



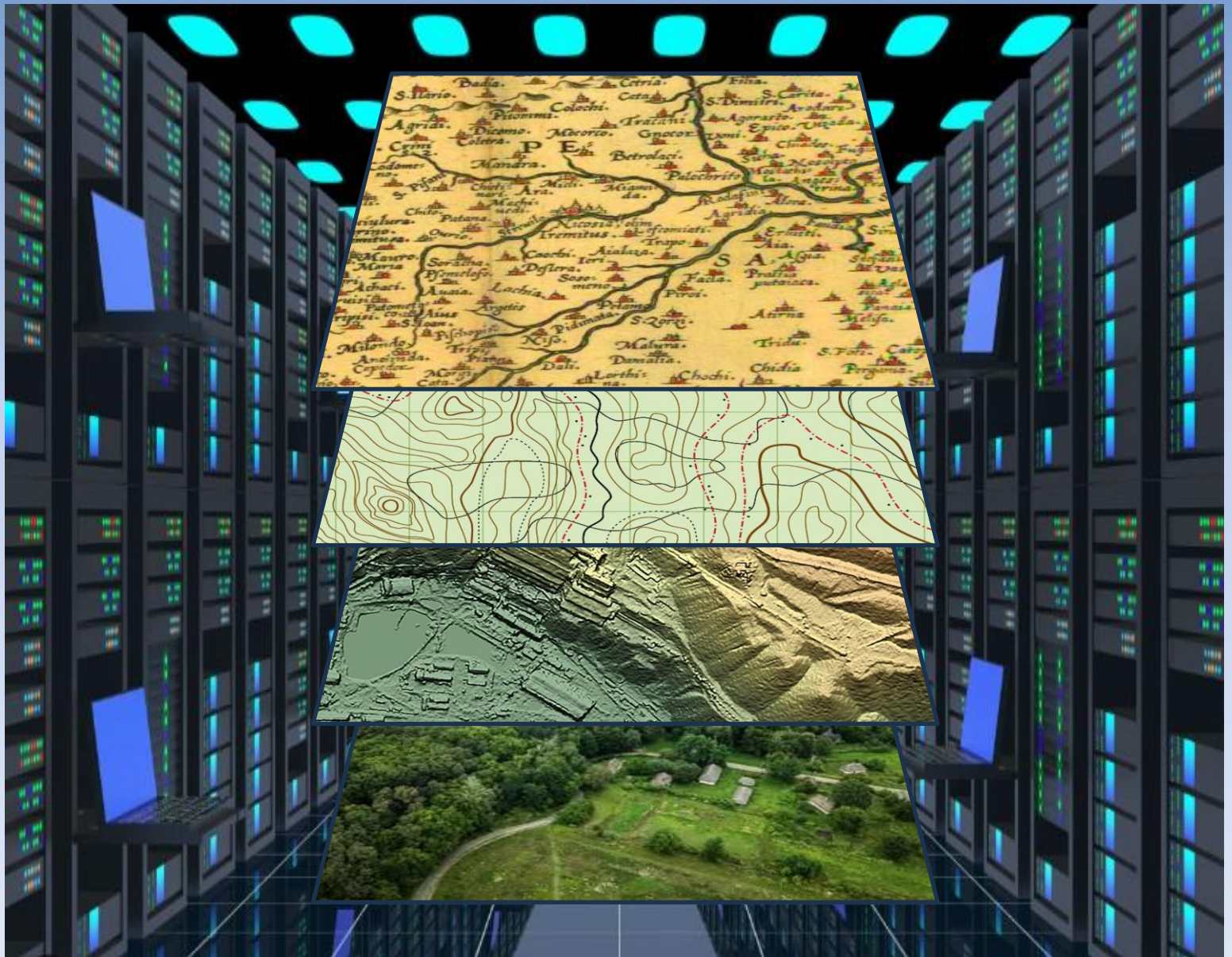
United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

GEOGRAPHICAL  
NAMES

INFORMATION BULLETIN

No. 67 JUNE 2024

Good practices emerging from relations between  
National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agencies  
and Geographical Names Authorities





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON ..... 3**

**MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT ..... 4**

***Theme: Good Practices Emerging From Relations Between National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agencies And Geographical Names Authorities ..... 7***

Spatial data management and geographical names coordination activities in the Republic of Armenia ..... 7

An Overview: The National Mapping Agency as the Lead for the National Names Authority in Brunei Darussalam ..... 9

Une approche collaborative de la gestion de l’information géospatiale et de la toponymie au Canada ..... 11

Cyprus: Good practices emerging from relations between National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agency and Geographical Names Authority..... 15

Standardizing, maintaining and providing geographical names in GERMANY – complex, but efficient!..... 17

Best practices for entities concerned with geographical names in Jordan ..... 22

Good practices emerging from relations between National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agencies and Geographical Names Authorities: New Zealand..... 24

Good practices emerging from the relations between the Oman National Hydrographic Office and the National Survey Authority in the Sultanate of Oman based on the strategic plan of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGE GN) ..... 30

Implementation of Functions in the Field of Geodesy, Cartography, Spatial Data and Names of Geographical Objects in the Russian Federation..... 33

Saudi Arabia: GEOSA's Integrated Approach to Geographical Names and Geospatial Data Management ..... 35

**FROM THE COUNTRIES ..... 37**

Burkina Faso..... 37

**FROM THE DIVISIONS ..... 41**

Africa Centrale ..... 41

Romano-Hellenic Division ..... 45

**FROM THE WORKING GROUPS..... 46**

Working Group on Exonyms ..... 46

**SPECIAL PROJECTS AND NEWS ITEM..... 46**

Pan-American Institute of Geography and History ..... 47

UNGE GN and UN Maps ..... 48

Revitalizing the work item Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage..... 49

Award for merit to professor Andrea Cantile, chair of Romano-Hellenic Division of UNGE GN ..... 50



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

### *Favoriser une bonne communication au niveau national*

Chers Collègues,

Au sein des Nations unies, et plus particulièrement parmi les organes subsidiaires du Conseil économique et social, notre Groupe d'experts (GENUNG) et le Comité d'experts sur la gestion de l'information géospatiale à l'échelle mondiale (CE-GIGM) avons souhaité favoriser de « bonnes pratiques issues des relations entre les agences nationales de cartographie et de gestion des données géospatiales et les autorités de toponymie ».



Nous vous avons invités à y contribuer chacun à l'occasion du présent bulletin sur ce thème. Dix d'entre vous avez répondu à cet appel et ont fourni les articles très riches que nous publions dans les pages suivantes. Au terme d'une première analyse, Wendy Shaw (Nouvelle-Zélande) et Ana Resende (Brésil) ont remarqué que la plupart des pistes d'actions concrètes traduisent une priorité à donner à la communication des équipes nationales chargées de la cartographie et de la toponymie, entre elles et avec le public.

Le projet vise maintenant à étendre ce recensement et à l'organiser en une « boîte à outils » offerte à tous. Pour avancer dans cette direction, une équipe se met en place sous la coordination de notre collègue Ade Komara (Indonésie). Encore petite, elle reste à renforcer par d'autres experts du GENUNG et à compléter par des experts du CE-GIGM.

Ce projet se situe au croisement des axes 2 et 5 de notre Plan stratégique : « Relations, liens et connexions » et « Promotion et renforcement des capacités ». Merci à ceux qui l'ont porté jusqu'à présent et à ceux qui ont accepté ou accepteront de s'engager pour le faire aboutir. Merci aussi à ceux qui s'engagent et s'engageront dans d'autres actions du GENUNG. En particulier, nous devons traiter la question des noms géographiques comme patrimoine culturel lors de notre prochaine session. Celle-ci se tiendra du 28 avril au 2 mai 2025 à New York, et nos groupes de travail, nos divisions et vous, experts, sont encouragés à commencer à la préparer !

**Pierre Jaillard (France)**  
*Président du GENUNG*  
Mél: [pierre@jaillard.net](mailto:pierre@jaillard.net)

### *Promoting good communication at the national level*

Dear Colleagues,

Within the United Nations, and more particularly among the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, our Group of Experts (UNEGN) and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) wish to promote "good practices emerging from relations between National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agencies and Geographical Names Authorities".

We invited each of you to contribute to this newsletter on this theme. Ten of you responded to this call and contributed the very rich articles we have published in the following pages. At the end of an initial analysis of the ten articles, Wendy Shaw (New Zealand) and Ana Resende (Brazil) noted that most of the ideas for concrete action reflect a priority good practice of encouraging communication among national teams responsible for mapping and toponymy as well as with the public.

The project now aims to extend this inventory and organize the resulting information into a "toolbox" available to all. To move forward in this direction, a team is being set up under the coordination of our colleague Ade Komara (Indonesia). This team is still small and needs to be strengthened by other UNGEGN experts and supplemented by experts from the UN-GGIM.

This project is at the crossroads of strategies 2 and 5 of our Strategic Plan: "Relationships, links and connections" and "Promotion and capacity building". Thank you to those who have supported it so far and to those who have agreed or will agree to commit themselves to making it a success. Thank you also to those who are or will be involved in other UNGEGN activities. In particular, we will address the issue of geographical names as cultural heritage at our next session. This one is scheduled for 28 April to 2 May 2025 in New York, and our working groups, our divisions and you, Experts, are encouraged to begin to prepare for it!

**Pierre Jaillard (France)**  
*Chair, UNGEGN*  
E-mail: [pierre@jaillard.net](mailto:pierre@jaillard.net)



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear UNGEGN Experts,

The UNGEGN Secretariat is pleased to share with you the 67th issue of the UNGEGN Bulletin which focuses on the theme ‘*Good practices emerging from relations between National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agencies and Geographical Names Authorities*’. This issue features 50 pages, with ten themed articles, a country contribution from Burkina Faso, two divisional updates from Africa Central and Romano-Hellenic, and a summary on the Working Group on Exonyms meeting held 14-15 May 2024 in Prague Czech Republic. Under the special projects and news item section, there are important stories from the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, an integral liaison body that has historically supported toponymic capacity building in the Americas, a brief from Catherine Cheetham convenor of the Working group on Romanization, on her participation in the third UN Maps Conference, in Valencia Spain from 21 to 24 May 2024, a congratulatory note on the award for merit to professor Andrea Cantile, chair of Romano-Hellenic Division of UNGEGN, and a call to experts to help UNGEGN in its quest to revitalize the work item geographical names as cultural heritage.

### Featured Theme

The theme in this issue is in line with UNGEGN’s Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029, Strategy 2: Relationships, links and connections, which is also aligned with the UN Economic and Social Council’s recommendation on the promotion and strengthening of collaboration among the Council’s functional commissions and expert bodies. This recommendation is detailed in the ‘*Review of the Work of ECOSOC Subsidiary bodies, Summary recommendations by the Vice President of the Council*’ of 27 May 2022. See section III, paragraphs 15, 19, 22 and 24 in the review document which outlines ways to promote the further strengthening of collaboration among ECOSOC’s functional commissions and expert bodies. In response to UNGEGN’s Strategy 2, and ECOSOC’s recommendations, the Group of Experts presented a collaborative project to the Committee of Experts at its twelfth session in furtherance of strengthening interaction and collaboration between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts. The project seeks to prepare a compendium of institutional arrangements and operational shared good practices that strengthens working relations between national mapping agencies and national names authorities to support the collection, management, and dissemination of standardized geographical names. This issue serves as an initial step in kickstarting the project, as national geographical names authorities were invited to share their good practices arising from their relations with national mapping agencies.

The ten themed articles were submitted from Armenia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Germany, Jordan, New Zealand, Oman, the Russian Federation, and Saudi Arabia. In this issue, I will highlight some commonalities found across the articles, rather than summarizing each article. Of notable coincidence was the fact that all ten articles were submitted by experts having both national geographical names authorities and national mapping agencies in the same organization or having very close working relations. Most of these working arrangements were undergirded by policy and legal instruments. Given this administrative arrangement, I was unable to compare the benefits and challenges that would exist when the geographical names and mapping bodies are in separate organizations.

What was discernable however, was that the benefits of collaboration between both bodies were generally the same in each country. Some of the benefits identified were: the sharing of resources and infrastructure, reduced duplication resulting in financial savings; robust quality control measures in map production and geographical names management which ensures consistency, accuracy, and effective maintenance across datasets; integrated management of data which promotes efficiencies and effective decision making; and the promotion of seamless communication which inspires accountability and transparency, thereby strengthening governance. Most importantly, collaboration between the bodies result in improved maps, products, and services that are made available across the government, local authorities, businesses, and the people of the countries. Readers will note that the articles from Germany and New Zealand provided detailed analysis on the relations between their geographical names and mapping bodies. I found New Zealand’s article particularly candid and insightful, as not only were good practices identified, but also the challenges of both bodies working together and recommendations for future enhancements across several Land Information New Zealand datasets.

Special appreciation is extended to the authors of the themed articles for the important body of information researched and shared, which provide a strong base for the start of the joint UN-GIGM/UNGEGN collaborative project. I am sure the UNGEGN Bureau would wish to have the contributing countries participate in the UN-GGIM/UNGEGN collaborative project.

During my review of the ten themed articles, it occurred to me that we do have consistent contributors to the Bulletin. I therefore decided to prepare a table showing the countries that have submitted articles beginning with this issue, going back to the 61st. As theorized, our findings indicated that Cyprus and New Zealand have contributed an article to the past seven issues of the Bulletin, followed by Canada with five articles, (see table below).



	Country	No. 67	No. 66	No. 65	No. 64	No. 63	No. 62	No. 61	Total
1	Cyprus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
2	New Zealand	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
3	Canada	X	X	X			X	X	5
4	Jordan	X	X	X		X			4
5	Russian Federation	X	X	X	X	X			5
6	Armenia	X	X		X				3
7	Oman	X	X	X					3
8	Saudi Arabia	X			X	X			3
9	Brunei Darussalam	X							1
10	Germany	X							1

Table 1 Countries that have contributed articles to the UNGEGN Bulletin from issue 61 to 67

The data in Table 1 has led me to wish to ask our contributors, what factors have influenced and/or contributed to having them submit themed articles to the Bulletin? Is it because:

- 1) The Bulletin themes are aligned to your organization’s work programme,
- 2) The preparation and submission of an UNGEGN article is a deliverable in your organization’s workplan,
- 3) The fact that two issues of the Bulletin are published per year, which allows for the time to research and submit articles or
- 4) Other reasons.

Should time allow, I am kindly asking our contributors to send me an email at [blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org) and share with me your reasons for submitting articles to the Bulletin.

### Administrative Matters

I take this opportunity to welcome and introduce Allison Dollimore of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, United Kingdom, who now serves as Co-Coordinator with responsibility for publicity, to the editorial team for the UNGEGN Bulletin. She has been supporting the UNGEGN secretariat with the preparation of the Bulletin since the 66<sup>th</sup> issue and recommending additions and updates to the UNGEGN website. Please join me in welcoming Allison by sending her a



short note acknowledging her new role and the support she now provides. I note the saying ‘encouragement sweetens labour’.

The objective of the Bulletin is to keep you informed on the work of the Group of Experts. We therefore kindly ask you to help us to achieve this by completing the following contact information form. [The UNGEGN contact information for national geographical names authorities](#). The information collected from this form will be used to update the Group of Experts contact database. We thank all our contributors to this issue, and to Andreas Hadjiraftis of Cyprus for designing the front page. Your comments on this issue and contribution to the next Bulletin, number 68, to be circulated in November 2024 under the theme ‘*The role of geographical names in preserving cultural heritage*’, are welcomed.

### Ongoing UNGEGN Activities

The UNGEGN secretariat thanks the additional 12 country representatives who completed the 2023 session evaluation survey [UNEGN Session EVALUATION \(google.com\)](#). The responses increased from 27 to 39 which is 63% of Member States (62) who attended the 2023 session. Already the data collected is being used to inform the preparations for the 2025 UNGEGN session.

The following provides a brief update on some of the work being done by the Bureau and the Expanded Bureau:

- Additional updates are being made to the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029, based on the decisions from the 2023 Session. Again, Member States are encouraged to align their standardization activities to the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021–2029 and to also become members of working groups to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- The Bureau and Chairs of the Linguistic/Geographical Divisions held their fifth meeting on the 12 April 2024. The documents including presentations on the work of the Divisions are accessible on the [divisional webpage](#). The meeting was conducted in Chinese and English,



compliments to China for providing interpretation services. The next online Bureau and Divisional meeting is scheduled for Friday 15 November 2024 at 7:00 am

- The preparation of UNGEGN’s report to the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to be held from 7 to 9 August 2024 is currently underway.

- Initial discussions have begun in preparation for the 2025 UNGEGN session scheduled to be convened from 28 April to 2 May 2025.
- Work on the revitalization of the World Geographical Names Database continues, so too the discussion on the creation of a Universal Unique Cities Identifier.

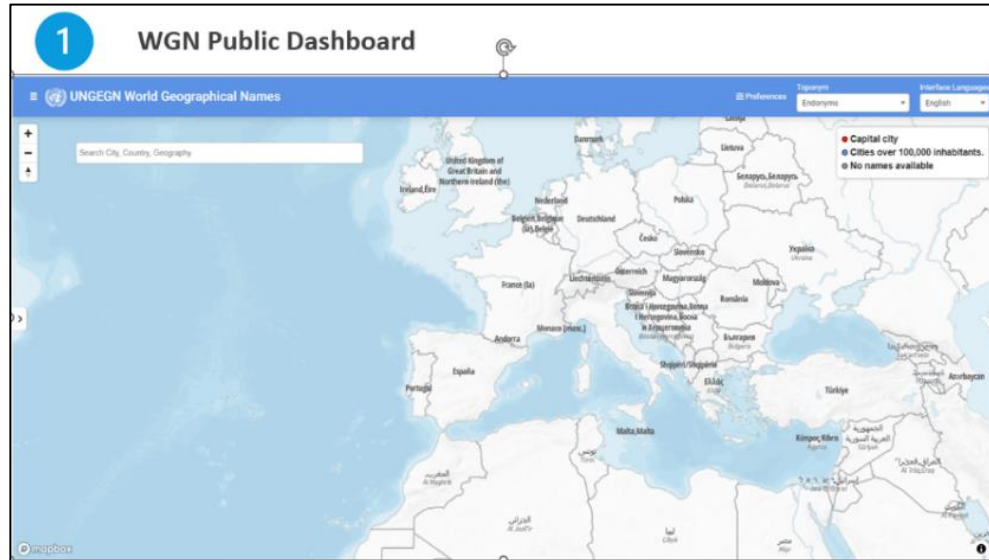


Figure 1 Screen shot of the revitalized World Geographical Names Database

Please circulate the bulletin among your colleagues and other toponymic enthusiasts. To receive issues of the Bulletin you may register at <https://rb.gy/pgnvog>.

Remember to tweet your geographical names activities @UNSD\_GEGN.

**Cecille Blake**  
UNEGN Secretariat  
E-Mail: [blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org)

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**Secretariat of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN)**  
**Room DC2-1641B**  
**United Nations**  
**New York, NY 10017, USA**  
Tel: (212) 963-5823  
Email: [blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org) ; [geoinfo\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org)

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Previous issues of the Bulletin (formerly Newsletter) can be found at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs>



# ***Theme: Good Practices Emerging From Relations Between National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agencies And Geographical Names Authorities***

## **Spatial data management and geographical names coordination activities in the Republic of Armenia**

Cartographic materials and spatial data are effective means of spatial reflection, distribution, and optimal management of geographical name databases.

Systematic management of cartography and spatial data began in 1972, after the establishment of the Armenian State Institute of Engineering - Geodetic Investigations and Surveys (ArmSIEGIS) organization. In addition, cartographic activity in the Republic of Armenia was conducted by the respective services of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), which carried out extraction and mapping activities of the territory of the ASSR (Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic); topographic maps and plans were created.

Since the 1980s, based on the pre-existing cartographic databases and the names of geographical objects at the institute, tourism-related and other publicly available materials in the Armenian language have been created, which, despite the small volumes and area covered, have been an important impetus for the further development of the field, creating an academic and scientific base.

Following the independence of Armenia, it was essential to establish a consistent and systematic policy for geographical names. This involved developing the methodology for their collection, conservation, and integration with spatial data, with the aim of establishing the legal framework for streamlining, unification, utilization, accounting and safeguarding of names as well as the renaming of geographical features. This initiative has led to qualitative and substantive growth, evident through various implemented scientific and technical works. In the mentioned works, the regulated materials provided by the Geographical Names Service were used: more than 240,000 geographical object names, including about 207,000 world geographic names translated into Armenian from the Times World Atlas. In order to implement the policy related to geographical names in a more regulated and purposeful manner, a number of legal acts and decisions have been adopted in Armenia.

In particular, the Cadastre Committee within the framework of the powers assigned to it by the Law "On Geographical Names" adopted in 1999:

- ensures the implementation of the state policy in the field of geographical names, monitors the fulfillment of the requirements of legal acts and normative-technical documents in the field of geographical names by state administration and local self-government bodies, legal entities and individuals;
- manages the creation and maintenance of the National Information Bank of Geographical Names and the state card catalogue of Geographical Names of Armenia;
- records, then registers the naming and renaming of intra-settlement objects by local self-government bodies;
- according to the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, provides information about geographical names of physical and legal entities in Armenia and foreign countries.

The Cadastre Committee manages the establishment and maintenance of the National Information Bank of Geographical Names and the state card catalogue of geographical names of Armenia, ensuring the implementation of state policy in the field of geographical names as well as other functions. The same law also defines the procedure for naming and renaming, registration and recording of geographical objects in the territory of Armenia.

The Cadastre Committee is involved in the activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and maintains contact with a number of other countries through bilateral agreements. It is also actively represented in UN periodicals.

In line with its mandate, the Cadastre Committee of the Republic of Armenia has implemented various functions, such as:

- identification of geographical names and data collection;
- creation and maintenance of a unified state card catalogue of geographical names;
- registration and recording of geographical names;
- creation and printing of numerous directories, databases, books, dictionaries, newsletters and other materials.

The collected databases were mainly in paper or electronic format. They included geographic coordinates, but they were not reflected in cartographic programs or modules.



Pursuant to point c) of Article 10 of the Republic of Armenia “*Law on Geographical Names*” adopted November 23, 1999, the Government of Armenia created a professional commission responsible for naming and renaming of geographical objects, to ensure a scientific approach to the work in the field. The commission consists of toponymists, geographers, historians, linguists, and foreign language specialists and meets once a month, if necessary, once a week. The number of specialists involved in the professional commission has varied from 10 to 20 people.

The process of integration of geographical names and spatial data became more intense after the adoption of the Government Decision N 505-L. The aim of the Government’s decision adopted in 2021 was the effective implementation of the legal provisions of the law “*On approving the strategic programme for establishment of the Integrated Cadastre*”, one of the main goals of which is the introduction of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). At the beginning of 2023, the Law “*On Spatial Data*” was adopted for the first time in Armenia, according to which the authorized body in the field of spatial data is the Cadastre Committee. According to the law, geographical names are also included in the spatial data bank as mandatory information, which implies that the National Geoportal, a component part of NSDI, will also include geographical names as a basic cartographic layer.

In 2021, due to structural changes of the Cadastre Committee, a Geomatics Center was created with relevant professional departments, the functions of which include geocoding of geographical names, creation of GIS databases, standardization of cartographic layer files, editing, management and input of data into the national geoportal.

In 2023, the activities of transferring the geographical names of Armenia into a geographic information system (GIS) are completed. The locations of around 36,000 Armenian geographic objects were corrected, based on topographic maps and aerial imagery of various years. Conventional signs were developed and created for 112 geographic object types.

As a result, a point database of Armenia's geographic objects was created in the national coordinate system, which had already been standardized and included in the Armenian National Geoportal, in accordance with the Armenian government decision N 1569-H, on October 6, 2022 “*On approving the list of basic and thematic spatial data and their standardized guidelines in the national spatial data infrastructure in Armenia.*”

To complete the geocoding of geographical names, it is planned to present the genealogy of the geographical name and a photo reflecting each object in the passport information. In summary, it is important to mention the Armenian Law on Geographical

Names adopted on November 23, 1999, by the National Assembly of Armenia, which defines the legal basis for the naming and naming of geographical objects in Armenia, as well as the legal basis for the recording, registration, use and preservation of geographic names that are part of the historical and cultural heritage.

The Armenian Government Decision N 505-L of 2021 “*On Approving the Strategic Plan for the Creation of an Integrated Cadastre*” and the Law “*On Spatial Data*” adopted in 2023 became the legal basis for the integration of geographical names and spatial data.

As a feature of management, it should be noted that in both cases, the fields of spatial data and geographical names, the Cadastre Committee of Armenia is the authorized body of state administration.

Thus, the Government of Armenia, emphasizing the importance of the geographical names’ sphere, through the authorized body, is continuously carrying out activities towards digitization and updating of data, automation of operations, modernization and management of databases, implementation of data provision and exchange systems to ensure accessibility and availability of information.

#### **Suren Tovmasyan**

*Head of the Cadastre Committee  
of the Republic of Armenia*

Email: [international@cadastre.am](mailto:international@cadastre.am)

#### **Yuri Varyan**

*Chief specialist  
of geospatial data management Department,  
Geomatics center of the Cadastre Committee  
of the Republic of Armenia*

Email: [yura.varyan@cadastre.am](mailto:yura.varyan@cadastre.am)

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# An Overview: The National Mapping Agency as the Lead for the National Names Authority in Brunei Darussalam

## Background

The Survey Department under the Ministry of Development is the national mapping agency of Brunei Darussalam. The department is responsible for geomatics activities including land and hydrographic surveying, the production and management of geospatial data and maps of Brunei Darussalam and the registration of commercial and residential addresses. Since its establishment in 1952, the department has been responsible for acquiring the latest geospatial information for the development of the country through ground survey, aerial photographs and LiDAR data.

The Committee on Geographical Names of Brunei Darussalam was first established in 1976 by the Honourable Secretary to the Government of Brunei and appointed the Director of the Language and Literature Bureau as the Chairperson. Its members only consisted of the Surveyor General, Director of Education, Director of Museums and District Officers. With the growing importance and awareness on geographical names, it was later upgraded to a national committee.

In 2008/2009, the responsibility of the chairmanship was mandated to the Surveyor General, Brunei Darussalam, and the Director of the Language and Literature Bureau as the Deputy Chairperson. This move was in line with the department's core business and as the Chair of the Committee for the District and Village Boundary.

Since then, the Survey Department has been leading the coordination of field research and compilation of proposed geographical names for approval by the higher authorities. The role of the department as the custodian and main provider of geospatial data for the country is closely intertwined with the responsibilities of the national names committee. This collaboration has been effective in terms of data compilation and updating names in the geospatial database and maps.

## The National Committee on Geographical Names (JKNG)

'*Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan Nama Geografi (JKNG)*' is the national committee responsible for the standardisation of geographical names to assist the government and relevant agencies of Brunei Darussalam. Their responsibilities include looking into the historical, cultural, linguistic and phonetic aspects of geographical names, ensuring consistency and accuracy in their understanding, spelling and pronunciation.

The members of the committees have evolved to include more agencies and were specifically curated to ensure that each agency plays a significant role in the activities and tasks of JKNG.

Agency	Roles & Responsibilities
Survey Department, Ministry of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson and Secretariat of JKNG</li> <li>National mapping agency</li> </ul>
The Language and Literature Bureau, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Chairperson and Secretariat of JKNG</li> <li>Responsible for the correct spelling (in Roman and Arabic Script), writing style and pronunciation</li> </ul>
Brunei History Centre, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing historical background and preserving the historical value of the geographical feature / place</li> </ul>
Universiti Brunei Darussalam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing expertise in the field of geography including the formation of geographical features</li> </ul>
Museums Department, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing cultural background and preserving the historical value of the geographical feature / place</li> </ul>
District Office, Ministry of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support and assistance in terms of coordination with the Chief and the Head of Villages during data compilation and verification</li> </ul>
Public Works Department, Ministry of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing knowledge on road access and installation of road signage</li> </ul>
Land Department, Ministry of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing information on land matters</li> </ul>
Town and Country Planning Department, Ministry of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing information on the Government's development plan</li> </ul>
Municipal Department, Ministry of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of geographical names within the Municipal Department's jurisdiction</li> </ul>
Department of Curriculum Department, Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrating related information on cultural, historical and geographical aspects into the national curriculum.</li> </ul>



Verification of collected geographical names data in Kampung Bakiau, Tutong District with the Village Head and locals.



JKNG interviewing local informants about the history of the geographical names and place. Voice recorders are used by the Language and Literature Bureau to accurately record the pronunciation of geographical names in the local dialect and accent.

### Benefits of Being Under One Roof

From Brunei Darussalam's perspective, the national mapping agency and the national names authority have been led by the Survey Department since 2008/2009 and it has been highly effective and productive for several reasons:

1. **Data Integration and Quality Control:** Centralising mapping and naming responsibilities has allowed for seamless integration of geographic data, enhancing the quality and usability of spatial information and ensuring consistency and accuracy in geographic datasets. This further helps prevent discrepancies between spatial data and place names.
2. **Efficiency:** Streamlining administrative processes reduces duplication of efforts and allows efficient management of a centralised database for mapping and naming.
3. **Standardisation:** Implementing standardised practices for naming geographic features and formatting map data promotes interoperability and consistency across datasets.

4. **Authority and Governance:** Consolidating authority over geographic data and place names strengthens governance and allows for effective updating of names in databases and maps.
5. **Accountability:** Consolidating mapping and naming functions under one agency enhances accountability and transparency in the management of geographic information and ensuring that names are consistent in maps and on the ground.

### Moving Forward

The Survey Department plans to incorporate the JKNG database into the Survey Spatial Data Infrastructure known as the Geoportall Ukur (<https://geoportall.survey.gov.bn/>) to display detailed descriptions of the names for roads and geographical features. The detail would include the background and significance of the names and the dates they were approved. Having this information accessible online seeks to create awareness, encourage interest and facilitate information sharing across government agencies, private sectors and the public.

### Summary

In Brunei Darussalam, while the national mapping agency focuses on the production and management of geographic data and maps, the national names authority is responsible for standardising and managing place names within the country's territory. These entities must collaborate closely and share data and information to fulfill their respective mandates.

The consolidation of mapping and naming responsibilities under one agency, particularly by the Survey Department as the national mapping agency, has proven to be more effective in managing geographic information. This integrated approach enhances the accuracy, consistency, and usability of geographic information across various applications. Additionally, the selection of committee members for the naming authority is crucial to ensure that each agency fulfills their roles and contributes to the value and meaning of the geographical names proposed.

**Nor Zetty Akhtar binti Haji Abd Hamid**  
Acting Surveyor General  
Survey Department, Ministry of Development  
Brunei Darussalam  
Email: [zetty.hamid@survey.gov.bn](mailto:zetty.hamid@survey.gov.bn)

**Rafidah binti Haji Berudin**  
Senior Surveyor  
Survey Department, Ministry of Development  
Brunei Darussalam  
Email: [rafidah.berudin@survey.gov.bn](mailto:rafidah.berudin@survey.gov.bn)

# Une approche collaborative de la gestion de l'information géospatiale et de la toponymie au Canada

Le Canada est l'un des plus grands pays du monde. Son vaste territoire continental regroupe de multiples entités administratives, diversifiés sur les plans de la superficie, de la population et de la langue. La gestion des données géospatiales et des toponymes de l'ensemble des terres et des eaux du pays se fait grâce à réseau d'experts et d'organisations également diversifiés, qui travaillent de concert. L'approche du Canada en matière de gestion de l'information géospatiale et des toponymes reflète son engagement en faveur d'une collaboration et d'un partenariat intergouvernementaux.

Au Canada, la dénomination officielle des entités géographiques est généralement du ressort de la province ou du territoire où l'entité est située. La Commission de toponymie du Canada (CTC) est l'organisme national qui assure la coordination des dénominations officielles. Ses membres représentent chacune des dix provinces et chacun des trois territoires du Canada, ainsi que les ministères fédéraux concernés par la dénomination des entités géographiques. La CTC coordonne l'adoption de politiques nationales de dénomination géographique, promeut l'utilisation des noms officiels et encourage la mise en œuvre de normes internationales. Elle est appuyée par un secrétariat, qui assure la coordination et le soutien de la Commission et tient à jour la Base de données toponymiques du Canada (BDTC), la base de données nationale des noms de lieux qui fait autorité au pays.

Le ministère fédéral des Ressources naturelles du Canada (RNCa) est membre à la fois du COCG et de la CTC. Il assure le leadership, la coordination et le soutien de la CTC et du COCG à l'échelle pancanadienne en hébergeant leurs secrétariats respectifs dans les locaux du Centre canadien de cartographie et d'observation de la Terre (CCCOT), le centre d'expertise canadien en matière d'information géospatiale. Le CCCOT produit, en collaboration avec les provinces et les territoires, les cartes de base nationales et des couches fondamentales de renseignements géospatiaux de qualité élevée pour le Canada, lesquelles sont assujetties à une licence de données ouvertes, contribuant ainsi à la production de cartes au Canada. Le CCCOT se concentre sur les données géospatiales civiles, par opposition aux données destinées à la défense.

La structure de gouvernance, décrite à la *figure 1*, fait en sorte que RNCa, le CCCOT, la CTC et le COCG travaillent en étroite collaboration. En outre, la CTC et le COCG comptent plusieurs membres en commun, puisque les domaines d'intérêt et d'expertise sont similaires. Cette relation facilite la communication, l'échange d'information et la coordination entre les activités. Il permet également à chaque gouvernement de profiter du partage des ressources et des infrastructures, ce qui réduit les doublons et les coûts. En fin de compte, cette étroite collaboration permet d'améliorer les cartes, les produits, les programmes et les services destinés aux Canadiens.

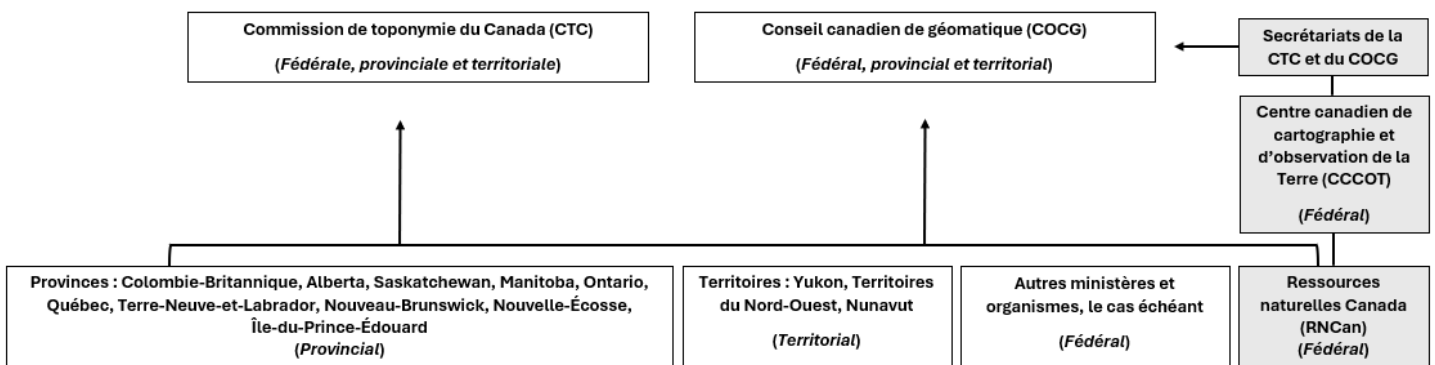


Figure 1 : Quelques composantes de la structure de gouvernance pour la gestion de l'information géospatiale et des toponymes au Canada (2024).

La gestion des activités de géomatique est partagée entre le gouvernement fédéral et les gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux. Le Conseil canadien de géomatique (COCG) soutient ces activités dans le cadre de l'Accord canadien de géomatique. Le COCG a pour but de coordonner les activités entre les différents gouvernements. Il facilite les discussions au sujet des programmes, des politiques opérationnelles, des normes de même que de l'échange de connaissances et de pratiques exemplaires en matière de gestion de l'information géospatiale au Canada.

Le CCCOT s'efforce de garantir la représentation exacte des toponymes officiels dans les produits cartographiques nationaux au Canada. Sa coordination des priorités en matière de géomatique et de dénomination des lieux favorise l'intégration des données provenant de plusieurs entités administratives dans les couches fondamentales de renseignements géospatiaux.

Les données toponymiques sont également essentielles à la fourniture d'autres produits et services cartographiques nationaux au sein du gouvernement fédéral. Par exemple, la BDTC fournit des renseignements toponymiques au Service météorologique du

Canada, dirigé par Environnement et Changement climatique Canada. Ce partenariat permet aux Canadiens de recevoir des informations météorologiques précises et localisées. La BDTC collabore également avec le Service hydrographique du Canada, dirigé par Pêches et Océans Canada, pour voir à ce que les entités sous-marines soient nommées avec précision afin de faciliter la navigation dans les eaux canadiennes.

La participation du Canada aux instances internationales bénéficie également d'une coordination nationale dans le cadre de la structure de gouvernance actuelle. Par exemple, les secrétariats de la CTC et du COCG dirigent la participation du Canada aux organisations multilatérales, comme le Comité d'experts sur la gestion de l'information géospatiale à l'échelle mondiale et le Groupe d'experts des Nations unies pour les noms géographiques. Dans le cadre de ces forums, le CCCOT représente l'engagement du Canada à intégrer l'observation de la Terre et les données géospatiales dans les processus décisionnels, à favoriser les partenariats mondiaux pour l'élaboration de normes géospatiales et à promouvoir la compatibilité, conformément aux objectifs de développement durable des Nations Unies.

Au-delà de la collaboration fédérale, provinciale et territoriale, les peuples autochtones du Canada ont un rôle décisionnel unique en ce qui concerne les données géospatiales et les toponymes. Conformément à l'engagement du gouvernement du Canada de favoriser la réconciliation et de renouveler ses relations avec les peuples autochtones, les organisations et comités géospatiaux nationaux s'efforcent de respecter et de faire refléter les diverses réalités locales du Canada dans le cadre de divers instruments politiques et juridiques.

La CTC s'efforce de faire en sorte que les toponymes et les langues autochtones dont ils sont issus soient représentés de manière respectueuse au Canada. Dans la BDTC, RNCan a travaillé à la modification et à la mise à jour de la norme linguistique internationale ISO 639-3, afin de garantir une représentation correcte et complète des langues autochtones du Canada dans la base de données nationale des désignations. En outre, au nom de la CTC, RNCan a soutenu le Conseil tribal des Gwich'in dans la publication d'*Un guide des noms de lieux autochtones : vivre l'expérience Gwich'in au Canada*, en 2023. Cette ressource donne des conseils et des orientations aux communautés autochtones sur le rapatriement et la collecte des toponymes traditionnels. S'ils le souhaitent, ces derniers peuvent soumettre les noms aux autorités compétentes à des fins d'adoption et de leur intégration dans des cartes officielles et d'autres produits géospatiaux.

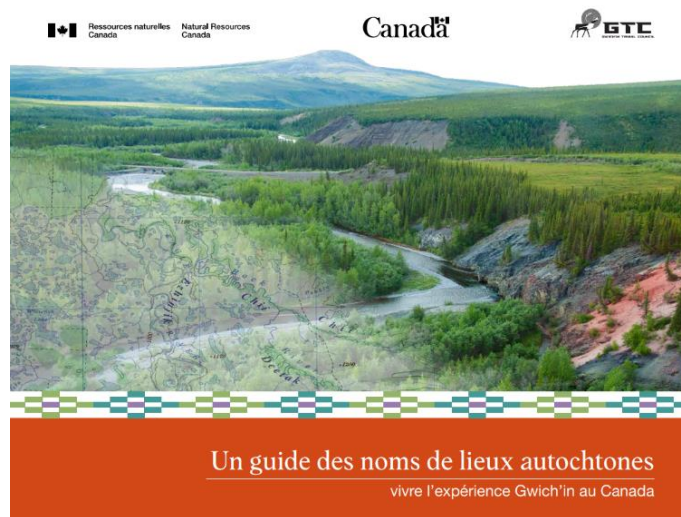


Figure 2: *Un guide des noms de lieux autochtones : vivre l'expérience Gwich'in au Canada*

La CTC et le COCG continuent tous deux d'étudier des moyens d'intégrer les perspectives autochtones dans la gestion de l'information géospatiale et la dénomination géographique au Canada, y compris dans les cadres juridiques et politiques pertinents. Par exemple, trois conseillers autochtones (représentant les Premières Nations, les Métis et les Inuits) sont nommés à la CTC par le ministre des Ressources naturelles. En tant que président fédéral du COCG, le CCCOT travaille également en étroite collaboration avec les partenaires fédéraux et les membres du COCG afin de faire l'étude d'une approche pangouvernementale pour la participation des Autochtones dans le domaine géospatial.

L'engagement du Canada en faveur d'une collaboration et d'un partenariat multigouvernementaux dans le domaine de la toponymie et des données géospatiales renforce la mise en œuvre dans ces deux domaines. C'est pourquoi elle s'est imposée comme l'une des pratiques les plus importantes pour le Canada dans ce domaine, et elle devrait rester une priorité à l'avenir.

**Nicole Halseth, Steve Westley**

Secrétariat de la Commission de toponymie du Canada  
Centre canadien de cartographie et d'observation de la Terre  
Ressources naturelles Canada / Gouvernement du Canada  
Courriel : [nrcan.geonames-toponymes.rncan@canada.ca](mailto:nrcan.geonames-toponymes.rncan@canada.ca)



# A Collaborative Approach to Geospatial Information Management and Geographical Names in Canada

As one of the largest countries in the world, Canada’s vast landmass spans multiple administrative jurisdictions varying in size, population, and language. A diverse network of experts and organizations work together to manage geospatial data and geographical names across its lands and waters. Canada’s approach to geospatial information management and geographical names reflects this commitment to multi-jurisdictional collaboration and partnership.

In Canada, the official naming of geographical features is generally the responsibility of the provincial or territorial jurisdiction where a feature is located. The Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) is the national coordinating body for official place names. Its members include representation from each of Canada’s ten provinces and three territories, along with the applicable federal departments involved in the naming of geographic features. The GNBC coordinates the adoption of national geographical naming policies, promotes the use of official names, and encourages the implementation of international standards. It is supported by a Secretariat, which provides coordination and support to the Board, and maintains the Canadian Geographical Names Database (CGNDB), Canada’s authoritative national database of place names.

The federal department of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is a member of both CCOG and GNBC. It provides pan-Canadian leadership, coordination and support for both the GNBC and CCOG by hosting their Secretariats within the Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation (CCMEO), Canada’s centre of expertise for geospatial information. CCMEO produces national base maps and high quality foundational geospatial layers for Canada under an open data license in collaboration with provinces and territories, which contributes to the production of maps in Canada. CCMEO focuses on civilian geospatial data, as opposed to data for defence purposes.

NRCan, CCMEO, GNBC and CCOG work closely together because of their governance structure, outlined in *Figure 1*. Furthermore, membership often overlaps across the GNBC and CCOG, given similar areas of interest and expertise. This relationship facilitates communication, information-sharing and coordination across activities. It also enables each jurisdiction to benefit from sharing resources and infrastructure, reducing duplication and saving costs. Ultimately, this close collaboration results in better maps, products, programs and services for Canadians.

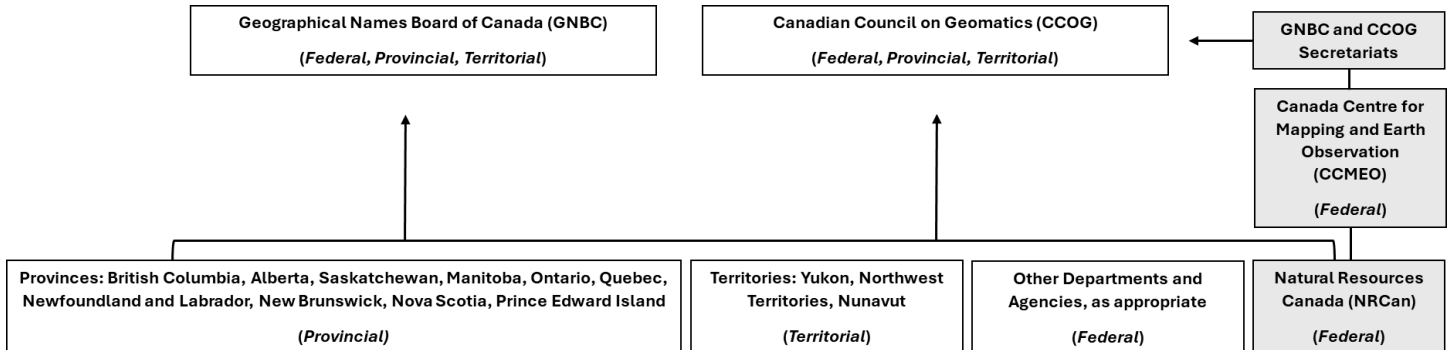


Figure 1: Select Components of the Governance Structure for Geospatial Information Management and Geographical Names in Canada, 2024

Geomatics activities are similarly shared between federal, provincial and territorial governments. Under the Canadian Geomatics Accord, these activities are supported by the Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG). CCOG aims to coordinate activities between jurisdictions. It facilitates discussion on programs, operational policies, standards, and the sharing of knowledge and good practices for geospatial information management in Canada.

CCMEO works to ensure the accurate representation of authoritative geographical names in national mapping products in Canada. Its coordination of geomatics and place naming priorities supports the integration of data from multiple jurisdictions into foundational geospatial layers.

Geographical names data is also essential to the delivery of other national mapping products and services within the federal government. For example, the CGNDB provides geographical names information to the Meteorological Service of Canada, led by Environment and Climate Change Canada. This partnership

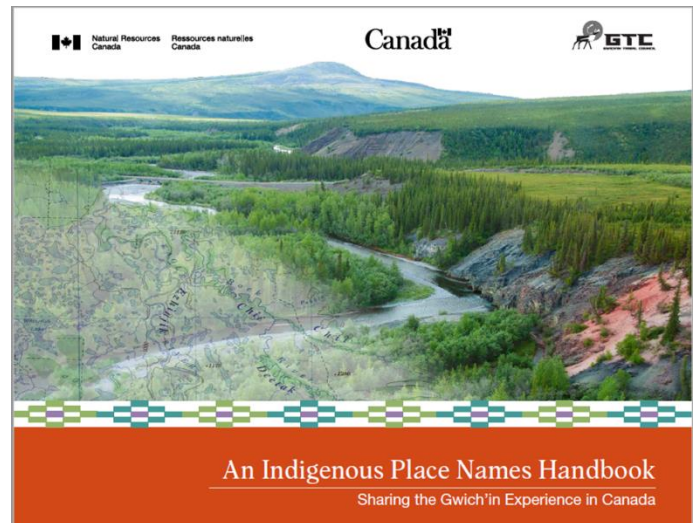


allows Canadians to receive accurate, place-based weather information. The CGNDB also works with the Canadian Hydrographic Service, led by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to ensure that undersea features are accurately named in support of navigation in Canadian waters.

Canada’s international engagement also benefits from national coordination under the current governance structure. For example, the GNBC and CCOG Secretariats lead Canada’s participation in multilateral organizations, such as at the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. Through these fora, CCMEO represents Canada’s commitment to integrating Earth Observation and geospatial data into decision-making, fostering global partnerships in geospatial standards development, and promoting interoperability, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Beyond Canada’s federal, provincial and territorial collaboration, Indigenous peoples in Canada have a unique decision-making role with regards to geospatial data and geographical names. In line with the Government of Canada’s commitment to advancing reconciliation and renewing its relationship with Indigenous peoples, national geospatial committees and organizations work to respect and reflect Canada’s diverse local realities under the authority of various policy and legal instruments.

GNBC is working to ensure that geographical names, and the Indigenous languages rooted in those names, are respectfully represented in Canada. In the CGNDB, NRCan has been working to amend and update the ISO 639-3 international language standard, ensuring the correct and comprehensive representation of Indigenous languages in Canada in the national names database. In addition, on behalf of the GNBC, NRCan supported the Gwich’in Tribal Council in the 2023 publication of “*An Indigenous Place Names Handbook: Sharing the Gwich’in Experience in Canada*.” This resource provides advice and guidance to Indigenous communities on the repatriation and collection of traditional place names. If they wish, the names can be submitted for recognition by naming authorities for integration into maps and other geospatial products.



*An Indigenous Place Names Handbook: Sharing the Gwich'in Experience in Canada, 2023*

Both the GNBC and CCOG continue to explore ways to braid Indigenous perspectives into geospatial information management and geographical naming in Canada, including under applicable legal and policy frameworks. For example, three Indigenous Advisors (representing the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples) are appointed by the Minister of National Resources to the GNBC. As the federal CCOG Chair, CCMEO is also working closely with federal partners and CCOG members to explore a whole of government approach to Indigenous engagement in the geospatial domain.

Canada’s commitment to multi-jurisdictional collaboration and partnership in both geographical naming and geospatial data strengthens implementation in both areas. For this reason, it has emerged as one of Canada’s most important practices in this domain, and is likely to remain a priority in the future.

**Nicole Halseth, Steve Westley**  
 Geographical Names Board of Canada Secretariat  
 Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation  
 Natural Resources Canada / Government of Canada  
 Email: [nrcan.geonames-toponymes.rncan@canada.ca](mailto:nrcan.geonames-toponymes.rncan@canada.ca)



## Cyprus: Good practices emerging from relations between National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agency and Geographical Names Authority

Since its establishment, the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) has worked systematically and continuously towards the protection and promotion of the authoritative geographical names of Cyprus and their further use, as well as standardization in general. Our aim is to work towards the full implementation of the relevant UN resolutions and also the preservation and establishment of the historical names, which form an integral part of our cultural heritage.

CPCSGN has a close relationship and cooperation with the Department of Lands and Surveys, the National Cadastral/Mapping/Surveying/Valuation/Hydrography and Property Registration organization of Cyprus, specifically with the Cartography Branch. The Cartography Branch of the Department of Lands and Surveys is the official Cartographic Service of the State. In order to meet today's needs, it has been organized in a way that follows ISO standards and procedures, within the framework of its main mission, (<https://portal.dls.moi.gov.cy/en/to-tmima/kladoi/klados-chartografias>).

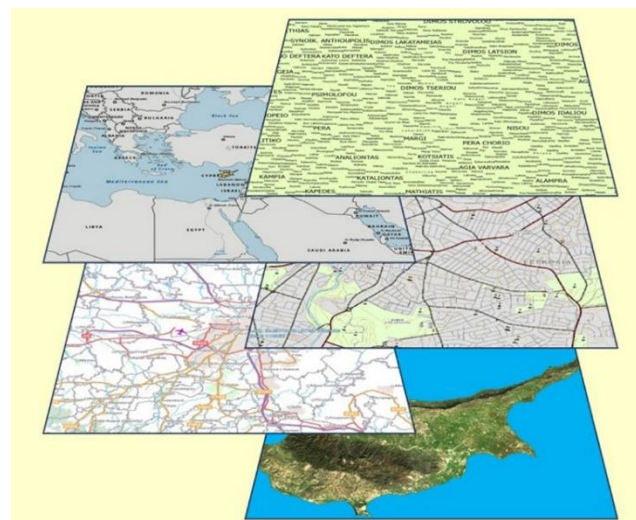
The Cartography Branch is responsible for the preparation, updating, printing and distribution of topographical, thematic, and other maps. Within this framework, it has transformed its conventional cartographic products and services into electronic computerized files and digital databases. It has adopted modern working methods and has the corresponding software and equipment, so that it can manage and provide geospatial data in digital form, at high levels of accuracy, thus satisfying the modern technological requirements, and the growing needs for the use of geo-information. Geographical names play a major role in these efforts. The Cartography Branch closely cooperated with the CPCSGN. All UN related recommendations, resolutions and standards are strictly followed.

The main national gazetteers prepared by the CPCSGN are used very effectively by the Cartography Branch in databases and maps: (i) The “Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus”, and (ii) Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names

All geographical names, toponyms, and sea names included in these gazetteers were derived from official records and from the official large scale cadastral map series of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus is currently available on CPCSGN’s website in full searchable format. All geographical names in these gazetteers follow ELOT743 standard which is identical to International Standard ISO 843. All geographical names were standardized based on UN rules and were transliterated into roman characters based on this standard.

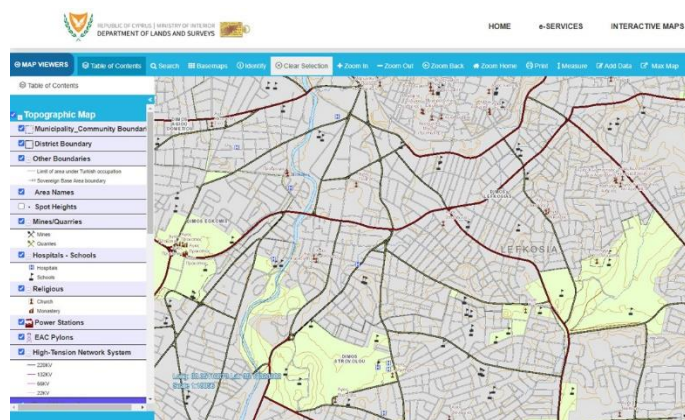
Geographical names of Cyprus are names that people gave to each part of their native land through history. These names were not given by chance. Each name is closely associated with the place and usually describes the landform, its nature, vegetation or its history, customs and traditions. They are a valuable national treasure. This is because they come from all periods of our country's history, from ancient times until today. They show, not only the features of land, but also the use of the place, its historical adventures, the relationships and activities of the inhabitants who lived there, the foreign settlers or raiders or passers-by, and generally illuminate many issues of the history of our country. All these names are included in the national gazetteers as well as in all relevant spatial databases and geoportals.

The Cartography Branch has an active involvement in local, European and international projects and databases.



*Geospatial Databases of Cyprus*

Users have full/free access to cartographical features and databases through national geoportals. These geoportals include the portal of the Department of Lands and Surveys, known as DLS-Portal (<https://portal.dls.moi.gov.cy/en/>), the Open Data Portal of the Government (<https://www.data.gov.cy/>), and INSPIRE Geportal (<http://www.geoportal.gov.cy/>), which is also accessible through the European Commission’s Geportal (<https://inspire-geoportals.ec.europa.eu/srv/eng/catalog/search#/home>).



DLS-Portal - Interactive Map of Cyprus

“Open Maps for Europe” is an online service that provides free maps from more than 40 European countries. The datasets are created using authoritative digital geospatial data and land information from official, national sources. Users can access the data, created by members of EuroGeographics, through an online interface. The gateway enables users to discover, view, license and download the open datasets.

Four open datasets were created using authoritative geospatial data and land information from EuroGeographics’ members that are included in this first release:

1. **EuroRegionalMap** – multi-themed topographic open data at 1:250 000 scale – initial data provided by 31 National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authorities.
2. **EuroGlobalMap** – provides multi-themed topographic open data at 1:1 million scale covering 55 countries and territories in the European region.
3. **EuroDEM** – 1:100 000 scale digital open data elevation model provided by 26 National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authorities.
4. **Open Gazetteer** – an open gazetteer service providing authoritative multilingual geographical names – data provided by 36 National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authorities.



EuroGeographics Open Maps for Europe - Cyprus

Another example is the Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB) database of the United Nations. The SALB programme’s objective is to promote accessible, interoperable global data and information on subnational units and boundaries, or common geographies, for better decisions, stronger support to people and planet and to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals. The SALB programme, in close collaboration with National Geospatial Information Authorities of Member States of the United Nations, aims to make available a global repository of authoritative information and geospatial data about the administrative unit structure of countries down to the second subnational level, over time. In addition to administrative boundaries, all administrative geographical names are embedded in this database. Spatial data and geographical names of Cyprus are available for free viewing and downloading (<https://salb.un.org/en/data/cyp>) in several formats.



Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB) database of the United Nations incl. Cyprus

Cyprus has a fully functioning and globally-aligned structure and policy framework, based on common principles for national standardization of authorized geographical names, which identify location and respect the associated culture and heritage. Geographical names, along with many other layers of geospatial data, are easily accessible for national and international use, fostering communication and cooperation. In addition, the implemented systems are solution-oriented, relevant, user-friendly, innovative, and fully and equitably accessible. Furthermore, Cyprus monitors the availability of free and easily accessible authorized digital geographical names and geospatial data, as they are seen as a key driver in improving the economy of the country.

**Andreas Hadjiraftis**  
President of Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus  
Chief Lands Officer, Survey/Cartography/Geodesy/  
Hydrography/Photogrammetry,  
Department of Lands and Surveys, Ministry of Interior,  
Cyprus  
Email: [ahadjiraftis@dls.moi.gov.cy](mailto:ahadjiraftis@dls.moi.gov.cy)





# Standardizing, maintaining and providing geographical names in GERMANY – complex, but efficient!<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Institutional arrangements in Germany

In Germany, a decentralized arrangement between the Federal Government and the German Länder (Federal States) exists. This must be considered for the elaboration and assessment of the standardization, maintenance and provision of geographical names information. The government in Germany has three distinct levels of public authority: local, regional and national, all of which are generators and holders of authoritative geospatial information. Surveying and mapping are the tasks of the sixteen Länder. Each of the Länder is responsible for its own topographic and cadastral service, environmental and statistical data collection, and in general for geospatial data policies. Traditionally, geospatial data collection is largely decentralized and carried out mostly on the regional and local level. This means that the processing and maintenance of geospatial data is mostly tailored to local and regional requirements, which leads to a built-in incompatibility.

The different Länder have issued laws that regulate the work, which the regional and local authorities are carrying out. The “*Surveying and Cadastral Acts*” may serve as an example. The surveying and mapping administrations of the Länder are responsible for creating and maintaining the fundamental geospatial data describing real estate and the landscape, including geographical names. Whereas the mapping agencies of the Länder are responsible for providing large and medium scale reference data, the cadastral offices in the Länder support them by performing the tasks of the real estate cadaster. The sixteen German Länder are collaborating in the Working Committee of the Surveying Authorities of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Vermessungsverwaltungen der Länder der Bundesrepublik Deutschland – AdV [1]. The product line comprises digital landscape models (DLM), digital terrain models (DGM) and the digital topographic map series 1: 25,000 to 1: 1,000,000. There is an authorization by agreements between the Federal Administration and the Länder on the production of fundamental geospatial data (including maps).

On the federal level the “Bundesgeoreferenzdatengesetz (BGeoRG)”, the Federal Georeference Data Act, regulates the quality proofed and standardized provision of geodetic reference systems and frameworks as well as of the fundamental geospatial data products of the federal administration. The BGeoRG sets uniform quality and technical standards for the federal agencies that collect and maintain geodata. Due to the federated system much effort (in terms of technical methods and human resources) has to be put into the aggregation of the fundamental geospatial reference

data of the sixteen Länder to harmonized datasets for the territory of Germany in a way that allows for a solid and quality proofed geospatial referencing of thematic data (e.g. statistical analysis or environmental indicators).

The BGeoRG instructs the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) to evolve its competence and capability to a central geospatial reference data and information service provider for the federal administration [2]. Furthermore, the BGeoRG assigns BKG to advise the Federal Government on all questions related to geodesy and geospatial information and it safeguards the relevant German interests at the European and international levels, e.g. within the United Nations at the Committee of Experts for the Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN).

BKG is one of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community’s executive agencies. According to the title of this article BKG is the “National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agency”.

## 2. Shared responsibilities for the maintenance and provision of standardized and authoritative geographical names

Concerning the maintenance and provision of standardized and authoritative geographical names information, the regional mapping authorities of the AdV maintain and provide geographical names data within ATKIS® (Authoritative Topographic-Cartographic Information System), the central topographic programme of the German national survey to the large-scale levels 1:10,000 to 1:100,000. BKG maintains and provides several geospatial data products according to scale-levels 1: 100,000 and smaller, including geographical names. According to the aforementioned agreements between the Länder and the Federal Administration, as a general rule, all fundamental geospatial data sets based on scales larger than 1: 200,000 are done by the Länder, while the geospatial data sets with smaller scales are compiled by BKG.

At BKG the main repository for geographical names is a single database called “*Geographical Names of Germany (GN-DE)*”. Through unique identifiers the names entries of the GN-DE are linked unambiguously to all databases and products provided by BKG. The administration and maintenance tasks of the GN-DE are conducted in Frankfurt am Main at the headquarters of BKG, the German national mapping agency responsible for small to medium scale mapping, whereas the publication of the geographical names data is facilitated through a web

<sup>1</sup> This article has been mainly derived and updated from “The Toponymy Training Manual”, Section 2 Management of a national names programme, Chapter 3 Maintaining and publishing the geographical names database in Germany (2017), <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/documents/Training%20Manual.pdf>, last accessed 04/2024

(gazetteer) service by the BKG Central Service and Distribution Centre for Geoinformation in Leipzig [3].

Focusing on the geographical names' standardization and maintenance process, the following institutions are involved in Germany:

- communes, counties, Länder (for populated places and administrative units)
- Länder survey administrations (for geographic regions/landscapes)
- federal and state hydrographic administration (for hydrographic features)
- federal and Länder transport administrations (for streets and railways)
- StAGN – Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (responsible for orthographic rules and principles for place names)

According to the title of the article StAGN is the “Geographical Names Authority”.

### 3. Responsibilities of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN)

Following chapter 1 and 2 the tasks for the maintenance of national geographical names data and its provision through web services and applications are conducted by the BKG, but in terms of content these tasks are strongly supported by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN).

The StAGN is the expert committee responsible for the standardization of geographical names in the German-speaking area. It is an independent scientific committee without sovereign functions, to which scientists and practitioners from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and other German-speaking areas (South-Tirol, Belgium, Luxembourg) belong. These experts represent the fields of toponymy, cartography, history, geography and linguistics.

The StAGN cannot itself make legally binding decisions on individual names but is an advisory body that deals with German-language geographical names in a comprehensive sense, and draws up and provides rules, recommendations, and information for this purpose. On an international level the StAGN only represents Germany. It is an intralingual committee of experts to coordinate the standardization of toponyms in the German-speaking area and it represents the national toponymic issues for Germany in international organizations and events.

The office of the StAGN is located at the BKG in Frankfurt am Main.

### 4. Good practices emerging from the relation between StAGN and BKG

The German ministries, as well as other authorities, the press and media, companies and citizens, frequently enquire about the handling of geographical names. As we all know, geographical names can cause controversial and politically sensitive discussions. It is precisely in such cases that it is an enormous advantage to be able to refer to an independent panel of experts. The co-operation of the various German-speaking countries in the StAGN and the well-founded research and justification of each answer defuse the political component. This independence of StAGN is of enormous advantage to BKG and other governmental organizations as the enquiries very often are submitted to the governmental organizations.

The StAGN responds quickly and reliably - despite the fact that its members mostly work voluntarily. One example is a petition from 2018, in which a citizen expressed her indignation at the fact that the German exonyms are placed in front of the German motorway signs on the eastern border and the actual endonyms are only placed in brackets at the end. Germany was accused of having a "nationalistic and chauvinistic attitude towards the neighboring countries". This shows that geographical names can evoke very emotional reactions and associations. It is important to be able to give a neutral, considered and scientific answer to such enquiries. And it is precisely for such cases that the StAGN exists.

Concerning the geographical names data provision, one example for the contribution of StAGN is the development of the data model for GN-DE provided by BKG. We have jointly understood that technical approaches can be developed by technical experts, but if it comes to reflections and considerations of language - and cultural-heritage-related issues (which are obvious for geographical names data) StAGN experts, following and explaining UNGEGN resolutions, are crucial. The following figure shows the GN-DE data model and visualizes that one GNOBJECT may be associated to one or more geographical names (endonyms) in different languages. The example shows the GNOBJECT associated with ‘Bautzen’ (in German language) and ‘Budyšin’ (in Sorbian language), “Sprache 1 = German” and “Sprache 2 = Upper Sorbian“. Both names are treated equally in the GN-DE and have equal official status, “Status 1 = amtlich” means authoritative.

GNOBJEKT										
nnid	landescode	beschreibung	geolaenge	geobreite	hoehe	groesse	ewz	rs	objektartlink	id
DEBKGND00000IUD	276		142539	511051	220	67	42131	146250000020	22	

Endonym						
nnid	name	geschlecht	sprache	id	status	id
DEBKGND00000IUD	Bautzen		1		1	
DEBKGND00000IUD	Budyšin		2		1	

DLMLink			
nnid	ui_id	modell_id	layer_id
DEBKGND00000IUD	DEBKGD200000WJK	1	12
DEBKGND00000IUD	DEBKGD2000015N8	1	13

PLZ	
nnid	plz
DEBKGND00000IUD	02625

Figure 4.1: GN-DE database table showing that one GNOBJECT can be associated to one or more geographical names (endonyms) in different languages.

At present the GN-DE database contains about 165,000 entries including more than 2,000 names in the languages of the national Sorbian, Danish and Frisian linguistic minorities. About 27,000 entries indicating the gender of hydrographic features are contained as well. *Figure 4.2* shows the BKG maps application providing an overview of the standardized web services – including geographical names – offered by the service center in a map viewer [4]:

The GN-DE dataset is also used for the geographical names data provision within the ‘*German Spatial Data Infrastructure (GDI-DE)*’, including the officially recognized Sorbian and Frisian minority languages.

Meaningful combinations of map layers available within GDI-DE are placed prominently on the Geoport.de Welcome page as featured maps. A map showing the physio-geographic regions of Germany [5] combined with touristic information has been integrated. In this way, one important product created by the StAGN has been published and disseminated in the broader GDI-DE context. The (analogue) map itself shows the landscape names and their boundaries at a scale of 1:1,000,000.

In addition, there is a detailed representation of the larger natural units on a secondary map. An alphabetical index of standardized landscape names makes it easy to find the name on the map. Furthermore, BKG has developed a map service for geographical region names based on maps. In most cases, the demarcations are to be regarded merely as boundary lines within which the affiliation of individual areas to a particular landscape cannot be bindingly derived.

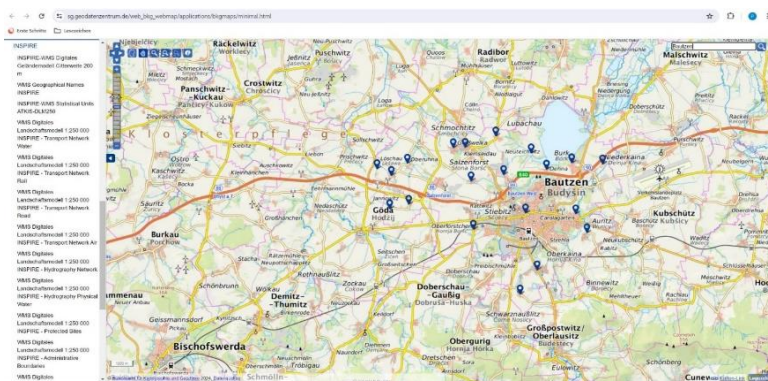
Another example for an excellent cooperation between BKG and StAGN is the World- and European map series provided by BKG that are exclusively available to federal authorities:

- World Map States of the World 1:24,000,000
  - World Map States of the World 1:36,000,000
  - European Map States of Europe 1:5,000,000
  - Map of Europe the Schengen Area 1:5,000,000
- Further maps are planned, including a physical map of the world and a physical map of Europe, as well as a time zone map of the earth.

There are also free mini-maps for the public based on the above-mentioned maps.

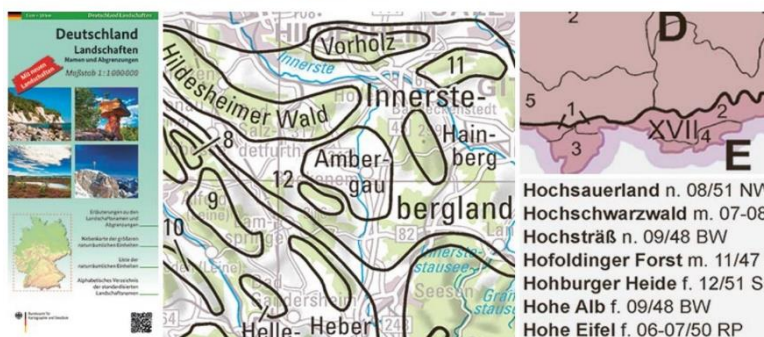
- World map States of the world 1:100,000,000
- European map Europe and its neighbors 1:15,000,000

The StAGN has defined and set the criteria for the forms of geographical names used in the maps. Furthermore, it has conducted proofreading and assessment of the



*Figure 4.2: The BKG maps application providing the standardized web services*

### Deutschland Landschaften 1:1 000 000



*Figure 4.3: Map showing the physio-geographic regions of Germany*

content of geographical names, providing guidance on spelling. Concerning e.g. “*States and non-independent territories*” the names featured in the World and European maps are taken from the Federal Foreign Office’s list of countries for official use in the Federal Republic of Germany. Names of cities are given in the form in which they are written in the respective country, as they generally have official status there, with bracketed forms commonly used in German. For transcriptions from non-Latin scripts, transcription tables submitted to and published by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN) until 2012 were used wherever possible. Where no tables were available, nationally recommended systems were used. For Arabic scripts, the system of the German Oriental Society (DMG) was used. As a general rule for hydrographic features and geographic regions, the geographical names commonly used in German are given. This is because such features often have no official status in the countries concerned and some are international (seas) or even transboundary (lakes, rivers, mountains). As a disclaimer on the map, it is underlined that “*The designations and cartographic representations used do not represent a position on the status of territories or borders under international or constitutional law.*”

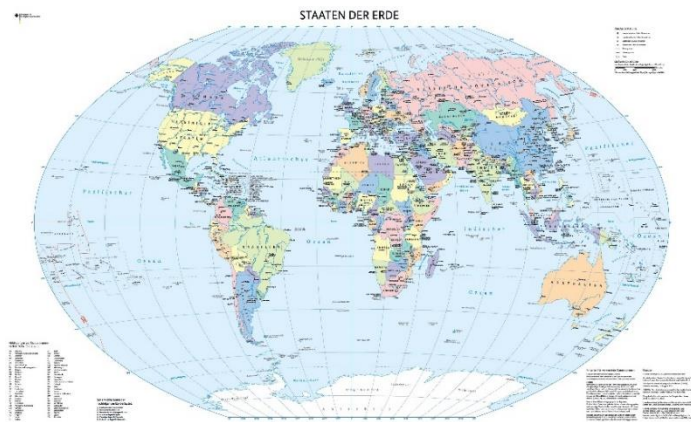


Figure 4.4: World map States of the world 1:100,000,000

Considering multilingualism and the cultural heritage in Europe, we know about the use of different spellings and languages when talking about one and the same place. Even within a country more than one (official) spelling may be used. The European Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) supported multilingualism principles and has therefore underlined the United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names [6]. These principles are promoted in Germany and the other German-speaking countries by the work of StAGN.

Besides the definition of geographical names and boundaries of German geographic region and in German coastal waters for the GN-DE, StAGN has contributed to definitions within the framework of the AdV, e.g. for the ATKIS object type catalogue, too.

Continuing on the win-win-cooperation between StAGN and BKG, some further tasks, taken over by StAGN for the benefit of BKG, can be listed as follows without further explanations:

- Elimination of incorrect geographical name entries and clarification of doubtful cases in the GN-DE;
- Addition of the genus (gender) for all bodies of water and assignment of the status of geographical names in the BKG name database GN-DE;
- Contribution of naming expertise to the GN-DE with regard to geographical names in the official minority languages in Germany (Sorbian, Frisian, Danish);
- Collaboration on the European Open Gazetteer provided through EuroGeographics and its expansion to include common exonyms [7]. The Open Gazetteer provides authoritative geographical names as maintained in the source data of the National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies within the EuroGeographics, an independent, international, not-for-profit organisation representing Europe's National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authorities.

On a higher (administrative and strategic) level – and besides the response to the citizens' petition to the German Bundestag in March 2018 as mentioned before – the following concrete examples of StAGN work with a political and social impact can be summarized – which are sometimes addressed to the Federal Ministry of Interior and Community or to BKG:

- Statement on enquiries from European Union's institutions on political and cultural names of European regions;
- Involvement in requests of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media regarding cultural heritage issues;
- Responses to the several press and media enquiries e.g. to provide statements on guidelines when transcribing Ukrainian names from Cyrillic into Latin (Київ / Kyjiw / Kiev).

## 5. Conclusion

The excellent cooperation between StAGN and BKG has a long tradition based on trust and outcomes, primarily due to the fact that BKG supports StAGN directly through the establishment and facilitation of the coordination office since 1973 and by being an active member in the StAGN since its foundation. Secondly, it has been a great advantage for both organizations that the issues related to UNGEGN and UN-GGIM are dealt with and coordinated by the same BKG unit and by the same BKG representative in close cooperation with the StAGN Chair and StAGN Secretary at the coordination office. StAGN and BKG are fully aware that these advantageous and beneficial circumstances in Germany are not the case in most countries.

### Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

*UNEGGN representative for Germany*

*StAGN Vice-Chair*

*UN-GGIM delegation member*

*@ Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG Germany)*

*Email: [pier-giorgio.zaccheddu@bkg.bund.de](mailto:pier-giorgio.zaccheddu@bkg.bund.de)*

### Andreas Dix

*StAGN Chair*

*@ Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg*

*Germany*

*Email: [andreas.dix@uni-bamberg.de](mailto:andreas.dix@uni-bamberg.de)*

### Victoria Fölsing

*StAGN Secretary*

*@ Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)*

*Germany*

*Email: [stagn@bkg.bund.de](mailto:stagn@bkg.bund.de)*



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- [2] Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), [www.bkg.bund.de](http://www.bkg.bund.de), last accessed 04/2024
- [3] Central Service and Distribution Centre for Geoinformation at BKG, [www.geodatenzentrum.de](http://www.geodatenzentrum.de), last accessed 04/2024
- [4] BKG maps application provides an overview of the standardized web services – including GN-DE – offered by the service center in direct application in a map viewer, [https://sg.geodatenzentrum.de/web\\_bkg\\_webmap/applications/bkgmaps/minimal.html](https://sg.geodatenzentrum.de/web_bkg_webmap/applications/bkgmaps/minimal.html), last accessed 04/2024
- [5] Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1: 1,000,000, Landschaften - Namen und Abgrenzungen, 7th edition (Federal Republic of Germany at 1: 1,000,000 scale, Geographical regions - names and boundaries, 7th edition), Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)
- [6] INSPIRE Implementing Directive (COMMISSION REGULATION - EU - No 1089/2010 of 23 November 2010 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services), <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:323:0011:0102:DE:PDF>, last accessed 04/2024
- [7] Open Gazetteer for Europe, provided by EuroGeographics. It can be used for any reference or information purpose: <https://www.mapsforeurope.org/datasets/open-gazetteer>, last accessed 04/2024

## Best practices for entities concerned with geographical names in Jordan

Standardized geographical names have significant importance because of their close relationship with the memory of a place, its identity and cultural heritage, because of their daily use. The development of mechanisms is needed to document and standardize the writing of these names within the country, and agreed, unified systems and rules are also needed to collect, write and preserve them.

### Bodies directly related to geographical names

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was one of the first Arab countries to establish specialized committees concerned with geographical names. The National Committee for Geographical Names (NCGN) was established in 1984, comprising five institutions, headed by the Director General of the Royal Jordanian Geographical Center (RJGC). The Committee oversees all matters relating to geographical names. The composition of the Committee is shown in *Figure 1*:

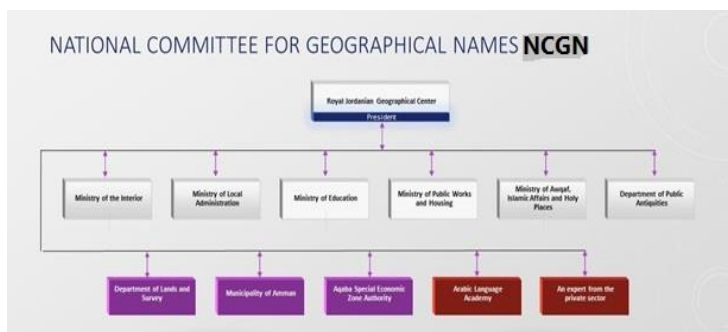


Figure 1 Composition of the Committee

<https://adegn.info/ar/node/90>

After the formation of the NCGN, it was necessary to create a comprehensive database of geographical names and a team was tasked with collecting names directly from the field. This approach was chosen because these names are often the approved names for geographical features and will become the main reference for verifying and correcting geographical names. Additionally, these field-collected names may be the only source for geographical feature names that do not have names in existing references, especially considering the variations in dialects in Jordan. This compilation in 1999 resulted in the first dictionary of Jordanian names. It was romanized and contains the original name, romanization, description and three types of coordinates, taken from 1/25000 scale maps, and has become the main reference for geographical names.

The unified Arabic system I used to transfer geographical names from Arabic letters to Latin letters as adopted by UNGEGN in August 2017 in its resolution published in the working paper E/CONF.105/137/CRP.137 and its annexes one and two.

The level of cooperation between the members of NCGN with the other ministries, government and private institutions has reached very advanced levels. The roles were divided among the members of the Committee to ensure that there was no duplication of work. Information and data for new or modified names are romanized and added to the main database and the gazetteer after each update.

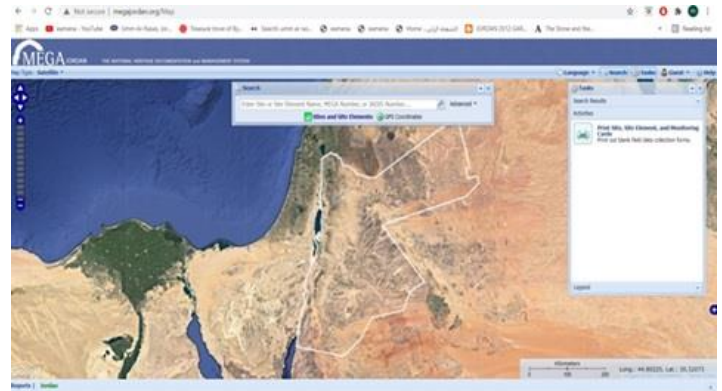
### Roles of geographical names stakeholders

1. RJGC is the official body responsible for producing maps of all kinds in Jordan. It started the comprehensive collection of geographical names across the country, completing this compilation in 1999 when the first copy of the Jordanian names dictionary was issued. It has been romanized and is available electronically. It is updated periodically and contains approximately 13,000 names. Additionally, RJGC operates and manages the NSDI Portal, which contains all the data provided by various authorities across the country to be classified and processed as needed.



2. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for managing the administrative boundaries within the governorates and amending them according to the unified code system. This includes unifying digital maps, labels, upgrades of basins, villages and regions, and cancelling any unnecessary additions. The Ministry's work is linked to the Department of Lands and Surveys (DLS), the Ministry of Local Development (MOLD), the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), the CVD Bank, the Department of Statistics (DOS) and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC).
3. The Department of Lands and Survey, which contains information dating from the year 1857, during the Ottoman Empire, obtained restrictions and documents related to private and public property and real estate in 1927. During the subsequent years, the work of surveying, settling rights and registration matters, was carried out by the department, who have taken great steps towards the development, modernization and computerization of its work in recent years and its follow-up to change the names related to its documents and provide them to the concerned authorities in coordination with NCGN.
4. The Ministry of Awqaf compiled the names of religious sites, mosques and shrines, including archaeological sites affiliated with them, into a database to classify endowment properties by sites, places and maps on the GPS system.
5. The Ministry of Local Administration, which is responsible for municipalities in the Jordan, as well as writing place names, street names, indicative plates, numbering buildings, naming sites, buildings, and banners. The Ministry works in cooperation and coordination with NCGN to achieve and implement its strategy for romanization, numbering and naming across all 100 municipalities.
6. The Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) initially included 9 areas and has since expanded to include 22 areas. The department began by naming the streets ,and in collaboration with RJGC, issued the first issue of the tourist map of the city of Amman .The romanization of the rest of the regions is being conducted in cooperation with the GIS Department in GAM.
7. The Ministry of Public Works and Housing has reviewed and audited the names of cities, villages and regions on the signboards according to the romanization system established by NCGN and replaced the old indicative and identification signs with updated ones reflecting the new standardized names.
8. The Department of Antiquities has reviewed and corrected the geographical names for archaeological sites wherever they are used. Additionally, it has created the Geographical Database of Antiquities in the Middle East - Jordan, a national system for documenting and managing the Jordanian cultural heritage using global signature systems (GPS) and (GIS) .(The aim is to build a

geographical database of archaeological sites in Jordan based on the old database known as JADIS ,and to update all identification plates for archaeological and tourist sites.



<http://www.megajordan.org>

9. The Ministry of Education has created a database for all educational institutions including universities, schools and public or private educational centers. This database contains the names of those sites in Arabic and English with their romanization, relevant information and geographical coordinates.
10. The Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority issued naming and numbering instructions, which included the adoption of neighborhood and street names based on the unified Arab system. This project involved naming streets, numbering properties, reviewing and approving the names of neighborhoods and streets with the NCGN. Once approved, they were reflected on street naming plates. In conclusion ,the collaborative efforts among stakeholders in the subject of geographical names and the various authorities in the Kingdom of Jordan have significantly contributed to preserving cultural heritage and facilitating communication. This has led to saving money and to the development of a database that will benefit everyone ,particularly sustainable development decision-makers ,upholding the strategic plan of the Committee ,which is consistent with the framework of strategy 2 (relations and links) of the Strategic Plan 2021-2029 of (UNEGN).

#### **Muammar Kamel Haddadin**

*Director General, Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre  
Chairman, Arab Division of Experts in Geographical Names*

*Chairman, National Committee on Geographical Names  
Jordan*

*E-mail- [rjgc@rjgc.gov.jo](mailto:rjgc@rjgc.gov.jo); [contact@adegn.info](mailto:contact@adegn.info);  
[m.haddadin@rjgc.gov.jo](mailto:m.haddadin@rjgc.gov.jo)*



# Good practices emerging from relations between National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agencies and Geographical Names Authorities: New Zealand

## Introduction

In New Zealand the national mapping, geospatial data and the geographical names authority operate under one government agency, Toitū Te Whenua<sup>2</sup> Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). Therefore, achieving good practices between them is simplified. However, challenges still exist with the systems interoperability, versioning, duplication, LINZ work priorities, resourcing, etc., which can impede progress towards good practices.

### National Naming Authority <https://www.linz.govt.nz/our-work/new-zealand-geographic-board>

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa<sup>3</sup> (the Board), New Zealand’s national naming authority, is an independent statutory body of government. Eight of its ten members are externally appointed and two are ex-officio members from LINZ. A Secretariat team of four who support the Board’s work are employed by LINZ. The Board’s decision-making independence is important to manage expectations and uphold good practice place naming. For controversial names, the Minister for Land Information makes final decisions. The Board’s membership represents a broad range of interests and its purpose, functions and duties are clearly set out in its guiding legislation<sup>4</sup>. That legislation binds Crown agencies to use official place names in official documents<sup>5</sup> and includes compliance and enforcement provisions. To assist with meeting compliance requirements, the Board produces a publicly searchable, downloadable, linkable and re-usable Gazetteer of place names <https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/>. LINZ’s products and services are much easier for the Board to monitor, identify and resolve as needed in terms of using Gazetteer place names. The Board supplies information, audits products and services, and requests updates as necessary to the geospatial data management, mapping, charting, basemaps, addressing and Landonline teams within LINZ. The Board has no formal audit regime so all improvement measures must be practical and cost effective.

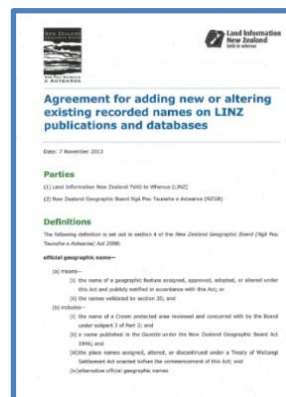
### Good practices:

Standards and guidelines
Policies and protocols
Agreements
Documented processes in Promapp <sup>6</sup> and JIRA <sup>7</sup>
Webinars, conference and staff presentations (training)
National commemorations celebrated
International connections and obligations
Publications – books, maps, flyers, pamphlets
Media releases, social media posts, in-house news articles
Advice of decisions
Engagement with Māori guidelines
Online Gazetteer

### National Geospatial Data Management <https://www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/data/linz-data-service>

The LINZ Data Service (LDS) website (<https://data.linz.govt.nz/>) has over 100,000 registered users, with an excess of 2,500 data layers for a wide range of uses including:

- aerial imagery
- elevation data
- topographic data
- hydrographic data
- geodetic data
- property, boundaries and title data
- place names, street addresses and roads data
- Crown land and properties data managed by LINZ.



<sup>2</sup> From the proverb: Whatungarongaro te tangata toitū te whenua - People come and go, but the land remains

<sup>3</sup> National naming authority, ‘memorial markers of the landscape’.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2008/0030/30.0/DLM1065412.html>

<sup>5</sup> Official documents are defined under section 4 of the Board’s 2008 Act:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2008/0030/30.0/DLM1065420.html>

<sup>6</sup> Process mapping software tool

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.atlassian.com/software/jira>

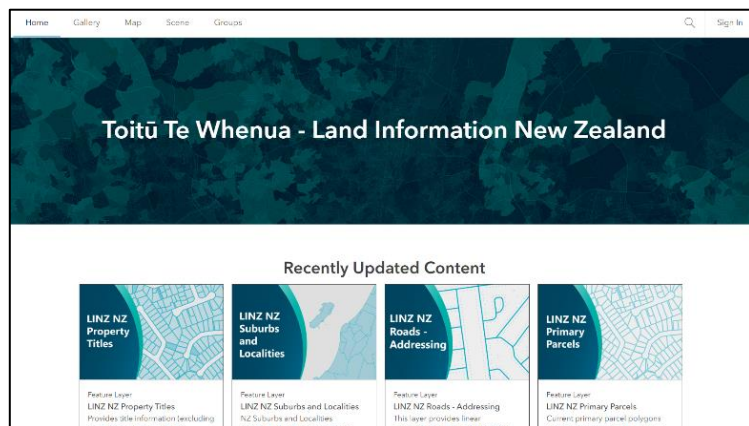




The data is freely available for downloading in multiple formats including WFS<sup>8</sup> services. The platform uses a spatial map view (MapTiler, with OpenStreetMaps as a default basemap) for querying and navigation. A smaller collection of fourteen key datasets is also offered as REST<sup>9</sup> services through the ArcGIS online platform<sup>10</sup>. ‘Place Names’ are intended to be added as a fifteenth key dataset, shortly.

## Practices:

Current	Future good practices
The Board publishes separate point, line and polygon layers for place names. The layers are automatically updated when published from the Gazetteer system.	Integration with topographic data products (using unique Gazetteer IDs), to ensure any updates in topographic representation of real-world changes are reflected in the Gazetteer, eg streams’ courses are regularly updated. Currently discussing with another government agency how we might link to their authoritative system for the boundaries of reserve names.
The Secretariat manually updates a layer of place name labels for context at different zoom scales/levels as a private layer in LDS. This is used in the Gazetteer and LINZ Basemaps services (see heading below).	Improve, release publicly and automate with the publication of Gazetteer data. A future enhancement to add zoom levels in the place names dataset could be used in topographic and hydrographic digital products.
Ongoing harvesting by OpenStreetMaps (OSM) of the Gazetteer to keep their product up to date.	Maintain relationships with OSM.
Standardised metadata required for each data layer in LDS must be followed by all data layer providers.	Continue to do this.
Gazetteer uses web map tile service (WMTS) layers from LDS and LINZ Basemaps service for spatial context.	Gazetteer may offer other basemap options from LINZ/LDS to meet user preferences and needs (especially to meet accessibility needs).
Geospatial Analyst supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>managing the backend Gazetteer database</li> <li>publishing Gazetteer data layers to LDS</li> <li>Gazetteer enhancements (UAT<sup>11</sup>)</li> </ul>	Consider an agreement to future proof the ongoing need for this support.
Topographic LDS layers are regularly audited for compliance with place names. Hydrographic LDS layers are irregularly audited due to ~ten-year cycles for new chart editions – the most recent audit was completed in 2020. Other LDS layers are not audited.	Topographic and Hydrographic place names automatically updated through integration with Gazetteer unique IDs. All LDS layers that include place names should be checked against the Gazetteer place names, so that LINZ meets compliance requirements of the Board’s legislation.
LINZ GIS Community of Practice sessions held every two months to share what’s happening, align best practice, discuss challenges, provide support, identify opportunities, etc.	Continue to do this. Consider documenting actions and outcomes.



Home page for Toitū Te Whenua LINZ’s ‘Key datasets’ published as REST services on ArcGIS online

<sup>8</sup> Web Feature Service (from Open Geospatial Consortium)

<sup>9</sup> Representational State Transfer

<sup>10</sup> <https://linz.maps.arcgis.com/home/gallery.html?sortField=modified&sortOrder=desc>

<sup>11</sup> User Acceptance Testing



**National Mapping** <https://www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/maps> and **Charting** <https://www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/charts>

LINZ’s cartographers produce topographic maps generally at 1:25K, 1:50K and 1:250K scales covering New Zealand, its offshore islands, the Ross Sea region of Antarctica, and some Pacific Island nations. LINZ’s cartographers also produce hydrographic charts for the South West Pacific, the Southern Ocean and the Ross Sea region of Antarctica with scales ranging from 1:2K to 1:10million. The maps and charts must depict official place names. They also depict other descriptive text, such as homestead names, hut names, track names, airport names, landscape descriptions, local use names, lighthouse names, hazards, etc. However, these are not under the Board’s naming jurisdiction. The combination of place names and descriptive text are all listed in their LDS layers meaning that there is some duplication with place names in the Board’s Gazetteer.

**Practices:**

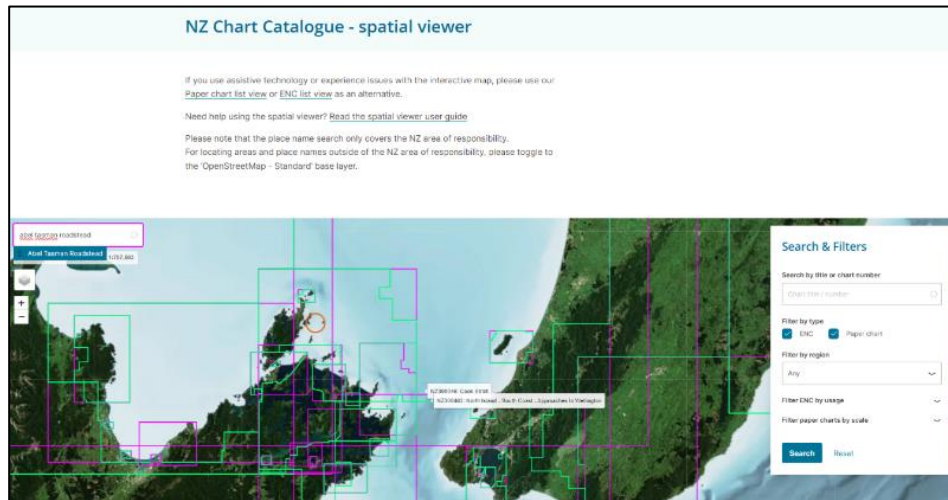
Current	Future good practices
Agreement between the Board and LINZ (2013) to use official and recorded place names from the Gazetteer. Copies of this Agreement can be provided on request.	Update/refresh the Agreement. Regularly remind LINZ to consider the Agreement.
Regular meetings are between the Secretariat and the Maps team to discuss place naming matters, especially upcoming decisions for significant features and how they can be updated on LINZ’s maps and charts (digital and printed) expediently.	Potential to distribute newly printed maps with updated place names to interested parties such as Treaty of Waitangi <sup>12</sup> settlement groups.
Maps team regularly request advice and investigation from the Secretariat on place names, especially when revising map sheets.	Maps team encouraged to make formal place name proposals to the Board when appropriate.
Printed folded topomaps are provided to the Board for its records and reference. They form an archive and are readily accessible to the Secretariat and Board.	Continue to do this.
Maps, charts and place names are maintained on separate systems and are not currently interoperable. The Secretariat undertakes annual audits to compare the Gazetteer place names with the Topographic and Hydrographic place names. Findings are communicated to the teams for updating as necessary.	Topographic and hydrographic place names are automatically updated through integration with Gazetteer’s unique IDs. Ultimately, the systems should be linked in real time so that one single authority for place names (ie the Gazetteer) is used. This will eliminate duplication of effort and errors.  The Hydrographic team intend to review their processes for depicting place names on charts (printed, digital and ENC <sup>13</sup> ) through revisions/editions. They should also consider updating other products such as <i>Notices to Mariners</i> and the <i>New Zealand Nautical Almanac</i> (which inform the <i>Admiralty Sailing Directions – New Zealand Pilot</i> published by the UK Hydrographic Office).
Maps team took over updates to the Board’s <i>Tangata Whenua Place Names</i> maps <sup>14</sup> from April 2024 (using Illustrator).	Digital revisions to be timed on a regular schedule, eg quarterly or annually.
Place names search implemented in the online NZ Chart Catalogue – spatial viewer <sup>15</sup> to help identify which chart users are looking for.	Inconsistent behaviour and flaws in the place names search code currently being addressed.

<sup>12</sup> The Treaty is an agreement, in Māori and English, that was made in 1840 between the British Crown and about 540 Māori rangatira (chiefs) at Waitangi.

<sup>13</sup> Electronic Navigational Chart

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/place-names/place-name-maps-and-publications/tangata-whenua-place-names/maps-te-waipounamu-and-te-ika-maui-second-edition-2023>

<sup>15</sup> <https://charts.linz.govt.nz/charts/spatial-viewer>



*Toitū Te Whenua LINZ NZ Chart Catalogue spatial viewer, supported with Gazetteer place names search*

**LINZ Basemaps** <https://basemaps.linz.govt.nz/@-41.8899962,174.0492437,z5>

LINZ Basemaps use authoritative data from LINZ and other open data sources and are free to re-use under an open licence. They use APIs<sup>16</sup> (which works with any mapping app: GIS, web or mobile) to stream map tiles direct from the cloud, offering both quality and performance. The basemaps include aerial imagery, topographic, satellite imagery, urban aerial photos, rural aerial photos, scanned aerial imagery, natural events, bathymetry and elevation. The uptake for re-use of basemaps has been significant since launching in 2020.

**Practices:**

Current	Future good practice
The topographic basemap is the only one which includes place names sourced from the Gazetteer, appearing at different zoom scales – using the place name labels managed by the Secretariat in LDS, currently a private layer (mentioned above).	LINZ to create an Antarctic topographic and/or REMA <sup>17</sup> data satellite basemap with the same place name labels layer data from the Gazetteer.
Other basemap layer names in the dropdown layer list use official place names from the Gazetteer.	LINZ to consider adding the name labels layer data or Gazetteer to all basemaps.
	Board to consider adding the topographic basemap (for New Zealand) as an option for users in the Gazetteer. Currently the Gazetteer offers a Topographic basemap and Aerial Hybrid basemap sourced from LDS.
Māori place names maps published in 2023 <sup>18</sup> georeferenced in LDS as a private layer for internal use.	Publish on LINZ Basemaps service as a WMTS <sup>19</sup> layer.

<sup>16</sup> Application Programming Interface

<sup>17</sup> Reference Elevation Model of Antarctica available from the Polar Geospatial Center, University of Minnesota

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/place-names/place-name-maps-and-publications/tangata-whenua-place-names/maps-te-waipounamu-and-te-ika-maui-second-edition-2023>

<sup>19</sup> Web Map Tile Service



*Toitū Te Whenua LINZ Basemaps, supported with Gazetteer place names at various scales*

**NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset** <https://www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/data/types-linz-data/suburbs-and-localities-data>

This is a new dataset maintained for addressing and electoral purposes, with practices and processes still emerging. While it meets some practical administrative outcomes, there are interpretation differences with place names in the Gazetteer. Users can be confused where a single suburb/locality name in this dataset covers multiple named communities/localities. However, they continue to retain their identities and are listed in the Gazetteer.

**Practices:**

Current	Future good practice
LINZ took over the administration and maintenance of the NZ Suburbs and Localities (NZS&L) dataset in 2022/2023 from Fire and Emergency NZ. Before publishing, the Board’s Secretariat compared all names against the Gazetteer to identify any non-compliance issues (ie orthography, spelling corrections, official alterations to place names, choice of place name). Updates were made to ensure compliance and consistency wherever possible, noting the different purpose of the NZS&L dataset.	Establish processes to integrate authoritative Board decision making with the naming and representation of suburbs and localities in the dataset.
The NZS&L dataset, available through LDS <sup>20</sup> and ArcGIS online as a key dataset, is being extensively re-used.	Re-use will be encouraged.
LINZ’s website offers a <i>Principles, Requirements and Rules</i> <sup>21</sup> guideline for updating the NZS&L dataset.	The guideline is under review, needing the Board’s role in major changes to be at the start of the process.
The LINZ website also has links to the Board’s role in officially naming suburbs and localities.	Key message to be emphasised that the legal authority for official place names lies with the Board.
Monthly meetings are held between the Addressing team and the Board’s Chairperson and Secretary to discuss issues.	A panel of experts established to consider updates to the dataset. Membership will include the Board’s Chairperson or Secretary.
A Kanban board is used by the Addressing team to track tickets for processing major and minor changes to the NZS&L dataset. The Secretariat is required to comment on any major changes.	Continue to do this.
Board decisions on new or altered suburb and locality names are advised to the Addressing team for immediate updates to the NZS&L dataset. The NZS&L dataset is on a separate system to the Gazetteer and is not currently interoperable.	The systems should be linked real time so that one single authority for suburb and locality names (ie the Gazetteer) is used. This will eliminate duplication of effort and errors.
There is confusion between suburbs and localities as defined in the NZS&L dataset, and official suburb and locality names under the Board’s jurisdiction. The Board may legally define the extent of suburbs and localities.	The NZS&L dataset extents may not need to be replicated in the Gazetteer. Instead, they could be used as the authority for extents (although not official). Changes to boundaries can be made without a formal notification (with local authority support). However, the Board would reserve the right to define extents of

<sup>20</sup> <https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/113764-nz-suburbs-and-localities/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.linz.govt.nz/sites/default/files/doc/NZ%20Suburbs%20and%20Localities%20-%20Principles%20Requirements%20Rules.pdf>

Current	Future good practice
<p>Proposers may want extents defined, ideally in consultation with the relevant local authority.</p> <p>If the Board itself makes an extent official, then any future changes to the extent require the formal process to be followed to change the boundaries.</p>	<p>suburbs and localities case by case especially where strong community views are expressed.</p> <p>In the future, the extents might not be maintained in the Gazetteer and users may be directed to the NZS&amp;L dataset instead, or the Gazetteer may pull real-time boundaries from the NZS&amp;L dataset.</p>



*View of NZ Suburb and Locality dataset boundaries (red) in Auckland and Waikato Region. The yellow highlighted areas have been decided on under the Board's statutory processes. A current proposal that the Board is considering is highlighted blue.*

**Landonline** <https://www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/landonline>

This is New Zealand's survey and title automated processing system. It uses place names for context and searching.

**Practices:**

Implemented	Future good practice
<p>Once a week, Landonline downloads a table of place names, mainly for populated places, directly from the Gazetteer. Users can search those place names in Landonline with confidence that they are authoritative and up to date.</p>	<p>Improvements could be made to the automated downloads so that the link is real time via WFS.</p>
<p>Bulk data extracts from Landonline (mostly for local authorities) still provide a table of Māori place names that have macrons, so that re-use on incompatible systems can re-apply the macrons.</p>	<p>Continue to do this in the immediate future but at some point user systems need to provide for macrons so that LINZ can cease this additional step.</p>

**Summary**

Process and practice improvement, and good relationships between the teams responsible for geospatial data management, mapping, charting, basemaps, addressing and Landonline and place names, are key to delivering the best products and services from LINZ and the Board. Open data that is consistent, accessible, authoritative and single source, means it will be re-used resulting in wide socialisation within government, local authorities, businesses, and communities. These products and services need place names, which is fundamental data, for context. Official place names become established and accepted by use on maps, charts and in geospatial data – so the relationships are symbiotic and mutually beneficial. They then endure, and opportunities arise to tell the stories that go with them. Identity, belonging, acknowledgement, navigation, location identification, restoration, preservation, consistency and standardisation are all hallmarks of the ultimate goals of good naming practice.

**Wendy Shaw**

*Secretary for the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa  
New Zealand  
Email: [wshaw@linz.govt.nz](mailto:wshaw@linz.govt.nz)*



# Good practices emerging from the relations between the Oman National Hydrographic Office and the National Survey Authority in the Sultanate of Oman based on the strategic plan of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN)

## *Oman National Hydrographic Office: Role and Responsibilities*

The Oman Hydrographic Office (ONHO) is part of the Royal Navy of Oman. The ONHO serves as a hydrographic reference authority in the Sultanate of Oman. Therefore, the principal reason for establishing the Oman National Hydrographic Office in April 1995 as "national Hydrographic Office" was the desire of the government to execute its responsibilities concerning the safety of life at sea within the Sultanate of Oman waters in a safe and qualified manner. ONHO's mission is to continue its national leading role in hydrographic activities and service community by enhancing the safety of navigation in Oman's water and by providing hydrographic products and services.

The Sultanate of Oman is a signatory to the International Maritime Organization's International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention, reflecting their acceptance of responsibilities under it, in addition to the publication of national nautical charts, supporting publications, and services. ONHO is responsible for conducting hydrographic surveys, as well as providing Oman's national charting service.

The main role of any Hydrographic Office in its national waters is to ensure that data are collected, processed, and promulgated to navigators in a way that can easily inform the navigator's decision-making practice. In addition, it has responsibilities related to lights and buoyage systems and military data requirements.

## *Nautical products and services*

The existence of a national producer of nautical charts, marine publications, and related hydrographic services also affords considerable support to many other activities such as the exploitation and protection of the marine environment, the facilitation of national and international marine trade, defense, national coastal planning, coastal zone management and environmental measures. It is well known that the medium by which marine information reaches the navigator has changed from essentially paper-based products to a growing number of digital products. Digital products are now the norm. However, the basic principles remain the same: data is sourced in particular from multibeam and subsequent generations of hydrographic survey systems.

## *ONHO's National Hydrographic infrastructure*

The Hydrographic Offices should form a fundamental part of national infrastructures. ONHO, like other Hydrographic Offices, needs to hold large amounts of source data from different providers to fulfill its functions. Therefore, its infrastructure contains the current data and historic sources, which even now may still be the only source for some navigational information. Therefore, the Hydrographic Office has become the national archive for hydrographic data in the Sultanate of Oman. This role involves cataloging, maintaining, and storing thousands of source data. In fact, although the digital form of data is increasing, paper sources from the past will still need to be retained.





On the other hand, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) was formed to enhance the standardization of nautical charts and related nautical publications, and consequently facilitate safe navigation. It was felt that this standardization could be achieved in such a way that language differences would be minimized and that a chart produced by one country would be perfectly understandable to any mariner from a different country.

ONHO’s role involves coordination at both national and international levels, adhering to IHO policies and standards, covering both hydrographic surveying and charting procedures as well as other tasks related to geospatial data management.

### The cooperation with National Survey Authority

The National Survey Authority (NSA) has served Oman’s geospatial needs since 1974. It is the official agency for geographical feature names used by the Sultanate of Oman Government and, the source for applying geographical names to Omani maps and other printed and electronic products.

The NSA defines, publishes, and enforces unified national standards for collecting, approving, romanization of Arabic and transliteration of all Geographical Place names in the Sultanate of Oman. Therefore, the Sultanate of Oman Government directed all ministries and institutions to use a standardized (Unified) Arabic system for the transfer of geographical names.

The NSA provides geographical names data to different sectors and also the public. In addition, the NSA provides geographic names data layers to the Sultanate of Oman National Map. The Omani Geographic Names Database holds the recognized geographical name of each area and defines the Omani places, locations, towns, governances, topographic maps, and geographic coordinates.

NSA contributes with other sectors on building the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in the Sultanate of Oman. NSA and ONHO play a significant role in making both Oman’s national land and water data accessible and available. Consequently, this will result in building the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) which is currently being planned.

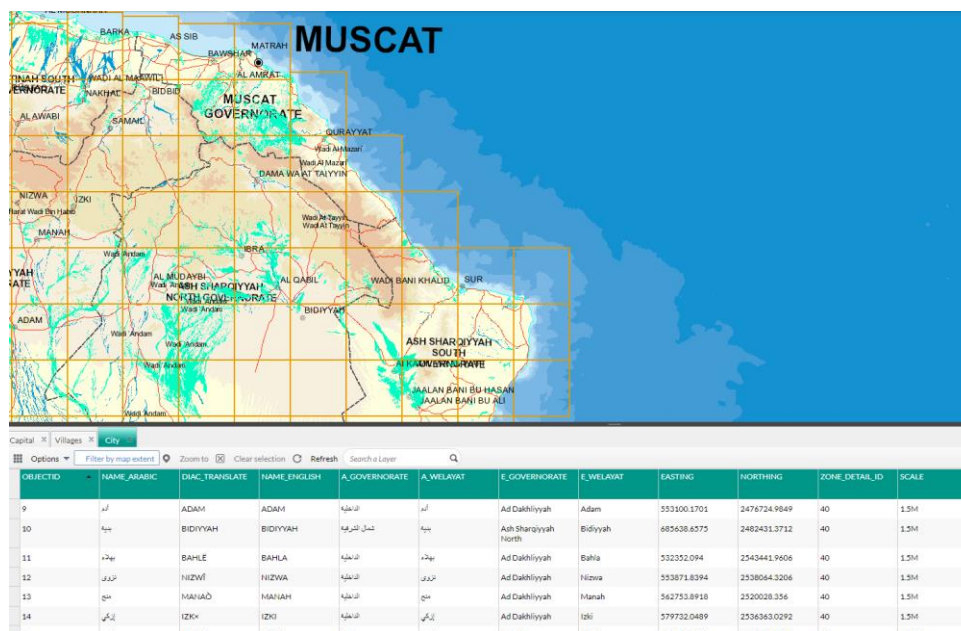
In addition, the geographic names (which are obtained from NSA) are closely integrated with the Oman National Hydrographic nautical charts. The hydrographic feature names contained in and displayed by the ONHO are derived from the NSA, which is used to support the hydrographic charting activities of the Royal Navy of Oman.

### UNEGN strategic plan align with SCUFN & IHO

The NSA is a member of The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNEGN). UNEG N’s strategic plan 2021-2029 has been adopted. Strategy 2 focuses on the relationships, links, and connections and highlights the following aspects:

- i. Strengthen UNEG N’s existing collaboration vis-à-vis other United Nations activities;
- ii. Collaborate with non-United Nations scientific, technical, and academic bodies to provide expertise on geographical name standardization; and
- iii. Create new strategic partnerships with different stakeholders (both UN and non-UN bodies) to address the needs of UNEG N as new challenges emerge.

One of the objectives of this strategy is to focus on monitoring and contributing to international standards relevant to geographical names and databases. The UNEG N collaboration with IHO is a formal liaison as the latter is responsible of marine safety on navigation and dealing with marine spatial data, with a particular focus on undersea or maritime feature names, such as GEBCO Sub-committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) and related documentation





which play an important role to establish a consistent policy in the naming of undersea features.

The Geographic Names Information database and the National Hydrographic Dataset are important elements of Oman's nautical charts. The cartographers have included names of maritime features (seas, gulfs, straits, inlets, shoals, banks, different types of under-sea feature etc.) on nautical charts and geographical names for places and areas/ towns and villages. It is one of the important types of spatial data based on the Regulations of IHO.

The treatment and the use of geographical names must therefore take into account these considerations. Geographical names are important because they facilitate effective government administration and communication, allow data to be linked for a variety of public and private uses, and facilitate an understanding of the culture and history of Oman.

**Fatma Al Dairi**

*Oman National Hydrographic Office*

*Oman*

*Email: [FATMA.ALDAIRI@mod.gov.om](mailto:FATMA.ALDAIRI@mod.gov.om)*

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# Implementation of Functions in the Field of Geodesy, Cartography, Spatial Data and Names of Geographical Objects in the Russian Federation

In accordance with Article 71 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, geodesy, cartography and names of geographical objects are under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation. This means that these issues are coordinated solely at the federal level. By Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated December 25, 2008, № 1847, the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) is responsible for geodesy and cartography, as well as the names of geographical objects.

Rosreestr exercises the following powers in these fields:

- organizing the creation and updating of state topographic maps and plans in graphic, digital, photographic and other formats;
- organizing the creation and maintenance of geographic information systems for federal and regional purposes within its competence;
- overseeing the design, compilation and publication of general geographical, political-administrative, scientific-reference and other thematic maps and atlases;
- performing work on the creation and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names, as well as the registration and accounting of names of geographical objects of the Russian Federation;
- licensing of geodetic and cartographic activities;
- normalizing the names of geographical objects in Russian;
- examining proposals for assigning or renaming geographical objects and issuing conclusions on these proposals;
- coordinating the content of dictionaries and reference books of geographical object names;
- organizing efforts to identify existing names of geographical objects;
- implementing federal state control (supervision) in the field of geodesy and cartography;
- exercising other powers in the specified field of activity.

Rosreestr has structural subdivisions that perform specific functions assigned to them.

The Department of Geodesy and Cartography within Rosreestr ensures the implementation of Rosreestr’s powers in these areas, including organizing the infrastructure for spatial data and geographical names.

Given the vast territory of the Russian Federation and its various constituent entities (republics, regions, autonomous regions and districts, cities of federal significance), Rosreestr creates territorial bodies to exercise its powers in a certain territory (usually aligned with the borders of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation).

The interaction between Rosreestr and its territorial bodies is determined by regulatory acts, allowing Rosreestr to perform its activities both directly and through these territorial bodies.

Moreover, Rosreestr collaborates with other federal executive authorities, executive authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, local government bodies, scientific organizations and public associations to implement tasks in geodesy, cartography and the naming of geographical objects.

One such organization is the Public Law Company “Roskadastr” (PLC “Roskadastr”), for which Rosreestr performs the functions and acts as the founder on behalf of the Russian Federation.



*National Atlas of Russia*



## Powers and functions in the field of geodesy and cartography



### **ROSREESTR performs:**

- functions of the development of state policy and legal regulation on the territory of the Russian Federation including in the field of geodesy, cartography and organization of spatial data infrastructure
- on behalf of the Russian Federation functions and powers of the founder of the Public Law Company “Roskadastr”



### **Public Law Company “Roskadastr” performs works**

of a “full cycle” starting from developing technical documentation to obtaining comprehensive final results of geodetic and cartographic works

*Powers and functions of Rosreestr*



PLC “Roskadastr” performs certain public law functions and powers in the fields of geodesy, cartography and geographical names, including:

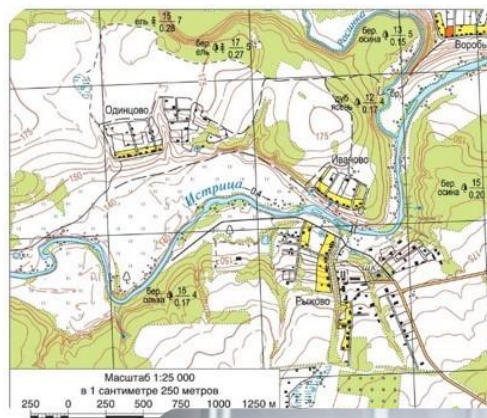
- creating state topographic maps and plans on behalf of Rosreestr;
- maintaining of the federal fund of spatial data;
- directly creating and maintaining the State Catalogue of Geographical Names.

Thus, the functions of geodesy, cartography, management of spatial data and geographical names are entrusted to a single body – Rosreestr.

This helps to increase the efficiency of these functions, optimizes public services and consolidates resources.

Rosreestr is developing and transforming itself to become a service provider and a source of complete, reliable and up-to-date spatial data, as well as a center of competence for land and real estate.

Nowadays, Rosreestr has significant technological potential to implement integration projects in the fields of geodesy and cartography. Moreover, the agency has valuable experience in implementing projects internationally.



**Diana Ismailova**

*Head of Department of Geodesy and Cartography of the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr)*

Email: [ismailova\\_dg@rosreestr.ru](mailto:ismailova_dg@rosreestr.ru)

**Antonina Gordeeva**

*Deputy Head of Division on Geographical Objects Naming of Department of Geodesy and Cartography of the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr)*

Email: [inter-dep@rosreestr.ru](mailto:inter-dep@rosreestr.ru)

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**Исмаилова Д.Г.** – начальник Управления геодезии и картографии Росреестра

**Гордеева А.В.** – заместитель начальника отдела наименований географических объектов Росреестра

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# Saudi Arabia: GEOSA's Integrated Approach to Geographical Names and Geospatial Data Management

## **Introduction:**

The General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia serves a unique role, functioning as both the National Mapping Agency and the Geographical Names Authority. Established in 2006 by a resolution of the Saudi Cabinet, GEOSA is the custodian of geographical names, with responsibility for topographical map production, geospatial data management and surveying. This unique organizational structure fosters an integrated approach to managing geographical names and geospatial data, promoting consistency, efficiency, and national standardization. GEOSA plays a pivotal role in providing standardized geographical names for various purposes, including mapping, nautical-chart production, navigation, cultural heritage preservation, tourism, and geospatial information management.



*GEOSA President, Dr. Eng. Mohammed Yahya Alsayel*

This article details the unique structure within GEOSA for geographical names and geospatial data management. It highlights the benefits of this integrated approach and offers valuable insights for other nations seeking to enhance collaboration between their national mapping agencies and geographical names authorities. The article also discusses the opportunities and challenges faced by the National Committee on Geographical Names, which is headed by GEOSA.

## **Unified Structure:**

The effective management of geographical names is crucial for accurate and reliable geospatial information. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information takes an integrated approach, serving as both the Authority for Geographical Names, and the National Geospatial Data Management / Mapping Agency. At the core of GEOSA's operations is its National Geospatial Center, which provides for geospatial information governance. It establishes standards and guidelines for the complementary use of national geospatial information and manages the collection, sharing, exchange, storage, updating, maintenance and publication of geospatial data on the National Geoportal Platform. Within GEOSA, the

Executive Directorate of Geographical Names is responsible for collecting, documenting, standardizing, and disseminating official geographical names nationwide. GEOSA's Executive Directorate of Surveying Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, on the other hand, focuses on the creation and maintenance of accurate and up-to-date national topographical maps. This close collaboration ensures that the names used on maps and the geoportal are consistent and approved. By housing both entities under one roof, GEOSA ensures seamless communication and data exchange between these vital functions.

## **Benefits of Integration:**

GEOSA, serving as both the National Mapping Agency, and the Authority for Geographical Names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has established robust mechanisms to foster effective collaboration within the organization. This unified structure promotes a collaborative environment that streamlines data management, ensures consistency, facilitates effective decision-making and supports the production of topographical maps and the development of national standards for geographical names.

Geographical names are collected in the field by GEOSA's survey team, verified by local government authorities (Emirates and Centers) and stored in a database. The database includes geographical boundaries represented as polygons and lines, which assist cartographers in accurately placing these names on maps. These maps, meticulously crafted using accurate geographical names, serve as invaluable resources for various sectors, including urban planning, infrastructure development, and navigation.

In the digital realm, GEOSA incorporates geographical names into the National Geospatial Platform (GeoPortal KSA), facilitating easy access and navigation of geographical names data for a wide range of users including government agencies, private enterprises, university students, and the general public. Moreover, geographical names are leveraged to develop nautical charts, aiding marine navigation, resource management, and environmental conservation efforts. The integration of precise geographical names enhances the reliability and usability of these charts, ensuring safety and efficiency in maritime operations.

Through collaborative efforts, field teams utilize topographical maps to collect geographical names, serving as significant navigation tools during the data collection process. A unified approach allows for robust naming policies and quality control measures across both map production and geographical names management activities. This collaboration ensures accurate and standardized naming conventions on maps, facilitating better navigation and information dissemination. It eliminates potential



discrepancies or inconsistencies of geographical names appearing on official maps.

Furthermore, it streamlines data collection and updates. For example, if a new geographical feature is discovered during map production, its official designation occurs through seamless collaboration. Additionally, user feedback from the Geoportal helps to improve the accuracy of names. This collaborative approach ensures improved geographical name accuracy and minimizes errors and confusion for users. Importantly, it eliminates the need for complex data exchange procedures between separate entities.

**The National Committee on Geographical Names:**

The collaborative approach extends beyond GEOSA's internal structure. GEOSA also leads the National Committee on Geographical Names, comprised of representatives from various government ministries and authorities. This committee, bringing together 21 government agencies, aims to standardize and publish geographical names in alignment with national standards and international conventions. It unifies efforts relating to naming, writing, validation and spelling of geographical names. The committee's objectives include strengthening international relations to achieve common strategic goals, aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Despite progress, challenges persist, such as the vast geographical area of Saudi Arabia, limited academic resources,

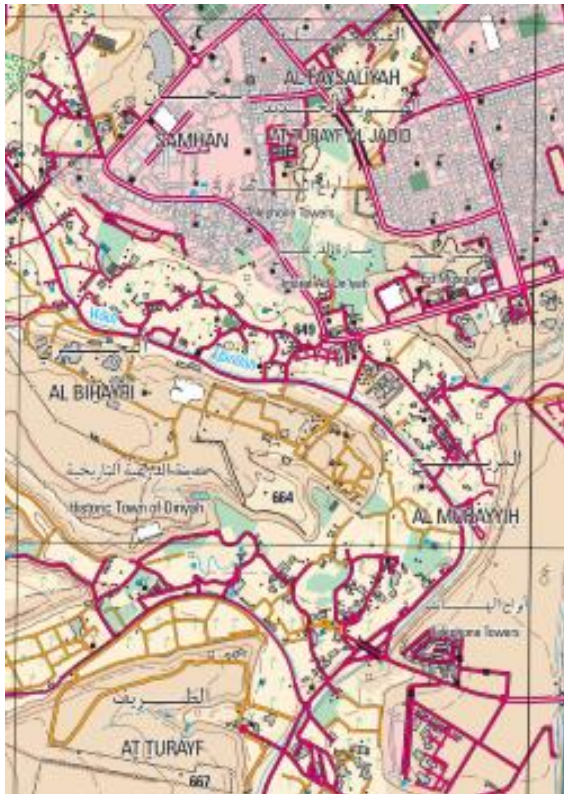
and the need for standardized romanization. To address these challenges, the committee is developing governance processes, enhancing technical capabilities through collaboration with academia and industry, and refining romanization methods approved by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). The committee's activities, including database creation and capacity building, are pivotal for accurate and controlled geographical data essential for national development.

**Conclusion:**

GEOSA, through its unified model combining the roles of the National Mapping Agency and the Authority for Geographical Names, has achieved notable success. The organization's focus on accuracy and consistency in geographical data has streamlined processes and elevated the quality of topographical maps and the Geoportal. This collaborative model stands as a valuable example for other countries aiming to enhance their geospatial information management practices.

**Mohammed Yahya Alsayel**

*President, General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA) and  
Chairman, National committee on Geographical Names of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Email: [president@geosa.gov.sa](mailto:president@geosa.gov.sa)*



*Geographical Names on a Topographical Map produced by GEOSA*



*National Committee on Geographical Names Meeting*



# FROM THE COUNTRIES

## Burkina Faso

### ***Travaux de la Commission Nationale de Toponymie (CNT) et stratégies de collecte de données de terrain pour la production de cartes topographiques à l'échelle 1/50000 dans le contexte de la crise sécuritaire au Burkina Faso***

#### ***Introduction***

L'Institut Géographique du Burkina (IGB) est chargée de la conception, de la mise en œuvre et du suivi de la politique nationale en matière de cartographie. A ce titre, il est chargé de mettre à la disposition des différents acteurs une infrastructure cartographique de base devant servir à la planification, au suivi et à l'évaluation des actions de développement. Des Bases Nationales de Données Topographiques et cartes topographiques de base à l'échelle 1/50000 sont disponibles et couvrent 58% du territoire national.

Dans le but d'améliorer la couverture en carte de base à l'échelle 1/50000 du pays, l'IGB avec l'accompagnement de l'Etat burkinabè, a relancé, entre 2018-2022, deux activités de production cartographique qui ont permis la réalisation de 16 cartes dont 12 de la feuille de Ouagadougou à l'échelle 1/200000 entre 2018-2019 et 4 de la feuille de Boulsa à l'échelle 1/200000, entre 2021-2022.

L'irrégularité des subventions de l'Etat pour la production cartographique et l'absence de ligne budgétaire au Ministère en charge de l'administration du territoire qui assure la Présidence de la CNT n'ont pas permis une prise en charge régulière et à bonne date des travaux des sessions de la CNT.

#### ***Activités de redynamisation de la CNT***

Toutes les productions cartographiques ont été accompagnées par des travaux d'examen et de validation des toponymes par la CNT organisé par l'IGB. Les trois dernières sessions se sont déroulées en 2019, 2021 et 2022. Celle de 2019 a fait déjà l'objet de publication dans le bulletin N°57.

#### ***Session de 2020***

La première et seule session de 2020 s'est tenue en janvier 2021 et, pour une pérennisation des activités de la CNT, 4 propositions ont été faites.

### ***Work of the National Toponymy Commission (NTC) and field data collection strategies for the production of topographic maps at a scale of 1:50000 in the context of the security crisis In Burkina Faso***

#### ***Introduction***

The Geographical Institute of Burkina Faso (IGB) is responsible for the design, implementation and monitoring of the national mapping policy. As such, it is responsible for providing the various actors with a basic cartographic infrastructure to be used for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of development actions. National Topographic Databases and topographic base maps at a scale of 1:50000 are available and cover 58% of the national territory.

In order to improve the coverage of the country's 1:50000 scale base map, the IGB, with the support of the Burkinabe State, has relaunched, between 2018-2022, two cartographic production activities which have enabled the production of 16 maps, including 12 of the Ouagadougou sheet at a scale of 1:200000 between 2018-2019 and 4 of the Boulsa sheet at a scale of 1:200000, between 2021-2022.

The irregularity of State subsidies for cartographic production and the absence of a budget line in the Ministry in charge of territorial administration which holds the Presidency of the CNT have not allowed the work of the CNT sessions to be taken over regularly and on time.

#### ***Activities to revitalize the CNT***

All the cartographic productions were accompanied by the examination and validation of toponyms by the CNT organized by the IGB. The last three sessions took place in 2019, 2021 and 2022. The 2019 report has already been published in Bulletin No. 57.

#### ***2020 Session***

The first and only session of 2020 was held in January 2021 and, for the sustainability of the CNT's activities, 4 proposals were made.



- la relecture du décret portant création, attributions et fonctionnement de la CNT et l’élaboration de son arrêté d’application;

Les réajustements ont porté, sur la précision, dans le décret:

- de la prise d’un arrêté d’application;
- à l’Article 2 que les travaux des Commissions Communales de Toponymie doivent être fédérés aux travaux de la CNT et, par conséquent, l’ensemble des toponymes au niveau national doivent être traités selon les mêmes règles;
- de la composition du bureau de toponymie de la CNT;
- de la mise en application des résultats des travaux de la CNT;
- du mandat des membres de la CNT.
- l’amendement du projet de règlement intérieur du bureau de toponymie de la CNT;

Le projet de règlement intérieur a été relu et mis en cohérence avec le décret examiné.

- des échanges sur le renouvellement des membres de la CNT;

Elles ont abouti aux propositions ci-après:

- la revue à la hausse des représentants de certaines structures. En effet, le nombre de membre du Ministère en charge de l’administration du territoire passe de un à deux membres;
- l’association de nouvelles structures indispensables au sein de la CNT actuelle. En effet, le Ministère en charge de la Défense et celui en charge de la Sécurité ont été retenus pour passer le nombre de structures membres à 16;
- la revue du mandat des commissaires à trois ans renouvelables une fois.
- formulation de recommandations.

**Session 2022**

Elle fut, également, la première et unique session de toponymie tenue en décembre 2022. Elle avait pour but d’examiner et de valider les toponymes de quatre cartes topographiques à l’échelle 1/50000 de la feuille de Boulsa à l’échelle 1/200000 en cours de production par l’IGB, dans les régions du Plateau-Central, du Centre-Sud, Centre-Nord et Centre-Est. Il s’agit des cartes de Mankarga, Mògtédo, Zòrgho-Nord et Zòrgho-Sud.

- the rereading of the decree on the creation, attributions and functioning of the CNT and the drafting of its implementing order;

The readjustments concerned, on the point of precision, in the decree:

- the adoption of an implementing order;
- in Article 2 that the work of the Communal Toponymy Commissions must be federated with the work of the CNT and, consequently, all toponyms at the national level must be treated according to the same rules;
- the composition of the CNT's toponymy office;
- the implementation of the results of the work of the CNT;
- of the mandate of the members of the CNT.
- the amendment of the draft rules of procedure of the CNT toponymy office;

The draft internal regulations have been reread and brought into line with the decree under review.

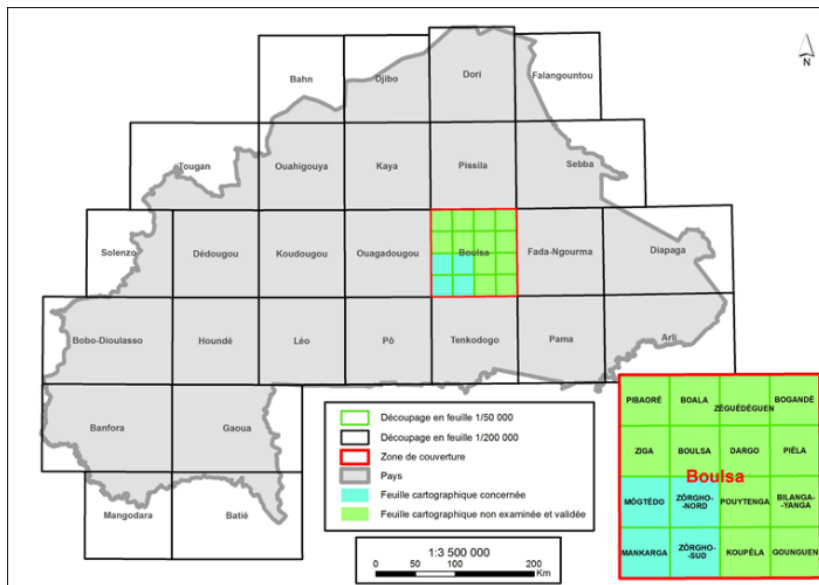
- exchanges on the renewal of the members of the CNT;

They resulted in the following proposals:

- the upward review of the representatives of certain structures. Indeed, the number of members of the Ministry in charge of territorial administration has been increased from one to two;
- the association of new structures that are essential within the current CNT. Indeed, the Ministry in charge of Defence and the Ministry in charge of Security have been selected to increase the number of member structures to 16;
- the review of the mandate of the commissioners to three years, renewable once.
- making recommendations.

**2022 Session**

It was also the first and only toponymy session held in December 2022. The purpose of the study was to examine and validate the toponyms of four topographic maps at a scale of 1:50000 of the Boulsa sheet at a scale of 1:200000 currently being produced by the IGB, in the regions of the Central Plateau, the Centre-South, the Centre-North and the Centre-East. These are the maps of Mankarga, Mògtédo, Zòrgho-Nord and Zòrgho-Sud.



Carte 1 : Situation géographique des 4 feuillets cartographiques

Map 1: Geographical location of the 4 map sheets

**Description sommaire de la démarche de production cartographique adoptée pour l'échelle du 1/50 000 dans un contexte sécuritaire défavorable**

Dans le cadre de cette production cartographique, il a été élaboré un document technique intitulé « **STRATEGIE DE COLLECTE DE DONNEES COMPLEMENTAIRES DANS UN CONTEXTE D'INSECURITE POUR LA PRODUCTION DE CARTES TOPOGRAPHIQUES A L'ECHELLE 1/50000** » qui propose une démarche méthodologique en quatre étapes :

**Étape 1 : Collecte de données externes à l'IGB**

- collecter, auprès des structures externes au niveau central et déconcentré, et sur les globes virtuels et autres plateformes, des données spatiales et des métadonnées;
- traiter et intégrer les données dans la base de données produite.

**Étape 2 : Production des minutes de complètemnt**

- coupler la base de données produite à celle collectée auprès des structures externes à l'IGB;
- réaliser des minutes de complètemnt terrain, par feuillet, à une échelle supérieure ou égale à 1/5000. Cette échelle permettra une meilleure appréciation de l'organisation de chaque chef-lieu de commune et village.

**Étape 3 : Préparation des sorties terrain**

- prendre contact avec les autorités municipales pour établir la liste des autorités locales et personnes ressources par village;
- réaliser des missions d'information sécuritaire auprès de la gendarmerie et de la police de la zone de travail afin d'évaluer situation sécuritaire de la zone, informer sur

**Summary description of the cartographic production approach adopted for the 1:50,000 scale in an adverse security context**

As part of this cartographic production, a technical document entitled "**STRATEGY FOR THE COLLECTION OF COMPLEMENTARY DATA IN A CONTEXT OF INSECURITY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AT A SCALE OF 1:50000**" has been developed, which proposes a methodological approach in four steps:

**Step 1: Collection of data external to the IGB**

- collect spatial data and metadata from external structures at central and decentralised level, and on virtual globes and other platforms;
- Process and integrate the data into the database produced.

**Step 2: Production of maps for field work**

- to link the database produced with that collected from structures external to the IGB;
- Carry out minutes of complete fieldwork, per sheet, on a scale greater than or equal to 1/5000. This scale will allow a better appreciation of the organization of each commune capital and village.

**Step 3: Preparation of field work trips**

- contact the municipal authorities to establish a list of local authorities and resource persons by village;
- carry out security information missions with the gendarmerie and the police of the work area in order to assess the security situation in the area, provide information on the practical organization of the work and establish a schedule of passage.



l'organisation pratique des travaux et établir un calendrier de passage.

#### **Étape 4 : Travaux terrain de complètement et d'enquêtes toponymiques**

- réaliser une mission de complètement simplifiée dans les chefs-lieux des communes concernées pour rencontrer les autorités locales et personnes ressources des villages et chefs-lieux de communes dans les zones à fort défi sécuritaire;
- présenter, au moyen de la minute, le village à chaque autorité locale et personne ressource conviées pour s'assurer de la véracité des informations disponibles et collecter les informations complémentaires de chaque localité. Il sera précisé, sur les minutes, les positions géographiques et les dénominations des infrastructures et équipements, des lieux-dits, les toponymes des localités, cours d'eau et orographies remarquables et de première importance.

Cette démarche a été concluante en permettant la production des cartes topographiques prévues. En outre, elle a permis de réaliser des enquêtes toponymiques et la validation de 1384 toponymes par la CNT, lors de la session de 2022.

#### **NAGABILA Halidou**

*Directeur Général (IGB)*

*Membre de la Commission Nationale de Toponymie (CNT)*

*Burkina Faso*

*Email: [hnagabila\\_h@yahoo.fr](mailto:hnagabila_h@yahoo.fr)*

#### **SANON Oumar Issa**

*Contrôleur Interne de Gestion (IGB)*

*Burkina Faso*

*Email : [oi\\_sanon@yahoo.fr](mailto:oi_sanon@yahoo.fr)*

#### **KONATE Abdel Aziz**

*Directeur de la Cartographie du Territoire (IGB)*

*Burkina Faso*

*Email: [abdelaiz.konate@yahoo.fr](mailto:abdelaiz.konate@yahoo.fr)*

#### **Step 4: Field work and collect of toponyms**

- carry out a completely simplified mission in the capitals of the communes concerned to meet the local authorities and resource persons of the villages and capitals of communes in areas with a high security challenge;
- Present, by means of the minute, the village to each local authority and resource person invited to ensure the veracity of the information available and to collect additional information from each locality. The minutes will specify the geographical positions and the names of the infrastructures and equipment, the localities, the toponyms of the localities, watercourses and orographies that are remarkable and of primary importance.

This approach was conclusive in allowing the production of the planned topographic maps. In addition, it made it possible to carry out toponymic surveys and the validation of 1384 toponyms by the CNT during the 2022 session.

#### **NAGABILA Halidou**

*Director General (IGB)*

*Member of the National Commission on Toponymy (CNT)*

*Burkina Faso*

*Email: [hnagabila\\_h@yahoo.fr](mailto:hnagabila_h@yahoo.fr)*

#### **SANON Oumar Issa**

*Internal Management Controller (IGB)*

*Burkina Faso*

*Email: [oi\\_sanon@yahoo.fr](mailto:oi_sanon@yahoo.fr)*

#### **Konate Abdel Aziz**

*Director of Territorial Cartography (IGB)*

*Burkina Faso*

*Email: [abdelaiz.konate@yahoo.fr](mailto:abdelaiz.konate@yahoo.fr)*





## FROM THE DIVISIONS

### Africa Centrale

#### ***Les petits pas de l'Afrique vers la normalisation des noms géographiques: le Burundi***

L'histoire récente de la normalisation des noms géographiques en Afrique est marquée par une avancée, certes encore assez lente et timide, mais réelle et effective dans un certain nombre de pays. Dans ce mouvement, le Burkina et la Tunisie ont été les premiers à s'illustrer en remettant sur pied leur commission de toponymie, respectivement en 2012 et 2013. Ces deux pays ont depuis lors, une autorité nationale des noms de lieux qui fonctionnent en bonne et due forme.

Dans un autre contexte, en 2012, le Mali a fait un grand pas en direction de la normalisation par le biais du projet « La réfection des cartes topographiques de base du Mali à l'échelle 1/200 000, l'élaboration des produits et services dérivés et la modernisation de l'Institut Géographique du Mali (IGM) ». En formant les agents de l'Institut Géographique du Mali (IGM) aux principes et techniques d'écriture des noms des localités, des collines, des montagnes, des cours d'eau et des lieux dits devant figurer sur la nouvelle version des cartes topographiques, ce projet a constitué une étape déterminante dans la normalisation des noms de lieux.

De plus, pour parer aux urgences, un bureau de toponymie interne a été créé à l'IGM. En attendant le décret de création de la Commission Nationale de Toponymie (CNT), il a traité de l'harmonisation de plusieurs dizaines de milliers de toponymes, en particulier les noms de localités qui seront validés ultérieurement par la CNT dès que la création de cette dernière sera officialisée.

Le Sénégal lui aussi, à la faveur d'un atelier national sur la toponymie organisée les 23 et 24 octobre 2014 au sud de Dakar, a résolument engagé le pays dans la voie de la normalisation géographique. En réunissant les principaux producteurs et utilisateurs d'information géographique du Sénégal, cet atelier dont la finalité était de mettre en place une Commission nationale de toponymie et d'établir un programme de travail en vue de ses activités futures, a permis :

- d'étudier les aspects juridiques et institutionnels de la création de la CNT,
- de définir des moyens et des stratégies de financement pour la mise en œuvre effective des activités de la CNT,

#### ***Africa's Small Steps Towards Standardization of Geographical Names: Burundi***

The recent history of the standardization of geographical names in Africa is marked by progress, admittedly still rather slow and timid, but real and effective in a number of countries. In this movement, Burkina Faso and Tunisia were the first to distinguish themselves by resetting their toponymy commissions, in 2012 and 2013 respectively. Since then, these two countries have a national authority for place names that function in due form.

In another context, in 2012, Mali took a major step towards standardization through the project "The repair of basic topographic maps of Mali at a scale of 1:200,000, the development of derived products and services and the modernization of the Geographical Institute of Mali (IGM)". By training the agents of the Geographical Institute of Mali in the principles and techniques of writing the names of localities, hills, mountains, rivers and places said to appear on the new version of topographic maps, this project was a decisive step in the standardization of place names.

In addition, to deal with emergencies, an internal toponymy office has been created at the IGM. While waiting for the decree to create the National Commission of Toponymy (CNT), he dealt with the harmonization of several tens of thousands of toponyms, in particular the names of localities which will be validated later by the CNT as soon as the creation of the latter is official.

Senegal too, thanks to a national workshop on toponymy organized on October 23 and 24, 2014 south of Dakar, has resolutely committed the country to the path of geographical standardization. By bringing together the main producers and users of geographical information in Senegal, this workshop, the purpose of which was to set up a National Commission on Toponymy and to establish a work programme for its future activities, made it possible to:

- study the legal and institutional aspects of the creation of the CNT,
- define means and financing strategies for the effective implementation of the activities of the CNT,
- draw up a work plan for the future activities of the CNT.



- d'élaborer un plan de travail en vue des futures activités de la CNT.

Il s'agit ici, comme pour le Mali, d'étapes décisives sur le chemin de la normalisation des noms de lieux.

La RDC a, elle aussi durant ces dernières années, posé de solides jalons vers la normalisation. L'Institut Géographique du Congo a créé un laboratoire de toponymie pour générer tous les dossiers relatifs aux toponymes utilisés dans la cartographie dans le pays. Il a en outre développé un partenariat institutionnel dans le cadre de la vérification et de la validation des données toponymiques et topologiques des entités administratives de la RDC avec :

- L'Institut National de Statistique (INS) pour les activités de 2e Recensement Général de la Population et Habitat (RGPH2) ;
- Le Bureau Central de Recensement (BCR) pour appuyer les activités de la cartographie censitaire pour le RGPH2;
- Le Ministère de l'intérieur et de la sécurité pour la validation des travaux de découpage des nouvelles provinces de la RDC;
- L'Assemblée Nationale et le SENAT pour valider les données sur les limites de découpage des nouvelles provinces;
- Le PNUD pour l'élaboration de l'Atlas énergétique de la RDC.

Tout était fin prêt pour l'organisation d'un atelier de lancement de la structure nationale de normalisation des noms géographiques lorsque la pandémie du Covid-19 fit son apparition. Depuis lors, les travaux préparatoires ont été interrompus. Quoiqu'il en soit la RDC est sur une bonne rampe de lancement vers la normalisation des noms géographiques.

Après ces différents pays qui ont mis sur pied une commission nationale de toponymie ou qui en sont dans l'antichambre, place à présent au Burundi qui retient l'attention aujourd'hui. En effet, lentement mais sûrement, ce pays se dirige vers la normalisation de ses noms des lieux. Un adage dit qu'on juge la taille d'une maison à sa fondation. Effectivement, patiemment et méticuleusement, le Burundi semble avoir franchi les étapes déterminantes pour normaliser les noms des lieux,

### **Un travail de longue haleine :**

Le Burundi s'intéresse depuis plusieurs décennies aux noms géographiques. Sa présence continue, bien que quelque peu discrète et irrégulière aux assises des noms géographiques à New York, l'atteste. J'ai personnellement eu l'occasion d'échanger avec des membres de la délégation burundaise en

These are decisive steps on the road to the standardization of place names.

The DRC has also taken solid steps towards normalization in recent years. The Geographical Institute of Congo has created a toponymy laboratory to generate all the files relating to the toponyms used in cartography in the country. It has also developed an institutional partnership in the context of the verification and validation of toponymic and topological data of the administrative entities of the DRC with:

- The National Institute of Statistics (INS) for the activities of the 2nd General Population and Housing Census (RGPH2);
- The Central Census Bureau (BCR) to support census mapping activities for RGPH2;
- The Ministry of the Interior and Security for the validation of the work of demarcating the new provinces of the DRC;
- The National Assembly and the Senate to validate data on the boundaries of the new provinces;
- UNDP for the development of the DRC Energy Atlas.

Everything was ready for the organization of a workshop to launch the national structure for the standardization of geographical names when the Covid-19 pandemic appeared. Since then, the preparatory work has been interrupted. In any case, the DRC is on a good launching pad towards the standardization of geographical names.

After these various countries that have set up a national toponymy commission or are in the antechamber, it is now time for Burundi which is attracting attention today. Indeed, slowly but surely, this country is moving towards the standardization of its place names. There is an adage that says that the size of a house is judged by its foundation. Indeed, patiently and meticulously, Burundi seems to have taken the decisive steps to standardize the names of places.

### **A long-term project:**

Burundi has been interested in geographical names for several decades. His continuous, if somewhat discreet and irregular presence at the UNGEGN Meetings in New York, attests to this. I personally had the opportunity to meet with members of the Burundian delegation in 2007 and 2014 UNGEGN Meetings in New York, accompanied by diplomats from the Burundian embassy to the United Nations. In addition, Burundi participated in the training of trainers in toponymy organized by UNGEGN from 17 to 21 June 2013 in Antananarivo, Madagascar. It was at the end of this training



2007 et en 2014 à New York, accompagnés de diplomates de l'ambassade du Burundi auprès des Nations unies. De plus le Burundi a participé à la formation des formateurs en toponymie organisée par le GENUNG du 17 au 21 juin 2013 à Antananarivo, Madagascar. C'est à l'issue de cette formation que l'idée de mettre en place une autorité des noms géographiques dans ce pays a véritablement pris corps.

### *Une accélération du processus ces dernières années*

Tout semble indiquer, à en juger par l'enchaînement des événements observés ces deux dernières années, que le processus connaît une accélération devant incontestablement conduire à la normalisation des noms des lieux au Burundi. L'on a noté :

- Une multiplication des réunions formelles et informelles qui ont débouché sur la publication de trois textes importants :
  - Le décret n° 100/071 du 08/05/2020 portant Création et Fonctionnement d'un Comité de Pilotage de Normalisation Toponymique.
  - L'arrêté n° 011/121/PM du 4 Août 2021 portant Création, Organisation, Mission, Composition et Fonctionnement du Comité Technique d'Experts de Normalisation Toponymique.
  - Arrêté n° 012/121/PM du 4 Août 2021 portant nomination des membres du Comité Technique d'Experts de Normalisation Toponymique.
- L'organisation d'un programme effectif de travail dans la perspective de bien cerner les contours de la normalisation sur le terrain avec notamment :
  - La définition des axes de travail et la répartition des tâches,
  - Les missions de cadrage et de reconnaissance,
  - La participation aux travaux de la 3e réunion du GENUNG du 1er au 5 mai 2023 à New York,
  - Un atelier de restitution de la réunion de New York,
  - La poursuite de l'exécution des tâches en cours.

Bref, tous les éléments du puzzle sont déjà rassemblés et, avec les deux organes institutionnels que sont le **Comité national de pilotage de normalisation toponymique** et le **Comité technique d'experts de normalisation toponymique**, le Burundi dispose quasiment d'une autorité nationale de toponymie.

C'est une très bonne nouvelle que la Division Afrique Centrale tenait à partager avec le GENUNG et qui montre que malgré l'adversité, malgré les difficultés de toutes sortes auxquelles font face les pays d'Afrique, malgré les pesanteurs qui bloquent le processus de normalisation des noms de lieux ici et là, l'espoir est permis, l'espoir que les enjeux autour des noms

that the idea of setting up a geographical names authority in this country really took shape.

### *An acceleration of the process in recent years*

Judging by the chain of events observed over the past two years, everything seems to indicate that the process is accelerating, which will undoubtedly lead to the standardization of place names in Burundi. It has been noted:

- A multiplication of formal and informal meetings which led to the publication of three important texts:
  - Decree No. 100/071 of 08/05/2020 on the Creation and Functioning of a Steering Committee for Toponymic Standardization.
  - Order No. 011/121/PM of August 4, 2021 on the Creation, Organization, Mission, Composition and Functioning of the Technical Committee of Experts for Toponymic Standardization.
  - Order No. 012/121/PM of August 4, 2021 appointing the members of the Technical Committee of Experts for Toponymic Standardization.
- The organization of an effective work program with a view to clearly defining the contours of standardization in the field, in particular:
  - The definition of the areas of work and the distribution of tasks,
  - Framing and reconnaissance missions,
  - Participation in the work of the 3rd meeting of UNGEGN from 1 to 5 May 2023 in New York,
  - A workshop to report on the New York meeting,
  - Continuing to perform ongoing tasks.

In short, all the pieces of the puzzle are already in place and, with the two institutional bodies that are the **National Steering Committee for Toponymic Standardization** and the **Technical Committee of Experts for Toponymic Standardization**, Burundi has almost a national toponymic authority.

This is very good news that the Africa Central Division wanted to share with UNGEGN and which shows that despite the adversity, despite the difficulties of all kinds faced by African countries, despite the burdens that block the process of standardization of place names here and there, there is hope, hope that the issues around geographical names are no longer obscured, "under" or "poorly" treated in many countries.



géographiques ne soient plus occultés, « sous » ou « mal » traités dans de nombreux pays.

Nos félicitations aux ouvriers de ce processus au Burundi en particulier à Benoît Barakamfitiye de l'Institut Géographique du Burundi (IGEBU), à son chef Barwihigire Thomas, Directeur de la Cartographie et de la Topographie à l'IGEBU et à Ngendabakana Frédéric, Secrétaire Exécutif Permanent du Bureau de Centralisation Géomatique et président du Comité Technique de Normalisation Toponymique. La Division Afrique Centrale qui a suivi attentivement l'évolution des événements reste disposée à accompagner ce pays dans ce processus de normalisation.

**Michel Simeu-Kamdem**

*Professeur de géographie, Université de Yaoundé I  
Président Division Afrique Centrale  
Mél : [sodziwa@gmail.com](mailto:sodziwa@gmail.com)*

**Benoît Barakamfitiye**

*IGEBU  
Mél : [barakabenos@gmail.com](mailto:barakabenos@gmail.com)*

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Our congratulations to the workers of this process in Burundi, in particular to Benoît Barakamfitiye of the Geographical Institute of Burundi (IGEBU), to his chief Barwihigire Thomas, Director of Cartography and Topography at IGEBU and to Ngendabakana Frédéric, Permanent Executive Secretary of the Bureau of Geomatics Centralization and President of the Technical Committee for Toponymic Standardization. The Central Africa Division, which has been closely following the evolution of events, remains ready to support this country in this normalization process.

**Michel Simeu-Kamdem**

*Professor of Geography, University of Yaoundé I  
Chair of the Africa Central Division of the UNGEGN  
E-mail: [sodziwa@gmail.com](mailto:sodziwa@gmail.com)*

**Benoît Barakamfitiye**

*IGEBU  
E-mail: [barakabenos@gmail.com](mailto:barakabenos@gmail.com)*

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## Romano-Hellenic Division

### *International Scientific Symposium*

**“Toponyms as a means of expressing identification, location, possession, belonging, division, and respect for peoples’ cultures”.**

Roma [Rome] – Italia, 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Romano-Hellenic Division (RHD) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEKN) announces its fourth International Scientific Symposium focused on

**“Toponyms as a means of expressing identification, location, possession, belonging, division, and respect for peoples’ cultures”**

The event will be held in Roma [Rome], Italia, at “Villa Celimontana”, headquarters of Italian Geographical Society, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024, in close cooperation with the Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Italian Geographical Society.

Members of UNGEKN, geographers, historians, linguists, planners and cartographers are cordially invited to take part in the symposium. Participation is free of charge. Language: English.

Contributions may still concern the following topics: preservation of the toponymic heritage, historical maps and toponymy, *genius loci* and identity, etymological studies, place names of historical linguistic minorities, vernacular place names, new toponyms, endonyms/exonyms, role of national and regional geographical names authorities.

#### **Deadlines:**

- 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 for submissions of abstracts (max. 400 words);
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 for final version of papers, complete with images and captions.

#### **Scientific committee:**

- Andrea Cantile, Chair of the Romano-Hellenic Division, University of Florence (Italia);
- Claudio Cerreti, President of the Italian Geographical Society, University of Roma Tre (Italia);
- Elena Dai Prà, University of Trento (Italia);
- Monica Dumitrascu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy (Romania);
- Peter Jordan, Austrian Academy of Sciences (Austria);
- Helen Kerfoot, Former Emeritus Scientist Natural Resources Canada, Hon. Chair of UNGEKN (Canada);
- Cosimo Palagiano, Emeritus of Sapienza - University of Rome, Accademia dei Lincei (Italia).

#### **Andrea Cantile**

*Chair of the Romano-Hellenic Division, University of Florence (Italia)*

*E-mail: [andrea.cantile@unifi.it](mailto:andrea.cantile@unifi.it);*

*[toponomastica@geomil.esercito.difesa.it](mailto:toponomastica@geomil.esercito.difesa.it)*



# FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

## Working Group on Exonyms

### 26th meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms

The 26th meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms took place in Prague 14-15, and 18 May 2024. On 14 May the meeting took place at the Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences, and on the 15th at the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping, and Cadastre. The working group is grateful to the organisations that kindly hosted our meeting.

The Working Group Meeting is an occasion to report on recent research and activities by the members and to exchange information and thoughts on exonyms, as well as to prepare for the coming UNGEGN session in May 2025 and to discuss future directions of the working group.

The meeting was attended by 25 experts from 14 countries. 11 papers were presented. They were:

1. Bölcskei and Mikešy	Hungarian names of European regions and administrative units
2. Choo and Yoon	Reducing the use of exonyms in Korean.
3. Crljenko	Ukrainian place names in the Croatian language
4. Geršič	Challenges in transliterating European geographical names into Arabic
5. Jaillard	UNEGGN and exonyms: what have we already done? what remains to be done? how can we do it?
6. Jordan	The endonym/exonym divide related to transboundary features
7. Kubicova	Slovak exonyms
8. Liščák	Toponymy of Macau (history and today), with field examples
9. Michalec	About the Czech gazetteer “Jména Evropy (Names of Europe)”
10. Zagórski	Some modern renderings of toponyms in Mauritania – difficult question of standardisation, exonymisation and popularization
11. Zych	Streets of Warsaw named after foreign geographical features. An example of the use of exonyms in the city space

Discussion following up on decision 16(b) at the 2023 Session also took place:

*"Decision 16: (b) Decided that there was a need to issue a recommendation, for consideration at the 2025 session of the Group of Experts, that reconciles the resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names on exonyms and its acknowledgement of exonyms as part of cultural heritage, and that the Working Group on Exonyms should continue further discussions towards achieving this;"*

In accordance with its mandate, the working group has discussed on how to reconcile the principles of reducing the exonyms in international use and of safeguarding those comprising a part of the cultural heritage. The discussion led to a general agreement on a draft text that is still to be finally formulated, validated by interested national authorities, and inserted in a complete draft decision. This is to be done between now and the next session, on-line meetings are to be set up for this purpose.

Two other meetings dealing with geographical names were held in Prague, back-to-back with the Exonyms WG meeting. On 16th May there was the meeting of the East, Central, and Southeast European Division, and also the workshop "Naming the Community: Identity Reconfiguration in Central and Eastern Europe" organised by the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences was held 16-17 May. Many of the members of the Exonyms Working Group took part in these meetings, and presented papers and contributed to the discussions.

On 18 May a fieldwork excursion of the working group took place in Prague, making use of the Open House Prague 2024 Festival, exploring the rich history and geography of this historical capital city.

### Kohei WATANABE

Convenor, Working Group on Exonyms

Email: [kw10004@cam.ac.uk](mailto:kw10004@cam.ac.uk)

### Reference websites:

- Exonyms Working Group – <https://ungegn.zrc-sazu.si/Activities>
- East Central and Southeast Europe Division - <https://ecseed.zrc-sazu.si/Sessions>
- Workshop "Naming the Community" - <https://e-onomastics.blogspot.com/2024/01/workshop-naming-community-identity.html>



## SPECIAL PROJECTS AND NEWS ITEM

### Pan-American Institute of Geography and History

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) held its 100th Meetings of Authorities and [24th General Assembly](#) on November 1, 2023 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. In an effort to foster international collaboration and establishment of guidelines, the General Assembly of PAIGH passed resolution 3 ([Spanish](#), [English](#)). This resolution raises the status of the Geographic Names Working Group to that of a Committee within the Cartographic Commission. The new committee will be known as the “José Joaquín Hungría Morell” Committee on Geographic Names.

This new committee will be coordinated and organized by the PAIGH National Section of the Dominican Republic. The mission of the committee is unifying and coordinating work on Geographic Names in the Americas, and to represent PAIGH at the Latin America Linguistic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEGN), as well as any other international institution, academic center, entity, or organization or of any State.

PAIGH hopes to foster promotion, facilitation, and knowledge exchange in relation to geographic names and respective authorities. PAIGH will work with UNGEGN in this shared area of interest and communicate any activity it finds relevant. If you have any questions or would like a chance to collaborate, please feel free to reach out to PAIGH leadership.

**Antonio Campuzano Rosales**  
*Secretario General del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia*  
 Email: [srodriguez@usgs.gov](mailto:srodriguez@usgs.gov)

**Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop**  
*President of the U.S. National Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History*  
 Email: [Deirdre.dalpiaz.bishop@census.gov](mailto:Deirdre.dalpiaz.bishop@census.gov)

**Sergio Rodriguez**  
*Member of the U.S. National Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History*  
 Email: [antonio.campuzano@ipgh.org](mailto:antonio.campuzano@ipgh.org)



Flyer of the 100th Meetings of Authorities

### Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia

El Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia (IPGH) celebró la 100ª Reunión de Autoridades y la [24ª Asamblea General](#) el 1 y 2 de Noviembre de 2023 en Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. En un esfuerzo por fomentar la colaboración internacional y el establecimiento de directrices, el IPGH aprobó la resolución 3 ([español](#), [inglés](#)). Esta resolución eleva el estatus del Grupo de Trabajo de Nombres Geográficos a un Comité, dentro de la Comisión Cartográfica. El nuevo comité se conocerá como el comité “José Joaquín Hungría Morell” sobre Nombres Geográficos.

Este nuevo comité será coordinado y organizado por la Sección Nacional del IPGH de la República Dominicana. La misión del comité es unificar y coordinar el trabajo sobre Nombres Geográficos en las Américas, y representar al IPGH en la División Lingüística de América Latina del Grupo de Expertos en Nombres Geográficos de las Naciones Unidas (UNGEGN), y cualquier otra institución internacional, centro académico, entidad, organización o de cualquier Estado.

El IPGH espera fomentar la promoción, facilitación e intercambio de conocimientos de los nombres geográficos y las autoridades respectivas. El IPGH trabajará con UNGEGN en esta área de interés compartida y comunicará cualquier actividad que considere relevante. Si tiene alguna pregunta o le gustaría tener la oportunidad de colaborar, no dude en ponerse en contacto con las Autoridades del IPGH.



Photograph of Dr. Hermann Manríquez Tirado, Presidente de la Comisión de Geografía; Dr. Mario Ruiz Romero, Presidente de la Comisión de Geofísica; Mtro. Antonio Campuzano Rosales, Secretario General; Dra. Patricia Solís, Presidente; Lic. Pahola Méndez Mata, Vicepresidente; Dr. Filiberto Cruz Sánchez, Presidente de la Comisión de Historia; y MSc. Max Lobo Hernández. (left to right)



## UNGEGN and UN Maps

The United Nations Global Service Centre hosted the third annual UN Maps Conference in Valencia Spain from 21 to 24 May 2024. This conference brought together UN Mappers, Member States, Geographical Information System (GIS) companies, academia, and others to discuss every aspect of mapping in the United Nations (UN), including methods of data sharing across the UN and innovative techniques such as harnessing AI and 3D modelling.

At the 2023 session of UNGEGN, the Group of Experts in Recommendation 1 decided to support cooperation with United Nations Maps that This recommendation was subsequently adopted by ECOSOC at its 43rd plenary meeting under decision **2023/336**: -

*The Economic and Social Council commended the achievements and the ongoing work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the standardization of geographical names and its contribution to the management and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and decided to support cooperation between the Group of Experts and United Nations Maps.*

In addition to the recommendation, UNGEGN is also keen to explore methods of strengthening collaboration across the UN System , believing that this will provide opportunities to promote the importance of the standardisation of geographical names and the work that UNGEGN and its experts do in this field.

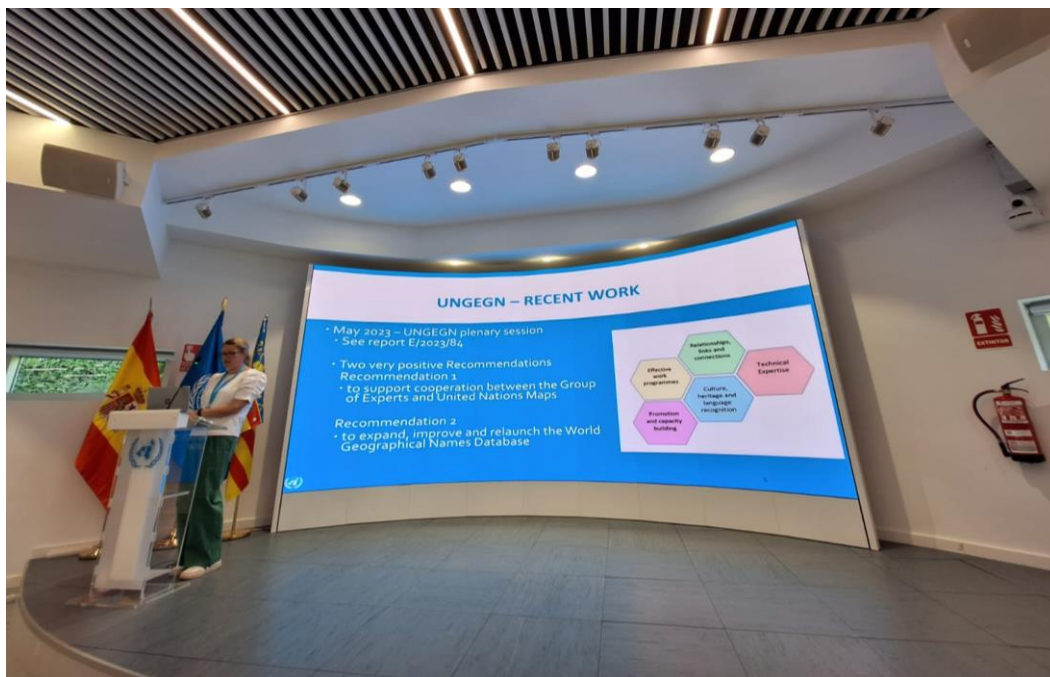
As a positive step in maintaining and increasing this collaborative engagement, the UNGEGN Expanded Bureau was represented at this third annual UN Maps Conference by Catherine Cheetham, Convenor WG Romanization Systems. Catherine presented on UNGEGN and the redevelopment of the World Geographical Names Database. The conference was a very positive and valuable one in which many new connections with different agencies of the UN and commercial companies were made, underlining the importance of the standardisation of geographical names. UNGEGN will ensure that collaboration continues, and to support UN agencies and field missions with the use of standard geographical names. This will be facilitated with the forthcoming relaunch of the World Geographical Name Database, as this gives access to UNGEGN recommended names in a publicly available API.

UNGEGN will endeavour to attend future UN Maps Conferences.

**Catherine Cheetham**

Head, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names  
United Kingdom

Email: [ccheetham@pcgn.org.uk](mailto:ccheetham@pcgn.org.uk)



*UNGEGN presenting at UN Maps / Ayako Kagawa*





# Revitalizing the work item Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

Please help us to deliver on our programme of work



## The Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage Needs Your Help!

Are you interested / familiar with *geographical names in relation to aspects of Cultural Heritage*?





If you would like to **contribute** to UNGEGN's work on **Cultural Heritage**, please complete the form at this link: [\(link\)](#)  
Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Cecile Blake at [blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org)

Are you a member of a national body or academic institute with expertise in toponymy focusing on the promotion and connections between culture, heritage, language and geographical names that contribute to cultural retention, preservation and revitalization?

The UNGEGN Bureau and the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage invites you to lead and/or support the planning and implementation of tasks under Strategy 4 -Cultural, heritage and language recognition, of its Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029.

The following are some of the topics to be addressed by this group.

1. The significance of geographical names on culture, identity and language.
2. Methods for crowd sourcing relating to urban and street naming processes, and the relationship with relevant SDGs (for example sustainable cities).
3. Understanding the needs of emergency services, tourism operators, brand consultants and other providers of services useful to society, for example plurilingual societies.

4. Effective practices and applications on culturally oriented resolutions, such as commemorative naming and commercialization of naming.
5. Cooperation with academia so that geographical names datasets (for example, historical or linguistic variants) are geo-referenced and linked to standardized datasets.
6. Principles and methodology for recording and writing geographical names from unwritten languages.

To express your interest please complete the following form available at this link <https://forms.office.com/e/3N65cjWz2L>.

The call for expressions of interest will be open until Monday 1st July 2024.

Should you have questions regarding this request, please contact Cecille Blake at [blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org)



## Award for merit to professor Andrea Cantile, chair of Romano-Hellenic Division of UNGEGN

The President of the Italian Republic, Mr. Sergio Mattarella, conferred to prof. Andrea Cantile the honour of “Commendatore” of the Italian Republic Order of merit, with decree of June 2, 2023. This honour is awarded by the Head of Italian State in recognition of “activities acquired towards the Nation in the fields of literature, the arts, economics and in the performance of public offices exercised for social, philanthropic and humanitarian purposes”.

The recent Italian Republic Day (June 2, 2024) was the formal occasion on which the honour was awarded. The ceremony took place in Florence, in Piazza della Signoria, in the arengario of Palazzo Vecchio, the headquarters of the Municipality.

Andrea Cantile is chairman of the Romano-Hellenic Division of the UNGEGN and President of the IGMI Committee for Italian official toponymy. He teaches Historical Cartography for landscape, in the master’s degree course in Landscape Architecture at the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence, is full academic of the Georgofili Academy in Florence, President of the Ximenian Observatory Foundation of Florence and author of over hundred publications on historical cartography and toponymy.

### **Cosimo Palagiano**

*Chair*

*International Geographical Union (IGU)*

*Email: [cosimo.palagiano@uniroma1.it](mailto:cosimo.palagiano@uniroma1.it)*



*A moment of the award ceremony in Florence, Piazza della Signoria.*