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PCGN Meeting Minutes, Monday 21st May 2012

Present

██████████ Intelligence Collection Group (JFIG-DGC) (Acting
Chair)
██████████ Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
██████████ Hydrographic Office (UKHO)
██████████ Intelligence Collection Group (JFIG-DGC)
██████████ Intelligence Collection Group (JFIG-DGC)
██████████ Intelligence Collection Group (JFIG-DGC)
██████████ BBC Monitoring (BBCM)
██████████ Head PCGN
██████████ PCGN Toponymist
██████████ PCGN Staff

1. ██████████ acting as Chairman in the absence of ██████████
Director DGC, the regular Chair, introduced himself and invited other
attendees to do likewise. ██████████ (usually of DGC), who was working
part-time at PCGN while ██████████ was on maternity leave, was
introduced to the Committee, as was ██████████ who replaces
██████████ as Head GRBH, DGC. Apologies for absence had been
received from ██████████ (JFIG-DGC); ██████████ (Royal
Scottish Geographical Society); ██████████ (OS) and
██████████ (BBCM).
2. The Minutes of the 185th Meeting on 16th January 2012 were considered and
approved, and the action items arising studied. Comments on Tibetan and
Minority Languages were requested prior to the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference.
3. ██████████ reported on recent work completed by the staff. A thematic
report detailing the most significant items had been circulated; ██████████
noted that items for which papers were available were highlighted and
Members were invited to request any output of interest. An updated list of the
districts of Afghanistan had been provided to the Committee. Work was in
progress in preparation for the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference on subjects

ACTION: Committee

including Berber language, the administrative structure of Egypt, Kurdish and Japan. A list of dependent territories had been completed and a list of the *Capital Cities of Independent Political Entities* had been drafted. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] reported on PCGN's contribution to HGAB language studies for countries in Africa and the Middle East, and work on briefing maps for FCO and MOD.

[REDACTED] also detailed PCGN's recent international work and briefings. The large volume of work was noted as one of the reasons for [REDACTED] presence at PCGN.

4. [REDACTED] reported on the upcoming 28th BGN/PCGN Conference, which was due to take place in London, in June 2012, mentioning the attendees expected from US organisations. Committee members' attendance was encouraged. [REDACTED] would distribute the agenda and the schedule for the Conference. Subjects due to be addressed at the Conference included the GeoNames Database; ISO country codes and the BGN/PCGN Romanisation System for Arabic. Input into several areas of policy for discussion was sought, including Cyprus; Israeli Settlements; Somalia and IHO Special Publication 23.

ACTION: PCGN & FCO

5. [REDACTED] reported on the upcoming 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) to be held in New York in August 2012, which she would attending as UK representative and sole PCGN representative. Issues to be considered by the Conference included interoperability and linking of countries' national datasets; cooperation with Google; and the presentation of several romanisation systems for UN approval, including one from Iran. [REDACTED] would also report to Conference in her capacity as liaison with Unicode.

6. Attendees reported on toponymic matters arising in their respective organisations. [REDACTED] reported on the ongoing issue of Special Publication 23 and raised some questions regarding Ukraine. UKHO were updating charts over Ukraine and had obtained Ukrainian charts which used the Ukrainian national romanisation system, which differed slightly from that used by BGN/PCGN. [REDACTED] asked whether BGN/PCGN policy was likely to change. The Ukrainian national system was due to be presented to the 10th UNCSGN for approval and would be discussed at the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference. PCGN would inform UKHO of the outcome of these discussions.

ACTION: PCGN

7. [REDACTED] reported that BBCM planned to adopt PCGN's recommended spellings of N'Djamena and Ashgabat for the capital cities of Chad and Turkmenistan respectively and stated that BBCM preferred the spelling Pristina over Prishtina for the capital of Kosovo.
8. [REDACTED] reported on DGC's work, noting that much of it had already been mentioned by [REDACTED]. Arc GIS gazetteers had been

produced for Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Syria and South Sudan, which were available on request, as was a soft copy of the gazetteer of the Falklands and South Sandwich Islands. A 5K database had been created for Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan. Several briefing maps had been produced and collection trips undertaken and planned.

9. [REDACTED] reported on changes to structure at MOD, where the Intelligence Collection Group (ICG) had been renamed Joint Forces Intelligence Group (JFIG), and JFIG and DI had been incorporated into Joint Force Command (JFC).
10. [REDACTED] reported on FCO's involvement in the Sea of Japan issue, including the ministerial brief, into which UKHO and PCGN had provided input.
11. [REDACTED] provided the fourth in a series of Member Department briefings, explaining the work of the FCO and how this related to toponymic work. He reported that the FCO had two main priorities, which were to keep Britain safe and to support British nationals overseas. It was predominantly this second which related to names work and [REDACTED] expanded on FCO's requirements and view of names issues. FCO staff moved around a lot and therefore valued PCGN's expertise, which ensured consistency between FCO and MOD. FCO would like to spread consistency across HMG and improve the visibility of PCGN and awareness of names issues. The Committee discussed how this aim could be achieved.
12. PCGN staff presented several policy papers which were discussed by the Committee Members. [REDACTED] introduced a paper on names in the South China Sea, which had been written in response to increasing interest in names issues in this region, where territorial claims made names a political issue. The paper aimed to ensure a consistent UK approach and provide access to the English names which should be used. It was suggested that geographical locations and column titles on each page could be added.
13. [REDACTED] presented a list compiled by PCGN of the *Capital Cities of Independent Political Entities*, which detailed the names recommended for HMG use in text and on cartographic products, in addition to native language name(s) for the cities. BBCM had provided comments via email prior to the meeting. The document would be presented for discussion at the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference and would be published shortly thereafter.
14. [REDACTED] presented a paper for discussion on minority language names and requirements for further romanisation systems. Changes to official names were not proposed, rather minority names could be provided for cross-reference and information. The subject was due to be discussed at the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference and input was requested on areas of strategic interest to HMG. [REDACTED]

ACTION:
PCGN

ACTION
DGC

██████████ and liaise with ██████████ to obtain feedback on requirements from DGC.

15. ██████████ reported on the ongoing compilation of *Toponymic Factfiles*. A draft Factfile for Tajikistan was presented. The challenges posed by the unusual administrative structure of Tajikistan were discussed and the differing approach of BGN and PCGN in addressing this was noted. The *Saudi Arabia Factfile*, which was in work was also discussed. It was noted that ██████████ would present a Factfile on Nigeria to the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference.
16. ██████████ provided an update on possible name changes in Rwanda. No further information had been received. ██████████ offered to pose the question to BBCM's office in Nairobi.
17. It was noted that the Sea of Japan naming issue had intensified over the previous 12 months and had been discussed at the IHO Conference held in Monaco in April 2012. The UK position remained unchanged. UKHO provided background to the ongoing S23 dispute, noting that a political issue has rendered a useful document out-of-date. The potential solution of regional publications was discussed.
18. ██████████ noted that the PCGN list of dependent territories had been completed and distributed to the committee
19. PCGN reported that the BGN/PCGN Romanisation System for Kurdish had been finalised and agreed with BGN. The systems for Yakut and Adyghe were close to completion and final versions would be presented to the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference.
20. ██████████ reported that PCGN had changed its recommendation for the spelling of the country name from Surinam to Suriname, bringing the UK name into line with that used by BGN and Suriname itself. PCGN had also adopted the form Faroe Islands, in place of Faeroe Islands, again standardising the UK and US approach.
21. ██████████ reported on the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency meeting which she had attended in Berlin in May 2012. She highlighted the importance of UK input into this country code standard, which was used worldwide in many contexts. The US move from FIPS to a standard based on ISO was discussed. A new version of the ISO 3166 standard was soon to be published. It was noted that there would be a delay between a new ADM1 code being requested and it being created, as administrative support for the Standard comprised a single ISO staff member.
22. Under *Other Business* ██████████ agreed to provide a briefing on BBCM's work to the next Committee meeting. ██████████ reported that PCGN had

ACTION: BBCM [completed]

provided information to the FCO on the use of the country code GBR, as opposed to UK, which had been forwarded to the MOD. .

23. Members would be notified of the date of the next Meeting in due course. The Chairman closed the meeting thanking the Members for their attendance and active participation.

Action Items and Key Decisions – Summary

- [REDACTED] would distribute the agenda and schedule for the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference.
- [REDACTED] would forward to FCO the proposed PCGN paper on Israeli Settlements for the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference, along with BGN's paper on the same subject presented at the 27th BGN/PCGN Conference.
- FCO would provide PCGN with policy advice on the UK position regarding the naming of Israeli Settlements prior to the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference.
- PCGN would add geographical locations and column titles to South China Sea paper before publishing a final document following the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference.
- BBCM would contact their office in Nairobi to try to obtain information on possible name changes in Rwanda.
- PCGN would inform UKHO of the outcome of discussions regarding the Ukrainian national romanisation system at the 10th UNCSGN and the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference.
- [REDACTED] and liaise with [REDACTED] to obtain feedback on requirements from DGC regarding requirements for minority language Romanisation systems.