



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES WITHIN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AND CONTINENTAL SHELF: THE ROLE OF THE COASTAL STATE

The 3rd Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

United Nations Headquarters, New York

1st -5th May 2023

INTRODUCTION

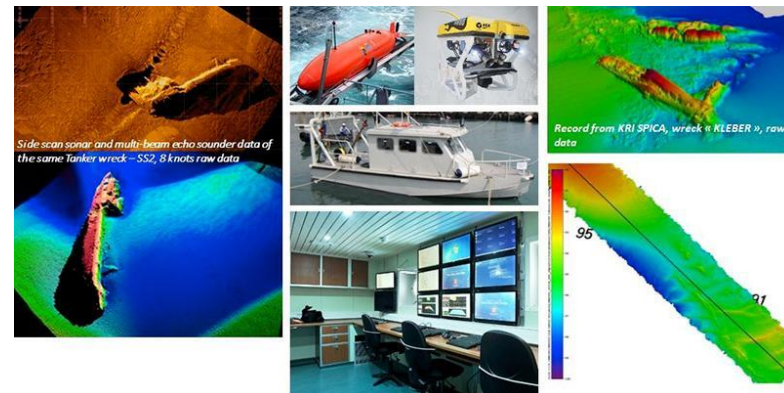


- Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic country, **comprising more than 17,000 islands** and stretching more than 5,000 km from east to west and over 3,000 km from north to south, and it is **located between the Indian and Pacific oceans in Southeast Asia**.
- It encompasses 1.9 million km² of land and more than 6 million km² of waters (including Archipelagic Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and Continental Shelf**).
- Consequently, it has a vast maritime zone and a large seabed area that is rich in natural resources.

Undersea Feature Names Standardization



- ❑ Government policy to protect sovereignty and sovereign rights over its maritime zones



- ❑ conducting numerous field surveys
- ❑ Indonesia has identified 92 undersea features
- ❑ 8 of those features were standardized by the Subcommittee on Undersea Features Names in 2022
- ❑ Four additional features were also submitted to the Subcommittee, but they have not been reviewed.



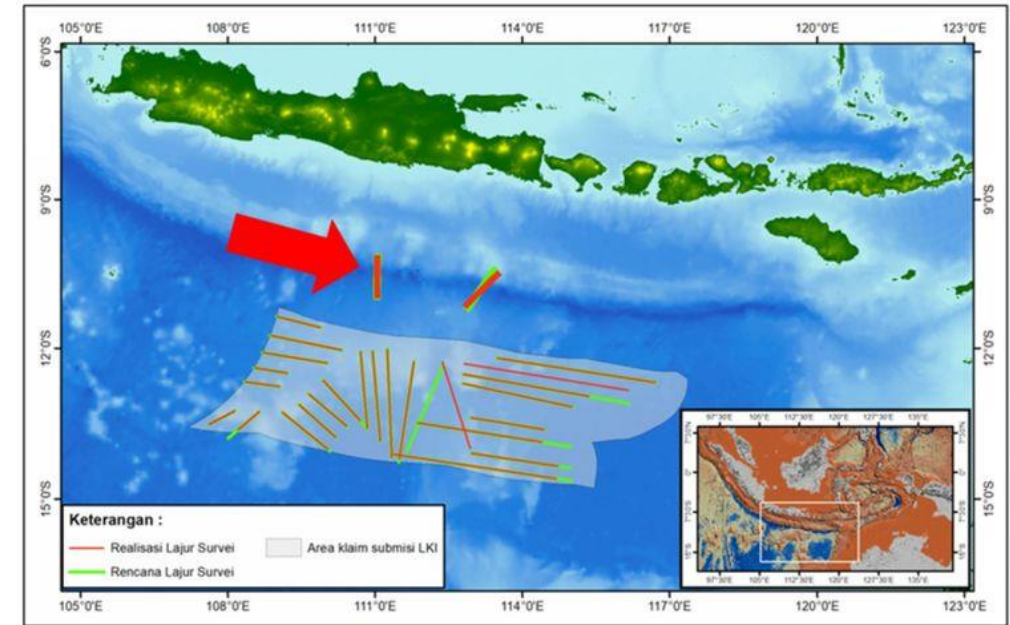
- ❑ Indonesia has been a member of the International Hydrographic Organization since 1951
- ❑ a party to the United Convention on the Law of the Sea



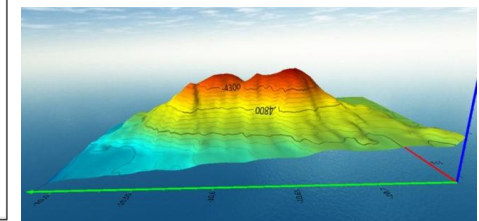
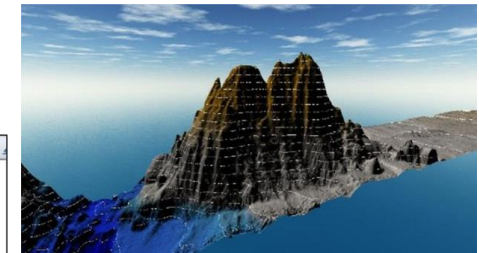
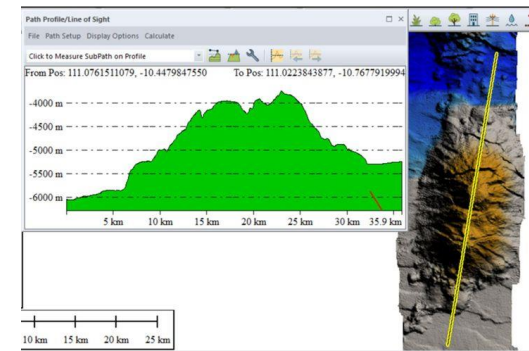
- ❑ Government regulation No. 2 of 2021 regulates the standardization of geographical names.

Case Study in Indonesia

- The names of the underwater items collected through primary data are mostly unnamed.
- Example:
 - A seamount discovered by the Indonesian inter-ministries team in the south of Java when it was assigned to identify relevant elements of the seafloor for Indonesian submission for its extended continental shelf.
 - The survey successfully got primary data of an unnamed seamount, which was previously identified only through secondary data.
- Therefore, BIG as NNA engaged other relevant ministries and the local government to name the underwater mountain in the south of Java Island.



SOUTH OF JAVA



Source: BIG

CONCLUSION

- The naming of geographical features within a coastal state's EEZ and CS is a complex and challenging issue that requires careful consideration of legal, political, cultural, and environmental factors, but it also presents important opportunities for promoting marine conservation and enhancing national identity.
- When naming geographical features within their EEZ and CS, coastal states should:
 - consider international guidelines and standards,
 - consider the scientific significance of the feature and the potential impact of naming on marine ecosystems,
- Coastal states also should promote transparency and accountability in their naming practices by making information on the process and criteria for naming publicly available, and by ensuring that disputes related to naming are resolved fairly.



Point for Discussion:



The Group of Experts is invited to Express its view on **the urgency to have a national, or even, international standard on how a coastal state should give a name to features that lie between their EEZ and CS.**



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An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The foreground shows a bay with clear, turquoise water and a white sandy beach. The middle ground is dominated by rolling green hills and mountains. In the background, more mountains and a larger body of water are visible under a blue sky with some clouds.

Thank You

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