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English

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**Exonyms (Working Group on Exonyms)****New edition of the list of Polish geographical names of the world**

Submitted by Poland\*\*

## Summary:

At the end of 2013, the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography issued a new publication containing Polish exonyms. The publication, entitled “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world”, was prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names outside the Republic of Poland. The list was presented during the sixteenth meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, held in Hermagor, Austria, from 5 to 7 June 2014, and a short summary (working paper No. 64/14), available on the website of the Group of Experts, was presented at the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held in New York from 28 April to 2 May 2014.

The list includes names of 13,359 geographical features from all continents, as well as names of undersea features; however, the names of objects located entirely in the Polish territory have been excluded. The list refers only to the features for which Polish geographical names (exonyms) are recommended. That is to say, geographical features for which such a name either does not exist or is not recommended have not been included.

The list is divided into eight chapters. Seven chapters correspond to the parts of the world as traditionally delineated (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania and Antarctica). The last chapter is devoted to undersea features. Each of the first seven chapters begins with a list of recommended Polish names for the major regions and oceans of that part of the world. Names of geographical features are then listed according to alphabetically arranged countries and Non-Self-Governing Territories. The names of geographical features from the areas of individual countries or Territories are arranged into 59 categories, the inclusion of which depends on the specifics of the particular country or Territory. For each feature, the Polish name (exonym) followed by the original name (endonym) are given. The features’ coordinates are then provided, followed by, if necessary, additional information and observations.

\* GEGN.2/2019/1

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The second edition of the list is scheduled to be published at the end of 2019. This will be an updated edition of the first list, without significant alterations. Changes will include modifications to the romanization systems for two languages, changes in some Polish exonyms (due, in part, to changes made to endonyms), as well as some minor corrections. The second edition will be published in Polish only, but the introductory parts of the publication are planned to be translated into English.

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## New edition of the list of Polish geographical names of the world

### 1. The first edition (2013)

At the end of 2013 the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography issued the new publication that contained Polish exonyms. This 874-page publication was prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, and entitled “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world” [Polish: “Urzędowy wykaz polskich nazw geograficznych świata”]<sup>1</sup>. The list was presented during the 16th Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms (5-7 June 2014, Hermagor, Austria)<sup>2</sup>, and, as a short summary, during the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (28 April – 2 May 2014, New York) – see the Working Paper No. 64/14.

The list includes names of 13,359 geographical features from all continents, as well as names of undersea features, however, the names of objects lying entirely in the Polish territory have been excluded. The list refers only to features for which Polish geographical names are recommended, such as *Paryż* for Paris, *Gwinea* [Guinea] for Guinée, *Wyspy Japońskie* [Japanese Archipelago] for Nihon Rettō, *Andy* [the Andes] for Cordillera de los Andes, or *Zatoka Omańska* [Gulf of Oman] for Khalīj ‘Umān / Daryā-ye ‘Omān. Therefore, geographical features for which this kind of name either does not exist or is not recommended have not been incorporated.

Due to the fact that the names of transboundary features have been repeated in the lists of individual countries (e.g. the name of *Morze Karaibskie* [Caribbean Sea] is included in the lists of 37 countries and territories, and the name of *Antyle* [Antilles] – in 30 lists), there is a total of 14,976 name entities in the publication. In addition, 238 Polish variant names are included in the list. 254 long forms of names, mostly used in official relations (e.g. *Region Autonomiczny Sardynii* [Autonomous Region of Sardinia] for a short name of *Sardynia* [Sardinia] for an administrative unit) are also listed in the publication. This means that the total of 13,850 Polish recommended names are given in the list. In addition, 129 Polish historical names (mostly for cities and towns) are included in it – but these historical names have been given solely for informational purposes without any standardization or formal recommendation.

The list has been divided into eight parts (chapters). Seven of them correspond to the traditionally determined parts of the world (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia with Oceania, Antarctica). The last part is devoted to undersea features. In the case of countries or territories situated in two parts of the world, the entire list of names from its area has been included in the chapter related to the part of the world it is usually associated with (for example, the whole list for Russia, together with the objects located in Asia, will be found in the *Europe* chapter). The allocation of particular areas and territories to particular parts of the world is for convenience only, and was based on physical geography. It should be noted that in the case of islands such allocation to particular parts of the world is often problematic.

Chapters of the particular parts of the world begin with the list of recommended Polish names of the large regional units (e.g. *Arktyka* [Arctic], *Skandynawia* [Scandinavia], *Bliski Wschód* [Middle East], *Ameryka* [Americas]) and oceans. After this introduction, the names of countries and non-self-governing territories are posted according to alphabetical order.

Names of geographical features from the areas of individual countries or territories have been arranged by 59 categories. The occurrence of a particular category depends on the specifics of a country (territory), so in some countries certain categories will not be represented. In extreme cases, where

<sup>1</sup> The whole publication is available on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wpngs\\_en.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wpngs_en.php).

<sup>2</sup> See the paper prepared after this meeting at: *Confirmation of the Definitions*. Proceedings of the 16th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014. Edited by Peter Jordan and Paul Woodman. Published in 2015. Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač. = Name & Place, vol. 4.

Polish names are not recommended for any geographical feature within a country or territory, only introductory information is provided (e.g. Guinea-Bissau, Samoa).

In the eighth chapter, related to undersea features, names are posted according to the location of features in five oceans (Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, Pacific Ocean) with separately listed features from the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. Names of individual geographic features included in this chapter have been arranged into 14 categories.

Entries related to particular geographic features present the Polonized form (exonym) first. Then the original name (endonym) is given in the official language, or original names where more than one official language is applicable or the feature has official names in more than one language. For names in languages using a non-Roman script, a Romanized form has been given, established according to the rules the Commission recommends for use in Poland for the geographical names from the respective language. In such cases, first the transliteration is specified then the transcription of the original name, or in other words, the phonetic conversion of the name into Polish, usually in letters of the Polish alphabet.

The names are followed by the geographical coordinates of the feature. The precision of the coordinates depends on the size of the geographical feature. For smaller features such as peaks or capes coordinates were provided with an accuracy to one arc second, while the largest ones are given with an accuracy to several degrees. It should be noted that these coordinates are provided for identification purposes only. Precise determination of the spatial extent of many surface features is not always possible, as it may vary in different publications; this specifically applies to lands and regions as well as landforms.

If necessary, additional information and observations are provided, such as information about localization of a transboundary feature in other countries, additional characteristics of a feature or its localization, information that a part of a locality is situated within an independent locality, and selected historical names of a feature.

The alphabetical index of all Polish names is attached at the end of the publication. The name index contains exclusively the Polish names from the list (without the original names), including those listed as historical.

The list has been published in Polish only, but an inset in English has also been prepared. This inset includes a translation of the introductory part of the publication, i.e. editorial page, table of contents, “from the Publisher”, preface, introduction, Romanization rules, explanation of abbreviations, as well as a translation of the footnotes contained in the publication and information about the name index.

Fig. 1. Examples of the scope and arrangement of entries.

**Aleuty; Wyspy Aleuckie;** Aleutian Islands; *52°10'N, 174°20'W*  
**Elburs;** Reshteh-ye Kūhhā-ye Alborz (*trl.*), Reszte-je Kuhha-je Alborz (*trb.*); *35°50'N, 52°20'E*  
**Hajfong;** Hải Phòng; *ofic.* thành phố Hải Phòng; *20°50'N, 106°40'E*  
**Mongolia Wewnętrzna;** *ofic.* **Region Autonomiczny Mongolii Wewnętrznej;** *chiń.* Nei Menggu; *ofic.* Nei Menggu Zizhiqu; *mong.* Övör Mongol (*trl.*), Öwör Mongol (*trb.*); *ofic.* Övör Mongolyn öörtöö zasakh oron (*trl.*), Öwör Mongolyn öörtöö dzasach oron (*trb.*); *42°00'N, 112°00'E*  
**Polesie Prypeckie;** *blr.* Prypiackaje Paliessie (*trl.*), Prypiackaje Palessie (*trb.*); *ros.* Pripjatskoe Poles'e (*trl.*), Pripiatskoje Polesje (*trb.*); *52°15'N, 27°30'E*  
**Provincia Przylądkowa Północna;** *afř.* Noord-Kaap; *ofic.* Provinsie Noord-Kaap; *ang.* Northern Cape; *ofic.* Northern Cape Province; *tswana* Kapa Bokone; *ofic.* Porofense ya Kapa Bokone; *29°30'S, 21°30'E*  
**Seszele;** *ang.* Seychelles Islands; *fr.* îles Seychelles; *kreol.* Sesel; *5°00'S, 55°00'E*  
**Stambuł;** İstanbul; *41°00'30"N, 28°58'00"E* [hist.: *Konstantynopol*]

## 2. The second edition (2019)

According to the *Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on the manner and scope of activity of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland*, the “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world” should be published at least every five years, i.e. till the end of 2018. However, the second edition was rescheduled to the next year, that is 2019.

After publication of the first edition of the list, Commission has started works on extension of information on individual names (entries), which include: establishing adjectives for certain names, establishing genitives and locatives for selected names, and adding original notation (such as in the Cyrillic alphabet, Arabic script or Chinese script) to endonyms originally written in non-Roman scripts. These works has not been finished yet, therefore the second edition should be treated as an updated edition of the first list, without significant alterations.

Since the first edition of the list 285 Polish exonyms were added, 146 exonyms were changed and 70 exonyms were delated. This means that the changes concerned approximately 4% of the Polish exonyms. Most of these changes, almost 43%, are related to names of administrative units – changes in these names resulted from changes in the administrative divisions of countries.

Other adjustments include modification of Romanization systems for two languages: for Mongolian from the Mongolian National Center for Standardization and Metrology system of 2003 to the Mongolian National Center for Standardization and Metrology system of 2012, and for Tigrinia from the BGN/PCGN 1994 system to the BGN/PCGN 2007 system. Numerous updates and corrections in endonyms were also introduced.

The second edition of the list will be published in Polish only, but the inset in English, with translation of the introductory parts of the publication, will also be prepared.

It should be noted here that the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland is responsible for standardization of Polish exonyms only, excluding any standardization of endonyms. The exonyms listed in the publication are the only Polish geographical names the Commission recommends. If a certain object has not been listed, it means that the Commission does not recommend using its Polish exonym even if such a name can be found in some publications. The reason for omitting a name may also be the fact that the object it refers to is insignificant or has ceased to exist.

Due to certain political ambiguities, it should also be noted that the list presents names the Commission has established as correct solely from the linguistic point of view and corresponding to the information gathered so far. In no event shall these recommendations be regarded as an expression of the Commission’s political preferences or its position as regards the administrative affiliation of particular territories. Any decisions of a political character, if necessary, were consulted with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.