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

**National report of Indonesia for the period June 2023 -
February 2025****

Submitted by Indonesia

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** Prepared by the Geospatial Information Agency (*Badan Informasi Geospasial* - BIG)

A. Summary:

The full report of Indonesia, prepared by the Indonesian Geospatial Information Agency (*Badan Informasi Geospasial*-BIG), outlines the activities undertaken by Indonesia from the 12th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN Asia South-East Division in June 2023 to February 2025.

The standardization of geographical names in Indonesia has been conducted systematically, incorporating processes such as the collection, verification, and publication of geographical names. In 2023, BIG successfully standardized 12,562 geographical names, followed by an additional 4,226 geographical names in 2024. Since 2022, the national gazetteer has consistently been categorized into two subjects: island names and general themes. The gazetteer is available in both printed and digital formats, with a comprehensive version accessible online via the SINAR platform (<https://sinar.big.go.id/gazeter>).

The implementation of Government Regulation No. 2 of 2021 (hereinafter referred to as GR 2/2021, BIG remains committed to fostering an inclusive and collaborative approach to the standardization of geographical names. This commitment is demonstrated through partnerships with ministries, local governments, academic institutions, experts, private sector entities, and local communities. These efforts aim to ensure the accurate representation of geographical names that respect cultural heritage and local identity, strengthen public awareness of standardization practices, and enhance the integration and usability of geographical names data on both national and international platforms. The initiatives included enhancing data interoperability, conducting studies on geographical names, and expanding data collection efforts.

B. Geographical names standardization situation in Indonesia

To advance the implementation of geographical names standardization in Indonesia, BIG has engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, including ministries, government agencies, local governments, higher education institutions, non-governmental organizations, and individuals. Between June 2023 and December 2024, BIG provided consultations, disseminations, and technical assistance to 16 ministries and government agencies, 153 local governments, and 5 universities.

The topics discussed during these consultations and technical guidance sessions covered a broad spectrum of subjects, including technical aspects of Geographical Names System Information (*Sistem Informasi Nama Rupabumi* - SINAR); data collection and verification processes; workshops on geographical names standardization; initiation of collaborative partnerships; and drafting of regulations related to toponyms. BIG is steadfast in its commitment to continue providing robust support to stakeholders. This includes the dissemination of toponymic guidelines, technical assistance, consultations on toponymy-related matters, and strengthening coordination efforts across all levels of stakeholders.

C. National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications

On December 4, 2023, BIG convened a national meeting on geographical names standardization. The event brought together representatives from various ministries, government agencies, and local governments, serving as a strategic platform to strengthen collaboration and coordination between BIG and its stakeholders.

The meeting aimed to ensure the continued availability of standardized geographical names and to align national efforts with international best practices. By fostering dialogue and cooperation, the event highlighted the importance of inclusive and systematic approaches in the geographical names standardization process. The outcomes of this meeting reaffirmed BIG's commitment to working collaboratively with stakeholders to uphold the principles of geographical names standardization, ensuring accurate and culturally representative geographical naming across Indonesia.

D. Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits

There is no activity.

E. National standardization

E.a. Collection of names

BIG is accelerating the development of 1:5,000-scale base maps, with a particular focus on the Sulawesi region in 2024. This initiative integrates various sources of geographical names including OpenStreetMap, GeoNames, and data collected from field surveys, to enhance the accuracy and utility of large-scale base maps.

To support this effort, BIG actively encourages collaboration with ministries, government agencies, local governments, and community organizations in collecting geographical names. A notable contribution comes from the Bandung Mountain Exploration Community (*Komunitas Jelajah Gunung Bandung*) which has gathered approximately 700 mountain names in the Greater Bandung region over the past decade. These community-led initiatives play a vital role in preserving local geographical names and cultural heritage.

Additionally, in 2024, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MPWH) conducted field surveys in Sulawesi to gather detailed information on infrastructure-related geographical names. Complementing these efforts, the Indonesian Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Center led the *Jala Citra* Expedition III in the Flores Sea in 2023. This expedition involved experts in hydrography, geology, oceanography, and related disciplines, exploring underwater features to enrich Indonesia's toponymic data and support maritime studies.

These initiatives underscore BIG's commitment to integrating diverse sources of geographical names and fostering collaboration across multiple sectors. By combining advanced mapping techniques with stakeholder contributions.

E.b. Office treatment of names

In 2024, BIG in collaboration with relevant ministries, government agencies, and local governments, conducted hierarchical verification of geographical names data for undersea, marine, and land features. This process utilized the SINAR web-based application to ensure spatial and attribute accuracy, thereby guaranteeing the quality prior to its standardization and publication.

As part of international collaboration, undersea features names were submitted for international standardization to the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO). Representing Indonesia, BIG submitted 13 undersea feature names, while Pushidrosal submitted 21 names during the 37th SCUFN Meeting held in Jeju Island, South Korea, in June 2024. These efforts underline Indonesia's commitment to upholding the principles, procedures, and policies of geographical names standardization.

E.c. Treatment of names in multilingual areas

There is no activity.

E.d. Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures

There is no activity.

E.e. Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

Indonesia is preparing to develop comprehensive toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors. In 2024, BIG initiated a comparative study of toponymic guideline documents from various member states, leveraging resources published on the UNGEGN website. BIG aims to complete the development of toponymic guidelines and formally present them at the 2027 UNGEGN Session.

F. Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity

There is no activity.

G. Exonyms

In 2024, BIG in collaboration with the Indonesian Agency for Language Development and Cultivation (*Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa - BPPB*), linguistic experts, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, developed an updated document on exonyms. This revised document includes both formal and short names of countries submitted at the 2025 UNGEGN Session. The revision process involved translation, spelling standardization, morphological and morphophonemic adjustments, as well as the adoption of foreign language terms where applicable. These efforts were aimed at ensuring linguistic accuracy and consistency in the representation of country names. The updated exonyms document plays a crucial role in standardizing references to country names in official state documents, such as correspondence, reports, and government records. Additionally, it provides a standardized reference for use in social and mass media.

H. Toponymic data files and gazetteers**H.a. Content requirements and standards**

Beginning in 2024, BIG initiated the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all stages of geographical names standardization in alignment with GR 2/2021. These SOPs aim to ensure consistency, efficiency, and high-quality implementation of geographical names standardization processes. The testing began in June 2024, with the SOP for national verification undergoing evaluation to ensure its effectiveness. Subsequently, in July 2024, SOPs for provincial and regency/city-level verification were tested, involving collaboration with the West Java provincial government as well as several regency and city governments within the region. In November 2024, BIG tested SOPs focusing on the preparation of geographical names collections, methods for collecting geographical names, and the geographical naming process. These tests were conducted in partnership with the Central Java provincial government and multiple regency and city governments in Central Java. Additionally, from October to November 2024, BIG evaluated SOPs addressing geographical names announcement, re-verification processes, and the determination of standardized geographical names.

In addition to the testing, supplementary SOPs were developed for ongoing processes, including the creation of a national gazetteer, procedures for changes to standardized

geographical names, and reporting and evaluation mechanisms. These efforts will continue throughout 2025 to further refine and institutionalize the geographical names standardization process.

On August 29-30, 2024, BIG in collaboration with BPPB and the Sulawesi Regional Language Center, organized a meeting to develop the Sulawesi Local Generic Names Catalog. This catalog documents generic terms, vocabulary, and literary and language maps of Sulawesi, focusing on the linguistic richness and diversity of the region. The catalog is intended to serve as enrichment material for geographical names feature classification.

H.b. Data management and interoperability

In 2024, BIG undertook significant activities in the field of data management and interoperability, focusing on data compilation, data request services, and coordination with relevant ministries and government agencies. A total of 832,535 data entries were compiled from 14 ministries and government agencies, with the data scheduled for direct verification. Additionally, BIG successfully processed 1,760,083 data requests for geographical names from various stakeholders, reflecting the growing demand for standardized geographical names data. BIG engaged in coordination efforts with five ministries, namely the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Ministry of Religious Affairs, and Ministry of Health. These efforts focused on data exchange and the promotion of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to facilitate seamless data integration and interoperability.

In collaboration with MPWH, BIG initiated a pilot project in 2024 to enhance data interoperability. The project focuses on integrating official information systems through geoportals using APIs. A key objective of this initiative is to assign unique codes to infrastructure features, thereby improving data integration and interoperability across systems. BIG envisions connecting all ministry and agency geoportals to SINAR to further standardize geographical names and streamline data processing for subsequent geographical names standardization efforts.

To support the goals of interoperability, MPWH has implemented measures to enhance the efficiency of data verification processes. The large volume of infrastructure features has made the verification of spatial accuracy and attribute correctness a time-intensive task. In response, MPWH has introduced automation into its internal review processes. This includes leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to automatically verify the spatial accuracy of data and the correctness of geographical names through AI-generated readings of name signs. In 2024, MPWH launched the Artificial Intelligence for Geographical Names Management initiative, which is expected to be fully operational by mid-2025. This initiative marks a significant step toward modernizing the verification process and ensuring the accuracy and consistency of geographical names data in Indonesia.

H.c. Data services, applications and products

1) Geographical Names System Information (*Sistem Informasi Nama Rupabumi* - SINAR)

The standardization of geographical names in Indonesia is supported by the SINAR platform, which is available in Android-based and web-based versions. In 2024, BIG identified the operational needs and implemented a series of targeted enhancements to manage and improve the SINAR Web platform, aiming to enhance its functionality and user experience.

The improvements included the migration of the SINAR Web and Android repositories to BIG servers, enhancement of the toponym data query feature, and the addition of a more efficient automatic recommendation feature, reducing processing times to 14 working days. Further updates included enhancements to the “nearby toponym” feature, enabling it to

display data with varying standardization statuses, and a redesign of the SINAR architecture. Technical fixes were applied to the automatic email activation feature, the query feature in the review transaction creation menu, and the toponym data thumbnail photo functionality. Additionally, the ESRI Imagery base map was integrated to improve the platform's visualization capabilities.

As part of its modernization efforts, BIG also developed a simplified geographical names collection application called SINAR @lit. This application is designed to replace the existing Android-only platform with a cross-platform solution, ensuring compatibility with various mobile operating systems to accommodate a broader range of users. SINAR @lit is expected to be ready for deployment by 2025.

2) National Gazetteer

Aligned with the mandates of GR 2/2021, BIG is committed to publishing the national gazetteer on an annual basis. In 2023, BIG published 12,562 standardized geographical names. The 2024 edition of the national gazetteer includes two distinct versions: the General Version, which features 4,226 geographical names standardized during the year, and the Islands Version, which consolidates all standardized island names up to 2024, totaling 17,380 names in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) criteria. To ensure accessibility, both versions of the gazetteer are available online through the SINAR platform at <https://sinar.big.go.id/gazeter>.

I. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names

There is no activity.

J. Writing systems and pronunciation

J.a. Romanization

There is no activity.

J. b. Conversion into non-Roman writing systems

There is no activity.

J. c. Writing of names in unwritten languages

There is no activity.

J.d. Pronunciation

There is no activity.

K. Country names

In alignment with the UNGEGN List of Country Names in 2021, Indonesia adopted the change of the country name of Swaziland to Estawini.

L. Toponymic education

In accordance with GR 2/2021 and BIG Regulation No. 6 of 2023, BIG is responsible for providing technical guidance to enhance human resources and institutional capacity in the standardization of geographical names for ministries, agencies, and provincial governments. In 2024, BIG conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) programs for personnel in 10 provincial

governments. This initiative was specifically designed to support the acceleration of large-scale topographic mapping activities in the Sulawesi region. In addition to Sulawesi, similar programs were also held in other provinces, including West Nusa Tenggara, West Sumatra, Aceh, and North Maluku. BIG remains committed to conducting ToT programs annually to ensure that local governments across Indonesia have a cohesive understanding of geographical names standardization. This initiative also aims to raise awareness among regions that have not yet actively engaged in these practices. The expected outcome is that regional personnel will gain comprehensive knowledge of geographical names standardization and be equipped to disseminate this knowledge to their colleagues, thereby fostering consistent and inclusive implementation across the country.

M. Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation

M.a. Features common to two or more nations

There is no activity.

M.b. Bilateral and multilateral agreements

There is no activity.

M.c. Coastal seas

There is no activity.

M.d. Geonames of international waters and marine features in international waters

There is no activity.

M.e. Geonames in Antarctica

There is no activity.

M.f. International cooperation

There is no activity.

N. Arrangements for the UNGEGN

Indonesia contributed to the UNGEGN Information Bulletin No. 68, published in December 2024. The article, titled "An Update on the UNGEGN and UN-GGIM Collaborative Project: Shared Good Practices between National Mapping Agencies and National Names Authorities," provided an overview of the ongoing collaborative project between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM. This project is co-led by Dr. Ade Komara Mulyana from Indonesia's Geospatial Information Agency and Dr. Michael Tischler from the United States Geological Survey. As of December 2024, the joint committee entered the beta-testing phase, inviting Member States to participate and contribute to this critical phase. The full survey session commenced in early March 2025, marking a significant step in fostering shared good practices among national mapping agencies and national names authorities worldwide.

O. Supporting sustainable development

There is no activity.

P. Other

Geographical Names Standardization Awards

In 2024, BIG presented the 10th annual Bhumandala Awards, recognizing outstanding achievements in geospatial data and infrastructure innovation. Since the 8th annual awards, a specific category for geographical names standardization has been included to honor significant accomplishments in this field. This category is divided into six sub-categories: ministries and national agencies; provincial governments; regency and city governments; community and non-governmental organizations; and individuals. The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge and celebrate the persistent efforts and significant contributions of multiple stakeholders in the standardization of geographical names.

Uphold and protect geographical names (*Junjung dan Lindungi Nama Rupabumi* - Julid NR)

Pursuant to GR 2/2021, which designates BIG as the national coordinator for the standardization of geographical names, BIG launched an innovative public engagement campaign in 2024 to enhance awareness and participation. This campaign, titled “*Junjung dan Lindungi Nama Rupabumi*” (Uphold and Protect Geographical Names), utilized social media platforms such as Instagram and X to encourage the public to report geographical name signs that did not comply with standard naming conventions. Participants were invited to share photos of non-standardized geographical name signs by tagging BIG’s official social media account and using the hashtag #JulidNR. To incentivize participation, rewards were provided to contributors who actively supported the initiative. This campaign not only improved public awareness but also reinforced the importance of upholding and protecting standardized geographical names in Indonesia.

Geographical Names Data Application for Study

In 2023, Muhammadiyah Malang University (Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang - UMM) conducted research to identify the potentials of villages and sub-districts in Batu City, East Java, utilizing geographical names data provided by BIG. Batu City, renowned for its tourism and natural resources, requires accurate and comprehensive data to support evidence-based decision-making processes. The research employed a descriptive quantitative approach, leveraging Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. Data collection was conducted through field surveys, interviews, and secondary data obtained from BIG and relevant agencies. The study focused on key sectors such as natural resources, infrastructure, and the local economy, including agriculture, tourism, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The findings highlighted the unique potentials of each area, identifying opportunities for organic farming, agrotourism, and economic development. The research provided a detailed and comprehensive overview of village potential in Batu City, offering valuable insights for the formulation of inclusive and data-driven development policies. UMM plans to conduct follow-up research in the coming years to update the data, expand the scope of analysis, and ensure the effective implementation of Batu City's One Data initiative. These ongoing efforts aim to provide a reliable and comprehensive data reference for local governments to design development strategies that are aligned with the needs and potential of the region.