, event number, paper title (or individual words), country, author, division, or working group.

2. The required documents can then be found under the appropriate UNGEGN Session or Conference.



Column1	Column2	Column4	Column5	Column6	Column8
	Country	Name	Legal Instrument for the Authority	Organisation	Membership
1	Botswana	Botswana Geographical Names Commission	Established by Presidential Directive 1967	Structure being reorganised	
2	Canada	Geographical Names Board of Canada http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography/place-names/about-geographical-names-board-canada/9174	Established under Order in Council. First created in 1897	A multi-jurisdictional national body. Chairperson appointed by Minister of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). Secretariat services provided by NRCan	Representatives from 10 provinces and three territories, departments and agencies of federal government
3	Cyprus	Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names www.geonoma.gov.cy	Formally established by decision of the Council of Minister 1979	Permanent committee appointed by Minister of Education and Culture; with sub-committees	Cross section of place name experts - surveyors, linguist, archaeologist
4	Czechia	The Czech Commission on Geographical Names	Established in 1971	Secretariat of Commission is part of the Czech Land Survey Office.	The Commission cooperates with various institutions and individuals - linguists, onomastics etc
5	Denmark	Danish Place Name Commission www.stednavne.info www.danmarksstednavne.dk	Established in 1910 and governed by Governmental Order 1978	Commission and Secretariat in the University of Copenhagen, Institute of Names Research	
6	Italy	Commission for Italian Official Toponymy	Special Decree of March 1911 replaced by law N.605 in 1949 which was repealed in 2008.	Commission created in 2011 within the Italian Geographic Military Institute	
7	Jordan	National Committee on Geographical Names http://rjgc.gov.jo/RJG.aspx?PID=282&lang=en	Created in 1984	Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre	Inter-agency members with representation from private sector
8	New Zealand	The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa http://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/place-names/about-new-zealand-geographic-board	Operates under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008	Committee and sub-committees with secretariat services provided by Land Information New Zealand	Inter-agency members with representation from private sector
9	Oman	National Survey Authority	Ministerial decision of 1983	Specialised Branch in the National Survey Authority	
10	Republic of Korea	Korea Committee on Geographical Names	Operations based on Act on the Establishment and management of Spatial Information. Committee first founded in 1980	Integrated Committee that is final authority that decides on geographical names.	
11	Spain	National Geographical Institute, Specialised Committee for Geographical Names http://www.ign.es	Royal Decree 1545/2007 - Ministry of Development	State Agencies and Autonomous Communities	Members from State administration, universities, autonomous communities, academies of languages and other toponymy related institutions.

Please also note that decisions from the 29th Session were taken to amend the *Statute and Rules of Procedure of UNGEGN*. These were adopted by ECOSOC during its 2016 cycle (E/2016/INF/2). The amendments:- Section I subparagraph (d), Section II, paragraph 4(c) and Section II paragraph 8, have been made and the revised [Statute and Rules of Procedure](#) is available on the UNGEGN website.

In recognition of 50 years since the first Conference on the Standardization of Geographic Names we intend to prepare a special issue of the Bulletin highlighting the group's achievements, major milestones and other articles focusing on its history, to be made available at the 11th Conference in August 2017. The UNGEGN community is therefore invited to begin preparation to submit inputs in the form of articles/stories, pictures and other material of your division's or working group meetings, personal, national and global geographic names milestones, achievements etc. Additional information will be made available on this activity.

The Secretariat wishes to acknowledge Amor Laaribi's contribution to UNGEGN on his retirement from the United Nations at

the end of November 2016. He served as the Secretariat's focal point for 7 years and thereafter continued to provide guidance, insight and assistance on the workings of the Group when asked, for which I am very appreciative, I thank him. A separate article is included in this issue of the bulletin which highlights his contribution to promoting the collection, standardization and publication of geographical names.

Member States and national institutions responsible for geographical names are reminded to submit their city/town information for the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames>. You are also encouraged to tweet at @UNSD_GEGN. Please remember to repost and circulate the bulletin among your colleagues.

Cecille Blake
UNGE GN Secretariat
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Amor Laaribi – Promoted UNGEGN and the importance of geographical names

We take this opportunity to recognise Mr. Amor Laaribi for his contribution to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGGN); he served as the Secretariat’s focal point for 7 years, beginning in 2000 on his arrival at the United Nations. Amor will be retiring from the United Nations at the end of November 2016. During his tenure as the focal point, he coordinated the preparation and issue of 10 Bulletins, numbers 23 to 32. Amor was instrumental in authoring its name change from “UNEGGN Newsletter” to “UNEGGN Information Bulletin” and having them issued twice per year.



Some of his notable contributions were:

- a) the supervision and launch of the UNGEGN website in 2002; this has not only improved communication and promotes the goals and resolutions of UNGEGN, but is also one of the largest repositories of information on geographical names,
- b) coordinated the publication of two UNGEGN manuals “Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names” and “Technical Reference Manual for the Standardization of Geographical Names” and he also supervised the translation and publication of the “Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names”, and
- c) managed the design and creation of the World Geographical Names Database.

Amor has been very committed to advancing the use of geographical names and has been supportive to technical experts of Member States in sharing, encouraging and empowering them to establish geographical names authorities and to collect and publish geographical names.

William Watt, Chair of UNGEGN, Australia notes, “Amor was always willing to assist in making the UNGEGN representative feel very welcome. As a new person attending the 2002 conference, Amor was always approachable and welcoming, willing to explain process and protocol so that we could feel as comfortable as possible in an environment that many of us had not experienced before.”

Naima Friha from Tunisia shares her appreciation, “I believe that many African countries, especially Tunisia should be grateful to Amor for his availability, kindness and continuous encouragement for them to be part of the UNGEGN and participate in its activities. My first participation to UNGEGN meetings (23rd UNGEGN Session, 28 March - 4 April 2006, Vienna, Austria) was his initiative and I owe him to a great extent the adherence of my country to the UNGEGN and the achievements since. I wish him a very relaxing and merry retirement with his lovely family”.

Amor’s resilience and aptitude for work was displayed early in his United Nations career, Ferjan Ormeling from the Netherlands supports, “Rather soon after being made part of the UNGEGN Secretariat, Amor had to play many roles (liaison, overseeing interpreters, the conference itself, checking the credentials, etc) in organizing the 8th Conference in Berlin, made more difficult by being held in the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, outside regular United Nations premises. All the extras organised here - the exhibition, the training course, the excursion - made it a real tour de force, which he gallantly sustained.”

Although no longer UNGEGN’s focal point, Amor continued to provide guidance, insight and assistance on the workings of the Group when asked, for which the current focal point is very grateful. “We shall warmly remember Amor for his inspiration in helping us to move ahead in a thoughtful way towards the ideals and goals of UNGEGN,” Helen Kerfoot, Canada, distinguished Chair of UNGEGN 2007-2012. We wish Amor a wonderful retirement and the very best in the next phase of his life.



Special Feature

National Names Authorities - structures and operations

Cyprus National Names Authority - Structure and Operations

The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) was first created in 1967. It 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 regulations KΔΠ 443/2001, the Committee operates under the Minister of Education and Culture. The Minister appoints the members of the Committee every five years.

According to Law N.66(I)/98 and regulations KΔΠ 443/2001, the Minister of Education and Culture, as the Competent Authority appoints the President and the members of the Committee every five years. The Committee consists of a President and nine members.



CPCSGN Organisational Structure

The Committee mainly deals with the following topics:

1. Handles all matters related to the standardization of geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus.
2. Records the geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus, studies all related issues, and submits to the Competent Authority for approval its suggestions on standardization and coding of geographical names.
3. Represents the Republic of Cyprus in international meetings of the United Nations (UN) on issues of its competence, and cooperates with the UN and other international organizations, and the corresponding national committees of other countries, to attain the objectives provided in legislation.
4. Advises the competent local authorities for naming or renaming of streets, and the spelling of geographical names.
5. Monitors the implementation of the standardization of geographical names and the Greek to Roman alphabet transliteration system of the Greek Organization for Standardization (ELOT 743), which was accepted by the Fifth Conference of the United Nations, as a standard of the

International Standardization Organization (ISO 843.3) and was adopted by the Council of Ministers.

The Committee is subdivided into five subcommittees which deal with specific issues as follows:

1. Publications
2. Standardization and transliteration
3. Awareness
4. Development and update of website
5. Updating of Gazetteers

In the exercise of its powers, the Committee selects from the existing types of geographical names, a single type for official and international use, after examining them, based on linguistic, grammatical, aesthetic, social and historical criteria.

The Committee collects data from the fields of history, linguistics, archaeology, literature, cartography CPCSGN Website – www.geonoma.gov.cy and folklore that help the etymology, spelling and standardization of toponyms and names of the municipalities and the communities of Cyprus.

According to Law N.71(I)/2013, which was recently voted for by the Parliament, an amendment was added to the law, by creating a new section, 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.

The Committee has issued various independent publications that help in understanding the issues which relate to geographical names, and contribute to the solution of problems arising. The creation of its website (www.geonoma.gov.cy) is another step forward in upgrading its services and activities.



CPCSGN Website – www.geonoma.gov.cy



In this website you will find information on the history, the law and the Committee's operating regulations, information with respect to its members, communications and activities, texts from its participation in conferences and events, reports on efforts to tackle illegal alteration of historical names of Cyprus, maps, material for the transliteration of names into the Roman alphabet, etc.

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

- The "Concise Gazetteer of Cyprus" (about 2000 entries)
- The "A Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus" (about 67000 entries)

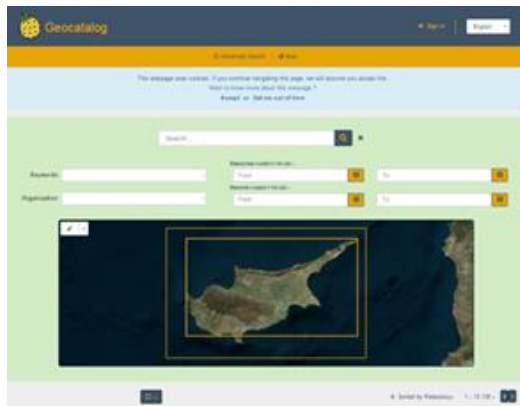
All geographical names and toponyms included in these gazetteers were derived from the official large scale cadastral map series of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus was digitized, and is currently available on CPCSGN's website.

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/EGNoI/>

Additionally, all geographical names and toponyms are included in the geoportal of Cyprus at: www.geoportal.gov.cy. The Geoportal of Cyprus consists of two parts these being: (a) INSPIRE Spatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal, and (b) DLS Portal (The portal of the Department of Lands and Surveys).



Geoportal of Cyprus (www.geoportal.gov.cy)



Geocatalog

Data are accessible on-line for searching, viewing, transformation, downloading and direct accessing via GIS.

The Geoportal is heavily based on the Integrated Land Information System which is operated by the Department of Lands and Surveys since 1997. This is a multifunctional portal which offers a large variety of information, functions, applications, and e-services. The Geoportal of Cyprus is a pioneer project for the country. It allows the access to a large volume of official, and updated geospatial datasets, including among others all official geographical names, directly from the organizations that produce and maintain these datasets. All relevant information and descriptions are included in the metadata of the geospatial datasets.

The geoportal is a very useful tool for government departments, government services, semi-government organizations, universities, schools, technical offices and citizens. It is expected that the geoportal will significantly improve the existing procedures, will reduce processing time, and will significantly assist the citizens and the improvement of the economy of our country.



DLS Portal
Provides on-line access to spatial data including among others all geographical names

The CPCSGN strongly supports the efforts undertaken by the U.N. for the standardization of geographical names and aims to comply, based on the activities explained above, and practically implement the U.N. and UNGEGN Conferences resolutions for the standardization of geographical names.

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Czech Names Authorities – structure and operation

The Czech Commission on Geographical Names

The Czech Commission on Geographical Names was established in 1971 by former Czech Geodesy and Cartography Office. At the beginning of its activities the Commission focused on the following items:

- Elaborating “Instructions for Geographical Terminology Treatment on the Territory of Czech Republic“,
- Publishing the list of customary Czech geographical names (i.e. Czech exonyms),
- Processing geomorphologic divisions of the country
- Issuing the Czech version of “Dictionary of Technical Terms used by the UN in the process of Standardizing Geographical Terminology” and “International Dictionary of Geographical Terms used on Basic Geographical Maps”.
- Publications and lists concerning selected watercourses and the “List of Main Names of the Features of the Seabed“.

The Commission discusses issues related to determination and usage of principles to adjust and use of geographical terminology in cartography works published in the Czech Republic and it also comments on name proposals stated in the Base Map of the Czech Republic 1 : 10 000. Within the linguistic-geographical group of the UN Central East and South East countries for standardization of geographical terminology, the Commission cooperates with foreign partner organisations and takes part in the UN Group of Experts for Standardization of Geographical Terminology activities. The result of this activity was that the Czech Commission on Geographical Names had been entrusted chairmanship of the group of East, Central and South East European countries in the years 2002 – 2007. The executive body of the Commission is its Secretariat.

The Secretariat of the Czech Commission on Geographical Names

The Secretariat of the Czech Commission on Geographical Names was established in 1971 and it is now a part of the Czech Land Survey Office. Besides authorial and editorial work on terminological lists and publications, the staff of the Secretariat takes part in standardization of geographical terminology.

Standardization of geographical names

Standardization of geographical names in the Czech Republic initiated in 1918. It concerned the most important *oronyms* and *hydronyms* primarily and has been provided by the formal Commission for Revision of Anonymyms. Standardization began on 1:75 000 scale maps.

Standardization for 1:50 000 scale maps soon followed, but no systematic register of toponyms outside the map script existed until 1958, when standardization for 1:10 000 scale maps commenced.

Since then toponyms were being registered with their typology in a standardization card which carried the number of the map sheet, cadastre unit, municipality, district and region data.

The Commission on Geographical Names also has standardized *exonyms*, geographical names outside the former Czechoslovakia and created rules for transcription and transliteration of non-Latin scripts.

Geonames

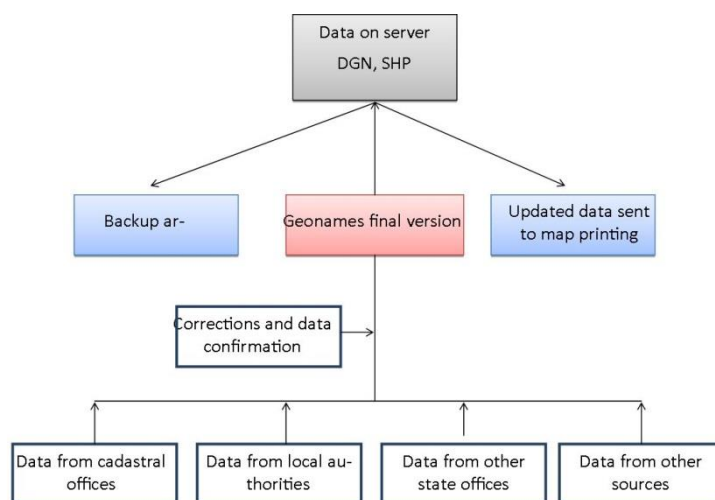
Nearing end of the 20th century the card-index system could no longer satisfy the needs for geographical names administration, and since 1997 we have a database of geographical names called Geonames, which replaced the standardization cards and digitized geographical names of all 1:10 000 scale map sheets. It has made the register of geographical names simpler and names can be found more quickly. The database also enables to us to perform analyses or onomastic and historical research. Geonames contains toponyms only from the Czech Republic and represents a data set independent of the map script. The database itself is interoperable and object oriented.

Its records are composed of both spatial and descriptive geographic names data. Every record of named feature is provided with number of specific information. Toponyms hold their own geographic location and cartographic representation.

The descriptive data of the List of Geographical Names used for the Base Map of the Czech Republic 1:10 000 was inserted into the database Geonames from 1998 to 2005. Geonames represents one of the sources for making the digital Base Map of the Czech Republic 1:10 000 which was produced from the year 2000.

At present we unify geographical names terminology with cadastral maps up to the scale 1:1000.

Geonames updating process:



Since 2006 the database is being continuously updated in regular cycles.

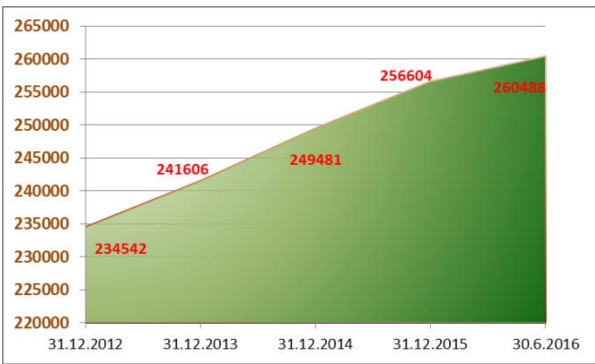
With regards to standardization, the Commission cooperates with various institutions and individuals such as land survey and cadastral authorities, ministries, The Czech Statistical Office, important geographers, linguists, onomastics and other specialists.

On the picture below you can see the result of our work which is a map with marked placement of geographical names. This is a section of the base map 1:10 000

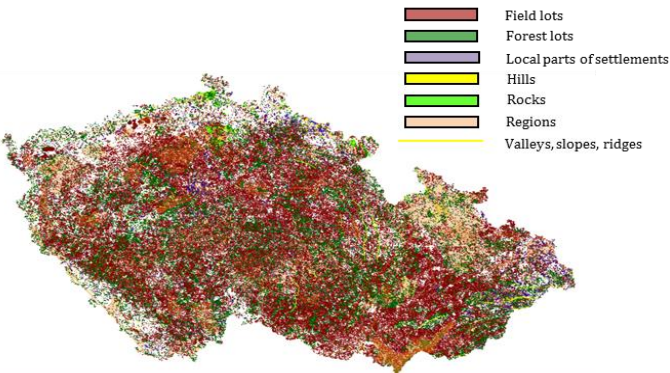


The number of geographical names is growing and some names are being updated. We standardize names that are usually used by residents.

Statistics:



Geographical names coverage of the Czech Republic:



Interesting Examples from Practice

Czechia

The first record of the name Czechia comes from the year 1634 and it is written in Latin. The first record in English comes from the year 1841. The name was created by connecting the root of the name of the inhabitants "Czech" and the suffix "-ia".



In 1993 after formation of the Czech Republic the Secretariat of the Czech Commission on Geographical Names recommended a short version of the name Czech Republic in English - Czechia. This name and its other foreign language equivalents (Czechia [eng], Tchéquie [fra], Chequia [spa], Tschechien [deu] a Чехия[rus]) were introduced in the publication „Names of the States and their Territorial Parts“ the same year. The usage of the name Czechia was gradually promoted into practice. In 2004 at the end of a public hearing in the Senate of the Czech Republic it was recommended to ministries and state administration to use the name Czechia and other short foreign language equivalents. In May 2016 the government sent a notification on behalf of the Czech Republic to introduce the short name in official UN languages in the UN databases especially UNTERM and UNGEGN. The short version of the name is used in the databases since 6.7. 2016. The name Czechia was added to ISO 3166 and the report was announced in a newsletter N893 25. 07. 2016.

Southern Ocean

In the year 2016 the Index of Exonyms was completed by a newly standardized exonym Jižní oceán (Southern Ocean). It was used for the first time by sailors in the 19th century. In the 21st century the name is gradually acknowledged by many countries and is used in international documents, maps and atlases. The Southern Ocean emerged from southern parts of the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. It surrounds Antarctica but it has not yet been exactly delimited.

The Czech Commission on Geographical Names has debated about the new ocean for the first time in the year 2011 and then again in 2013. The name was not conclusively accepted by the members of the Commission. The members did not agree on the naming, they have proposed these names: Jižní ledový oceán (Southern Arctic Ocean), Antarktický oceán (Antarctic Ocean) and Jižní oceán (Southern Ocean). In 2016 after completion of information from top Czech geographers and information from a map issued by The International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO), foreign language atlases and specialized press the new Czech exonym Jižní oceán (Southern Ocean) was accepted.

You can look up the name Southern Ocean and other names in the application **Jména světa (Names of the World)** (<http://jmenasveta.cuzk.cz/>).

Names gazetteers and other publications

- Language Rules for Standardization of Geographical Names on the Territory of the Czech Republic,
- Language Rules for Standardization of Geographical Names outside the Territory of the Czech Republic,
- Geographical Names of the Czech Republic as a part of the UN Gazetteer 2nd edition
- Names of Countries and their Territorial Parts and Czech Names of Seas and International Territories – available as an application or in PDF format
- Concept of Standardization of Geographical Names of the Czech Republic for the Years 2015-2020.

Klara Steinerova

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The Danish Place-Name Commission

The year 1910 marked the establishment of the Danish Place-name Commission. The commission has thus existed in a largely unaltered form for 106 years, making it one of the oldest geographical names authorities in the world. The commission's secretariat is now housed at the Name Research Section of the Department of Nordic Research, University of Copenhagen, the present center for Danish name research. The section is a direct descendant of the office of the Place-Name Commission of 1910 established in connection with its appointment as a governmental commission. The Place-Name Commission was given a practical assignment, as well as a scientific one: It was partly to organize the compilation of lists of correct spelling of all important Danish geographical names, and partly to manage the collection of Danish geographical name material from historical sources and oral tradition as well as to publish the collected material in analyzed form. This twofold purpose of the original committee is still reflected in the work of the Name Research Section.



The Place-Name Commission and the Name Research Section

At the beginning, the secretariat of the Place-Name Commission had no fixed location. Only after seven years, it was allocated two tiny rooms at the Public Records Office, shared with the survey of the Danish dialects. In 1939, the secretariat was transferred to a large attic room above the University of Copenhagen Library and remained the home of the secretariat for more than 25 years until 1960 when the secretariat of the Place-Name Commission was made an institute of the University of Copenhagen. In 2003, the institute merged with two other institutes to form a new unit, the Department of Nordic Research to become Name Research Section – with the same responsibilities towards the Place-Name Commission. The duties of the scientific staff of the section involve research, care and expansion of the archives and teaching within the section's subject area. The section also acts as advisory organ, through the Place-Name Commission, for government ministries, local authorities and other public authorities as well as private persons with regard to place-name orthography, choice of name and other matters relating to place-names and personal names. At the time of writing, the section's permanent scientific staff consists of seven associate professors and three PhD-students, a number which will be reduced to five associate professors in March 2017, as a result of general reductions at the Humanities Faculty at University of Copenhagen.

The archives

The care and expansion of the archives serve two purposes. Firstly, the archives must fulfill their function as the Danish national onomastic documentation center. And, secondly, the archives must contain the necessary amount of source material from the past as well as the present for a scientific examination of the names. In principle, the archives contain names of all possible kinds. However, as it is mostly places and persons that have names, the geographical names and personal names collections takes up most of the room in the archive of the Name Research Section.

The geographical names collections

This section's name collections contain name forms from the oldest runic inscriptions to modern recordings but some periods are better covered than other. All surviving geographical name records from the Middle Ages (i.e. the period prior to 1513) are available online in the section's geographical names portal *Danmarks stednavne* (The place-names of Denmark) in this portal, the names can be searched both *alphabetically*, *chronologically* as well as *topographically* together with a selection of post-medieval name forms. The geographical names database, is continuously being enlarged and updated and is available on the internet at: www.danmarksstednavne.dk.

The Name Research Section Library

This section houses the only specialist onomastic library in Denmark and it contains all important monographs and periodicals concerned with Scandinavian name research. The library also holds a great number of publications about names outside of Scandinavia, primarily of Germanic origin, along with most of the scientific literature from neighboring disciplines of relevance to name research, namely dictionaries, lexica, source editions, books on Germanic philology, runology, local history, topography, folklore, archaeology, geology, etc. The archives and the library are open to the public, and staff of the section is always pleased to be of assistance to visitors and to answer queries by letter or telephone.

The Place-Name Commission and authorization of geographical names

According to a Government Order of 1978, one of the obligations of the Institute of Name Research is to act as the secretariat of the Place-Name Commission and three of the commission's thirteen members are appointed from among the academic staff of the Institute. Since 1986, one of these three has also been chairman of the commission. In its function as secretariat, the section undertakes the preparation for committee meetings and undertakes the necessary correspondence with governmental or local authorities or private individuals who express a wish for name changes to be made to geographical names or for additional names to be authorized. In this connection, the Institute also cooperates with the national mapping agency on the standardization of geographical names. Additionally, the Institute takes part in the international cooperation (under United Nations) in UNGEGN, the Working Group on Publicity and Funding and The Norden Division, in order to ensure that Danish standardization practices is in accordance with UN recommendations.



The Place-Name Commission maintains a website of authorized names: www.stednavne.info. The names included in the lists of authorized names represent only a small part of Danish geographical names, as it only includes the – in the words of the recent Departmental Order of 1978 – the names “for which there is a practical (cartographic, postal, local, etc.) need of a uniform spelling”. This means first and foremost that all major and minor settlements of importance to state affairs must have an authorized form. However, names of single settlement units, individual farms and houses, are not part of the commission’s jurisdiction. In addition, anything related to the naming road and street names fall outside of Place Names Commission’s work as this falls under local government jurisdiction.

The idea behind the authorization system is to ensure unity and uniqueness. Once a name has an authorized form, it is the one to be used in public administration – to ensure good, stable geodata in an increasingly digital world. The meaning is, of course, for the authorized name form to have such an impact that it is used by all people in society. Only then is the purpose of approving place names reached. The general rules for authorizing geographical names is that they must follow the main rules for normal Danish orthography as set up by published by the Danish Language Council. Only where there is a solid local tradition for deviating from the standard spelling will the commission allow an authorized form not following the Danish written standard this is also reflected in the spelling guidance set up by the Danish Language Council: “§ 61. In most cases, the principles for spelling of place names and spelling of the Danish language are in accordance with each other. But in some cases the principles differ.”

Most geographical names cases are forwarded to the Place-Name Commission by state or local government organizations, although private persons and organizations are also allowed to forward cases. To ensure that the local name users are heard in naming matters, naming suggestions made by individual persons are processed through the local government authority in order to secure the local democratic process.

Once a name has an authorized form, it is the one to be used in public administration – to ensure good, stable geodata in an increasingly digital world. The meaning is, of course, for the authorized name form to have such an impact that it is used by all people in society. Only then is the purpose of approving place names reached.”

In addition, the Place-Name Commission has published a number of recommendations on our website to guide people in naming matters, be they instances of new naming or related to standardization, etc. the guidelines should be followed in connection with the naming of places, i.e. settlements, buildings, roads, streets and squares. The guidelines are designed to take Danish legislation into account as well as recommendations from UNGEGN.

- Use Danish orthography:** As a rule Danish orthography followed when determining the spelling of a geographical name. Only in cases where there in the local community is a solid tradition for a particular written form which is not in accordance with current Danish spelling may another form be accepted.
- Do not name after living or recently deceased persons:** Based on the recommendations of UNGEGN (UNCSGN Resolution VIII/2) it is advised not to name after living and recently deceased persons. It can be tempting to want to honor a recently deceased national or locally important person by naming a road or a place after him. Such action may prove to be inappropriate if

the person named in the future become known for illegal or socially unacceptable actions. A subsequent change of the name will not just create postal and localization issues, it will also result in economic costs in terms of prestige, new signage and changes in the location databases. If you wish to name a place after someone it is the recommendation by the Place-Name Commission to wait at least 3-5 years after the person’s death, in order to assure that the person and his reputation is durable enough to be included in a geographical name.

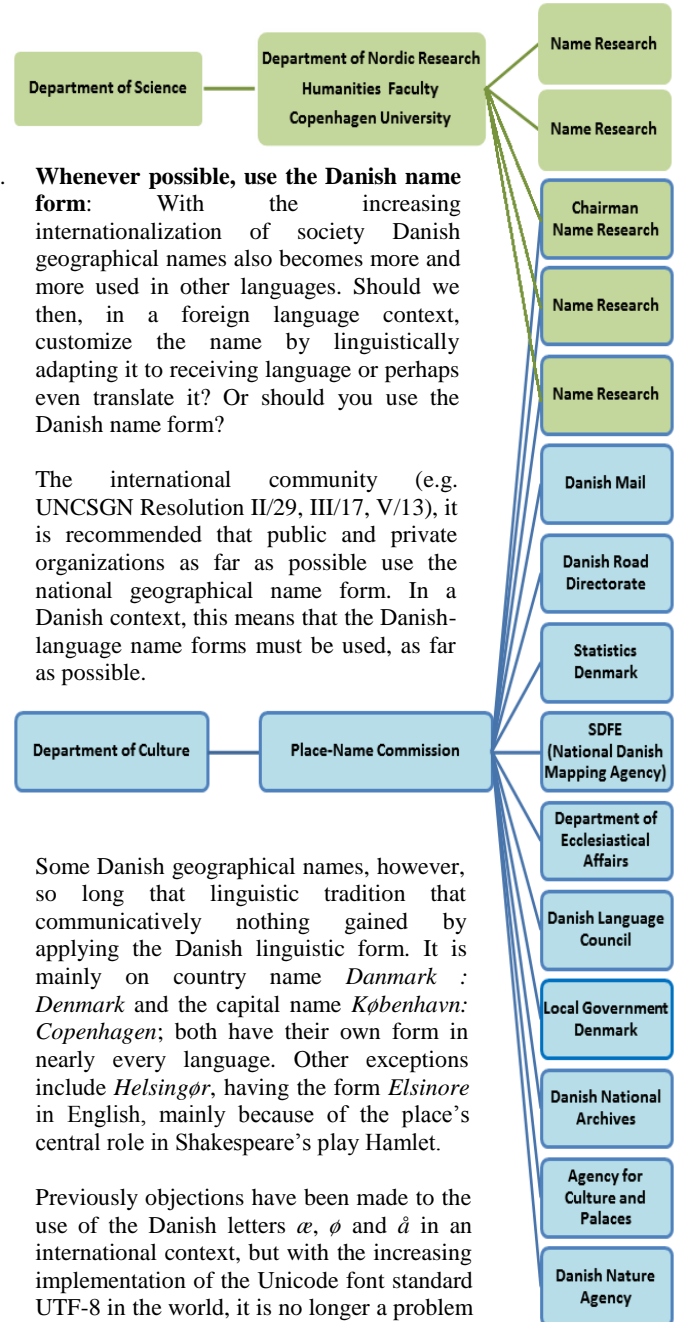
- Whenever possible, use the Danish name form:** With the increasing internationalization of society Danish geographical names also becomes more and more used in other languages. Should we then, in a foreign language context, customize the name by linguistically adapting it to receiving language or perhaps even translate it? Or should you use the Danish name form?

The international community (e.g. UNCSGN Resolution II/29, III/17, V/13), it is recommended that public and private organizations as far as possible use the national geographical name form. In a Danish context, this means that the Danish-language name forms must be used, as far as possible.

Some Danish geographical names, however, so long that linguistic tradition that communicatively nothing gained by applying the Danish linguistic form. It is mainly on country name *Danmark* : *Denmark* and the capital name *København*: *Copenhagen*; both have their own form in nearly every language. Other exceptions include *Helsingør*, having the form *Elsinore* in English, mainly because of the place’s central role in Shakespeare’s play *Hamlet*.

Previously objections have been made to the use of the Danish letters *æ*, *ø* and *å* in an international context, but with the increasing implementation of the Unicode font standard UTF-8 in the world, it is no longer a problem to use special Danish or other characters in foreign language context.

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Standardization, competency and authorities in geographical names in Spain

This article aims to explain the situation of standardization on geographical names in Spain and the administrations that have the responsibilities and competences. Spain is divided into autonomous regions, and these have the ability to rule on geographical names inside their own territories.

There are, however, more organizations involved in determining geographical names, such as the Spanish Geographical Institute (IGN) and other state organizations. Also to be taken into account are the roles of the Specialized Committee for Geographical Names (CENG) and the state Local Entities Register (REL).

State Agencies

The National Geographical Institute (<http://www.ign.es>), of the Ministry of Development has the competency on geographical names, as established in Royal Decree 1545/2007. Its functions are:

1. Definition of toponymy affecting more than one Autonomous Community, after taking into account a compulsory report on every case by the Specialized Committee for Geographical Names.
2. Standardization and dissemination of official toponymy in coordination with competent agencies.
3. Creation and approval of the Basic Geographical Gazetteer of Spain, based on cartography 1:25.000 (or lower scales), including the official names registered in the Local Entities Register and official names standardized by competent Public Administrations.
4. Creation of toponymy databases corresponding to the National Topographic Map, together with its standardization criteria.
5. Registration of the National Geographical Gazetteer and collection, standardization and dissemination of official toponymy.

Some state agencies are entitled to define the official names for general interest geographic entities of their own competency, such as AENA (Spanish Airports and Air Navigation), National Ports Authority, National Parks Authority, and Adif (Administrator of Railway Infrastructure).

Autonomous Communities

All Autonomous Communities are legally entitled to establish the official name of basic local entities. To become official, these names should be registered in the Local Entities Register (Ministry of Public Administration).

Changes in the names of provinces and Autonomous Communities must be approved by the Spanish Parliament.

In addition, Autonomous Communities can establish and modify the names of geographical elements/features under their ownership and control (cultural heritage, protected natural areas, local seaports, etc.). In the case of minor toponymy (mountain ranges, peaks, spots, rivers, springs, etc.), there are several Autonomous Communities which have ruled over its standardization such as: Galicia, Principado de Asturias, País Vasco/Euskadi, Comunidad Foral de Navarra,

Cataluña/Catalunya, Comunitat Valenciana, Illes Balears and Andalucía.



Political Map of Spain. Scale 1:2.000.000

Local Administration

The Local Administration — City Councils — is the basic authority that defines its own name, that of the settlements within its jurisdiction and urban streets. Other local administrations, such as island councils, provinces and city councils harmonize their names with the names established by autonomous communities.

Other Agencies

Other Agencies that perform important functions regarding the determination and standardization of geographical names are:

1. The Specialized Committee for Geographical Names (Comisión Especializada de Nombres Geográficos - CENG, in Spanish), part of the High Geographical Council — management body of the National Mapping System — and reports to the Ministry of Development and performs advisory and planning functions for geographic information and official cartography. Its functions and responsibilities are established by Royal Decree 1545/2007.

The CENG includes members from authorities responsible on geographical names from the State Administration, the Autonomous Communities, and universities, academies of languages and other toponymy-related institutions.

Its main objectives are to promote toponymy standardization in Spain in coordination with competent agencies and disseminate the knowledge of geographical names, their standardized use and their value as cultural heritage.

More information related to the CENG is available at:

http://www.fomento.gob.es/MFOM/LANG_CASTELLAN/O/ORGANOS_COLEGIADOS/MASORGANOS/CSG/Comisiones/COMISION_NOMBRES_GEOGRAFICOS2.htm



- The Local Entities Register (REL) of the Ministry of Public Administrations (created by Royal Decree 382/1986), registers the official names approved by the Autonomous Communities, of all the basic local entities in Spain and its capitals, Provinces, Municipalities, Islands (with administrative competency), LTEBM (Local Territorial Entities Below Municipality), Regions (with administrative competency) and other municipal clusters. The website is: <http://ssweb.seap.minhap.es/REL/>

It should be taken into account that there are different languages in Spain. Standardized geographical names can be in Spanish (official language in the whole Spain), co-official regional languages (gallego, euskera, catalán or valenciano) and other languages or dialects.

Spain Gazetteers

All standard and official place names are collected in the National Gazetteer (NGN), defined in Royal Decree 1545/2007, as a dynamic record of geo-referenced information representing geographic official names to be used in authorized maps. The National Gazetteer (NGN) is prepared from the NGBE (made by the National Geographic Institute) and gazetteers made by the Autonomous Communities.

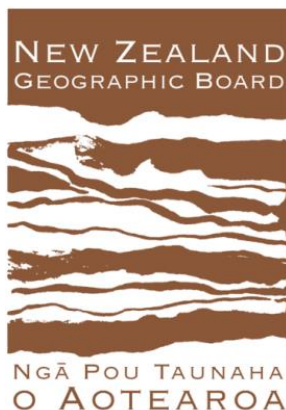
NGBE is prepared from georeferenced official names on topographic maps at scales of 1: 25.000 and smaller, in Spanish and co-official languages. Gazetteers of Autonomous Communities are composed of georeferenced official names on topographic maps at scales larger than 1:25.000. The first version of NGBE is currently available in the IGN Download Center <http://centrodedescargas.cnig.es/CentroDescargas/equipamiento.do?method=mostrarEquipamiento>) and there is also a web feature service (WFS) download service that complies with Regulation Network Services and the Technical Guide for the implementation of download services as set by the INSPIRE Directive (<http://www.ign.es/wfs-inspire/ngbe>).

The second version of NGBE, is currently about to be finished. It will be the result of the testing of the place names of NGBE against the standard or official toponymic information from the Autonomous Communities. This process will allow us to have a normalized multi scale place names database for Spain.

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The structure and operation of New Zealand’s national naming authority

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) is the national naming authority responsible for making place names official in New Zealand, its offshore islands, its continental shelf, and the Ross Dependency of Antarctica.



The NZGB is an independent body that operates under the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 (NZGB Act 2008). It also follows policies, principles, and practices that have evolved from decisions, investigations, precedent, international trends, liaison, and cooperation. The NZGB contributes to geographic information that provides economic, cultural, and social value to all New Zealanders. The NZGB also cooperates with a range of international naming organisations on Antarctic, undersea, regional, and global place naming and conventions.

The Surveyor-General, who is the NZGB’s Chairperson, and the National Hydrographer are ex-officio appointments to the NZGB. Both are employed by a government agency, Land Information New Zealand. A further eight members are appointed under the NZGB Act 2008:

- two people nominated by the Minister of Māori Development to represent Māori,
- two people nominated by the Minister for Land Information,

- one person nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (a tribal group),
- one person nominated by the New Zealand Geographical Society,
- one person nominated by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand, and
- one person nominated by Local Government New Zealand.

These eight NZGB members serve three year terms and may be reappointed to the NZGB for further terms. The NZGB, which meets two or three times a year, is funded by the New Zealand government. The NZGB appoints a Secretary from Land Information New Zealand.



Source: [GNS Science](http://www.gns.govt.nz)

The NZGB’s Antarctic Names Committee, Māori Names Committee, and Undersea Feature Names Committee meet once a year to advise and make recommendations to the NZGB. These committees must have at least two NZGB members. The NZGB appoints other committee members who are experts in the particular field of the committee they serve on.



Extract from NZMS 345, Antarctica, 2nd edition, 1995.

The NZGB’s Secretariat, which is located within Land Information New Zealand, provides the NZGB and its committees with administrative and policy support, research assistance and expert advice. The Secretariat also responds to public enquiries.

The NZGB is responsible for safeguarding the place naming traditions, culture and heritage that various communities have brought to New Zealand. The principal functions of the NZGB set out in the NZGB Act 2008 include:

- considering proposals for new or altered place names, including spelling alterations
- approving and adopting recorded place names as official place names,
- determining the position or extent of named features,
- collecting and encouraging the use of original Māori names for recording on official charts and maps,
- contributing to place names used in Treaty of Waitangi settlements,
- Antarctic place names,
- undersea feature names,
- validating Crown protected area names, and
- maintaining a publicly available Gazetteer of place names.

The NZGB doesn’t name streets, roads, tracks, buildings, monuments or businesses, and it cannot change the name of New Zealand. Nor is the NZGB concerned with the pronunciation of place names.

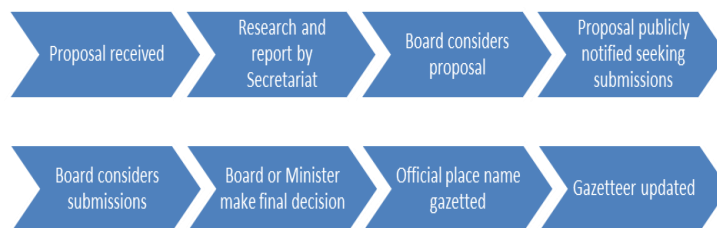
The NZGB’s informed, robust and enduring place name decisions:

- provide practical and fundamental location identification and navigation,
- recognise heritage and culture,
- are reliable and authoritative, and
- uphold standardised, consistent and accurate geographic names.

Anyone can make a place name proposal to the NZGB, but proposals must meet a *Minimum Requirements* benchmark before they can be processed. The NZGB also has a rigorous consultation process, as understanding the views of New Zealand communities is critical to

it making informed, robust and enduring decisions on place name proposals.

Overview of the NZGB’s standard process for considering a proposal:



An important part of the NZGB’s work is its contribution to place names as part of the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process. Treaty of Waitangi settlements honour the partnership between the New Zealand Government and Māori established in 1840. The NZGB supports and actively contributes to this process of cultural redress.

Because the New Zealand government wants certainty about the name for a place, another important role of the NZGB is to convert recorded place names into official place names. By making a place name official, it can be consistently applied across published material, avoiding confusion and giving recognition to the one official name for that place.

The NZGB Act 2008 requires that the NZGB maintains a publicly available *New Zealand Gazetteer of Official Geographic Names*. The [Gazetteer](#) lists all official place names within the NZGB’s jurisdiction, along with contextual information such as position, extent and description of the feature, and if known, the history, origin and meaning of a name. A large number of recorded place names are also listed. The Gazetteer can be downloaded for reuse from the free-to-use [LINZ Data Service](#).

The NZGB’s strategic goals for the next ten years are that:

- people have easy access to trusted and useful information about geographic names so that they can understand the history and culture of the names,
- it has good relationships with people at local, national and international levels to make it easier to get the right information,
- it names features so people can find where they are,
- it encourages people to use official names in everyday life so everyone knows the name of a feature, and
- it continually improves its capability to make consistent and rigorous decisions.

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Botswana: "National Names as Authorities - structures and operations"

Background

Botswana established a Place Names Commission through a presidential directive CAB.51/67 in October 1967 just four months after the first United Nations Conference on Geographical Names (UNCGN). The main objective of the commission was to collect names, compile reports in an effort to standardise all place names in Botswana. Setswana (Tswana) became the national language of Botswana, as it is spoken by a majority of the population. At the time of establishment, the Commission recognised that there were over eighty languages or dialects in the country and an orthography was necessary.

All these issues were to be addressed to make it possible for the average person to achieve some semblance of the correct spelling and pronunciation of a name. The Commission came up with a structure to address all place Names.

Structures and Operations of the Botswana Place Names Commission

Botswana has since operated through the Botswana Place Names Commission as its National Names Authority (national type). The Commission consisted of seven members appointed by the then Minister of Local Government and Lands for their knowledge on the history of Botswana, South African Linguistics and their extensive knowledge on the culture and customs of the respective regions they represented. The Secretary and Chairperson came from the Department of Surveys and Mapping. All the districts of Botswana were represented. Their operations involved visits to villages, these were organised through an agreed structure with Ministry of Local Government, composing of district commissioners whose responsibility was to ensure the people were aware and their contributions essential, tribal authorities involving chiefs of villages, who would in turn consult village elders. The meetings were held in Kgotla (a village meeting place).

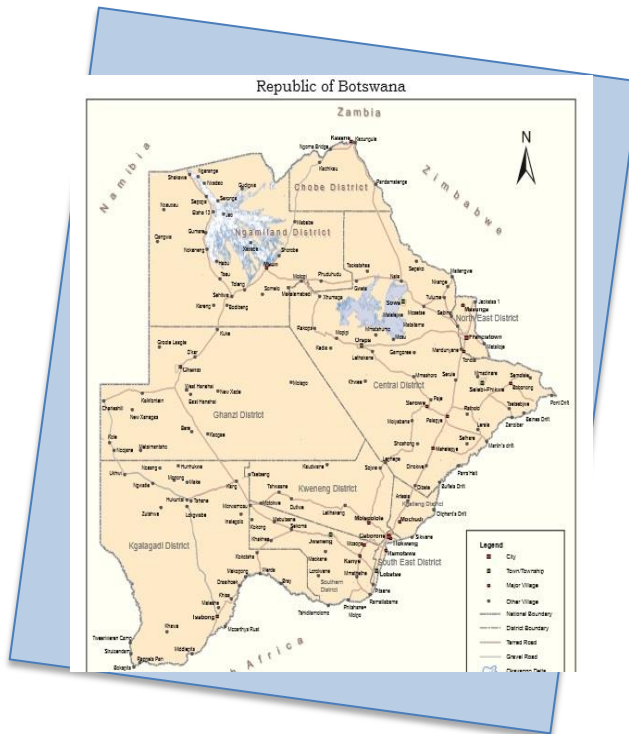
Functions/Operations

The main aim of the Commission was to examine all geographical place names in relation to; the language from which the name is derived, the local pronunciation, the recognized meaning, the historical background and the place from which it relates for conformation with recognized orthographies. During the meetings held, over two hundred names were discussed and four reports published. New approaches have been put in place to reorganise and propose new structures that will guide the resuscitated Botswana Geographical Names Commission/committee.

Intervention - Botswana Names Authorities

In an effort to deal with standardisation of geographical names in Botswana; an Interim Geographical Names Committee was established. Its responsibilities were to improve the management of geographical names activities in the country in line with established UNGEGN programmes and propose structures that will benefit all communities in Botswana. This Committee is composed of members from key stakeholder groups. They have proposed a new structure for a National Names Authority for Botswana which will deal with geographical names standardisation at national levels. The need for

such committees is vital in that they strive towards reduction of duplication of efforts by various organizations in collecting names, consistency in names usage, availability of official geographical names data, preservation of the historical/cultural aspects of geographical names and regulating the use of those names regarded as exonyms. The proposed structure has been submitted to Ministry of Lands and Housing for approval. Names authorities are normally instituted by law, an act or order of parliament and should have a very clear mandate so that its principles and policies or decisions are considered and adhered to.



This map indicates journey of the roving torch covering all Botswana villages. This was a reminder that the nation has come a long way. Despite religious and ethnic differences, Botswana remained a united and proud nation.

Proposed Botswana Geographical Names Structures

The structure or model for geographical names authorities vary from country to country as per the governance of any country and the ability to meet the cost of running such a model. The type of structures proposed for Botswana are as follows:

Central/Office type – Composed of members from various organisations, this type will be centred in a mapping organisation given mandate to carry the duties of geographical names standardisation. Stakeholders involved are University of Botswana -research on all languages, cultures and history, Museum – heritage, Water Affairs – water features, Wildlife – Parks and Nature Reserves, Road Transport and Safety – issuance permits and registration of vehicles, Geological Survey – exploration, Statistics Botswana – census, Arts and Culture - language culture and heritage. Roads department. – signage,



Tourism, Agriculture, Environment, Local Government, Botswana Post, Surveys and Mapping and Botswana Defence Force.

Decentralised type – A main committee with several members appointed at national level and sub committees in all Botswana districts to address names standardisation. Though structures may differ Botswana has proposed the following composition;

- One representative - Botswana House of Chiefs
- One representative - District commissioners
- One representative - Office of the President.

- Committee to identify names through research and field work
- Committee arranges meeting to discuss names
- Names can be recommended or rejected based on the guidelines
- Compile recommended names and submit to relevant authority for approval.
- After approval names are published on the government gazette.
- Approved names will be archived in the database by the relevant organisation.

Term of Office

- Four-year term, renewable for two terms.

Committee reports

- Reports to be submitted after every meeting.

Commission

- Members appoint office bearers
- Commission should not exceed twenty-five (25)

Way forward/Conclusion

Botswana celebrated its fiftieth anniversary of independence this year on 30th September 2016. The President of the Republic of Botswana prior to this years celebration, launched the roving torch in September 30th 2015. This torch toured the whole country, to symbolize our pledge to keep the flames of the country's commitments burning so that we continue living as a "United, and Proud Nation". This also appealed to all Batswana to continue to embrace and uphold themselves in the spirit of togetherness, for it is only through these ideals that we can achieve our journey of prosperity for all.

Meetings

- Meetings held quarterly
- Majority of members present

As the roving torch toured the country, geographical place names of villages and the derivation of names as well as misinterpretation of these names by early settlers were discussed. The team visited each and every historical site and villagers in those areas, and explained to the team how these names came about. This information on the history of names and cultural beliefs is Botswana's heritage, and should be documented. The most important aspect here was the unearthing of cultural background of each village, as this will bring dignity to all Batswana, continue to guide all and future generations and this will move the nation to greater heights.

Functions of the committee - Members of the Geographical Names Authorities proposed should be knowledgeable in areas such as onomastics, linguistics and geographical names matters. The terms of reference proposed are as follows;

- To establish national principles, policies and procedures for the standardization of geographical place names in the country in accordance with United Nations /United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Place Names'(UNGEGN) standards/resolutions and recommendations.
- To develop awareness programs to promote the significance of standardization of geographical place names in the country.
- To provide a degree of uniformity for geographical place names in all databases, maps and other publications/documents.
- To support the initiatives for the use and preservation of geographical place names as an essential component of linguistic and cultural heritage in Botswana.
- To advise the relevant authority(minister)on proposed new names and other issues relating to geographical place names.
- To address and resolve problems resulting from geographical place names differences/disputes among locals.
- To promote the implementation of standardization of geographical place names in the country.
- To facilitate the establishment of geographical place names committees at district levels as per the proposed structure in place.
- To support UNGEGN and its initiatives in geographical place names at national and regional levels.

It is therefore opportune for Botswana to resuscitate the Commission, which will put structures and operations in place to document each piece of information on place names discussed during the Fiftieth Celebration of Independence and have a legal document which can be viewed and officially used in the next fifty years by our future generations. It is also the right time for Botswana Place Names Commission to join UNGEGN in July 2017, celebrating their fiftieth 50th anniversary at a United Nations Conference on Standardisation of Geographical Names (UNCSGN).

Lucy Phalaagae

Interim Chair, Botswana Place Names Commission

Interim Chair, Africa South Division.

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Geographical Place Names approval

- Everyone is free to submit names to the committee

Republic of Korea: National Names Authorities

Geographical names in the Republic of Korea have been standardized and managed by a few government agencies; National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) (natural and artificial feature names), Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration (KHOA) (maritime feature names), Ministry of the Interior (names of administrative units and roads), and specialized individual agencies, e.g. Cultural Heritage Administration (cultural heritage names), Korea Expressway Corporation (names of highway ramps, junctions and tollgates), etc. The Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN) functions as the final authority which reviews and decides on geographical names standardized and managed by NGII and KHOA.

and accepts or rejects them.

The KCGN consists of not more than thirty members from either government or non-government sector, of which the chair is elected from the latter and two vice chairs from NGII and KHOA. Government members are from several spheres, including education, Korean language, history, defense, internal and foreign affairs, as well as land management and maritime affairs. The existence of the KCGN is legally based on the Act on the Establishment and Management of Spatial Information.

National Geographic Information Institute (NGII)

The NGII is a government agency in charge of the provision and management of maps and geospatial information. The part of managing geographical names among the works of the NGII has been growing in its importance for the past few years, in terms of budget and human resources. NGII's work for geographical names includes developing and maintaining geographical names database, publishing books on the origins of geographical names, on the nature of Korean place names (as recently featured as *People, Places and Place Names in the Republic of Korea*), and gazetteers, as well as standardizing and managing inland feature names.

The NGII represents the Republic of Korea at the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEKN). It contributes to the work of UNGEKN by providing the database of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which is now available in English, French and Spanish versions.

Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration (KHOA)

The KHOA is a government agency in charge of the whole hydrographic affairs. Along with its vision to provide comprehensive marine information service, standardizing and managing maritime names has been receiving more attention among its works. Since 2002, the KHOA standardized almost one-thousand geographical names. Among these names, forty-eight names were submitted to and approved by the GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) Sub-committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), including twenty names in the Pacific Ocean and seven in the Southern Ocean.

Sungjae CHOO

Chair, Korea Committee on Geographical Names

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Members of the Korea Committee on Geographical Names
(in March 2016)

Korea Committee on Geographical Names

The history of the KCGN dates back to 1980 when it was founded with the title Central Geographical Names Committee. In 2002, the Marine Geographical Names Committee was created to standardize and manage maritime feature names, independently from inland feature names. The two committees were then amalgamated with the current name in 2009 after ministries affiliating NGII and KHOA were integrated as the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs. Although the ministry became separated again in 2013 into the Ministry of Land, Transport and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, the KCGN continued being an integrated committee. Meetings of the KCGN, however, are held separately for inland feature names and maritime feature names, organized by NGII and KHOA, respectively.

The review and decision processes by the KCGN are different between inland and maritime feature names. For inland feature names, proposals for new standardized names and name changes are collected by the NGII from local municipalities, mostly through names committees established at each level of administration, and then reviewed and finally accepted or rejected by the KCGN. For maritime feature names, the KCGN reviews proposals submitted by the KHOA

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: National Committee on Geographical Names



The National committee on Geographical Names in JORDAN was established in 1984

2. Cancel or stop using any new names until it is licensed by the Committee.
3. Publish articles, research results, studies and books, hold conferences and fairs, posters; make use of audio – visual media to identify the duties of the committee and its works in the field of Geographical Names .
4. Conduct field research and research studies when necessary .
5. Nominate new members (institutions or individuals) or substitute working members upon the consent of the Prime Ministry .

Members

1. Representative of Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Place
2. Representative of Ministry of Interior.
3. Representative of Ministry of Municipalities
4. Representative of Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
5. Representative of Department of lands and Survey
6. Representative of Arabic Language Academy
7. Representative of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre
8. Representative of Greater Amman Municipality
9. Representative of Ministry of Public Works & Housing
10. Representative of Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZ)
11. Members of both public and private sectors upon the consent of Prime Ministry

Definitions

- Committee: National Committee on Geographical Names
- Geographical Names: Names of towns, streets, geographic sites and landmarks
- Headquarter: Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre
- Chairman: Head of the National Committee on Geographical Names
- Co-Chairman: Deputy president of the National Committee on Geographical Names
- Secretary: Secretary of the National Committee on Geographical Names

Duties of the Committee

1. Unifying writing Geographical Names in Jordan
2. Perpetuating and publishing Jordanian Geographical Names Index
3. Nominating the proposed and substitute names for the Prime Ministry
4. Approving the system of writing names in Roman letters or non–Arabic names in Arabic letters according the system approved by the United Nations
5. Providing a data base for substitute or new names includes historical events, martyrs, political and literary personalities that have distinguished role in social life
6. Following up new developments in Arab countries related to Geographical Names

Authorities of the Committee

The Committee is authorized to:

1. Get help from any appropriate experts and specialists in both Public and Private sectors.



Chairman of the Committee: Director General of Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre.

Duties of the Chairman :

1. Supervising all the committee's works and activities
2. To be the president of the committee and invite for its meetings.



Duties of Deputy President:

1. To handle the works entitled him by the Chairperson.
2. To represent the Chairman during his absence.

Duties of the Secretary:

1. To write down the committee's sessions.
2. To supervise keeping and organizing the records.
3. To follow up executing the committee's decisions.
4. To prepare the meetings of the committee.

Mechanism of the Committee

1. The committee shall consider in its periodical or urgent meetings, the applications and documents referred to it concerned changing Geographical Names or giving new names.
2. To choose new names depending on the principles adopted by the Committee.
3. To refer the new proposed names to the Prime Ministry to take required actions according to the related rules and regulations.

General principles for new names

1. The name should not be found elsewhere .
2. It must not harm national or religious feeling.
3. It must not cause political racial, religious or tribal sensitivity.
4. It should not be related to a name of a tribe, family or person unpardoned with the committee's duties.
5. It should be related to the culture of Jordan and both Arab and Islamic values.
6. These matters should be taken into consideration when giving new names for certain positions: Consult the inhabitants of the area, agree with them as possible about the new names so that it can't be contradicted with principles approved by the committee.
7. To be acquainted with the geographical phase of the position.
8. To fix the suitable syllable of the name if it contains more than one syllable.
9. To look in the Geographical Names bank of the committee to choose the suitable name.
10. To make the letters in eloquence language.
11. To pronounce the name correctly.

The Meetings

1. The committee holds its meeting periodically every month, urgent meetings shall be held if necessary.

2. The meeting is considered legal if half the members + one are present.
3. The committee's decisions are adopted by voting; if they are equal the vote of Chairman or his Co-chairman settle the question .
4. The committee holds its meetings in the headquarters, or any other position according to the nature of the work.

Important Achievements

1. Holding Arab conferences on Geographical Names.
2. Participating in all international conferences related to Geographical Names.
3. Holding scientific days and workshops about Geographical Names.
4. Participation of its members in working groups of the International Committees on Geographical Names.
5. Holding specialized courses about Geographical Names by the member countries.
6. Awareness of Geographical Names and its importance by using various media.
7. Adopting the Standardized Arab System in Romanization Geographical Names, and its application in most Arab countries in producing maps, charts and geographical books.
8. Founding the basic structure of the Arab Division.
9. Establishing the website of the Arab Division.
10. Establishing data base for the Arab cities that have more than 100,000 persons.
11. Publishing periodical magazine about Geographical Names.
12. Put gazetteers for some Arab countries, also Jordan had put the gazetteer of names in Palestine.
13. The Arab Division has officially become member in the League of Arab Countries.
14. Helping in establishing an activating the National Committees on Geographical Names in every Arab country.
15. Establishing the permanent headquarters of the Division in Amman-Jordan.
16. Forming working groups as following:
 - Working Group on Education and Training.
 - Working Group on Geographical Names Terms.
 - Working Group on Romanization System.
 - Working Group on names of countries.

Dr. Eng. Awni Moh'd Kasawneh

Chairman of the National Committee on Geographical Names

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National Geographical Names Authority: state of the art in Italy

Italy was one of the first countries in the world to understand the importance of standardization of geographical names. In fact, in 1911 a special decree (dated 5th March 1911) was promulgated that created the “Commission for toponymic review of the Italian official map”, after repeated requests of the national scientific community, that, during the third Italian Geographical Congress, pleaded insistently for the creation of this body.

The need for creating such a Commission was derived primarily from the fact that the first sheets of the “Great topographic map of Italy”, on a scale of 1:100,000 (the first official cartographic representation of the Italian territory, after the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861), had many misrepresented place names. These errors were the direct consequence of the fact that topographers were lacking in the necessary linguistic skills for the correct transcription of dialectal place name

This Commission was composed of only three experts in geography, cartography, military matters and tourism, but these three members availed themselves of the cooperation of hundreds of collaborators in each Region of Italy, for direct checks in the concerned territories and of map makers of the Italian Geographic Military Institute (IGMI) for the correction of topographical maps.

At the end of the first phase of review, the Chairman of the Commission, Carlo Porro (1854 - 1939), presented a special report, on the occasion of the 10th International Geographical Congress held in Rome in 1913, where he summarized the general criteria of the review and signalled how, in just three years, 172,506 names had been examined, of which 36,458 were subjected to correction.

The review of Italy’s map continued in the subsequent years and the Commission drew up the first toponymic guidelines for correct surveying and writing of official place names of Italy. The results of these works showed the highest state authorities that toponyms were directly connected not only to cartographic needs, but also to cultural, territorial, economic and political problems.

As evidence of this, during the Fascist period, a new “Royal Decree was promulgated that constituted the Commission charged with the toponymic review of the Italian Map” (dated 3rd December 1934), by which it was implemented a substantial reformulation of the first composition of the Italian National Geographical Names Authority. The latter decree showed that it accepted the requests of Italian scientists, extending participation in the work of the Commission also to representatives of the National Committee for the Geography of the National Research Council and of the Scientific Committee of the Italian Alpine Club. And it also extended participation in the same Commission to regional representatives, but introduced for the first time the direct control of the works by the government, with a delegate of the Council of Ministers Presidency.

At the beginning of the Republican period, the Italian Parliament confirmed the importance of the Commission and approved the law 8th June 1949, n. 605, titled “Composition of the Permanent Commission responsible for directing the work of reviewing the place names of

Italy’s map”. This law showed how the Italian Parliament not only confirmed the importance of that public authority, but also expanded its composition with the participation of representatives of the Regions, the Autonomous Provinces and the main academic and cultural institutions of the country, and it also attributed to the Commission itself a character of permanence.

The Commission took on an even more widely representative size with a further increase of its members but at the same time it became a plethoric body that risked not being able to ensure the necessary operational efficiency. Such functional limit, coupled with the lack of funding, led to the slowing down of the Commission’s activities and determined a state of “permanent” inactivity during many years.

At the beginning of new Millennium, the echo derived from the activities and stimuli launched by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the importance of the standardization of place names encouraged a young Italian scholar to propose the reactivation of the Commission, that resumed its activities working regularly until 2008 and assured the participation of its members to the UN activities in the toponymic field. Unfortunately, however, when the Commission was about to propose a change in its composition to achieve better functional efficiency, as implemented in other European countries, a new provision of the law put an end to its activities. In 2008, with the approval of the so-called “Decree cuts-laws” (Decree-Law 25th June 2008, n. 112, converted with amendments the Law 6th August 2008, n. 133), inspired to the simplification of the administrative procedures, the Italian Parliament repealed the law with which the permanent Commission was established in 1949.

This recent decision determined an unsustainable vacuum in the toponymic and cartographic field, and the IGMI put its efforts to replace the functions of the repealed Commission in another similar institution in creating internally the “Commission for the Italian Official Toponymy” in 2011 to ensure the continuity of its functions of national mapping agency.

In the same period, many Italian Regions created their own Regional Toponymic Commission, highlighting even more the need of a National Geographical Names Authority.

Today in Italy, surveying and the treatment of geographical names are tasks of IGMI at the national level and Geographical Information Regional Departments for each Administrative Region and Geographical Information Provincial Departments for the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano – Bozen. The IGMI continues in its efforts to ensure the standardization and updating of the Italian geographical names.

Andrea Cantile
Chairman of Romano-Hellenic Division
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The Italian Parliament confirmed the importance of the Commission and approved the law 8th June 1949, n. 605, titled “Composition of the Permanent Commission responsible for directing the work of reviewing the place names of Italy’s map”.

The Italian Parliament repealed the law with which the permanent Commission was established in 1949.

Peru: Los Nombres Geográficos, Patrimonio Social De La Humanidad

El Instituto Geográfico Nacional es el ente rector de la cartografía básica oficial y miembro titular de la Comisión de pre normalización de los Nombres Geográficos. El marco organizacional se encuentra reconocida mediante Resolución Ministerial N° 1310-2007-DE/SG del 19 de Dic. del 2007, con el que se constituye la Comisión de Pre Normalización de Nombres Geográficos en la cual se señala las instituciones del estado que las integran.

- Falta de registro oficial y empleo limitado de Nombres Geográficos de grupos lingüísticos originarios a fin de preservar el patrimonio cultural.
- Integración a los acuerdos internacionales relacionado a la Normalización de Nombres Geográficos.
- Diversidad Etnolingüística.

Trabajos Realizados Por La Dirección De Nombres Geográficos Del Instituto Geográfico Nacional

La Dirección de Nombres Geográficos ha efectuado en el año 2010 el Nomenclátor Geográfico del Perú, que consta de 4 tomos; se ha realizado en base a las 500 cartas levantadas a escala 1:100 000, el cual se describe una lista ordenada alfabéticamente de topónimos con sus coordenadas geográficas y código de hojas y en el año 2015 el Nomenclátor Geográfico Interactivo de los departamentos de Ica, Moquegua y Tacna a escala 1:25 000.

En el año 2016, el nomenclátor ha sido actualizado siendo su actual nombre “Nomenclátor Geográfico Interactivo de los Departamentos de Ica y Moquegua a escala 1:25000”



La Comisión de Pre normalización se constituyó a fin de establecer las políticas, normas técnicas y procedimientos para estandarizar el uso y tratamiento de los nombres geográficos del país, teniendo como referencia la cartografía básica oficial del Instituto Geográfico Nacional. Dicha comisión es presidida por este IGN, quién a través de la Dirección de Nombres de la Dirección General de Geografía viene desarrollando actividades propias para tal fin.

Además para la implementación de la Pre normalización de nombres geográficos en el Perú se ha planteado desarrollar tres horizontes que permitirá un sostenimiento en el tiempo.

En un corto plazo en un año 2013 al 2014

En un mediano plazo en cinco años del 2014 al 2019

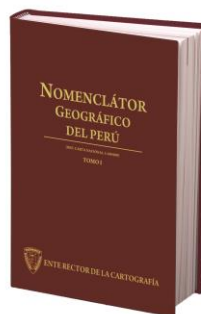
En un largo plazo a partir del 2019 hacia adelante.

Los nombres geográficos son utilizados por diversas organizaciones ya que son fuente de referencia para la denominación de entidades geográficas siendo muy importantes ya que permite la interrelación de la sociedad global.

Entre las principales razones que justifican la normalización de los nombres geográficos en el Perú se tiene:

- Escasa coordinación interinstitucional en el levantamiento y registro de los Nombres Geográficos.
- Necesidad de generar una base de datos de Nombres Geográficos confiable y normalizada, producto de la diversidad toponímica de una misma entidad geográfica existente, que sirva para una oportuna toma de decisiones.

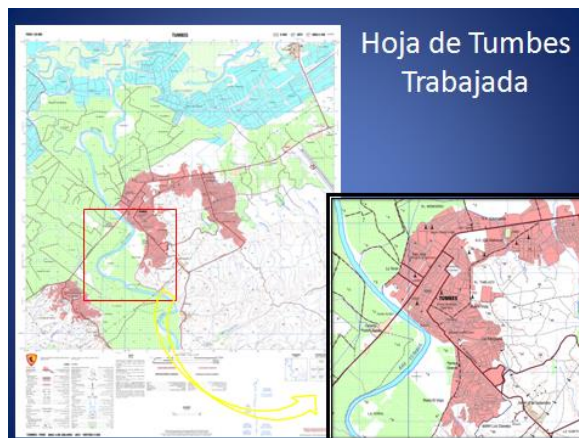
Año 2010



Año 2015



Esta dirección también ha participado de la clasificación de campo del departamento de Tumbes, encargándose de verificar y actualizar los topónimos en este departamento, donde se ha recopilado 2835 nombres geográficos.





El proceso de Normalización de los Nombres Geográficos considera los siguientes componentes:

- Políticas de tratamiento y uso de los Nombres Geográficos.
- Gestión para la Normalización de los Nombres Geográficos (Base de datos armonizada e interfaz entre productores de Nombres Geográficos y otras herramientas informáticas).
- Nomenclátor Oficial.
- Glosario Normalizado de Términos Geográficos.

En este proceso la Dirección de Nombres Geográficos, ha elaborado y difundido a nivel nacional 3 Tomos de Nomenclátor el cual contiene Datos Toponímicos ordenados alfabéticamente y en formato digital a escala 1: 25 000 el cual agrupa información toponímica de Ica, Moquegua y Tacna.

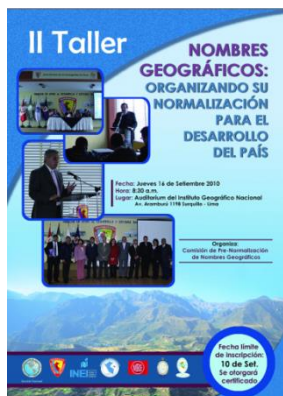
Durante el Proceso de la comisión de pre normalización de Nombres Geográficos, se realizó 4 talleres en diferentes ciudades del Perú, que a continuación se detallan:

Taller N° 1: “Nombres Geográficos e Importancia para el desarrollo del país.”

El seminario se desarrolló en el año 2009 en la sede del Instituto Geográfico Nacional, la cual fue organizada por la Comisión de Pre normalización; siendo sus objetivos principales la difusión sobre conceptos e importancia de los Nombres Geográficos y de intercambiar experiencias sobre el uso y aplicación de los Nombres Geográficos.



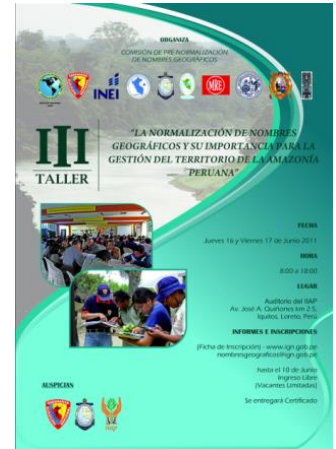
Taller N° 2: “Nombres Geográficos: Organizando su Normalización para el Desarrollo del País.”



El seminario se desarrolló en el año 2010, en la sede del Instituto Geográfico Nacional, en el cual se desarrollaron tres temas principales como: Los nombres Geográficos en el ámbito mundial y regional, los nombres geográficos en el ámbito nacional y dinámica de los nombres geográficos en el país.

Taller N° 3: “La Normalización de Nombres Geográficos y su Importancia para la Gestión del Territorio de la Amazonía Peruana”

El taller se realizó en el mes de junio del año 2011, teniendo como sede el auditorio de investigación de la Amazonia Peruana (IIAP)-Iquitos, teniendo como objetivo promover, difundir e intercambiar experiencias sobre el uso y aplicación de los nombres geográficos, su normalización y valorización como patrimonio cultural en los diferentes ámbitos de la Amazonia Peruana.

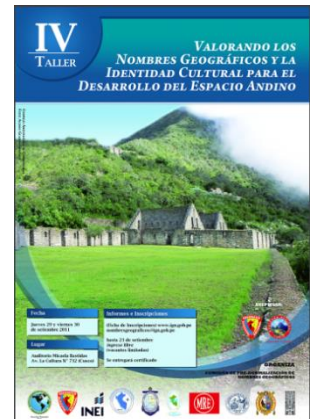


Los temas principales que abordaron fueron:

- Finalidad y avances de la comisión de Pre normalización 2007-2011
- La cartografía y su importancia
- Nombres Geográficos. Concepto e importancia.
- Diagnóstico de la problemática nacional de los Nombres Geográficos
- Preservar los Nombres Geográficos Históricos en las fronteras del Perú. Frontera Perú-Colombia.
- Entre otros.

Taller N° 4: “La Normalización de Nombres Geográficos y su Importancia para la Gestión del Territorio de la Amazonia Peruana.”

El taller se realizó en el mes de octubre del 2011 en el auditorio Micaela Bastidas del Gobierno Regional del Cusco; el objetivo primordial es promover, difundir e intercambiar experiencias sobre la valoración de los Nombres Geográficos y la identidad cultural para el desarrollo del espacio andino; así como también de difundir la regulación de las condiciones del uso adecuado de Nombres Geográficos en diferentes usos del territorio.



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Structure and Operations of the Geographical Names Board of Canada

The Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) is Canada's national coordinating body responsible for standards and policies on place names. The Board is established under an Order in Council of the Government of Canada, and is composed of representatives from each of Canada's 10 provinces and three territories as well as several departments and agencies of the federal government, each with specific authority and responsibility for their respective jurisdictions. The GNBC is led by a Chairperson appointed by the Minister of Natural Resources Canada. Working together as a multi-jurisdictional national body, GNBC members coordinate efforts to ensure that geographical names are consistently managed in Canada.

The GNBC was originally established in 1897 as the Geographic Board of Canada. Since its inception, the mandate, structure and operations of the Board have continually evolved to meet the changing needs of its members and of the country. In 2017, the GNBC will celebrate its 120th anniversary, along with the 150th anniversary of Canada.

Responsibility for geographical naming

Generally in Canada, the authority to officially name geographical features such as mountains, lakes and rivers, as well as communities, including cities, towns and municipalities, rests with the provincial and territorial governments. The federal government holds joint authority with the provinces and territories to name features located within national parks, on military bases, and on other federal lands. Several Indigenous groups who have signed land claim settlements have assumed responsibility for naming in their territory. Such groups work with the provincial or territorial jurisdictions on official recognition of their geographical names.

The authorities of the GNBC operate under national principles and guidelines for geographical naming, defined through discussion and consensus by the Board. Each of the individual naming authorities may have specific policies and procedures to review and approve geographical names that provide additional guidelines adapted for the individual requirements of the jurisdiction.

Proposals for new names are often received from members of the general public, as well as from Indigenous and community groups. Naming proposals typically involve extensive consultation by the jurisdiction with local inhabitants of the region, and decisions to approve or reject a name are based on the principles established by the GNBC. Several provincial and territorial jurisdictions appoint a naming board to review proposals, and make recommendations to a provincial or territorial Minister with legislated responsibility for approving place names. Other jurisdictions delegate a government official with expertise in toponymy to make naming decisions. Naming proposals are typically submitted to the GNBC member for a province or territory, and are handled by the procedures specific to that jurisdiction. In all cases, once names are approved by a responsible jurisdictional authority, they are recognized and endorsed as official decisions of the GNBC.

Operations of the GNBC are supported by a Secretariat provided by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), a department of the Government of Canada. NRCan provides infrastructure and support for the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB), the authoritative national database of place names and a key component of Canada's Spatial Data Infrastructure. NRCan consolidates

geographical names data, spatial delineations of features, and new naming decisions provided by the federal, provincial and territorial naming authorities in the national database.

Strategic objectives of the GNBC

The work of the GNBC is guided by an ambitious, forward-looking Strategic Plan that identifies a 5-year timeline (2015-2020) of priority actions toward achieving several key objectives: renewed governance; strengthened policy and research; improved functionality and interoperability of the national geographical names database; improved Indigenous naming policy, partnership and outreach; a renewed national policy for undersea maritime naming; and increased awareness of the importance of authoritative geographical names. Implementation of the Strategic Plan is carried out through several active Working Groups and an Advisory Committee composed of Board members and expert advisors. Working groups meet regularly, many on a monthly basis, through videoconferences. The GNBC as a whole is mandated to meet in person at least once a year. A general meeting of the Board, hosted by the naming authorities in rotation, is held annually in a different part of the country. The annual meeting is an opportunity to discuss progress on strategic objectives, develop new policies or guidelines, address common issues, and plan the next year's activities.

Key areas of work

Traditional Indigenous geographical names

Place names are extremely important to Canada's Indigenous Peoples as a reflection of their culture and heritage, and also as a tool for language preservation. Federal, provincial and territorial naming authorities regularly consult with Indigenous communities to collect traditional names and information on their meaning and origin. Many traditional names collected in field work or through historical research are approved by the naming authorities and become official for use. A significant example of Indigenous naming is the official adoption by the Northwest Territories of five traditional names for the Mackenzie River (Canada's longest river and part of its largest river system), in addition to existing English and French names:

Geographical Name	Language
Deho	North Slave (Hare)
Dehcho	South Slave
Nagwichoonjik	Kutchin-Gwich'in (Loucheux)
Kuvukpek	Inuktitut, Western Canadian (Inuvialuktun)
Grande Rivière	Michif
Mackenzie River	English
Fleuve Mackenzie	French



Updating the national geographical names database

A key focus of GNBC naming authorities is the gathering and dissemination of accurate information on the location, delineation and origins of Canada's geographical names. This is accomplished by careful management of databases in individual jurisdictions, and contribution of that data to the national repository of geographical names. Effort is needed to maintain data closest to source, facilitate the exchange of this data, and ensure the data are interoperable between databases in accordance with open data models being adopted across many levels of government. As of February 2016, over 550 000 place names are managed in the national database, 390 000 of which are official names.

Looking forward

The success of the GNBC in fulfilling both its core mandate and its strategic priorities largely depends on the participatory, contributory and voluntary efforts of its federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictional members. As the GNBC prepares to celebrate

its 120th anniversary in 2017, standardized authoritative names are even more important than they were when the Board was initially founded. They are vital for decision-making for public safety, searching geospatial datasets, Web mapping and traditional cartography. The GNBC works to provide standardized and authoritative geographical names for Canada, adapting and evolving its policies, structure and operations to adjust to social and technological change.

Steve Westley

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Natural Resources Canada / Government of Canada

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Structure et activités de la Commission de toponymie du Canada

La Commission de toponymie du Canada (CTC) est l'organisme de coordination national chargé des normes et des politiques en matière de toponymes canadiens. La Commission est établie en vertu d'un décret du gouvernement du Canada. Elle comprend des représentants de chacune des dix provinces et des trois territoires du Canada, ainsi que de plusieurs ministères et organismes du gouvernement fédéral, ayant chacun des responsabilités et des pouvoirs particuliers au sein de leur administration respective. La CTC est présidée par une personne nommée par le ministre des Ressources naturelles du Canada. Travaillant de concert à titre d'organisme intergouvernemental national, les membres de la CTC coordonnent leurs efforts pour assurer la gestion uniforme des toponymes.

La CTC a été créée en 1897 sous le nom de Commission de géographie du Canada. Depuis sa création, le mandat, la structure et les activités de la Commission ont constamment évolué afin de répondre à l'évolution des besoins de ses membres et du pays. En 2017, la CTC célébrera son 120^e anniversaire, la même année que le 150^e anniversaire du Canada.

Responsabilité de la dénomination des lieux

En général, au Canada, le pouvoir de nommer officiellement des entités géographiques, comme des montagnes, des lacs et des cours d'eau, de même que des collectivités, notamment des villes, des villages et des municipalités, incombe aux gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux. Le gouvernement fédéral partage avec les provinces et les territoires le pouvoir de nommer des entités situées dans des parcs nationaux, des bases militaires et d'autres terres domaniales. Plusieurs groupes autochtones qui ont signé des accords de règlement de revendications territoriales assument la responsabilité d'attribuer des noms dans leur territoire. Ces groupes travaillent avec les administrations provinciales ou territoriales pour faire reconnaître leurs noms géographiques.

Les autorités de la CTC suivent des lignes directrices et des principes nationaux pour attribuer des noms de lieux, définis par voie de discussion et de consensus par la Commission. Chacune des

autorités responsables de la dénomination des lieux peut avoir des politiques et des procédures particulières pour examiner et approuver des toponymes, ce qui ajoute d'autres lignes directrices, adaptées aux exigences individuelles de la province ou du territoire.

Les propositions de nouveaux toponymes sont souvent présentées par des membres du grand public, de même que par des groupes autochtones ou des collectivités. Les toponymes proposés exigent habituellement que l'autorité responsable procède à une vaste consultation auprès des habitants de la région, et les décisions d'approuver ou de rejeter un toponyme sont fondées sur des principes établis par la CTC. Plusieurs gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux constituent une commission de toponymie pour examiner les propositions et formuler des recommandations destinées à un ministre d'une province ou d'un territoire qui a la responsabilité imposée par la loi d'approuver les toponymes. D'autres gouvernements délèguent un fonctionnaire qui possède des compétences en toponymie pour prendre des décisions en matière de dénomination de lieux. Les propositions de toponymes sont habituellement présentées au membre de la CTC responsable d'une province ou d'un territoire et sont traitées conformément aux procédures propres à ce gouvernement. Dans tous les cas, une fois que les toponymes sont approuvés par une autorité compétente responsable, ils sont reconnus et approuvés comme étant des décisions officielles de la CTC.

Les activités de la CTC sont appuyées par un secrétariat assuré par Ressources naturelles Canada (RNCan), un ministère du gouvernement canadien. RNCan fournit l'infrastructure et le soutien à la Base de données toponymiques du Canada, la base de données nationale officielle des noms géographiques et une composante essentielle de l'Infrastructure canadienne de données géospatiales. RNCan regroupe dans la base de données nationale les données toponymiques, les délimitations spatiales des entités et les décisions relatives aux nouvelles dénominations communiquées par les autorités de dénomination fédérale, provinciales et territoriales.



Objectifs stratégiques de la CTC

Les travaux de la CTC sont orientés par un ambitieux plan stratégique, tourné vers l'avenir, qui établit un échéancier de cinq ans (2015 à 2020) de mesures prioritaires pour atteindre plusieurs objectifs clés : renouvellement de la gouvernance; renforcement des politiques et de la recherche; amélioration de la fonctionnalité et de l'interopérabilité de la base de données toponymiques nationale; amélioration des politiques, des partenariats et des activités de sensibilisation en matière de noms en langues autochtones; renouvellement de la politique nationale sur l'attribution de noms d'entités sous-marines; sensibilisation accrue à l'importance des toponymes officiels.

La mise en œuvre du plan stratégique est effectuée par l'entremise de plusieurs groupes de travail actifs et d'un comité consultatif composé de membres de la Commission et d'experts-conseils. Les groupes de travail se réunissent régulièrement – bon nombre d'entre eux le font tous les mois – par vidéoconférence. L'ensemble des membres de la CTC doit se réunir en personne au moins une fois par année. Une assemblée générale de la Commission, organisée à tour de rôle par les autorités responsables de la dénomination des lieux, est tenue chaque année dans une région différente du pays. L'assemblée annuelle offre l'occasion de discuter des progrès réalisés par rapport aux objectifs stratégiques, d'élaborer de nouvelles politiques ou lignes directrices, d'aborder des problèmes communs et de planifier les activités de l'année suivante.

Principaux domaines de travail

Noms géographiques autochtones traditionnels

La CTC a accordé une importance renouvelée à la reconnaissance des toponymes autochtones traditionnels, qui reflètent la culture et le patrimoine et contribuent à préserver les langues. Les autorités toponymiques fédérales, provinciales et territoriales consultent régulièrement les collectivités autochtones afin de recueillir des toponymes traditionnels et des renseignements sur leur signification et leur origine. Plusieurs de ces noms recensés dans le cadre de travaux sur le terrain ou de recherches historiques sont approuvés par les autorités toponymiques et deviennent officiels. Un bon exemple d'attribution récente de noms autochtones est l'adoption par les Territoires du Nord-Ouest de cinq noms traditionnels supplémentaires pour le fleuve Mackenzie (le plus grand et le plus long réseau hydrographique au Canada), en plus des noms existants anglais et français (tableau 1).

a Mise à jour de la base de données nationale des toponymes

L'un des rôles clés des autorités de dénomination de la CTC consiste à réunir et diffuser des informations précises sur l'emplacement, la délimitation et les origines des noms géographiques canadiens. Ce rôle exige une gestion prudente des bases de données dans chacune des administrations et l'acheminement de ces données vers le répertoire national de toponymes – la Base de données toponymiques du Canada. Des efforts doivent être déployés pour faciliter l'échange de ces données, les maintenir le plus près possible de leur source et veiller à ce qu'elles soient interexploitables entre les bases de données, conformément aux modèles de données ouvertes adoptés par de nombreux paliers de gouvernement. Depuis février 2016, plus de 550 000 toponymes sont gérés dans la base de données nationale, dont 390 000 sont des noms officiels, alors que le reste comprend des noms historiques, des noms proposés et des noms non officiels.

Perspectives d'avenir

La mesure dans laquelle la CTC réussit à accomplir son mandat principal et à atteindre ses priorités stratégiques est largement tributaire des efforts volontaires de participation et de contribution de ses membres des divers territoires de compétence. Les toponymes actuels, normalisés et approuvés, fournis par les autorités de dénomination de la CTC, sont reconnus comme étant une composante essentielle de l'Infrastructure canadienne de données géospatiales. Ils sont essentiels pour la prise de décisions en matière de sécurité publique, les recherches dans des ensembles de données géospatiales, les applications de cartographie Web et la cartographie traditionnelle. Alors qu'elle s'apprête à célébrer son 120^e anniversaire en 2017, la Commission continue à travailler en vue de fournir des noms géographiques officiels et normalisés pour le Canada, tout en adaptant ses politiques, sa structure et ses activités et en veillant à leur évolution afin de s'adapter aux changements sociaux et technologiques.

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Nom géographique	Langue
Deho	Esclave du Nord (peau-de-lièvre)
Dehcho	Esclave du Sud
Nāgwīchoonjīk	Kutchin-gwich'in (loucheux)
Kuvūpak	Inuktitut, Ouest canadien (inuvialukturn)
Grande Rivière	Michif
Mackenzie River	Anglais
Fleuve Mackenzie	Français

Sultanate of Oman's Geographic Names Achievements

The interest of the Sultanate of Oman in geographic names is as old as the time and place of this country. This can be clearly seen in narration of the historian books, in addition to the issue of a number of encyclopedia, dictionary of the Omani Arabic place names, as well as the poet books that incorporate description to some of Omani places and locations. Nowadays, in the reign of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, who built Oman as a constitutional state, the National Survey Authority (NSA) was established as one of these organized institutions via a ministerial decision passed in 1983 bestowing to it responsibilities of setting up Oman's geographic policy and providing technical support and advice on all activities related to surveying and mapping.

A map contains a number of important information, geographic names represent one element of this map and without it the map would look dull and lose a vital part of its identity. Because of this, the National Survey Authority has introduced a specialized section concerned with geographic names which was later upgraded to the level of branch in 2015 with the following duties:

- a. Arabize all types of Omani maps.
- b. Review and check in the field all Omani geographic names.
- c. Collect and determine Omani geographic names which are not available in NSA sources and references.
- d. Maintain the Omani geographic identity, standardize it and transfer to foreign languages in a way that ensures not to be distorted, deviated from and keep its originality, further to preserve its homogeneity on national, regional and international levels. The National Survey Authority has represented the Sultanate of Oman in many conferences as well as in regional and international committees pertaining to geographic names.
- e. Establish and maintain a geographic database for the Sultanate.

Omani Geographic Names Database

This database was created by the National Survey Authority and it incorporates information about the geographic names such as name of a place, phenomenon type, its coordinates and the administrative division it belongs to, its transliteration into foreign languages using a standardized Arabic system for names transfer, reference to the body authorized the name and all its related documents. The database encompasses more than 9,000 approved geographic names.

The National Surveys Authority's Participation in Conferences, Sessions and Scientific Seminars Related to Geographic Names

In its endeavor to achieve the above objective, the National Surveys Authority (NSA) has been diligently trying to apply the scientific systems used to collect, approve and transfer geographic names from Arabic language into Latin languages. To do so, it started by using the PCGN system followed by the Beirut system which then changed (2007) to become The Arab Standardized System for transfer of names. As a result, the National Survey Authority was very keen to take part in almost all meetings conducted by the Arab Division for geographic names under the umbrella of the Arab League. The NSA have also become one of the United Nations (UN) experts in

geographic names which gave it an opportunity to greatly benefit from the UN technical expertise in this field.

A. **UN Conferences**

- 7th Conference from 14-27 Jan 1998 (NY)
- 8th Conference from 27 Aug – 5 Sept 2002 (Berlin)
- 9th Conference from 21 – 30 Aug 2007 (NY)
- 10th Conference from 31 Jul – 9 Aug 2012 (NY)

B. **UN SESSION**

- 17th **SESSION** from 13 -24 Jun 1994 (NY)-Presenting paper
- 19th **SESSION** from 12 -23 Jan 1998 (NY)
- 20th **SESSION** from 17 -28 Jan 2000 (NY)
- 24th **SESSION** from 20 – 31 Aug 2007 (NY)
- 25th **SESSION** from 5 – 12 May 2009 (Nairobi, Kenya)
- 26th **SESSION** from 2 – 6 May 2011 (Vienna, Austria)
- 27th **SESSION** from 30 Jul – 10 Aug 2012 (NY)
- 28th **SESSION** from 28 Apr- 2 May 2014 (NY)
- 29th **SESSION** from 25 -29 Apr 2016 (Bangkok, Thailand)



C. **UN Workshops Related to Geographic Names**

- Workshop relevant to geographic names supervised by the UN and held in Indonesia – 2012





D. Arabic Division's Sessions and Conferences for Arabic Geographic names

- 3rd Conference from 30 – 31 May 2007 (Beirut)
- 5th Conference from 26 – 29 May 2010 (Beirut)
- 6th Conference from 10 -13 July 2012 (Amman)- presented paper
- 7th Conference from 10 -13 Nov 2014 (Amman)
- 1st Conference on Survey & geographic names - October, 2013

E. Annual Meetings and coordination with the GCC state in maps and geographic Information field.

F. Presenting work paper titled “Geographic names and its importance in society” at the GIS forum held in Sultan Qaboos University, Oman in May, 2009.

G. National Projects Related to Geographic Names

- Take part in the revision of maps of the Omani encyclopedia in 2009
- Take part in the project of producing Muscat map at scale 1:75000 in 2009 (both Arabic & English versions)
- Take part in the project of producing Sohar map at scale 1:20000 in 2013- Bilingual Arabic/English
- Take part in the project of producing Nizwa map at scale 1:20000 in 2015- Bilingual Arabic/English.
- Take part in the project of producing 3D Sultanate map on the occasion of the 45th National Day Anniversary at scale 1:1,300,000 , in 2015- Bilingual Arabic/English.

- Take part in the project of producing topographic map at scale 1:50000 covering the Sultanate (498 maps) in 2015- Bilingual Arabic/English
- Take part in the project of producing topographic maps at scale 1:100,000 covering the Sultanate (136 maps) in 2015- Bilingual Arabic/English.



Lt. Col/ Yousuf Harith Nasser Al-Nabhani
SO1 GPN
National Survey Authority
Sultanate of Oman- April 2016
Recorder Arabic Division for Geographic Names
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FROM THE COUNTRIES

The origin of equivalent place names (in Suriname) and on other continents

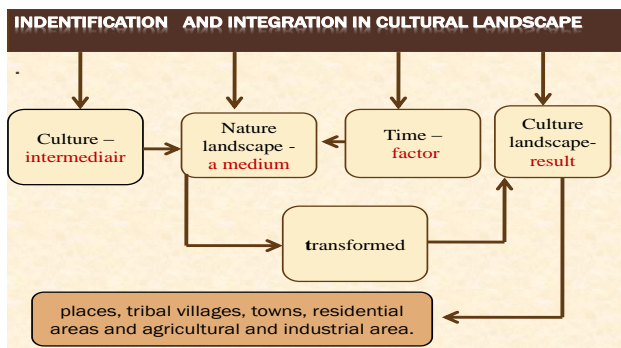
Introduction

This article addresses the origin of equivalent place names (in Suriname) and on other continents. The historical origins of place names in Suriname is related to its colonial history and, the origin of ethnic groups from the European, African and Asian continents who contributed to the multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural society of Suriname. The origins of place names in Suriname goes back to the English and Dutch colonization of Suriname in the period 1667–1975 which laid for the multi-ethnic society, the scientific expeditions and geomorphological exploration of the country. Most of the ethnic groups: the indigenous tribes (native Amerindians), Maroon tribes diaspora (descendants of African slaves), the European diaspora (Dutch descendants), Javane’s diaspora (descendants of Indonesia) and Hindostani diaspora (descendants of India) identify themselves with the Surinamese toponymy, territory. They identified themselves through their historical event (discovery, expeditions), symbols, remembrance, place names and tangible (culture) objects on the map of Suriname.

The greatest contribution of the ethnic groups is the preservation of cultural values, norms and traditions, by mental programming of seed to multi-ethnic, religious, cultural (ethnic dialects) and linguistic diversity of Suriname. The dialects of the ethno linguistic culture groups have over time survived in regions, because they are hardly isolated and protected. They have exercised their influence in place names.

Place names and ethnic identification

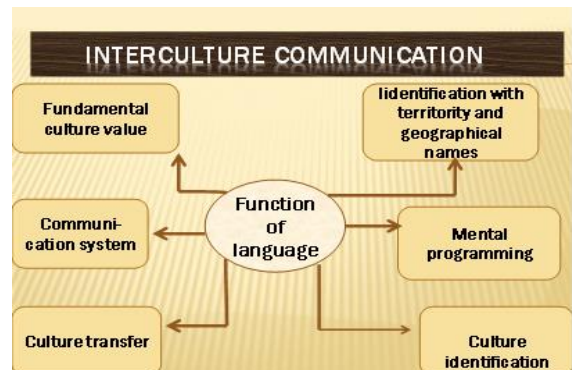
Place names of Suriname are strongly linked with the identity or ethnic and culture groups. This aspect plays an important role in the character of the place and distinguishes it from other places with the same names on other continents. Ethnic groups over time have a recognizable binding by activities at places of their residence; they transform the natural landscape to culture landscape. Culture in this concept is understood as a tool, time is a factor, the natural landscape is a medium and the cultural landscape is the result of settlement, places and tribal villages. See diagram below.



The great diversity of the population of Suriname is made up of descendants of people who voluntarily or by force came to Suriname;

people came from several continents bringing with them their own culture, language, customs and traditions. It goes without saying that great diversity in descent, linguistic and cultural differences and the objects of their coming to Suriname will also reveal themselves in the names of rivers, mountains, and many places in the country. Suriname is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and multi-religious country. Linguistic diversity is one of the most significant characteristics of the Surinamese population and plays an important role in intercultural communication. The official language and medium of instruction is Dutch, but some twenty two languages are spoken within the 17 ethnic groups.

Inter culture communication is communication between people with different cultural backgrounds. They form a central part of the geo- linguistics system, the spatial orientation (the language of the space) and the administrative systems with geographical names. The view about the concept language of space depends on the dialogue between cultures, cooperation at local, regional and international levels. Language is also the central aspect of the cultural identity of a group: An individual (Group) is identified on the basis of the language. See the diagram below: the function of language in inter culture communication of Suriname.



The Surinamese society

The Surinamese society is a created society. With the exception of the indigenous Amerindians, all other groups have been forced or voluntary diasporas which immigrated here. The territory of Suriname constitute a bound for all the disable who have undergone the process of integration or yet to be in this process of "being". Brazilian and Haitian minorities are relatively short, immigrating to Suriname within the last 15 or 30 years. They have not yet adapted to the Surinamese culture and are in a process of becoming.

Linguistic diversity of Suriname and origin of place names

Dutch is the official language, and the language of education, government, business, and the media. Over 60% of the population speak Dutch as a mother tongue, and most of the remainder of the population speak it as a second language. In 2004 Suriname became an associate member of the Dutch Language Union (Nederlands Taal



Unie, with Netherland and Belgium). It is the only Dutch-speaking country in South America as well as the only independent nation in the Americas where Dutch is spoken by a majority of the population, and one of the two non-Romance-speaking countries on the South American continent, the other being English-speaking Guyana.

In the city of Paramaribo, Dutch is the main home language in two-thirds of households. The recognition of "Surinaams-Nederlands" ("Surinamese Dutch") as a national dialect equal to "Nederlands. Sranan, a local creole language (Francua Lingua) originally spoken by the creole population group, is the most widely used language in the streets and is often used interchangeably with Dutch depending on the formality of the setting.

Surinamese Hindi or Sarnami, a dialect of Bhojpuri, is the third-most used language, spoken by the descendants of South Asian (Hindustan) indentured labors from India. Javanese is used by the descendants of Javanese indentured labors. The Maroon languages, somewhat intelligible with Sranan Tongo, include Saramaka, Paramakan, Ndyuka (also called Aukan), Kwinti and Matawai. Amerindian languages, spoken by Amerindians, include Carib and Arawak. Hakka and Cantonese are spoken by the descendants of the Chinese indentured labourer. Mandarin is spoken by some few recent Chinese immigrants. English, Spanish and Portuguese are also used. Spanish and Portuguese are spoken by Latin American residents and their descendants and sometimes also taught in schools. All these dialects have laid the foundation for the origin of place names in Suriname.

Equivalent place names in Suriname and other countries

Villages, towns and regions often received their names by geographical manifestation, expedition, culture or political policy, a prominent person related to the place, or an event that took place. Geographical manifestations in place names are distinct in landscapes (mountain, rivers, hills), soil conditions (sand, clay, stone) and human activity (dam, lake, canal).

Equal or similar place names, especially in Netherlands, Belgium (Flanders), Suriname, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Suriname, South Africa and the United States of America have a historical background and linguistics diversity. In many cases, there is etymological affinity that is, the place names have the same meaning origin independently or each other, or that one name is derived from the other. The Dutch, aided by their skills in shipping, map making, finance and trade, traveled to every corner of the world and left their language embedded in names of places they visited, many of which are still in use today. Dutch is a Germanic language that is presently spoken and written by about 27 million people world-wide. Most people living in the Netherlands and Belgium use it as a first language, while in Suriname, Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles it is widely used as a second language. Historically, French Flanders and parts of the Lower Rhine Region in Germany also belong to the Dutch language sphere, and during the age of colonization it has also spread to Indonesia and other former Dutch colonies. Dutch is the ancestor of the African language spoken in South Africa and Namibia, which is mutually intelligible to Dutch. See an overview of Dutch place names in table one below.

Table 1: Etymological relationship place names in Suriname with equivalent place names in other countries: exonyms endonyms or antroponyms.

	Place name in Suriname	Country with Identical place name or derived from language	Year of origin in Sur	Derived:exonym, endonym or antroponym
1	Dordrecht	Netherland /South Africa	1760:former coffee plantation	Exonym: place in Netherland. Place in South Africa.
2	New – Amsterdam	Netherland / Guyana and U.S.A	1760:former coffee plantation	Exonym: place in Netherland. Place in South Africa
3	Groningen	Netherland / U.S.A	1790:capital of division Saramacca	Exonym: former Dutch commissioner Wicher, born in Groningen.
4	Onverwacht	Namibië / Guyana	17th Century: capital division Para	Endonym: Conrad Bosse.
5	Utrecht	Netherland /South Africa	17th century: village on the Nickery river	Exonym: place in Netherland. Town in Natal-South Africa
6	Waterloo	Belgium/U.S.A/Canada/ Guyana and Australia	1797: sugar plantagion in Nickerie div.	Exonym: place in Belgium
7	Kampong: baroe, Ketjal, Djoemal, ewal.Tambaredjo and Tamanredjo	Indonesia	1890-1914: Indonesian Migration	Exonym: Kampong mean Village in Indonesia
8	Berlijn, Hamburg, Von Frijburg, Bersaba, Mariënborg	Germany influence	17th century GermanMoravian influence.	Exonym: place in Germany.
9	Totness, Inverness, Salem Hamilton, Friendship, Long my, Burnside and Paradise	Scotland	1804-1816: period of British colony	Exonyms: Scottish cotton plantation in Coronie division and in Nickerie
10	Calcutta and Bombay	India	1873-1917: Indian indentured labors	Exonyms: place in India. Bombay named change as Mumbay
11	Batavia	USA- place in New-York	1807 Batavia is a town in Saramacca District	Exonym:P Donders Christian missionaries who served Africans, native inhabitants against lepers

Conclusion

Suriname is on his way to an integrated society. The social cohesion of the Surinamese people is in the common past and a common future. A joint past bound by social cohesion grows as there are more joint pasts. There is respect for each other's culture, religion, language and place names. All ethnic groups have a diversity of views about the good life and the interaction frequency within their own ethnicity. The materials and spiritual diversity within the different cultures is visible in the national religious celebrating days, languages, dance, art, traditions, rites, costumes, cuisine and music. These cultural values can easily be retrieved. Inheritable mental distinction about religion, vision and philosophies of live are more difficult. Religion forms a barrier for acculturation. The process of integration in the Surinamese society is progressing along, in multi ethnic

dialogue and respect for national cultural religious holidays. Education of national identity symbols is an important value but also tolerance in the thinking and acting on one's own culture and that of others, the diversity of the audio-visual media, inter-cultural sustainable relationships and inter-ethnic marriage.

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Chad and Eritrea - toponomastics of the fringe areas of the Arabic-speaking world

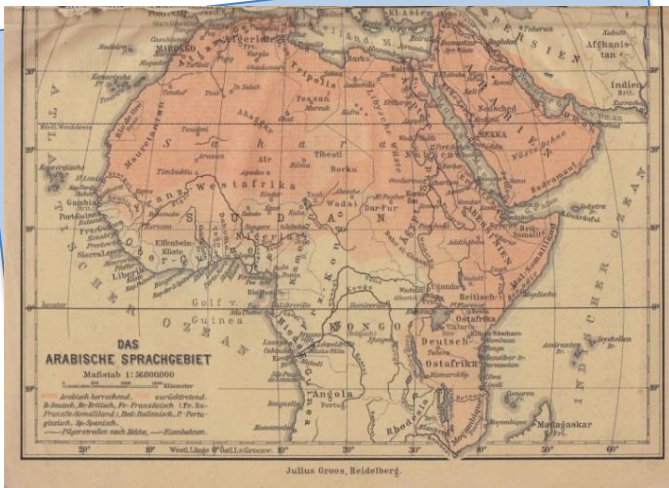
Toponomastics of the Arabic-speaking world is an extremely wide and complex issue. There are 26 countries in which Arabic are either one and only official/national language, or one of the official/national languages. 13 such countries are situated in Africa and 13 in Asia and in all of them the question of Arabic toponomastics is of fundamental importance, whatever other languages are at stake (local or post-colonial).¹

Two basic questions, in order of relevance, are:

- a) standardization of local toponyms in the all-Arabic literary language (MSA – Modern Standard Arabic, which is the only form of Arabic accepted in formal and official use, in contrast to numerous local unofficial Arabic dialects that are the real means of daily communication, very different from MSA and highly diversified as a group);
- b) Romanization or Latinization (both terms are often used interchangeably).

Ad a) The alphabet used for writing down the literary Arabic language – MSA – is not able to reflect the subtleties of spoken dialects. Locally used additional signs are sometimes helpful, but they have no formal status and differ from one place to another, sometimes from one author to another. On various occasions they may reflect different phonetic phenomena. In daily practice, the same words are read by various speakers differently, according to their own dialectal background and linguistic competence. If toponyms are to be standardized on all-Arabic level and according to spelling rules of one and only official literary language, they should be noted down with the use of additional signs for vowels (*ḥarakāt*, *tashkīl* system). These in fact are a part of the standard writing system but – traditionally – almost never used, except on special occasions (the Koran, linguistic texts, educational materials for beginners etc.). Writing without those necessary signs will not provide uniformity, because the notation is only partial and cannot set standards. When some onomastic dictionaries are published without vowels, they bring about a common risk of individualistic incorrect readings. Toponyms without vowels cannot be reasonably reduced to Romanization which should be a nearly automatic procedure, devoid of subjective approach.

Ad b) The question of Romanization is a point of important debate, in view of the almost general lack of standardized names lists (with vowels) in MSA that could serve the purpose, and diverging opinions on the actual Romanization system to be used. The system which had been agreed upon (the first Beirut system, originally based on the Anglo-Saxon BGN/PCGN system), was several times revised, and there are few countries and publications in which it has been really applied. Simultaneously,



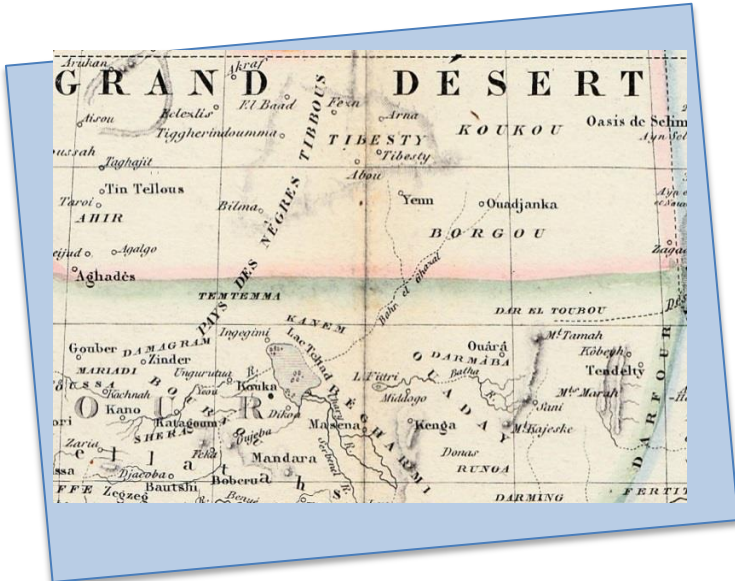
Extent of the Arabic language use at the break of the 19th and 20th cc. (after Ernst Harder. 1910. *Arabische Konversations-Grammatik mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Schriftsprache. Zweite verbesserte Auflage. (Lehrbücher Methode Gaspary-Otto-Sauer). Heidelberg: Julius Groos, Verlag.*)

¹ See my earlier article on the subject: Bogusław R Zagórski. 2011. *Endonyms Versus Exonyms: A Case Study in Standardization. With a List of Names of Arab Countries and Their Major Cities*, in: P. Jordan, H. Bergmann, C. Burgess and C. Cheetham (eds.), *Trends in Exonym Use. Proceedings of the 10th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Tainach, 28–30 April 2010.* (Name & Place, Vol. 1), p. 95–129. Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač.



in the same countries, other systems are used that are hardly comparable with each other. Another problem is the opposition on the part of some countries which underwent strong French cultural influence under the colonial rule and are reluctant to shift to toponymic models and procedures strange to their traditional daily practice.

The Arabic Division of UNGE GN is composed of representatives of 22 countries, just like the League of the Arab States. It means several Arabic-speaking countries do not belong to any of these groups. Special toponomastic problems of two of them, namely Chad and Eritrea, are a theme of two articles that will be briefly presented here.² Both countries are situated at the fringe area of the Arabic linguistic space.



Central Sudan – today's Chad with immediate environs – as portrayed on a French map of Africa from 1855 (Théophile Lavallée. Atlas de géographie militaire. Paris: Furne et C^{ie}, Libraires-Éditeurs, MDCCCLV, carte 9).

Chad was a country organized under this name as a French colonial entity in 1900, on a territory of rich historical and cultural heritage, with centuries of lasting links to the rest of Islamic and Arabic world. In addition to official French (since 1900), Arabic was also officially introduced in 1978. Arabic as a mother tongue is spoken by ca. 35% of the country's population and there is a strong, common tradition of using Arabic as a *lingua franca* in intertribal relations all over the country.

Eritrea, a country as rich in historical links with the Red Sea, Arabian Peninsula, the Indian Ocean and its Arabic-speaking multicultural environment, was given present shape and name by Italians in 1890. It gained independence in 1993 and has now three

working languages: Tigrinya, English and Arabic (plus several local *national* ones). Less than 5% of the populations speak Arabic as a mother tongue, but it has wide circulation as a *lingua franca*.



The official emblem of Eritrea with its official name in three working languages: Tigrinya, English and Arabic (by SanchoPanzaXXI - Own work, GFDL, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10519856>).

The study of Arabic toponymy in Central Sudanic Africa presents substantial challenges resulting from the general scarcity of existing documentation and little availability of direct sources. These must be replaced by research into most diversified intermediary documents. The paper indicates several possible fields of research, by gathering the necessary information from various forms of cartography, still not surveyed local printing production as well as oral tradition, and underlines the necessity of coordinating linguistic research with that of the geographical history of the area. Arabic toponymic layers in Chad, of which we do not possess any ready publications, might be of various kinds. First, the original names in areas of permanent presence or quasi-permanent nomadic transhumances where the Arabs gave names to geographical features needed for orientation in space. The names might be created for the purpose, or adapted from languages of another local population. The ways and degrees of the adaptation may also be different, including translation, phonetic adjustment and mixed forms. On the level of *lingua franca*, the names may also behave differently. Official status of Arabic may lead to creation of documents in that language which include toponyms gathered for various reasons – their forms have never been investigated.

Earlier local historical records, produced in Arabic, are scarce, but there is a possibility of gathering valuable documentation from such intermediary sources as European maps, and European travelers' reports, as well as commissioned works – the best example of which is the famous travel description of the province of Ouadaï/Waddāy by a 19th century author Muḥammad Ibn ʿUmar at-Tūnisi. Some remarks are devoted to modern external sources in Arabic, published either in the Arab World or in the other countries within the framework of educational projects. However useful they are in general terms, the quality of used toponymy leaves a lot to be desired.

² Bogusław R. Zagórski. 2016. *Central African (Sudanic) Arabic toponomastics – the special case of Chad*, in: N. Pawlak, H. Rubinkowska-Anioł, I. Will (eds.), *African Studies. Forging New Perspectives and Directions*. (Languages and Cultures of Africa, 2), p. 257-283. Warsaw: Dom Wydawniczy Elipsa. id. 2016-2017. *Toponomastics of Eritrea in the light of Arabic geographical atlases. Part I. Generalities*, in: *Rocznik Orientalistyczny* (Warsaw), T. LXIX, Z. 2, p. 205-219; *Part II. Materials*, *ibid.* T. LXX, 1 (in print).



732 VOYAGE AU OUAÐĀY.	
دُنْبَلُون Denbéloun.	س
دُنْبِه Denbeh.	سَارَة Sârah.
دُنْغَلَة Dongolah.	سَارِي Sâry.
دُنْغُو Dengo.	سَبْبَه Sebbah.
دُنْغُول Dengoul.	سَرْجِيْلَة Serdjeylah.
دَاؤِم Daûm.	سَرْف Saraf.
دَاؤِمَاه Daûmah.	سَفَاكِس Safâkès.
ر	سِكْر Sikr.
رَاس المَخْبِيز Râs el-Makhbez.	سِيْلَا Sila.
رَاشِد Râched.	سَلَامَات Salâmât.
رُتُو Routou.	سَلَمَات Salamât.
رَدِيْعَة Radeyah.	سَلِيْمَان Soleyman.
رِشَاد Réchâd.	سَمِيْن Sémin.
رِشَادَة Réchâdeh.	سَنْنَار Sennâr.
رِيْغَانَه Riganah.	سَوَاكِن Saouâken.
رَاوْنَا Rauna.	سُوْدَان Souðân.
ز	سُوْغَاه Sougah.
زَامَة Zâmah.	سَوَاكِنَة Saouâkenah.
زَبْدَة Zebédeh.	سُوْوَيْن Sououéin.
زُوَاوْرَاه Zououârah.	سَيْف النَصْر Seyf el-Nasr.
زَيْلَة Zeylah.	سِيْم Sym.
زُوُوَايْلَاه Zououaylah.	سِيُوَاه Syouah.

A page from an Arabic-French glossary of toponyms in the Sultanate of Waddāy (South-Eastern Chad), after Muḥammad Ibn ‘Umar at-Tūnīsī (Mohammed Ibn-Omar El-Tounsy. 1851. Voyage au Ouadāy. Traduit de l’arabe par le Dr [Nicolas] Perron. Paris: Chez Benjamin Duprat).

The enigma of origin and etymology of the names of the country and its capital city is discussed in detail. The existing explanations are little convincing and the questions remains unsolved.

Eritrea as part of the Arab World, is an unclear idea and it is of interest therefore to study its presentation as a cultural-geographical entity with its toponymic coverage in Arabic publications. The scarcity and difficulty of availability of the local cartographic products and other publications documenting the state-of-the-art of Arabic toponyms in the country, directs research towards external sources, in this case foreign school atlases in Arabic. This study surveys all Eritrean toponyms found in the collection of 48 such atlases, coming from various countries and times. It is attempted to discover the spontaneous rules of Arabicizing the names and their moulding into the models of Arabic grammar: how they use verbal roots and word structure patterns, both original Arabic ones as well as those created for this occasional purpose. This procedure is well known in other countries where Arabic linguistic layer incorporated local *substratum* toponyms shaping them in forms resembling the Arabic ones and at present not perceived any more as strange. The name of the country of Eritrea is cited in 16 different versions, and that of the capital city in 4. It should be underlined how low the degree of standardization is in observed processes, and that no coordination between publishers or authors of educational programs exist.

The two articles, rich in detail and different in methods, describe state-of-the-art, difficulties and impediments to standardization of Arabic toponymy and conclude indicating possible ways of further research. Both are accompanied by extensive topical bibliographies.

Pdf copies of the publications will be made available by the author on request from interested colleagues.

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION



UNEGGN Advanced Toponymy Manual

The objective of the *UNEGGN Advanced toponymy manual*, which is due to be presented at the 11th UN conference in 2017 and which will be officially incorporated into the UNEGGN website, is to supplement the basic knowledge provided by the *UNEGGN/International Cartographic Association Basic toponymy web course*, accessible through the website of the UNEGGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy. The target audience for the *Advanced Toponymy Manual* consists of those working in national names boards and names collecting and processing programmes.

Contributors to the manual were solicited at the two previous UNEGGN meetings, where a list of possible topics for the 40 plus chapters was circulated. The potential authors were requested to provide texts of about 3,000 words for each chapter, including many practical examples and good illustrations, with references to further literature and or websites. Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Helen Kerfoot and Ferjan Ormeling had volunteered to edit the chapters, and the authors were asked to make sure they got the necessary authorization for all illustrations they included, for copyright purposes.

Some 27 of the planned-for 40 chapters have been submitted and edited, and the editors are confident to receive six more, as are indicated in the Table of Contents.

The editors acknowledge the debt to and the support from the authors that have all freely supported this initiative with their written contributions. The texts now already composing the manual, almost cover the whole gamut of toponymic activities, from data collecting, to the application of geographical names in the media. The planned-for chapters that are still missing are on the practical applications of names databases, like emergency mapping or hotel reservation systems, on working with programmes customized for names standardization, and on novel names gathering techniques such as used in OpenStreetMap. As the *Advanced toponymy manual* is conceived as a flexible resource, whose chapters can be updated and to which chapters can be added at will, these gaps mentioned above may easily be filled at a later date. This flexible structure will be achieved by uploading all chapters to the UNEGGN-website (Working Groups on Training Courses in Toponymy) where they can be downloaded, either separately or all together. To this end the material will be offered to the UNEGGN Bureau in Spring 2017.

The editors

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The Advanced Toponymy Manual, as of November 1st, 2016

1. Geographical names, their standardization and their value as part of geospatial data infrastructures (Helen Kerfoot)

2. Subject matter dealt with in the basic Toponymy webcourse (Ferjan Ormeling)
3. Management of a national names programme: Finances, administration, legal issues, human resources of Germany in maintaining and publishing the geographical names database (Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu)
4. Management of the Swiss national names programme (expected)
5. Geographical names for hydrographic charts (expected)
6. Geographical names for tourist maps (Roman Stani-Fertl)
7. Tourist /road map exercise (expected)
8. Urban street name standardization (Brahim Atoui)
9. Building the New Zealand Gazetteer (Wendy Shaw)
10. UNEGGN World Geographical Names Database (Helen Kerfoot)
11. Working with geonames.org (Mark Wick)
12. Standardization of statistical area names (Centro de Referência em Nomes Geográficos, IBGE)
13. Smoothing differences between statistical and topographical areal object names (expected)
14. Integration of crowd-sourced or volunteered geographic information (VGI)/crowd-sourcing (expected)
15. Technical issues database management (Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu)
16. Building a database for names management and index production for atlases (Tjeerd Tichelaar)
17. Web services and applications - open source options vs commercial options: criteria for selection (Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu)
18. A Data repository for named places and their standardized names integrated with the production of a national map series (Teemu Leskinen)
19. Visualizing names databases (Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu)
20. Pronunciation: best practices for its recording (Tjeerd Tichelaar)
21. Evaluation of current web services and applications (Ferjan Ormeling)
22. Evaluation of current names servers (Ferjan Ormeling)
23. Geographical names as cultural heritage (Botolv Helleland)
24. Toponyms as carriers of cultural heritage: the history of place names (Tjeerd Tichelaar)
25. Collecting indigenous names (expected)
26. Etymology and the historic study of place names (Isolde Hausner)
27. Some aspects of cartographic and linguistic toponymic sources (Hubert Bergmann)
28. Updating geographical names and assessing the optimal names density in Topomaps (Helmut Zierhut)
29. Dealing with areal names on adjoining map sheets; multiple naming (Helmut Zierhut)
30. The Canadian Geographical Names Data Base – an example of a national system combining data from different jurisdictions (Helen Kerfoot, Kristina Kwiatkowski, Heather Ross)
31. Cartography for the media (Ferjan Ormeling)
32. Exercise in producing media maps (Ferjan Ormeling)
33. Fieldwork Interviews (Elisabeth Calvarin)



2017 International Symposium on Place Names: Critical toponymy: Place names in political, historical and commercial landscapes

Jointly organised by the Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy, the UFS and UNAM
University of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia, 18–20 September 2017

Conference page: <http://www.ufs.ac.za/ISPN>

The Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy, the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment at the University of the Free State (UFS), and the Department of Language and Literature Studies at the University of Namibia (UNAM) cordially invite proposals for the next bi-annual international symposium on place names.

The advent of critical theory in humanities and social sciences is reflected in the rise of critical toponymy. This approach explores the social, cultural, economic, political, and etymological origins of place names, and also considers how their meaning(s) change over time. As such, the landscape emerging from old and new place names can be constructed through physical, historical, or commercial evidence.

Such a method is possible because place names serve as historical records. They reflect the (changeable) geographical characteristics of a specific place, which includes the vegetation and animal life. Significant events and people are remembered via place naming. Even structures of social organisation, including political regimes and commercial enterprises, motivate the choice of names. As such, place names are also forms of (shared) cultural and linguistic heritage.

Place names are therefore important symbolic markers in reserving or changing cultural identities, and in marking or facilitating socio-political changes and relations. This role cannot be understood without thoroughly exploring the origin and meanings of place names.

Potential subtopics

Abstracts (300-500 words) are submitted on-line on the conference page in the following (but not limited to) categories of research:

- Administrative dimensions of place names
- Commercial and/or economic dimensions of place names
- Cultural dimensions of place names
- Historical and/or commemorative dimensions of place names
- Linguistic dimensions of place names
- Physical dimensions of place names
- Political dimensions of place names
- Etymology of place names
- Place name changes

Scientific council and paper selection committee

- **Herman Beyer** (Namibia): Department of Language and Literature Studies, UNAM

- **Paulo Márcio Leal de Menezes** (Brazil): ICA Chair, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy
- **Peter Jordan** (Austria): Common Vice-Chair, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy
- **Lucie A. Möller** (South Africa): Research Fellow, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS
- **Cosimo Palagiano** (Italy): IGU Chair, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy
- **Peter E. Raper** (South Africa): Member of the Steering Board, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy; Research Fellow, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS
- **Theodorus du Plessis** (South Africa): Director, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS

Important dates:

Abstracts

Abstract submissions (online) open: November 2016
Deadlines for abstract submissions: 17 April 2017
Feedback from scientific panel: 8 May 2017

Registrations

Registrations (online): open: February 2017
Early Bird deadline: 14 July 2017
Registration deadline: 4 August 2017
Proof of payment deadline: 14 August 2017

Language of the symposium

English (special requests may be considered, subject to financial constraints)

Conference fees (in South African Rand):

	Academic	Student
Early Bird	R 2,850	R 1,710
Standard	R 3,420	R 2,850

Publication

Depending on the number and quality of papers, an accredited publication will be considered, subject to page fees.

Queries can be directed to the organising committee at kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za.



UPCOMING EVENTS



6 - 9 April 2017

19th Meeting, UNGEGN WG on Exonyms and WG on Romanization Systems

Prague, Czechia

Organized by: Czech Geodetical Office

8 – 10 May 2017

Pan-American symposium on place names in cooperation with PAIGH

Petropolis, Brazil

Organized by: Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, PAIGH, IBGE

2-7 July 2017

28th International Cartographic Conference

Washington D.C., USA

The Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy sponsors toponymic sessions. Pre-conference workshops (also with participation of the Commission on Toponymy start already 29 June 2017

7 & 18 August 2017

30th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

New York, NY

8 - 17 August 2017

11th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

New York, NY

27 August - 1 September 2017

26th ICOS Congress

Debrecen, Hungary

Organized by: ICOS and University of Debrecen

5 - 7 September 2017

4th International Conference on Onomastics Name and Naming (ICONN 4)

Baia Mare, Romania

Organized by: Centre of Onomastics, County Library

18 - 20 September 2017

2017 International Symposium on Place Names: Critical toponymy: Place names in political, historical and commercial landscapes

Windhoek, Namibia

Organized by: Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment of the University of the Free State

Conference page: <http://www.ufs.ac.za/ISPN>