



PCGN Meeting Minutes, Monday 20th October 2014
Royal Geographical Society, London

Participants

PCGN

Defence Geographic Centre (JFIG-DGC)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

BBC Monitoring (BBCM)

Hydrographic Office (UKHO)

Apologies for absence: Ordnance Survey and BBCM.

1. The Minutes of the 191st Meeting on 6th June 2014 were considered and approved and the action items arising were discussed. PCGN reported that no evidence had been found of administrative division changes in Libya but added that there had been reports of a change in the state title to State of Libya.
2. PCGN provided an update to the Committee regarding the recent Freedom of Information (FOI) request. The Committee agreed to publish minutes on the PCGN website in future.
3. PCGN provided an update on the new PCGN website, which was now up and running on the gov.uk platform. Typos and other errors following the migration had been ironed out and improvements and changes were in progress.
4. A report on recent work undertaken by the PCGN staff had been circulated to the Committee. The usual product support and review of briefing maps continued. PCGN highlighted work on names in Syria and Iraq; work on producing both updated and new Toponymic Factfiles; and work on Romanisation Systems.
5. PCGN had participated in several international meetings, including a meeting of the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency and the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) in Glasgow. PCGN reported on upcoming meetings.
6. The 30th BGN/PCGN Conference would be held in London in February 2015. The venue and other arrangements were discussed and the participation of Committee members was encouraged.

7. FCO, BBCM, UKHO and DGC reported on recent toponymic work and issues within their organisations.
8. Policy papers had been circulated. The Committee discussed Israeli settlement names. Personnel changes at FCO meant that a meeting with the new staff was required.
9. A PCGN information paper listing *Countries and their Capital Cities* had been circulated. It was proposed that this list be added to the PCGN website and incorporated into the FCO GNI.
10. Kurdish language names for places in Northern Syria were discussed. Kurdish names, such as Kobanî, are increasingly being used by the media. PCGN had recently recommended the addition of Kurdish names in brackets on some DGC products. PCGN was intending to update the Syria Toponymic Factfile and hoped to incorporate some Kurdish names.
11. The Committee discussed provision of names policies. Sample policies for several countries had been circulated. It was suggested that PCGN concentrate on countries of interest in the first instance, with more policies to be added in the future. The possibility of making the policies available on the PCGN website was discussed. The option of adding a link to a source of Country Codes was also considered.
12. Possible changes to the state title for Tunisia and the country name for Burkina were considered by the Committee.
13. PCGN presented a document, which provided user tips for the US Geonames Database.
14. PCGN mentioned that an updated version of the Haiti Toponymic Factfile had been circulated, which incorporated a change to the Haitian Creole state title.
15. PCGN informed the Committee that three new governorates had been proposed in Egypt. These were Wasaṭ Sīnā' (Central Sinai), Al 'Alamayn (El Alamein) and Al Wāḥāt. PCGN would inform the Committee of any developments and asked the Committee members to do the same.
16. PCGN briefed the Committee on recent liaison visits and training that had been delivered by PCGN staff to members' organisations.
17. The date of the next Committee meeting was discussed.