

What sort of authority is appropriate?

The choice depends on the nature of the country:

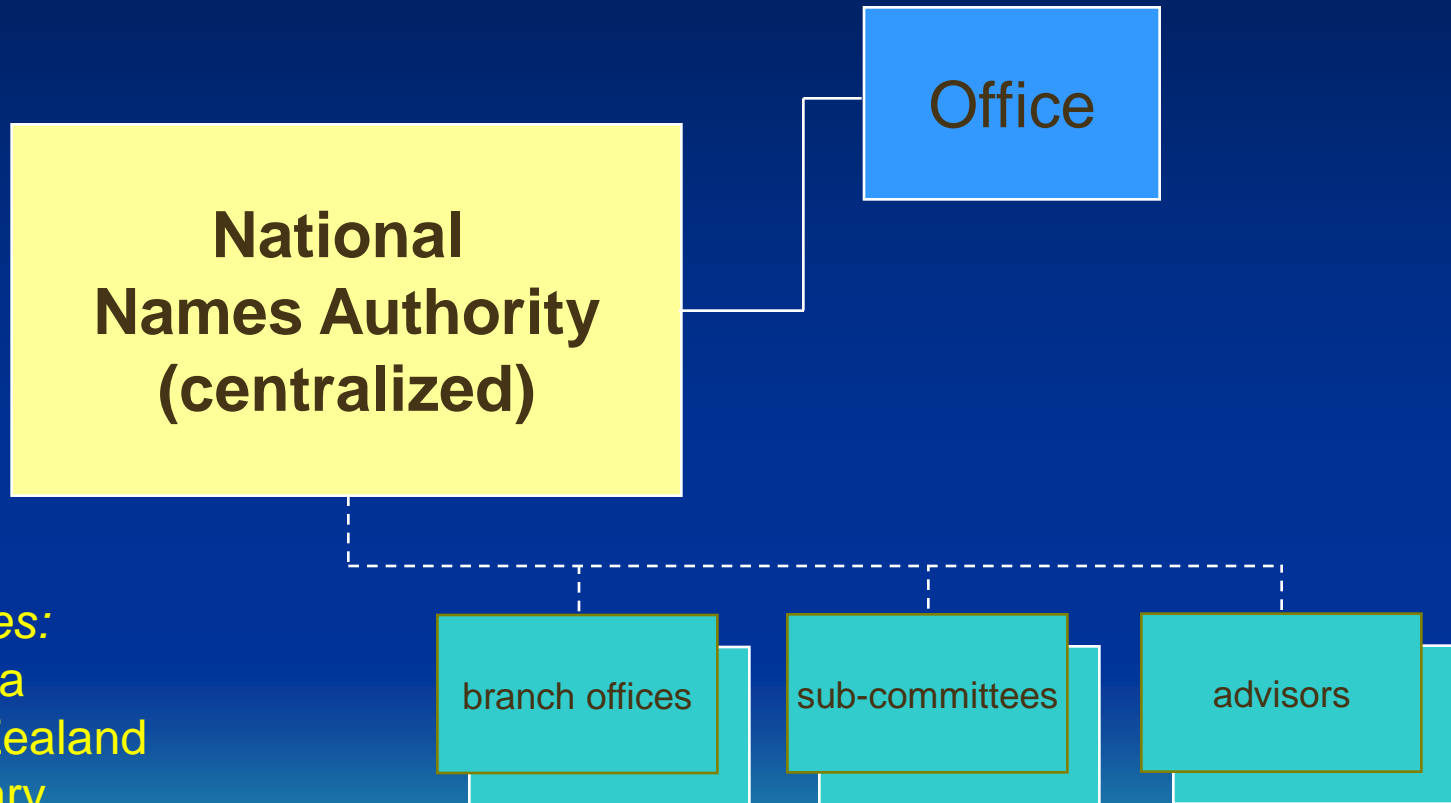
- size; diversity; type of government; languages;
- population density and distribution; layers of history

Many arrangements are possible, including:

- (1) Centralized national names board
 - (2) Decentralized to regional names boards
 - (3) A combination of (1) and (2)
 - (4) Default if no names board
- *Is it a board, a council, a commission, a committee?*



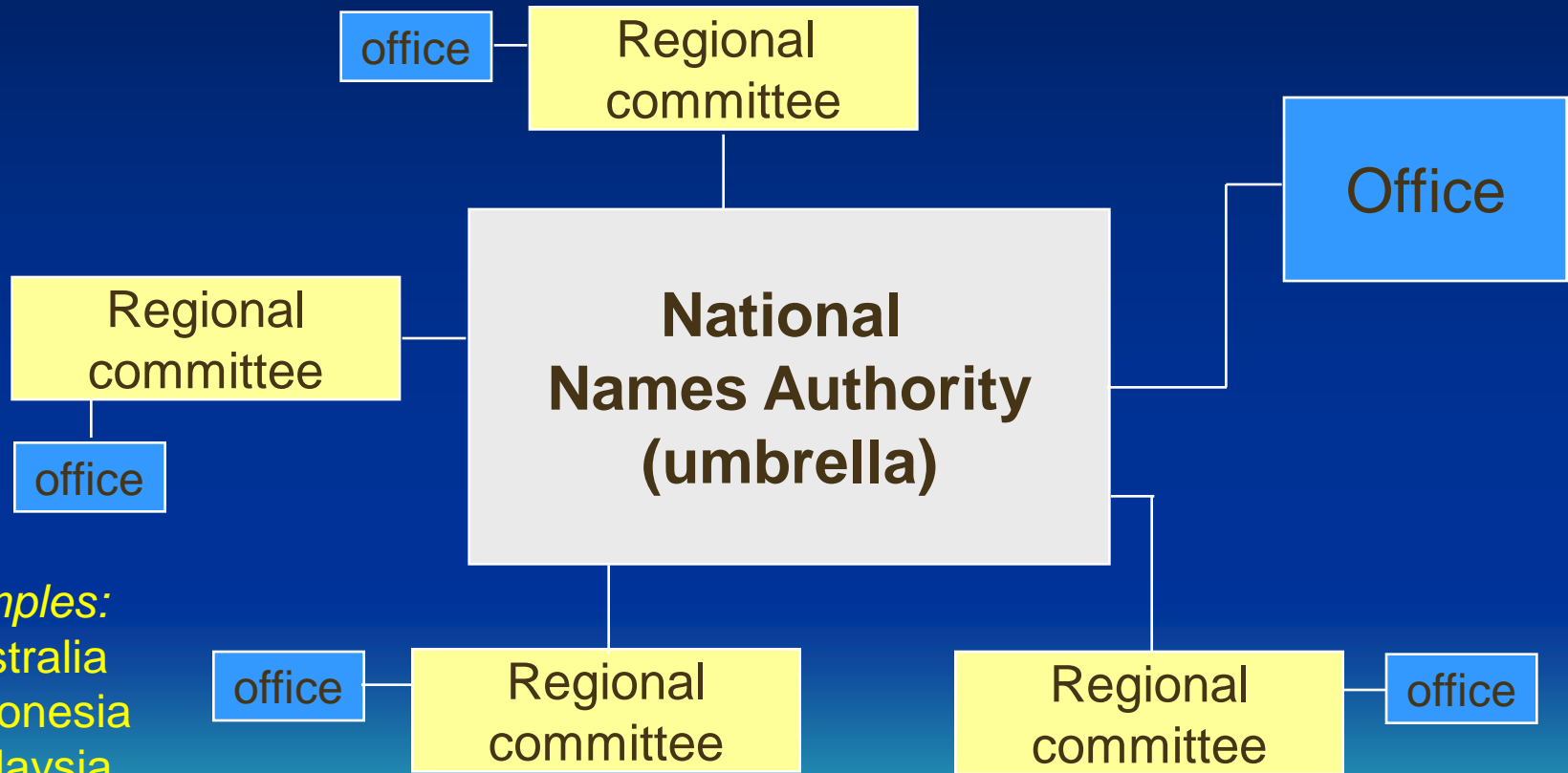
(1) Standardization – names authority (centralized)



Examples:

Estonia
New Zealand
Hungary
Botswana

(2) Standardization – names authority (decentralized)



Examples:

Australia
Indonesia
Malaysia
Canada

(3) Standardization – names authority both centralized and decentralized

- Two levels of government make decisions
 - (a) province/regional (b) national/federal



Examples:
U.S.A.
South Africa

(4) Standardization – central agency/agencies

**National
Mapping Agency**

Municipalities

National
Hydrographic
Office

Military
Mapping



Names authorities ...

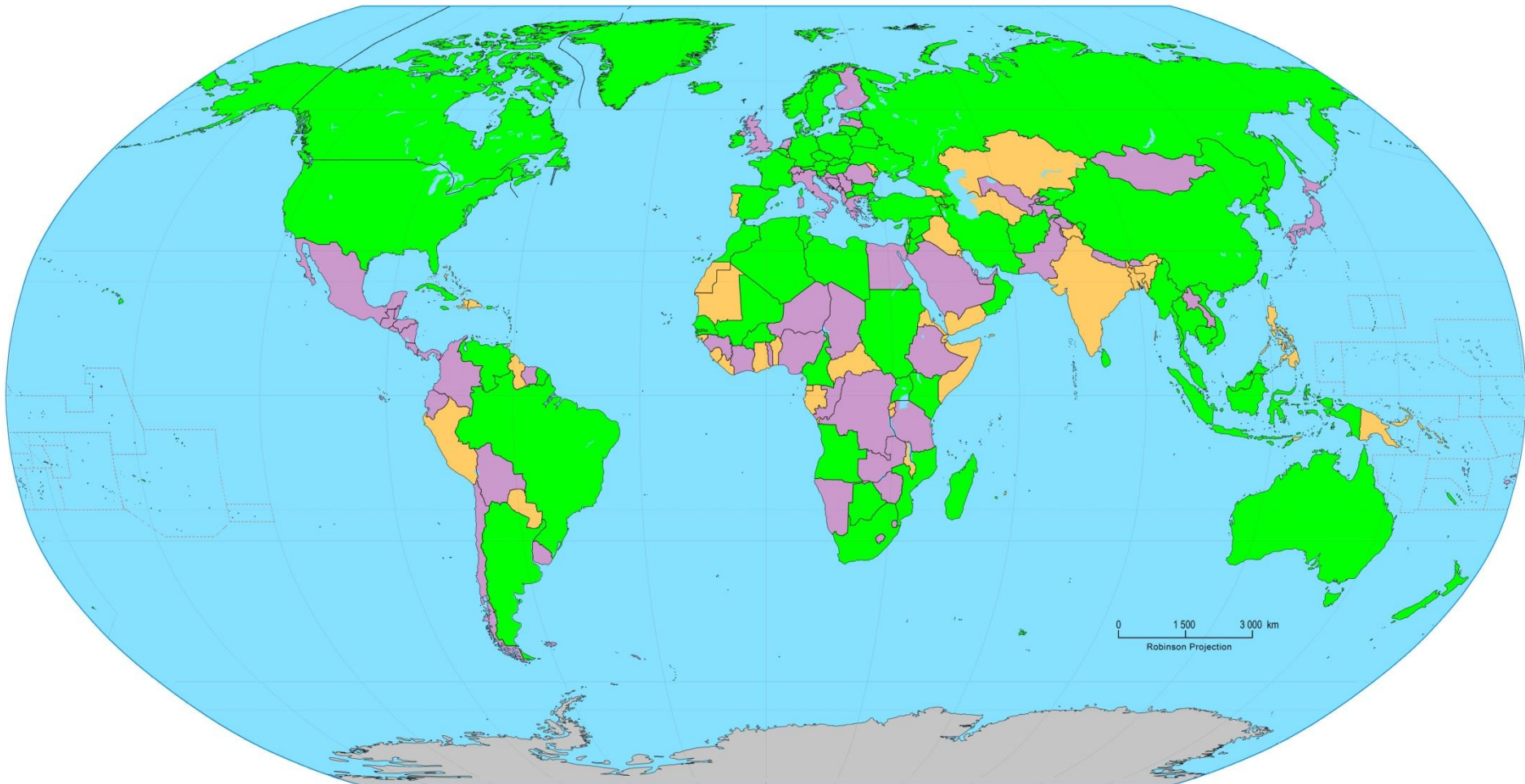
The people are the key!

Names discussions:

- A. Mongolia
- B. Canada – advisory committee
- C. Australia – NSW board



Geographical Names Authorities (May 2011)



With national names authorities

No national names authorities

Status unknown