

13 March 2023

English

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

2023 session

New York, 1 – 5 May 2023

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**

Report of Indonesia

Submitted by Indonesia**

Summary

The full report of Indonesia, prepared by the Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial), provides an outline of all activities carried out by Indonesia since the 2021 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

As the national mapping agency and the national names authority of Indonesia, the Agency has undertaken great efforts to implement geographical names standardization. The programmes that have been implemented include the dissemination of government regulation No. 2 of 2021 on geographical names standardization, the publication of national gazetteers, toponymic capacity-building, the maintenance and development of the Sistem Informasi Nama Rupabumi (SINAR) and the national award for stakeholders in geographical names standardization.

The public's awareness of geographical names standardization has recently increased, along with substantial demand for capacity-building from local governments and a significant increase in SINAR data and users. Meanwhile, national issues have arisen in the context of practices that needed to adhere to the principle, policy and procedure of geographical names.

In order to facilitate the improvement of national geographical names standardization, the Agency works inclusively and collaboratively to strengthen relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization with all stakeholders involved. The Agency encourages collaboration and cooperation with ministries or agencies, local governments, academic institutions, experts, the private sector and communities in data collection, verification and data integration.

* GEGN.2/2023/1

** Prepared by the Geospatial Information Agency.

Report of Indonesia

A. Regulation on Standardization of Geographical Names

The implementation of Government Regulation Number 2 of 2021 on Standardization of Geographical Names (hereinafter referred as GR 2/2021) has made it necessary for the Geospatial Information Agency (*Badan Informasi Geospasial* - BIG) as the National Names Authority to develop technical guidelines that will provide clarity and guidance for the standardization process. Furthermore, a proper understanding of the regulations relating to geographical names standardization is crucial. Therefore, BIG has held several technical meetings with relevant stakeholders to draft the guidelines, including the standard operation procedure and the technical guidelines, which are expected to be officially issued by the end of 2023.

B. National Gazetteer of the Republic of Indonesia

1. After the GR 2/2021 was enacted, BIG has launched two national gazetteers, which are the 2021 Edition of the Gazetteer of the Republic of Indonesia and the 2022 Edition of the Gazetteer of the Republic of Indonesia. The 2021 Edition contains 21,430 standardized geographical names, including 548 administrative areas, 3,685 land features, 17,000 islands, and 197 maritime features. The 2022 Edition includes an additional 7,038 standardized geographical names, including 6,480 names from the 2022 verification process and 558 names that were already standardized in 2021 but underwent name changing process.
2. The national gazetteers are available in two formats: 1) book/e-book and 2) online gazetteer. The book/e-book format is the concise gazetteer that displays the following five information: standardized name, alternate name (if any), feature type, coordinates, and administrative area. Meanwhile, the online gazetteer provides more comprehensive information for each geographical feature, consisting of toponym ID, standardized name, alternate name (if any), feature type, coordinates, administrative area, the meaning of the name (if any), origin language, the history of the name (if any), pronunciation, and any other supporting information such as photos and voice recordings.
3. Indonesian Geographical Names Information System (*Sistem Informasi Nama Rupabumi* - SINAR) website provides access to both the e-books and the online gazetteer. The e-books can be found at <https://sinar.big.go.id/gazeter>, and the online gazetteer can be found at <https://sinar.big.go.id/gazeter/data>.

C. Activities on National Standardization of Geographical Names

1. Coordination on Standardization of Geographical Names

BIG has organized meetings with several stakeholders across Indonesia to explore potential collaborations. The objective is to establish partnerships with the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing, the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs, the Language Development and Fostering Agency, the Maritime Security Agency, the Yogyakarta Province Government, the Cianjur Regency Government, the Sleman Regency Government, the Gunung Kidul Regency Government, the Bandung Institute of Technology, the Lembang Disaster Response Volunteer, and the OpenStreetMap Indonesia Association.

For toponymic data sharing, BIG had discussions with ministries, agencies, local governments, and NGOs such as Participatory Mapping Network (*Jaringan Kerja Pemetaan*

Partisipatif - JKPP) and OpenStreetMap Indonesia Association (*Perkumpulan OpenStreetMap Indonesia* - POI). BIG also had a discussion with Bandung Institute of Technology (*Institut Teknologi Bandung* - ITB) and Lembang Disaster Response Volunteer (*Relawan Penanggulangan Bencana Lembang* - RPBL) about the geographical names of the Lembang Fault. BIG and stakeholders use two methods to share toponym data: either through partial utilization of an application programming interface (API) between stakeholders, or through traditional data integration by exchanging file-based data. The Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, and the Ministry of Religious Affairs used application programming interfaces. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy used file-based exchanging using excel or shapefile format. The details are explained at GEGN.2/2023/48/CRP.48.

2. Toponymy Surveys for Maritime Feature

- a. In 2022, BIG discovered a seamount on the south coast of Pacitan Regency, Central Java Province during a bathymetric survey. The process of naming the seamount involved stakeholders to identify a unique, scientifically relevant, and culturally appropriate name that reflects the significance of the seamount and the rich cultural and natural heritage of the region.
- b. BIG has undertaken comprehensive field surveys to elucidate the nomenclature of the bays located within three provinces during the two-month duration of November-December in 2022. The primary objective of this survey is to verify the authenticity regarding the names of the bays that have been previously acquired.

3. Verification of Geographical Names

- a. Before the names were published in the Gazetteer, a final verification at the national level was conducted. The verification of land feature names was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.
- b. The verification of maritime feature names was assisted closely by the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment Affairs, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, the Indonesian Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Center, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, and the National Research and Innovation Agency.
- c. Verification of the administration area names
 - Verification of the administration area names was conducted by reviewing the geographical names' writing according to the latest Ministry of Home Affairs Regulation and completing the Attribute Information (last adopted name, formation regulations, and name changing). In 2021, the Ministry of Home Affairs published the List of Unique Code for Government Administration Areas and Islands (stipulated by Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 58 of 2021). In 2022, the Ministry of Home Affairs then published updated information regarding Government Administration Areas and Islands stipulated by Minister of Home Affairs Decree Number 100.1.1-6117 of 2022.
 - Following the Minister of Home Affairs Decree Number 100.1.1-6117 of 2022 and Law Number 29 of 2022, there are additional new four provinces: 1) *Papua Tengah* (Central

Papua), 2) *Papua Selatan* (South Papua), 3) *Papua Pegunungan* (Mountains Papua), and 4) *Papua Barat Daya* (Southwest Papua). The details are explained at GEGN.2/2023/CRP.50.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has standardized administrative area names in Indonesia as follows: 38 Provinces, 416 Regencies, 98 Cities, 7,277 Districts, 8,498 *Kelurahan*¹, 75,265 Villages, and 17,001 islands as mentioned in Minister of Home Affairs Decree no. 100.1.1-6117 of 2022 concerning the update of codes, administrative government area data, and islands.

4. Capacity Building on Toponymy

BIG holds toponymic capacity buildings to strengthen the rules and regulations comprehension, institutional resources, and the skills and abilities of individuals related to the standardization of geographical names. BIG has four toponymic capacity-building activity types: the dissemination of GR 2/2021 and toponymic guidelines, technical assistance, toponymic consultation, and stakeholder coordination. Between 2021 and 2022, BIG conducted toponymic capacity-building programs for participants ranging from ministries, agencies, local governments, NGOs, and academics. A total of 126 toponymic capacity-building activities for land and maritime features have been conducted during this period. The details are explained at GEGN.2/2023/21/CRP.21.

5. National Issues

- a. In early February 2022, a legal case was filed against the Government of Kebumen by two of its citizens for changing 15 geographical names. These name changes included 13 streets, one building, and one bridge. The citizens were of the opinion that the changes had been made without proper involvement of the local communities. To prevent similar problems in the future, it is necessary to have derivative regulations of GR 2/2021 to clarify the community involvement in geographical name standardization. Furthermore, intensive coordination and collaboration between local and central governments are urgently needed to prevent misinterpretation of the regulations. The details of the issue are explained at GEGN.2/2023/43/CRP.43.
- b. Multiple stakeholders proposed several names for the newly constructed port terminal in Mempawah Regency, West Kalimantan Province. As the National Names Authority of Indonesia, BIG was spearheading the coordination of the port naming process. BIG collaborated with the stakeholders and established public participation in the geographical naming process to ensure an effective and inclusive naming process, considering local wisdom. The details of the issue are explained at GEGN.2/2023/46/CRP.46.

6. Geographical Names Standardization Awards

Each year, BIG as the national mapping institution, issues *Bhumandala* Awards to local governments and ministries/national institutions for their achievement in geospatial data and infrastructure innovation. As one of the methods for encouraging other parties to more actively participate in geographical names standardization activities, in 2022 BIG issued a new category for these awards, i.e. *Bhumandala* on Geographical Names Awards. The awards are divided into five sub-categories: ministries/national agencies, local governments at the provincial and regency/city levels, community/non-governmental organizations, and individuals. The awards

¹ *Kelurahan* is the fourth level of government within a province. *Kelurahan* is equivalent to “Village”.

also aim to recognize multiple stakeholders' persistent efforts and the most significant contributions to geographical names standardization from 2021 until mid-2022. The details are explained at GEGN.2/2023/47/CRP.47.

D. Involvements in the UNGEGN Asia South-East Division

1. Chairmanship

Indonesia handed over the chairmanship of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Asia South-East (ASE) Division to Brunei Darussalam at the 10th Divisional Meeting on April 19th, 2022. The meeting participants reached an agreement to designate Mrs. Nor Zetty Akhtar Haji Abdul Hamid from Brunei Darussalam as the Chairman of the UNGEGN ASE Division for the 2022-2026 period.

2. The International Training on Toponymy

During Indonesia's chairmanship, the International Training on Toponymy is one of the goals set out in the UNGEGN ASE Division Work Plan 2019-2022. Due to the pandemic situation, the International Training on Toponymy was postponed to 2023. The program shall span five days (19-23 June 2023) and shall comprise six modules that incorporate lectures, discussions, demonstrations, and practical exercises, culminating in a one-day field exercise that focuses on the collection of geographical names. The program is open to all member countries of UNGEGN.

E. Conclusions

Indonesia has made significant efforts to implement geographical names standardization programs including dissemination of government regulations, publication of national gazetteers, toponymic capacity building activities, maintenance and development of SINAR, and issuing national awards for stakeholders. Names verification process at the national level in 2022 has resulted in 6,480 new standardized names, so that the national gazetteer contains now a total of 27,910 standardized names. The public's awareness of geographical names standardization has also increased especially among the local governments, leading to a high demand for capacity building and significant growth in SINAR data and users. BIG works inclusively and collaboratively with stakeholders such as ministries/agencies, local governments, academia, experts, private sectors, and communities to improve national geographical names standardization, including data collection, verification, and integration. Furthermore, in order to strengthen relationships within UNGEGN country members, Indonesia encourages member countries of UNGEGN to update the list of authorities. It is expected that UNGEGN and other relevant international organizations take notes from each UNGEGN member country's authorities.

Points for discussion

The Group of Experts is invited to:

1. Express its views on the report.
2. Comment and provide input on similar works in strengthening relationships between multiple stakeholders on geographical names standardization.