



UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

50TH
ANNIVERSARY



Promoting the collection, standardization
and dissemination of geographical names

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

United Nations Statistics Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs



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Previous issues of the Bulletin (formerly Newsletter) can be found at

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungeqn_info_bulletins.htm



Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues,

I take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the 11 United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the 30th UNGEKN, which I felt was a successful gathering. It was very pleasing to note the results of the survey of the delegates to this conference, which indicated that 96% indicated that the meeting met their expectations and over 85% advised that the conference was an overall success.



Firstly, to Cecille and Vilma for the work of organising this event and all the efforts that went into it. I know that they also had the UN-GGIM session immediately before, so their efforts on our behalf are greatly appreciated. We could not hold the conferences without them. I would also like to thank Mr Stefan Schweinfest and the UN Statistical Division for the ongoing support.

Secondly, my thanks to those who took on the responsibilities of the conference, the president and vice president, rapporteurs, and those who took the similar roles for the technical committees, panel discussions, the workshops and those who participated in the exhibition. A special thank you to those who presented the special presentations.

Thirdly, my thanks to all who took the time to prepare and present the many papers we had for consideration. As normal, we had a wide range of topics covered and I value the insights we can gain from this information.

The great strength of UNGEKN has been the willingness of the delegates to be involved in all the aspects that I have mentioned above, and I trust that this will continue. I do recognise that we have had a large group of valued individuals who indicated that this conference would be their last meeting, many of who have willingly held positions of responsibility over a number of years. I would like to express my appreciation for each of their efforts and look forward to seeing others take on these roles and bring their own experience and insights into the various positions.

Obviously, one of the main outcomes of the conference was the acceptance of the draft resolution regarding the future

operational modalities of UNGEKN. I am pleased to advise that this was presented to ECOSOC on 11 November 2017 and adopted. We can now move on to the next stage of this work, which is the development of the rules of procedure. This will again be a process, with an initial draft being prepared which will then be widely circulated for comment from all Member States (both delegated and missions), revised and recirculated until we get to a position of consensus then submitted to ECOSOC for approval. Expect to see some information on this early in 2018 and please be prepared to add your thoughts to the process.

It is with grave sadness that I note the passing of Julian Simpson Second Secretary of the Australian Mission. We are very appreciative of the role he played in the consultations and negotiations to have the UNGEKN resolution prepared, agreed and approved. On behalf of the Group of Experts I extend condolences to his family, friends and work colleagues.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in 2019 for the first session of the new UNGEKN, but again must remind you that this will be my last meeting and will be looking for others who are willing to fill the role of Chair.

Bill Watt

Chair, UNGEKN

Email: William.Watt@sa.gov.au



Message from the Secretariat

Dear UNGEKN Experts,

The 11th Conference and 30th Session are four months past, however it is important to place on record the Secretariat's appreciation to the chair, bureau, working group/task team convenors, geographic and linguistic division members, Member State representatives, observers, special presenters, conference secretary and staff, translators and other United Nations support staff who contributed to the preparation and successful convening of 10 days of meetings from 7 to 18 August 2017 in New York. I wish to also thank the 61 participants who completed the evaluation questionnaires. We learnt that 33% of you found the UNGEKN Bulletin to be very useful and 53% useful. The Secretariat and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding strives to make the Bulletin informative, easy to read and an overall toponymy resource.



The 11th Conference marks a significant milestone for the Group of Experts given the consensus based decision that was taken, which recommended changes to its operations. The Secretariat is pleased to announce that on Friday 10 November 2017, ECOSOC, adopted the reports of the 11th Conference (E/CONF.105/165), the 30th Session UNGEKN (E/2017/80), and the resolution E/CONF.105/L.3 - "Future organization and methods of work of UNGEKN". This means that UNGEKN will now have meetings every two years, over 5 days. ECOSOC's adoption of the resolution gives the green light to proceed with the drafting of the Rules of Procedure and a new meeting agenda. These are to be agreed on for presentation to ECOSOC in 2018, in preparation for the first meeting of the new UNGEKN in April 2019.

In this issue of the Bulletin we continue with the 50th anniversary celebrations. It highlights the geographical names standardization journey of a few Member States, focuses on women in UNGEKN - based on the poster in the exhibition, features a double spread of candid photographs of UNGEKN happenings, and an extract from the soon to be prepared booklet recognizing UNGEKN stalwarts. In addition, there are the usual divisional and working group reports and a few articles from Member States.

Member States and national institutions responsible for geographical names are reminded to submit their information for the UNGEKN World Geographical Names Database. We also wish to remind our global experts and persons wishing to learn more about toponymy that they can pursue the online BSc level, web course at:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/data_ICAcourses/index.html

It is a 20-module program, subdivided in chapters, complete with self-study guides, exercises and resource documents.

Your comments on this issue and contribution to forthcoming bulletins are welcomed. Please circulate the bulletin among your colleagues and we hope you enjoy reading. Remember to tweet your geographical names activities [@UNSD_GEGN](https://twitter.com/UNSD_GEGN).

Cecille Blake

UNGEKN Secretariat

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SPECIAL FEATURE

50 years of UNGE GN and UNC SGN

UNGE GN: aims and structure

The UNGE GN Bureau gave a presentation at the 11th UNC SGN on UNGE GN: where we are today, looking at the mandate and objectives of UNGE GN and the roles, structure and principal areas of work of the group. This article provides a brief summary of that presentation.

UNGE GN perhaps means different things to different people and there are very likely somewhat differing goals and motives amongst the participating experts, whether it's information-sharing or advice-seeking; nevertheless, our participation indicates the collective desire to contribute to a global activity.

Why do we feel this activity is so important? Because we recognise that names are central in providing access to geospatial information, be it for communication, for real estate, for news platforms or for emergency operations. We could of course refer to features with geographical coordinates, but this is not how humans typically operate. Geographical names are the primary tool to distinguish geospatial objects one from another, and they provide a sense of place.

Recognising this importance, the UN paved the way for UNGE GN's creation in 1959. UNGE GN started as a small group of consultants that considered the technical problems of domestic standardization of geographical names, the desire being to prepare draft recommendations for the procedures to be followed by individual countries to achieve

standardization of their own names.

This original goal is still at the heart of UNGE GN. The specific aims have perhaps been augmented since that time, but the spirit remains the same. UNGE GN promotes the recording of locally-used names reflecting the languages and traditions of a country, the goal being for every country to decide on its own nationally standardized names through the creation of national names authorities or recognized administrative processes. With the wide dissemination of nationally standardized forms through gazetteers, atlases, web-based databases, toponymic guidelines, etc., UNGE GN can promote the use of these names internationally.

UNGE GN's role in working towards the realisation of these aims can perhaps be captured as encompassing aspects of the technical, of training, of promotion, and of coordination:

- Technical activities include developing procedures and establishing mechanisms for standardization in response to national requirements and particular requests;
- Appropriate programmes also need to be developed and delivered to assist individual countries and groups of countries to achieve standardization where it is lacking;
- For a complex and sometimes rather opaque field like toponymy, promotion activities are vital (and this is something that all the experts can and should get involved in!);
- For a body as large as UNGE GN to function effectively,



UNGE GN Experts during the 11th UNC SGN, UNHQ, New York, August 2017



considerable coordination activities are also required and this naturally falls principally to the Secretariat, Bureau, WG Convenors and Division Chairs.

And how is the work achieved? UNGEGN's work is facilitated by a Bureau and a Secretariat, and we have a special task team for Africa, as well as a coordinator for *toponymic guidelines*, that is a publication to be issued by every country for the benefit of foreign editors, showing the intricacies of the use of that country's geographical names. The work is very broad reflecting the many facets of geographical names and there are topical working groups on: country names, on data files, training, terminology, romanization systems, pronunciation, exonyms, and on geographical names as cultural heritage. More organisational are the working groups on publicity and funding and on evaluation and implementation.

As well as the topic-specific working groups, UNGEGN maintains groups of geographical/linguistic divisions to facilitate working. There are currently 24 such divisions.

Additionally, UNGEGN works closely with the other geospatial body within the UN Statistics Division: the UN-Global

Geospatial Information Management Committee of Experts (UN-GGIM). UNGEGN will continue to focus specifically on geographical names and the multitude of nuanced topics that that entails, and naturally it is very important that this work feeds into UN-GGIM. The requirement for collaboration has been recognised by both groups in order to meet strategic initiatives in support of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

And at its most fundamental UNGEGN comprises experts from multiple fields: geographers, linguists, GIS specialists, cartographers and planners are among those specialists who develop the tools, harness the technology, provide the outreach, and share the belief that accurate and consistent use of a common framework of geographical names can offer considerable benefits to the world.

Catherine Cheetham

Head, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
United Kingdom

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UNCSGN Presidents

Conference	Location	President
Eleventh	New York	
Tenth	New York	Botolv Helleland (Norway)
Ninth	New York	Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
Eighth	Berlin	Klaus-Henning Rosen (Germany)
Seventh	New York	Peter Raper (South Africa)
Sixth	New York	Abdelhadi Tazi (Morocco)
Fifth	Montréal	Jean-Paul Drolet (Canada)
Fourth	Geneva	Dirk Blok (Netherlands)
Third	Athens	L. Mavridis (Greece)
Second	London	H.A.G. Lewis (UK)
First	Geneva	Meredith Burrill (USA)



UNGEEN Sessions Chairs

Year	UNGEEN	Location	Chair
2017	30th	New York	William Watt (Australia)
2016	29th	Bangkok	
2014	28th	New York	
2012	27th	New York	Helen Kerfoot (Canada)/William Watt (Australia)
2011	26th	Vienna	Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
2009	25th	Nairobi	
2007	24th	New York	
2006	23rd	Vienna	
2004	22nd	New York	
2002	21st	Berlin	Peter Raper (South Africa)/Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
2000	20th	New York	Peter Raper (South Africa)
1998	19th	New York	
1996	18th	Geneva	
1994	17th	New York	
1992	16th	New York	
1991	15th	Geneva	
1989	14th	Geneva	Henri Dorion (Canada)
1987	13th	Montréal	Dirk Blok (Netherlands)/Henri Dorion (Canada)
1986	12th	Geneva	Dirk Blok (Netherlands)
1984	11th	Geneva	
1982	10th	Geneva	Josef Breu (Austria)/Dirk Blok (Netherlands)
1981	9th	New York	Josef Breu (Austria)
1979	8th	New York	
1977	7th	Athens	Meredith Burrill (USA)/Josef Breu (Austria)
1975	6th	New York	Meredith Burrill (USA)
1973	5th	New York	
1972	4th	London	
1971	3rd	New York	
1970	2nd	New York	
1967	1st	New York	
1966	2nd Experts meeting	New York	
1960	1st Experts meeting	New York	



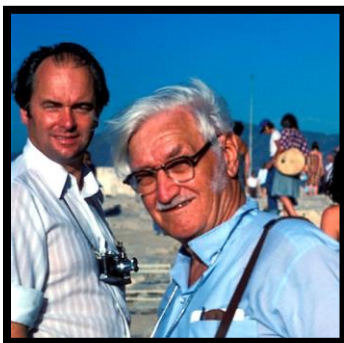
50 Years of UNCISN

Honouring some of those who got us here

The year 2017 not only marks the year of the 11th UNCISN Conference, it also marks 50 years of *United Nations Conferences on Standardization of Geographical names*. This is no small achievement for an expert group like UNGEKN to survive this long and remain as relevant and true to the original objectives of the expert group. As with all organizations, there are some who stand out for us all – some who have made an extraordinarily large impact to UNGEKN and UNCISN. This is a tribute to them from us today. Without them UNGEKN would not be what it is today and because of them. Presented are a few of those giants we can now proudly perch on the shoulders of and look far into the future:

Meredith Burrill (USA)

UNGEKN Chair 1960–1977/UNCISN President 1967



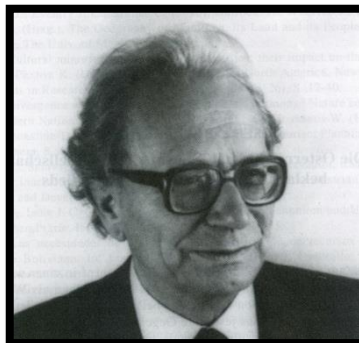
Meredith (Pete) F. Burrill was executive secretary of the United States Board on Geographic Names for more than 30 years. Graduated as a PhD in Geography from Clark University, Worcester, Ma., Burrill came into contact with geographical names in 1943, when he became

Executive Secretary to the Board of Geographic Names under the Department of the Interior. Under his direction, a staff of 175 experts in geography, linguistics, languages and map-making identified and Romanized some two million Asian place names. After World War II, Burrill supervised a board of experts from nine Federal agencies charged with establishing standard names for all Federal maps and publications. Seeing the importance of common international standards from this work, he helped persuade the United Nations to establish UNGEKN, a task which was underscored with the 1st UNCISN Conference held in Geneva in 1967. Even after he retired from United States Board on Geographic Names in 1973, he continued to represent the United States at the United Nations.

Michael Smart, Canada, and Meredith Burrill, Athens 1977

Josef Breu · 1914–1998 · Austria)

UNGEKN Chair 1977–1982

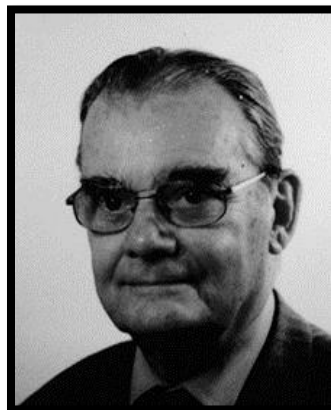


In 1969, Josef Breu initiated the foundation of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde, AKO) which functions as a clearinghouse for the main Austrian federal and provincial authorities and

institutions of science and research as well as of private publishers concerned with geographical names. Breu held the chair until 1982. In 1975, he published *The Gazetteer of Austria*, edited in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations. From 1976 until 1982 he held the chair of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, which promotes and coordinates the standardization of toponyms in the German-speaking countries. In 1977, Josef Breu was elected Chair of UNGEKN, where he had been active for several years, having, among other things, a leading role in the establishment of UNGEKN's Toponymic Guidelines.

Dirk Pieter Blok · Netherlands

UNGEKN Chair 1982–1987/UNCISN President 1982



Dirk Pieter (Dick) Blok received his PhD in Medieval History from Utrecht University in 1960, and became director of the *Meertens institute* (for Research and documentation of Dutch language and culture) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences 1965–1984, and from 1980 Professor in settlement

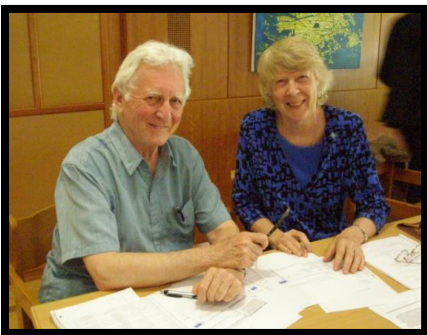
history and toponymy at Amsterdam University. From 1962–1973 he was secretary of the commission appointed to standardize Dutch geographical names, and this involvement with geographical names led to his delegation by the Netherlands to the first UNCISN. At home Blok chaired both the Place Name Commission of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences and the Commission on Foreign



Geographical Names of the Dutch Language Union for an extended number of years.

Blok was active in the first 5 UNCSGN Conferences and all UNGEGN Sessions in-between – the fifth conference in Montreal in 1987, was the first one where he was without a function, allowing him to play the role of elder statesman, advising on current issues and how to go about in reaching goals.

Henri Dorion · Canada **UNEGN Chair 1987–1991**



Henri Dorion has had a varied career and was widely respected as a geographer, a university professor, President of the Commission de Toponymie du Québec, Chair of the Canadian

names board, Director of Research for the Musée de la Civilisation du Québec, and representative of the Québec government overseas. Also, Henri is an accomplished linguist, and participated in the activities of UNGEGN over a number of years. He was convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy in the late 1980s to be UNGEGN Chair 1987–1991, promoted the work of the Group. In recent years he has been involved with creating an inventory of French exonyms around the world, as well as online toponymy training in French.

Henri Dorion and Helen Kerfoot, Austria, 2010

Jean-Paul Drolet · Canada **UNCSGN President 1987**



Jean-Paul Drolet was Assistant Deputy Minister in the Government of Canada and long-time Chair of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, 1964–1988. He was a mining engineer by training and his early career was with mineral prospecting companies in Quebec. Yet, Jean-Paul became a staunch

advocate for Canada's participation in UNCSGN and UNGEGN, attending several conferences himself as head of the Canadian delegation (from 1967 through the 1980s). He was responsible for Canada hosting the Fifth UN Conference at the International Civil Aviation Organization headquarters in

Montréal in 1987, and was elected President of the Conference.

Helen Kerfoot · Canada **UNEGN Chair 2002–2012/UNCSGN President 2007**



Helen Kerfoot worked as a researcher with the Geological Survey of Canada and as a secondary school teacher before joining the Secretariat of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in 1976. She became Executive Secretary of the Committee in 1987. Since then she has participated in six UN Conferences and all UNGEGN Sessions. Helen

was elected Vice-Chair of UNGEGN in 1991, Chair from 2002–2012, and President of the 9th UNCSGN Conference. During these years she participated actively in delivering toponymy training courses, directed the publication of a number of manuals and brochures to assist UNGEGN's endeavours, worked to establish the UNGEGN web site, and supported the activities of various divisions and working groups, including particular interaction with the Task Team for Africa.

William Watt · Australia **UNEGN Chair 2012–**



William (Bill) Watt has an excellent career relating to geographical names at a national as well as internationally. He has devoted much of his life and work in advancing the standardization of geographical names at national, divisional and global levels. In an UNGEGN perspective, Watt presented his first papers at the 5th UNCSGN Conference in Montreal in 1987 and has

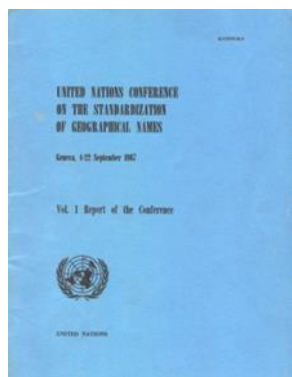
continuously attended the UNGEGN Sessions and UNCSGN Conferences since 2002, where he has acted as Convenor of the Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Groups since its creation until 2002 and UNGEGN Rapporteur 2007–2012. And since 2012, he has been chair of UNGEGN and run the Sessions expertly and established a clearer management of the organization.

UNEGN's publications and communications over the last 50 years

Among the responsibilities of UNEG N is the promotion and dissemination of the work of the Conferences and of Member States. Over the past 50 years this has taken many forms, as communication has changed from letters sent by post, to fax, to email, Internet and social media. Importantly we have embraced these developments, yet at the same time built on the work of those who participated in UNEG N activities before us.

Many publications have been produced over the years, for example:

1. With regards to **terminology**, seen early as significant for common understanding, a working group set up in 1971 produced the UN's six-language *Terminology No. 330* in 1984, followed by an enlarged volume *Glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names* in 2002. Today, UNEG N's tasks are to expand the terms defined and to build the database that has already been initiated.



2. Each of the **30 UNEG N sessions** (plus two earlier meetings) and **11 conferences reports** have been published. The first seven conferences had a "volume II" of the technical papers presented; subsequently these are included on the UNEG N website. Two Excel files list all the documents and a very

useful reference collection of some 4000 documents from the sessions and conferences can be accessed with free download from the website:

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGN/>.

3. From the 11 conferences, **211 resolutions** have been adopted. Since 1987, these have been grouped by subject category and are available as compendiums in various languages, as well as more recently in the form of online databases.

4. **Instructional volumes** first took the form of articles in the UN's *World Cartography*: technical studies in 1986, followed by a manual on organization and functions of a national names standardization programme in 1990. Subsequently UNEG N has produced three manuals: 2006 on national standardization; 2007 on technical issues of romanization and character sets; 2017 on toponymy training.



5. **Promotional materials** to make our work better known to scientific and standards organizations, management, and the general public have recently included two brochures (2001 and 2007), a media kit with 10 themed pages (2012), promotional postcards and bookmarks, and a 50th lapel pin and posters.





To communicate between experts, an UNGEVN Chair's newsletter was distributed in the early 1980s. At the Fifth Conference in 1987, resolution V/24 saw the establishment of an **UNGEVN Newsletter**, to become the **UNGEVN Information Bulletin** in 2003. We have seen changes and upgrades to layout and content and are now in the 53rd issue of this twice-yearly publication, orchestrated by the Secretariat.



With the creation of the **UNGEVN website** in 2002, we have an increasingly useful focal point and primary source of information for all aspects of geographical names standardization. The website allowed the initiation of the UNGEVN World Geographical Names Database in 2004. This ongoing project makes standardized names data available to the public through the multi-scriptural, multilingual database

of countries, capitals, and cities with a population of over 100,000, together with audio files for pronunciation. Some 6000 records are currently available using 51 romanization systems.



In addition, working groups, divisions and countries have published extensive geographical names materials in print, CD-ROM, as TV series, etc. on toponymic guidelines (initiated in 1979), exonyms, educational issues, and seminars, covering many useful items on policies, names history, and heritage

Helen Kerfoot

Honorary Chair, UNGEVN

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The participation of women in UNGEVN and UNCISGN activities

In the early days of geographical names standardization at the United Nations the participation of women was minimal, with three women (*from the Federal Republic of Germany, USSR, and Uruguay*) attending the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1967. Gradually over the years both the number and the percentage of women participants has increased. At the most recent 11th Conference in August 2017, there were 80 women, but still they constituted less than 30% of the delegates. Most, if not all, areas of the world now include women within their delegations to the United Nations names meetings – some being diplomats, managers, and technicians.

Today women undertake leadership roles in the UNGEVN Bureau, as Division Chairs and as Working Group Convenors – but this has not always been the case!

Not until the Fourth Conference in 1982 did women first participate in leadership roles at the conferences: starting with editorial work (*Sandra Shaw, USA; Eeva Maria Närhi, Finland; Erica Shipley, UK*), then Head of a delegation in 1987 (*Sandra Shaw, USA*), and continuing on to be Rapporteurs, Editor-in-chief, Chair of a Technical Committee at the Sixth Conference in 1992 (*Ann-Christin Mattisson, Sweden*), Vice-president of the Seventh Conference in 1998 (*Sylvie*

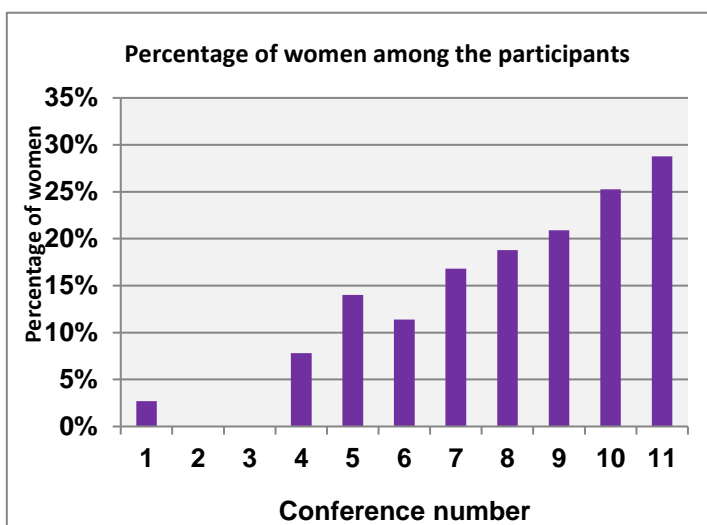
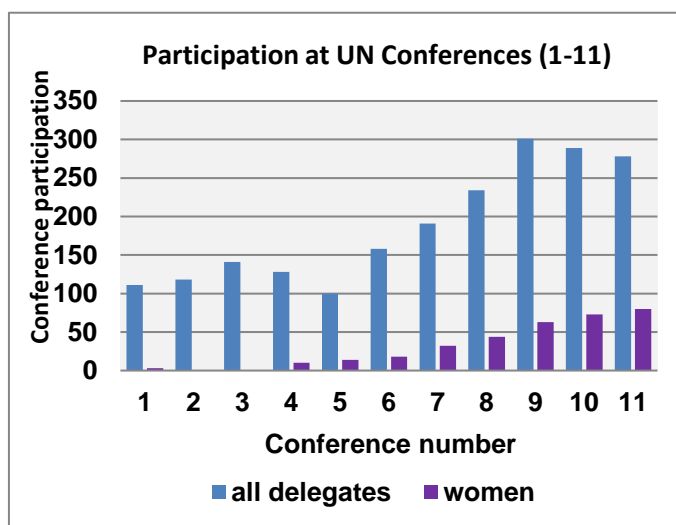
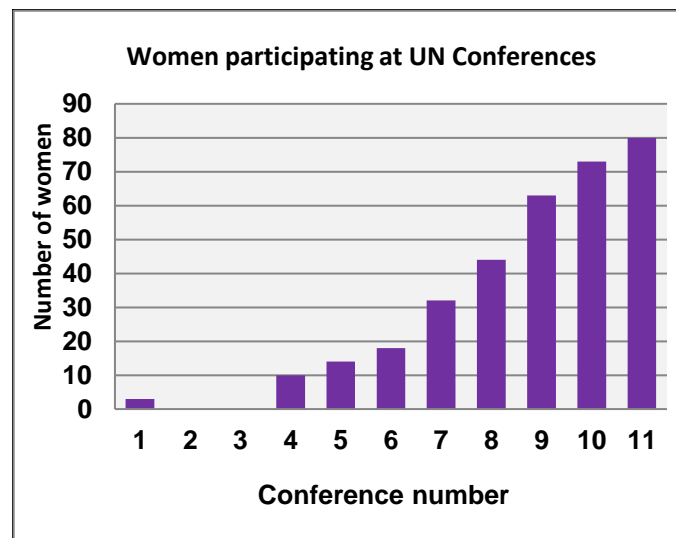


Lejeune, France) and President of the Ninth Conference in 2007 (*Helen Kerfoot, Canada*).

Within UNEG, some of the firsts for women were 1991 Vice-Chair (*Helen Kerfoot*), 1998 Convenor of a Working Group (*Sylvie Lejeune*), and 2002 UNEG Chair (*Helen Kerfoot*).

More women are taking positions of responsibility in UNEG and at the Conferences. For example, six women had organizational roles at the Tenth Conference in 2012. Today, UNEG has a woman as Vice-Chair (*Naima Friha, Tunisia*), has three women involved with convening Working Groups (*Élisabeth Calvarin, France; Catherine Cheetham, UK; Annette Torensjö, Sweden*), and seven women chairing Divisions.

Clearly the number of women participants has increased over the past 50 years, and the responsibilities they are undertaking in the organization and leadership of UNEG is growing. Let's keep up the progress we have made in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women in the geographical names field!





2012, 11th UN Conference, New York



1998, 7th UN Conference, New York



2002 Toponymy training, Enschede



1994 UNGEGN, New York



2002, 8th UN Conference, Berlin



1994 UNGEGN, New York



Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names Division

At the 50th Anniversary of establishing the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN)

The Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names (ADEGN) is composed of Arab Experts in Geographical Names representing their countries, to set up, unify and process names of places and landmarks in all Arab countries. This Division is a member of the Council of Arab Economic Unity, affiliated to the League of Arab Countries; also (ADEGN) is a member of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Aims:

1. Lay down basics and rules required to set up and unify using Arab geographical names on the national, regional and international levels, solving all linguistic and audio problems.
2. Exchange of scientific and technical experiences that assist all member states to find their ways towards issuing their own geographical gazetteers and the Unified Arab Geographical Gazetteer.
3. Lay down common cooperation mechanisms among Arab organizations that deal with geographical names in general and the mapping industry, specifically with their counterparts of regional and international organizations.
4. Highlight the great economic, social, cultural, historical and religious benefits of gathering, setting up, preserving and unifying geographical names.

ADEGN is composed of a General Board that represents all members of Arab Countries:

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Republic of Tunisia, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Sudan, Arab Republic of Syria, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of Iraq, Oman Sultanate, Palestine, Qatar, Republic of Comoros, State of Kuwait, Republic of Lebanon,



Libya, Republic of Egypt, Kingdom of Morocco, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and the Republic of Yemen.

Administrative Board of ADEGN:

The Administrative Board consists of Chair, Co-Chairs, Rapporteur and Editor which are elected by the General Board for 4 years, renewable for one year. The Chair of ADEGN is responsible for activating its role in the Arab and international forums, getting help by all available means in the member countries, representing the ADEGN in the UNGEN, and heading the conferences held during his presidency. In case of the vacancy of the Chair position for any reason, the first Co-Chair becomes the deputy of the Chair.

Members of the Administrative Board are as follows:

• Chair:

- Dr. Eng. Awni Moh'd Khasawneh (Jordan)



• Co- Chairs:

- Abdullah Ben Naser Al Wlaiai (Saudi Arabia)



- Naemah Fraiha (Tunisia)





- Khaled Al Melhi (United Arab Emirates).



- **Reporteur:**

- Ibrahim Al Jaber Obaid (Jordan)



- **Editor**

- Yousef Al Nabhani (Oman)



Most important achievements of ADEGN:

- Participation of Arab Delegations and Experts in meetings and conferences of UNGEgn since 1971.
- Established national boards/committees in many Arab countries such as: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine ect.
- Adopted a standardized Arab System for transforming Arab letters to Latin since 1971 and was amended in 2002; also adopted an updated Arab Standardized Arab System in 2007.
- Held training courses in Geographical Names.
- Issued a semi-annual magazine specialized in geographical names which is considered the first of its kind on the international level in Arabic language.
- Established a website for the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names.

- Established a permanent headquarter of ADEGN in Jordan provided with required equipments and employees.
- Held many workshops and scientific days in many Arab countries in the field of geographical names.
- Held seven conferences for the ADEGN, and two conferences in Survey and geographical names.
- Held many sub-meetings of ADEGN.
- Participation of ADEGN experts in the UNGEgn team.

Activities and ambitions of ADEGN:

The presidency of the ADEGN is seeking to promote the ADEGN to achieve an advanced level in this field by:

- Holding the 8th Conference of Experts on Geographical Names in Amman, 2018.
- Establishment of the permanent headquarter of the ADEGN is ongoing and will be within the building of the Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education affiliated to the United Nations in Amman, which will include offices, halls and its facilities.
- Adding the subject of Geographical names in the educational curriculum.
- Activating the role of Arab Division Committees.
- Encouraging all Arab countries to participate in conferences and meetings.
- Encouraging Arab countries to form national committees and bodies concerned with geographical names.
- Establishing the Arab Standardized Dictionary and Arabic Atlases.
- Building database for Arab geographical names.
- Holding an international conference about Judiazation of geographical names in Palestine.

Dr. Eng. Awni Moh'd Khasawneh

Chairman of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names

Email: info@adegn.net; kawni@yahoo.com

Achievements of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the field of Geographical Names, on the 50th anniversary of establishing the UNGEKN

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was one of the first Arab counties active in the field of geographical names. RJGC (the Chair and headquarter of the National Committee on Geographical Names) issued many digital and paper publications (maps, Charts, Atlases, Books, gazetteer...ext.) in order that geographical names in Jordan and Palestine have been preserved. Also, it submitted and nominated a lot of new names to the decision makers, so that many changes on the names of gatherings, depending on the basics were adopted by ADEGN. This National Committee has its own system and meets monthly to discuss all matters related to geographical names. RJGC and ADEGN also produced the Index of Jordanian Sites digitally and on paper. Jordan uses the standardized Arab System in processing the Romanized geographical names. The National Committee was formed in 1984 according to the resolution of the Prime Ministry and was reformed in 2000.

Achievements of Jordan in the field of Geographical Names:

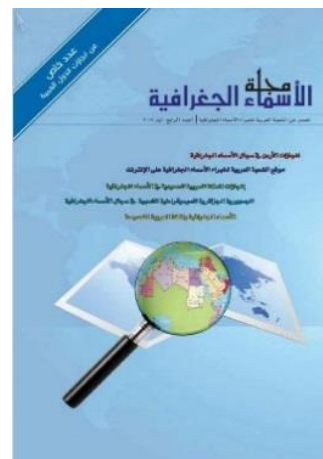
- Participated in UNGEKN meetings and conferences since 1984.
- Participated in the Arab meetings and conferences in the field of geographical names.
- Organized the 6th (2012) and 7th (2014) conferences of the Arab Division.
- Organized the 1st (2013) and the 2nd (2016) conferences for Surveying and Geographical Names.
- Participated in Arab Committees in the field of Geographical Names.
- Provided the Committee of Arab Cities Gazetteer with required information.
- The representative of Jordan has been the president of the Arab Division since 2012.
- Holds monthly meetings for National Committee, issuing many decisions, and recommendations related to geographical names.
- Established and prepared the ADEGN offices in the permanent headquarter in Amman since 2013: we are now preparing the permanent headquarter of ADEGN within the Complex of the Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in Amman.



- Launched the web site of the Arab Division (www.adeqn.net) in Arabic and English languages.

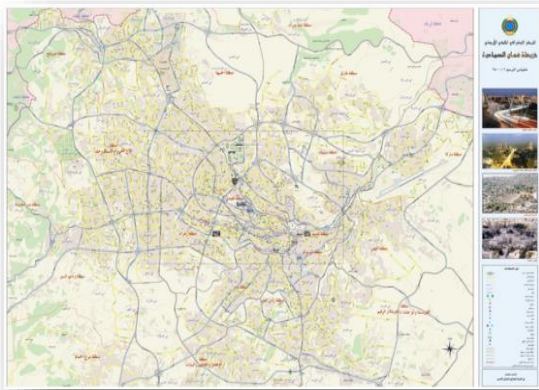


- Published the Geographical Names Magazine (4 editions).



- **Maps & Charts:**

Produced for various purposes many maps at various scales for different areas in Jordan. These maps include a database for geographical names within establishing and updating the National GIS. Also, some of these maps contain names in Arabic language and its opposite in Roman Letters (bilateral writing). These maps are considered an important reference and database of geographical names in Jordan.



- Held many training courses in the field of Geographical Names for the public and private sectors and also for trainees from Arab countries.
- Prepares brochures and booklets about geographical names aiming to raise awareness in this field.

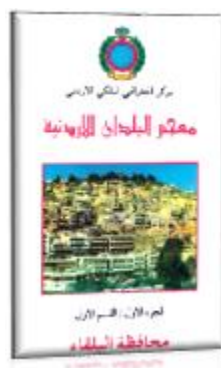
- Produced Atlases in Arabic and English (Romanization).



- Issued a booklet about the conclusions and recommendations of conferences and meetings in geographical names till 2017.



- Produced the Jordanian Gazetteers, the Jordanian Sites Index, Index of Israeli Settlements in Palestine and the Palestinian Issue Atlas.



- Produced guiding charts of Amman city.
- Started the project of Addressing Jordan.



Dr. Eng. Awni Moh'd Al Khasawneh
 Director General
 Royal Jordanian Geographic Center
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Canada : La gestion des noms de lieux au Québec, d'hier à aujourd'hui

Au Québec, une commission chargée de gérer les noms de lieux voit le jour en 1912. Elle s'emploie alors à valider la nomenclature géographique de l'État, en privilégiant notamment l'utilisation de toponymes français en usage, plus particulièrement avec l'emploi de génériques en français. Cette pratique de gestion de la toponymie québécoise se substitue à celles héritées de l'ancienne administration coloniale britannique. Les travaux de la Commission de géographie de l'époque l'amènent à participer activement, dès 1967, aux Conférences des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques.

En 1968, la Commission dépose un rapport qui rend compte de l'inventaire toponymique le plus vaste réalisé au Québec dans les villages inuits. C'est une étape cruciale pour la réhabilitation de la toponymie autochtone. Progressivement, cette dernière gravit les échelons de la reconnaissance pour s'affirmer comme une composante essentielle du patrimoine culturel québécois. De nos jours, ce sont environ 10 % des noms de lieux officiels québécois qui sont d'origine amérindienne ou inuite, à l'exclusion des noms de voies de communication. L'officialisation des odonymes, qui sont les constituants d'une toponymie de proximité structurant en profondeur la vie quotidienne de la population et le transport des marchandises, débute en 1975. Quarante-deux ans plus tard, près de 113 000 noms de voies de communication ont été officialisés.

En 1977, un nouveau changement administratif survient lorsque, à la suite de l'adoption de la Charte de la langue française par l'Assemblée nationale du Québec, la Commission de géographie devient la Commission de toponymie et est rattachée administrativement à l'Office de la langue française. Le nouvel organisme acquiert alors le pouvoir exclusif d'officialiser les noms de lieux, lesquels, une fois officialisés, deviennent obligatoires dans les textes et les documents de l'administration publique québécoise, dans l'affichage public, dans la signalisation routière ainsi que dans les manuels scolaires. La Commission doit en outre effectuer l'inventaire, la conservation et la diffusion des toponymes, établir la terminologie géographique et proposer au gouvernement les normes et les règles en matière d'écriture toponymique.

Inspirée par les résolutions adoptées lors des Conférences des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques auxquelles elle participe, la Commission de toponymie se dote, dans les années 1980, de cinq politiques pour encadrer ses décisions : la Politique de normalisation, la Politique linguistique, la Politique terminologique, la Politique relative aux noms de lieux autochtones et la Politique de désignation toponymique commémorative.

La Commission de toponymie s'affirme à son tour comme une source d'inspiration. À son initiative, et avec l'étroite collaboration des autorités toponymiques de la France et du Canada, une Division francophone est créée, en 1998, au sein du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques. La Commission concourt aux travaux de cette division en publiant des articles dans son bulletin d'information ainsi qu'en hébergeant son site Web et la banque de données Le tour du monde en français, qui diffuse une toponymie en usage dans la francophonie.

La Commission de toponymie de la mission du Québec est de « nommer cet espace que nous habitons et qui nous habite en retour »

En 2012, la Commission célèbre son centenaire sur le thème *Le nom de lieu, signature du temps et de l'espace*. Quelques années plus tard, elle entreprend de diffuser des corpus de noms autochtones traditionnels.

Aujourd'hui, plus de 1000 de ces noms sont visibles dans la base de données publique de la Commission, la Banque de noms de lieux du Québec. Entre 1967 et 2017, la Commission a officialisé 240 770 noms, dont 81 % sont de langue française. Elle a publié un dictionnaire et trois répertoires de toponymes officiels, et elle diffuse en ligne, depuis 1998, l'ensemble de la toponymie officielle du Québec.

Cette nomenclature géographique témoigne avec éloquence que le Québec est une société majoritairement francophone, la seule en Amérique du Nord. Elle atteste aussi de l'importance de cette mission essentielle qui consiste à nommer cet espace que nous habitons et qui nous habite en retour.

Marc Richard

Marie-Ève Bisson

Commission de toponymie du Québec

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Canada: Managing Quebec place names, from past to present

In Quebec, a Commission responsible for managing place names was established in 1912. It then worked to validate the province's geographical nomenclature, promoting the use of French place names in usage, more specifically with the use of generics in French. This approach to managing Quebec place names replaced those inherited from the former British colonial administration. The work of the then-Commission de géographie led it to become an active participant, starting in 1967, in the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

In 1968, the Commission filed a report setting out the most extensive inventories ever made in Quebec's Inuit villages. This was a critical step toward rehabilitating Aboriginal toponymy, which gradually gained recognition and became an essential part of Quebec's cultural heritage. Today, approximately 10% of Quebec's official place names, with the exception of street names, are of Native or Inuit origin. Street names, constituents of local toponymy that affect the day-to-day lives of residents and the transportation of goods, began receiving official approval in 1975. Forty-two years later, nearly 113,000 street names have been given official approval.

An administrative change occurred in 1977 when, following the Quebec National Assembly's adoption of the Charter of the French Language, the Commission de géographie became the Commission de toponymie, an administrative arm of the Office de la langue française. The new organization acquired exclusive authority to give official approval to place names, which, once officially approved, must be used in Quebec government texts and documents, public signage, road signage and textbooks. The Commission is also responsible for cataloguing, preserving and disseminating place names, establishing geographical terminology, and providing the government with proposed standards and rules of spelling applicable to place names.

Inspired by the resolutions adopted during the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, in which it participates, the Commission de toponymie developed five policies in the 1980s to guide its decisions: a standardization policy, a language policy, a terminology policy, an Aboriginal place names policy, and a commemorative naming policy.

The Commission de toponymie, too, became a source of inspiration. On its initiative, working closely with French and Canadian toponymic authorities, a French-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was created in 1998. The Commission contributes to this Division's work by publishing articles in its newsletter and hosting *Le tour du monde en français* on its website, which disseminates toponymy in use in the Francophonie.

In 2012, the Commission celebrated its 100th anniversary under the theme *Le nom de lieu, signature du temps et de l'espace*. A few years later, it started disseminating corpora of traditional Aboriginal names. Today, over 1,000 of those names can be found in the Commission's public database of Quebec place names. Between 1967 and 2017, the Commission gave official approval to 240,770 names, 81% of which are French names. It published a dictionary and three gazetteers of official names. The Commission has been making all of Quebec's official place names available online since 1998.

Quebec's geographical nomenclature is a testament to the fact that the province is a majority French-speaking society, the only one in North America. It also attests to the importance of this key mission, which is to name the places that we live in and that live within us.

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50 Years Milestone of Egypt's UNGEKN Activities

Egypt has participated in the following activities concerning geographical names since the first meeting of the group of experts of geographical names which has been held in NY, 1960

1. At a Global level

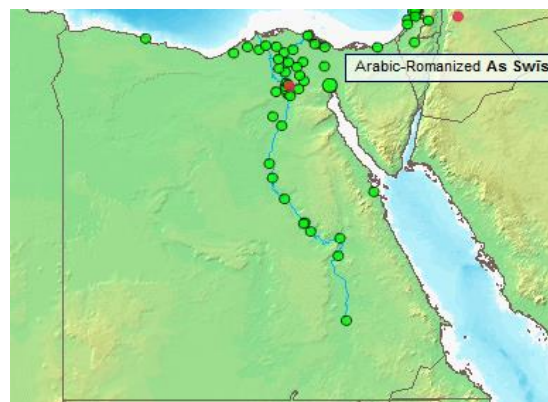
Egyptian experts attended in 1 of 2 meetings of the group of experts on geographical names, 9 of 11 UNCSCNs, 12 of 29 UNGEKN sessions. Egyptian experts won the second place at both 25th and 26th UNGEKN sessions African contests of geographical names.



Photo of the Egyptian contest winners at 25th and 26th UNGEKN sessions in Nairobi, Kenya 2009 and Vienna 2011

2. UNGEKN Working Groups activities

- A. Working Group on Toponymic data files and gazetteers:** submission of Egyptian cities names with a population of more than 100,000 and their audio files to UNGEKN World Geonames database.



Source :

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames>

- B. Working Group on Country Names:** Revision of the List of country names.
- C. Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation:** Translation into Arabic the document entitled "Resolutions adopted in ten united nations conferences on standardizing geographical names" which presented in 11th UNCNG, https://unstats.un.org/UNSD/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/pdf/UNCNG-Resolution-1967-2012_Arabic.pdf and in preparation of the document on strengthening cooperation between the UNGEKN and the GGIM in April 2017.
- D. Working Group on Romanization Systems:** Adaption of the [Unified Arabic Romanization system](#) with ADEGN.
- E. Working Group on Exonyms:** Contribution in "Trends in Exonym Use" Proceeding of the 10th UNGEKN working group on exonym meeting 28-30 May 2010 Tainach, Austria.

3. Regional level:

- A. ADEGN:** Egyptian experts participated in 7 Arab conferences of geographical names (ACGN) and contributed in activities of its technical committees.



Photo of 7th ACGN Amman, Jordan 2014

B. Task Team for Africa: Egyptian experts participated in:

- The workshop on the development of the 2012 Gaborone action plan ([GAP](#)) Gaborone, Botswana 2012.
- The International Workshop on Standardization of Geographical Names, Johannesburg, South Africa April 2012.



Photo of the participants in The International Workshop on Standardization of Geographical Names, Johannesburg, South Africa April 2012.

- The International Conference on Onomastics in Arab countries, Constantine, Algeria, February 2016.
- Revising UNECA GEONYM Application. <http://geoinfo.uneca.org/geonyms>.

4. National level

The following are working papers about national activities of Egypt:

- W.B.52 "GIS applications in the 2006 population ,housing and building census" UNGEGN 25th session ,Nairobi, May 2009.
- Annex no 1 of Technical paper W.B.53 (Report on Egyptian geographic names Activities). UNGEGN 25th session, Nairobi, Kenya, May 2009.

- Awarded Essay "Present challenges and Future Hopes Towards Standardization of geographical names of Egypt" –UNGEKN African Toponymy Contest-UNGEKN 25th Session, Kenya 2009.
- News from Egypt UNGEGN 37th bulletin September 2009.
- "Exonym use on Egypt", Trends in Exonym Use Proceeding of the 10th UNGEGN working group on exonym meeting Tainach 28-30 May 2010. <http://www.verlagdrkovac.de/3-8300-5656-7.htm>.
- W.B. 6 "Geographical names as A part of Egyptian cultural heritage" UNGEGN 26th Session Vienna -Austria 2011.
- Awarded essay of African contest "[The names of Egypt and the names of its capitals through the ages](#)" , UNGEGN 26th Session Vienna, Austria 2011.
- Arab spring Toponymy spring, 10th United Nations conference on standardizing Geographical names (UNCSGN), New York August 2012.
- Egypt Country report on standardizing of geographical names, 10th (UNCSGN), New York August 2012.
- Egypt's Geographical names database and gazetteer project, 28th Session of UNGEGN, 28 April to 2 May 2014, New York
- Gazetteer of geographical names of Egypt project, 1st Geographical names magazine, UNGEGN Arabic Division, <http://www.adegn.net/images/pdf/alasmaa/Al-Asmaa-1.pdf>
- Egyptian geographical names and cultural heritage, The international conference of onomastics in Arab countries, Constantine, Algeria, February 2016.
- Practice on Exonym use in Egypt, 50th UNGEGN bulletin 2017
- Egypt Country report on standardizing of geographical names, 11th (UNCSGN), New York August 2017.

Resolutions adopted in ten united nations conferences on standardizing geographical names, 11th (UNCSGN), New York August 2017,

https://unstats.un.org/UNSD/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/pdf/UNCGN-Resolution-1967-2012_Arabic.pdf

Eng. Eman Oriebby

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United Nations Expert on Geographical Names

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New Zealand: Fifty years of UNGEGN and UNSCGN

New Zealand's national place naming authority, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) has had an enduring relationship with UNGEGN and UNSCGN during their 50-year history.

The NZGB's regular representation at Sessions and Conferences since 1992 has enabled New Zealand to participate, contribute, and be actively involved in the development of world best practice in the management of geographic names. New Zealand has also been able to collaborate with, and build and maintain strong relationships with other geographic naming authorities, particularly those within mutual areas of interest.

The NZGB's significant milestones and achievements during its UNGEGN and UNSCGN participation include:

- contributing to UNGEGN's brochure *Consistent Use of Place Names*,
- production of a regional map and gazetteer of *Asia South East, Pacific South West*,
- producing a world map with endonyms,
- hosting the Pacific UNGEGN forum in the early 1990s in Wellington, New Zealand,
- a staff secondment to a two-year appointment to the United Nations Cartographic Division in the 1990s in New York,
- attending the toponymic training course UNGEGN ran in 2004, in Bathurst, Australia,
- participating and being involved in global mapping and charting (Kuwait, Eritrea, Pacific),
- providing a chapter for the UNGEGN-ICA ¹ online *Advanced Toponymy Training Manual* describing New Zealand's Gazetteer,
- contributing several recent articles to the UNGEGN *Information Bulletin*, and
- participating in, undertaking rapporteurial work, and contributing presentations, posters and papers to UNSCGN.

The good naming practices that UNGEGN and UNSCGN have established, and that are applicable to New Zealand, enable the NZGB to make informed, robust and enduring decisions on geographic names within its jurisdiction.

Most recently New Zealand has shared its perspectives on appropriate recognition of cultural and heritage values as they apply to Māori geographic names.

As New Zealand's reliable and authoritative source for standardised, consistent and accurate geographic names, the NZGB has implemented a number of relevant UNSCGN recommendations and resolutions. The NZGB regularly reports to UNGEGN and UNSCGN on New Zealand's activities relating to geographic names.

New Zealand is also an active participant on the Permanent Committee on Place Names, whose role is to coordinate, promote and communicate the consistent use of geographic names across New Zealand and Australia.

UNGEKN and UNSCGN are as relevant today as they were 50 years ago. New Zealand looks forward to continuing to be involved in the work of UNGEGN and UNSCGN to promote and advance the national and international standardization of geographic names.

NZGB Secretariat

Email: wshaw@linz.govt.nz

The good naming practices that UNGEGN and UNSCGN have established, and that are applicable to New Zealand, enable the NZGB to make informed, robust and enduring decisions on geographic names within its jurisdiction.

¹ International Cartographic Association

25 years of the Republic of Korea's Participation

It was not until 1981 when the 9th session of UNGEKN was held that the Republic of Korea (ROK) participated in the UNGEKN/UNCSGN meetings. Its participation as an observer continued (11th, 14th and 15th sessions) until 1991. The year 1992 was recorded as the first UNCSGN that the ROK participated as a Member State after officially joining the United Nations the previous year. In 2017, the ROK faced the 25th anniversary of its being an official member of UNGEKN/UNCSGN.



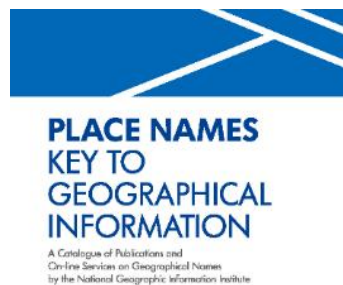
Experts of the Republic of Korea stand before its poster on tactile atlas, New York, 2017.

Since 1992, the ROK has continuously extended its scope of participation in UNGEKN/UNCSGN activities. From 1992 to 2017, a total of 141 experts participated (9 on average per meeting), and 77 working papers were submitted (5. per meeting) on the accomplishments of the national standardization of geographical names. For the last two meetings, poster exhibition was also an important part of its participation; geographical names containing the zodiac of the year (2016) and tactile atlas to service geographical names to people with disabilities (2017). ROK's experts took part in several UNGEKN working groups; particularly taking convenorship in the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation (Ki-Suk Lee, 2002~2012; Sungjae Choo, 2012~present). This working group now manages the searchable UNCSGN resolutions database with the support of the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII).

The 25 years has witnessed enormous progress in the activities regarding geographical names in Korea. A total of 152,292 names are now standardized and announced for natural and artificial features (managed by the NGII) and 990 names for maritime features (managed by the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration). The Korea Committee on Geographical Names, which was founded in

2010 as an amalgamation of two separate committees dealing with names of land features and maritime features, played a key role in managing these activities.

Several symposia, seminars and workshops were organized, with focuses of cultural heritage, public awareness, sea names, undersea feature names, etc. A series of books, manuals and atlases were published, including *Origins of Korean Place Names* (2008~2010), *People, Places and Place Names in the Republic of Korea* (2016), *Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage* (2015), *Guidelines for the Standardization of Geographical Names* (2012, 2016), etc. Major UNGEKN publications, glossary, manual and technical reference manual, and media kit, were translated into Korean.



The NGII published a catalogue of the publications and on-line services on geographical names in 2017.

Looking ahead, the ROK's participation in the UNGEKN/UNCSGN activities is expected to be continuously magnified in the next 25 or 50 years. It should be admitted that the ROK's accomplishments in the geographical names management have been greatly benefited by sharing with and learning from other Member States' experiences, provided by this wonderful forum.

Sungjae CHOO

Chair, Korea Committee on Geographical Names

Email: sjchoo@khu.ac.kr

Spain's Contribution to the Standardization of Geographical Names

During 9th Conference of United Nations on Geographical Names (New York, 21-30 August 2007), UNGEGN organized a commemorative exhibition of 40th Anniversary of First Conference of United Nations on Geographical Names (1967).

In this exhibition UNGEGN selected the publication of **Instituto Geográfico Nacional** of Spain <<Toponimia: Normas para el MTN25. Conceptos básicos y terminología>> (Toponymy: Rules for National Topographic Map scale 1:25 000. Basic ideas and terminology), under the section "GUIDELINES FOR USING GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES".

This publication had the purpose of providing general criteria for the treatment of geographical names and lettering instructions for toponymy in the National Topographic Map, scale 1:25 000 (MTN25), a cartographic series that covers the whole of Spain made by Instituto Geográfico Nacional. In addition, it had the purpose of giving basic knowledge about toponymy, and also, information about linguistic situation, basic legislation and Authorities on geographical names in Spain. Finally, the publication had the intention of being a guideline for other documents and cartographic products made by *Instituto Geográfico Nacional*, or made by other cartographic producers in Spain.



Panel of section Guidelines for using geographical names. Commemorative exhibition of 40th Anniversary or First Conference of United Nations on Geographical Names-1967, during the 9th Conference of United Nations on Geographical Names (New York, August 2007)

The general criteria were based on the Resolutions of United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, that this publication try to disseminate in the official cartography of Spain.

Specifications

Title: *Toponimia: Normas para el MTN25. Conceptos básicos y terminología*

Authors: Adela Alcázar González and Margarita Azcárate Luxán

Publishers: Instituto Geográfico Nacional (Ministerio de Fomento) and Centro Nacional de Información Geográfica (CNIG)

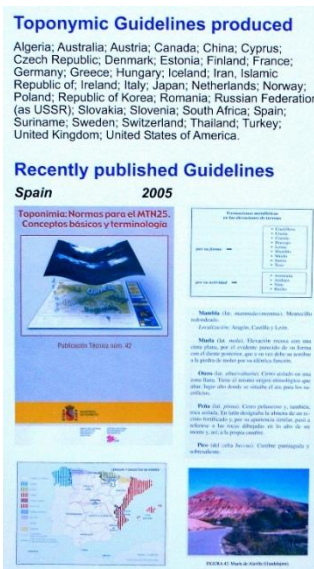
Publication date: 2005

Place: Madrid (Spain)

Pages: 133

Available at:

http://www.ign.es/web/ign/portal/publicaciones-boletines-y-libros-digitales#publication_26



Detail of panel Guidelines for using geographical names: guideline published by Spain in 2005. Commemorative exhibition of 40th Anniversary or First Conference of United Nations on Geographical Names-1967, during 9th Conference of United Nations on Geographical Names (New York, August 2007)

Adela Alcázar González

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Tunisia: Recognizing UNGEKN's 50 years of contribution to the standardization of Geographical names

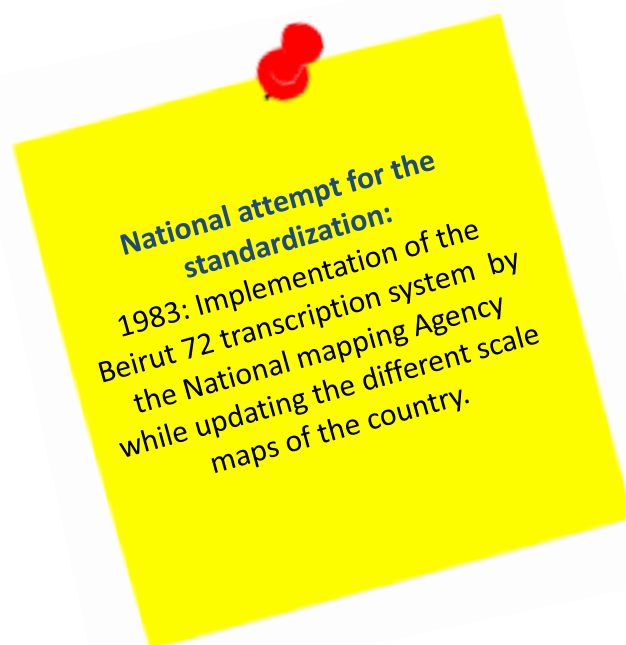
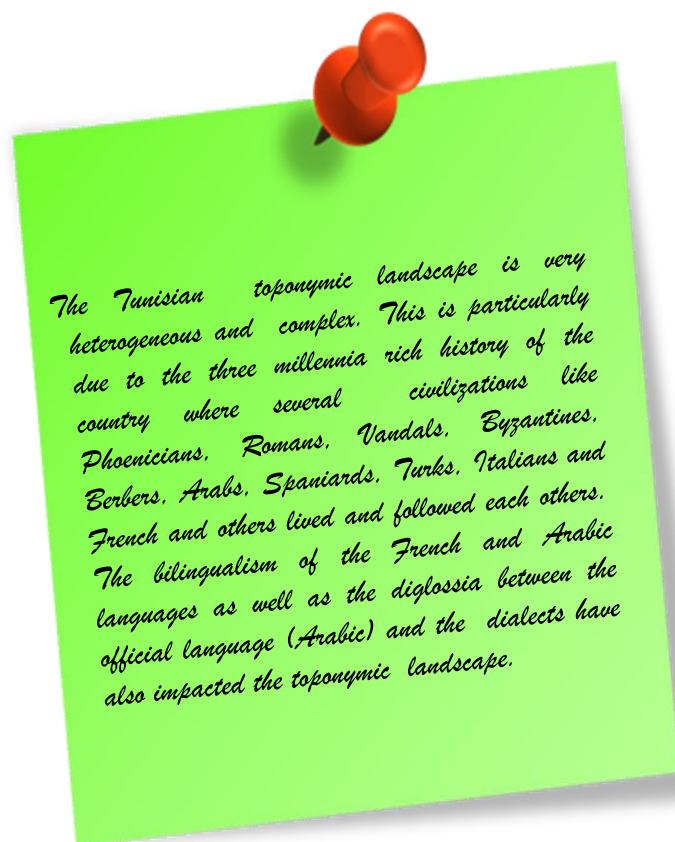
The 50th UNGEKN anniversary, as celebrated during the 11th UNCSGN was a special event to highlight the tremendous activities and achievements conducted by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names since its creation at both national and international levels.

By tackling the different issues related to places names, notably standardization, the Group of Experts has brought the standardization of place naming forward. Place names which were in the past just identifiers to locate a place have been given a social, cultural, historical, sense; they have become an integral part of country's cultural heritage that requires then to be carefully handled and preserved.

Through the continuous recommendations of UNGEKN, people become more aware of the importance of the roles of geographical names in the development of economic and sustainability projects, and thus countries now adhere more and more in cooperating with UNGEKN to promote the geographical names standardization and implement the UNGEKN resolutions.

Tunisia, is one of those countries that do recognize the great contribution of UNGEKN in promoting geographical names and preserving them as part of its rich cultural heritage. A clear road map is set while progressing towards the regulation of this sector with respect to national standards.

Geographical names promotion in Tunisia has known several steps during the 50 years of UNGEKN existence and the following summaries and photos illustrate the most important achievements:





April 2007-Tunis: Training course of toponymy, organised by the Regional Centre of Remote Sensing for the North African States and the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing in collaboration with the UNGEGN, notably for the North African countries



UNEGN 1st Price TOPONYMY CONTEST 2011 – AFRICA



26th UNGEGN Session ,2 - 6 May
2011, Vienna, Austria



January 2015-Tunis: Training course of toponymy,
organised by the National Centre for Cartography and
Remote Sensing in collaboration of the UNGEVS for the
members of the National Committee of Toponymy.



Naima Friha

UNGEVN Vice Chair

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**Creation of the National Committee of
Toponymy:**

Decree 1299-2016, 26th February 2013

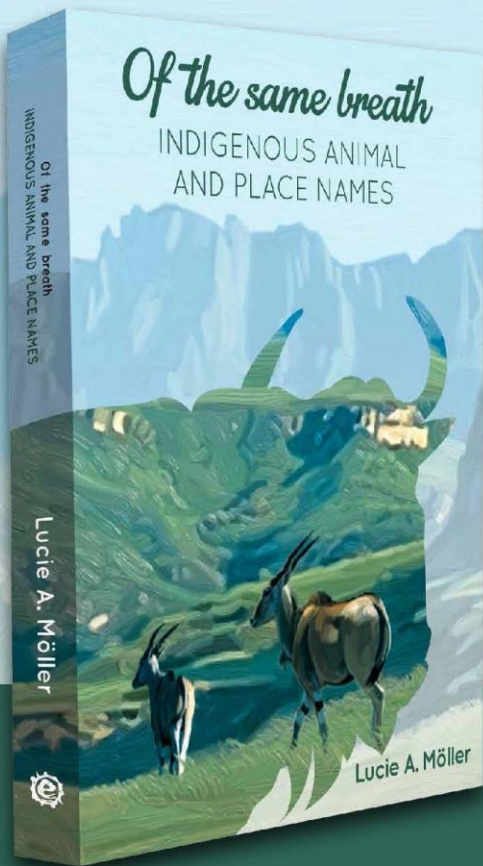
<http://www.iort.gov.tn/>

(JORT N° 20 du 8 Mars)



FROM THE DIVISIONS

South Africa Division



The vast empty spaces of South Africa and Namibia are suffused with codes to the past. To the casual traveller, the -laagtes and -leegtes flash and roll past our windows, unexplained and undiscovered, but to the informed, these ancient names unfurl a history as old as man himself. This is Simon Schama's "topography of cultural identity", which started with the San, and continues to this day. Lucie Möller's glorious exploration of these animal origins stands proud, with the work of Bleek, as reminder and tribute to voices now silent. – Dave Pepler

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FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

The Working Group on Toponymic Terminology held a meeting during the recent 11th Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The Working Group will be seeking to re-energize its work programme to include the development of a terminology database and to consider updates to the existing glossary of terms. The working group invites new members to become involved. Please contact the convenor to express interest in the activities of the group or with any questions.

Working Group page:

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/wg3.html>

2002 Glossary:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/glossary.pdf>

Trent Palmer

Convenor, Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

Email: trent.c.palmer@nga.mil"

FROM THE COUNTRIES

Celebration of the World Geographical Names Day in Italy

Italy celebrated the World Geographical Names Day on 27th October 2017. The session took place at the Italian Geographic Military Institute (IGMI) in Firenze [Florence], on its 145th anniversary. The ceremony was held in Italian and developed in two sessions, according to the following program.



The start of the ceremony at the Italian Geographic Military Institute.

Opening session

- Chairman: Maj. Gen. Pietro Tornabene, Commander of Italian Geographic Military Institute
 - *Introduction and welcome greetings*
- Helen Kerfoot, Honorary Chairperson of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN)
 - *Greetings from the United Nations*
- Andrea Cantile, Chairman, Romano Hellenic Division
 - *Actions of UN and Italy for the standardization of geographical names*
- Alberto Nocentini, Accademia della Crusca
 - *Italian toponyms between preservation and innovation*
- Cosimo Palagiano, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
- *Toponymy and history of places: relationships between territory and identity*
- Laura Cassi, Università di Firenze
 - *New toponyms and economics.*

Panel discussion

- Italian official toponymy between permanence and transformation

Chairman: Andrea Cantile

Participants:

- Andrea Riggio, President, Italian Geographers Association
- Giuseppe Scanu, President, Italian Cartographic Association
- Gino De Vecchis, President, Italian Geography Teachers Association
- Carla Masetti, Chairperson, Italian Center for Historical-Geographical Studies
- Lidia Scarpelli, President, Italian Geographical Studies Society
- Margherita Azzari, Vice President, Italian Geographical Society.

More than two hundred people participated in the ceremony with a large attendance of geographers, cartographers, linguists, planners, scholars and students. Papers presented in the first session explained the role of the UN and Italy for the standardization of geographical names and the importance of the toponymy in all human activities.

The discussion, developed during the panel, offered considerable reflections on the topic and suggested the way for the achievement of new toponymic survey in Italy.



The moment when the Commander of the Italian Geographic Military Institute, Maj. Gen. Pietro Tornabene, announced the greeting of the Honorary chairperson of the UNEG. Mme Helen Kerfoot.

The greeting of the Honorary Chairperson of the UNEG, with video message, was greatly appreciated.

Andrea Cantile

Chair of the RHD

Email: andrea.cantile@alice.it



Taxonomic of Eleven Geographic Names of Mozambique Municipality from Bantu Language

1. Introduction

The present study has as main objective to analyze the origin of geographic names, namely, *KaMaputsu* (Maputo), *KaMatsolo* (Matola), *Cimoyo* (Chimoio), *Kalimani* (Quelimane), *Kunciinga* (Lichinga), *Ophemba* (Pemba), *Wamphula* (Nampula), *Ximbutsu* (Chibuto), *Nyambani* (Inhambane), *Kudondo* (Dondo) and *Manyika* (Manica), from some Bantu languages among more than 30 that are spoken in Mozambique, Xirhonga, Ciwute, Echuwabu, Ciyawu, Emakhuwa, Xichangana, Gitonga, Cisena and Cimanyika, and its classification in accordance with Dick (1990a) proposal taxonomic. For a better classification, the names will be analyzed according to their pronunciation in Bantu language and not in Portuguese as in parenthesis.

For the collection of data we use the introspective and philological method, and the interview method to find out the origin of each geographical name. In terms of structure, is divided into 5 parts, namely:

1. Introduction;
2. Literature review;
3. Features and analysis of the data;
4. Conclusion and
5. Bibliography.

2. Literature Review

Locative Names

According with Nurse and Philippson (2003), in Bantu languages, the names are organized in classes (cl.) from 1 to 22, each class indicates the gender of the name. has three classes (cl) of locative (L), namely: Class 16: *pa- that indicates the adjacent space, class 17 *ku- that indicates the direction and class 18: *mu- that indicates interiority. These locative were ranging from language to language, as we can see in the chart above, the Gitonga has the following prefixes: Class 16 vba-, class 17)- and class 18 mu-.

Ex: (1) Gitonga.

- a. vba- gifi 'in poultry'
- b. Khu- gifi 'from poultry'
- c. mu- gifi 'inside of poultry'

In accordance with Sitoe (2011) the name changes to locative name when added the locative (L) through the suffix, -ini .

Ex: (2) Gitonga

- a. mu- gif -ini 'inside of poultry'
- b. khu- gif -ini 'from the poultry '

Geographic Names (g.n) - according to Furtado (1959) is the names of places that includes access routes, geographical features (such as seas, mountains, etc.), territorial units (such as cities, neighborhoods, etc) and delimit a cultural area.

Anthroponym (Anthr) - according to Anderson (2007) is a person's name, especially surname.

Taxonomic Classification of Dick (1990a)

The proposal of Dick (1990a) is divided into taxes of physical nature (11) and those of human nature (16).

The first category is divided in the following manner:

1. Astrotoponym (refer to celestial bodies in general);
2. Cardinotoponym (refer to geographical locations in general);
3. Cromotoponym (refer to the chromatic scale);
4. Dimensiotoponym (refer to the dimensions of geographical accidents);
5. Fitotoponym (refer to plants);
6. Geomorfotoponym (refer to topographical forms);
7. Hidrotoponym (refer to accidents hydrographic surveying in general);
8. Litotoponym (refer to minerals and the formation of soil);
9. Meteorotoponym (refer to atmospheric phenomena);
10. Morfotoponym (refer to geometric shapes) and
11. Zootoponym (refer to animals).

The second category, in turn, is thus divided:

1. Animotoponym (refer to the human psyche);
2. Antropotoponym (refer to first names, surnames, family, nicknames etc.);
3. Axiotoponym (refer to titles in general);
4. Corotoponym (refer to the names of cities, countries, etc.);
5. Cronotoponymy (refer to the Indicators chronological, as the adjectives again, new, old, old).
6. Dirrematoponym (refer to expressions crystallized);
7. Ecotoponym (refer to dwellings in general);
8. Ergotoponym (refer to elements of material culture of man).
9. Etnotoponym (refer to ethnic groups);

10. Hierotoponym (refer to the sacred names of different beliefs, to places of worship, members religious, religious associations and the dates relating to these facts);
 - 10.1. Hagiotoponym (refer to the names of saints and holy of roman hagiology);
 - 10.2. Mitotoponym (refer to either the entities mythology);
11. Historiotoponym (refer to the history of the country, its characters and dates);
12. Hodotoponym (refer to paths, the communication routes rural and urban);
13. Numerotoponym (refer to the numbers in general);
14. Poliotoponym (refer to taxes related to population centers);

15. Sociotoponym (refer to professional activities, to places of work and the points of meeting of a group);
16. Somatoponym (refer to parts of the human body or animals).

Paulino Baptista Rafael Bata

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Logros Realizados De La Dirección De Nombres Geográficos-Instituto Geográfico Nacional - 2017

A nombre del Instituto Geográfico Nacional del Perú y de la Dirección de Nombres Geográficos de la Dirección General de Geografía, se les hace llegar saludos cordiales y felicitarlos por los 50 años de ardua labor en beneficio de la investigación de los nombres geográficos y su normalización a nivel local, regional y mundial.

La Dirección de Nombres Geográficos como representante oficial de los nombres geográficos en el Perú, seguimos trabajando en la verificación y recopilación Toponímica a nivel nacional, a través de trabajos de campo "Insitu" a diversas zonas de nuestro país, con la finalidad de mantener actualizada la cartografía básica oficial a diversas series cartográficas para el desarrollo y elaboración de proyectos en beneficio de la sociedad. Sabemos de la importancia de la normalización de nuestros nombres geográficos, es por eso que se viene trabajando con la actualización de nuestra toponimia, a nivel de todo el Perú (Costa, Sierra y Selva), en la elaboración de los nomenclátors, mapas departamentales actualizados; con el fin de velar por nuestro patrimonio cultural e histórico.

La Dirección de Nombres Geográficos en apoyo al Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia Nacional (COEN) facilito el Nomenclátor Geográfico del Perú, el cual contiene un listado de topónimos con sus respectivas coordenadas. El nomenclátor fue utilizado para localizar centros poblados que se encontraban inundados por el fenómeno del niño costero en la zona norte de nuestro país y así mismo del rescate de personas desaparecidas, heridas, envío de ayuda humanitaria, entre otros.

Entre los trabajos que se ha venido realizando lo detallamos a continuación:

Actualización de toponimia en la Provincia de Ascope, Departamento la Libertad



Figura 1 Centro Poblado



Figura 2. Cerro Las Viudas



Figura 3. Paisaje Cultural Arqueológico Camino Chimú



Figura 4. Proyecto Garrapon-Anexo Concepción

Verificación, Validación y Actualización del topónimo “Río Flavia”, en la provincia de Satipo, departamento Junín.



Figura 5. Representantes del IGN con representantes del Gobierno local y pobladores



Figura 6. Entrevista a un poblador local



Figura 7. Verificación de coordenadas en la zona de trabajo

Verificación, Validación y Actualización del topónimo “Quebrada Salsipuedes”, en el Distrito de Quicacha, Departamento Arequipa.



Figura 8. Verificación de la cartografía junto con los representantes



Figura 9. Comuneros locales



Figura 10. Entrevista con los representantes de la comunidad Huayuri Molino



Figura 11. Asistencia a la zona de trabajo

Trabajo con el Instituto Metropolitano de Planificación sobre verificación de topónimos entre los límites distritales de Chorrillos y Barranco, Departamento de Lima



Figura 12. Jr. Independencia



Figura 13. Av. Las Palmas



Figura 14. Malecón Costa

My CyT Sergio Galindo Quicaño

Director de Nombres Geográficos

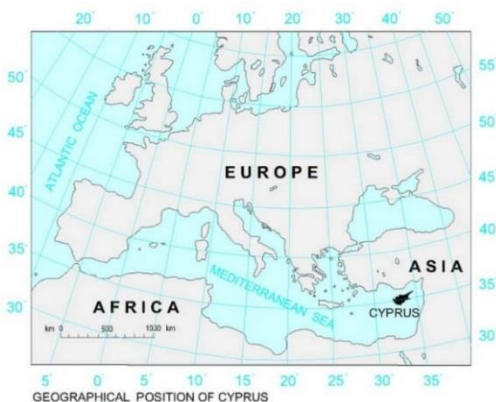
Ing Rosa Casapia Armendariz- Asistente Técnica de la Dirección de Nombres Geográficos.

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Collection and Preservation of the Geographical Names of Cyprus

1. Introduction

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, after Sicily and Sardinia, with an extent of 9.251 sq. km (3.572 sq. miles). It is situated at the north-eastern corner of the Mediterranean, at a distance of 350 km north of Egypt, 102 km west of Syria, and 68 km south of Turkey. Cyprus lies at a latitude of 34,5° - 35,7° North and longitude 32,3° - 34,6° East.



The United Nations, with the decision of the Economic and Social Council in April 1961, undertook international efforts for implementing the standardization of geographical names. The Republic of Cyprus, complying to this mandate, and also complying to the related UN resolutions, participates actively in all Conferences, Sessions and Divisions' meetings, trying always to fulfill its obligations on these very important matters.

The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) was officially established by the decision of the Council of Ministers no.15.769 of 21.4.1979 and constitutes the only competent National Authority for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Cyprus. According to law N.66(I)/98 and the regulations ΚΔΠ 443/2001, the Committee operates under the Minister of Education and Culture. The Minister appoints the members of the Committee every five years.

2. Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names

The Committee was first created in 1967 and was formalized by the decision no. 15.769 of the Council of Ministers on 21.4.1977. The Committee is the body responsible for the standardization of geographical names in Cyprus. According to Law N.66(I)/98 and regulations ΚΔΠ 443/2001, the Minister of Education and Culture, as the Competent

Authority appoints the President and the members of the Committee every five years. The Committee consists of a President and nine members.

The Committee has issued various independent publications that help in understanding the issues which relate to geographical names, and contribute to the solution of problems arising. The creation of its website (www.geonoma.gov.cy) is another step forward in upgrading its services and activities.



CPCSGN Website – www.geonoma.gov.cy

In this website, information can be found on the history, legislation, and the Committee's operating regulations, information with respect to its members, communications and activities, texts from its participation in conferences and events, maps, material for the transliteration of names into the Roman alphabet, on-line gazetteers (both for territorial and sea areas), on-line Romanization application from Greek to Roman alphabet, etc.



CPCSGN Website – www.geonoma.gov.cy
On-line automatic transliteration application

All geographical names of Cyprus are standardized and Romanized based on ELOT 743. All geographical names were gathered by appropriate and authorized bodies during the mapping of Cyprus in 1878 and later periods. The methodology and the procedure of collecting and recording the toponyms and microtoponyms of Cyprus, and their further processing, are described in detail below.

3. History and Culture

The History and Culture of Cyprus is among the oldest in the world. The first signs of civilization traced in archaeological excavations and research date back approximately 9,000 years to the 7th millennium BC. This rich cultural landscape involves hundreds of archaeological sites scattered throughout the island, representing various historical periods in the island's evolution.



Bronze plate found in ancient Idalion, Cyprus, in 470 B.C. One of the most important examples of Cypriot syllabic script. Provides important information regarding the political system, socioeconomic conditions, ownership and taxation.

To a significant extent, geography determined the historical destiny of Cyprus because of its geostrategic location, at the meeting point of three continents, namely: Europe, Asia and Africa. For certain periods, Cyprus lived under foreign domination, and became an independent state and a member of the United Nations in 1960. In 1961 it became a member of the Council of Europe, the British Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). In 2004, the Republic of Cyprus became a member of the European Union. In 2008, the Republic of Cyprus joined the Euro Zone and adopted the euro as its national currency.

4. Geographical Names in Cyprus

Cyprus is privileged to have most of its geographical names bequeathed in ancient texts from Homer to Herodotus, the tragic poets and Strabon, up to ancient cartographers, like Claudius Ptolemaeus, and from medieval cartographers, like Abraham Ortelius, up to



Map of Cyprus (Abraham Ortelius), 1573

lord Horatio H. Kitchener, who mapped Cyprus in the 19th Century at the beginning of the British rule of the island. The name of the island "Kypros" was mentioned by Homer 3000 years ago.

The last two conquerors of Cyprus were the Ottoman Turks, from the 16th to the 19th century and subsequently the British until 1960. All geographical names, which survived through the centuries in writing or in oral tradition until 1960, which was the year of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus, are fully acknowledged and preserved by the Government. Many of them have been collected from texts, historical documents, left by the British and the Ottoman Turks and other previous conquerors.

5. Geographical Names Historical Background

Cyprus belongs to the Mediterranean world, having a written history with tangible evidence of at least three thousand years. Naturally, the historical sources of Cyprus refer also to toponyms. Taking as a basis the Greek presence in Cyprus, which is the dominant long-lived presence, dating from 1100 BC to this day, the following groups of toponyms are observed in Cyprus:

- pre-hellenic,
- hellenistic,
- roman,
- byzantine,
- Frankish, and
- Turkish.

The history of Cyprus is reflected in the kaleidoscope of Cypriot toponyms.

Research has proved that toponyms are mostly stable. Most toponyms remain unchanged through the centuries, following only the changes which take place in the historical evolution of the language. However, some of them are altered, as time goes on. The changes of toponyms are mainly based on the introduction of new ones, which usually refer to natural entities, man-made works and new ownership.

It is possible to compile a large archive of Cypriot toponyms in digital form by sorting out the sources from ancient times till today, texts, inscriptions, codes, maps, catalogues, and local manuscripts. This task constitutes a



Toponyms of Cyprus—Part of Map of Cyprus (Mercator Hondius), 1633

challenging project which is gradually implemented through time.

6. Procedure of collecting and recording geographical names

In 1878, when the British undertook the administration of Cyprus, one of the first steps taken was the survey and mapping of Cyprus. A preliminary survey was completed in 1882 with the production of a topographical map at the scale of 1 inch to 1 statute mile (1:63360) covering the whole island.

In 1883, an intensive cadastral survey was initiated and was completed in 1929. A series of cadastral plans was prepared at scales: 1:2500 and 1:5000, for rural areas, and 1:500, 1:1000 and 1:1250 for build-up areas.



Map of Cyprus (Surveyed by Kitchener), Scale: 5 miles to 1 inch, April 8, 1885



Lord Kitchener and his associates during the cartographic activities in Cyprus

Before 1878 there were no significant mapping activities recorded, except of a small number of maps and nautical charts of Cyprus at scales 1:250,000 and 1:500,000 and other smaller scales, that were prepared by foreign cartographers.



*Part of Sheet No. 5, Lefkosia (Nicosia) and suburbs
Surveyed by Kitchener, Scale: 1 mile to 1 inch,
April 8, 1885*

From 1929 to 1960, detailed topographical and other mapping activities were of secondary importance, as a great emphasis was given on cadastral mapping. It was confined mostly with the production of the Administration and Road Map of Cyprus and other thematic maps of lower importance.

In 1969, a photogrammetric unit was installed in the Department of Lands and Surveys and a mapping project at scale 1:5000 was launched and continued until 1980, covering most parts of the island (south part). Unfortunately, due to the Turkish military invasion and occupation of its northern part since 1974, this task could not be completed.

From the beginning of the cadastral survey work in 1883, the recording of toponyms was a continuous task. It continued after the declaration of independence in 1960, and is still being carried out sporadically in our days. At first, the recording of toponyms was done for the purpose of land registration and for the declaration of immovable property, since the geographical names constitute one of the required elements of identification in administrative and legal documents.

According to written instructions, regarding the procedure of collecting and recording toponyms, in Greek, English, and Turkish, the competent mapping authority, followed the following procedure:

- Step 1: Establishment of special working groups of Land Surveyors and Cartographers from the Department of Lands and Surveys.*
- Step 2: Site visits and direct contact with the Community Authorities and the inhabitants.*
- Step 3: Appointment of experienced representatives by the Community Authorities and participation in special working groups in the field.*
- Step 4: The special working groups were charged for executing all field work and mapping activities, as well as for recording on sketches all of the sites declared by the Community authorized*



representatives, and for cross checking this information with the inhabitants.

Step 5: As the recording of toponyms was directly connected with the registration of properties, it was communicated for checking to the inhabitants. The preliminary cadastral plans which included among other information all toponyms, were exposed at the local Community Offices, for validation by the inhabitants.

Step 6: The Community Authorities submitted their comments or objections, to the Director of the Department of Lands and Surveys. Therefore all toponyms were democratically collected, validated and registered.

Step 7: Besides the names of towns and villages, toponyms, and other geographical names, there are thousands of microtoponyms, depicting all different localities, which also have a historical importance. New toponyms were created, to state a certain human-geographical entity or a certain ownership. All these constitute an essential part of property ownership, which are not necessarily shown on cadastral plans. All of these microtoponyms were collected by experienced local enquiry land clerks, and were cross checked and recorded in conjunction with the official toponyms that were included on cadastral plans. These microtoponyms were included in the land registers and the title certificates, which again were validated by the inhabitants.

7. Standardization of Geographical Names

Up to 1967, the year of the 1st UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, no significant work was done in relation to standardization, except the verification of the material collected after field checking and minor orthographical corrections.

After 1967, the Department of Lands and Surveys, complying with all relevant UN resolutions, within the context of the systematic mapping project, which was initiated in 1969 (at scale 1:5000) and it was based on photogrammetric methods, decided to proceed systematically with the collection of supplementary names and the standardization of all geographical names.

The methodology adopted was the following:

Step 1: On every completed photogrammetric plot at scale 1:5000, all the toponyms were transferred from the cadastral plans that were already approved.

Step 2: An experienced team of cartographers and land surveyors visited the area covered by each photogrammetric plot (1X1.5 Miles), and came into direct contact with the respective Community Authorities and the inhabitants.

Step 3: The Communities appointed their experienced representatives who accompanied the team in the field.

Step 4: A re-verification or correction of the toponyms that already were transferred on the plot was done, and where necessary new toponyms were recorded.

Step 5: After the completion of the field work for every photogrammetric plot, all geographical names were transferred in special lists with their co-ordinates, along with the description of each item.

Step 6: The lists were examined by linguists, who submitted them to the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) for checking and approval.

Step 7: The CPCSGN, proceeded next with the transliteration of the Greek alphabet into the roman system ELOT 743. This system has the advantage of reversibility and can be computerized.

All of the above described toponyms which were gathered in the field by authorized bodies and checked repeatedly, constitute all the official toponyms (Greek, Turkish and other toponyms) of the Republic of Cyprus, which are used by its people. Many of the above geographical names belong to ancient texts from the depths of history and these include works by such notable names as Homer, Herodotus, and Strabon up to ancient cartographers, like Claudius Ptolemaeus and from medieval cartographers, like Ortelius up to the 19th Century (1878) when the British undertook the rule of the island.

8. Standardization of Odonyms

Odonyms (street names) in Cyprus are given and maintained by Municipal and Community Councils. These odonyms, are under the approval of the respective District Officers, which operate under the Ministry of Interior. All official street names are communicated to the Cyprus Permanent Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names, for checking and correction, in order to achieve uniformity all over the island.

The Greek odonyms, as these are expressed with the terms "Οδός/Odos" (Street), Λεωφόρος/Leoforos (Avenue), Πλατεία/Plateia (Square), are all in genitive case. For the Greek odonyms of Cyprus, the following principles are applied:

- All given names are complete (they are not abbreviated), to identify the persons, in honour of whom these are given.
- Names in ancient language are recorded in the genitive case of each ancient name, as it happens with surnames of citizens. The names in modern language are recorded in the genitive case of each modern name.



- c) The transcription to the approved Roman system, where it is applicable, is obligatory.
- d) In the road signs, the Greek names are written on top and the Roman type at the bottom. The Roman transcription is done following each letter of the Greek names. The same principle is followed for foreign names as well. The foreign writing of foreign names is not used on road signs.

9. CPCSGN Editions and Current Activities on Geographical Names

CPCSGN prepared a variety of editions to serve several purposes:

A Booklet/Guide for the Standardization of Names was compiled and published in December 2007. This Guide is in the Greek language and includes a large number of items to cover all the sectors involved with geographical names and is suitable especially for local use and needs. The Committee continues to distribute this booklet to academic institutions, schools, government and semi-government departments, cultural centers, and individuals interested in the topic.

The existing national gazetteers prepared by the CPCSGN in 1982 and 1987 respectively are:

- (i) The “*Concise Gazetteer of Cyprus*” (about 2000 entries)
- (ii) The “*A Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus*” (about 67000 entries)

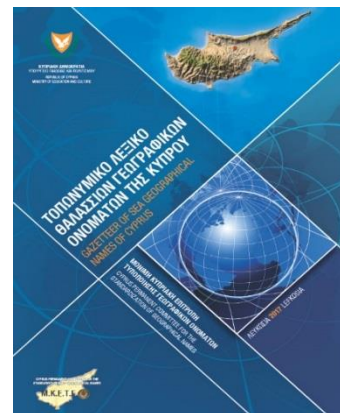
All geographical names and toponyms included in these gazetteers were derived from the official large scale cadastral map series and property registers of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus was digitized, and is currently available on CPCSGN’s website. All cadastral maps of Cyprus have already been digitized and their information was categorized and stored in digital relational databases and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

All geographical names and toponyms were included in a distributed European database named EuroGeonames through EuroGeographics, and they are available on line at:

<http://ec2-50-19-212-160.compute-1.amazonaws.com/EGNoI/>

Additionally, all geographical names and toponyms are included in the geoportal of Cyprus at: www.geoportal.gov.cy. The Geoportal of Cyprus consists of two main parts these being: (a) INSPIRE Spatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal, and (b) DLS Portal (The portal of the Department of Lands and Surveys). Geographical names and other geo-spatial information are accessible on-line for searching, viewing, transformation, downloading, printing, and direct accessing via GIS.

A new edition was recently prepared by the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) entitled: “*Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names of Cyprus*”. The gazetteer was presented and submitted to the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names that took place in New York, in August 2017.



*Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names of Cyprus
Provides on-line access to the sea
geographical names of Cyprus*

This edition is based on a scientific study that was implemented in cooperation, between CPCSGN and the Department of Lands and Surveys, which are the competent authorities for the collection, the processing, the cartographic representation, the standardization, the transliteration, and the protection of the geographical names of Cyprus. The sea geographical names constitute a supplement to the official Gazetteer, that was submitted by the Republic of Cyprus to the 5th Conference of the United Nations for the Standardization of Geographical Names, that was held in Montreal, Canada in 1987. This new edition is a significant contribution to the cultural heritage and the educational system of Cyprus. This book is available for viewing, searching, printing, and downloading on CPCSGN’s website at www.geonoma.gov.cy.

Andreas Hadjiraftis

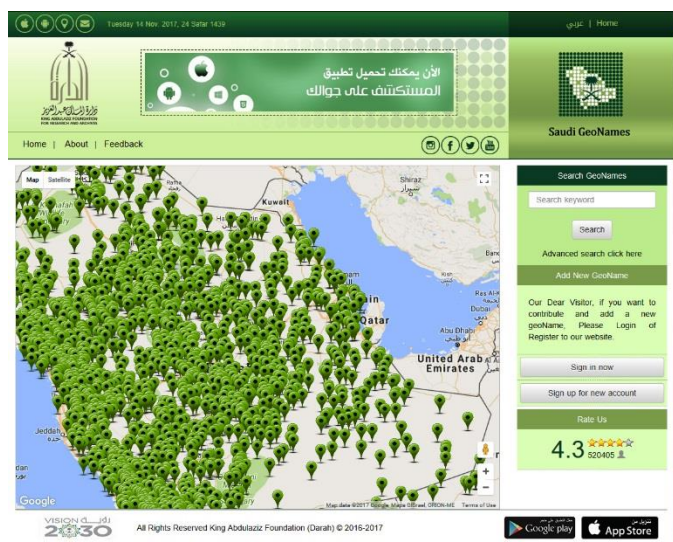
President of Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus

Ag. Chief Lands Officer,
Cartography/Geodesy/Hydrography/Photogrammetry,
Department of Lands and Surveys, Ministry of Interior,
Lefkosia, Cyprus

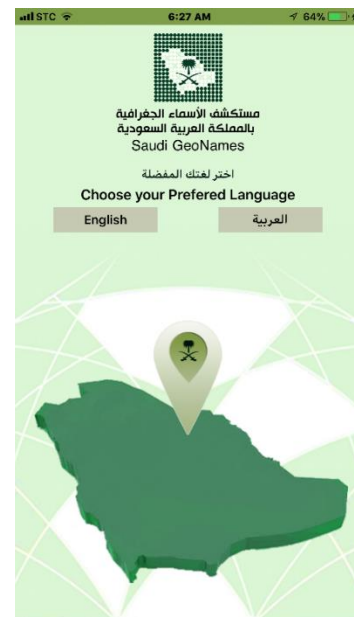
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A website and Smartphones App for Saudi Geonames

In order to achieve and fulfill the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Vision 2030, and of the National Transformation Program 2020; and to fully benefit from services offered by King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archive (KAFRA), the National Committee on Geographical Names in KSA has officially launched the **Saudigeonames gate** in an internet website (www.saudigeonames.com). It has also released a smart phone App on android and iOS, fully compatible with smartphones systems, and designed according to the latest and most up-to-date techniques used in setting up Smart Apps.



We have designed smartphone Apps for download on Google Play & Apple Market enabling users to search for geographical names in the KSA within a database that contains more than 73,000 geographical names, displaying the location of each name on Google Maps, as well as providing a preview detailing other aspects of each geographical name, such as its Arabic and Romanized forms, its situation within various administrative regions of the country, and its genotype, be it residential, agricultural, mountainous, sandy, marine etc., in addition to its coordinates. The App also allows users to add new geographical names by themselves, as well as finding the nearest geographical names to the user and creating a navigational route that leads to it.



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The UNGEGN Family at work and at play

**1989 - UNGEGN Session in Geneva ...
at reception, Canadian Ambassador's
residence**



**1991 - UNGEGN Session in
Geneva ... time off in Les
Diablerets**



**2006- Folk dancing on
Muhu island, Estonia**



**1994 UNGEGN Session in New
York ... three experts finding
their way**



2009 - Nakuru Lake (Nairobi)





2009 – Safar (Nairobi)



2008 - UNGEKN training course in Timoșoara, Romania



2011 - Grinding seeds for lunch



2011 - East Central and South-East Europe Division meeting in



2011 - Group photo with young dancers (Gaborone-Botswana)



2011 - Feldtrip during the workshop at Gaborone-Botswana



**2013 - Meeting of WGs on
Evaluation and Implementation &
Publicity and Funding in Seoul**



**2015 - Florenz during a
division meeting in the
Romano-Hellenic division**



**2013 - All look happy after
the tea ceremony, Seoul
Republic of Korea**



**2017 – “Yankees Stadium:
Yankees vs. Mets”**



2017 – “Park Avenue Run”



**2015 - Training course held
in Tunis from January 12 - 16
2015 (fieldwork in the region
of Ghar El Melh).**



Did you Know ?

Advancing National Standardization

- 2012 First UNGEKN web-based toponymy training. Course created by Convenor of the Working Group on Training courses in toponymy, in association with the International Cartographic Association. Study units can be accessed and downloaded free of charge.
- 2002 - First training course in association with a UN Conference; in Enschede, Frankfurt and 8th Conference. 20 participants from 17 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe
- 1982: First UNGEKN toponymy training course; Two-week pilot programme led by Ferjan Ormeling Snr with BAKOSURTANAL in Cisarua, Indonesia, with 29 participants from eight countries
- 1979: Initiation of "Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use". First guidelines were prepared for Austria, by Josef Breu (WP 5).

Communicating our Results

- 2010 Launch of an online database of UNCSGN resolutions. First database established with English language resolutions; later also in French and Spanish
- 2004 The online UNGEKN World Geographical Names Database was created. It is a multilingual, multiscriptual database of countries and major cities with population over 100,000. the database contains over 2,700 country names, some 6,100 names for 3,362 cities, with more than 970 audio files.

- 2002 UNGEKN website launched, see E/CONF.94/CRP.41. Currently it is the most comprehensive repository of technical information on geographical names.
- 1988 First issue of the semi-annual UNGEKN Newsletter created- later the UNGEKN Bulletin. Based on resolution V/24, 1987; includes training, new publications, regional meetings, major name decisions

Publishing our Results

- 2007 UNGEKN "Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names" published. Covers romanization systems; data transfer standards and country names.
- 2006 UNGEKN "Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names", with part built on *World Cartography Vol. XVIII* published. Contains information on national programmes; selected readings; is available in six United Nations languages
- 1996 UNGEKN handbook "*United Nations documents on geographical names*" published.
- 1984 UNGEKN glossary of terms, "*Glossary No. 330: Technical Terminology employed in the standardization of geographical names*", published by the United Nations.

Outreach to Africa

- 2012 The Gaborone Action Plan on geographical Names Activities in Africa (GAP)-2011, was presented to the Directors General of National Institutes of Statistics in Yamoussoukro. GAP and future plans were first discussed by the Task Team for Africa in Johannesburg.
- 2011 UNECA-sponsored symposium re UNGEKN's work in Africa held in Gaborone, Botswana
- 2009 The first UNGEKN session (25th UNGEKN session) was held in Nairobi, Africa; participation of 138 experts from 22 of 23 UNGEKN divisions
- 2004 Task Team for Africa initiated to encourage toponymic standardization in African countries. The Task Team has participated in organizing training courses, the creation of national names authorities and promotes the role of toponyms in cultural heritage in Africa.



Connecting with other Scientific and Standardization Organizations

- 2011 Initiation of an IGU/ICA commission on toponymy. Preparatory meetings initiated at 26th UNGEKN session, Vienna. Subsequently toponymy sessions held at ICA and IGU conferences
- 2010 Initial move to cooperate with the embryonic UNGGIM. Second Preparatory Meeting of UNGGIM, New York – an overview of UNGEKN mandate and activities presented
- 1979 Observers from international scientific organizations first attend UNGEKN sessions. Later liaison officers, with IHO, SCAR, ICOS, ICA, PAIGH, and ICANN were appointed.
- 1977 Development of guidelines and forms to propose names of undersea features - provided to IHO. UNGEKN Working Group subsequently disbanded; liaison officer retained

UNGEKN's Evolution

- 2016 The first UNGEKN session held in Asia, Bangkok in Thailand; the first UNGEKN session to be streamed live.
- 1972 First UNCSGN hosted by a Member State, in London and first UNGEKN Divisions (14) formed; today there are 24 divisions.
- 1967 First UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in Geneva; Ad Hoc Group of Experts (ECOSOC 1314 (XLIV)) for continuous coordination formed.
- 1959 ECOSOC resolution 715 A (XXVII) creates a working group on geographical names standardization