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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
2021 session**

New York, 3 – 7 May 2021

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda *

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress
made in the standardization of geographical names**

Achievements of the National Committee on Geographical Names in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for 2019-2020

Submitted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

* GEGN.2/2021/1

** Prepared by Abdullah Nasser Alwelaie, Vice-Chairman of The National Committee
on Geographical Names in KSA

Achievements of the National Committee on Geographical Names in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
for 2019-2020

By

Abdullah Nasser Alwelaie

Vice-Chairman of The National Committee on Geographical Names in KSA

A) King Abdulaziz Foundation For Research and Archives (KAFRA):

- 1- Preparation and design of the book "Ad Dir'iyah in Historical Maps", which included the design of a template for maps, the design of the book cover and the design of the content of the book on publishing programs for printing. The work also included the preparation of the maps of Ad Dir'iyah gallery from its inclusion in the frame designed for the exhibition and the inclusion of the basic data of the map as follows: map title, author, date, publisher, publishing site, length, and width of the map- scale of drawing - the country and region covered by the map - the source. The number of maps worked on was about 145. The work included the improvement and redrawing of more than 17 ancient historical maps to be placed in the Book of Ad Dir'iyah Maps.
- 2- Preparation and design of the model of the project of a picture book of Western travelers, which includes the presentation of the historical picture, description of the image in Arabic, French, and English, reference number, type of books, name of the book in English and Arabic, name of the author, location of the picture in the origin of the book, type of image, date of description of place, name of place (Romanization), coordinates of place, state/region. The office work included the improvement of historical photographs and maps, as well as the introduction of 1,200 records of historical photographs and maps from travelers' books.
- 3- Georeferencing of the maps of the Saudi Port Authority, and the work included the work of improving and returning geographical and projection and layer indexes of port maps from the Saudi Port Authority, which contains maps of all ports of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whether on the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, as classified maps for several measures such as: (1:1000,000 750,000, 500,000, 250,000, 50,000, 10,000) and maps also included ports in the Gulf states such as Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and southern Iraq.
- 4- Regular maintenance of SaudiGeonames Explorer App, the project included the design of two mobile applications, one on Apple's IOS devices and the other on Android to facilitate App's access to a wide range of users through their smartphones or tablets. As well as designing an explorer's website that is compatible with all different computer systems and designed with the latest technologies in the creation of web pages.
- 5- The National Committee on Geographical Names in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues to receive requests for road-sign names for the Ministry of Transport in various administrative regions and provinces in accordance with Arabic Romanization System 2017, and the Committee continued to receive inquiries from government agencies about the right name of places or modifying or changing some place names.
- 6- Romanization of geographical names of the Red Sea project. The National Commission on Geographical Names has corrected, reviewed, edited, and promoted the names of the islands to preserve the old name of the islands as much as possible, and the National Committee has made proposals to amend some of the disputed names at the request of the project's sponsors for tourism purposes.
- 7- Start directing and preparation of the Atlas of National Historical Atlas of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where it has formed a committee for geographical, technical, and historical matters of the project.
- 8- The design of a website for the Gazetteer of Geographical Places in the Red Sea, and the work included the issuance of an electronic version of the Gazetteer in 4 volumes, this site has been linked to the website of the King Abdulaziz Foundation (Ad Darah) and enables the users of the website to browse the pages of the Gazetteer directly on the international internet.

- 9- completion of the preparation of a map of the boundary of the Holy Mosque in MAKKAH AL MUKARRAMAH and the work included the re-directing of the map in accordance with the boundary exact points of the Holy areas.
- 10- Implementation of a map of the city of Hajr AL YAMĀMAH and its environs and villages - the nucleus of the modern city of Riyadh, and another map of the Valley of AL ‘URD (HANĪFAH) and its small settlements, and the work also included the redesigning of the map in relation to the historical locations of the villages.
- 11- Preparing maps documenting historical sites in central Riyadh within the old wall of Riyadh, as part of the Riyadh Documentation Project.
- 12- Production of maps of the Book of hajj: The Road of AL BAHRĪN and AL YAMĀMAH pilgrimage and its tributaries and branches, and the works included the production and output of a map of the route of pilgrimage from AL KUWAYT to MAKKAH AL MUKARRAMAH and back from it.
- 13- Implementation of an electronic editing of the Historical Atlas of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the atlas was redesigned.
- 14- A redesign of the AL AĤAMMĀ’ historical maps of AL MADĪNAH AL MUNAWWARAH, with a total of 4 maps, consisting of maps of (ĤIMĀ AN NAQĪ’, ĤIMĀ AL RABDHAH, ĤIMĀ DARĪYAH, ĤIMĀ FAYD), which included the signing of new landmarks on the maps and the limits of the Himar in its maximum bread and limits during the reign of ‘UMAR IBN AL KHAṬṬĀB and under AL MALIK ‘ABD AL ‘AZĪZ.
- 15- Start preparing a concept of an indexed national Gazetteer containing names in Latin letters in coordination with the relevant geographical names as a binding reference for all government agencies in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 16- Cooperation with the Department of Digital Media at The King Abdulaziz Foundation (Ad Darah) to make digital content and video identification about the National Committee on Geographical Names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (NCGN) and its functions and its headquarters, where the video includes information about the National Committee based in The King Abdulaziz Foundation (Darah), which represents 19 members of the concerned authorities and beneficiaries of the geographical place names. The final goal is to consolidate and coordinate detailed maps of cities, villages, centers and archaeological sites and tourist sites.
- 17- Set up and create Maps for Saudi Wikipedia.

B) [General Authority For Survey and Geospatial Information \(GASGI\):](#)

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES COLLECTION AND DOCUMENTATION

Geographical Names Department in GASGI:

It is one of the departments of the General Directorate for the Map Production in the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, and its mission is to collect, document and classify geographical names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia according to the relevant standards with the accuracy in location, spelling and transliteration. Geographical Names database comprises GeoNames from all the sources for entire area of the Kingdom which are an important reference for researchers and those interested in maps of various kinds both from government and private sectors.

Major steps involved in Collecting and Documenting Geonames

Field Survey:

1. Roman Transliteration of Geographical Names
2. Verification of Geonames from local authority
3. Update of Geographical Names Database with collected Geonames.

Romanization:

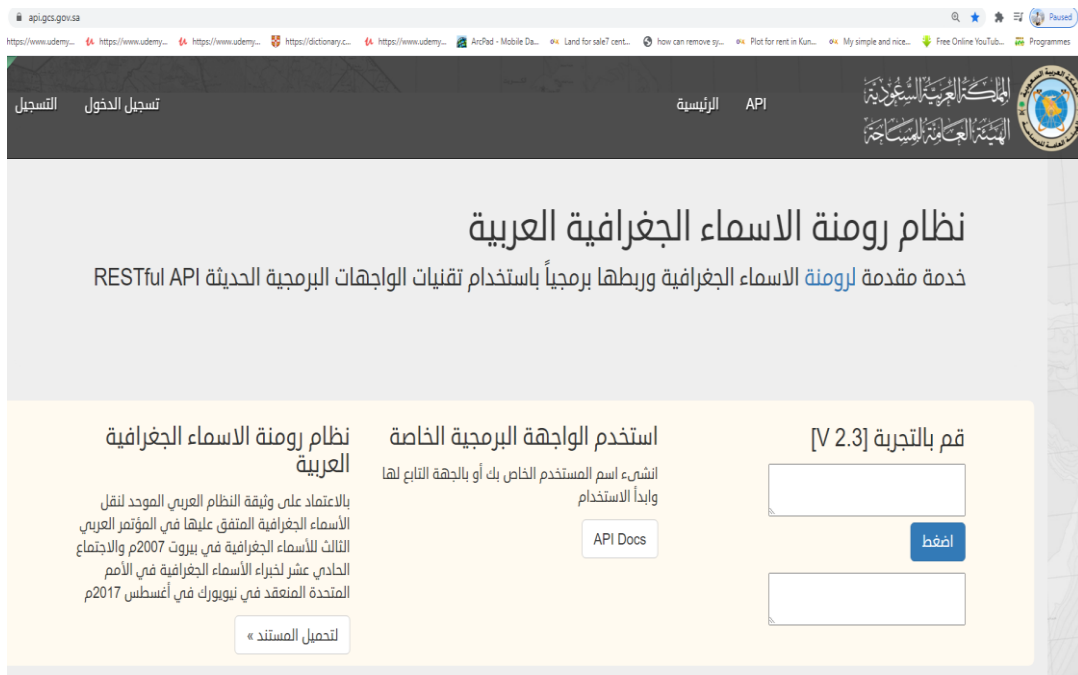
GASGI has developed an electronic program for the Romanization system (<https://api.gcs.gov.sa>), to facilitate the transfer of geographical names from Arabic characters to Latin letters to use in the

authority's Maps and it also available to other government agencies and public. Romanization of geographical names is carried out according to the system agreed upon by the Arab Division of Geographical Names Experts approved by the United Nations.

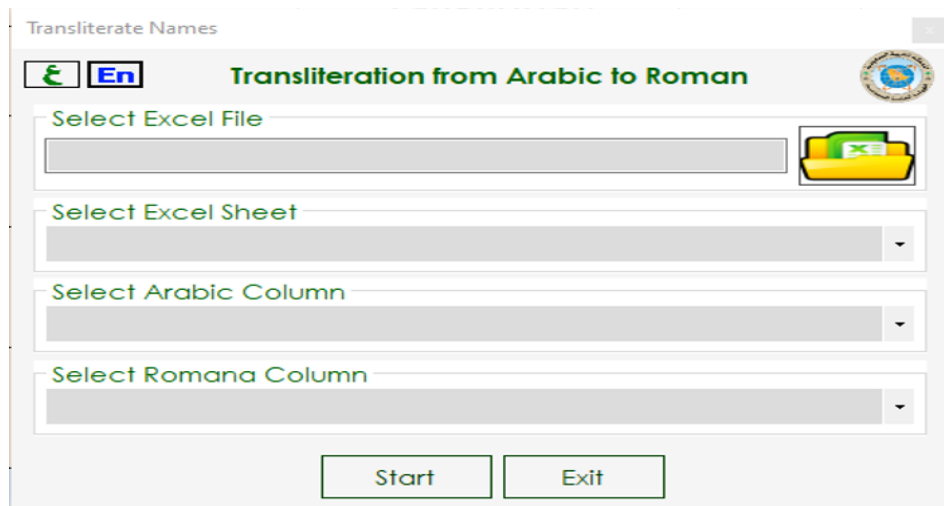
Tools developed by GASGI for Roman transliteration:

1. GASGI Webpage for Roman Transliteration.

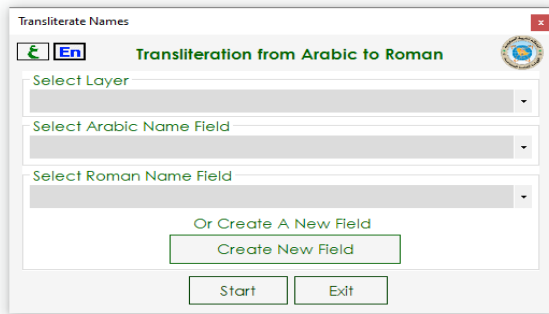
<https://api.gcs.gov.sa/> (Public access)



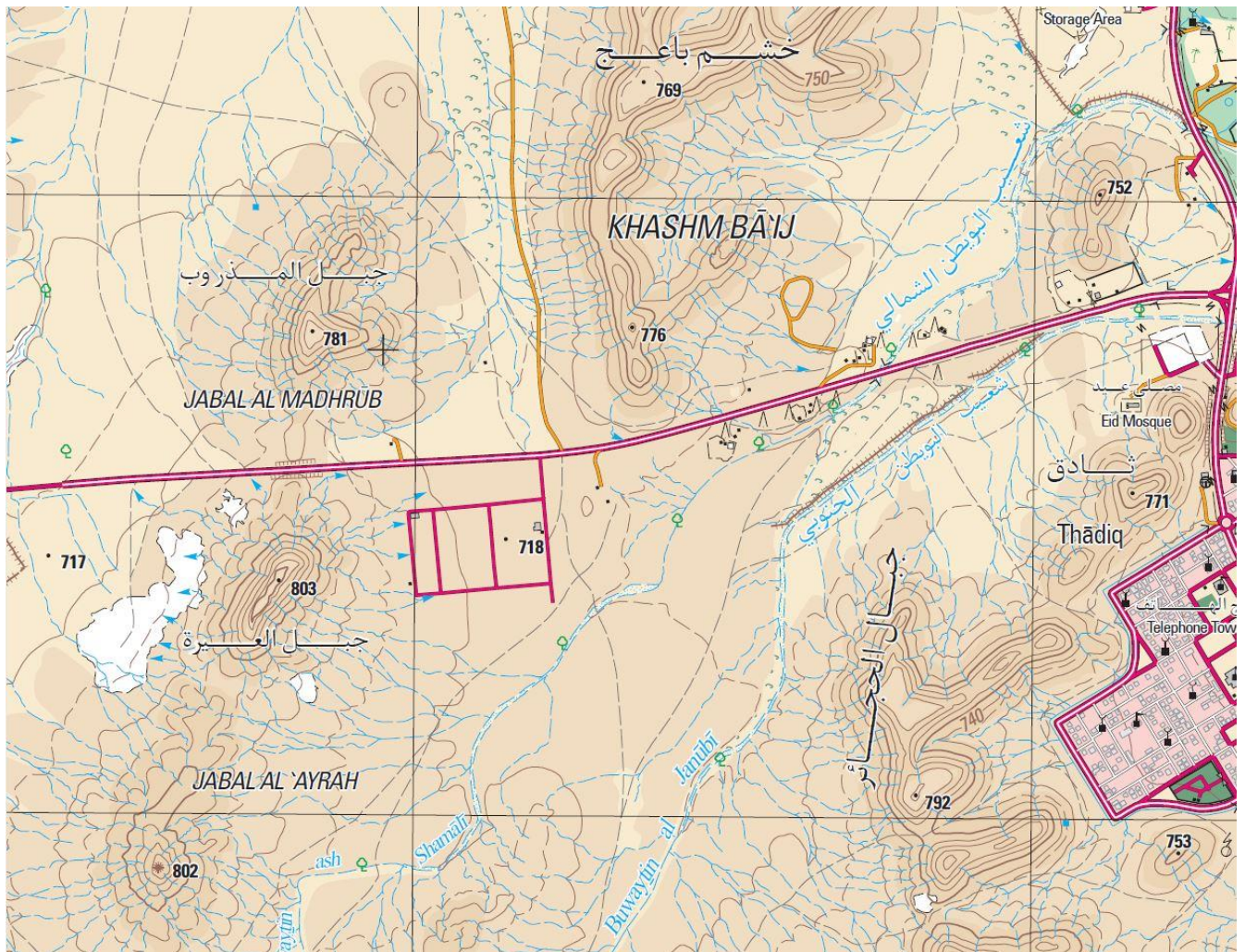
2. If Arabic Names are in an Excel



3. Roman Transliteration for GIS file



Arabic Names and Roman Names in a GASGI Map of 25k scale

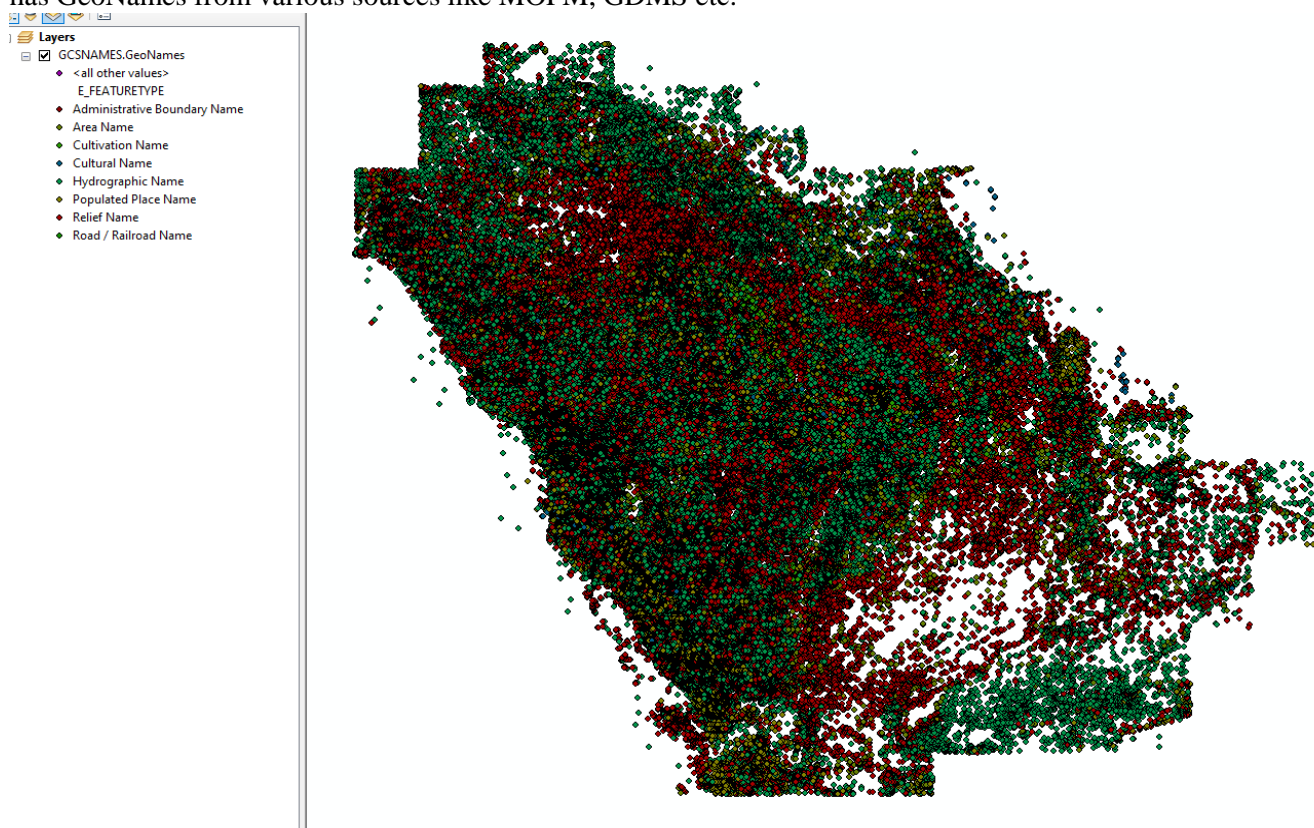


Examples for Arabic names and respective Roman Names in attribute table:

ArabicName *	RomanName
شعيب الحميمة	Sha`Tb al Ḥumaymah
شعبان مكسر	Shi`bān Mukassir
نفود الدحي	Nufūd ad Dihī
المنصى	Al Munaṣṣá
خشم كشافة	Khashm Kashshāfah
حلاة كشافة	Ḥalāt Kashshāfah

GASGI Geographical Names Database (GNDB)

GCS Geographical Names Database (GNDB) is a names database which is used to store, maintain and update Geographical names in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Other than GASGI, It also has GeoNames from various sources like MOPM, GDMS etc.



Geonames in ArcMap View

Names details in attribute of Geonames feature class in the GNDB includes:

1. Arabic Name
2. Roman Name
3. Feature Category. E.g. Hydrography, Relief, Cultural etc.
4. Feature Name. E.g. Wadi, Mountain, Lake etc.
5. Coordinates
6. Data Source
7. Administrative boundary info
8. Features extends such as polygon and Line

- 9. A unique ID which connects each name to its respective Polygon/Line.
- 10. Map number

Geographical Names in the GNDB have been classified in to 8 categories which are:

- 1. Relief
- 2. Hydrography
- 3. Cultural Name
- 4. Area Name
- 5. Cultivation
- 6. Populated Place
- 7. Road-Rail
- 8. Administrative Boundary

Attribute table of Geonames feature class in the GNDB.

المعلم	ArabicName *	RomanName	FeatureType	نوع المعلم	Province	المنطقة الادارية	Governorate	محافظة
جبل	جبل الحجيزة	Jabal al Hajizah	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
وادي	شعيب النحل	Sha'ib ad Dahal	Hydrographic Name	اسم معلم مائي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
بئر ماء	آبار النحل	Ābār ad Dihīl	Hydrographic Name	اسم معلم مائي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
تل	برقان الرقيقة	Burqān ar Raqīqah	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
وادي	شعيب أبو كتاد	Sha'ib Abū Kitād	Hydrographic Name	اسم معلم مائي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
جبل	ضلع مفرق	Dulay` Mufarriq	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
جبل	جبل ضمائر الأحمر	Jabal Dumār al Aḥmar	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
جبل	جبال ضمائر الأسود	Jibāl Dumār al Aswad	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
جبل	جبل رنة الحمراء	Jabal Ri'ah al Hamrā'	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
جبل	أحمر قمرأ	Aḥmir Qamrā'	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
جبل	جبل العرفاء	Jabal al 'Arfa'	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
هضبة	هضاب الصخيف	Hiḍāb aṣ Suḥayyif	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
جبل	جبال أذن	Jibāl Udḥun	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
جبل	جبل القرن	Jabal al Qarn	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
جبل	سود المرأ	Sūd al Murrāh	Relief Name	اسم تضاريسي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر
وادي	حاوي أذن	Hāwī Udḥun	Hydrographic Name	اسم معلم مائي	Al Riyadh	الرياض	Wadi addawasir	وادي الدواسر

Data Source	المصدر	Comments	Longitude	Latitude	Map 25K	Map 50K
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	جديد الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية		42.154021	22.047065	4222332	422233
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	جديد الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية		41.636922	21.784056	4121142	412114
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	جديد الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية		41.294195	23.170216	4123324	412332
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية	<Null>	40.850526	20.761523	4020113	402011
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	جديد الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية		42.445311	22.80476	4222412	422241
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	تم تعديل الاسم الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية		41.419495	22.766724	4122412	412241
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	جديد الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية		42.557186	22.786666	4222143	422214
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية	<Null>	42.01098	22.815771	4222443	422244
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية	<Null>	42.455036	23.094533	4223322	422332
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية	<Null>	41.607072	22.502907	4122133	412224
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	جديد الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية		42.695085	22.902419	4222141	422214
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	جديد الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية		42.564698	22.908762	4222144	422214
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	جديد الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية		42.559756	22.809693	4222143	422214
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية	<Null>	42.160391	23.253784	4223342	422334
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية	<Null>	41.530024	21.700847	4121134	412113
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية	<Null>	41.463477	20.065603	4120322	412032
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية	<Null>	41.885585	19.318187	4119212	411921
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Inf	الهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية	<Null>	41.467412	20.053536	4120322	412032

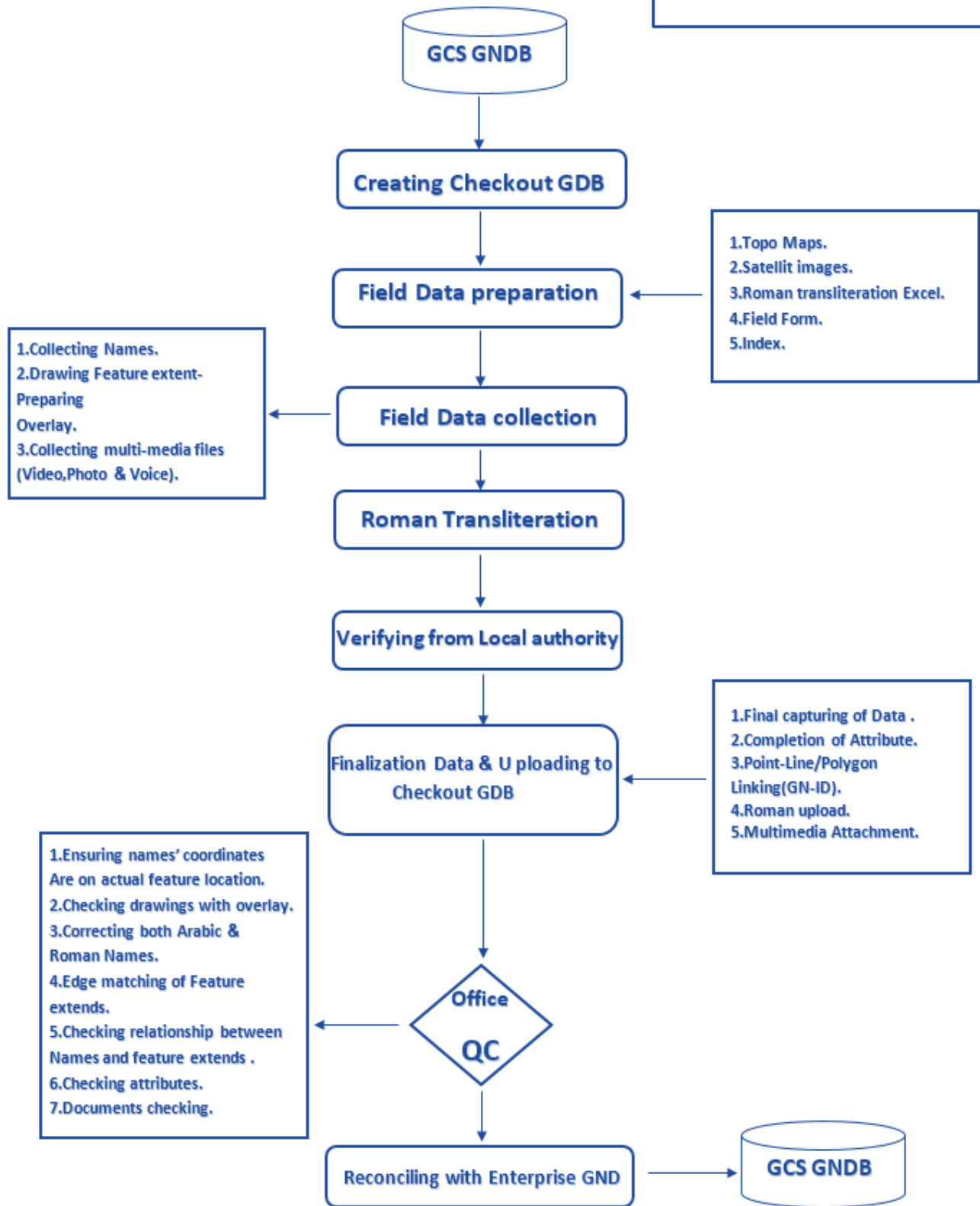
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Summary of Geographical Names Database

Source	Project	Area/Cities	Names	Total Names	Scale	No of sheets	Done	Year of Survey
GASGI	Phase1	Abha-Tabuk- Madinah- Makkah-Hafr Al batn- Buraida- Dammam- Hafif-Taif- Jiddah	7887	13479	50k	82	82	2012
	Phase2	Riyadh	2987		50k	49	49	2013
	North East	HafrAl batn, Rafha	990		50k	106	106	2014
	North	Sakaka, Turaif, Arar	1511		50k	119	119	2015
	East	Dammam, Al Ahsa, Jubail	2600		50k	88	88	2015
	Names Collection KSA 25k	Whole Kingdom except areas of previous projects	100000*	25k	9940	6869	2017 - Till date	

Ministry of petroleum and mineral resources	Topographical Mapping-50k	Whole Kingdom except Rub al Ghali	70600	73244	50k	2480	2480	1975-1985
	Topographical Mapping-100k	Rub Al Ghali	2644		100k	250	250	1980
General Directorate of Military Survey	Topographical Mapping-250k	Whole Kingdom	42690	42690	250k	149	149	1998
Foreign source	Geonames.Org	Whole Kingdom	13479	13479	NA	NA	NA	NA

Detailed Work Flow

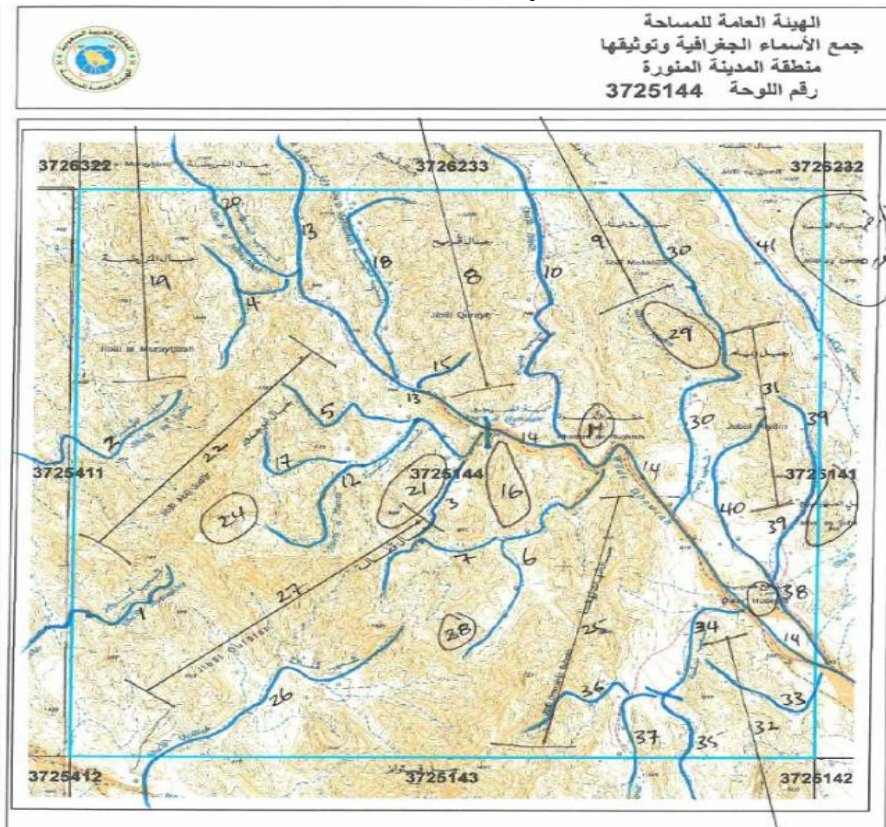


Attested Field Form

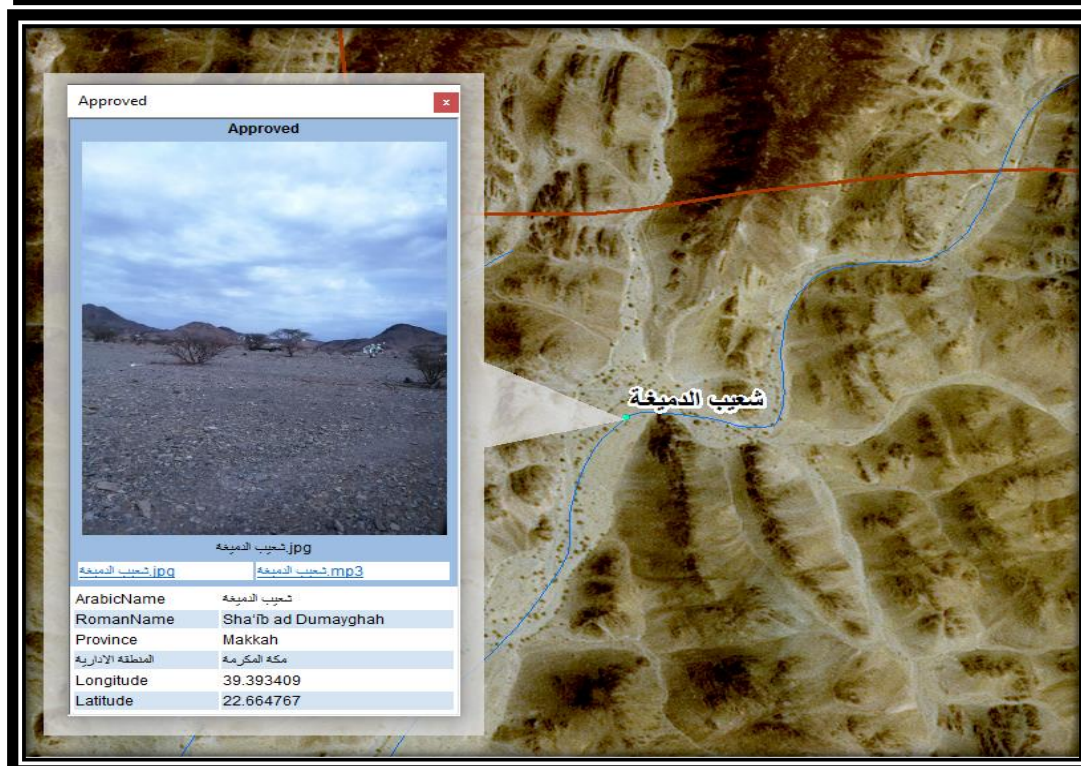
رقم اللوحة : ٣٧٢٥١٤٤		الهيئة العامة للمساحة مشروع جمع الأسماء الجغرافية و توثيقها منطقة المدينة المنورة				
الإحداثيات الجغرافية (Coordinate)		ملاحظات	نوع المعتم	الإسم الصحيح	إسم المعتم	الرقم
X	Y					
37.5138866	25.911719		شعيب		شعيب منوخر	1
37.5144657	25.9495429		شعيب		شعيب الصفره	2
37.561624	25.934861	جديد	شعيب		شعيب العروض	3
37.526964	25.97703	جديد	شعيب		شعيب أبو جدور الأيمن	4
37.547721	25.951216	جديد	شعيب		شعيب أبو جدور الأيسر	5
37.574632	25.915814	جديد	شعيب		شعيب ففلة	6
37.562652	25.920225	جديد	شعيب		شعيب البببر	7
37.564612	25.982651		جبل		جبل فريخ	8
37.594341	25.984197		جبل		جبل مشقوتاه	9
37.579678	25.978674		شعيب		شعيب جدبان	10
37.587339	25.948824		جبل		جبل النقرة	11
37.5432	25.935603		شعيب		شعيب الفرعة	12
37.54401	25.972316	تعديل الاسم	شعيب	شعيب المنويجر	وادي ثورة	13
37.597605	25.931614		وادي		وادي ثورة	14
37.559775	25.959089	جديد	كثمة		كثمة أم ضريعات	15
37.57037	25.935317	جديد	جبل		جبل العروض	16
37.537633	25.940205	جديد	شعيب		شعيب الملاح	17
37.549651	25.983711	تعديل الاسم	شعيب	شعيب محيشاه	شعيب محيشاه	18
37.510354	25.975611		جبل		جبل المريضة	19
37.527296	25.988648		شعيب		شعيب المريضة	20
37.556551	25.936753	جديد	جبل		جبل الماردة	21
37.524638	25.938699		جبل		جبل أبو جدور	22
37.555055	25.948693	جديد	معتم متى		بلر الفرعة	23
37.523809	25.927365	جديد	جبل		جبل البيضاء	24
المسؤول المحلي		التوقيع	التكامل (المعرف)		إسم المساح	
 رامى مركز فضلا جديده بن جمهور العتيبي		 محمد فايز الشهري	0553624216 محمد دبيان محط		 محمد فايز الشهري	



Field Overlay



Geonames Projects Outcome



Jazīrat Umm Ruways

جزيرة ام رويس



Jazīrat Jabal Kadambal

جزيرة جبل كدمبل



disaster risks by providing technical support and training courses for skills development (60) participants from Jordan, Egypt, Sudan and Senegal.

2- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently established on the instructions of His Highness the Minister a database in the ministry linked to Saudi embassies abroad with the task of collecting official information about countries, including the official name of the country in Arabic, English and the official language of the state.