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EXONYM AS AN INTERNATIONAL TERM

(C. Page)

The definition of exonym included in the Glossary of Technical Terminology (E/CONF.61/L.1/Rev.1) was: "a geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical entity situated outside the area where the language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated." The definition was not discussed exhaustively, nor was there explicit rejection of conventional name and traditional name.

The word exonym had apparently acquired limited currency as early as the appearance of the following in The Rendering of Geographical Names (Aurousseau, Hutchinson, London, 1957, page 17): "Name used in English for other parts of the world and geographical features outside England. These I shall call 'English geographical names', or for those who prefer jargon 'English exonyms'."

Among the difficulties encountered in introducing the term into use have been:

1. its unfamiliarity;
2. the lack at the outset of a generally recognized definition; and
3. the existence in virtually every language of at least one other term whose semantic range partially, but not wholly, coalesced with those suggested (or presumed) for exonym.

The following definitions represent an attempt to set forth the semantic ranges of "conventional" and "traditional", the two terms most frequently employed with or in place of exonym, and to provide for exonym a concise definition that encompasses the ranges covered by the other two terms:

exonym	exonyme	exónimo
A written form of a geographical name, <u>which is used</u> in a given country for a feature located outside that country, and which does not coincide with any official local name for the feature.		
conventional name	nom notoire (?)	nombre convencional
A written form of a geographical name, <u>which is widely and currently used</u> in a given country for a feature located outside that country, and which does not coincide with any official local name for the feature.		
traditional name	nom traditionnel	nombre tradicional
A written form of a geographical name, <u>which is long established as well as being presently in use</u> in a given country for a feature located outside that country, and which does not coincide with any official local name for the feature.		

These definitions draw particularly on the following documents of that conference:

E/CONF.61/L.1/Rev. 1	<u>A Glossary of Technical Terminology for Standardization of Geographical Names.</u>
E/CONF.61/L.24	<u>Conventional Names; Definitions; Usage.</u>
E/CONF.61/L.62	<u>Conventional Names.</u>
E/CONF.61/L.67	<u>Glossaire de la terminologie employée dans la normalisation des noms géographiques.</u>