

Advancing geographical names standardization through inclusive, culturally-informed and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development

2025 Session | 28 April – 2 May 2025 | @UNSD_GEGN, #2025UNGEGN



National Dialogue Agenda item 4b

Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in standardization of geographical names



Day 1 Theme: National names standardization

- a. Legal frameworks, laws involved, Place Names Acts
- b. Policies, principles & procedures
- c. Programme planning; administrative structures
- d. New boards, or those in process of development
- e. National approaches to romanization
- f. Writing systems and pronunciation
- g. Terminology
- h. Antarctic and SCAR
- i. Maritime names

1a. Legal frameworks, laws involved, Place Names Acts

National reports that consider this topic (45):

Argentina Cyprus Japan Slovakia

Australia Czechia Latvia Slovenia

Brazil Denmark Malaysia South Africa

Brunei Darussalam Egypt Mauritania Spain

Burundi Estonia Kingdom of the Netherlands Sweden

Cameroon Finland New Zealand Türkiye

Canada Greenland (Denmark) Norway Ukraine

Chad Hungary Peru United Kingdom

Colombia Iceland Poland United States of America

Costa Rica India Republic of Korea

Croatia Indonesia Russian Federation

Cuba Italy Saudi Arabia

THEME 1a: Gender equality in names, sustainable cities and communities

ITALY

GIANLUCA CASAGRANDE

Italian Geographical Society and Università Europea di Roma 28th April 2025

Two strategic lines for fostering the achievement of two crucial SDG goals through placename studies and possible actions

- 1) Promote GENDER EQUALITY: "bring excellence into open light, and make sure it shines, from now on".
- a) Since legislation restricts major ex-post changes in toponymy and odonymy, increase cultural actions to foster equality in future assignments.
- b) Consider possible <u>major re-assignments</u> of placenames, for better gender equality balance, <u>starting in contexts where</u> such actions would cause <u>no administratives</u>, <u>economic or social inconveniences</u>.
- 2) Encourage the development of SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES: "carefully learn from the past so as to inspire the future"
- a) <u>Historic placenames</u> in century-long inhabited regions <u>may</u> often <u>hint</u> to traditional human-environment interactions, from old times in which <u>sustainability</u> was the <u>only</u> strategy to ensure survival of cities and communities.
- b) Careful and detailed study, <u>identification and mapping</u> of such placenames <u>may help</u> understand the deep nature of <u>sustainable interactions</u>. This type of knowledge may serve the purposes of <u>education</u> and might also assist in the <u>cultural recovery</u> of good practices, towards a more sustainable use of spaces and resources.

1b. Policies, principles & procedures

National reports that consider this topic (38):

Argentina Cyprus Japan Slovakia

Australia Czechia Japan Slovenia

Brunei Darussalam Denmark Malaysia South Africa

Burundi Estonia Mauritania Spain

Canada Finland Mexico Sweden

Chad Hungary New Zealand Ukraine

Colombia Iceland Poland United Kingdom

Costa Rica India Republic of Korea United States of

Croatia Indonesia Russian Federation America

Cuba Italy Saudi Arabia



United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

THEME: 1b Policies, principles & procedures)

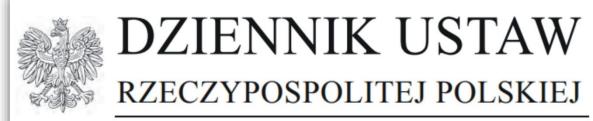
POLAND

MACIEJ ZYCH

Chair, Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland

28th April 2025

Types of Localities in the Standardization of Locality Names in Poland



Warszawa, 22 September 2003

1612

THE ACT

of 19 August 2003

on Official Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects

Art. 3.

- 1. Official names are established, changed and abolished for:
 - 1) inhabited localities and their parts:
 - 2) uninhabited localities and their parts;
 - 3) physiographic objects.
- 2. When establishing official names referred to in par. 1, the type of the given locality or physiographic object is also determined. The provisions of the Act concerning the establishment and changes of their names shall apply accordingly to the determination and change of the type of locality or physiographic object.

Types of localities in Poland (22):

- urban areas:
 - town [no distinction in Polish between 'city' and 'town']
 - part of a town
- rural areas (independent localities):
 - village

colony

hamlet

- housing estate
- settlement
- forest settlement
- rural areas (non-independent localities)
 - part of a village
 - housing estate of a village
 - part of a colony
 - colony of a village
 - colony of a colony
 - colony of a settlement

- part of a settlement hamlet of a colony
- settlement of a village
- settlement of a colony
- settlement of a settlement
- hamlet of a village

- - hamlet of a settlement
 - forest settlement of a village

1c. Programme planning (e.g. national/board strategic plans) and administrative structures

National reports that consider this topic (19):

Brunei Darussalam Iceland Republic of Korea

Burundi India Saudi Arabia

Canada Japan Spain

Cuba Malaysia Sweden

Denmark Mauritania United Kingdom

Estonia New Zealand

Hungary Peru

THEME 1c: Programme planning and administrative structures

ESTONIA

PEETER PÄLL

Chief language planning expert, Institute of the Estonian Language 28^{TH} April 2025

Estonian Address Data and Place Names System (AKS)

Combines 3 existing registers:

- 1. Address Data System (ADS)
- 2. Place Names Register (KNR)
- 3. Points of Interest System (POI)

Objects in 3 sets share many similar features. The place names module was completed first.

https://aks.maaruum.ee/aks

The service is offered by the Land and Spatial Development Board.

Place Address name objects objects

POI

1d. New boards, or those in process of development

National reports that consider this topic (5):

Costa Rica

Egypt

Latvia

Mauritania

Republic of Korea

1e. National approaches to romanization

National reports that consider this topic (16):

Austria Kingdom of the Republic of Korea

Cyprus Netherlands Russian Federation

Egypt Malaysia Saudi Arabia

Estonia Mauritania Ukraine

India Oman United States of

Japan Poland America

1f. Writing systems and Pronunciation

National reports that consider this topic (7):

Iceland Norway

Japan Saudi Arabia

Malaysia United Kingdom

New Zealand

THEME 1f: Introduction to Standardization of Kanji in relation to the Notation of Geographical Names

JAPAN

Akira Sasagawa

Director of Geographic Information Analysis Research Division,

Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

28th April 2025

Introduction to Standardization of Kanji in relation to the Notation of Geographical Names

Background information

Japanese writing uses three types of characters, hiragana, katakana and kanji.

Example 1.: 私は今ニューヨークで国際会議に出席しています。
New York international conference

I'm attending an international conference in New York now.

(Issue)

Many of geographical names in Japan are written in kanji. However, certain kanji characters have variants, so that the same geographical name may be written in slightly different kanji.



phonetic characters



ideogram

(Action)

The Japanese government has been working to standardize kanji characters for information used by administrative agencies. (Details will be presented under Agenda 5b)



THEME 1f: Writing Systems, Pronunciation, and the Naming of Undersea Features

MALAYSIA

Sr Saiful Wazlan

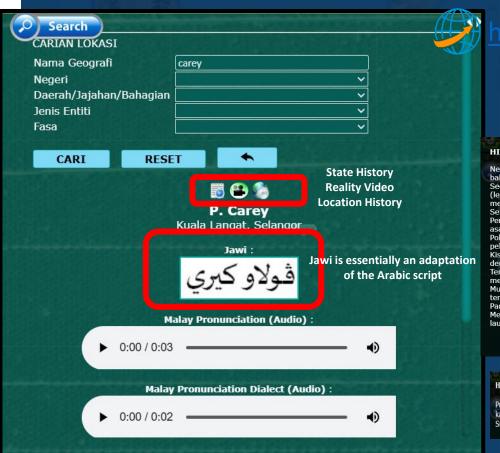
Director of Survey Coordinating and Mapping Policy Division, Department of Survey and Mapping

28th April 2025

NATIONAL DIALOGUE

MALAYSIA - WRITING SYSTEM AND PRONOUNCIATION

Writing Systems, Pronunciation, and the Naming of Undersea Features: Ensuring Accuracy and Integrity



HISTORY OF SELANGOR

State History

Negeri Selangor Darul Ehsan terletak di bahagian tengah pantai barat Semenanjung Malaysia dan b bahagian barat Banjaran Titiwangsa, Selangor dibahagikan kepada sembilan daerah yang terdiri dari Secara umumnya Selangor diairi oleh empat lembangan sungai utama iaitu lembangan Sungai Lang (lembangan terbesar di negeri ini) di bahagian utaranya. Sungai-sungai utama ini dilihat sebagai fak mengenai asal usul nama Selangor, namun sejarah membuktikan bahawa ia diambil sempena na

Perkataan Selangor itu sendiri tidak membawa sebarang makna yang jelas dalam bahasa Melayu da asal menerusi peredaran masa. Menurut satu kisah, satu ketika dahulu kawasan kuala sungai terseb Pohon mentangau yang banyak terdapat di situ sering kali dijadikan panduan kepada pelayar ke ki pelayar menggelar kawasan ini sebagai â??kuala mentangauâ??. Menerusi peredaran masa sebutan Kisah yang lain menceritakan bagaimana seorang pendekar yang sedang mengembara telah singg dengan kehadiran seekor langau yang terus-terusan hinggap di hidungnya. Kehadiran langau itu cuki Terdetik di dalam hati pendekar itu bagaimana seorang yang handal sepertinya tetap gagal menump mengambil keputusan untuk menamatkan pengembaraannya.

Mulai hari itu, setiap kali merujuk kepada tempat tersebut, pendekar itu akan menggelarinya sebag terdapat sebuah kawasan di sekitar pantai Kuala Selangor yang pada suatu ketika dijadikan tempat l Para pesalah akan diikat pada palang kayu (juga dikenali sebagai salang) dan kemudian dijemur di b Mengikut adat Melayu ketika itu hukuman ini dilakukan di kawasan yang disebut sebagai â??di huj laut. Hukuman â??salang dan di jemurâ?? kemudian diberikan kepada kawasan itu dengan sebutan

Location History

Pulau Carey ini pada awal 1900an telah dikenali sebagai Pulau Si Alang atau beberapa orang merujuknya sebagai F kaum orang asli Mah Meri. Namanya menjadi Pulau Carey selepas ada seorang penanam, seorang Inggeris atas n Sultan Sulaiman Selangor untuk memulakan ladang getah dan sejak itu sehingga kini pulau yang dikenali sebagai Pu





Geographical naming through active role in the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)

LSr Saiful Wazlan Bin Wahab Director of Survey Coordinating and Mapping Policy Division
Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia



1g. Terminology

National reports that consider this topic (19):

Brazil Indonesia Slovakia

Colombia Japan Slovenia

Croatia Malaysia Sweden

Cuba Norway Türkiye

Denmark Poland United States of

Finland Republic of Korea America

Iceland Saudi Arabia

THEME 1g: Terminology

DENMARK

RIKKE STEENHOLT OLESEN

Associate Professor (Name Research Archive, University of Copenhagen),

Chair of the Danish Place Name Committee

28th April 2025

Danish place names included in the Danish spelling dictionary (per 2024)

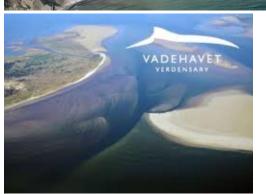




Stevns Klint inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2014



Møns Klint



Vadehavet

Southern part of The North Sea. Danish part inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2014







(Aggersborg), **Fyrkat**, **Nonnebakken**, **Trelleborg, Borgring**

Names of Viking ring fortresses reflecting Harald Bluetooth's ambitions to unify the Danish realm between AD 970 and 980. Inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2023

1h. Antarctic naming and SCAR

National reports that consider this topic (7):

Argentina New Zealand

Australia Republic of Korea

Japan United States of America

Malaysia

1i. Maritime names

National reports that consider this topic (14):

Argentina Japan Türkiye

Australia Malaysia United States of

Costa Rica Poland America

Cyprus Republic of Korea

Iceland Russian Federation

Indonesia Spain

THEME 1i: Maritime names

CYPRUS

ANDREAS HADJIRAFTIS

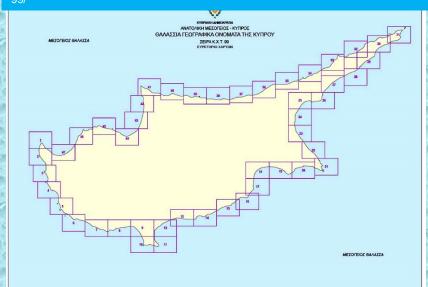
President of Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus 28th April 2025

Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names of

Cyprus

https://portal.dls.moi.gov.cy/xartes_category/thalassia-geografika-onomata-tis-kyprou-seira-k-ch-t-oo/

https://www.geonoma.gov.cy/myfiles/ekdoseis/thalassia-toponymia/index.html





ABΓΔΕΖΗ ΘΙΚΛ ΜΝΞΟΠΡΣΤΥ ΦΧΨΩ avgdezithik Imnxoprstyfchpso

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(3) Σπιν αρκή της λέξης (4)Στο μέσο της λέξης (5) Στο τέλος της λέξης

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Name	Article	Transliteration	Description	Community	District	Longitude	Latitude	Map
Ρηχό της Καμήλας	то	Richo tis Kamilas	Shoal	Timi	Pafos	32,475	34,685	K.X.T.99-0
Ρηχό του Φαναριού	TO	Richo tou Fanariou	Toponym	Pervolia Larnakas	Larnaka	33,607	34,808	K.X.T.99-1
Ριζερά	та	Rizera	Toponym	Pomos	Pafos	32,568	35,173	K.X.T.99-4
Pόνας •	0	Ronas	Bay	Rizokarpaso	Ammochostos	34,338	35,613	K.X.T.99-3
Ροτσιά του Άη Παϊρακτάρη	та	Rotsia tou Aï Païraktari	Rock	Pomos	Pafos	32,537	35,155	K.X.T.99-4
Ρότσος των Σκαφών	0	Rotsos ton Skafon	Rock	Kokkina	Lefkosia	32,607	35,181	K.X.T.99-4
Роика́иа •	TO	Roukania	Cove	Kalograia	Keryneia	33,646	35,361	K.X.T.99-3
Ρούφακας	0	Roufakas	Point	Keryneia	Keryneia	33,313	35,342	K.X.T.99-3
Σ								
Σειρακαγιάδες	OI	Seirakagiades	Toponym	Keryneia	Keryneia	33,322	35,343	K.X.T.99-3
Σέκκα	та	Sekka	Rock	Lamaka	Larnaka	33,641	34,895	K.X.T.99-
Σερένη •	n	Sereni	Toponym	Pafos	Pafos	32,389	34,765	K.X.T.994
Σέρνος	0	Semos	Rock	Eptakomi	Ammochostos	34,046	35,476	K.X.T.99-
Σιταρόσπηλιος	0	Sitarospilios	Toponym	Gastria	Ammochostos	33,984	35,323	K.X.T.99-
Σκάλες	OI	Skales	Toponym	Eptakomi	Ammochostos	34,033	35,471	K.X.T.99-3
Σκαλί	то	Skali	Rock	Pafos	Pafos	32,397	34,773	K.X.T.994
Σκαλί •	то	Skali	Cove	Davios	Ammochostos	33,887	35,425	K.X.T.99-3
Σκαλούδια	TO	Skaloudia	Rock	Aigialousa	Ammochostos	34,180	35,564	K.X.T.99-3
Σκαμνί	то	Skamni	Rock	Aigialousa	Ammochostos	34,153	35,538	K.X.T.99-3
Σκλοινικάρια •	TO	Skloinikaria	Toponym	Pegeia	Pafos	32,340	34,864	K.X.T.99-0
Σκλοινικιά	n	Skloinikia	Rock	Drouseia	Pafos	32,280	35,028	K.X.T.99-
Σκλοινικούδι	TO	Skloinikoudi	Cove	Paralimni	Ammochostos	34,032	35,044	K.X.T.99-2
Σκουλιέρα	n	Skouliera	Toponym	Pervolia Larnakas	Lamaka	33,575	34,819	K.X.T.99-
Σκούταρης	0	Skoutaris	Cove	Paralimni	Ammochostos	34,016	35,056	K.X.T.99-2
Σκουταρόσπηλιοι •	OI	Skoutarospilioi	Cove	Paralimni	Ammochostos	34,016	35,056	K.X.T.99-
Σπηλάδια	TO	Spiladia	Toponym	Agia Napa	Ammochostos	34,075	34,964	K.X.T.99-2
Σπηλιά της Εγγλέζας	n	Spilia tis Englezas	Toponym	Xylofagou	Lamaka	33,862	34,943	K.X.T.99-1
Σπηλιά της Φώκιας	n	Spilia tis Fokias	Toponym	Akrotiri	Lemesos	33,023	34,563	K.X.T.99-1
Σπηλιά του Δράκου	n	Spilia tou Drakou	Toponym	Pomos	Pafos	32,563	35,170	K.X.T.99-4
Σπήλιος της Φώκαινας	0	Spilios tis Fokainas	Toponym	Neo Chorio Pafou	Pafos	32,375	35,044	K.X.T.99-4
Σπήλιος της Φώκας	0	Spilios tis Fokas	Toponym	Ammadies	Lefkosia	32,705	35,184	K.X.T.99-
Σπήλιος του Ισμαήλ	0	Spilios tou Ismail	Toponym	Davlos	Ammochostos	33,927	35,435	K.X.T.99-3
Σπήλιοι •	OI	Spilioi	Cove	Agia Napa	Ammochostos	34,015	34,982	K.X.T.99-2
Σπίθα	n	Spitha	Toponym	Neo Chorio Pafou	Pafos	32,281	35,161	K.X.T.99-0
Σπίτι του Αγγλοδασκάλου	то	Spiti tou Anglodaskalou	Toponym	Akanthou	Ammochostos	33,655	35,363	K.X.T.99-3
Στάζουσα	n	Stazousa	Point	Agios Amvrosios	Keryneia	33,608	35,360	K.X.T.99-3
Σταλός	0	Stalos	Toponym	Xylofagou	Lamaka	33,880	34,947	K.X.T.99-1

Presented by: Andreas Hadjiraftis
President of Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus

Any Questions



