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PCGN Meeting Minutes, Monday 16th January 2012

Present

██████████	Intelligence Collection Group (ICG) (Acting Chair)
██████████	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
██████████	Ordnance Survey (OS)
██████████	Hydrographic Office (UKHO)
██████████	Intelligence Collection Group (ICG)
██████████	BBC Monitoring (BBCM)
██████████	Head PCGN
██████████	PCGN Toponymist
██████████	PCGN Toponymist

1. ██████████ acting as Chairman in the absence of ██████████ Director DGC, the regular Chair, introduced himself and invited other attendees to do likewise. Apologies for absence had been received from ██████████ (ICG); ██████████ (Royal Scottish Geographical Society); ██████████ (ICG) ██████████ (BBCM).
2. The Minutes of the 184th Meeting on 23rd May 2011 were considered and approved, and the action items arising studied. Actions on Kosovo (ICG), changes at BBCM (BBCM), collaboration with UK Border Agency, Fiji (FCO) had all been completed. North Africa policy and South Korea Romanisation had been dealt with at the 27th 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. ██████████ reported that the principal areas of work had been policy issues, particularly in relation to the 27th BGN/PCGN Conference, in addition to work on operations, diplomatic issues, other international liaison and several briefing maps.

4. [REDACTED] reported on the 27th BGN/PCGN Conference, which had taken place in Washington, DC, in September 2011. It was noted that the UK had presented 39 of the 67 papers at the conference and that significant progress had been made on coordination of policy, including the final approval of many Romanisation systems. In large part this was due to the presence of the relevant staff from the BGN. PCGN's input into the GNDB had also been discussed and [REDACTED] reported that the conference had been successful and busy and had reinforced the close relationship between BGN and PCGN. The draft Conference report had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Members were informed that the 28th BGN/PCGN Conference was due to be held at the Royal Geographical Society on 25-29 June 2012 and their attendance was encouraged.
5. Attendees reported on toponymic matters arising in their respective organisations. [REDACTED] reported on the progress of Special Publication 23 and described an ongoing issue relating to UKHO relations with Turkey. He also reported that UKHO had decided that Liancourt Rocks was the name to be used on their products, with the Japanese and Korean names for this feature in brackets. [REDACTED] noted that issues related to the nomenclature of the Persian Gulf might arise in the near future.
6. [REDACTED] noted that recent FCO toponymic work had been focused on country names and highlighted discussions on the appropriate categorisation of Taiwan.
7. [REDACTED] noted that PCGN's policy and information papers were valuable to BBCM, mentioning particularly South Sudan. He reported that BBC Country Profiles were produced by BBCM. [REDACTED] provided an update on the restructuring of BBCM, noting that as of April 2013 all government funding of BBCM would cease and it would become totally licence-fee-funded. Service to government departments would continue but the details of that service were not yet certain.
8. [REDACTED] reported that DGC Names Branch continued to deal with PCGN on a daily basis and details of this could be seen in the work report. Work had focused on Afghanistan, Sudan, the Middle East, Somalia and production of digital databases.
9. [REDACTED] provided the third in a series of Member Department briefings, expanding on the toponymic work at OS. He described the gazetteers of Great Britain which OS had historically maintained and then went on to describe recent work in the research department, focusing on how this had changed with new digital technology; For example, that it was now possible to record several names for a single feature in a digital database. Research had gone into the type of additional names that could usefully be collected, with collection efforts being focused on the unofficial but widely used local names for features, which were of particular value to the emergency services. [REDACTED] also reported on the methods used to gather this data such as crowd sourcing and web harvest. The difficulties of representing

the various administrative units of the UK were noted. [REDACTED] thanked [REDACTED] for the briefing and invited other Members to provide a similar briefing on their work at the next Committee meeting.

ACTION
Members

10. The Members considered matters of geographical names policy formulation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] introduced a paper on minority language names which had been presented at the 27th BGN/PCGN Conference. She noted that although Romanisation systems had been developed for several minority languages, for example a number in the Caucasus, the application of such systems and more broadly, the use of minority names on HMG products, should be considered. [REDACTED] suggested that this should be addressed on a case by case basis and invited Members to consider the paper.

ACTION
Members

11. [REDACTED] introduced a paper on the treatment of geographical names in Tibet and invited the Members' opinions. The two main issues were whether a Romanisation system should capture the orthography or the pronunciation of the language and the political dimension to names in Tibet. PCGN's view was to use Tibetan pinyin forms where available, and otherwise to apply the Tibetan pinyin Romanisation system to Tibetan-script names. Mr Flatt noted that this paper had sparked considerable debate at the FCO. Further input from members was sought.

ACTION
Members

12. [REDACTED] introduced a paper on Cambodia, which considered the appropriateness of the French-style Khmer Romanisation system currently used by BGN/PCGN. She noted that Cambodia had introduced a new system of Romanisation and this had been seen to be implemented to a degree on official Cambodian mapping; elsewhere however, more anglicised names were being used. [REDACTED] confirmed this, reporting that she had observed on a recent trip to Cambodia that the names on road signs did not use diacritics and did not always match those on the maps. It was concluded that the situation should continue to be monitored before any change should be implemented.

13. [REDACTED] introduced a paper on Romanisation of Ukrainian. She described PCGN's current policy and reported that Ukraine had devised a national Romanisation system to be applied to both geographical and personal names, which was likely to be presented as a Resolution to the United Nations Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names in summer 2012. It was noted that this system differed from that currently used by PCGN in a few key areas. The impact of adopting the Ukrainian system was discussed. [REDACTED] reported that UKHO had recently acquired a large quantity of Ukrainian charts, which used the Ukrainian system, and that these names now appeared in the Sailing Directions, though not on UKHO-produced charts. [REDACTED] reported that although the new system had been implemented on some official Ukrainian maps and charts, uncertainty remained over how names were represented on the ground, but noted

ACTION
PCGN/FCO

that it was possible that they be shown only in Cyrillic. [REDACTED] suggested that the Embassy in Ukraine could be contacted for local input.

14. The PCGN staff provided updates on several areas of policy. [REDACTED] reported that a statement of policy on names in North Africa for UK and US government use had been agreed. [REDACTED] reported that it had been agreed at the 27th BGN/PCGN Conference to adopt the MOCT Romanisation system for names in South Korea. [REDACTED] reported on PCGN policy on Sudan and South Sudan, following the independence of the latter. Lists of the administrative divisions of Sudan and South Sudan had been circulated to members. The proposed relocation of the capital of South Sudan from Juba was discussed. It was noted that while Arabic was the official language of government in Sudan, there were other languages of relevance on the ground and so it was believed that PCGN's current policy for Sudan remained appropriate.
15. PCGN gave a number of briefings on geographical names issues. [REDACTED] outlined an information paper on Kosovo describing the administrative divisions; it was noted that 37 of the proposed 38 municipalities were now in effect but that the establishment of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica North still had to be finalised.
16. [REDACTED] described the ongoing compilation of the *Toponymic Factfiles* for Egypt and Iran. These would be published shortly and would be of the regular *Factfile* structure; a separate document would record the second-order administrative level divisions due to the large number of these. [REDACTED] requested members to suggest any particular issues they wished to be included in these and other *Factfiles*. A guide to toponyms in Iran was also scheduled for compilation. Members were asked to consider challenges encountered in the romanisation and portrayal of names in Iran which should be addressed by PCGN in this paper.
17. [REDACTED] outlined an information paper on Spain. It described the official status of the significant minority languages and minority-language geographical names in Spain, noting that this was nuanced and subject to evolution and therefore required close attention to keep abreast of the situation. The *Instituto Geográfico Nacional's* mapping endeavoured to reflect the current status, but sometimes the relevant regional mapping was more up-to-date in this regard.
18. [REDACTED] described a draft list of dependent territories of countries other than the UK, noting that PCGN had received a good number of queries from various Government departments on such areas. The draft list would be for HMG use and would form a supplement to the FCO's Geographical Names and Information document, outlining recommended geographical names for such territories. Input on a number of territories had been received from the US Department of State and the FCO.

ACTION Members

19. [REDACTED] summarised recent BGN/PCGN agreements on romanisation systems, noting that 8 systems which had been developed by BGN and PCGN had been approved and posted on the PCGN website (for Abkhaz, Avar, Chuvash, Kabardian, Udmurt, Ossetian, Shan and Syriac) and 3 systems developed by relevant national authorities (for Dzongkha, Maldivian and Nepali) adopted. [REDACTED] noted that the Arabic romanisation system was being recompiled in order to update and clarify its presentation, though the substantive content would not be altered.
20. [REDACTED] described the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency meeting, which she had attended in Geneva, December 2011, reporting that the meeting had been valuable. PCGN's input to this Standard was of value both to the Standard itself, as the input was considerable, and to HMG, as PCGN-involvement ensured that HMG's position could be reflected in this international and widely used Standard, which formed the basis of many HMG systems. [REDACTED] noted a number of recent county name and code changes: the state title of Hungary's having become *Hungary* in January 2012, Libya's state title having become *Libya*, and creation of *South Sudan* and assignment of the ISO codes *SS* and *SSD* for the new country.
21. Under *Other Business*, [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED] had attended the UN Global Geospatial Information Management meeting in Seoul, October 2011, and his report would be circulated to the Committee. This new forum had been set up to discuss *inter alia* the sharing of formats for geographical and geospatial information, and Ordnance Survey was closely involved with the effort; the MOD/FCO/DFID Stabilisation Unit would also be encouraged to consider the UNGGIM initiative in the context of their work.
22. [REDACTED] noted the background to the UKHO position on the Aegean islets of Vrachonisides Imia and was interested to know the FCO position. 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 PCGN

Action Items and Key Decisions – Summary

- Members would contact [REDACTED] with offers to provide a briefing at the next meeting.
- Members would consider the paper on minority languages.
- Members would provide feedback on the Romanisation of Tibetan.
- The British Embassy in Ukraine would be contacted for information on the portrayal of toponyms in that country.
- Members would provide feedback on the challenges encountered in Romanisation and the portrayal of names in Iran which should be addressed by PCGN in a guide to toponyms in Iran.
- PCGN would circulate [REDACTED] report on the UN Global Geospatial Information Management meeting.