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