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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names  
2023 session**

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 12 of the provisional agenda\*

**Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity,  
including indigenous, minority and regional languages  
and multilingual issues**

**Report of New Zealand on new maps showing traditional/  
customary/ancestral/original Māori names**

**Summary\*\***

In 1995, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa<sup>1</sup> published a set of very popular poster-style maps, entitled *Te Ika a Māui, The Land and its People circa 1840*,<sup>2</sup> and *Te Wai Pounamu, The Land and its People circa 1840*.<sup>3</sup> With a considerable volume of additional restored and corrected Māori names resulting from Tiriti o Waitangi claim settlements over the past three decades, the Board decided it was time for new versions of the maps.

The two new printed maps will be published in March or April 2023. They are renamed *Tangata Whenua Place Names – Te Ika-a-Māui* and *Tangata Whenua Place Names – Te Waipounamu*. The maps will further contribute to a growing appreciation and interest in Māori names by being a dedicated source of accurate and authoritative information that will be an important education resource. The Māori names contribute to restored mana (status) – to meet Tiriti o Waitangi partnership, participation and protection principles. The names show macrons, where relevant, to reflect meaning and pronunciation.

Recognition of these important historical names assists in acknowledging the deep connection between Māori and the land that has been maintained through oral

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\* [GEGN.2/2023/1](https://www.unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/).

\*\* The full report was prepared by the Secretary of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, Wendy Shaw. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/34/CRP.34, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd\\_session\\_2023/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/).

<sup>1</sup> Memorial markers of the landscape.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.linz.govt.nz/sites/default/files/nth-island-front-lg.jpg>.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.linz.govt.nz/sites/default/files/sth-island-front-lg.jpg>.



traditions, despite many of the historical names having been overlaid with introduced European names.

The report provides information on the process of how the maps were prepared, in particular with regard to the importance of engaging directly with appropriate Māori groups on the correct names and meanings. While the purpose of the new maps is to highlight the names, the new design and artwork will make them a collectable resource and a source of conversation for all New Zealanders.

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