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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names  
2019 session**

New York, 29 April–3 May 2019

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 effective engagement with  
indigenous groups****Summary\*\***

The full report of New Zealand contains information on effective forms of engaging with Māori groups to 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. Effective consultation with the local indigenous people is essential to discharge these functions and obligations. In the report, the author defines categories of engagement in the New Zealand context and the impacts that they have on indigenous communities in respect to geographic naming.

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\* [GEGN.2/2019/1](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html).

\*\* 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](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html), in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/36/CRP.36.

