

REPORT OF AFRICA EAST DIVISION OF UNGEGN

Lunch Meeting held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, June 20, 2013

Present:

Nivo Ratovoarison,	Madagascar (Chair)
Charles Mwangi,	Kenya (Secretary)
Getachew Worku,	Ethiopia (Rapporteur)
Babo Gabalape,	Botswana
John Kitaka,	Uganda
Benoît Barakamfitye,	Burundi
Kabelo Kgari,	Botswana
Yoseph Mekasha,	UNECA
Ferjan Ormeling,	UNGEGN
Helen Kerfoot,	UNGEGN

Notes:

Participants expressed their thanks for the UNGEGN training course and their appreciation for the hospitality provided by FTM and employees in Antananarivo.

Discussion took place with regard to various difficulties faced by the Africa East Division in promoting the standardization of geographical names. The following steps towards progress were suggested:

- (1) Improve the contacts network and maintain contacts made at the various meetings;
- (2) Circulate any email/address changes to this network and to the UNGEGN Secretariat in order to stay connected;
- (3) Exchange emails and documents that relate to geographical names and their standardization;
- (4) Continue to pass on the message of the need for geographical names standardization and train/assist others back in our offices;
- (5) Urge management to revitalize national geographical names committees;
- (6) Continue to try out the GeoNyms software of UNECA (requesting assistance from Yoseph Mekasha – mekasha@uneca.org – as needed) and support any action of UNECA/RCMRD to offer further training in GeoNyms;
- (7) Nivo Ratovoarison to prepare a report of the organizational and financial steps taken in organizing the training course and submit a document for the UNGEGN session in 2014;
- (8) Promote the work of each country by contributing to the Africa East Division Report to UNGEGN (2014) and submitting milestone information from a country/division to the UNGEGN Bulletin (geoinfo_unsd@un.org);
- (9) Until an Africa East Division website can be established, the Chair can request the UNGEGN Secretariat (Sabine Warschburger, warschburger@un.org) to make available documents for the Division on the UNGEGN website.