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Geographical Names**
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Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

**Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity,
including indigenous, minority and regional languages
and multilingual issues****(Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage)****Report of New Zealand on the project to combine Te
Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu's Cultural Heritage Atlas, *Kā Huru
Manu*, with the New Zealand Geographic Board gazetteer****Summary****

The full report from New Zealand provides information on a project that will help promote indigenous and minority geographical names as a means of cultural retention and revitalization. The legal functions of the national naming authority, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, are to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names and to apply their correct orthography. The Geographic Board also has Treaty of Waitangi partnership obligations to meet. In the report, the author discusses the Geographic Board's recent decision to recognize the *Kā Huru Manu* online Atlas as an authoritative source of geographical names. The Geographic Board recognizes that the Atlas is a highly valuable information resource outside of government, and acknowledges the huge effort made to produce this cultural mapping atlas over many years, using various forms of public records, authoritative published historical works, oral histories, and *hapū*¹/*marae*² *wānanga*,³ all with oversight from a core forum of *kaumātua*.⁴ Geographical names in the *Kā Huru Manu* will be added to the New Zealand gazetteer as official, recorded

* GEGN.2/2019/1.

** The full report was prepared by Wendy Shaw, Secretary, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/35/CRP.35.

¹ Subtribe.

² A common place where people meet.

³ To meet and discuss, deliberate, consider.

⁴ An elderly person of some status.



or collected names. The inclusion of these traditional names, original information sources and Ngāi Tahu⁵ will add significant depth to the official records. The impact on the Ngāi Tahu people is hugely positive and there is much excitement about the collaboration.

⁵ The group of Māori living throughout most of the South Island of New Zealand.