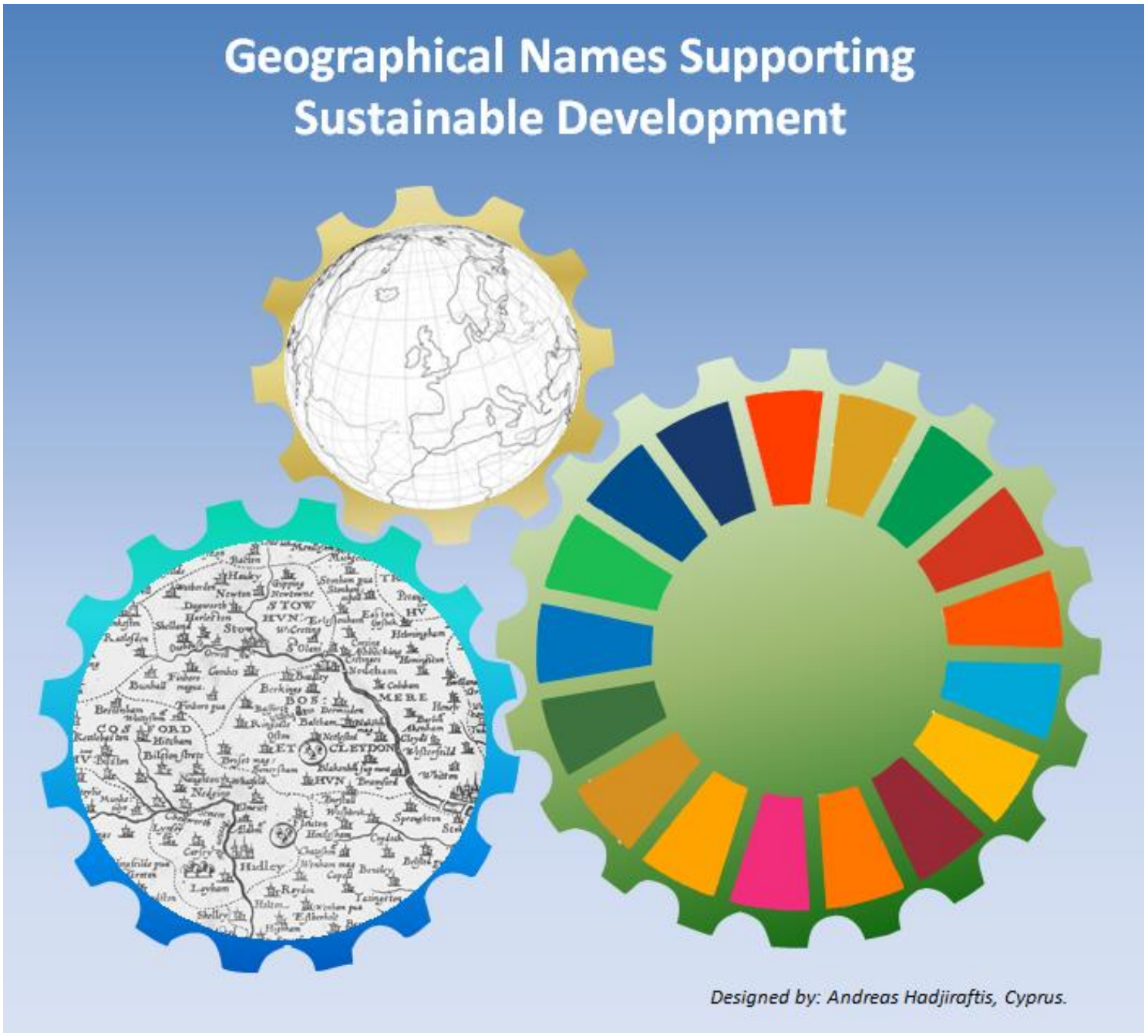
United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

INFORMATION BULLETIN

No. 54 MAY 2018



IN THIS ISSUE

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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United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Information Bulletin (ISSN 1014-798) is published by United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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 cannot believe how quickly time is passing. It is now under 12 months until our first scheduled meeting of the new UNGEGN. This has passed much faster than I expected, however, I am looking forward to seeing you all again. Please accept my apologies; due to some personal issues, my responses to UNGEGN matters were not progressed as quickly as I would wish.

As usual. I ask that you start to consider the papers that you would consider submitting. I invite you to consider papers that are covering such issues as solutions, to problems, new initiatives or simply outlining emerging issues from your perspective. As normal, remain aware that the papers should retain a technical focus and not be of a political nature.

I need to point out that there are still some steps to be completed before the next meeting, specifically the acceptance by ECOSOC of the new Draft Rules of Procedure and Draft Agenda. These documents have been the subject of much work by the bureau and working group convenors and are based on the relevant portions of the existing UNGEGN and UNCSGN rules of procedure, with some input from the UN-GGIM rules of procedure. The draft has been reviewed by the UN Office of Legal Affairs to ensure it meets current requirements. Can I ask all my colleagues to make contact with your foreign affairs departments expressing support for the ne rules of procedure so that this can go through the ECOSOC process smoothly. Thank you in anticipation.

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Bill Watt
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Message from the Secretariat

Dear UNGEGN Experts,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

We are pleased to share with you the first issue of the Bulletin for 2018, which features "Geographical Names Supporting Sustainable Development". In September 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). It requires that countries mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change while ensuring that no one is left behind. Fundamental to countries achieving these goals will be the need for quality, accessible and timely data collection efforts. As an intergovernmental expert body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it is important for UNGEGN to support this global development programme. Geographical names are "sine qua non", for location and identification and therefore are undoubtedly necessary for managing and monitoring the SDG's. Regrettably the importance of geographical names is not readily recognised and often taken for granted. This 54th issue of the Bulletin is dedicated to increasing awareness of, and knowledge on geographical names, and how it underpins data collection, monitoring and analysis in support of sustainable development.

External Authors Agreement

On behalf of the working group on publicity and funding I thank all authors who have contributed to this issue of the Bulletin. Especial thanks to Andreas Hadjiraftis of Cyprus for designing the front page, which am sure you will agree amply depicts the theme, "Geographical Names Supporting Sustainable Development".

We are kindly asking all authors to take note of additional guidelines governing the submission of articles, as per United

Nations publication guidelines. All external authors contributing articles and papers to be included in the UNGEGN Bulletin will be required to sign and submit a license agreement per article. The agreement grants permission to the United Nations to include the content in its publications; it protects you the author and the United Nations. The licence agreement will be circulated with each call for contributions to the Bulletin and authors will then be required to submit their articles with a signed and dated agreement.

Preparation of "new" UNGEGN Draft Rules of Procedure and draft Agenda

As you may be aware, at the 12th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) a decision was taken that merged the strategic and reporting functions of the UNCSGN and UNGEGN into a single meeting structure named "UNGEGN", with meetings to be held every two years over five days. This decision was approved by ECOSOC in its resolution 2018/2 (paragraphs 5 and 6), of 10 November 2017. In fulfilling the requirements of the resolution, the UNGEGN expanded Bureau led by the chair Mr. William Watt, prepared the draft Rules of Procedure (DRoP) and draft agenda in preparation for the first meeting of the "new" UNGEGN scheduled for 29 April – 3 May 2019. After over two months of intensive virtual meetings, e-mail exchanges, and a global consultation reviewing and editing both documents, they were submitted to the ECOSOC Bureau. It is hoped that the documents will be considered and adopted by ECOSOC in advance of the first meeting of the "new" UNGEGN.

Capacity Building

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the UN Statistics Division, and the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, in collaboration with the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority of the Philippines (NAMRIA) designed, coordinated and conducted the first regional training course in toponymy including marine toponymy from 19-24 March 2018, in Makati City, Manila, Philippines. The course was attended by 50 participants from six countries in the UNGEGN Asia South East Division namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam and represented a cross section of names disciplines.

The 6 day course consisted of 40 hours of lectures, exercises and group discussions and 16 hours of field work (including travel time) and covered topics such as the principles and concepts of geographical naming and the standardization of a country's toponyms, best practices in geographical names data collection including the use of GNSS receivers, place names history in South East Asia, toponyms as cultural heritage, underwater topography and sea and coastal naming, toponymic database building and the design and development of gazetteers. All material on the training will be available on the UNGEGN website at https://unstats.un.org/UNSD/geoinfo/UNGEGN/Toponymy_Training_Manila.html. The Secretariat extends a warm and heartfelt thanks to Ferjan Ormeling for this stalwart and unwavering contribution to the advancement of toponymy training globally. The training in Manila was the last course officially designed and managed by Ferjan as working group convenor.

The Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy extends thanks to Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu for recommending and enabling the transfer of toponymy training material from the website of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names of the German-speaking countries (StAGN), consisting of past UNGEGN international workshops held in Madagascar (2013), Kenya (2009), Austria (2006) and Netherlands-Germany (2002), to be uploaded to the UNGEGN working group on training webpage, which will make it a consolidated repository for toponymy training. Experts are now able to access the educational material from here https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/wg6.html which covers a variety of geographical names standardization topics.

Your comments on this issue and contribution to forthcoming bulletins are welcomed. Please circulate the bulletin among your colleagues and we hope you enjoy reading. Remember to tweet your geographical names activities **@UNSD_GEGN.**

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Geographical names supporting sustainable development

Do geographical names data play a specific role for the SDGs under a geospatial lens?

1. Introduction

The importance of geospatial data in the overall UN/DESA[1] - ECOSOC[2] work program - 2030 Agenda – leaving no one behind – and particularly for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a known and recognized topic within the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). This seems not yet to be the case within the UNGEGN community.

We know that geographical names standardization is a key element of the communication needed to enable the UN to become the world's most effective voice for international cooperation on behalf of peace, development, migration, refugee resettlement, human rights and the environment. Governments and all sectors of society's operations depend on authoritative naming of locations, for example: regional and local authorities, legal institutions, statistical bureaus, tourism authorities, public works departments, transportation companies – on air, land and sea, national security agencies, disaster management authorities, users of the internet, businesses and the public in general.

We know geographical names as a core theme in any geospatial data set. The geographical names theme has a direct relationship with all other data layers (perhaps with the exception of imagery) that constitute fundamental themes. However, its value is often not well recognized, probably because the accuracy and validity of geographical names are easily taken for granted, being frequently used in daily conversation when referring to where an event occurred or a destination is searched. It is therefore desirable that geographical names receive heightened recognition as a common and standardized reference framework essential for all fundamental geospatial data theme layers, used in the same way throughout the global community and contributing to national development by improving the exchange of information.

The need for a set of fundamental geospatial data themes to underpin and support geospatial information – and thereby the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring – has been acknowledged and reiterated by UN-GGIM since 2014. Indeed, work to identify these themes has taken place in all regions of the world, and UN-GGIM directed that this widespread activity should form the base of the current task [1].

Within the Millennium Development Goals Report it was highlighted that 'Knowing where people and things are and their relationship to each other is essential for informed decision-making' [2]. The SDGs are even more wide-ranging, and most, if not all, will require geospatial information to support policy decision-making, implementation of actions, and measuring and monitoring.

In 2015 the Statistical Commission created the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), composed of Member States including regional and international agencies as observers. The IAEG-SDGs was tasked to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. To meet the ambitions and demands of the 2030 Agenda, it is necessary for the global indicator framework to adequately and systematically address the issue of (authoritative and alternative) data sources and methodologies, including geospatial information and Earth observations in the context of geographic location. The Statistical Commission noted in March 2016 that the integration of statistical data and geospatial information will be the key for the production of a number of indicators [3]. As a means to address these issues, and to address specific areas relevant to SDG indicator implementation, the IAEG-SDGs set up the Working Group on Geospatial Information.

According to UN Resolution VIII/6 of the 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 2002 geographical names data has to be integrated into national, regional and international spatial data infrastructures (SDIs).

[1] UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs - DESA

[2] Economic and Social Council -ECOSOC

SDIs shall constitute the centrepiece and main geospatial data and services' platform to be used for monitoring the SDG indicator framework under the geospatial lens as well.

But do geographical names data play a specific role here?

2. Examples for the relevance of geographical names data in the SDG indicator monitoring

To facilitate the implementation of the global SDG indicator framework, all indicators are classified by the IAEG-SDGs into three tiers on the basis of their level of methodological development and the availability of data at the global level, as follows [4]:

- Tier 1: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data (including geospatial data) are regularly produced by countries […].
- Tier 2: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data (including geospatial data) are not regularly produced by countries.
- Tier 3: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

The Working Group on Geospatial Information established by the IAEG SDGs published a list of SDG indicators which shall be analyzed under a "geospatial lens" [5].

Two examples for SDG indicators of this list with a direct contribution of geospatial data are described within its goal and targets:

[UNGEGN supports the SDGs]

Goal 6:
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Targets:
6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
[…]
6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
One proposed indicator is 6.6.1: „Percentage of change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time".

This indicator 6.6.1 is categorized under Tier 1, meaning that internationally established methodology or standards are available for the indicator as well as (global, regional and national) data to calculate the indicator.

It is obvious that this indicator needs geospatial data for its calculation. The identification of catchment areas, lakes, rivers, basins, and water bodies, transboundary water resources and the proximity to urban settlements is needed. Data with standardized geographical names is an essential part of the unambiguous identification in order to analyze and monitor the changes in the regions.

[UNGEGN supports the SDGs]

Goal 11:
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Targets:
11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
[…]
11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
One proposed indicator is 11.7.1: Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

This indicator 11.7.1 is categorized under Tier 3, meaning that internationally established methodology or standards are not yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

The scope of the indicator is a bit ambiguous. There are two different types of objects to measure (according to the name of the indicator): the open space on one hand and the people that has access to the open space on the other hand. The current methodology does not address people as an object; hence, it does not permit disaggregation of accessibility by sex, age and persons with disabilities.

This indicator is an example for social issues which have to be addressed and monitored as well. Apart from the importance of standardized geographical names for the identification of the features 'open spaces', the cultural aspects and the language issues related to geographical names become crucial here.

3. Opportunities for UNGEGN to contribute to the SDG indicator discussions and monitoring

The question is now: how can UNGEGN contribute to the discussions related to the SDG indicator framework and its national, regional and international SDG monitoring?

Unfortunately, there is not one "recipe" which can be considered the best. However, UNGEGN can be involved in the discussions through different channels.

3.1. Contributions to the UN-GGIM Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes

The establishment of a Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes was requested by the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts at its Fifth Session in August 2015 as per decision 5/103 Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes. The Working Group has prepared a minimum list of global fundamental geospatial data themes and each data theme is supported by a description and short guidelines. The UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management adopted the minimum list of global fundamental geospatial data themes in August 2017. The prioritisation of the data themes and how they link to other data needs within the UN-GGIM programme of work, e.g. for the SDG monitoring, will be considered.

Common work items have been identified between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM in 2017: fundamental data themes and geographical names databases [6]. Two experts from UNGEGN are active members in this Working Group on global fundamental geospatial data themes since May 2017 and have consulted the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of UNGEGN as well as the UNGEGN (extended) Bureau for contributions to the UN-GGIM Working Group since then.

3.2. Contributions to the Online Discussion Forum of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of UNGEGN as one platform to discuss issues and contributions

At the 11th Conference on the Standardization on Geographical Names in August 2017 in New York a panel discussion was arranged in order to stimulate and start discussions and elaborations on the geographical names related issues concerning the SDGs. The panel discussed what the current involvement of naming institutions is, with regards to UN-GGIM activities and particularly on the national SDG monitoring. It was identified that most naming experts aren't aware of the international tasks related to the SDGs nor yet of

Figure - Screenshot of Forum 5 on the SDG issues, https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Forum+5+-+Support+of+UNGEGN+to+the+Sustainable+Development+Goals+%28SDG%29+indicator+framework

the national SDG monitoring framework. Furthermore, there hasn't been yet any coordination effort, explicitly requesting the use of geographical names data/gazetteers in the countries.

In Germany, the discussion has been started to identify the SDG indicators with a geospatial dimension for the national monitoring, but the geographical names data has not yet been explicitly mentioned and no additional requirements have not yet been set.

As an outcome of the panel discussion the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of UNGEGN has established an Online Discussion Forum on the SDG and 2030 Agenda issues related to geographical names. By that the Working Group is facilitating one platform for UNGEGN experts to commence investigations and discussions on the following questions [7]:

- How do geographical names data and gazetteers fit within the big picture of the SDGs? Are the issues related to production or accessibility?
- Is toponymic information like language, status of a name/language, etc. needed for all SDG indicators where geospatial data is needed?
- What is UNGEGN's contribution to this overall UN/DESA - ECOSOC work program - 2030 Agenda – leaving no one behind?

Conclusion

It is most probably that the next UNGEGN Plenary meeting from 29 April to 3 May 2019 will have to address the issue whether geographical names data play a specific role in the SDG monitoring. The contributions to the UN-GGIM Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Theme will be and is one opportunity for UNGEGN experts to provide input through the nominated experts. The involvement of naming experts within the national SDG activities should be another opportunity given that the coordination bodies recognize the geographical names' topic as worth to be considered.

The Online Discussion Forum is undoubtedly not the only way to gain knowledge and experiences on the SDG indicator discussions and the monitoring, but it provides a platform for UNGEGN experts to contribute, ask questions and receive answers. It can be a first step towards a common understanding of the geographical names related issues concerning the SDGs.

The exchange of ideas through the forum could also become the starting point for SDG-related issues to be considered for the preparations of the next UNGEGN Plenary meeting in April 2019.

So, please, give it a try, ask for your log-in details and be active! I look forward to seeing activity in the Online Discussion Forum.

References

[1] UN-GGIM Fundamental Data Themes Description as a minimum list including geographical names as a theme: E-C20-2017-5 Fundamental Data Themes Report-1, http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM7/E-C20-2017-5%20Fundamental%20Data%20Themes%20Report.pdf

[2] The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/mdg/the-millennium-development-goals-report-2015.html, http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20%28July%201%29.pdf

[3] Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to the 47th Session of the Statistical Commission, March 2016: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf

[4] IAEG-SDGs Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/

[5] Working Group on Geospatial Information established by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators emphasizing which SDGs have to be analysed under a "geospatial lens": http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM7/E-C20-2017-11%20Geospatial%20Information%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20Report.pdf

[6] Report UNGEGN to UN-GGIM-7, August 2017, Strengthening collaboration with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names – E/C.20/2017/17, http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/7th-Session/documents/E_C.20_2017_17-1708227E.pdf

[7] Online Discussion Forum of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of UNGEGN to be utilized to commence investigations on geographical names related issues related to SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Forum+5+-+Support+of+UNGEGN+to+the+Sustainable+Development+Goals+%28SDG%29+indicator+framework

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The role of Geographical Names toward global Sustainable Development Goals

Global sustainable development challenges are closely interrelated with geography. In September 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda is anchored by 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets, and a global indicator framework to measure and monitor progress. Geospatial information is acknowledged to be an essential element required for achieving the SDGs. Geospatial information shows where social, economic and environmental conditions occur, and helps to inform national and international decision-making on SDGs dealing with air, climate, water, wildlife and habitat.

In a key initiative to define requirements to support evidence-based decision-making towards achieving the SDGs, the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management has identified several fundamental geospatial data themes. Geographical names are considered to be part of this core set of geospatial data, and by extension important to respond to the SDGs. Official names function as a fundamental and crosscutting geospatial data set, and are a common reference for broader searches for geospatial data and information. They are the most useful and easiest to understand data theme, widely recognized by a broad audience, including policy makers, decision makers, media, and the general public.

Geographical names that are authoritative, standardized, current and interoperable are the most relevant and useful in contributing to the SDGs. In Canada, the use of a standardized national database is encouraged through an Open Data license and formats that facilitate integration with other fundamental data layers for analysis. Adopting and applying international technical standards to geospatial data brings uniformity, compatibility and interoperability to datasets, and will play an important role in responding to, measuring and monitoring global efforts toward the achievement of the SDGs.

Canada's national coordinating body for naming, the Geographical Names Board of Canada, has a particular interest in identifying traditional Indigenous place names. Indigenous toponyms are a valuable source of environmental information, and enhance the understanding of ecosystems. Indigenous toponyms are highly descriptive, and recount stories of the land that embody specific and detailed information about natural regulatory processes, relationships with natural resources, conservation and harvesting methods, as well as periodic changes such as seasons and adaptation processes. This sophisticated traditional knowledge is tied to the natural cycles and rhythms of change on Earth, and is the result of millennia of practice, observation and constant innovation. The figure below provides some examples of Indigenous toponymy on Victoria Island, Northwest Territories, Canada.

The use of geospatial data, including standardized geographical names, is an important component to inform decision-making in support of sustainable development, and for achieving the global SDGs. Traditional Indigenous place names provide further detailed environmental knowledge and insight, and contribute to our understanding of geography.

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Le rôle des noms géographiques dans l'atteinte des objectifs de développement durable

Les défis mondiaux du développement durable sont étroitement liés à la géographie. En septembre 2015, les États membres de l'ONU ont adopté le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. Le Programme 2030 repose sur 17 objectifs de développement durable (ODD), 169 cibles et un cadre d'indicateurs mondiaux pour mesurer et suivre les progrès. L'information géospatiale est reconnue comme un élément essentiel à la réalisation des ODD. Elle montre l'emplacement des conditions sociales, économiques et environnementales et aide à informer la prise de décision nationale et internationale pour les ODD traitant de l'air, du climat, de l'eau, de la faune et de l'habitat.

Dans le cadre d'une initiative importante visant à définir les besoins à satisfaire pour appuyer la prise de décision fondée sur des données probantes en vue de la réalisation des ODD, le Comité d'experts sur la gestion de l'information géospatiale mondiale a identifié plusieurs thèmes fondamentaux liés aux données géospatiales. Les noms géographiques, aussi appellés toponymes, sont considérés comme faisant partie de cet ensemble de données géospatiales de base et, par extension, sont importants pour atteindre les ODD. Les noms officiels fonctionnent comme un ensemble de données géospatiales fondamentales et transversales et constituent une référence commune pour des recherches de données et d'informations géospatiales plus étendues. Ils sont le thème de données le plus utile et le plus facile à comprendre, largement reconnu par un large public, y compris les responsables des politiques, les décideurs, les médias et le grand public.

Les toponymes qui font autorité et qui sont normalisés, actuels et interopérables sont les plus pertinents et les plus utiles pour contribuer aux ODD. Au Canada, l'utilisation d'une base de données nationale normalisée est encouragée au moyen d'une licence de données ouvertes et de formats facilitant l'intégration avec d'autres couches de données fondamentales pour l'analyse. L'adoption et l'application de normes techniques internationales aux données géospatiales apportent uniformité, la compatibilité et l'interopérabilité aux ensembles de données, et jouera un rôle important dans la réponse, la mesure et le suivi des efforts mondiaux vers la réalisation des ODD.

L'organisme national de coordination de la dénomination géographique au Canada, la Commission de toponymie du Canada, s'intéresse particulièrement à l'identification des noms de lieux autochtones traditionnels. Les toponymes autochtones sont une source précieuse d'information sur l'environnement et améliorent la compréhension des écosystèmes. Les toponymes autochtones sont hautement descriptifs et racontent des histoires de terres qui contiennent des informations spécifiques et détaillées sur les processus réglementaires naturels, les relations avec les ressources naturelles, les méthodes et approches de conservation et de récolte, ainsi que les changements périodiques comme les saisons et les processus d'adaptation. Cette connaissance traditionnelle sophistiquée est liée aux cycles naturels et aux rythmes de changement sur Terre, et est le résultat de millénaires de pratique, d'observation et d'innovation constante.

L'utilisation de données géospatiales, y compris les noms géographiques normalisés, est un élément important du développement durable et de la réalisation des ODD mondiaux. Les noms de lieux autochtones traditionnels fournissent d'autres savoirs et connaissances environnementales et contribuent à améliorer la prise de décision et notre compréhension de la géographie.

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Geographical Names Supporting Sustainable Development in Cyprus

1. Introduction

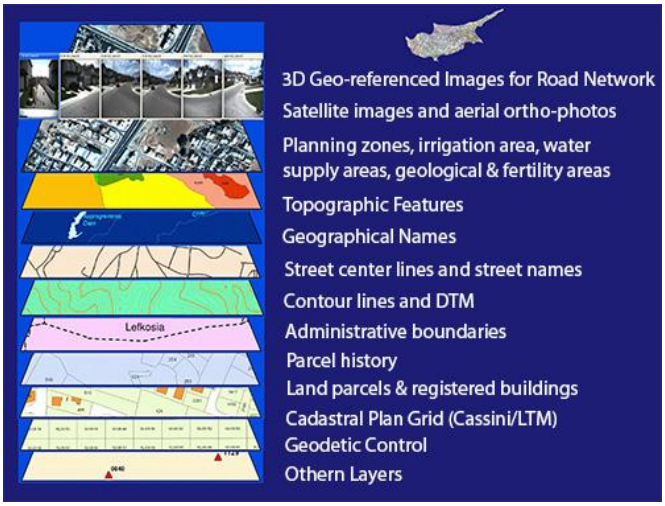
The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) was officially established by the decision of the Council of Ministers no.15.769 of 21.4.1979 and constitutes the only competent National Authority for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus.

2. Geographical Names of Cyprus

All geographical names and toponyms of Cyprus are included in a "Complete Gazetteer". These names were derived from the official large scale cadastral map series and property registers of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus was digitized, and is currently available on CPCSGN's website at:

http://www.geonoma.gov.cy/myfiles/ekdoseis/cygazetteer/index.html.

All spatial features, including all geographical names, have been digitized and they were categorized and stored in the digital relational databases and the GIS sub-systems of the Integrated Land Information System of Cyprus.



Integrated Land Information System of Cyprus – Basic Layers

All geographical names and toponyms are also included in a distributed European database named EuroGeonames through EuroGeographics, and they are available online at:

http://ec2-50-19-212-160.compute-1.amazonaws.com/EGNol/

3. Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names

A new edition was recently prepared by the CPCSGN entitled: "Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names of Cyprus". The gazetteer was presented and submitted to the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names that took place in New York, in August 2017. This Gazetteer is available at:

http://www.geonoma.gov.cy/myfiles/ekdoseis/thalassia-toponymia/index.html

The sea names were extracted from the Hydrographic Database of the Integrated Land Information System of Cyprus. They are also accessible as e-services through Cyprus Geoportal. The collection and processing methodology is fully described in the edition.

Sea Geographical Names of Cyprus

4. Odonyms

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

A complete catalogue of odonyms is maintained by the Department of Postal Services at:

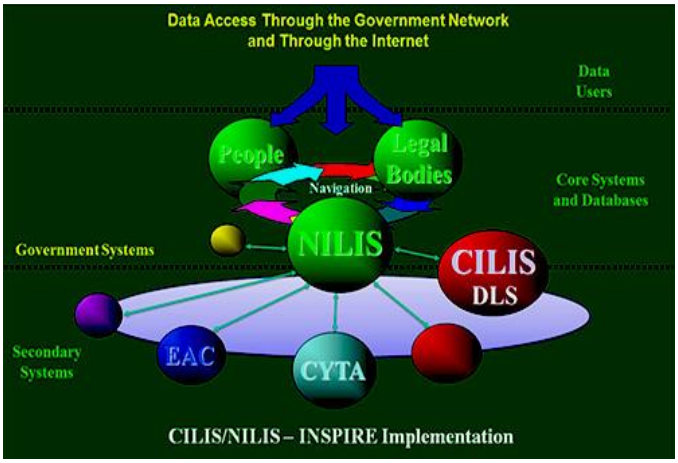
http://www.mcw.gov.cy/mcw/dps/dps.nsf/All/A5F60C0E7BE1DC60C22581D7003EA9B8?OpenDocument

In addition, the Department of Lands and Surveys maintains street names in separate layers, as a part of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) of the National Integrated Land Information System (NILIS), thus making them available for several uses, through geospatial databases and web e-services. A variety of standard and ad-hoc maps are produced through this system. Geographical names are extremely important, and they are always included in mapping products and applications.

Importance of Using Geographical Names

5. Geographical Names in Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)

All geographical names and toponyms are included in the geoportal of Cyprus at: www.geoportal.gov.cy. Geographical names and other geo-spatial information are accessible on-line for searching, viewing, transformation, downloading, printing, and direct accessing via GIS.



Spatial Data Access through the National IntegratedLand Information System (NILIS) and INSPIRE e-services

6. Geographical Names Support the Sustainable Development in Cyprus

Geographical names constitute a very important element of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Cyprus. They are directly accessible through geospatial databases, web e-services and applications. They play a very significant role, and they support the sustainable development of Cyprus. Government departments, academic institutions, private companies, and citizens access and use this information, along with many other available spatial and non-spatial data in their daily activities. There are many use cases that can be mentioned as examples. Some of these examples are listed below:

- Direct use by the Cyprus Tourism Organization within their web applications, maps and other hardcopy publications.
- Everyday use by the Postal Services Department for the direct identification of delivery locations.
- Direct use by the Department of Housing and Planning during all phases of the design and publication of planning zones for all communities and municipalities of Cyprus.
- Use by Civil Defense Service of Cyprus in all District Offices.
- Use by Cyprus Police in their daily activities.
- Use by the Ministry of Defense in their work procedures.
- Use by the Ministry of Education for administrative purposes and in Elementary and High Schools for educational purposes.
- Use by universities in studies and academic programs.
- Use by the Department of Antiquities for direct reference and identification of ancient monuments, e.g. UNESCO sites.
- Extensive use in on-line applications by citizens, within search criteria, for locating property.
- Etc.

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The power of where – geographic names supporting sustainable development

Sustainable development ensures that resources are safeguarded for future generations through planning and management. Almost all of the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals will require authoritative and reliable geospatial data to support policy decision-making, implement actions, and measure and monitor the goals.

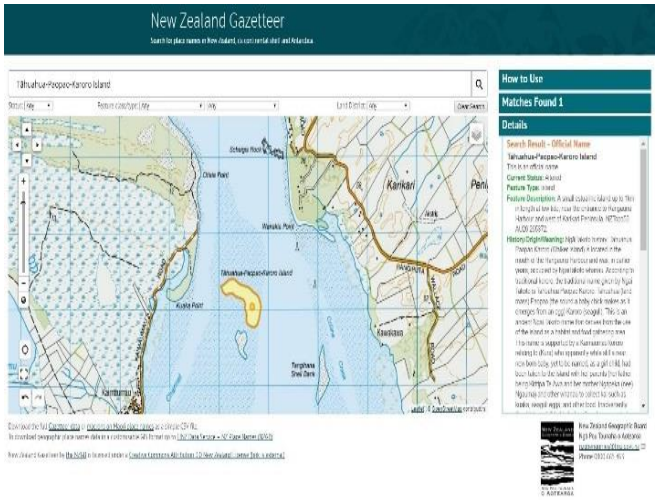
Geographic names are a core theme in any geospatial dataset, and are a fundamental part of New Zealand's spatial data infrastructure. They provide context and a framework to support the administration, management, governance and critical analysis of the environment and its resources. The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) makes official geographic names and other spatial information available in the New Zealand Gazetteer, which is accessible online for searching and viewing, and provides users with full and free download options of the data either as a csv file or through the LINZ[3] Data Service.

By actively officially naming geographic features within its jurisdiction, and providing high quality, accessible, timely, consistent and reliable data, the NZGB contributes to managing places for scientific research, exploration and environmental management. The NZGB's naming role in Antarctica also provides a consistent reference for Antarctic science, and guards against over-naming a pristine environment.

Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa: the memorial markers of the landscape

By looking to the past we can better prepare for the future. Names in the landscape are like survey pegs of memory so that the lessons of history are always present and available. Ancestral Māori lived in very close harmony with the natural world, especially the land and its resources. Many of New Zealand's Māori geographic names describe not only the physical aspects of a feature, but provide information about the natural and cultural conditions at the time it was coined.[4]

Tāhuahua-Paopao-Karoro Island (Tahuahua: land mass, Paopao: the sound a baby chick makes as it emerges from an egg, Karoro: seagull) is an ancient Māori name that has been restored. The name derives from the use of the island as a habitat and food gathering area. Although the name refers to the abundant availability of seagull eggs on the island, it also references its former inhabitants' abandonment. After suffering a calamitous storm that stripped the island of vegetation and fertile soils, an accompanying sea surge removed possibly more than nine-tenths of its land mass. Today we see only a small portion of what once was the island, now abandoned by its inhabitants, leaving only a habitat for the migratory godwits and seagulls to lay their eggs in abundance.[5]



The meanings and messages behind geographic names like Tāhuahua-Paopao-Karoro Island will become increasingly significant as global warming and other environmental changes make many of them obsolete. Geographic names not only describe the land physically, they can unlock its resources, provide practical information, and help future communities to adapt to their changing environments.[6]

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[3] Land Information New Zealand
[4] Wilson, J. (ed.) (1990), *He Kōrero Pūrākau mo Ngā Taunahanahatanga a Ngā Tūpuna. Place names of the ancestors: A Māori Oral history Atlas*. Wellington, Government Printing Office.

[5] New Zealand Gazetteer: Tāhuahua-Paopao-Karoro Island
[6] Kintisch, Eli. (2015). "The Science Hidden in Your Town Name: How place names encode ecological change". *Identity*, no. 30.

Man was, is and will be part of nature

"When the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught, the last river poisoned, only then will we realize that one cannot eat money." Indian proverb

The existence of mankind in all epochs of its presence on Earth has been closely related to nature. Nevertheless, man pollutes and destroys land, oceans and atmosphere. The accelerated pace of human development needs to be corrected with respect to the environment in such way that we can keep this planet habitable for future generations. This kind of approach is called sustainable development.

State-controlled nature protection in Slovakia began in the post-war period. In 1948, the first national park -TANAP- Tatranský národný park was declared. Since then the nature protection has developed and it's been carefully treated by national and international laws and regulations. The state of environment has been monitored, for example, the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute monitors the air quality in selected parts of the country.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is one of the major international conventions on nature protection. It provides protection and rational use of wetlands and protection of aquatic birds. At the same time, it is the only convention protecting a certain type of habitat. Slovakia acceded to the Ramsar Convention on July 2, 1990. There are 14 wetlands registered in the list belonging to Slovakia, such as Parížske močiare, Mokrade Turca, Mokrade Oravskej kotliny, Dunajské luhy, etc.

Another important convention is the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention), adopted in May 2003 in Kiev. The Carpathian Convention was signed by all seven countries of the Carpathian region. Its aim is to improve the quality of life, strengthen local economies and protect natural values and cultural heritage.

The most comprehensive set of global priorities for achieving sustainable development is a document named Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, which follows 17 goals. These goals regulate the political, economic and social transformation of the countries in response to the threats mankind faces today. The Agenda 2030 is not legally binding. It represents an intention of countries to lead their development towards sustainability.

Protected areas and levels of protection in Slovakia

All types of protected areas have standardized geographical names approved by the Commission for Geographical Names of the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Culture.

Sets of standardized names of protected area types in Slovakia:

- Names of Areas of European Importance
- Names of Protected Bird Areas
- Names of Protected Landscape Areas
- Names of National Parks
- Names of National Nature Reserves
- Names of National Nature Monuments

- Names of Nature Reserves
- Names of Nature Monuments
- Names of Protected Landscape Elements
- Names of Protected Sites
- Names of Protected Trees
- Names of Caves and Abysses

Národné parky na Slovensku (National parks in Slovakia)			
Štandardizovaný názov národného parku (NP) (skratka)	**Rozhodnutie o štandardizácii názvu NP**	**Predchádzajúci štandardizovaný názov NP**	**Spôsob vyhlásenia NP**
Národný park Malá Fatra	P-5255/2004 z 23. 12. 2004	Malá Fatra	Nariadenie vlády SSR č. 24/1988 Z. z
Národný park Muránska planina	P-5255/2004 z 23. 12. 2004	Muránska planina	Nariadenie vlády SR č. 259/1997 Z. z.
Národný park Nízke Tatry (NAPANT)	P-189/1984 zo 4. 7. 1984		Nariadenie vlády SR č. 182/1997 Z. z.
Národný park Poloniny	P-5255/2004 z 23. 12. 2004		Nariadenie vlády SR č. 258/1997 Z. z.
Národný park Slovenský kras	P-5255/2004 z 23. 12. 2004	Slovenský kras	Nariadenie vlády SR č. 101/2002 Z. z.
Národný park Slovenský raj	P-5255/2004 z 23. 12. 2004	Slovenský raj	Nariadenie vlády SSR č. 23/1988 Z. z
Národný park Veľká Fatra	P-5255/2004 z 23. 12. 2004	Veľká Fatra	Nariadenie vlády SR č. 140/2002 Z. z.
Pieninský národný park (PIENAP)	P-189/1984 zo 4. 7. 1984		Nariadenie vlády SR č. 47/1997 Z. z.
Tatranský národný park (TANAP)	P-189/1984 zo 4. 7. 1984		Nariadenie vlády SR č. 58/2003 Z. z.

Act no. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection provides 5 levels of nature and landscape protection. The highest level of protection is the 5th level. Depending on the level of protection, it is determined which activities are limited or banned in given locations.

1st level

It is a "free landscape" - the whole territory of Slovakia except protected areas and their protection zones.

2nd level

This level includes protected landscape areas, protection zones of national parks and protection zones of some protected trees.

3rd level

To this group we include national parks, protection zones of nature reserves, protection zones of nature monuments and protection zones of protected sites.

4th level

Protected sites, protection zones of nature reserves, nature reserves, protection zones of national nature reserves, protection zones of nature monuments, nature monuments, protection zones of national nature monuments and national nature monuments are included in this group.

5th level

To the highest level of protection we include nature reserves, national nature reserves, nature monuments, national nature monuments and caves.

Each country should deal with the nature protection and control it. This topic concerns all inhabitants of the Earth and future generations as well.

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FROM THE DIVISIONS

Arabic Division

A training course on Geographical Names was held at the Headquarter of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names (ADEGN)

A course on Geographical Names which was held during the period 25-29/3/2018 was concluded in the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names in Jordan-Amman, in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC), with the attendance of 15 trainees from Arab countries: Qatar, Oman, Algeria, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Jordan.

This course was organized by the presidency of the ADEGN within its activities in disseminating knowledge about the importance of geographical names, providing the required scientific and practical skills for those who work in the field of geographical names in Arab countries, and keep them informed with the updates on both Arab and International levels.

The course covered several topics such as: geographical names and their importance, Arabic language basics in relation to geographical names, collecting names both in office and in the field, rules for representing landmarks on maps, representing geographical names on digital maps, Jordan's experience in the field of geographical names, gazetteers and public names in compound geographical names, origins and significance of the names of ancient sites, in registering cultural sites on the global heritage list, and the Standardized Arab System of Romanization which was adopted at the 11th Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in addition to practical exercises.

His Excellency, Dr. Eng. Awni Kasawneh, Chairman of ADEGN, pointed out that this training course represents the partnership with Arab societies and its working agencies to educate Man and deepen the spirit of participation, inviting all participants to benefit from all topics of this course and apply it in their national institutions to become more productive in their field of work.

His Excellency, Chairman of ADEGN, pointed out that Jordan gives great importance in preserving geographical names as a

basic civilized and cultural heritage, mentioning that ADEGN is looking forward to extend its cooperation with all Arab experts and execute the recommendations of its conferences - especially those related with standardizing writing names according to the Standardized Arab System of Romanization which was adopted at the 11th Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names of UNGEGN 2017, as well as holding training courses for all concerned people, in particular those working in municipalities, naming and numbering, encouraging related researches and studies in this important field.

Chairman of ADEGN, assured on the readiness of ADEGN to provide Arab trainees with needed skills to go forward in their practical life, praising the outstanding role of RJGC in providing public and private sectors as well as individuals with training programs in the field of surveying sciences, geospatial information system and remote sensing to support the local and Arab markets with qualified and trained manpower to meet the shortage in these fields.

The trainees participating in the course, expressed their gratitude to RJGC and the Chairman of ADEGN for providing them with scientific and practical capabilities that participated in improving their skills in their field of work and pushed them towards excellence and success in their carriers.

At the end of the course, Chairman of ADEGN, Dr. Eng. Awni Kasawneh delivered certificates for graduates.

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News from the Portuguese-speaking Division

The UNGEGN & IBGE International Course on Toponymy was organized by the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses on Toponymy, the UNGEGN Secretariat and by the Reference Center on Geographical Names of the IBGE (CRNG), the course was held in Rio de Janeiro, in the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) premises, from 15 – 19 May 2017. The 32 participants were representatives of 7 Member-Countries of the UNGEGN Portuguese-speaking and Latin American Divisions, as follows: Portuguese-speaking Division: Angola, Brazil, Mozambique, São Tomé e Príncipe and Portugal Latin American Division: Argentina and Uruguay The instructors of the course were Ferjan Ormeling, Helen Kerfoot and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu for the UNGEGN and Ana Cristina Resende, Beatriz Souza Pinto, Vania de Oliveira Nagem, Américo Ferreira, Jurandir Constantino and José Carlos Corrêa for the IBGE. Miriam Barbuda, the coordinator of Territorial Structures of the Directorate of Geosciences of the IBGE delivered a one-hour lecture on the standardization of statistical areas names and Paulo Menezes, Chair of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, lectured on the place name history of the State of Rio de Janeiro. The President of the IBGE, Paulo Rabello de Castro, opened the course, together with Cecille Blake, UNSD/UNGEGN Secretary; Helen Kerfoot; Wadih Scandar Neto, Director of Geosciences of the IBGE; and Moema Augusto, Vice-Chair of the Portuguese-speaking Division.

The atmosphere throughout the course was a very joyful one, as both participants and instructors seemed to work and learn with pleasure and great interest.

The course dealt with naming principles and terminology, geographical names as cultural heritage, National Agencies and the function of geographical names bureaus, the management of a national names program. It also provided practical experience on the standardization of geographical names in all its steps: preparation in the office for the field collection of geographical names, field collection of names, office processing of names and submission of names to the National Authority. The dissemination of standardized names involved a hands-on experience on database creation, gazetteers, labelled maps, names servers and atlas databases.

The quality of the course content and structure were considered high by the participants, who pointed out among the highlights of the course the knowledge and experience of the lecturers, the field work - carried out in a beautiful region on the seaside of the State of Rio de Janeiro -, database creation and the management of national names programs.

Also, the sharing of experiences provided by the international mix of participants was highly valued, especially because the course intended a reactivation of the activities of the Portuguese-speaking Division (DPLP) and a closer contact among the Country-Members of The Latin American Division (DAL).

It is worth noticing that the course is part of the IBGE's plans to establish a training center for the DPLP and DAL.

In this context, the course reached its goals of providing the IBGE with a successful course model, of training IBGE instructors and staff and staff from other Brazilian institutions and, most especially, of establishing contacts and partnerships within the DPLP and the DAL.

As an important outcome of the course, at the moment, the International Seminar on the Standardization of Geographical Names is being prepared. Entirely supported by the IBGE and

organized by the IBGE's Reference Center on Geographical Names, it will be held from 4-12 June 2018, in Rio de Janeiro, in the IBGE premises, with the participation of 4 members of the staff of the Institute of Geographical Names of Mozambique (INGEMO). The Seminar will consist of a 40-hour training course on standardization of toponyms - which will be attended by the IBGE staff and members of other Brazilian institutions and of the INGEMO - and of two 8-hour workshops. The workshops, on database creation and organization of field research trips, are especially designed for the INGEMO and will be attended exclusively by the staff members of this institute. At this point, with only the IBGE and the INGEMO staff working together, it is expected that the exchange of experiences will be more intense.

The 40-hour course follows the model of the UNGEGN & IBGE International Course, however not completely, because it is more focused on the activities of the process of standardization itself. This means more hands-on activities on office preparation for field research and office processing of names, with more technology incorporated to the exercises and field collection of names. It is expected that 30 people will be trained.

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Norden Division

The Norden Division held its annual meeting in New York on 8 August 2017, in conjunction with the 11th UNCSGN Conference and 30th UNGEGN Session 7 - 18 August 2017. The meeting took place at the United Nations Headquarters with participation from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. In this connection, the Norden Division formally elected its new Chair, Ingvil Nordland of the Norwegian Language Council and its new Vice-Chair, Peder Gammeltoft, now of the University of Bergen, Norway.

The next Norden Division Meeting will be a joint division meeting between this division and the Dutch and German Speaking Division. The joint meeting will take place on 11 October as part of the Divisions and Working Groups Meeting 10-13 October in Brussels – announced elsewhere in this Bulletin.

All interested persons are invited to participate in the joint division meeting in October.

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FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

Report on the NAMRIA-UNGEGN 1st Regional Training Program in Toponymy including Marine Toponymy

From 19-24 March 2018, the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority of the Philippines (NAMRIA), and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy organized the first international training course in toponymy that included marine toponymy, at the Dusit Thani hotel in Makati City, Metro Manila. This course was enabled by financial support from UNSD, which made possible the participation of 7 overseas students and 4 lecturers. There were 52 participants overall, 24 of which came from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. The team of lecturers came from Canada, Germany, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands and the Philippines.

In 2016 NAMRIA had first applied to UNGEGN for a toponymy course to be organized in the Philippines, which then chaired the UNGEGN Asia Southeast Division. The acceptance of the request was not possible in 2017 as the UNSD had agreed to support a toponomy course in Brazil for the Portuguese Speaking Division and other countries in South America in May 2017. The request for training support was repeated at the August 2017 UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, and was accepted by the conference to be held in 2018, which allowed extra time for its organization. The local organization was assigned by NAMRIA administrator Peter Tiangco and Mapping and Geodesy Branch director Ruel Belen to Mary Jane Montemor (MJ) and her team. They identified and procured the training room at the Dusit Thani hotel, organized the transportation and accommodation logistics for the foreign participants, arranged the equipment in the training room (amplifiers, additional screens, projectors, photocopier etc.), meals, and also organized all aspects of the fieldwork.

The UNGEGN secretariat in collaboration with NAMRIA and the Working Group prepared a resource guide to the Philippines, in advance of course start, to assist participants to prepare for travel and what to expect, both from the course and the environment.

The course was opened Monday 19 March by NAMRIA administrator Peter Tiangco, Cecille Blake on behalf of UNSD and honorary UNGEGN chair Helen Kerfoot. Lectures were held from 9:00-12:00 and 14:00-18:00 each day, and the participants were taken through the processes of names collecting, processing, standardizing and distributing geographical names.

Special local linguistic and onomastic aspects were covered/addressed, with lectures from Meliton Juanico of the University of the Philippines, Earvin Pelagio of the Commission on the Filipino language and Mary Jane Montemor, who described the current naming policies in the Philippines; that are overseen by the National Historic Commission, which published guidelines on naming and renaming streets. A new gazetteer is in production, based on the 1:50 000 map series of the country. Conversion of the toponyms to Tagalog is being considered as well. Mia Lauder gave an overview of place name history in a wider temporal southeast Asian context.

During the course, representatives of the participating countries also described the current naming policies in their own country. Contacts between the participants were further strengthened during the cocktail party which was held on Monday evening.

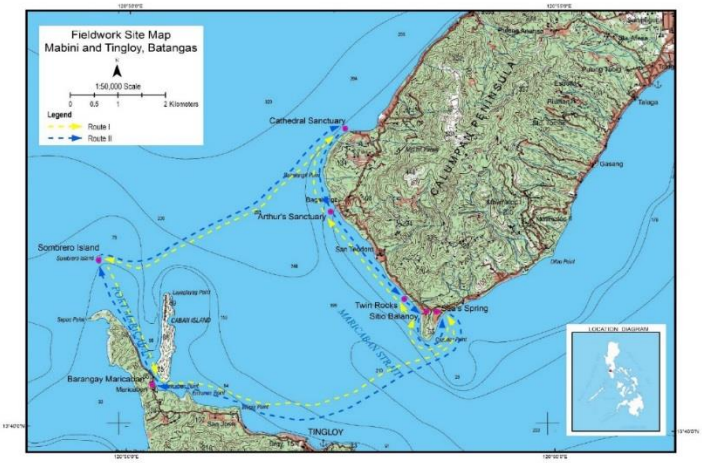

Figure 1: Marine fieldwork area

The intricacies of fieldwork and interview techniques were discussed as well as the operation of GNSS receivers by Hennessey Marohom and Mary Jane Montemor. The fieldwork area was described by Dennis Escalona, who indicated that Batangas province in which the Mabini peninsula (named after one of the heroes of Philippine history) fieldwork area was located, formed the core of the 8 provinces that started the struggle for independence. The fieldwork took place on Wednesday, 21 March, and started at 5.30 when a fleet of minivans left Manila for the Mabini peninsula, where the participants embarked to sail to a number of fishing villages on this peninsula and the opposite island of Maricaban where local informants were available to answer the enquiries (see figure 1). Officials of the local marine sanctuaries (the area is famous for its scuba diving opportunities) were also available, to inform us about the names of undersea features. Highlight was the visit to Sombrero Island, a perfect example of idiosyncratic naming procedures (see figure 2).

Figure 2: Sombrero Island

Because of time constraints, a number of informants were requested to be interviewed aboard, and the accompanying coast guard vessels helped us to realize that, which resulted in our first waterborne interview of toponymic informants (see figure 3). Another first, was that next to GNSS receivers, we for the first time also disposed of drones, that could be used to assess the extent of named features, and in our case, was also used to produce impressive group photographs (figure 4). After lunch at the local Sea Spring Resort, the participants moved to Taal, a Spanish colonial city founded in 1572, which center of town is designated a national historical landmark, where they first were briefed by local experts on its cultural history and then went out to collect street names and names of prominent old buildings (figure 5).

On Thursday, first the names collected were proposed to an ad hoc temporary names board, which showed the participants how such boards would operate. This was followed by the digital processing of the names, to incorporate them in databases, from which gazetteers and the contents of name servers could be derived, and from which maps such as Google or Bing could be labelled with the collected place names, by converting them into KML/KMZ files. Examples of how countries provided their standardized names to the general public through dedicated websites were provided.

Figure 3: Waterborne interview of informants

Friday was devoted to marine toponymy, and Prof Hyo Hyun Sung, of Ewha Women's University in Seoul, member of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO) Guiding Committee, gave presentations about special aspects of marine naming, of underwater toponymy naming and of naming objects beyond a single sovereignty, a hot subject in East Asian waters. She also described the administrative measures necessary to propose new undersea feature names. Ferjan Ormeling delivered the lecture on the development of and changes in sea names in Southeast Asia and, together with Helen Kerfoot and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu gave most of the lectures.

On the last day, Saturday 24 March, the Philippine charting programme was presented by Bai Dyanna Sinsuat of the Hydrographic branch of NAMRIA. This was followed by a map lettering exercise, in which the participants were made aware of the necessity to categorize place names, allocating different styles to different name categories in order to speed up the retrieval of names on maps. Helen Kerfoot and Cecille Blake dealt with dissemination strategies in which the standardized geographical names were publicized. Aldila Pradhana, from Indonesia presented the Asia South East database with toponyms from the UNGEGN Asia Southeast division, and also gave an update on geographical names standardization in Indonesia, this activity has been transferred to the national mapping organization of Indonesia, BIG. He also gave a

demonstration of the SAKTI (Sistem AKuisisi Toponim Indonesia) app, a toponymic data acquisition system developed at BIG, running on smart phones, with which names data, coordinates, photographs and sound recordings all can be registered in the field. This generated much interest from the other participating countries. Mia Lauder from Universitas Indonesia gave a presentation on Toponyms as cultural heritage, and the final lecture was an extra presentation by Ferjan Ormeling on the Planning of Geographical Names – in situations when large numbers of names had to be changed.

Figure 4: Four of the eight names collecting groups during fieldwork together on sombrero island

The final activity was the closing ceremony, with the handing out of certificates of participation, final words by Ferjan Ormeling who especially thanked Ms. Montemor and her team, stepped down as convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, a task he took over in 1991, and the actual closing by NAMRIA administrator Peter Tiangco.

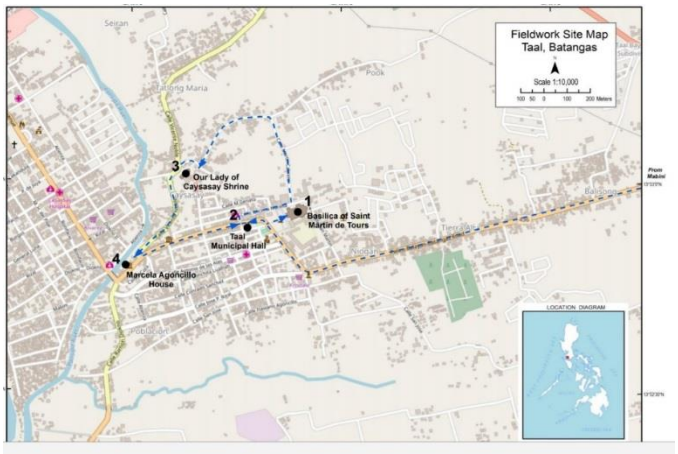

Figure 5: Taal field work map

A new aspect of this toponymy course, was the emphasis on marine naming, to which the fieldwork and many presentations had been adapted, and to which Prof Sung and Bai Dyanna through their presentations contributed most. Another one was the fact that we had a master of ceremonies, Hennessey Marohom, who motivated the audience when necessary. NAMRIA photographers were present and all presentations were taped on video, to be made available later to the UNGEGN website as well.

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Working Group on Publicity and Funding

This working group held its annual meeting together with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation Working Group on 14 August 2017 in conjunction with the 11th UNCSGN Conference and 30th UNGEGN Session, 7 - 18 August 2017, at the UN Headquarters. The Working Group on Publicity and Funding presented its progress report on the meeting, including: Completed items since last WG meeting; Funding activities (including toponomy training courses, translation of publicity material) and Public outreach (Information Bulletin, UNGEGN website and social media efforts, Wikipedia information and the UNGEGN Media kit). Again, it was a pleasure to have a focussed and instructive joint meeting with the Working Group of Evaluation and Implementation. There is always much knowledge to share.

Next joint meeting of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation will take place on 12-13 October in Brussels – in connection with the Divisions and Working Groups Meeting 10-13 October, announced elsewhere in this Bulletin. All interested persons are invited to participate.

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FROM THE COUNTRIES

Mozambique

Maputo, Matutuine And Chibuto – Three different names, the same Origin

1. Introduction

This article aims to analyze the meaning and origin of these three names. The names in the present study, namely, Maputo, Matutuine and Chibuto originate from Bantu languages, in particular, Rhonga, Swazi and Changana respectively, according to (Ngunga and Faquir, 2011).

The work is organized in four parts:
1. Introduction;
2. Development, including results and discussion;
3. Conclusion and
4. Bibliography.

2. History and origin of the names: Matutuine, Maputo and Chibuto

In this chapter, we will present the history and the origin of each geographical name.

2.1. History and origin

a. Maputo

Maputo is the capital city of the Republic of Mozambique and the largest city in the country [7]. According to Rogério Kapezulu [8], the name Maputo is originally from the Zulu [9] language. In the past, a group of zulu warriors came out from South Africa to search for fertile farming land. The king of the Zulu brought with him a military group called mabuthu that means concentrated men in Zulu language. The residents of the area were speakers of Swazi10 language, to hear the word mabuthu they pronounced mathuthu. They used this name to call the boss of the group and the river. When the Portuguese arrived in the area, they heard the name mathuthu, and they pronounced in Portuguese "Maputo", calling their boss, the king Maputo, same name for the river, Maputo River."

b. Matutuíne

Matutuine is a district of Maputo in Mozambique [11]. In accordance with the declarations of Edmundo Zantaka[12] and Rogério Kapezulu[13], "Matutuine comes from mabuthu which means soldiers in Zulu language. This group came to Mozambique to demand fertile land for the practice of agriculture. The residents of the area were speakers of Swazi[14] language, when they heard the word *mabuthu* they pronounced *mathuthu*. In this way, the residents used to say or pronounce Mr Mathuthu, and they used this soldiers name to call the boss of the group and the local river, where there were good conditions for the practice of agriculture. After some years, Mathuthu installed his Kingdom and the area was then called Mathuthwini, which means the "Mathuthu area" in Swazi language. When the Portuguese arrived at the zone and heard the name *Mathuthwini*, they pronounced in Portuguese "Matutuine", this name is used up today."

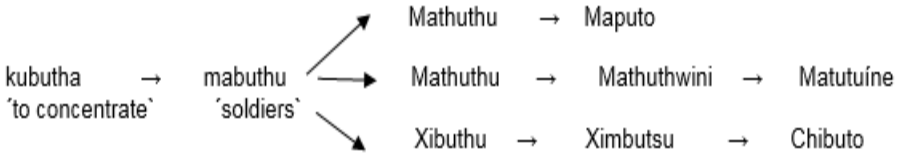
c. Chibuto

Chibuto is a district situated in the southern part of the Gaza Province in Mozambique.
https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chibuto(distrito).

According to the testimony of Bululwane José Machava [15], Chibuto is a corruption of *Ximbutsu* in Changana[16] language. *Ximbutsu* is the name assigned to an elevation located here in Chibuto district. In this elevation were concentrated the *mabuthu* 'zulu soldiers´. The zulu called *Xibuthu,* but the Changana pronounced *Ximbutsu*. When the Portuguese arrived, they pronounced in Portuguese Chibuto.

[7] org/wiki/History_Maputo).
[8] *Rogério Kapezulu, traditional boss of Matutuine, interviewed in December 2016, at 56 years old.*
[9](https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%C3%ADngua_zulu) is a bantu language spoken in South Africa
[10] (https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suazil%C3%A2ndia) is a bantu language spoken in Swaziland and South of Mozambique
[11] (https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matutuíne (distrito).
[12] Edmundo Zantaka, traditional boss of Zantaka-Matutuine, interviewed in December 2016, at 67 years old
[13] Rogério Kapezulu, tradotional boss of Mattuine, interviewed in December 2016, at 56 years old.
[14] Sitoe (2011) is a bantu language spoken in Swaziland and part of South of Mozambique
[15]Bululwane José Machava, traditional boss of Chibuto, interviewed in June 2013, at 72 years old
[16] Changana- a Bantu language spoken in Chibuto and in the southern part of Mozambique

2.2. Data Analysis and Discussion



From the above analysis, we can see that each name has its own meaning, Maputo means "concentrated or soldiers" - Mathuthu; Matutuine means "Mathuthu area" and; Chibuto means "place where the mabuthu/soldiers are concentrated". However, the three names go back to the same origin – *kubutha*, which means, "to concentrate" in Zulu language.

3. **Conclusion**

The objective of this article was to analyze the three different names and their origin. We can conclude that each of the three names has its own meaning. Maputo means "concentrated/soldiers", Matutuine means "Mabuthu zone", and Chibuto has the meaning of "place where the mabuthu/soldiers are concentrated".

This article has shown that Maputo, Matutuine and Chibuto are different names but with ultimately the same origin - kubutha which means, "to concentrate".

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News from Brazil

The International Pan - American Symposium on Toponymy (SIPAT 2017) was organized by the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and PAIGH. The symposium was held in Rio de Janeiro, from 3-5 May 2017. The main themes of the event were toponymy on maps, toponymy and education, indigenous and minority toponymy. Thirty (30) papers were presented and there were 92 registered participants from 8 countries: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Portugal, Argentina, Dominican Republic, South Africa and Italy.

A training course on the standardization of geographical names is being organized by the Reference Center on Geographical Names of the IBGE (CRNG). It will be held in the IBGE premises in Rio de Janeiro, from 4 to 8 June 2018. The course will provide the participants with both theoretical information and hands-on activities on the theme, including office pre-field preparation for the collection of geographical names, field collection of geographical names and office processing of names. Participants will consist of members of the IBGE staff, members of other Brazilian institutions and members of the staff of the Institute of Geographical Names of Mozambique (INGEMO). It is expected that a total of 30 people will be trained.

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Arabic geographical names in international use: Remarks on the standardization and Romanization

In the range of what may be called Arabic geographical names we may distinguish two main sets with their particular problems.

1. Arabic toponyms that are proper for the Arab World:

The discussion will concentrate on national standardization and Romanization of toponyms in the Arab World. It is a block of 26 countries in which Arabic is an official/national language, or one of official/national languages – 13 of them are in Africa and 13 in Asia.

2. Arabic names resulting from the transcription of foreign geographical names into the Arabic alphabet

The discussion will be about actual problems connected with conversion of those toponyms into the Arabic – a non-Roman – writing system.

Ad 1.
The names of the Arab World may be either standardized or non-standardized. Under standardization in the Arabic context we understand that the names should be:

a. noted down only with the use of standard Arabic alphabet (no additionally invented letters);

b. with complete vocalization (*tashkīl*, تَشْكِيل, that is customary vowel markings, or *ḥarakāt* حَرَكَات, and other additional appropriate signs);

c. with respect to phonetic characteristics and grammar rules (mainly correct word structure) of the Arabic standard (common) language, *al-ᶜarabiyyah al-fuṣḥá* ألْعَرَبِيَّة الْفُصْحَى,[17] and

d. with careful exclusion of the influence of local dialects, coming under the names of *ad-dārijah* ألدَّارِجَة, *al-lahjah* أللَّهْجَة or *al-ᶜāmmiyyah* ألْعَامِّيَّة.[18]

Arabic toponyms corresponding to such basic criteria of *al-fuṣḥá* ألْفُصْحَى , are rare to find in existing documents. The main factor that causes creation and dissemination of non-standard Arabic toponyms is the prevailing practice of using the Arabic alphabet without vocalization. It gives the spelling a high degree of elasticity in voluntary readings (very important in situations of Arabic diglossia, or rather multiglossia – literary or common language versus individual dialects) and makes possible a visible multitude of alternative forms of the same name to be presented and put to transliteration (Romanization). This is according to personal preferences and linguistic competences of readers whose style of pronouncing the words is mainly regulated by their true mother tongues, that means one specific dialect or another.[19] Spelling in the Arabic alphabet complete with vowel markings does not allow

[17] The *fuṣḥá*, an inter-Arabic instrument of communication, also called Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), is not a mother tongue of any specific group (community) of people who would use it in an intimate daily life; that role is uniquely performed by living Arabic dialects (see below).

[18] On the peculiar relationship between formal *al-fuṣḥá* and spoken Arabic dialects, see my previous article: Bogusław R. Zagórski. 2016. *Chad and Eritrea - toponomastics of the fringe areas of the Arabic-speaking world*, in *UNGEGN Bulletin*, No. 51, November, 31-33.

[19] Arabic local dialects, real mother tongues of all those who identify themselves as Arabs, are much diversified phonetically, lexically and grammatically. There is no Arab country with just one Arabic dialect and therefore such expressions as "Syrian dialect of Arabic" or "Syrian Arabic", "Moroccan dialect of Arabic" or "Moroccan Arabic", and similar ones, have only a conventional value and should be defined more precisely in their proper context. In the Arabic-speaking world only one dialect, the Maltese (one of the Maghribian dialects of North-West Africa), has thus far achieved the status of a formal separate and official language. But even in the small country of Malta, beside the formal literary Maltese, there is quite a number of different spoken dialects of Maltese in everyday use. In some countries bordering on the Arab World (Mali, Niger, Southern Sudan, Turkey, Iran) there are sizeable Arabic-speaking communities but Arabic in those areas has no official status. The corpus of Arabic dialects may be compared to a similar block of Slavic languages, except that the latter one is missing a unique, shared literary language, a sort of the conventional *fuṣḥá*, which has never appeared in the Slavic linguistic environment. The Old-Church-Slavic could probably play that role in different historical circumstances, but was formally associated with the religious use of just the Orthodox Church, including also non-Slavic areas, like Romania. Slavic-speaking people developed, instead, as many as 18 literary Slavic languages that came into official use. Another partial analogy may be the German-speaking area with just one literary language, High German (Hoch Deutsch), and a plethora of spoken dialects which in many cases are mutually unintelligible; the point of difference from the Arabic lies, however, in the fact that the Latin alphabet of the German language may easily reflect local dialectal pronunciation of geographical names which therefore can be standardized and spelled accordingly.

for such elasticity and may even create a feeling that a locally known dialectal name was translated into *al-fuṣḥá*.

It may be observed in many places of the Arab World that one and the same name, written on road signs, for example, or street plates, is differently spelled in Latin letters, like Al Lith or Al Laith for اللّيث(a town in Saudi Arabia between Juddah and Makkah, spelled without vowels).[20] Obviously, the responsible technicians had different views on how to pronounce the name. It also happens that, due to a high degree of liberty in the treatment of names on road signs, they are differently spelled in original Arabic while referring to one and the same feature: السانيةor السينيا orالسنيه orأسّنية (correct: As-Sāniyah ألسَّانِيَة, an Algerian university campus in Oran, called in French La Sénia or Es Sénia).[21] Last examples take root in their actual hasty re-transcription from French by technicians who relied only on their French pronunciation.

Romanization of Arabic

It is therefore prerequisite for any attempts at Romanization, to have first the Arabic toponyms standardized and written in unequivocal way. Otherwise the present situation of multiple variants would have little chance to improve. Wen it comes to the rules of Romanization, these should avoid a possibility of arbitrary solutions. The rules can and should be formulated clearly and comprehensively, so as to include all normal situations and a number of clearly defined special cases, if necessary, and to give a simple working tool to geographers, cartographers and technicians who are not necessarily professional linguists. The well elaborated set of Romanization rules, applied to a set of standardized toponyms, will allow for a regular and semi-automatic procedure of transliteration.

Some of the critical points in transliteration are as follows.

a. The Roman characters used in the procedure should repeat, as much as possible, their customary usage in the Roman script, consecrated by long tradition of receiving languages, with avoidance of unusual letter combinations. This is for easier communication on international scale. Latin double letters (consonant clusters) for single Arab letters may be used on the condition that they are easily identified as such by an average reader (شَرْق إفْرِيقِيَّة→ Sharq Ifrīqiyyah, ذَهَب→ Dhahab, شِمَال سُورِيَة→ Shimāl Sūriyah).
b. Whenever there is a necessity to apply additional diacritic signs, they should be judged by their practicability; for example, rather dots and cedillas below letters than underscores which may be erroneously interpreted on the map: Aẓ-Ẓahrān ← Dhahrān ألظَّهْرَان. It should also be remembered that in the receiving languages, in the widely used Latin scientific transliteration systems, the underscores used to have a different function; thus their novel uncommon use may create a lot of confusion.
c. Low case and upper case (capital) letters are not distinguished in original Arabic script – in this case, according to receivers' conventions, Romanized toponyms could be written with upper-case letters for every signifying word.
d. Definite articles, on the contrary, that are so frequent in toponyms, should rather be capitalized only at the beginning of the name (but never skipped at all, as it happens): Al-Jabal al-Aswad ← Jabal al-Aswad ألْجَبَل الأسْوَد. Writing them in upper case form inside a name is neither justified by original Arabic nor any existing European practice.
e. Furthermore, the definite articles should better be joined with the transliterated words, to which they belong, by a hyphen, because these lexical elements are written jointly in original Arabic script and not as separate words (they create together, as a matter of fact, a new compound lexical entity:). A signifying word Āl آل, graphically similar to the definite article, but always written separately, has its own meaning of a *family*, *clan*, *tribe* or *dynasty* (Al-Ḥamdān ألْحَمْدَان is not the same as Āl Ḥamdān آل حَمْدَان) and these two words should neither be taken one for another nor written in the same way. In case of careless joining and disjoining name elements, misinterpretations become possible.
f. The definite article undergoes the process of assimilation when the following words start with so-called *solar letters* (*ḥurūf shamsiyyah* حُرُوف شَمْسِيَّة) and this frequent natural phenomenon should also be reflected in the Romanization: Jabal an-Nūr جَبَل النُّور, Ar-Raqqah ألرَّقَّة, Ash-Shāriqah ألشَّارِقَة, etc.

Romanization is a comparatively easy procedure when its rules are strictly formulated and observed. The reversibility from Roman characters to Arabic is also possible and may be followed without much complications. On the contrary, it becomes a field and source of all possible mistakes and misinterpretations once the rules are equivocal and the procedure is subject to irregular interference by dialects. A practical challenge for the inter-Arab standardization is lack of easily available documentation in common Arabic, originating from the countries of our concern. The practical situation in the production of educational materials, like atlases and maps, reveal obvious symptoms of this problem.[22] Toponyms from countries other than that of a producer are often copied from

[20] Personal observation.
[21] Personal observation.
[22] See: Bogusław R. Zagórski. 2013. "Two New Educational Publications for Chad in Arabic, with Onomastic Remarks." [in:] *Rocznik Orientalistyczny*, LXVI/2, 2013, pp. 117-126, and note 8 below.

non-Arabic cartographic products and hastily re-Arabicised, not unfrequently with disregard to original names whose true orthography, pronunciation and meaning remain unclear to the editor. We can in result observe a phenomenon of *internal exonyms* when toponyms from one Arab country are quite popular in other Arab countries (that means: always within one and the same linguistic area) under different names. Pupils and students are eventually also confronted with publications (like school atlases) incorrectly presenting the toponyms of their home country.

The Moroccan city of Agadir (in French), officially and locally spelled in Arabic as Akādīr أكَادِير[23] is known in the Eastern part of the Arab World as Aghādīr أغـاديـر or Ajādīr اجـاديـر or Ajadīr اجديـر. Algerian Tuqqurt تـقُرْت may become Tūjūrt توجورت or Tūghūrt توغورت (after French Touggourt); Jibāl al-Huqqār جِبَال الهُقـَّار is misspelled as Jibāl al-Aḥjār جبال الأحجار (faulty popular etymology Mountains of the Rocks, after French Djebel Hoggar and Ahaggar, misinterpreted by Egyptian map producers who pronounce ج as *g*) this invented *internal exonym* has already gained certain notoriety in the Arab publications outside Algeria. The country name of Jībūtī جـِيبُوتي was even spelled erroneously as D.jībūtī دجيبوتي, after French Djibouti, on an Arabic poster in Beirut, highlighting an international event.[24]

Distorted name of Djibouti in Arabic, from a poster in Beirut, 2008.

To conclude this part of remarks, we observe that majority of Arabic toponyms in national and international circulation, are not standardized and quite frequently appear in more than one spelling version. It is necessary to proceed to a strictly scholarly standardization of the Arabic toponyms in the countries of our concern, to elaborate, accept and introduce into general application a sound Romanization system (Arabic-to-Latin transliteration), and to divulge the effects on both levels (standard Arabic and Romanized) to all interested parties – first of all to local educational institutions, publishers and media, but at the same time also to international publishers, organizations, researchers, reading public etc.

Ad 2.

The situation with Arabic names for the rest of the world is quite different but not any less complicated. Those names can be divided into four groups.

The **first group** includes names in countries where some form of the Arabic alphabet is in use for local languages. Usually, local forms of the Arabic alphabet use additional letters as required by different phonetic and grammar systems, but still, generally taking, they are compatible with the Arabic writing system. Above all, they follow the same daily procedure of not marking short vowels, except on special occasions, like in Arabic. Such variant versions of the Arabic alphabets are used in Persian (including Dari), Pashto (Afghan) and Urdu languages, which are officially used in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and some parts of India. Alphabets of Arabic origin are also officially used in Malaysia (for the Malay language, alongside with the Latin) and in some provinces on the island of Sumatra (Indonesia). Many other languages of local importance use the Arabic-based alphabets, like Sindhi, Baluchi or Kashmiri, there is also a number of other bigger and smaller ethno-religious groups in Asia (including Muslim Chinese with their شِيَوْعَرِدٍ Xiaoerjing script) which adhere to the same graphic style, although their writing systems found no official recognition.

The Maldive language adopted its own alphabet that was initially based on Arabic, at present, after transformation, it differs considerably. Kurdish (an Iranian language in Iraq) and Uyghur (a Turkic language in the Chinese province of Xinjiang,

[23] Actually, this Arab name is of Berber origin and its local pronunciation reflects its Berber phonetic value with a hard *g* in the second syllable, similarly pronounced in the local Arabic dalects (actually, in all Maghribian dialects of Arabic). In Morocco it is alternatively and occasionally also spelled with a letter *kāf* ك overwritten with three dots – but that combination is not a part of the literary Arabic. Interestingly enough, exactly the same name referring to a historical quarter of the Algerian city of Tilimsān تِلِمْسَان, Fr. Tlemcen, is spelled Aqādīr أقَادِير, well inscribing itself in the local linguistic context where the Arabic letter *qāf* ق is also pronounced like hard *g*. In Morocco the situation is adverse and the practice is occasionally different – there the original Arabic *qāf* ق would be replaced in unmistakenly Arabic words by a non-standard *kāf* ك with three dots, or without the dots at all: Qaltat Zammūr → كلتة زمور قـلْتـة زَمُّور.

[24] Similar problems with toponyms of Chad/Tchad and Eritrea were discussed, as examples of a wider question, in my article in the UNGEGN Bulletin cited above. Also see: Bogusław R. Zagórski. 2016. "Central African (Sudanic) Arabic toponomastics – the special case of Chad". [in:] *African Studies. Forging New Perspectives and Directions*, ed. by Nina Pawlak, Hanna Rubinkowska-Anioł, Izabela Will, pp. 259-284. Warszawa: Dom Wydawniczy Elipsa; *idem*. 2016. "Toponomastics of Eritrea in the Light of Arabic Geographical Atlases. Part I. Generalities." *Rocznik Orientalistyczny*, T. LXIX, Z. 2, 2016, pp. 205-219; *idem*, 2017. "Toponomastics of Eritrea in the Light of Arabic Geographical Atlases. Part II. Materials." *Rocznik Orientalistyczny*, T. LXX, Z. 1, 2017, str. 77-98.

also called Chinese Turkistan) adopted styles of writing in Arabic with all vowels systematically noted at the same level with consonants. It means they use certain consonantal signs to reflect vowels, and in this they differ from the other Arabic-based writing systems. Both of the above languages with their currently existing writing systems are officially recognized. The present (reformed in the 20th c.) style of writing in Uyghur replaced earlier Arabic-based system, better fitting with Persian or Urdu (and always in use there). For instance, the toponym referring to a historical Central Asian city of Kashgar, earlier spelled Kāshghar كَاشْغَرَ(this form is still widely known in many other languages using Arabic-based alphabets), was transformed into قەشقەرQeshqer (ISO transliteration: Qʰšqʰr), what is hardly comprehensible for an average Arabic alphabet user from abroad. It poses a serious communication problem within the Arabic alphabet league if we look at the matter from that perspective.

In Africa South of the Sahara the Arabic alphabet is mainly used in the Hausa and Suahili languages, both retaining their high prestigious and formal (official and administrative) position, in addition to the Latin alphabet. Furthermore, many smaller local languages of peoples with long tradition of Islamic learning also use the Arabic alphabet. There are actually more and more attempts either to elaborate new forms of Arabic script for the local languages (like Maba in the province of Waddāy وَدَّاي in Chad) or to revert to historical forms earlier used in those places. This process of adopting new identity and/or restoring old traditions deserves, from the point of view of toponomastics and international communication, a very careful observation and investigation.[25]

As a rule, Arabic maps and atlases do not take into consideration graphic subtleties of such local Arabic-based alphabets. The toponyms are usually extracted from publications in Latin characters and then retranscribed into Arabic letters. The simple reason of this procedure is that the original materials in local Arabic scripts are difficult to obtain. In result, those Arabic-to-Arabic transcriptions are often varying from one publication to another, their quality depending on the publisher, editor, time and place of production etc.

The solution could be the adoption of rules of transcription from Arabic-based alphabets into Arabic, or, adversely, writing such names in their original Arabic-based script. That would repeat the widespread tradition of retaining all names in Latin-based alphabets in their original form, in cartographic publications in all countries where the language uses Latin characters. But the insufficient availability of original documents still remains a problem in itself.

The **second group** includes countries with languages that do not write names with their Arabic-based alphabet at present but had used to do it in the past, like Turkish, Albanian, Bosnian, Azerbaijani, some small languages in North Caucasus, Tatar, Bashkir, Kazakh, Kirgiz, Uzbek, Turkmen, Tajik.[26] The Arabic-based writing systems of those languages do not have official status any more, although they are occasionally reminded and used for sentimental cultural reasons. This puts forward questions about the continuation of traditional cultural links between nations earlier belonging to the same Arabic alphabetic league, like Turks and Arabs. Ottoman Turkish names in Arabic written works were in the past usually cited as such. At present they are mostly transcribed from the new Latin script introduced in Turkey in 1928, which creates a gap in communication with the historical heritage.

The situation presents itself much better in case of Persian publications: the Iranians would simply repeat the Ottoman names in print, with natural addition of some exonyms of their own (mostly referring to physical features). Turkish names, which have numerous counterparts in the territory of Iran, are easily discernible by a competent Persian editor. On the other hand, however, Iranian maps by principle adjust toponyms of the Arab countries to the rules of the Persian grammar which may be interpreted as a serial exonym production (omitting Arabic definite articles, adjusting *tā' marbūṭah* ة to the customary Persian writing style: h ه or t ت, etc.).

A very special **third group** consists of toponyms in countries that had used to constitute part of the Arabic-speaking area in the historical past, like the Iberian Peninsula. Medieval Arabic toponyms of the area definitely belong to the all-Arabic cultural heritage. Modern Arabic maps treat this matter undecidedly: some names are used in their historical forms that could be classified as historical exonyms; sometimes they are simply transcribed from present forms; occasionally both versions are put on a map. It is the question for a careful consideration and determining what is an acceptable Arabic exonym for such a particular place at present time and what should be the everyday practice in employing them. And also, how to achieve unity in their use among various Arabic-speaking countries.

[25] On the proposed Arabic-based alphabets for the African languages, see: Herman Bell. 2000. "Arabic Orthography and African Place-names in the Sudan. Can a Conflict between Diverse Solutions be Resolved?", [in:] *Onoma*, Vol. 35, pp. 321-255.

[26] The literary Tajik language, when written in its traditional Arabic-originating alphabet, is practically the same as Persian and Dari.

Iberian Peninsula in an Egyptian school atlas, 1965.

Iberian Peninsula in a Saudi school atlas, 2003.

In both atlases we can observe a diversity of toponyms: some historical Arabic and some transcribed modern ones; criteria for selecting variant forms on the maps are not the same, neither are the same transcriptions from original spellings into Arabic.

The **fourth group** includes toponyms from all other languages, either written down with Latin-based alphabet or any other writing system. It is certainly the most numerous group of all with the biggest variety of possible solutions. The main challenge rests in the fact that rules of pronunciation of names widely available in Roman (Latin) characters are differing from one language to another and there is no one way of reading them. Direct transliteration is therefore excluded, the simplified transcription could be the only solution advisable. Adoption of just one style of reading (for instance, English or French) as a starting point for Roman-to-Arabic transcription procedure for all countries, would be a shrillingly erroneous way, creating long series of names spelled in twisted and incomprehensible ways.[27] And there are no short-cuts possible in it. Laborious transcription procedures from each language separately, based on original pronunciation, are obviously the only solution. Such procedure is already followed in several countries using individual Latin alphabets, where teams of experts prepare that sort of transcribed toponyms in simplified versions for daily use in education, media etc. for each language separately.

To conclude: the enormous challenge of agreeing on common procedures and adopting a concerted action in transcribing foreign toponyms from manifold and so much diversified sources, is something that the Arabic-speaking world is seriously facing in the age of global communication.[28] Likewise for the sake of preserving their own cultural heritage in a standardized shape and its widespreading among other nations.[29] The questions of Roman/Latin-to-Arabic and Arabic-to-Arabic transliteration and transcription extend beyond the immediate concerns of the UNGEGN at present, it is true. However, the problems of non-Roman-to-Roman toponymic transmission are not unique in our world of today and it would be wise and judicious to remember that the same problems are also arising in other writing systems and their respective leagues. At a certain point they will abruptly engage the wide international attention and perception. Our shared accumulated experience in the matter will appear in urgent demand.

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[27] As the example of this problem, analysis of Polish geographical names in Arabic and Persian school atlases, respectively, may be found in two articles by the author: Bogusław R. Zagórski. 2014. "Some problems of exonym use in Arabic: The case of Arabicized Polish toponyms." [in:] *The Quest for Definitions. Proceedings of the 14th UNGEGN Working group on Exonyms Meeting, Corfu, 23-25 May 2013*, ed. by Peter Jordan and Paul Woodman. (Name & Place. Contributions to Toponymic Literature and Research, 3). 165-174. Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač; and: Bogusław R. Zagórski. 2015. "The endonym/exonym divide: Observations based on Polish-Persian toponymic equivalences." [in:] *Confirmation of the Definitions. Proceedings of the 16th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014*, ed. by Peter Jordan and Paul Woodman, (Name & Place. Contributions to Toponymic Literature and Research, 4). 143-154. Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač.

[28] Other languages using Arabic-based alphabets (Persian, have their own problem and occasional solutions

[29] On prominent issues connected with the toponomastic heritage of nations, see: Peter Jordan, Hubert Bergmann, Catherine Cheetham, Hausner Isolde (eds.). 2009. *Geographical Names as a Part of the Cultural Heritage*. (Wiener Schriften zur Geographie und Kartographie, 18). Wien: Institut für Geographie und Regionalforschung der Universität Wien, Kartographie und Geoinformation; and: Sungjae Choo (ed.). 2015. *Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.* (Proceedings of the International Symposium on Toponymy, Seoul, 7-9 November 2014). Seoul: Kyung Hee University Press.

Special Projects and News Items

UNGEGN and UN-GGIM Collaboration

The UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in recognition of the need to strengthen collaboration with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) included "Strengthening collaboration with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names" as a work item on its meeting agenda. At its 7th Session in August 2017 the Committee of Experts made the following decisions (see report E/2017/46, E/C.20/2017/18):

- endorsed the proposal from UNGEGN to build a stronger relationship between the Group of Experts and the Committee, to advance the cause of geographical names and geospatial information management,
- supported the common principles of cooperation as a positive communication tool and a means for closer collaboration, and for the strengthening of arrangements on geospatial information management and,
- recognized that the real benefits of cooperation and collaboration would need to be anchored at the national level and that it would be critical for national delegates from the Group of Experts and the Committee to establish and continue their outreach on an ongoing basis.

The Bureaus of UNGEGN and UN-GGIM are expected to meet in August 2018 during the 8th Session on UN-GGIM to advance the collaboration agenda.

The UN-GGIM will be convening two major meetings in 2018, its eighth session in August and the UN World Geospatial Information Congress in November. Information on both events are provided below. UNGEGN experts are encouraged to contact your national geospatial counterpart expert and learn more about these activities and identify possible areas of collaboration if you are not already doing so.

Eighth Session of UN-GGIM, 1-3 August 2018

The Eighth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held from 1-3 August 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Note Vebale and announcement letters to Member States, observers, and the international geospatial community have been issued. The side event calendar has also been posted, which has special seminars, workshops and group meetings. Please visit the session website regularly for updates and further information: http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/.

United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress

The United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) will be held in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China from 19-21 November 2018. The UNWGIC will be hosted by the Government of China through the Ministry of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Government of Zhejiang Province, and in partnership with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The theme for the congress is 'The Geospatial Way to a Better World'.

The UNWGIC will feature a high-level Opening Session and four Plenary Sessions each day dedicated to: 1. Attaining Sustainable Development; 2. Sharing the Digital Economy; 3. Building Smart Societies; and, 4. Growing International Cooperation. Through six dedicated thematic areas and 36 technical sessions, the UNWGIC will then discuss: 1. Measuring and Monitoring the SDGs; 2. Digital Economy, Location Analytics and Big Data; 3. Smart, Resilient and Sustainable Societies; 4. Growing Global Geospatial Capability and Capacity; 5. Geospatial Innovation, Science and Technology; and, 6. Digital Silk Road and International Partnerships.

Approximately 200 speakers will be needed to fill the plenary and technical sessions and a call for sessions proposals has been issued and closes on 31 May 2018. For more information on the UNWGIC, visit the UN-GGIM website at: http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2018-1st_Congress_Deqing.

UNGEGN / UN-GGIM Secretariat

IN MEMORIAM

Milan Orožen Adamič (1946–2018)

On May 15th 2018 the sad news was announced that Milan Orožen Adamič, our dear colleague at the Anton Melik Geographical Institute, had passed away after a lengthy illness.

Milan was born in Ljubljana where he attended primary and secondary school. He finished his diploma degree in geography and biology in 1971. In 1974 he began work at the Anton Melik Geographical Institute ZRC SAZU. He defended his Ph. D. in 1994. In addition to his research work he was a university lecturer at different faculties.

His main research fields were natural hazards and geographical names. In 1995 he became president of the Slovenian governmental commission for the standardization of geographical names and as a delegate started to represent Slovenia in UNGEGN. In 2002 he was named first convenor of the newly established Working Group on Exonyms (WGE) and later became its co-convenor together with Austrian colleague Peter Jordan. In 2005 he organized a meeting of the WGE, held in Ljubljana. He also chaired the UNGEGN East Central and South-East Europe division in two mandates, 1998–2002 and 2012–2017. He was also a member of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers.

Milan was very active in numerous other fields of work. His hobbies were photography, environmental protection, speleology, scuba-diving and beekeeping. From 2005 to 2009 he served as Slovenian ambassador in neighbouring Croatia. He was also president of the national UNESCO commission and a member of UNESCO's executive council in Paris (2005–2010).

Our distinguished colleague Milan will stay in our memories forever. We shall miss his motivational ability, his strong interest in research innovations, and last but not least his broad smile.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Matjaž Geršič & Drago Kladnik (Anton Melik Geographical Institute ZRC SAZU), together with Paul Woodman: May 19th 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

Eighth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

1 – 3 August 2018, New York, NY

Divisions and Working Group Meetings with scientific symposium

10-13 October, Brussels, Belgium

We are happy to announce the venue of the joint meeting of the Dutch and German Speaking Division and the Norden Division, along with annual meetings of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers, and the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage. In connection with the meetings, we will also be hosting a scientific symposium on an UNGEGN-related subject, namely the *Role and importance of expert knowledge in the standardization of geographical names*.

The symposium and meetings will take place in Brussels, Belgium, 10-13 October.

We invite all interested people to participate in the symposium and the division meetings and working group meetings. If you would like to present a paper, please submit your proposal – title and 200 word summary no later than 10 August.

The provisional Agenda is as follows:

Wednesday, 10 October
- 12.00-13.30 Lunch
- 13.30-17.30 Joint Division Meetings
- 19.00 - Dinner

Thursday, 11 October
- 09.30-12.30 Symposium
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-17.30 Symposium
- 19.00- Dinner

Friday, 12 October
- 09.30-12.15 WG Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers
- 12.15-13.30 Lunch
- 13.30-15.30 WG Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage
- 15.45-17.45 WG Evaluation and Implementation & WG Publicity and Funding

Saturday, 13 October
- Morning: Excursion (possible)
- 13.30-17.45 WG Evaluation and Implementation & WG Publicity and Funding

In addition to these activities, the French-Speaking Division is also looking into holding its annual meeting at this meeting. This is, however, still in the early planning stages.

For enquiries, expressions interest of participation and paper proposals, please contact Jasper Hogerwerf.

Organizing Committee:

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United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress

19-21 November 2018, Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China