

Taking stock of the toponymic standardization situation in Madagascar / Évaluation de la situation au Madagascar

Helen Kerfoot

June 2013



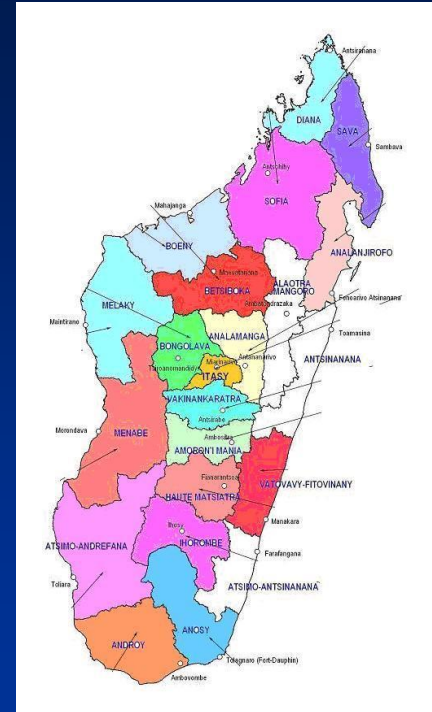
Some questions to consider

- (1) Are names on maps correct?
- (2) Are names missing from maps?
- (3) Are Madagascar toponyms generally available?
- (4) How are changes or “new” names processed?
- (5) How does Madagascar’s names authority function?
- (6) How can things be improved?



Names on maps correct?

- Language ... Malagasy, French?
- Spelling
- Location of name on feature
- Are names in use?

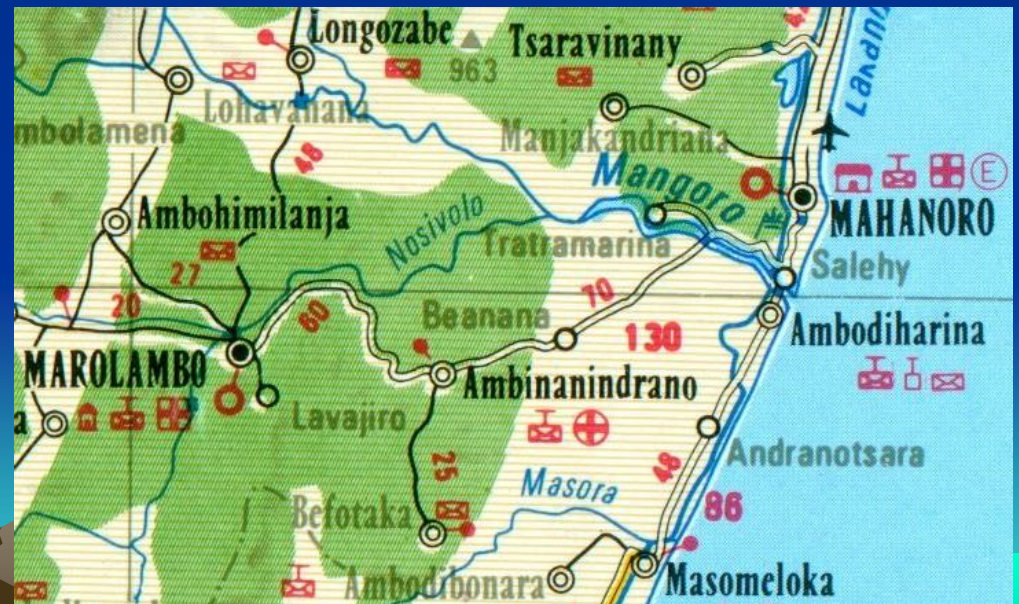


- Check with local administrative offices
- Check with documents, e.g. current/historical
- Fieldwork check

Names on maps ... missing names?

- Are other names in use?
- Are names used in government and other documents recorded?

– Collect and process them



Availability of names?

- Are names used on maps and charts available to other government departments? (e.g. transport, agriculture)
- Are these names available to other levels of government? For education? For general public?
- Are there: database, lists, gazetteers, digital files, website?



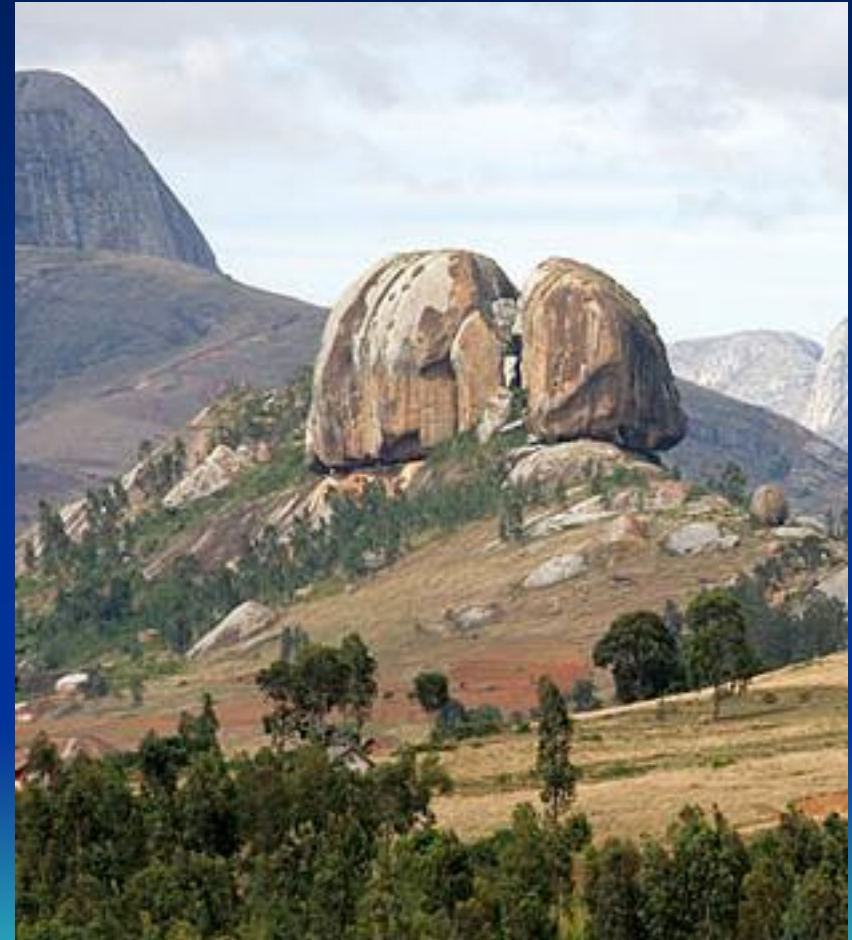
Name changes and “new” names

- Are names kept up to date?
- Are updates processed systematically?
- Is there a process based on solid principles?
- Does the national committee handle this?



How does the national authority function?

- Mandate
- Size
- Representation
- Participation
- Secretariat support
- Funding
- Meeting schedule



Improvements?

- Fieldwork
- Office work
- Database and availability of data
- Use of official names information
- Functioning of the national names authority

