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English

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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names****2025 session**

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda \*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries  
and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names****National Report of Kenya****Provisional agenda**

- a) Situation in Kenya
- b) National and International Meetings
- c) Working groups
- d) National Standardization
- e) Geographical names as culture, heritage, and identity
- f) Statutes
- g) Standing committee on geographical names
- h) Geographical names as physical address
- i) Conclusion and Recommendation

Kenya is under the Africa East Division together with other 16 African countries. The division is divided into working groups, namely Toponymic data files and Gazetteer; Geographical names as cultural heritage; Pronunciation of names under the sea and maritime features; and Extraterrestrial topographic names. The last three working groups have not been operational since 2006. Geographical names are entrenched in the Laws of Kenya under the Survey Act 34-35. Kenya has been active in the UNGEGN meetings since 1959.

Kenya is in the process of constituting a standing committee on geographical names. The proposed committee will be under the Cabinet Secretary (CS), Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development, and headed by the Director of Surveys (DoS). Their mandate will be to nominate a standing committee on geographical names. The members of the committee will be comprised of officers from the Survey of Kenya (SoK), the administration, renowned historians, and experts on the diversity of cultural groups across the country.

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\* GEGN.2/2025/1.

\*\* The full report was prepared by Michael Mutuku Mwanja, Principal Cartographer, Nahashon Githinji Murimi - Senior Cartographer, State Department of Lands and Physical Planning, Survey of Kenya. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/102/CRP.102, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th\\_session\\_2025/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/)

The Survey of Kenya revised the geographical names collection template in 2012 and has implemented the requirements of the 2012 UNGEGN meeting. The SoK technicians (Cartographers) have also attended trainings funded by the UNGEGN to equip themselves with emerging technologies.

Under the Geographical Names office, which is mandated to prepare a Gazetteer on geographical names, SoK has collected new Geographical names approved by the various counties (Kenya is divided into 47 counties). The reason for involving the counties is to ensure diverse cultural heritages are considered in each county. The new names will be forwarded to the national standing committee on geographical names for approval by the CS Lands. The approved list will then be published in the Kenya Gazetteer.

The Geographical Names office in Kenya is domiciled in the Survey of Kenya, Ruaraka, Thika Road.

Unfortunately, Kenya has not collected new names since 2017, primarily due to a lack of sufficient funds. Other challenges are: the name doesn't relate and a lack of public awareness. In some regions, new geonames can be a source of insecurity. Further, Kenya has not attended sessions of UNGEGN since the year 2012, hence lags in the current and previous resolutions. However, with the proposed standing committee on geographical names, Kenya hopes to support the implementation of the UNGEGN strategic plan and program of work 2021-2029 with great attention to our cultural heritage.