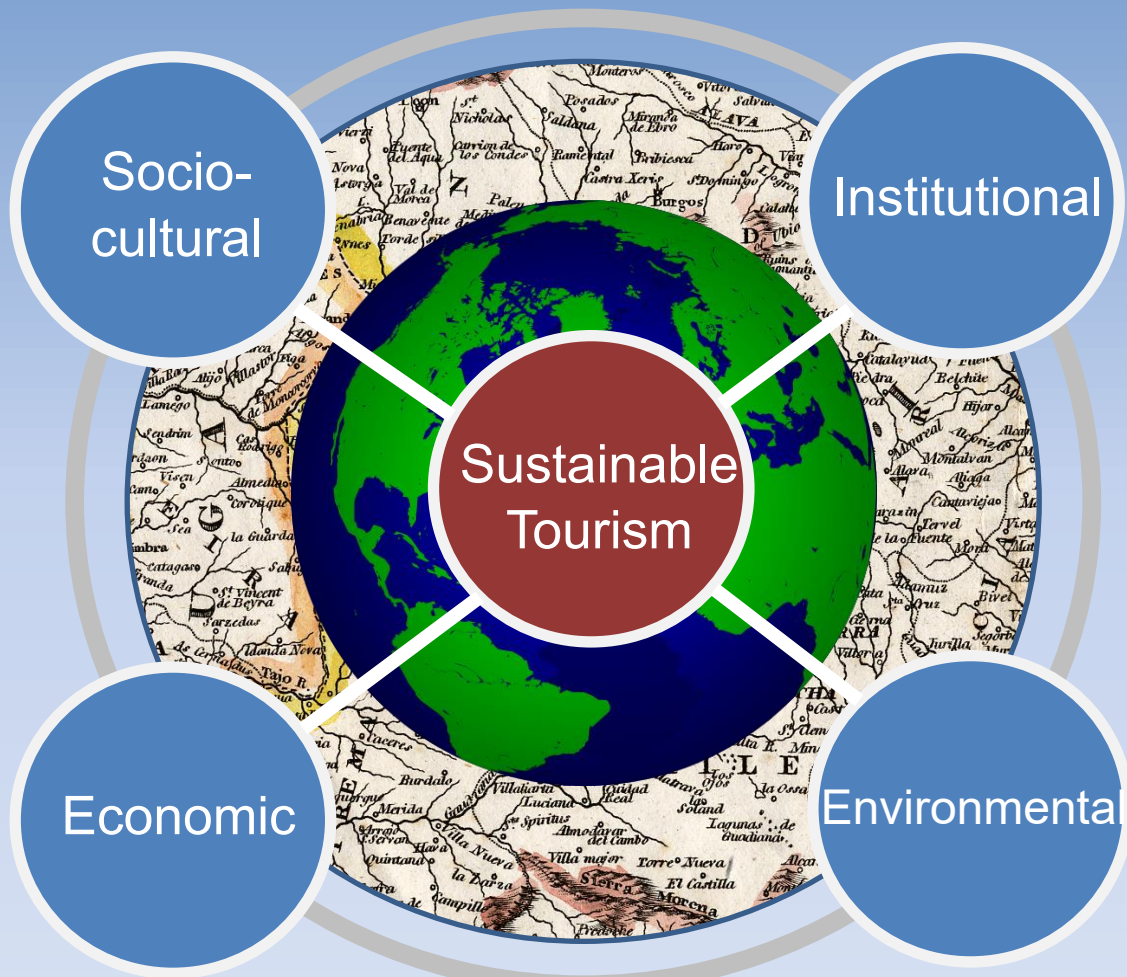




# Geographical Names and Sustainable Tourism





# Table of Contents

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON .....3**

*Reconsidérer notre mobilité..... 3*

*Reconsider our mobility..... 4*

**MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT .....5**

*“Geographical names and sustainable tourism..... 5*

**IN MEMORIAM.....7**

Danutė Janė Mardosienė (1947-2020)..... 7

**SPECIAL FEATURE: GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM.....9**

Place names and tourism – aspects of a dense relationship ..... 9

Names and Places of Sustainable Tourism: Experiences in Colombia ..... 12

Geographical names and sustainable tourism in Cyprus ..... 15

Names for tourists and Czech names..... 17

Danish postcolonial microtoponymy and the ‘threat’ of sustainable tourism–The cases of Tranquebar and the Danish West Indies 19

Geographical names and sustainable tourism in Italy..... 21

The Jordanian National Committee of geographical names: Geographical names and sustainable tourism ..... 24

La importancia de los nombres geográficos aplicados al turismo en México..... 26

Inhambane City History ..... 29

Geographical names and sustainable tourism in New Zealand . 30

**FROM THE COUNTRIES .....32**

Problems of creating the Register of Geographical Names in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ..... 32

Revised Toponymic Guidelines for Norway ..... 33

**FROM THE DIVISIONS .....34**

Latin America Division ..... 34

Norden Division ..... 35

**SPECIAL PROJECTS AND NEWS ITEMS.....36**

A plea for inclusion in geographical names standardization ..... 36

Latvia Celebrates Geographical Names Day ..... 37

The tenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management..... 38

**UPCOMING EVENTS.....39**

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**Secretariat of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**  
**Room DC2-1508**  
**United Nations**  
**New York, NY 10017, USA**  
**Tel: (212) 963-5823**  
**Fax: (212) 963-0623**  
**E-mail: [blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org) ;**  
**[geoinfo\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org)**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

### Reconsidérer notre mobilité

Chers Collègues,

La pandémie actuelle de covid-19 incite à reconsidérer foncièrement notre mobilité. Les restrictions qu'elle a provoquées nous ont rappelé que c'est toute notre vie qui est habituellement en mouvement, dans nos activités physiques, culturelles, familiales, économiques, sociales, politiques, religieuses... Pourtant, ces restrictions ont aussi pu nous faire sentir l'excès que cette mobilité pouvait atteindre dans certains domaines et combien une accalmie pouvait nous être salutaire, personnellement et collectivement.

Ceux qui s'intéressent comme nous aux noms de lieux savent qu'ils sont de puissants vecteurs de voyage pour l'esprit, comme aussi la lecture ou la culture en général. C'est qu'ils concentrent l'essence de langues et de cultures dont ils sont de purs produits, comme les produits agricoles extraient de la nature et concentrent, non seulement des nutriments pour le corps, mais aussi des saveurs pour la bouche, des arômes pour le nez, des sensations pour l'esprit. Leur forme actuelle dénote les circonstances culturelles qui ont marqué l'histoire de ces lieux et l'évolution de leurs noms. Leur étymologie conserve en usage jusqu'à présent des origines souvent lointaines, parfois même protohistoriques. Ils sont en eux-mêmes voyages dans l'espace et dans le temps.

Pour ceux qui les comprennent, les noms de lieux suffisent à rendre présente en pensée la mémoire culturelle des peuples, sans même nécessiter le témoignage matériel des lieux qu'ils désignent. Eux-mêmes se déplacent au gré de la nostalgie de voyageurs ou de colons, ou simplement des références culturelles d'habitants avertis de la vie du monde. Le tourisme même s'en trouve bousculé. Trop souvent, le tourisme de masse altère les lieux qu'il prétend faire découvrir, et y introduit le mode de vie de ceux qu'il veut attirer, dans le but paradoxal de limiter leur dépaysement. Ne vaut-il alors pas mieux apprendre à connaître plus intimement ces lieux ou leurs habitants par l'intermédiaire de quelques témoins privilégiés ?

Bien entendu, ces réserves ne sauraient conduire à condamner tout voyage, qu'il soit touristique ou professionnel. Rencontrer des personnes ne peut se faire à distance. Un succédané tel que la visioconférence a montré ses limites, notamment dans les réunions auxquelles le

GENUNG a été représenté ces derniers mois au sein des Nations unies. S'il peut suffire pour des discussions techniques, il ne faut pas en attendre autant de densité et de nuances que dans des entrevues personnelles ou même dans des débats sur des sujets aussi complexes que les noms de lieux. La communication non verbale est aussi gênée par l'écran que par le masque, et la technique oblige à inventer de nouvelles modalités de prise de parole.



Pour ces raisons, la forme de notre prochaine session ne sera décidée qu'en début d'année prochaine, en fonction de l'évolution de la pandémie. Si la session peut se tenir physiquement à New York, la visioconférence devrait aussi permettre d'accueillir, même dans des conditions moins favorables, des experts de pays moins souvent présents les années précédentes. Voilà qui renforce notre impatience à échanger nos expériences de normalisation des noms de lieux et nos façons d'affronter les questions qu'elle pose. Les résumés des documents correspondants doivent être reçus avant le 22 janvier 2021 dans l'une des six langues officielles des Nations unies pour pouvoir être traduits dans les cinq autres. Quelle qu'en soit la forme, la session reste en effet prévue du 3 au 7 mai 2021.

En attendant, je souhaite à chacun, à vos familles et à vos collègues, de joyeuses et saines fêtes de fin d'année.

**Pierre Jaillard (France)**

Président du GENUNG

Mél : [pierre@jaillard.net](mailto:pierre@jaillard.net)



## Reconsider our mobility

Dear Colleagues,

The current Covid-19 pandemic prompts us to fundamentally reconsider our mobility. The following restrictions remind us that it is our whole life that is usually in motion, in our physical, cultural, family, economic, social, political, religious activities... However, these restrictions could also make us think of the excesses that this mobility can reach in some fields and how beneficial a lull could be for us, personally and collectively.

Those who, like us, are interested in geographical names know that they are powerful vectors of travel for the mind, as well as reading or culture in general. This is because they concentrate the essence of languages and cultures of which they are products, like agricultural products extract from nature and concentrate, not only nutrients for the body, but also flavours for the mouth, aromas for the nose, sensations for the mind. Their current form denotes the cultural circumstances that have marked the history of these places and the evolution of their names. Their etymology preserves in use until now often distant origins, sometimes even protohistoric. They are themselves travels in space and time.

For those who understand them, place names are enough to make the cultural memory of peoples present in thoughts, without even requiring the material testimony of the places they designate. They themselves move according to the nostalgia of travelers or settlers, or simply the cultural references of inhabitants aware of the world's life. Therefore, tourism itself is shaken up. Too often, mass tourism alters the places it claims to introduce, and brings in the lifestyle of those it wants to attract, with the paradoxical aim of limiting their change of scenery. So, isn't it better to get to know these places or their inhabitants more intimately through a few privileged witnesses?

Of course, these reservations cannot lead to condemn all travels, whether touristic or professional. Meeting people cannot be done from a distance. A substitute such as

videoconferencing has shown its limits, particularly in the meetings at which UNGEGN has been represented in recent months within the United Nations. While it may be sufficient for technical discussions, it should not be expected to provide as much depth and nuance as in personal meetings or even in debates on such complex subjects as geographical names. Non-verbal communication is as hampered by the screen as it is by the mask, and technology forces us to discover new ways of speaking.



For these reasons, the form of our next session will not be decided until early next year, depending on the evolution of the pandemic. If the session can be physically held in New York, videoconferencing should also make it possible to welcome, even under less favorable conditions, experts from countries less often present in previous years. This reinforces our eagerness to share our experiences with geographical name standardization and our ways of dealing with the questions it raises. Summaries of the corresponding documents must be received by January 22, 2021 in one of the six official languages of the United Nations in order to be translated into the other five ones. Whatever the form, the session remains indeed scheduled from May 3 to 7, 2021.

In the meantime, I wish everyone, your families and colleagues, a happy and healthy New Year.

**Pierre Jaillard (France)**

*Chair, UNGEGN*

*E-mail: [pierre@jaillard.net](mailto:pierre@jaillard.net)*



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

### “Geographical names and sustainable tourism”

Dear UNGE GN Experts,

Accurate geographical names benefit all aspects of our lives, with tourism being one such area. The term “sustainable tourism” is defined by the World Tourism Organization as “development that meets the needs of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. It is envisaged as leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems.” It tries to achieve a balance between the growth potential of tourism and the conservation needs of the environment. Further sustainable tourism is intrinsically linked to sustainable development, given that tourism is one of the most powerful industries in the world and the main “resources” that it uses in its development are the most beautiful natural, cultural and historical places in the world.

It is argued that the definition is sufficiently flexible to enable a variety of interpretations and is said to include issues concerned with rural development, ecotourism, environmental impact, cultural and natural heritages, urban development, alternative tourism, indigenous people, wildlife, and natural parks among others. The definition in and of itself implicitly suggests that geographical names are intrinsic to sustainable tourism, not only in the naming of tourism attractions, and places of interest but also in addressing issues of cultural and natural heritage, and indigenous people, which are key areas of work for toponymists.

In this issue we received ten themed contributions from our members in Austria, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Mozambique and New Zealand which provide readers with a rich mix of perspectives that embodies the wide interpretation of the meaning of sustainable tourism and also exemplifies its relevance to geographical names standardization. While I enjoyed reading all ten articles, three were noteworthy from my perspective, the first one was “*Place names and Tourism - aspects of a dense relationship*”, by Peter Jordan, the second is a well-researched and written article on the “*Danish postcolonial microtoponymy and the threat of sustainable tourism.*” and New Zealand’s, for which I share with you the very apt concluding paragraph:- “... recognizes

*the importance of restoring and preserving geographical names. Its work seeks to tell our stories past and present, and to give us the social connection and identity we need to help us protect all that is symbolically and materially associated with those names places. The goal is a sustainable future that forms part of our national identity.”*

Also included in this issue of the Bulletin are the standard divisional and working group reports and a few articles from Member States. I wish to draw your attention to Peder Gammeltoft’s article “*A plea for inclusion in geographical names standardization*” in the Special Projects and New Item section. Over the past eight months governments across the world have not only had to manage the COVID-19 Pandemic but also the issue of equality and race relations. In the United States there has been increasing advocacy to have names of buildings, places of interest and roads among other geographical features changed to achieve racial justice. Peder’s article makes a call for more to be done on having inclusion at all levels of standardization from the state to the individual, where the naming process is fair and democratic. Also included in the Special Projects section is a brief report on the tenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, which was held in a scaled down virtual format, consisting of three two-hour informal meetings, on 26-27 August and 4 September 2020. The tenth session of UN-GGIM provides a body of practice from which UNGE GN may adopt some features for its second session.

#### ***Preparations for the second session of the “new” UNGE GN***

As you may be aware, the second session of the “new” UNGE GN is scheduled to be convened from 3 to 7 May 2021. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated limitations on meetings at UNHQ have continued in the latter part of 2020. It is to be anticipated that limitations will continue in 2021. The Bureau with the support of its Secretariat in the UNSD is committed to ensuring that the second session will be take place, as it is imperative that the important work of the “new” body continues. The UNGE GN Bureau is monitoring the situation and on consultation with its parent body ECOSOC, hopes to



be able to inform UNGEGN representatives on the mode of the session in early 2021.

In preparation for the session we are kindly asking our experts to note the following dates regarding the submission of documents (country reports, divisional reports, working group reports and technical papers). The **deadline for the submission of document summaries is 22 January 2021**. These summaries are requested early because they are to be translated to the UN working languages. Summaries received after this date will not be translated and therefore issued in the language received. The deadline for the submission of complete documents is 15 March 2021. Formal document guidelines for the session will be issued in the next few weeks. We also kindly ask that when submitting documents please state the agenda item, (see page 16/18 of the [first session report for the provisional agenda](#)) the relevant Conference resolution (if applicable) and whether the paper is for information or discussion.

UNGE GN representatives are encouraged to monitor the second session webpages on the UNGEGN website [UNSD – United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](#) for updates on the preparatory activities. The Secretariat is committed to keeping members informed on format, modality, organization and preparation of the second session over the next months in a transparent manner.

### ***Preparation of the UNGEGN Draft Strategic Plan and Programme of Work***

The Bureau and Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank the 20 Member States and three international organizations for contributing to the second consultation exercise on the draft Strategic Plan. Please note that all your comments and edits were welcomed and considered by the Bureau.

The intention is to conduct a third consultation which is expected to begin at the end of January 2021, when the next version of the Draft Strategic Plan in addition to the draft Programme of Work will be circulated for your comments and feedback. The Bureau looks forward to having your input and support throughout all phases for the preparation of the draft Strategic Plan and Programme of Work, which is to be submitted to the Group of Experts at its second session in May 2021.

### ***General Remarks***

A big thank you is extended to all our contributors to this issue and to Andreas Hadjiraftis of Cyprus for designing the front page. States Members of national institutions responsible for geographical names are reminded to submit their information for the UNGEGN 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: [UNGE GN-ICA webcourse on Toponymy](#). 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 Bulletin number 60, to be circulated in May 2021 under the theme "Minority names and geographical names in a multilingual setting", are welcomed. Please circulate the bulletin among your colleagues and we hope you enjoy reading. Remember to tweet your geographical names activities [@UNSD\\_GEGN](#). Please stay safe and healthy, and I do hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

***Cecille Blake***  
*UNGE GN Secretariat*  
*E-Mail: [blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org)*

## IN MEMORIAM

### *Danutė Janė Mardosienė (1947-2020)*

On August 19, 2020, our professional society lost a professional cartographer, former employee of the National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, Danutė Janė Mardosienė. She was buried on August 22 at Stakliškiai Cemetery.

Danutė Janė Žiūkaitė-Mardosienė was born in Prienai district countryside. In 1965–1970 Danutė studied geography (cartography) at Vilnius University Faculty of Natural Sciences. After graduating from the University, in 1970, she began working in the Engineering Photogrammetry Laboratory of Vilnius University Faculty of Natural Sciences, that features photogrammetrically mapping cultural heritage monuments of Lithuania and neighboring countries (Latvia, Belarus) and creating a photogrammetry archives. With good professional preparation since 1975, Prof. V. Chomski has been invited to teach cartography disciplines to students of the same faculty. Since 1980 as a responsible executive and later Head of the topics, Danutė mapped Lithuanian dynamic natural objects. The first objects were Vilnele and Neris river Great Outcrops, Lake Drūkšiai and Elektrėnai Water Storage, Kaunas Lagoon, the Baltic Sea Coastal Dynamic Zone, Curonian Spit Half-House Dunes. During the decades of field mapping practice, Danutė perfectly mastered the mapping techniques, mapping, atlas and printing technologies of various objects, their editing and adjustment.



In 1990, Danutė was invited to work as Chief cartography specialist of the Department of Natural Resources of the Lithuanian Geodesy Service. Later, after the establishment of the State Surveying Service under the Ministry of Construction and Urban Planning, she became Head of the Cartographic Division of this Service. On its initiative, the archives of geodesy and cartography were taken over from the Baltic Territorial Inspection Inspectorate in Riga in 1991.



In 1993, she organized the signing of a technical and economic assistance agreement with the Swedish Satellitbild Corporation for the conclusion of the 1:50 000 scale of the space video digital map of the territory of Lithuania. On her initiative, aerial photography work was launched on the territory of Lithuania for the production of topographical and thematic maps. Since 1994 Danutė led the production of topographical map M 1:50 000 according to NATO standards. These topographical maps for national defence were one of Lithuania's contributions to NATO. These maps were highly positively assessed by specialists from the US Image and Mapping Agency NIMA (formerly the US Defence Agency for DMA). 1994 Danutė curated Lithuanian national atlas preparation work.

Since 1995, she continued topographical and navigational mapping work in the territory of Lithuania, taking into account the needs of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, ministries, government institutions and other users. In the mapping section, problems were solved in the production of topographical, space image, air navigation,



demarcation maps of the state border, territorial sea of the Republic of Lithuania, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf charts. In 1997, after the reorganisation of the State Office of Land Management and Surveying, Danutė continued working at the State Geodesy and Mapping Service under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Together with other employees, she drafted the Law on Geodesy and Mapping of the Republic of Lithuania and other legislation.

From 2001 to 2012, Danutė worked at the National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, where she focused on the application of modern technologies in mapping, the establishment of the Lithuanian National Atlas, the renewal of the mapping programme of the territory of Lithuania, the economic zone and the continental shelf, and the development of technical regulations for surveying and cartographic. She led the scaling of 1:250000 aeronautical maps according to NATO standards and the production of digital orthophotographic maps, that are used as a cartographic basis for the development of thematic maps. From 2002 to 2007, Danutė was elected President of the Baltic Branch of the United Nations Expert Group on Geographical Names. Under the leadership of the Baltic Section, together with other specialists from the State Lithuanian Language Commission and other institutions, she represented Lithuania in New York, Berlin, at the sessions and conferences of the United Nations Expert Group on Geographical Names (UNGE GN) held in Vienna, and presented reports on the work done in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in the fields of national

standardisation of geographical names. In 2007, together with representatives of the responsible authorities of other countries she participated in the work of the European Project on the Normalisation of Geographical Names (EuroGeoNames) in Madrid.

Danutė was not only concerned about her direct work, but she also actively participated in the activities of the Lithuanian Society of Cartographers, the Lithuanian Geographical Society, the Lithuanian Photogrammetry and Distance Research Committee. Danutė was awarded with various awards and appreciation documents from the State Surveying and Mapping Service under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Agriculture and other institutions for her fair and long-term work in organizing mapping works on the territory of Lithuania. She was a great example of a person's abilities and scope of activities when there is a strong belief and purpose in the work.

On behalf of UNGE GN Baltic Department, colleagues from cartography and toponymics fields from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, we express our deepest condolences to Danutė's family, friends and former colleagues.

**Jurgita Špūraitė** ( [Jurgita.Spuraite@nzt.lt](mailto:Jurgita.Spuraite@nzt.lt) )  
**and Ramūnė Žygaitė** ( [Ramune.Zygaitė@nzt.lt](mailto:Ramune.Zygaitė@nzt.lt) ),  
*Department of Geodesy and Land Use Control,  
Division of Geodesy and Real Property Cadastre*





# SPECIAL FEATURE: GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

## Place names and tourism - aspects of a dense relationship

**R**elations between place names and tourism are manifold and specific because tourists are non-locals visiting a place for special purposes such as recreation, entertainment, cultural edification or shopping. Therefore, they benefit from and react to place names differently from locals. The following short treatise will highlight some aspects of this relationship without claiming to be exhaustive. It will also try to assess, whether and in which ways standardization of place names could be helpful.

### 1. Place names establish an emotional relation between tourists and places.

"Naming turns space into place" as Bill WATT puts it (WATT 2009: 21), when place is regarded as a section of geographical space to which a person or a community has developed closer relations. This applies to tourists, who know a certain destination already because they have, e.g., spent a vacation there, as well as to potential visitors knowing the place only from the media or from narrations. In the first case reading, hearing or memorizing the name reminds them of sights, persons, events, smells, sounds associated with this place and lets "the feel of the place" arise as Yi-Fu TUAN calls it (TUAN 1977). It may also stimulate them to return. In the latter case tourists derive their emotional ties to the place from what they learned about it through education, the media, and touristic advertising.

### 2. Place names are promoted as brands for tourism destinations to strengthen their identity and attractiveness.

This ranges from using prominent autochthonous names in local use for tourism promotion across inventing names conveying the impression of being autochthonous up to the creation of fancy new names or names hinting at the assets for tourism.

In Austria as a prominent tourist destination examples of all these categories can be found. Zillertal or Salzkammergut, e.g., are traditional local and standardized names used as tourism brands. Kaiserwinkel in the province of Tyrol [Tirol] represents the rather rare case of a name invented as a tourism brand and later standardized as a region name due to its descriptive character and accordance with local naming traditions.

**Sportwelt Amadé** ('Sports World Amadé') is a fancy invented brand for a winter sport region comprising several valleys and mountain ranges with traditional names in the federal province of Salzburg but without a common local name. The name alludes to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Salzburg's all-time hero, and arouses associations with Salzburg's cultural image.

**Karnische Skiregion** ('Carnic Ski Region') is again the invented touristic name for a skiing resort in Carinthia [Kärnten] at the border with Italy, which has locally and traditionally been known as *Nassfeld* ('wet field', in Friulian/Italian *Pramollo*). As the traditional name seemed not to be sufficiently attractive for tourism promotion, it was replaced by a name referring to the local mountain range (Carnic Alps [Karnische Alpen/Alpi Carniche])

and the touristic offer (skiing). The name achieved some prominence but did never replace *Nassfeld* in local use and has more recently almost been abandoned in favor of the old name due to (a) the strong persistence of the old name in local and regional use, (b) the fact that skiing is not as fashionable anymore and gave way to a wider scope of winter sports.

The invented name *Vulkanland* ('Land of the Volcanoes') for a tourism region in Styria [Steiermark] alludes to the volcanic past of the region, where volcanoes existed in remote geological times.

Standardizing invented tourism brands (e.g. *Sportwelt Amadé*, *Karnische Skiregion*, *Vulkanland*) may be regarded as inappropriate due to their basically flexible and temporary character. They correspond to tourism trends and a touristic offer that may change. An exception are descriptive names conforming to local traditions (e.g. *Kaiserwinkel*).

### 3. Maps for hiking and mountaineering frequently use dialect or indigenous name versions with the intention of facilitating communication with the local population.

These name versions are, however, usually not written in (popular) standard orthography and thus not always correctly interpreted by map users. This results in misunderstandings and ambiguities. Taking also into account that locals are usually not used to find their dialect names in dialect orthography would suggest that standardization means in this context not to present dialect names on maps at all or to present them at least in standard-language orthography. Exceptions could be accepted if a popular standard orthography of the dialect exists. To avoid distorted name rendering, reference to sources with linguistic expertise could also be helpful.

### 4. Place names of linguistic minorities can enhance touristic attractiveness.

Tourists are usually looking for the 'other' and feel attracted by culturally specific situations. Bi- or multilingual place names in public space and a corresponding linguistic landscape in general indicates cultural variety and may thus be regarded as an asset for tourism. Cases in point are the German-speaking "linguistic islands" in northern Italy (Fig. 1). It happens, however, that minorities feel that their language was less prestigious and thus less appropriate for the tourism business than the majority language. This results in top tourism destinations, where the minority is virtually invisible in the linguistic landscape. A case in

point is the Carinthian lake district in Austria, where the minority language Slovene is only represented by mandatory signs. It could be a task for standardization authorities to encourage minorities not to hide away their language (and presence) from tourists.



Fig. 1: Road sign hinting bilingually a.o. to Sauris/Zahre, a German linguistic island in northern Italy (Photo: Peter Jordan 2006)

### 5. Street names and place names on road signs are converted from non-Roman into Roman script to make it international tourists comfortable and facilitate their orientation.

This practice extends from just script conversion to also translating the generic into the first international trade language English. Cases in point are Russia, China (Fig. 2), Japan (Fig. 3) and the Republic of Korea. While this pleases without any doubt international tourists, it would mean going far to elevate this practice to the status of an international standard, if the importance of script for cultural identity is taken into account. Standardization would in this context rather mean to apply UN-recommended conversion systems.

### 6. Road signs along highways and in border regions announcing destinations in other countries vary in using endonyms and exonyms.

Signs of this kind address a substantial share of international travelers and tourists suggesting that the endonym has precedence over the exonym, since it cannot be expected that foreign travelers are acquainted with the exonyms used in the country they are crossing. Practice in this respect, however, strongly varies even only within Central Europe ranging from showing the exonym in the first position with the endonym following (Fig. 4) via the opposite sequence up to presenting exclusively the endonym (Fig. 5). Standardization would be very necessary in this truly international sphere of traffic, inspired by the guideline to give precedence to the endonym with the exonym eventually appearing in brackets.

### 7. Railway schedules use endonyms.

This is already the usual practice and very much in line with the requirements of international tourists, who cannot be expected to be experts in exonyms (see item 6). Standardization is already well advanced.



Fig. 2: Road sign in Beijing with place names converted to Roman script (Photo: Peter Jordan 2013)



Fig. 3: Street sign near Narita (Japan) with the place name converted and the generic translated (Photo: Peter Jordan 2013)



Fig. 4: Road sign along a Hungarian motorway close to the Austrian and Slovakian borders with the Hungarian exonyms in the first and the endonyms in the second position (Photo: Peter Jordan 2006)

### 8. Airport flight schedules and displays usually prefer English exonyms for air destinations (in the application mode of international names).

English is the language of international air traffic, and in consequence air destinations and airports are defined by their English exonym, which acquires in this function the additional quality of an international name in the sense of a name applied by international organizations for their specific purposes. Usually, this results in the use of exclusively English exonyms in flight schedules and displays (Fig. 6). Rather exceptionally airport flight schedules add the exonym used in the country where the airport is located. Standardization in this field is thus already well advanced.

**9. When tourist destinations are advertised at their generating markets, the choice between endonym and exonym is guided by the consideration which method would promise the better results.**

On this background the use of a popular exonym may be a favorable choice even in cases where this exonym is regarded as historical and/or in other contexts not politically welcome in the destination country. This applies, e.g., to the famous Czech spa Karlovy Vary, when it is advertised on German-speaking markets by its German exonym (and historical endonym) *Karlsbad*, because this name conveys all the splendor of this spa's proud history. The same is true for the Croatian seaside resort Opatija, which developed in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century to Austria-Hungary's most prominent seaside resort under the name *Abbazia*. Interference of standardization into these marketing considerations would very likely not be very successful.

**10. Explaining street names and mentioning former names is a method of getting tourists interested in a place.**

This applies especially to commemorative street names in the sense of names reminding of persons, institutions and events. Mentioning, e.g., the merits of the person commemorated by a few lines offers a glimpse into local history that may be interesting for tourists. If the name of a street has frequently changed – as it occurs mostly to main streets and main squares – it can be very elucidating (related to political history) to see all the name changes with their dates listed on the same or an additional plate as this is, e.g., practiced in the Romanian city Braşov/Brassó/Kronstadt (Fig. 7). However, the practice of adding explanations needs not to be confined to commemorative street names but can be extended also to descriptive. Thus, it may be interesting for tourists (and locals) to find below the street names *baker street* or *butcher street* that this was the street, where earlier in history all the bakers and butchers were accumulated. It would be a valuable effort of standardization authorities to encourage this kind of practice if commemorative naming cannot be avoided.

**Peter Jordan**

Honorary Chair, Austrian Board on Geographical Names

Email: [Peter.Jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:Peter.Jordan@oeaw.ac.at)

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Fig. 5: Road sign in Czechia near to the Austrian border with only the endonym (*Wien*) used for Vienna (Photo: Peter Jordan 2006)



Fig. 6: Display at the Warsaw airport with all flight destinations indicated by their English exonym (Photo: Peter Jordan 2007)



Fig. 7: Street-name plate in Braşov/Brassó/Kronstadt (Romania) explaining the commemorative name and reminding of former names of this street (Photo: Peter Jordan 2016)

# Names and Places of Sustainable Tourism: Experiences in Colombia

## Introduction

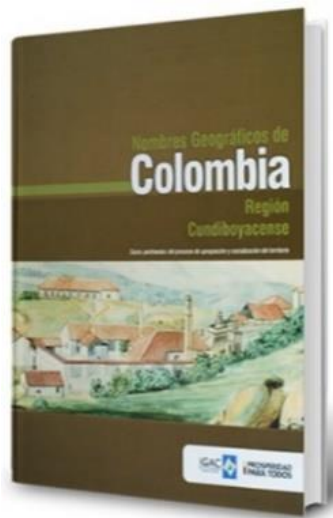
Geographical Names in Colombia have been used since pre-Hispanic times and reflects the cultural identity, heritage, and landscape. Knowing the history of a place through its geographical name forges the sense of belonging and cultural root and identity, and therefore the assessment of places as heritage livelihoods of local communities and actors. This has strengthened sustainable tourism as an alternative to development, to reduce social and territorial inequalities.

Thus, IGAC as Colombia's geographical authority advances research on geographical name documentation and sustainable tourism to provide basic information for decision-making, public policy formulation and territorial development planning.

## 1. Geographical Names Within the Framework of Sustainable Tourism

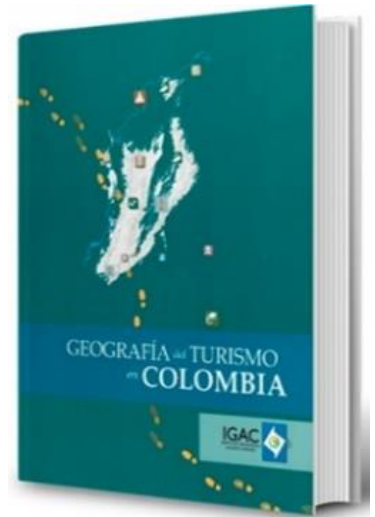
IGAC has among other functions "[...] to draw up the official map of the Republic and territorial entities,[...] establish, maintain and manage the database of the country's official geographical names or place names and develop, publish and disseminate Colombia's geographical dictionary" (Congreso de la República de Colombia, 2011). The IGAC is also, responsible for the documentation and investigations of geographical names and carry out other geographical research to support territorial development.

The publication "Geographical Names of Colombia: Cundiboyacense Region" (IGAC, 2015) documents geographically, historically and linguistically the names of the municipalities of this region. The geographical name becomes interesting when studied for its meaning, motivation, and conditions under which it was designated. These elements are important, as they promote the recognition of local places and tourism, strengthen the relationship of the inhabitant with the visitor, support the



endogenous development and protection of natural and cultural wealth.

"The Geography of Tourism in Colombia", is a research publication (IGAC, 2018) that changes the perspective of tourism understood as an economic activity and transcends its understanding as a spatial phenomenon and social practice. It proposes to turn its gaze to local tourism and the sense of place, which in turn leads to the exaltation of geographical names and displays them as an essential element for the preservation of cultural heritage and development framed in sustainability.



## 2. Sustainable Tourism Experiences

Initiatives are promoted by the public sector<sup>1</sup> and private organizations on behalf of civil society. Differential ecotourism and landscape recovery, among others, are economic options for communities to assume the management and development of tourism and in turn its benefits. In this context, geographical names are important as an element bestowing identity to places. Below are three experiences of the Cundiboyacense region with the respective allusion to the origin of the geographical name of the place.

### 2.1 Community Ecotourism: El Cocuy National Natural Park

It is a cooperation among local leaders from two municipalities in the department of Boyacá: El Cocuy and Güicán, whose geographical names are related to the Tunebo-Muisca family. The Cocuy toponym is a zootoponym from the Cocuyo insect; term that designates a snowy saw; sacred territory for the U'wa community, a people of the Muisca family, also called "those who fly, dance and light at night" such as the Túnaba or Cocuyos. The origin of the toponym Güicán corresponds to an onomatoponym, a name with which the territory was known upon the arrival of European explorers, refers to the territory dominated by the chief of the time.

<sup>1</sup> En Head of Colombia's National Natural Parks and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism

Ecotourism has generated a social fabric between the two municipalities through the association Asegüicoc, a purely community-based organization, made up of 18 families who work for organized, planned and directed tourism within the park.



*PNN El Cocuy (Photo: Angela Castro, 2015)*

## 2.2 Civil society initiatives

The Colombian Network of Natural Reserves of Civil Society (Resnatur) is a non-profit association, made up of people who have voluntarily declared their rural properties as natural reserves of civil society (RNSC), to stimulate processes of use and sustainable management of biological diversity, construction of social fabric and alternative life and development models. These initiatives include differential ecotourism and landscape recovery:

- **El Páramo Nature Reserve: Differential Ecotourism**  
Situating at La Concepción Piedra de Sal vereda, in the municipality of Guasca (Cundinamarca), bordering the PNN Chingaza. Its geographical name, Guasca, is derived from the voices of the muisca language guajuca-guahuca-guasuca, which express "skirt of a hill", "skirt of a mountain" and represent a toponym.

This sustainable tourism experience focuses on wildlife rehabilitation and conservation of high-altitude biodiversity. In addition, it promotes environmental education and contributes to the conservation of highly endangered species, such as the Andes condor and the spectacled bear.

- **Rogitama Nature Reserve: Landscape Recovery**

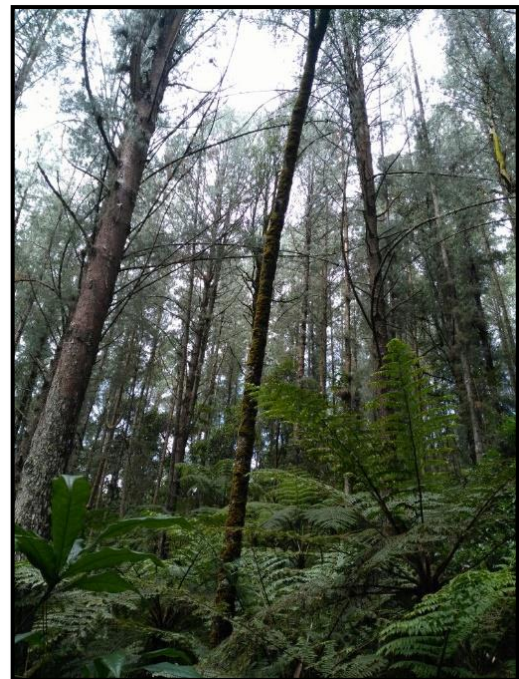
This is a development from the Andean Oak conservation corridor of the department of Boyacá, on the Peñas Blancas vereda, municipality of Arcabuco. The name Arcabuco is considered a physiotopeponym, due to the physiographic conditions of the sector. The place name corresponds to a word of Taíno origin, the language of the Arawak family.

Arcabuco means " tangled bushes ", " Mount very thick and closed " .

Its main objective is to redevelop a farm that had been used for livestock rearing for more than 50years. Beginning in the eighties, the transformation began, and it is now the home of one of the best recovered oak forests in the country.



*Bird Conservation\_ El Páramo Nature Reserve (Photo: Angela Castro, 2016)*



*Mixed Forest Rogitama Nature Reserve (Photo\_IGAC 2016)*



Map – PNN Colombia

**Conclusion**

Given the importance of geographical names in different territorial processes, their study allows us to recognize the cultural and ethnic wealth of an area. Similarly, sustainable and community tourism practices strengthen local identity and preserve the intrinsic value for the individual, favoring economic growth of a territory's economic activities.

The case of the Cundiboyacense region is just one of many in Colombia, where sustainable local development initiatives and practices focused on the protection and recovery of natural, historical and cultural heritage, represented through their Geographical Names, are implemented.

**Dolly Elizabeth García Muñoz** ([dolly.garcia@igac.gov.co](mailto:dolly.garcia@igac.gov.co))  
**Yury Dhusley Estrada Tobar** ([yuri.estrada@igac.gov.co](mailto:yuri.estrada@igac.gov.co))  
**Eucaris Tatiana Machado Vidal** ([eucaris.machado@igac.gov.co](mailto:eucaris.machado@igac.gov.co)),  
**Ilda Marcela Bernal Cuesta** ([ilda.bernal@igac.gov.co](mailto:ilda.bernal@igac.gov.co))  
**Luz Angela Castro** ([lucastro@igac.gov.co](mailto:lucastro@igac.gov.co)),  
 Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute – IGAC

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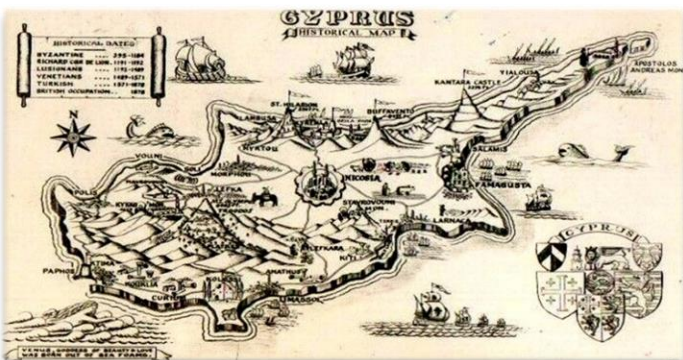
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## Geographical names and sustainable tourism in Cyprus

The tourism industry is one of the most important economic activities in Cyprus. The number of tourists visiting Cyprus is approximately four times that of the permanent population. The growing tourist activity puts considerable pressure on the island's environment and infrastructure. The Government works to promote and adopt the principles of "sustainable and green tourism" and "blue development" in the tourism product offered, principles that can bring multiple benefits to both the economy and the environment.

Sustainable Tourism is good for business and is the key to the future. The number of consumers who are demanding a more sustainable and caring world has increased exponentially over the last few years.



Historical Postcard - Tourist Map of Cyprus, 1950

Tourism in Cyprus is today at the crossroads of economic, social and environmental considerations and goals, and all three need to be balanced. The industry needs to be economically viable, ecologically bearable and socially acceptable. Sustainable tourism development and management refer to the environmental, economic and socio-cultural aspects of tourism, with the establishment of a suitable balance between these three dimensions, to guarantee its long-term sustainability. Within these aspects, institutional criteria must exist for regulating this balance. Thus, sustainable tourism should make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development, respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, and ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing social and economic benefits to all stakeholders, and contributing to poverty alleviation.

### Environmental Criteria

These criteria include the protection of sites, wildlife and flora; the selective sorting and management of waste; water, energy consumption and natural resources management, the management of pollution, transport, the impact linked to the number of tourists, the raising of customer consciousness, the architecture best suited to the environment and the climate, and the restoration of sites.

### Social and Cultural Criteria

Tourism products should be designed in a way that avoids negative cultural changes which lead to a loss of cultural heritage, social instability and the decline of living conditions. Cultural

changes are not completely preventable, but tourism should not overrun local societies with technological innovations and social upheavals. The disturbance of local structures should be kept to the lowest possible extent. Geographical names reflect the cultural and natural heritage of the country. The sustainability of the tourism industry can only be assured through maintaining the natural, social and cultural values of regional areas that rely on tourism industry.

### Financial and Economic Criteria

Economic sustainability should be considered in advance, i.e. the economic profitability of the state, of a firm, of an association, or of tourist projects/products. The financial aspect entails a customer component which should include reasonable prices that customers are willing to pay, customer satisfaction often linked to the price paid; percentage of the price settled invested in local development projects, integration of holiday packages in the local economy, and economic fallouts for the locals.

### Institutional Criteria

These criteria are harder to define as they are not tangible. They deal with anything associated with forms of laws, regulations and practices. These include governmental, corporate, or general attitudes by community members. The institutional aspect has the ability to improve, or impede tourism activities.



Criteria of sustainable tourism including among others geographical names in the socio-cultural component

The countryside in Cyprus is blessed with natural and artificial beauty with a rich historical heritage. The unique natural environment of Cyprus is complemented by the traditional villages and its architecture that gives a special character and always welcomes visitors in the traditional warm Cypriot way. Such an environment gives a peaceful harmony between people and nature, something that can be felt as soon as someone arrives in Cyprus, and this is one of the main reasons why visitors come to Cyprus. In this kind of environment, the visitor comes in contact with hospitable locals from traditional villages, both mountainous and coastal, experiences the simple and peaceful life, learns old folk customs, becomes a part of the surrounding life and peaceful nature, and completes the experience. The traveler enjoys the unique traditional food and drinks of the island. Observing this new trend of vacationers, the Cypriot Government has implemented a program to restore traditional villages and houses to boost agrotourism (*the business of providing holidays for people on*



farms or in the countryside) in Cyprus and help it thrive. Agrotourism has become an important part of Cyprus tourism and attracts more and more visitors every year. In having something different to the holiday stereotype, the visitors encounter many rich and varied experiences in agrotourism, enjoy the aromas of nature life and wonderful scenery, visit the monasteries both ancient and modern, walk on nature trails, admire the archeological sites, examine the wealth of geographical names, and elevate their spirit through a real life country experience. In the world of traffic, stress and noise, travelers find in Cyprus' agrotourism the relief and rejuvenation they need.

A negative social impact of tourism that can have significant consequences is culture clashes. Because tourism involves movement of people to different geographical locations, cultural clashes can take place as a result of differences in cultures, ethnic and religious groups, values, lifestyles, languages and levels of prosperity.



*Geographical Names and Sustainable Tourism in Cyprus*

The geographical names of Cyprus are an important part of the cultural and natural heritage of the island. Each geographical name can be seen as a title of a story revealing some aspects of the cultural or natural heritage of the country. The cultural mosaic of Cyprus is illustrated by names of historical importance which are based on historical events, religion, tradition, ownership etc.

**Examples:**

**Historical:** Petra tou Digeni (Dhigenis' stone), paleokastras (old castles), petra tou romiou (romio's stone), venetokremmos (venetian cliff), kamini skotomenou (dead man's kiln).

**Religious:** Geographical names dedicated to Virgin Mary: Theoskepasti, Chrysospilotissa, Trooditissa, Panagia, and Faneromeni, Saints: Agios Georgios (Saint George), Agios Nikolaos (Saint Nicholas).

**Traditional:** Komodromos (blacksmith), vrysi tou gerou (old man's fountain), spilios tou listi (robber's cave), papmatades (quilt makers), kamilopetra (camel's stone).

**Ownership:** Alonia tou piskopou (bishop's threshing floors), kampos tou Giakoumi (Giakoumi's plain), neron tou Thoma (Thoma's water), kapsalia tou Markou (Marko's fields of trees and wood that have been burned by fire).

Many geographical names suggest physical characteristics of the landscape.

**Examples:** Kremmos (cliff), laxia (ravine), kokkinogi (red land), eleokambos (olive tree plain), korfi (mountain peak), ammovouno

(hill of sandy soil), lakkovounia (mountainous land with cavities), etc.

The geographical names are shown in tourist maps, tourist leaflets, websites, and mobile applications, which can be easily accessed by tourists.



*Sample Tourist Maps of Cyprus - Today*

Geographical names in Cyprus are not just words on maps and signs, but vital communication tools that reflect patterns of settlement, exploration, migration, and the country's heritage that may otherwise be overlooked by residents, visitors, and future generations. Consistency and accuracy are essential in referring to places in the community to prevent confusion in everyday business and recreation.

The cultural heritage of Cyprus is probably the most important living treasure of its people. It is through this that its identity can be expressed, and an awareness of its historical continuity through time can be created. The island of Cyprus is an open-air museum, where one can visit prehistoric settlements, classical Greek temples, roman theatres and villas, early Christian basilicas, byzantine churches and monasteries, crusader castles, gothic cathedrals, Venetian fortifications, Moslem mosques and British colonial-style buildings.

Cyprus is also famous for more than just its history: it also boasts myriad myths and legends. Some of these were borrowed from other cultures, while others originated on Cypriot soil. Many of them were passed down orally and were written down much later, thus accumulating varying details.

The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names recognizes the great importance of geographical names, which are an inseparable part of cultural heritage, and play a significant role on the sustainable development of the country.

**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*

Email: [ahadjiraftis@dls.moi.gov.cy](mailto:ahadjiraftis@dls.moi.gov.cy)



## Names for tourists and Czech names

The name in our state that attracts tourists the most is the capital's name. But tourists travel "nach Prag" or "to Prague", some "в Прагу", others go "à Prague" or "a Praga". However, our capital city is called Praha ['praha] in the Czech language. Though this endonym is not used in promotional materials published in foreign languages by Czech Tourism. Other names of tourist destinations are stated in Czech, therefore endonyms are used, including special (diacritic) characters in the Czech alphabet (Třebíč ['třɛbi:tʃ], Písek ['pi:sek], Kutná Hora ['kutna: 'hora] etc.).

An interesting situation occurs with the name of our state. Since the state did not support the short name of the state for a long time, the designation Czech Republic (Česká republika) was used both officially and unofficially. For many years, the use of the name Czechia (Česko) has been promoted as the official short name. At first, the name Česko was codified, but it took another 10 long years before official places began to use and promote the name Czechia (in other languages Tchèque, Tschechien, Чехия,捷克, Cheqia, تشيكي).

The use of the English adjective "Czech" on some products, sports jerseys, souvenirs and so on has a somewhat peculiar effect on English speaking people and probably does not contribute to the best image of the Czech Republic, when an adjective is used in descriptions instead of an expected noun.

Another argument against the name "Czechia" was its resemblance to the English "Chechenia" (Čečensko, Čečna). However, confusion may also occur with other names such as Slovenia-Slovakia, Lithuania-Latvia, Bucharest-Budapest. The possibility of confusion cannot restrict the use of the correct name, which originated at the beginning of the modern era and was used in Latin texts. The name "Czechia" has been documented at least

since the year 1598 in Latin (Davide Crinito Nepomucio de Hlavaczova Dominicanus, Hortulus Animae) and since the year 1625 in English (Peter Heylyn, Microcosmos. A little Description of the Great World. Oxford).

The most frequent exonyms used for Czech cities are the following: Plzeň ['plzɛn], České Budějovice ['tʃɛskɛ: 'bu:ɛjovitʃɛ] and Karlovy Vary ['karlovi 'vari].

Plzeň is still known worldwide for its production of quality beer Plzeňský Prazdroj (Pilsner Urquell) and is a cultural centre with several monuments and at the same time an industrial agglomeration (Škoda). The German exonym "Pilsen" is used for "Plzeň" in both German and English texts. In promotional materials from Pilsen, other names are translated into English, such as the names of streets and squares: Náměstí Republiky (Republic Square), watercourses: Mlýnská strouha (Mill race), buildings: Dům U Červeného srdce (House by the Red Heart), Císařský dům (Imperial House) or structures: Morový sloup (Plague Column).

Like Plzeň, České Budějovice (Budweis in German and often in English) is also known for the production of Budějovický Budvar (Budweiser Budvar). City guides also use some translations of the streets and squares: Piaristické náměstí (Piarist Square), buildings: Dominikánský klášter (Dominican Monastery), Wortnerův dům (Wortner House), structures: Železná panna (Iron Maiden), Černá věž (Black Tower), Samsonova kašna (Samson Fountain).

The most famous spa town is Karlovy Vary ['karlovi 'vari]. The German name Karlsbad is often used. Other names are translated such as roads: Jánský most (Jánský Bridge), colonnades: Mlýnská kolonáda (Mill Colonnade), Tržní kolonáda (Market



Praha, Prague Castle and Vltava River. (Photo: Irena Švehlová)



Colonnade), buildings: Alžbětiny lázně (Elizabeth Baths), U tří mouřenínů (At the Three Moors), structures: Jelení skok (Deer Jump Lookout), Goetheho vyhlídka (Goethe's Lookout) and also springs: Hadí pramen (Snake Spring), pramen Karla IV (Charles IV Spring). In Karlovy Vary we can also find translation exonyms in Russian, for example Mlýnská kolonáda (Мельничная колоннада) and in other languages (Arabic and Chinese).

Among all the mentioned places we can find the largest number of exonyms in German, which is related to the historical settlement and the role of German as an official language in some periods of our history.

Another interesting example is Lednice [lednitse] (Eisgrub in German), where the attractiveness is related to the entire cultural and historical lednicko-valtický areál (Das Areal Lednice-Valtice in German, Lednice-Valtice Area in English). Lednice targets information more towards German-speaking tourists, an English version of sites and promotional materials from the whole area deal mainly with the castle and entertainment in its vicinity. On the other hand, the castle's website also contains English translation exonyms for buildings and structures in the landscape: Janohrad also called Janův hrad (John's Castle, Янов град in Russian). Also mentioned are Polish translation exonyms for buildings: Maurský dům also called Maurská vodárna (Dom mauretański)

and structures: Jubilejní fontána (Fontanna jubileuszowa), Tři Grácie (Trzy Gracje). The translation into Russian is interesting. The name of the structure "Grotta", derived from the Italian name "grotte" meaning cave (similar to the French "grotte") is translated by a description Искусственная сталактитовая пещера, even though there is a Russian term "грот".

There are many interesting places and tourist destinations in Czechia, only some were mentioned. Authors, especially of translated exonyms, are trying to better describe interesting places for tourists. With the help of created names, they describe places and bring them closer in their language. Exceptions are the above-mentioned German names, which were variants of Czech names in a certain period of our history. Today, these names are historical and their use is limited to the mentioned materials intended for foreign tourists.

**Irena Švehlová**

*Secretary Commission on Geographical Names, Czechia*

*Email: [Irena.Svehlova@cuzk.cz](mailto:Irena.Svehlova@cuzk.cz)*

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## Danish postcolonial microtoponymy and the ‘threat’ of sustainable tourism-The cases of Tranquebar and the Danish West Indies

In spite of its rather limited size in terms of both area and population, Denmark is among the European nations to have held several colonies around the world. The nature of these colonies covered a variety of forms, from mere trading stations in India (1620-1845) and slave ports in Ghana (1659-1850) to larger colonies of slave-based plantations in the Caribbean (1672-1917), and Arctic fishing and hunting communities in Greenland (1721-1953). In all these places, the Danish colonial administration introduced a number of place-names in its own language. In some of the colonies, this included an extensive microtoponymy in the form of urban street names.

When the Indian colony of Tranquebar (Tharangambadi) was sold to the British in 1845, it came with at least thirty streets and lanes within its urban walls named in Danish (e.g. *Strandstræde*, *Østergade*, *Hvilestræde*, *Prins Jørgensgade* and *Endeløsstræde*). To little surprise, the new British administrators saw little use in maintaining the Danish microtoponymy with its challenging pronunciations, and the streets of Tranquebar were soon renamed in English, some as direct translations (*Kongensgade* > *King Street*) others with entirely new meanings (e.g. *Købmagergade*, ‘Merchant Street’ > *Goldsmith Street*). A rather creative solution was found for *Dronningensgade* (‘Queen Street’), which was translated into the hybrid Indian-English name *Rani Street* (*Rani* being the female form for ‘princely ruler’).

A different scenario took place when the Danish West Indies in the Caribbean was sold to the USA in 1917, to become the US Virgin Islands (USVI). In the three major towns of the islands – Charlotte Amalie (St. Thomas), Christiansted and Frederiksted (St. Croix) – not only the names of the towns themselves, but also their Danish microtoponymy were maintained by the new American authorities. Names like *Commandantgade oven Vandet* and *Wimmelskaftsgade* could hardly have possessed a much lesser challenge to American tongues than what the British had met in Tranquebar. Plans for a reform was in fact promoted by a local committee in Charlotte Amalie in 1922 already, in which new colloquial names in English were suggested for all the town streets – with both the practical concerns and a wish to get rid of the colonial legacy embedded in the names as the explicit motivation (Knud-Hansen 1922). However, the proposed reform was dismissed by the American authorities, apparently to acknowledge the toponymy’s value as cultural heritage. The transfer of the West Indies had been a protracted and troublesome process, with significant diplomatic efforts on both sides, which besides the end price of the islands (\$25 million in gold dollars) had led to an extensive contract of transfer agreements, in which the USA promised to honour various cultural and societal aspects of the former Danish citizens on the islands (Tansill 1932). The toponymy was not mentioned among the concerned issues, but it may be that the American lawmakers nevertheless did not want to risk a complaint on the matter from the Danes, which could lead to new diplomatic tensions between the two nations.



*All the three main towns of US Virgin Islands still have many Danish street names, even if these – quite understandably – occasionally offer some challenges to the local sign-making authorities. This is, for instance, seen in Charlotte Amalie, where Prindsess Gade (from Da. Prinsesse Gade, ‘Princess Street’) and Torre Strade (from Da. Torve Stræde, ‘Market Lane’) have developed some peculiar spelling forms compared to Danish orthography in both 1917 and today.*

*Photo by Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen*

In 1993, a new attempt was made to reform the challenging street names in Charlotte Amalie, and this time it led to a compromise, in which secondary names in English were added to some of the primary ones in Danish (Daily News 1993). As in the case of Tranquebar, the solutions differed from direct translations (*Kongensgade* > *King Street*) to entirely new names (*Dronningensgade* > *Seventh Day Street*). I am not aware if reform plans have been discussed for the towns of Christiansted and Frederiksted on St. Croix, but here secondary names in English have been added to the Danish ones as well, although here almost exclusively as direct translations (*Compagniets Gade* > *Company Street*; *Dronningens Tværgade* > *Queen Cross Street*).



Several urban street signs in the US Virgin Islands both have an official Danish name and a secondary colloquial name in English. The latter can either be a direct translation of the Danish name (as Kongens Gade / King Street in Frederiksted, St. Croix) or a completely alternative name (as Dronningens Gade ('Queen Street') and Seventh Day Street in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas).

Photo by Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen.

The risk of a diplomatic crisis between Denmark and the USA in case of a full abandonment of Danish street names in the USVI is hardly a matter of concern today. The Danish colonial heritage is, however, still present in the historical and cultural awareness of the local USVI-authorities as well as among many individual Virgin Islanders, of whom several still hold Danish family names. But apart from the introvert aspect of maintaining the street names as a part of the islands' cultural heritage, an extrovert economic motive has emerged as well in recent years: tourism. For the significant number of American mainland tourists coming to especially St. Thomas, the curious Danish microtoponymy may be seen as an extra, exotic flavour to the Caribbean attraction in general. But within the last couple of decades, a growing number of Danish tourists have turned their attention to the islands as well, attracted by the offered combination of Caribbean lifestyle with a national-romantic Danish colonial past. Around the time of the 'Transfer Centennial' in March 2017, the attraction even led to several weekly, direct flights between Copenhagen and the USVI, and especially Christiansted on St. Croix was in periods turned into a virtual Danish holiday centre. Without doubt, the presence of Danish street names in the USVI towns – even put on street signs in a classic shape and colour recognised from Copenhagen – plays a significant role in the 'colonial nostalgia' enjoyed by the Danish tourists.

Thus, most local lawmakers around the world would think twice before starting to alter anything which appears to bring in tourists – even if it means that the local community have to endure peculiar street names with difficult pronunciations and obscure meanings. But things change all the time. While the devastations of the hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017 and the on-going COVID-19 pandemic may only have put serious, but relatively short-termed stops to the stream of Danish 'colonial tourism' to the USVI, the new and apparently more long-termed effect of 'sustainable tourism' may show more fatal for the former Danish West Indies' prospects of rebuilding its 'pre-Irma' attraction to Danish tourist families. Time will show if such a possible decline in Danish tourists across the Atlantic Ocean will also lead to a diminished USVI motivation to maintain its Danish street names.

**Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen**

Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Email: [jggj@hum.ku.dk](mailto:jggj@hum.ku.dk)

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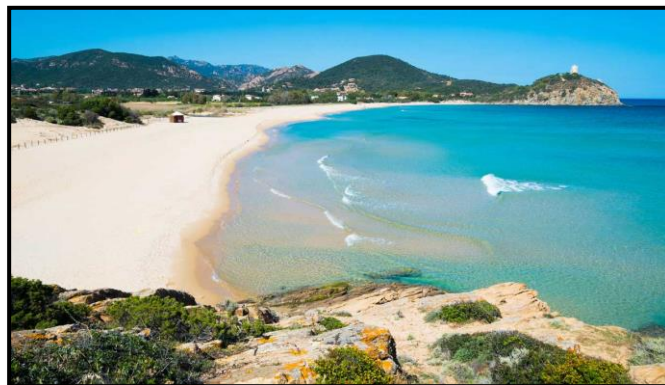
Knud-Hansen, K. (1922): *Report: Commission for re-naming the streets of the town of St. Thomas, V.I., U.S.A.* (St. Thomas).

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## Geographical names and sustainable tourism in Italy

The aim of our paper is to choose the names of places particularly significant for the quality of tourism, according to the following parameters: The name must describe the peculiar aspects of the area or landscape; respect the physical, natural, social environment; must be a didactic guide for the younger generations; must not be a museum.

**Domus de Maria** is a municipality in the Province of South Sardinia, southwest of Cagliari. South of the village, near the coast of Chia, the ruins of the ancient Punic-Roman city of Bithia stand out. Ptolemy lists in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Book of *Geography* the Bithia portus and oppidum coordinates and in Pliny the Elder it is an island *civitas*. Since 1933, archeological surveys highlight the site's accessibility. The name Bitias is a Punic name<sup>2</sup>. In 2017, the coast of Chia was declared the most beautiful beach in Italy. *Legambiente* and *Goletta Verde* assigned it a high value of sustainability, for renewable energy, respect for land consumption, reduction of plastics and traditional food. But the coast, as shown in the photo, has deteriorated from too many constructions.



Coast of Chia

Courtesy of <https://siviaggia.it/viaggi/fotonotizia/10-spiagge-top-sardegna/183453/attachment/la-spiaggia-di-chia-a-domus-de-maria-cagliari-e-la-piu-bella-ditalia/>

**Supramonte di Orgosolo** is located in Sardinia extending over an area of more than 3,300 hectares. It is an uncontaminated landscapes of rare beauty, characterized by impressive karst phenomena with sinkholes like *Su Sielhone*. In 1989, it was declared a "Natural Monument" by the Sardinia Region. Furthermore, one of the last strips of "Primary Forest" in Europe still exists in the area, the centuries-old holm oak wood of *Sas Baddes*. It is characterized by holm oaks, holly, badgers, maple, junipers and numerous endemic plants such as rose peony, *Alyssum tavolarae*, *Ephedra nebrodensis* and *Cerastium supramontanum*.

In the '50s, for its extremely harsh living conditions the Orgosolo society was so very interesting from a historical and ethno-anthropological point of view, that in 1961 was recorded in a film entitled *Banditi a Orgosolo*. Owing to its harshness and inaccessibility the territory can be frequented by trekking lovers only.



Supramonte, Sas Baddes

Courtesy of <https://www.sardegناسacra.it/le-meraviglie-del-supramonte-di-orgosolo/>



Supramonte, Su Sielhone

Courtesy of <https://www.sardegnaturismo.it/it/esplora/su-suercone>

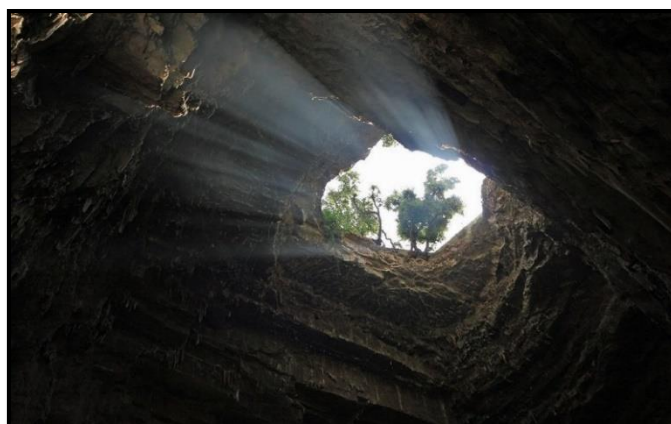
The **Castellana Caves** are a karst cave system of speleological and tourist interest in the municipality of Castellana Grotte, in Apulia. They are 3,348 meters in length and a maximum depth of 122 meters from the surface. The Castellana Caves show the most striking aspects of the Apulian karst and, since their opening to the public, have attracted more than 17 million visitors from all over the world.

<sup>2</sup> The Punic origin of the name could be compared to the Phoenician proper name Bithyas, with different variations (Wagner, 1955, 84-85. Re-edited by Paulis, 1951, 143). According to other scholars, the name derives from the nuraghic term Bitie, which means witches, according to the example of the Pythia, the prophetesses of the temple of Delphi (Pittau, 1997, 41). For place names of Proto-Sardinian origin, see also De Felice (1962-63), 91-109.

The *Grave* and the *White Grotto* are very suggestive to visit. Furthermore, in the town of Castellana Grotte, the speleological museum Franco Anelli, the discoverer of the Caves, was opened in 2000. Guided tours, interactive workshops, and speleological tours inside the caves are offered to pupils and students. One of these initiatives is speleojunior "that gives students the opportunity to feel the emotion of the darkness and to learn the most secret features of the caves".<sup>3</sup> The Caves of Castellana are part of the FAI initiative: *The Places of the Heart*.



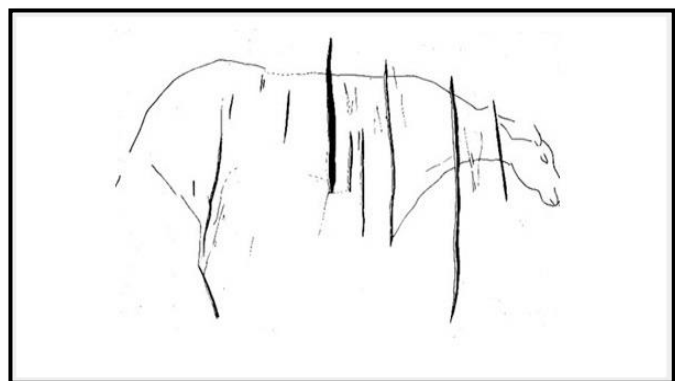
Caves of Castellana, the White Grotto



. Caves of Castellana, the Grave. Courtesy of <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=53655049>



. Balzi Rossi, The Caves. Courtesy of Di Lemone - Opera propria, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3714488>



. Balzi Rossi, The graffiti of the horse Courtesy of <https://www.musei.liguria.beniculturali.it/musei?mid=403&nome=museo-preistorico-dei-balzi-rossi-e-zona-archeologica>

The complex of **Balzi Rossi caves** (Ligurian: *Baussi Russi* "Red Rocks"), close to the Grimaldi hamlet of Ventimiglia, preserve numerous artifacts from the Paleolithic. It is made up of about fifteen caves in dolomitic limestone rich in iron minerals, whose red color named the place. The lithic Paleolithic artifacts go up between 230,000 and 10,000 years ago. Numerous burials, such as the famous triple burial, an adult *Homo sapiens* and two young men, and female figurines (the so-called Venus) were found. The parietal incision of a wild horse in the Caviglione cave is of exceptional importance. The engraving, one of the rare examples in Italy of Paleolithic rock art, has become the symbol of the *Balzi Rossi* exhibited in the homonymous museum.

**The Ear of Dionysius** is a man-made large grotto, carved in the limestone, in the **Parco Archeologico of Neàpolis**, near Siracusa. The grotto has a funnel-shaped section. The lateral walls converge at the top like a virtual Gothic cathedral. The cave shape can amplify sounds to a remarkable extent.

According the myth, the Syracuse Tyrant Dionysius could overhear the conversation of war prisoners through a small hidden opening at the top of the cave, even when they whispered. The Ear of Dionysius was named possibly by Michelangelo da Caravaggio who, in 1608, observed that entrance of the grotto vaguely resembled a human ear. But the speech understanding is disturbed by excessive reverberation. Since the "tourists near the observation opening could understand a speaker from every location at the level of the floor of the grotto... but the intelligibility of whispered speech remains a puzzling question" (Iannace et al., 2010, Vol. 1, 535-542). Guy de Maupassant, in the book *Journey to Sicily*, tells of a visit to this place.

**Civita di Bagnoregio** is a **small Etruscan town**, in the Province of **Viterbo**. It is located on a tuff cliff that overlooks the "Badlands Valley". Rio Chiaro and Rio Torbido, coursing through the valley, and atmospheric agents have disintegrated Civita from the bottom up. The population of 3,000 during Middle Ages now been reduced to a few dozen. For that it is named "the dying town". In 1695, an earthquake cut it from Bagnoregio, to which it is now connected via a footbridge. The *dying city* has become an attractive tourist center since the years 2007/2008, reaching a million tourists in 2019. With the proceeds of the entrance ticket, local and health service have

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castellana\\_Grotte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castellana_Grotte)

been improved. But this overtourism accelerated its degradation. "From 2015 to 2020, visitors walking on Civita's unpaved central square eroded 12 inches of soil. Before the influx, the square had been stable for 1,000 years" (Combs, 2020). Probably, a sustainable tourism must regulate the number of accesses with a ticketing system to monitor the number of tourists.



. The Ear of Dionysius. Courtesy of  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Currently, Civita is pursuing a UNESCO world heritage designation and is part of the FAI's "Places of the Heart" initiative with 7,500 votes in 2020. The choice of names was made, in addition to the parameters already exposed, on the basis of the following criteria: the limited frequency of tourists, who carefully respect the sustainability of places and the marked naturalistic and cultural identity. The criteria of environmental and cultural sustainability are constantly monitored by public and private agencies. But these names are not yet included in the UNESCO's list.



Civita di Bagnoregio. Courtesy of  
<https://civitavecchia.portmobility.it/it/fantastica-civita-di-bagnoregio-10-foto-che-ve-la-faranno-amare>

### **Cosimo Palagiano**

*Emeritus Professor at Sapienza University of Rome,  
IGU Chair of the ICA-IGU Joint Commission on Toponymy  
Email: [cosimo.palagiano@uniroma1.it](mailto:cosimo.palagiano@uniroma1.it)*

### **Lamberto Lesti**

*University of Cassino  
Email: [papared@tiscali.it](mailto:papared@tiscali.it)*

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# The Jordanian National Committee of geographical names: Geographical names and sustainable tourism

### Introduction:

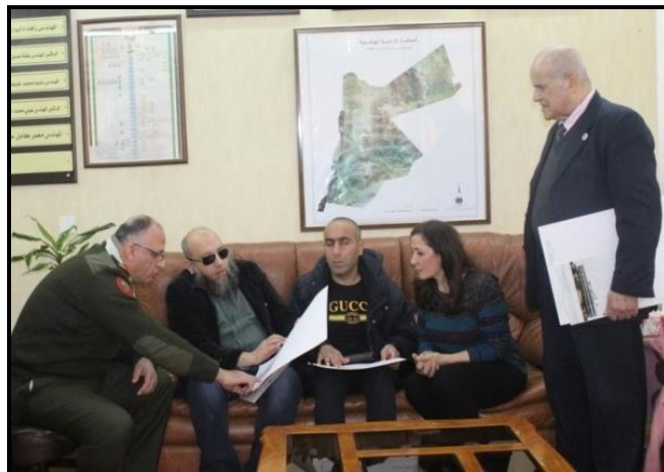
In the past, present, and future, the significance of geographical names has motivated most countries in the world to employ extraordinary care and devote committees, or associations, to contribute in preserving geographical names for their value.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan remains as an example of the first Arab country in this field. In 1984, the Cabinet sped to issue a decision to form a committee to review the geographical names. The committee extended its work, developed and provided all ministries and foundations that deal with geographical names with information, through the National Committee of Experts on Geographical Names – as it is known today. The Committee is a part of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC), is chaired by the Director-General of the RJGC and operates under the umbrella of The Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names.

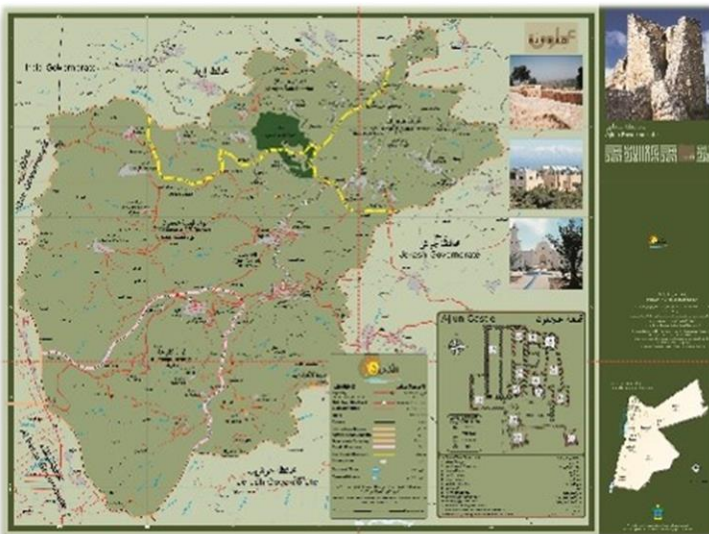
### Key Activities

The National Committee of Experts on Geographical Names held several meetings in which all ministries and government institutions supported the need to refer to the National Committee of Experts on Geographical Names in all respects to geographical names and to adhere to the unified Arab romanization system, which was adopted under decision XI/3. at the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in New York in 2017.

The RJGC produces topographic and tourist maps that contain geographical names which is reflected in the perpetuation and indexing of the geographical names of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Recently, the RJGC has designed maps for the blind illustrating the geographical names in Braille system to make it easier for them to engage in society.



A visit with the Cultural Forum for the Blind Association Jordan



Tourist map - Ajloun - Jordan

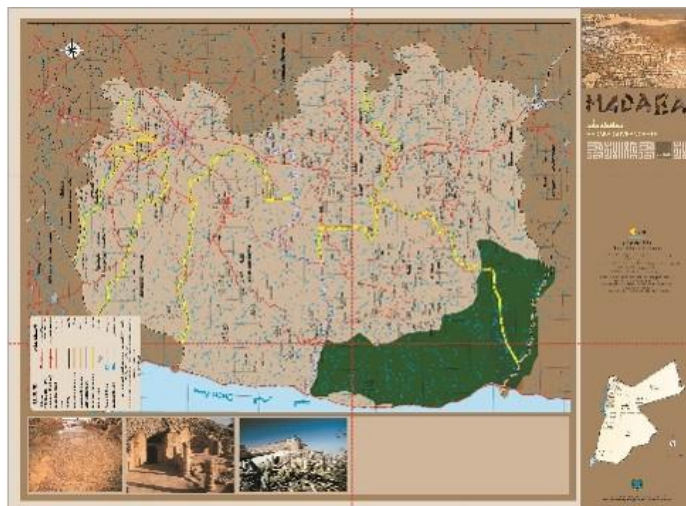
Geographical names in tourism are of great importance, where it helps to introduce the tourist to a delightful tone and easy way on the entirety of archaeological and sites of tourist interest. The aim is to make it easier for the tourist to determine the schedule of visits to the sites in the country depending on the distance between the archaeological and the place of residence, as well as the budget allocated for this trip, in addition to the time spent in the country. The tourist map contains many different things of interest to the tourist besides archaeological and tourist sites of interest. A tourist trip does not take place properly without information of the availability of tourist facilities, transportation, museums, cafes, cinemas, shops, additional places of interest, as well as the countrymen, etc. Therefore, tourist maps help tourists to know everything they need in the country.

Some maps display tourist information on archaeological and tourist sites, as well as information related to location and distance. Such information is important in guiding the tourist to





determine his destinations and give him a preliminary idea of which locations to visit. Information on health stations is provided in the event of a health emergency, where hospitals and health centers are constantly available, in addition to giving an idea of the location of police stations in the state or city. All these things are regularly needed by tourists.



Tourist map - Madaba - Jordan



Tourist map - Jordan trail

Geographical locations and names continue to hold an essential and indispensable role in the creation of extensive plans for cities, municipalities and villages and are also relied upon in many areas, such as studies in urban, industrial, agricultural and environmental planning, as well as expansions of public utilities such as telephone, water, gas, electricity, sanitation and other areas. In turn, it leads to promote the sustainable and comprehensive development of these areas, which urges investors to invest in these areas, therefore, these areas will grow in both aspects of tourism and economy.

**Mu'ammr Kamel Haddadin**

Director General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center,  
Chairman of the Jordanian National Committee of geographical names  
Amman - Jordan  
Email: [rjgc@rjgc.gov.jo](mailto:rjgc@rjgc.gov.jo) ; [m.haddadin@RJGC.GOV.JO](mailto:m.haddadin@RJGC.GOV.JO)



Special maps for the blind

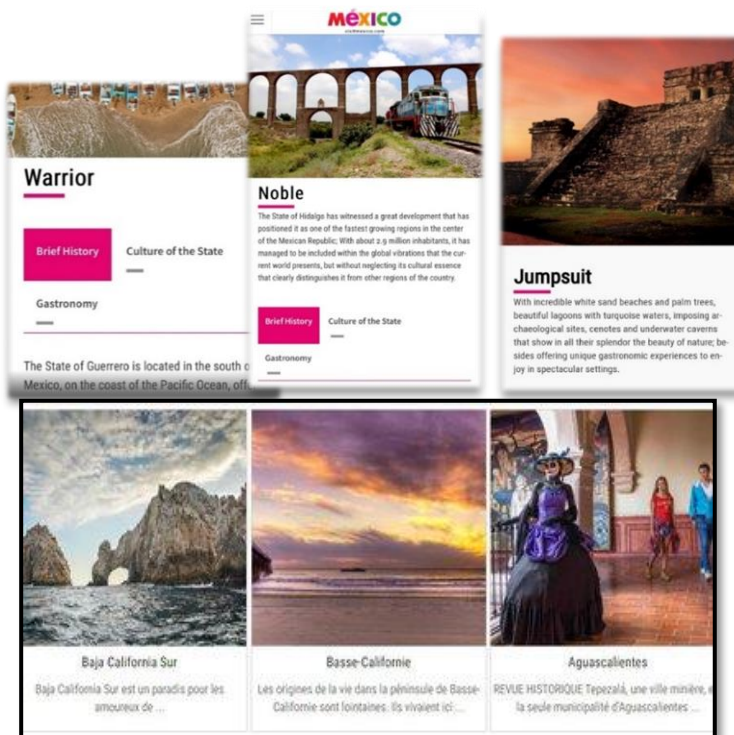
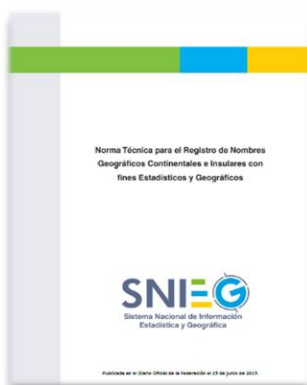


# La importancia de los nombres geográficos aplicados al turismo en México

52 años del inicio de la recopilación del inventarios de los rasgos culturales y lugares del territorio mexicano, la Dirección General de Geografía y Medio Ambiente del Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) ha elaborado la cartografía nacional en distintas escalas, en donde los nombres de los objetos geográficos resaltan por su importancia histórica y dan a cada lugar un reconocimiento cultural que los convierte, por su ubicación geográfica, en una fuente de suma importancia del turismo nacional e internacional.

## Normalización de nombres geográficos

Desde 2015 y conforme a las recomendaciones del UNGEGN, el INEGI emitió la Norma Técnica para el Registro de Nombres Geográficos Continentales e Insulares con Fines Estadísticos y Geográficos (NTRNGCI), como parte de la normatividad para el funcionamiento del Sistema Nacional de Información Estadística y Geográfica. Esta norma tiene por objetivo crear y establecer las disposiciones para el Registro de Nombres Geográficos (RNG), incluyendo los nombres geográficos de origen, derivados de las 68 lenguas indígenas que existen dentro de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, mismos que se registran de acuerdo con su expresión escrita, aun cuando no se ajusten a las reglas del idioma español. El RNG<sup>4</sup> y el Archivo Histórico de Localidades Geoestadísticas<sup>5</sup> son pieza fundamental en la conservación y difusión de los topónimos normalizados.



Errores de traducción en páginas web

## Errores de traducción en páginas web

Recientemente, la página web [visitmexico.com](http://visitmexico.com) presentó una serie de inconsistencias en nombres de varios destinos turísticos que fueron traducidos de forma literal, tanto en idioma inglés como en francés, lo que provocó preocupación entre el sector turístico, sabedores que esta página es visitada a nivel internacional, contraponiéndose a la normatividad establecida sobre el tema.

Entre los errores con mayor impacto se incluyen los siguientes:

Nombre geográfico normalizado	Traducción (inglés)	Traducción (francés)
Baja California		Basse-Californie
Guerrero	Warrior	Guerrier
Hidalgo	Noble	Noble
Nuevo León	New Lion	
Torreón	Turret	
Puerto Progreso	Progress	
Tulum	Jumpsuit	



Centro histórico de Oaxaca

<sup>4</sup> INEGI - Registro de nombres geográficos continentales e insulares con fines estadísticos y geográficos - <https://www.inegi.org.mx/app/geo2/cng/>

<sup>5</sup> INEGI - Archivo histórico de localidades geoestadísticas - <https://www.inegi.org.mx/app/geo2/ahl/>



La NTRNGCI es muy clara al respecto:

Artículo 3.- La presente Norma Técnica es para fines estadísticos y geográficos, así como, de observancia obligatoria para las Unidades del Estado que intervengan o participen en las actividades de asignación, uso y manejo de los nombres geográficos continentales e insulares de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, realizadas por sí mismas o por terceros cuando las Unidades del Estado les encomienden dichas actividades.

México, Patrimonio de la Humanidad

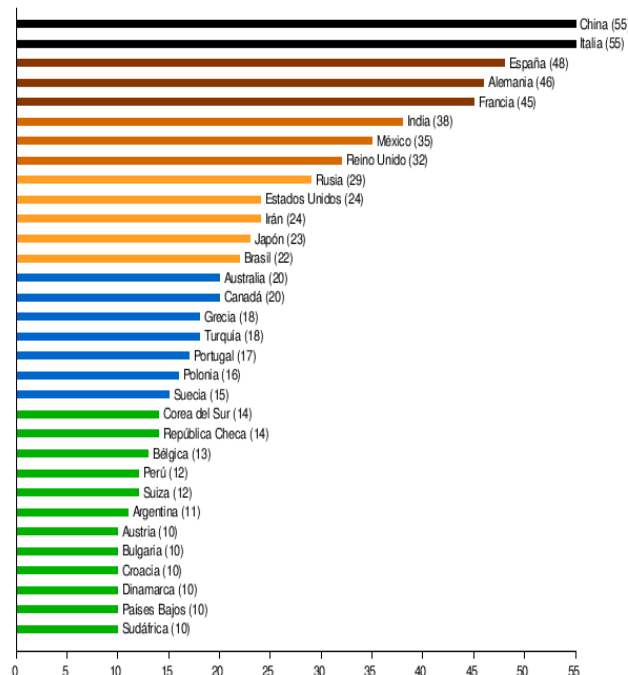
La Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO por sus siglas en inglés) otorga nombramientos en todo el mundo a los lugares más extraordinarios y únicos del mundo, por conservar las tradiciones culturales de cada país. Actualmente, México ocupa el séptimo lugar a nivel mundial con mayor cantidad de sitios reconocidos, destacándose 35 lugares -históricos o naturales- mexicanos que han sido reconocidos como Patrimonio de la Humanidad 6.

Ciudades y monumentos:

- 1. Centro Histórico de México y Xochimilco, Ciudad de México (1987)
2. Centro Histórico de Oaxaca y zona arqueológica de Monte Albán, Oaxaca (1987)
3. Centro Histórico de Puebla, Puebla (1987)
4. Ciudad prehispánica de Teotihuacan, Estado de México (1987)
5. Ciudad prehispánica y parque nacional de Palenque, Chiapas (1987)
6. Ciudad histórica de Guanajuato y minas adyacentes, Guanajuato (1988)
7. Ciudad prehispánica de Chichén Itzá, Yucatán (1988)
8. Centro Histórico de Morelia, Michoacán (1991)
9. Ciudad prehispánica de El Tajín, Veracruz (1992)
10. Centro Histórico de Zacatecas, Zacatecas (1993)
11. Pinturas rupestres de la Sierra de San Francisco, Baja California Sur (1993)
12. Primeros monasterios del siglo XVI en las laderas del Popocatepetl (1994)
13. Ciudad prehispánica de Uxmal, Yucatán (1996)
14. Zona de monumentos históricos de Querétaro, Querétaro (1996)
15. Hospicio Cabañas de Guadalajara, Jalisco (1997)
16. Zona arqueológica de Paquimé (Casas Grandes), Chihuahua (1998)
17. Zona de monumentos históricos de Tlacotalpan, Veracruz (1998)
18. Ciudad histórica fortificada de Campeche, Campeche (1999)
19. Zona de monumentos arqueológicos de Xochicalco, Morelos (1999)
20. Misiones franciscanas de la Sierra Gorda de Querétaro (2003)
21. Casa-Taller de Luis Barragán, Ciudad de México (2004)
22. Paisaje de agaves y antiguas instalaciones industriales de Tequila, Jalisco (2006)
23. Campus central de la Ciudad Universitaria de la UNAM, Ciudad de México (2007)
24. Villa protectora de San Miguel El Grande y Santuario de Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco, Guanajuato (2008)
25. Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (2010)
26. Cuevas prehistóricas de Yagul y Mitla en los Valles Centrales de Oaxaca (2010)
27. Sistema hidráulico del acueducto del padre Tembleque, Estado de México/Hidalgo (2015)



Palenque (zona arqueológica)



México, Patrimonio de la Humanidad



Zona arqueológica de Monte Albán

6 México Desconocido - https://www.mexicodesconocido.com.mx/descubre-los-sitios-mexicanos-patrimonio-de-la-humanidad.html



### Escenarios naturales:

- 28. Sian Ka'an, Quintana Roo (1987)
- 29. Santuario de ballenas de El Vizcaíno, Baja California Sur (1993)
- 30. Islas y áreas protegidas del Golfo de California (2005)
- 31. Reserva de la biósfera de la Mariposa Monarca, Michoacán/Estado de México (2008)
- 32. Reserva de la biósfera El Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar, Sonora (2013)
- 33. Archi piélagos de Revillagigedo (2016)

### Patrimonio mixto (natural/cultural):

- 34. Antigua ciudad maya y bosques tropicales protegidos de Calakmul, Campeche (2002/2014)
- 35. Valle de Tehuacán-Cuicatlán, Puebla y Oaxaca (2018)

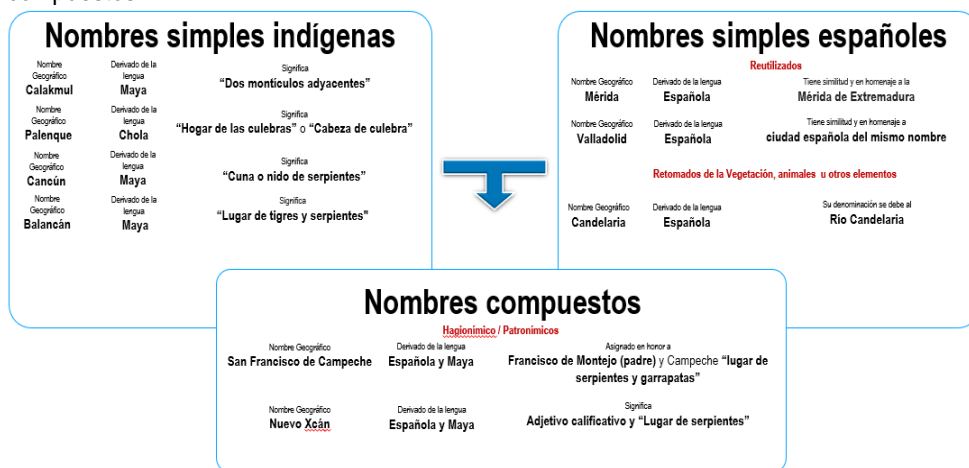
### Importancia de la toponimia turística

En este escenario, y derivado de la importancia económica que representa el turismo, en particular para México, es indispensable consultar la plataforma de registro de nombres geográficos normalizados con la que cuenta el país para dar certeza a nivel nacional e internacional sobre la forma correcta de escribir los nombres de los destinos turísticos que se ofertan y que van desde Pueblos Mágicos y zonas arqueológicas, hasta destinos de playa y montaña.

Adicionalmente, en México tenemos características únicas que conforman nombres simples indígenas, simples españoles y compuestos:



Xochimilco



Es de conocimiento general y de amplia aceptación admitir que la difusión de los nombres geográficos debidamente normalizados de los destinos turísticos permiten a los viajeros la certeza de llegar al destino elegido, sin embargo en ocasiones se deja de lado la importancia que conlleva la obligatoriedad y el acatamiento de la normatividad establecida para homogeneizar la toponimia, ya que como se ha establecido podría afectar de manera sustantiva la economía de un país, como en el caso de México, en donde el turismo representa uno de los pilares principales del Producto Interno Bruto

**Muñoz Goncen Enrique** ([enrique.munoz@inegi.org.mx](mailto:enrique.munoz@inegi.org.mx)),  
**Jahuez Amaro Mario Angel** ([MARIO.JAHUEY@inegi.org.mx](mailto:MARIO.JAHUEY@inegi.org.mx)),  
**Lopez Garcia Roberto** ([roberto.lopezga@inegi.org.mx](mailto:roberto.lopezga@inegi.org.mx))  
 INEGI, Mexico

### Referencias

- 1 INEGI - Registro de nombres geográficos continentales e insulares con fines estadísticos y geográficos - <https://www.inegi.org.mx/app/geo2/cng/>
- 2 INEGI - Archivo histórico de localidades geoestadísticas - <https://www.inegi.org.mx/app/geo2/ahl/>
- 3 México Desconocido - <https://www.mexicodesconocido.com.mx/descubre-los-sitios-mexicanos-patrimonio-de-la-humanidad.html>

## Inhambane City History

### Nyambani<sup>7</sup>/ Inhambane

The geographical name Nyambani, portuguesed Inhambane, is the designation of the capital city of the province with the same name, and is located on the western coast of a peninsula that borders Inhambane Bay. Ahead, on the west bank of this bay is the Maxixe city. The eastern coast of the peninsula is an extensive line of beaches bordering the Indian Ocean, which is a preferred tourist destination for many Mozambicans and foreigners. According to Manuel Jonasse<sup>8</sup> and Nasmudini Muhamad<sup>9</sup>:

*Nyambani comes from the name Nyumba 'home'. When the Portuguese Vasco da Gama arrived at Inhambane, it was raining, and they went to the home of a Tonga family<sup>10</sup> and asked the name of that area. Due to the lack of knowledge of the Portuguese language, a Tonga man realized that Vasco da Gama was asking for shelter and he said in Gitonga "bela khu nyumbani tsungu 'white enters in the house'" and Vasco da Gama wrote the word nyumbani 'inside the house', from a Portuguese form "Inhambane". From then on the Gitonga speakers called the place Nyambani.*

According to the website: [https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inhambane\\_\(city\)](https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inhambane_(city))<sup>11</sup>:

*The city of Inhambane was founded by Swahili merchants, having been visited by the Portuguese for the first time in January 1498, when Vasco da Gama's armada Gama arrived there to get supplies. For the good reception of the population, he called it "Terra da Boa Gente". The Portuguese built a fortified factory in 1546, but it was only definitively occupied by Portugal in 1731. In 1763, with the construction of the Forte da Nossa da Conceição, it received the status of town and county seat. It was attacked by the French and Dutch, having been looted in 1796 by French pirates from Réunion.*

It was elevated to the category of city on August 12, 1956. Administratively, the city is a municipality, with an elected local government; and it is since December 2013, a district, a local unit of central government.

#### **Paulino Baptista Rafael Bata**

State Secretariat for Youth and Employment  
Institute of Vocational Training and Labor Studies Alberto  
Cassimo  
Mozambique

Email: [paulinobaptistabata@yahoo.com.br](mailto:paulinobaptistabata@yahoo.com.br)  
[paulinobata19@gmail.com](mailto:paulinobata19@gmail.com)

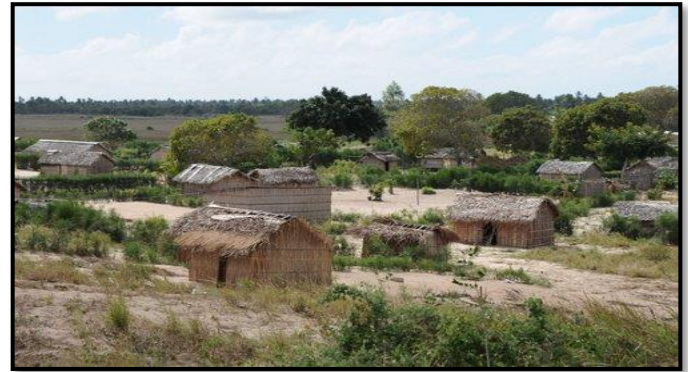
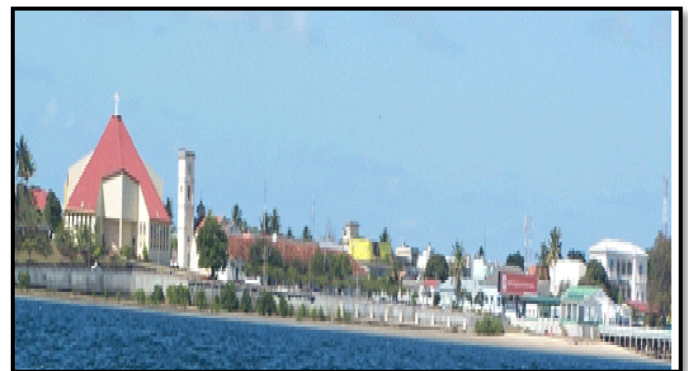


Photo of macute houses<sup>1</sup>, typical of Inhambane place found by Vasco da Gama in 1448



Cathedral in Inhambane City



Waterfront in Inhambane city

<sup>7</sup> Name in Tonga language.

<sup>8</sup> Manuel Jonasse, secretary of Bairro Muelé, interviewed in July 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Nasmudini Muhamad, secretary of Bairro Mucucune, interviewed in July 2014.

<sup>10</sup> Gitonga speakers, a Bantu language spoken in the cities of Inhambane and Maxixe, districts of Jangamo and Murrombene (Rafael 2015).

<sup>11</sup> [https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inhambane\\_\(cidade\)](https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inhambane_(cidade)). Inhambane Province - District Socio-Demographic Indicators.

## Geographical names and sustainable tourism in New Zealand

### Introduction

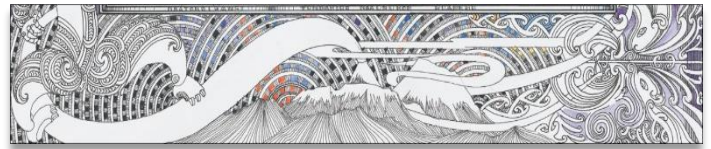
The idea of sustainable tourism resonates with New Zealanders and is especially important to Māori, as with other indigenous peoples worldwide. It aims to achieve social and environmental outcomes to benefit present and future generations and environments. The following examples connect geographical names and sustainable tourism, and describe how they contribute to cultural values, environmental protection, and restorative tourism.

### World Heritage

In New Zealand, many places that carry Māori names are also sites of sustainable tourism. A prime example is Tongariro National Park, the nation's first national park and the fourth-established in the world. Two significant elements of [Tongariro National Park](#) stand out. First, there are three spectacular and sacred volcanic mountains – [Mount Tongariro](#), [Mount Ruapehu](#) and [Mount Ngauruhoe](#) – secondly, are the highly significant ancestral narratives, or kōrero, that tell the story of how geothermal heat came to the mountains, and why the mountains are so revered by the neighbouring Māori community guardians.

Recognising the outstanding environmental and cultural values associated with this place, Tongariro National Park was the world's first World Heritage site to receive dual listing. Mount Tongariro, for instance, is far more than a geographical name; rather, it embodies a cultural worldview and value system that is underpinned by custodial excellence. For this reason alone, the lands encompassing the mountains were gifted by the chiefly leader Te Heuheu Tukino to the British Queen in the late nineteenth century. This gesture was to invite her, through her Crown representatives, to join with him and look after the mountains. At the time, Tongariro was beginning to be desecrated by tourists and local Māori were worried about its future.

The challenge then, as now, is to manage increasing number of visitors who hike or ski throughout the region. Mountain biodiversities are vulnerable, but so too are the associated cultural values and history. They require understanding and use. Therefore, the sustainability theme applies equally to both the environment and to cultural knowledge. Opportunities for learning about and celebrating cultural knowledge and environmental management through sustainable tourism are immense. 'On the ground' sites for this include the heritage centre, signage, environmental management programmes, local marae (meeting place) community engagement and knowledge sharing with visitors. Online platforms and social media are other tools that connect people to place names and their deep stories. More than that, these and other strategies offer models for what worked historically, why, how and what should be preserved for the future. For the mountain custodians, answering the questions, 'what's in a geographic name?' and 'what is sustainable tourism?' begins with considering the significance of cultural and environmental values in the long-term.



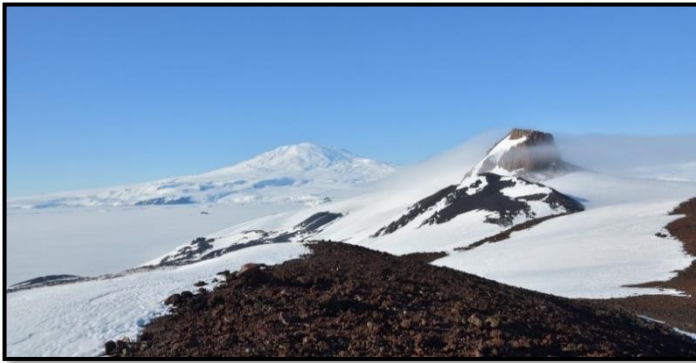
Artwork by Cliff Whiting showing Mount Tongariro, Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Ruapehu, NZ Geographic Board copyright



Mount Tongariro, central North Island. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken November 2020

### Antarctica

New Zealand's connection with Antarctica strongly upholds environmental protection as part of our Antarctic Treaty System contribution. Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) are established to safeguard areas of outstanding environmental, scientific, historic, aesthetic or wilderness values, and on-going or planned scientific research. ASPAs are named for identification and monitoring purposes, for example, Backdoor Bay, Cape Royds and Ross Island. With the increasing frequency of tourist cruise ship visits, and the volume of people observing the environment, historic artefacts and wildlife, it is critical that the fine balance in those natural environments is preserved and not disturbed, polluted or compromised by human presence. Tourism operators must therefore meet Antarctic Treaty System regulations before being permitted into these pristine and wilderness areas. They must be aware of where not to visit and they must know the conditions of entry to preserve the fragile and unique environment. Using geographical names for these ASPAs along with showing their boundaries on maps and charts is a way that tourist operators and tourists themselves can comply and contribute to sustainable outcomes.



*Looking north towards Mount Erebus on Ross Island with Castle Rock in the foreground, in Antarctica.  
Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken November 2019*

### **Marine Reserves**

New Zealand's marine reserves have special protection so that our marine biodiversity is maintained in a healthy state, offering a sustainable future within those areas. They are also named for identification and monitoring purposes, and present spectacular opportunities to see marine life thriving and abundant in their natural environment. Recreational tourism activities such as sailing, kayaking, snorkelling and diving are some of the ways to explore what is above and below the water. Many tourism operators are very respectful of the natural world and take on the important role of education about the environments they work in. Naming marine reserves and showing their boundaries on maps and charts helps tourists and tourism operators to identify and therefore respect them.

### **Restorative Tourism**

To meet changing attitudes and greater environmental awareness, there is also a trend towards eco-tourism, often termed restorative, restitutive or regenerative. These approaches offer a change of pace, reflecting on the immediate environment, hearing the traditional stories associated with places, and experiencing nature up-close, whether marine, terrestrial or celestial. The chance to be educated and engage positively with a beautiful environment is compelling for tourists. Restoring habitats through planting and removing pollutants makes for a

powerful, satisfying and motivating educational experience. To the people of the place (tangata whenua), there is opportunity to reclaim culture and heritage through re-telling traditional stories, often with a theme of stewardship (kaitiakitanga) that goes hand in hand with sustainability.

### **Conclusion**

Tourists are increasingly expecting an experience more than just a destination. The collective global conscience is becoming more aware of the earth's depleting resources. People are becoming increasingly mindful of the impact of carbon emissions, the impact of loss of habitat for species, and the destruction that sea level rise causes due to climate change. Many tourists are pursuing different kinds of experiences that have more meaning and contribute towards sustainability. Learning about environments and culture, and reducing their footprint, may mean that the special place they have visited will be sustained and preserved. In this way, integrity of places can be retained not only for future generations to enjoy, but also and more importantly for their intrinsic value and to preserve their biodiversity.

New Zealand's national naming authority recognises the importance of restoring and preserving geographical names. Its work seeks to tell our stories past and present, and to give us the social connection and identity we need to help us protect all that is symbolically and materially associated with those named places. The goal is a sustainable future that forms part of our national identity.

#### **Merata Kawharu**

Member, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa  
Email: [merata.kawharu@gmail.com](mailto:merata.kawharu@gmail.com)

#### **Robin Kearns**

Member, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa  
Email: [r.kearns@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:r.kearns@auckland.ac.nz)

#### **Wendy Shaw**

Secretary, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa  
Email: [wshaw@linz.govt.nz](mailto:wshaw@linz.govt.nz)

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## FROM THE COUNTRIES

### *Problems of creating the Register of Geographical Names in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

**G**eographical names are given to spatial objects on the surface of the earth/geographical features so that they can be used as geographical orientation and in communication with other people. Everyday private or business communication involves the use of geographical names. Thus, for example, taxis and ambulances, fire and other services use geographical names on a daily basis to locate clients, as well as make decisions about the shortest and safest route. Today's tourists start their journey at home, planning itineraries and exploring destinations. For such planning, it is necessary to use different types of geographical names, such as names of cities, roads, mountains and mountain ranges, peaks, the streets of the target city and significant historical buildings.

Traditionally, the most common registers of geographical names are topographic maps. However, by defining new borders after the wars, the language of the toponyms on the maps changed. It was also noted that each country has the right to define its own rules for registering geographical names. In this case, the possibility of data exchange is reduced. It is therefore very important that the United Nations has established a United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEKN), an expert body responsible for encouraging the standardization of geographical names, and promoting the national and international benefits to be derived from standardization.

Bosnia and Herzegovina do not have a designated body to deal with this issue, while the entity geodetic administrations (Federal Administration for Geodetic and Property Affairs - FGA and the Republic Administration of Republika Srpska) continue the tradition of collecting toponyms that are entered into various databases. Thus, the FGA established the Real Estate Cadastre Database, the Basic Topographic Database 1: 10000 - Figure 1, the Address Register, and other registers. Also, FGA enables data discovery and download via web services (Geoportal FGA and Geoportal of Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina - SDI Geoportal FB&H).

According to the relevant legal acts, the competence for the appointment of the body that will deal with the issue of Geographical Names, and thus the development of the Register of Geographical Names of FB&H, and the application of UNGEKN standards, is the SDI Council of FB&H. Given that in the FB&H the application of international standards for the establishment of SDI (one of the topics of SDI are Geographical names), and thus the UNGEKN standard for the registration of geographical names, is only in its infancy, problems are expected.

Currently, the collection of toponyms and their records, with the application of international standards, is performed in the entity geodetic administrations, local self-government, and partly in the entity statistical institutes. Joint projects, with the financial support of EU countries, contribute to the creation of basic registers, such as address registers.

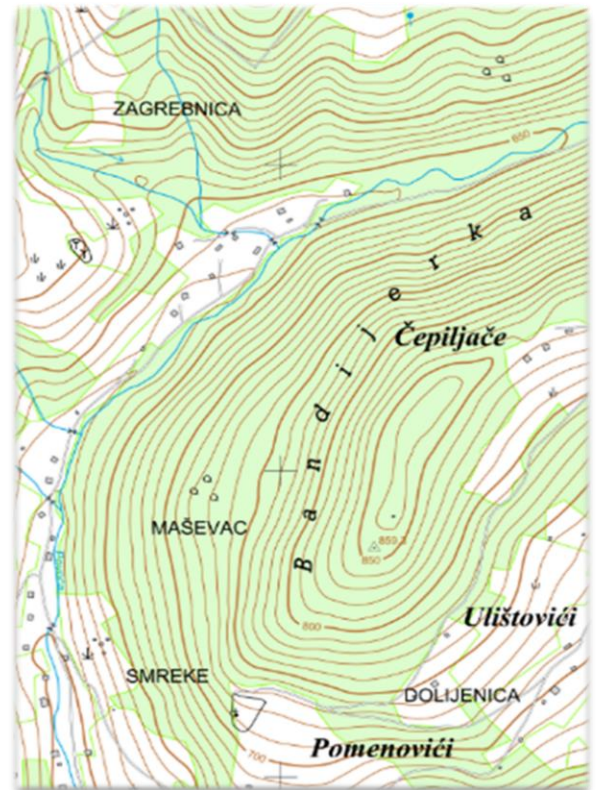


Figure 1. Basic topographic map 1: 10000 (FGA, 2018)

#### ***Standardization of toponyms in Bosnia and Herzegovina/Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina***

The Austro-Hungarian monarchy was the first to systematically survey the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina (beginning in 1882-1885) and based on that survey it made appropriate maps. During this period, standards for printing names were used, and were printed in the German alphabet (Figure 2).

After World War I in 1918, Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) became part of the Kingdom of Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs, which in 1929 was renamed to Kingdom of Yugoslavia. During that period, the active collection and printing of names on smaller-scale maps continued, and the updating of existing Austro-Hungarian maps continued with larger-scale maps, with the names being written in South Slavic languages and the alphabet. The



Military Geographical Institute in Belgrade was in charge of cartography.

After World War II, B&H was part of communist Yugoslavia. The Military Geographical Institute in Belgrade continued to map the territory of Yugoslavia. Maps and cartographic material are available only for official use, with prior permission. Standards and regulations were kept by the institution, until 1964, when the Institute for Cartography "Geokarta" Belgrade, at the request of the Federal Geodetic Administration, published a cartographic key for the basic state map at a scale of 1: 5000 and 1: 10000, and for plans in scale 1: 5000. Within this cartographic key, the prints of toponyms that appear on maps in the above three scales are standardized.

Since 1992, B&H has been an independent state, which needed time to recover after the war years. The priority of recovery was people and their property. Only in recent years resources were dedicated to other priorities, including the standardization of information in various fields. The Federal Administration for Geodetic and Property Affairs FB&H (FGA) seeks to keep pace with technological advances and the demands placed on it. It is safe to say that FGA is one of the leading institutions in FB&H, which monitors the development of technology and applies international standards. As the Spatial Data Infrastructure contact point at FB&H, it systematically works on the collection and standardization of toponyms and geographical names.

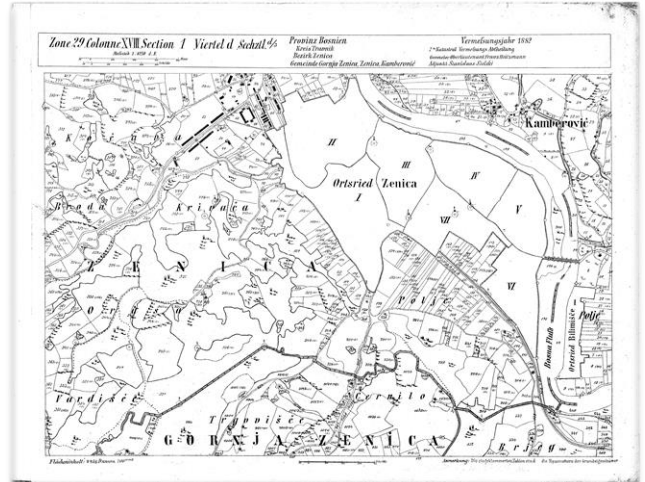


Figure 2. Toponyms on the Austro-Hungarian map (FGA, 2020)

**Željko Obradović, MA of geodesy**

Director of the Federal Administration for Geodetic and Property Affairs

71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Email: [zeljko.obradovic@fgu.com.ba](mailto:zeljko.obradovic@fgu.com.ba)

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Federal Administration for Geodetic and Property Affairs. Maps from FGA Archives. Sarajevo. Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Revised Toponymic Guidelines for Norway

Norway has revised the Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors as a result of changes in administrative divisions from 2020-01-01. The government initiated a local government reform in 2014. The result is a reduction from 428 municipalities to 356, and from 19 to 11 counties, from 2020-01-01.

Other alterations: Skolt Saami was included as an official language in Norway from 2017. Some more municipalities have been included as Saami administrative areas. In these municipalities the Saami geographical names have a priority.

The Guidelines are linked from the UNGEGN website:

<http://www.kartverket.no/Documents/Kart/Stedsnavn/Toponymic-Guidelines-for-Map-and-Other-Editors-Norway.pdf>

**Kjetil Ringen**

Senior Engineer, Norwegian Mapping Authority

Email: [Kjetil.Ringen@kartverket.no](mailto:Kjetil.Ringen@kartverket.no)



# FROM THE DIVISIONS

## Latin America Division

### Reporte de actividades de la Presidencia de la División América Latina del UNGEGN

**E**n este informe se presentan las actividades llevadas a cabo por la Presidencia en el marco de la División de Nombres Geográficos de América Latina, posteriores a 1ra Sesión del UNGEGN celebrada en mayo 2019, para la construcción de sinergias de comunicación entre los Estados Miembros, con el objetivo de difundir los principios de los Grupos de Expertos y las contribuciones habituales de los documentos normativos y de estandarización de nombres geográficos por los Estados Miembros de la División. Así como las actividades de actualización de la página web de la División (<http://www.genung-dal.org.mx/>).

1. Se contactó vía correo electrónico a los Institutos Geográficos Nacionales de los estados miembro de la División América Latina del UNGEGN, solicitándoles la actualización del directorio con los datos de contacto de la persona responsable de nombres geográficos en su país. A la fecha se hay recibido respuesta de Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador y Perú, realizando las adecuaciones correspondientes.
2. Se actualizó la página web con documentos relacionados al tema de Nombres Geográficos de:
  - Argentina (Diccionario de conceptos y Catálogo de objetos geográficos del IGN de Argentina),
  - Brasil (IBGE Glosario Dos Termos Geneéricos Mapeamento Sistemático do Brasil V2 BC250 y BC1M / IBGE Índice de Nomes Geográficos 1M),
  - España (IGN España Nomenclátors Geográficos),
  - México (Diccionario de Nombres Geográficos - Ciudades Capitales de la República Mexicana, Norma Técnica para el Registro de Nombres Geográficos Continentales e Insulares con fines Estadísticos y Geográficos y la Norma Técnica de Nombres Geográficos del relieve Submarino con fines Estadísticos y Geográficos), y
  - Perú (Nomenclátor Geográfico del Perú).
  - Glosario Multilingüe de Términos ISO/TC 211.
3. Se orientó a la responsable del Instituto Geográfico Nacional de Argentina, en la solicitud de aval para la presentación del proyecto "Congreso de Nombres Geográficos 2021: respaldando la agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible de las Américas" en el marco del Programa de Asistencia Técnica (PAT) del IPGH.
4. Se realizó la traducción al español del Plan Estratégico 2021-2029 enviado por Stefan Schweinfest mediante documento STAT 421 (4-112); y con el fin de alentar la participación de los Estado Miembros, se incluyó en la página de la División para descargar el Plan ([http://www.genung-dal.org.mx/contenido/doc\\_carousel/Strategic%20Plan%2001-06-2020%20ver%204.4%20en%20es.zip](http://www.genung-dal.org.mx/contenido/doc_carousel/Strategic%20Plan%2001-06-2020%20ver%204.4%20en%20es.zip)), para que contribuyan con sus observaciones.
5. Actualmente el INEGI está participando como asesor del Instituto Geográfico Nacional "José Joaquín Hungría Morell" de República Dominicana, en la elaboración metodológica para la creación del nomenclátor de nombres geográficos georreferenciados. En el marco del Proyecto de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo correspondiente, con duración de 2 años (octubre 2019 a octubre 2021). Por situación del COVID-19 se está realizando vía remota.
6. Se envió el documento de participación titulado "Los exónimos de los nombres geográficos en las lenguas indígenas de América con respecto al español como lengua conductora de América Latina", para la 23ra Reunión del Grupo de Expertos sobre Exónimos programada a celebrarse en marzo 2020 a Kohei Watanabe ([https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/working\\_groups/wg8.csh.html](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/working_groups/wg8.csh.html)), que por situación del COVID-19 quedó pendiente de su próxima celebración.
7. El INEGI como coordinador del Sistema Nacional de Información Estadística y Geográfica (SNIEG), publicó en diciembre de 2019 la Norma Técnica de Nombres Geográficos de las Formas del Relieve Submarino con fines estadísticos y geográficos ([https://snieg.mx/DocumentacionPortal/Normatividad/vigente/nt\\_ng\\_frs\\_feg.pdf](https://snieg.mx/DocumentacionPortal/Normatividad/vigente/nt_ng_frs_feg.pdf)) acorde a las recomendaciones de UNGEGN y al B6 del IHO (4.1.0 Sep 2013), y su difusión a través de la página web de UNGEGN División América Latina, UNESCO, GOOS, IODE, MACHC y NOAA.

**Muñoz Goncen Enrique**, Chair  
Email: [enrique.munoz@inegi.org.mx](mailto:enrique.munoz@inegi.org.mx) and  
**Jahuey Amaro Mario Angel** Co-chair  
Email: [MARIO.JAHUEY@inegi.org.mx](mailto:MARIO.JAHUEY@inegi.org.mx)  
Latin America Division



## Norden Division

### News from the virtual Norden Division Meeting, 29 September 2020

The Norden Division held its annual meeting virtually on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and was attended by 15 division members representing Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the Kven community in Norway. The discussions showed that a number of developments have been under way in most of the of the Division's member countries, these are shown in the table below:

Activities	Countries
Geographical names and exonym databases development	Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden
Geographical names web services	Finland, Norway
Digitizing and updating geographical names archives and registers	Finland, Norway, Sweden
Guides and manuals on name planning and good naming practise	Denmark, Finland, Iceland
Geographical names standardization eLearning courses	Norway, Sweden
Safeguarding minority names	Denmark, Norway, Sweden
Toponymical guidelines	Norway

Other issues discussed were the coming UNGEGN second Session in 2021 and, in particular the preparation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan. An overview on the Norwegian Language Council's planned eLearning course on geographical names standardization was given. The purpose of the course is to teach the contents of the Norwegian Place-Name Act and the main purpose of the act: to preserve geographical names as cultural heritage and to give them a correct spelling in accordance with the law. An overview on the issues and problems related to standardization of minority language toponyms in a multilingual context was presented by the representative for the Kven language.

Also discussed was the state of the Norden Division homepage, which has not seen a major update for a few years. It was agreed to revise the content to bring the information up to date.

The Norden Division meeting was considered a great success, in spite of concerns of not being able to meet in person. The virtual meeting format was well suited to division members as it was also found that participation was easier for members with limited travel funds.

The minutes from this meeting will be available on the Norden Division homepage in due course:  
<http://nordendivision.nfi.ku.dk/about/meetings/>.

### Next Norden Division Meetings

The next Norden Division Meeting will most likely also be held virtually, and it is scheduled to take place in January with the objective of preparing for the second UNGEGN Session, 3-7 May 2021. The next meeting will be announced on the UNGEGN homepage.

In addition, the Norden Division will be hosting a workshop on the issues of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) relevant to the collection and digitizing of geographical names for use in research and standardization. This workshop will be also announced on the UNGEGN homepage.

#### **Peder Gammeltoft**

*Vice-chair, Norden Division*

*Email: [peder.gammeltoft@uib.no](mailto:peder.gammeltoft@uib.no)*



## SPECIAL PROJECTS AND NEWS ITEMS

### A plea for inclusion in geographical names standardization

Geographical names reflect how a nation sees itself. Formally, they define the past and present geographical, cultural and social realities of a country. There is also an emotional side to geographical names. They are imbued with identity and pride, markers of coherence, belonging and a joint past.

The aim of geographical names standardization is to provide a uniform and stable means of transmission and usage of geographical names. Standardization also means that the state decides on rules and guidelines for the creation of new named entities and controls what geographical names are standardized and made official. However, control may inadvertently – or advertently – become oppressive to those who live and interact with geographical names on a daily basis.

For instance, geographical names standardization becomes advertently oppressive when recognized minorities feel that their right to the use of their own geographical names is being denied them – and this is something which should be avoided at any cost. Inadvertent oppression, on the other hand, comes from actions which the powers that be are unaware they carry out. A typical example would be if geographical names organizations name more places after men than after women, or after people of their own political and religious adherence, or ethnic background, rather than reflecting society as a whole.

There is nothing wrong in naming after heroes and dignitaries of a nation. Often, however, one person's fortune comes at the cost of others' – and if the cost is pain and suffering, the victims will not feel included. Granted, geographical names rarely cause massive social unrest – but inherent identities embedded in geographical names are more than capable of causing international tensions. So, a lack of inclusion in one's *Namescape*, in combination with other forms of exclusion, may well be the drop of discontent to cause unrest. Just look at the Black Lives Matter movement. It may have started from incidents of police brutality, but the movement is

fuelled by racial inequalities and a serious lack of inclusion on multiple levels.

Thus, geographical names standardization or naming decisions disregarding segments of society risk being the proverbial spark that starts the fire, be the discontent local users that feel alienated by the standardized spelling given to their name or segments of society not feeling represented and included. To safeguard a fair and balanced geographical names standardization that suits ever-changing objectives and requirements of society, it is necessary to adapt *inclusion* as concept and see it as an integral part of standardization processes. Some inclusion elements are part of UNGEGN with respect to e.g. securing minorities a voice and laying out principles for geographical names standardization. But more needs to be done.

Inclusion must take place on all levels of standardization, from state to the individual. We need to think inclusion into legislation, into how our standardization organs are set up and populated. And we need to think inclusion into standardization implementation. Most importantly, however, inclusion must be felt to be present at the grassroots level. Providing good means of allowing every person a say, to make naming processes and subsequent complaints as fair and democratic as possible, is paramount for actors at all levels in society to feel included and thus take ownership of official, standardized geographical names.

I started by saying that geographical names define our past and present geographical and cultural realities. For the sake of learning from our mistakes, inclusion should also take past realities into account. Nations should provide for a means of showing how places were named earlier and why such names are no longer appropriate. This gives a new dimension to *telling the story* of your nation – with warts and all, right enough. But our past is always with us, and if we do not use it constructively to show where we went wrong, we risk a return of past events sometime in the future.

*Inclusion is seen as a universal human right that affects all aspects of public life. The aim of inclusion is to embrace all people irrespective of race, gender, disability, medical or other need. Inclusion is about getting rid of discrimination and giving equal access and opportunities. The aim is to break down barriers that exclude individuals and groups from fully participating in political, economic, educational and social life and lead a better life in dignity, security, and opportunity.*

***Inclusion in geographical names matters*** means that: 1) *The legal framework takes diversity into account and prevents exclusion or discrimination based on social identity, location, language, ethnicity, race, gender, age, occupation, sexual orientation, religion or citizenship status, etc.* 2) *Policy-making and naming decisions avoid being discriminatory, oppressive or display stigmatizing attitudes, beliefs, or perceptions.* 3) *Standardized geographical names implementation is fair and respect the views and wishes of the groups and individuals within the national legal framework.*

If we make use of naming correctly, we may use it constructively in our lives – and even profit from it. As Peter Jordan points out in an article elsewhere in this bulletin, geographical names plays an important role in sustainable tourism in setting the historical and linguistic framework of a place and embed it with a time-

transcending *je ne sais quoi-feel* – and lift geographical names from being mere means of orientation for tourists and locals.

**Peder Gammeltoft**

*Working Group Convenor and Norden Division Vice-Chair*  
Email: [peder.gammeltoft@uib.no](mailto:peder.gammeltoft@uib.no)

## Latvia Celebrates Geographical Names Day

October in Latvia has now become a traditional place name month – for the third year in a row Place Names Day is celebrated in one of the counties of Latvia. Regional Place Names Days are organized to promote awareness of regional place names, their importance and role. This year on October 20 Latvian Language Institute of the University of Latvia in collaboration with Latvian Geospatial Information Agency and Brocēni Municipality held Place Names Day in Western Latvia – in Gaiķi parish (105,8 km<sup>2</sup>).

Place Names Day 2020 was especially meaningful both for researchers - linguists and local people because for more than 50 years new microtoponyms of Gaiķi have not been registered.

Moreover, many geographical and man-made objects have changed and many homesteads have perished since the last scientific field-work in this parish. Mainly Gaiķi macro- and mezo-toponyms (approximately 200 names of existing villages homesteads, lakes, rivers, swamps, forests) are registered in the Place Names Database of Latvian Geospatial Information Agency for purposes of cartography. The last linguistic field-work expedition to this parish was organized at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century when approximately 500 place names (homestead, church, pub, mill, valley, river, ditch, pond, swamp, meadow, forest, road, bridge, cemetery names) were registered.

On October 20, five linguists, a geographer and biologist left for the Place Names Day events in Gaiķi: director of Latvian Language Institute Sanda Rapa and three researchers, onomasticians of Latvian Language Institute of the University of Latvia, as well as geographer, head of the Toponymic Laboratory of the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency Vita Strautniece, dialectologist, professor of Faculty of Humanities of the University of Latvia Lidija Leikuma and biologist, participant of the Latvian Fund for Nature and place names enthusiast, Uvis Suško.

Gaiķi Place Names Day was structured into three parts: informative/educational and attractive lectures, collection of place names and entertainment. First of all, three lectures on Latvian place names were given. Sanda Rapa presented the main Latvian semantic, structural models of Latvian place names and talked about the fate of microtoponyms, Vita Strautniece introduced the

guidelines of cartography and place name standartization and Lidija Leikuma spoke about Curonian and Semigallian dialect that may occur in Gaiķi place names.

The second part of the day was devoted to place name collection. More than 200 place names were collected (including the data from local researchers who had collected place names of Gaiķi in advance, while preparing for the Place Names Day).

It was found that people remembered place names over the course of more than half a century even if the geographical object no longer exist. However, the impact of dialect has decreased – new place names are coined mostly according to general rules, not the local traditions (for instance, the Semigallian auslaut *-ene* in meadow names nowadays is usually replaced by generic term *pļava* 'meadow'). More than ever personal names are used in coining of new place names. Names of larger areas (or geographical object groups) occur more and more.

The third part of the Place Names Day was enlightening toponymic entertainment: local people made their own place name buttons, took part in Gaiķi place name quiz with toponymical awards and enjoyed the concert of Kārlis Kazāks, the singer who composes songs with his own lyrics in different Latvian dialects.

Place Names Days have already met very good resonance in Latvia. Since the first Place Names Day in Northern Latvia, the Latvian Language Institute has been invited by municipalities, museums, libraries, local historians and schools to organize Place Names Day in their civil

parishes every year. The regional interest is related to collecting the values of local history and promoting tourism in parishes, but our scientific interest is connected with saving national intangible cultural heritage, raising awareness of regional place names and gathering new linguistic and cartographic data. The destination for the next Place Names Day is already known, it will be held in Eastern Latvia, in Preiļi county.

**Sanda Rapa**

*Director of the Latvian Language Institute,  
University of Latvia*  
Email: [sanda.rapa@lu.lv](mailto:sanda.rapa@lu.lv)



*Local people could make their own place name buttons  
(Photo: Vita Strautniece)*



## The tenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

The tenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management was held in a scaled down virtual format, consisting of three two-hour informal meetings, on 26-27 August and 4 September 2020. This was done considering the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and within the resources available. Over eighty delegations from Member States participated in each of the three meetings.

Simultaneous interpretation was provided in all the six UN working languages using the Interpretify platform, for which pre-session on-boarding exercises were conducted. Decisions on the election on of the Committee of Experts Co-Chairs (Belgium, Cameroon and Tonga were elected as co-Chairs, and Chile as Rapporteur), the adoption of the draft decisions, draft procedural report, and provisional agenda and dates for its eleventh session were all done using silence procedure. The substantive interactions by participating Member States were achieved through the submission of written statements, introductory statements and oral statements, for each agenda item. All these documents are available on the Committee's tenth session web page [UNSD — UN-GGIM](#).

UNGEGN's Bureau participated in the session and the chair introduced the Group's report entitled *Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (E/C.20/2020/34/Add.1). In the report, the Group of Experts presented its collaborative activities at the global, regional and national levels as part of its efforts to implement the decisions of the Committee of Experts at its ninth session. The report includes information on the meeting convened in August 2019 between the expanded Bureau of the Group of Experts and the expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts, and an overview of the Group's activities, including the development of a draft strategic plan and programme of work that is aligned with the larger policy framework of the United Nations. Also highlighted was the collaboration with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas on the Caribbean geospatial initiative (CARIGEO), which is aimed at encouraging the standardization of geographical names in participating countries.

Statements were tendered by eight Member States, three UN-GGIM Regional Committees and one observer. See diagram below. Please see the report of the [tenth session of the committee of Experts on UN-GGIM](#) for decision 10/112 on collaboration with UNGEGN. One important decision was "Reaffirmed the importance of a stronger relationship between the Committee and the Group of Experts to strengthen communication and collaborative activities between geospatial information management authorities and geographical names authorities at the national level and across themes, including creating awareness on toponymy and sharing guidelines, methods, and practices on the standardization of geographical names"

### Agenda item #14 - Collaboration with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

#### Member States

- 📍 Republic of Korea (26 August 2020)
- 📍 Brazil (24 August 2020)
- 📍 Argentina (24 August 2020)
- 📍 United Kingdom (21 August 2020)
- 📍 India (21 August 2020)
- 📍 Ecuador (21 August 2020)
- 📍 Sweden (21 August 2020)
- 📍 Germany (21 August 2020)

#### Regional Committees of UN-GGIM

- 📍 UN-GGIM: Africa (24 August 2020)
- 📍 UN-GGIM: Americas (18 August 2020)
- 📍 UN-GGIM: Europe (14 August 2020)

#### Observers

- 📍 PAIGH (19 August 2020)

A unique feature of this virtual session was the submission and posting online of statements per agenda item. This coupled with a break before the final day of the session allowed for the preparation of comprehensive and focused draft decisions. The tenth session of UN-GGIM provides a body of practice from which UNGEGN may wish to adopt some features to be applied its second session.

**Cecille Blake**

UNGEGN Secretariat

E-Mail: [blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**2nd Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, 3 – 7 May 2021**

**"Atlases in Time – National and Regional Issues",** conference on the occasion of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN), **Madrid (Spain), 21-24 April 2021.**

Abstracts for toponymic papers due by **10 January 2021** to [peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at)

**IGU Conference on Heritage Geographies: Politics, Uses and Governance of the Past, Lecce (Italy), 26-28 May 2021.**

Sessions on the topic "Place names as a part of the cultural heritage" with 25 papers already submitted and accepted. (The conference should have taken place in May 2020 and was postponed). Additional abstracts can be submitted, but a deadline has not yet been defined.

Contact: [peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at)

**8<sup>th</sup> EuGeo Congress on the Geography of Europe, Prague (Czechia), 28 June – 1 July 2021.**

Abstracts due by 31 January 2021 to

[www.eugeo2021.eu](http://www.eugeo2021.eu)

Contact: [peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at)

**34<sup>th</sup> IGU International Geographical Congress, Istanbul (Turkey), 16-21 August 2021.**

Sessions on the topic "Place names as indicators of human perception of space" with 15 papers already submitted and accepted. (The conference should have taken place in August 2020 and was postponed). Additional abstracts can be submitted by **11 January** ( to [peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at) ), but a deadline has not been defined yet.

**6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Place Names – "Standardisation and the wealth of place names – aspects of a delicate relationship", Bloemfontein (South Africa), 29 September – 1 October 2021.**

Contact and abstracts (no deadline defined) to [kongresetfb@ufs.ac.za](mailto:kongresetfb@ufs.ac.za) (Chrismi-Rinda Loth)