



UNITED NATIONS  
**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names  
standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery

2023/3rd session UNGEGN | 1-5 May 2023 | @unsd\_gegn



# National Dialogue

## Agenda item 4a

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



**United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**



# Day 1

## Theme: National names standardization

### *Topics:*

- a. Legal frameworks, laws involved, Place Names Acts
- b. Policies, principles & procedures
- c. Programme planning (e.g. national/board strategic plans)
- d. New boards, or those in process of development
- e. International names standardization (inc. exonyms/country names)
- f. Challenges (e.g. where several gov. depts & local authorities have naming responsibilities. How does this work and good practices.



# 1a. Legal frameworks, laws involved, Place Names Acts

*National reports that consider this topic:*

Armenia

Iceland

Peru

Australia

Islamic Republic of

Poland

Cabo Verde

Iran

Republic of Moldova

Cambodia

Japan

Russian Federation

Canada

Jordan

South Africa

Costa Rica

Lithuania

Sweden

Croatia

Mozambique

Thailand

Cyprus

Kingdom of the

Türkiye

Estonia

Netherlands

Ukraine

Hungary

Norway



# **THEME 1a: National names standardization: Legal frameworks, laws involved, Place Names Acts**

## **UKRAINE**

ALINA SUSHCHYK

Head of the International Cooperation Division

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre

1st May 2023



**United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

# Updating geonames responsibilities - what are the changes?



On 20 September 2022, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine amended the Law of Ukraine "**On Geographical Names**" to improve activities related to geographical names. These amendments:



define the powers of the Government;



establish the principle of openness of the State Register of Geographical Names;



determine the holder and administrator of the State Register of Geographical Names;



regulate the procedure for conducting expertise of proposals and decisions of state authorities and local self-government bodies on naming and renaming geographical objects, etc.



In the ongoing process of renaming the settlements and other geographical objects, the citizens take an active part via online tools.



The State Register of Geographical Names contains more than 105 000 names of geographical objects of Ukraine, which are constantly updated according to official sources of information.



# 1b. Policies, principles & procedures

*National reports that consider this topic:*

Argentina

Finland

New Zealand

Australia

Iceland

Republic of Korea

Bulgaria

Indonesia

Slovenia

Cabo Verde

Islamic Republic of United Kingdom

Cyprus

Iran

Czechia

Latvia

Denmark

Mozambique



# THEME 1b:

## National names standardization: Policies, principles and procedures

# UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

CATHERINE CHEETHAM

Head, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

1<sup>st</sup> May 2023



**United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**



# Treatment of Welsh on UK Ordnance Survey maps



Ordnance Survey applies dual names to features when both names are accepted and in local use throughout Wales.

Names are never translated and must be in active use. Some names are shown only in Welsh as this is the accepted name.



# THEME 1b:

## National names standardization: Policies, principles and procedures

# ARGENTINA

María Dolores Puente

Head of the Directorate of Geography

National Geographic Institute

1<sup>st</sup> May 2023

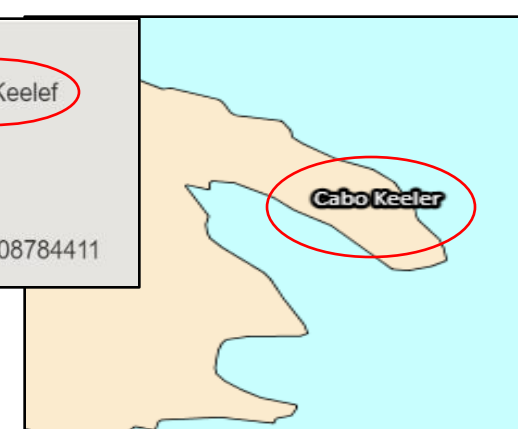


Argentina, through the National Geographic Institute (IGN), seeks to strengthen links and relationships with other geographic information producing agencies in order to create a single official Geographic Names Database.

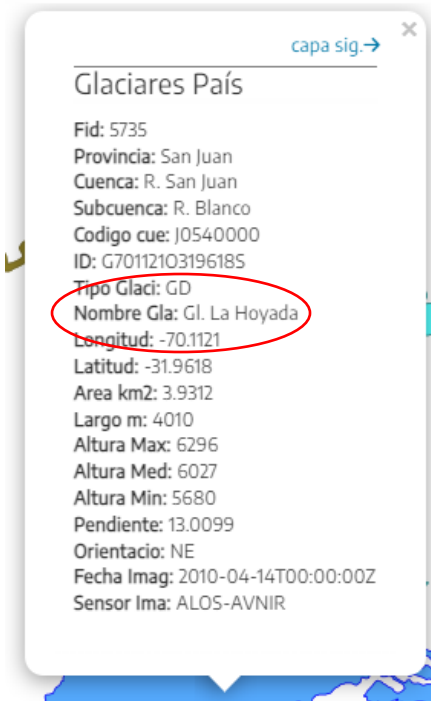
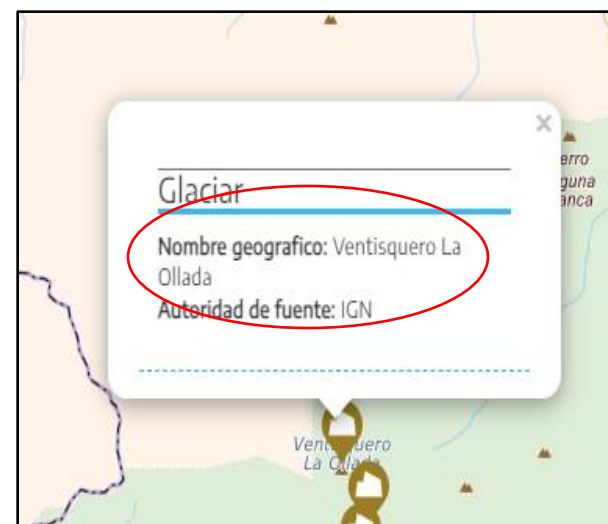
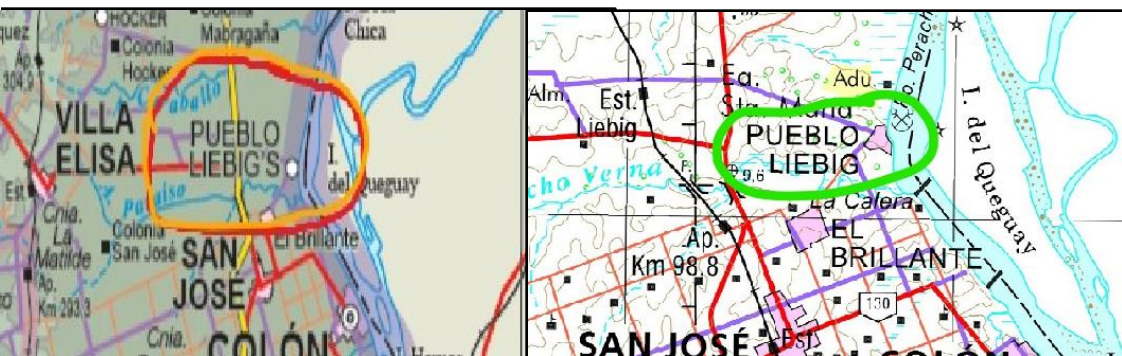
## PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE DEFINITION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

Version 1.0 - Argentine Republic - 2021

Objeto: Accidente costero  
Nombre geográfico (fna): Cabo Keelef  
Término genérico (gna): Cabo  
Autoridad fuente (sag):  
Coordenadas: -68.86525124 -63.08784411



Naval Hydrography Service



Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos República Argentina

National Institute of Statistics and Censuses



Argentine Institute of Nivology, Glaciology and Environmental Sciences



United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

## 1c. Programme planning (e.g. national/board strategic plans)

*National reports that consider this topic:*

Canada

Croatia

Denmark

Indonesia

Malaysia



# THEME 1c:

Programme planning (e.g. national/board strategic plans)

## GREENLAND (DENMARK)

ARNAQ B. JOHANSEN

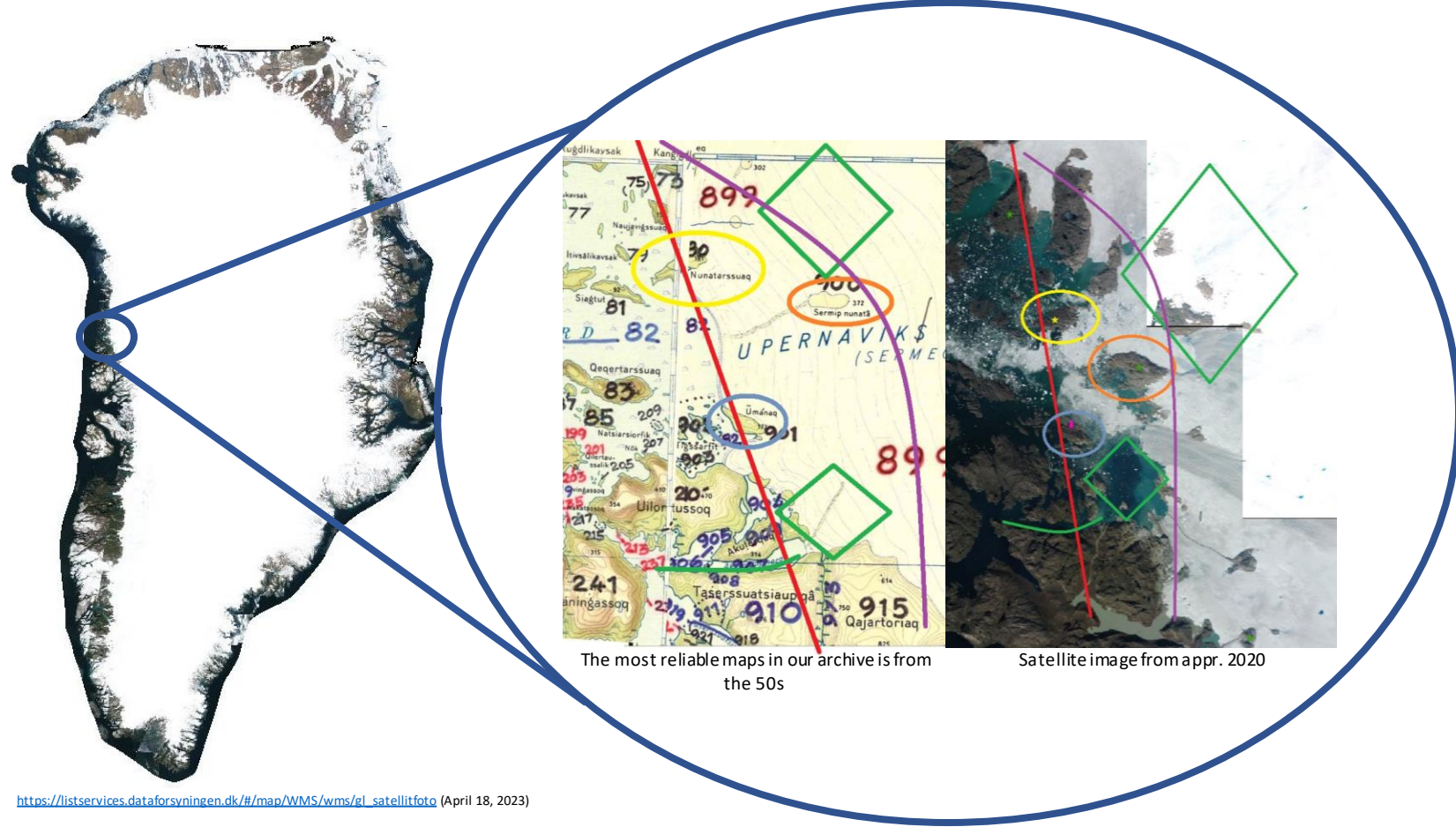
PROJECT MANAGER IN COLLECTION OF PLACE NAMES

Oqaasileriffik

May 1, 2023



# The new features in the landscape and communicative functions in place names



The most reliable maps in our archive is from the 50s

Satellite image from appr. 2020

**Examples on changes in features and the new ones**

Red	Greenland Ice Sheet before	
Purple	Greenland Ice Sheet now	
Yellow	Before	nunatak
Blue	Now	island
Green	New features	nunataks bay sound

**Examples on communicative functions in place names**

Greenlandic	Interpretation to English
Nuuk	A cape
Maniitsoq	Uneven [terrain]
Avalleq	The outermost
Kujalleq	The southernmost
Timerleq	The innermost
Kitsissut	Islands lying far out to sea
Ukiivik	Winter place
Upernivik	Spring place
Aasivik	Summer place
Ammassivik	Capelin fishing place
Eqaluit	Arctic Chars, trouts

[https://listservices.dataforsyningen.dk/#/map/WMS/wms/gl\\_satellitfoto](https://listservices.dataforsyningen.dk/#/map/WMS/wms/gl_satellitfoto) (April 18, 2023)



## 1d. New boards, or those in process of development

*National reports that consider this topic:*

Cambodia

Dominican Republic

Peru

Republic of Moldova



## 1e. International names standardization (inc. exonyms/country names)

*National reports that consider this topic:*

Austria

Latvia

Sweden

Bulgaria

Kingdom of the

Türkiye

Czechia

Netherlands

Ukraine

Estonia

Poland

United Kingdom

Finland

Slovakia

Hungary

Slovenia





**THEME 1e:  
National names standardization:  
International names standardization  
(inc. exonyms/country names)**

**POLAND**

Maciej Zych

Chair, Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names  
Outside the Republic of Poland


1<sup>st</sup> May 2023



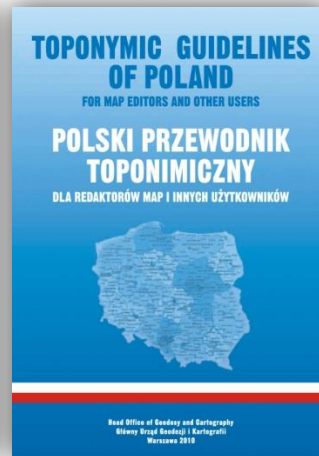
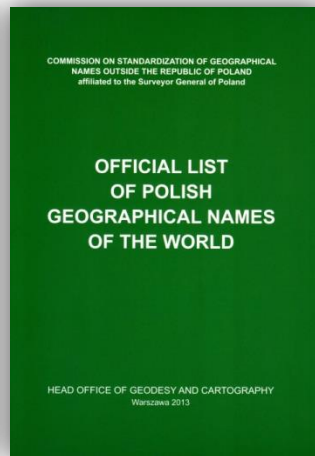
# Standardization of geographical names of the world (exonyms) in Poland

Surveyor General of Poland  
(Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography)

**Commission on Standardization  
of Geographical Names Outside  
the Republic of Poland**



- Establishing, changing and abolishing the recommended Polish geographical names of the world (Polish exonyms)
- Publishing lists of the recommended Polish geographical names of the world:
  - list of exonyms
  - list of country names
- Establishing the principles of romanization from languages which use non-Roman writing systems:
  - romanization rules for 38 languages
- Recommending foreign names of important geographical objects located in the territory of Poland:
  - recommended English names
- International cooperation in the field of standardization of geographical names:
  - participation in UNGEGN activities
  - representation of Poland on international conferences



**United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

1f. Challenges (e.g. where several gov. depts & local authorities have naming responsibilities).  
How does this work and good practices.

*National reports that consider this topic:*

Estonia

Latvia

Greece

Norway

Indonesia

Saudi Arabia

Japan



# **THEME 1f:**

# **Coordination Between Various Departments on Geographical Names**

# **JAPAN**

Akira Sasagawa

Director of Geographic Information Analysis Research Division,  
Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023



**United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

# Coordination Between Various Departments on Geographical Names

In Japan, geographical names are collected, arranged, and standardized by relevant governmental agencies through the coordination among their administrative activities and mandates.

- A. The efforts made by relevant organizations for standardization
  1. Standardization of geographical names of administrative districts
  2. Unification of geographical names of natural features
  3. Standardization of geographical names of undersea features
  4. Adoption of Antarctic geographical names
- B. National Geographical Names Gazetteer



# THEME 1f:

## Challenges of multiple departments or agencies/academia participating in standardization

# SAUDI ARABIA

Dr. Eng. Mohammed Yahya Alsayel

President of General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information

May 1<sup>st</sup> , 2023





## *National names standardization*

# Some general questions

- As there are many approaches to establishing a national names authority, are there materials you would like to see included on the UNGEGN website to assist countries in this process?
- Some countries have a national names authority established by law/act/decreed, but it is not fully functioning. Can UNGEGN provide any documentation or links to assist in these cases?
- Only some countries have boards with a mandate to decide on the use of names for places, etc. outside their own countries. How do other countries derive the authority for such names, for example, for international maps and in texts?

