



**PCGN Meeting Minutes, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015**  
**Royal Geographical Society, London**

**Participants**

PCGN Staff

Defence Geographic Centre (JFIG-DGC)  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)  
BBC Monitoring (BBCM)  
Hydrographic Office (UKHO)  
Ordnance Survey (OS)

Apologies for absence: JFIG-DGC, Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

1. The Minutes of 192<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and the action items arising were discussed. Committee members were invited to suggest agenda items and contribute papers for the 30<sup>th</sup> BGN/PCGN Conference. PCGN confirmed that the state title of Tunisia in English is the Republic of Tunisia.
2. 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 border crossing names for multiple African and Asian countries; Romanisation policy for Japanese and Hebrew; the administrative structure of Pakistan; and country name issues.
3. PCGN informed the Committee that it had contributed to updating the ISO 3166-2 standard. Some updates had been completed but much work remained. Another revision was due in August and the Committee was asked to suggest any amendments that might be required.
4. PCGN reported on its participation in the Place-names Changes Symposium in Rome. The next Place-names Symposium would be held in South Africa in September.
5. PCGN updated the Committee on plans for the rescheduled 30<sup>th</sup> BGN/PCGN Conference, which was now to be held 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September 2015. PCGN would inform the Committee when the venue had been confirmed.
6. Ordnance Survey (OS) reported on recent developments. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 OS would become a Limited Company, although HMG remained the shareholder and OS continued to report to Secretary of State BIS. OS had been undertaking a names consolidation exercise, combining previously separate databases, and

thereby improving consistency across products and scales. It was also reported that a new phase of Open Data had been launched. OS Open Names is associated with OS Open Map and is available under open government licence. The Committee discussed how OS decide on the correct place names. OS is not the naming authority; local authorities choose UK names.

7. OS updated the Committee on its involvement with UN-GGIM, which would hold its 5<sup>th</sup> Session in New York in August 2015. UN-GGIM now had regional bodies, e.g. GGIM-Europe, which included mapping agencies and statistical bodies and differed from EuroGeographics, the association of European mapping agencies. It would be decided in August 2016 if UN-GGIM would become a permanent entity.
8. DGC reported on staff changes and the development of an MOD gazetteer and briefed the Committee on recent toponymic work undertaken at DGC, including mapping of Kenya, updated using MGCP data. Production of Syria mapping from C-GIS data was now complete. DGC Names had also developed and delivered a training package for DGC staff.
9. FCO provided an update on recent toponymic work and issues, including the FCO Human Rights and Democracy Report 2014-15. FCO provided copies of a letter from FCO Permanent Under-Secretary of State that had been sent to the Permanent Secretaries, which highlighted the importance of getting geographical names right and outlined PCGN, FCO and MOD roles in this process. FCO stressed the need to continue to publicise the importance of geographical names.
10. BBCM had recently been occupied with the international reaction to the Jeremy Clarkson incident and updated the Committee on the BBC charter renewal process, due 2016.
11. UKHO had nothing to report in addition to regular contact with PCGN and matters discussed under other agenda items.
12. FCO and PCGN updated the Committee on policy issues.
13. PCGN presented a paper on country names, informing the Committee that the PCGN list of country names or the FCO Geographical Names Index (GNI) provided country names for HMG use. PCGN reported on administrative changes in Kosovo and the Philippines and presented papers on the administrative structures of The Gambia, Liberia and Sudan.
14. A planned visit by PCGN and FCO to UKHO was discussed.