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Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names since the Eighth Conference**

Report of Jamaica

Submitted by Jamaica**

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Report of Jamaica

Document prepared by the National Land Agency, Jamaica

NATIONAL LAND AGENCY (NLA): www.nla.gov.jm

1. The NLA is an Executive Agency established in April 2001. It is a merger of the Land Valuation Department, the Estate Management Department (formerly the Lands Department), the Office of Titles and the Survey Department. This merger has synergized the functions of these Departments to create a modern national land information system to support sustainable development. It was created under the provisions of the *Executive Agencies Act*, and is a Model B Executive Agency, which produces among other things, registered titles for land parcels and a wide range of digital map data sets of Jamaica. The National Land Agency is responsible for national mapping and the portrayal of geographical names on national maps.

APPROACH TO COMMEMORATIVE NAMES IN JAMAICA

2. Jamaica uses the names of both living and deceased persons for commemorative naming of geographical features. This is done by way of a resolution by the local government authority with responsibility for the area or locality in which the geographical feature exists.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE

3. The Place names Committee has long been inactive. Traditionally the committee is activated whenever a new map series is to be produced. Jamaica has not had a new major map series started since 1997. However, with the advent of Geographical Information Systems the National Land Agency has been providing a lot of new map products.

COMMEMORATIVE NAMES

4. The National Land Agency has recommended to the Government of Jamaica to consider adopting GEGN/23/8/2 – Commemorating naming practices for geographical features.

PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE

5. The National Land Agency has recommended to the Government of Jamaica to revamp the Place Names Committee for the official names on maps in Jamaica, in order to meet current needs.

GAZETTEER FOR JAMAICA

6. The National Land Agency has recommended to the Government of Jamaica the preparation of an up-to-date gazetteer for Jamaica, with digital access by users.