

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/>

Email: geoinfo_unsd@un.org

A growing number of countries engage in the process of geographical names standardization through the work of names authorities or surveying and mapping agencies whose task is to approve official names, devise appropriate toponymic guidelines and publish gazetteers or lists of approved geographical names. A list of national names authorities can be found on the website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/na>

In addition to the efforts of map makers worldwide and UNGEGN, the following international organizations are examples of those also engaged in geographical names standardization with respect to various aspects of global geospatial information management.

Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

SCAR is an interdisciplinary committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU) that promotes and coordinates scientific research in the Antarctic region and provides independent advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations. About 30 countries carry out research in Antarctica and place names appear in 15 or more languages. Gazetteers or lists of geographical names and guidelines for naming features in the Antarctic have been issued by some 24 countries. In 1992 SCAR began work on collating a composite gazetteer of Antarctica with the aim of bringing some order to the complex toponymy of that continent. This gazetteer can be found on the website of the Australian Antarctic Data Centre (AADC) at: <https://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/gaz/scar>



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International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

Based in Monaco, the IHO was established in 1921 to co-ordinate the efforts of coastal countries in preparing and producing marine charts and other hydrographic publications which currently include the *General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO)*, a *Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Undersea Features*, the *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* and *Limits of Oceans and Seas*. See the IHO website: <http://www.iho.int> and for the activities of the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) see: http://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea_feature_names.



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International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

Made up of a network of standardizing authorities in 165 countries, the ISO is the world's largest developer and publisher of international standards. The existence of various country codes developed by different standardizing organizations can be confusing for those exchanging goods or information in our ever more integrated world. To address this issue, ISO has published standardized country codes (ISO 3166), see: http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes.htm. Additionally, the codes are available on ISO's Online Browsing Platform: <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui>. ISO also maintains a standard on language codes, ISO 639: <https://www.iso.org/iso-639-language-codes.html>



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Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

To reach another person on the internet you have to type an address into your computer in the form of a name or number. That address has to be unique so that computers know where to find each other. Founded in 1998, ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers around the world. Without that coordination, involving the standardization of names, we would not have a global on-line network. See the ICANN website: <http://www.icann.org>



Photos: David Munro