



**PCGN Meeting Minutes, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
**Royal Geographical Society (RGS), London**

**Participants**

PCGN Staff

Defence Geographic Centre (JFIG-DGC)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

BBC Monitoring (BBCM)

Defence Language Service (DLS)

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO)

Apologies for absence: OS, BBCM, DLS and Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

1. The Minutes of 195<sup>th</sup> meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and the action items arising were discussed. FCO informed the Committee that the country register for the Government Digital Service project had been produced and a list of territories would follow. In response to a question from UKHO, FCO clarified current policy with regard to depicting the Hala'ib Triangle.
2. Head PCGN described the previously circulated report detailing recent work completed by the PCGN staff. PCGN confirmed that policy liaison with FCO and BGN, and *ad hoc* advice for Committee members had continued.
3. A report summarising the UNGEGN session in Bangkok, and describing PCGN's involvement, had been circulated to the Committee. The event had been live-streamed on the internet.
4. DGC described the 9<sup>th</sup> International Socio-Cultural Knowledge Workshop, to be held later in May. It aimed to bring together practitioners from defence, academia and other government departments in the UK and globally, with a common interest in human geography.
5. PCGN updated the Committee on plans for a reciprocal Toponymic exchange with BGN colleagues at NGA St. Louis, to discuss technical matters and to receive training on the Geographic Names Database (GNDB).

6. DGC staff reported on their recent names work. Work on the DGC Names Database and Gazetteer was on hold. The main focus of work had been creating GeoNames Research Files, providing guidance on policy and sources for DGC staff.
7. UKHO had visited Egypt to negotiate a bilateral agreement. UKHO had received a Notice to Mariners from NAMRIA of the Philippines, changing the names of a number of islands. PCGN had provided guidance to UKHO about conventional and local names in the Yellow Sea. UKHO discussed the impact of name changes in Ukraine and the sale of UKHO charts in Turkey.
8. FCO were developing a world base map for staff, which or hoped to incorporate the MOD's international boundaries data and the place-names gazetteer, hosted on the G Cloud (the government cloud server). FCO was updating a global set of Briefing Maps, to complete the series of the Travel Advice Maps. Geographical names in the FCO Human Rights report had been reviewed with advice from PCGN.
9. DLS had sought PCGN advice on recommended spellings and locations of a list of place names.
10. BBCM was now required to follow the naming conventions used by BBC News. BBCM agreed to send PCGN a list of example changes. BBCM solicited feedback from Committee members about the output of the Russian and Latin American pilots.
11. DGC briefed the Committee on DGC's IGRIPs (Interactive Geographic Research Information Products). DGC planned to work closely with PCGN to ensure a standard approach to geographical names in these products.
12. PCGN described a paper on *Toponymic policy for Burma*. The paper included recommended spellings for the names of administrative divisions.
13. PCGN presented the final version of the PCGN Toponymic Factfile for Tunisia.
14. PCGN presented a paper on Czechia: this short country name had been approved by the Czech government in April 2016 as the English-language country name for the Czech Republic, and would henceforth be recommended by PCGN for HMG products.
15. PCGN and FCO discussed the notification from the government of The Gambia of a new state title: Islamic Republic of The Gambia. PCGN reiterated the recommendation that the country name, The Gambia, had a capital T.
16. PCGN updated the Committee on the programme of name changes that had occurred in Ukraine as part of the ongoing 'decommunisation' process.

17. BBCM mentioned reports that a name change had recently been approved changing Durban to eThekweni. PCGN agreed to look into the official status of this change.
18. PCGN staff had participated in a number of liaison meetings, including with the Central Government Geography Group (CGGG), the National Archives and DGC.
19. PCGN reported that the Republic of Korea's Ambassador-at-large for Geographic Naming had visited both PCGN and the FCO to discuss his country's interests in geographical names.
20. The date of the next Committee meeting would be determined in due course.