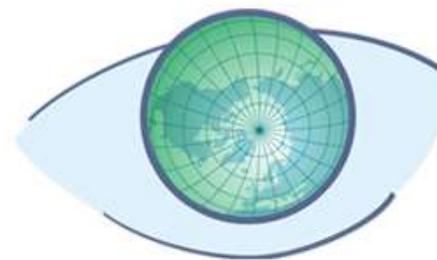




SDI Days 2018*
and
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Geoinformation and Cartography



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GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES, POWER, MEANING AND USES

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UFRJ



GeoCart
LABORATÓRIO DE CARTOGRAFIA
UFRJ - DEP GEOGRAFIA

Kyev Kiev
Kyiv Kyyev

Pequim
Beijing

Rio Amazonas
Amazon River
Rio Solimões
Rio Marañon
Mar Dulce
Saki

Guiêni
Chūēni

Brasilien
Brasil
Brésil
Brazil
Brasile
ブラジル (Burajiru)
Brasilien

Taumatawhakatangihakoauauotamateaturipukakapi
kimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu

Eyjafjallajökull (pronounce = eia-fiatla-iocutl)



Summary

1- Introduction

2- A Place, (A Map), A Name, An Identity

3- Standardization of Geographical Names

4- UNGEGN – United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

5- The Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy

6- Conclusions

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1 – Introduction

Toponymy, Geographical Names and Place Names, are considered synonyms, with the same meaning: identify the assigned names to physical or anthropic geographic features.

They are permanently present in the humanity's daily lives and are important for several reasons, taking part of our lives throughout social and cultural values.



Defined, classified or distinguished under different point of views regarding **Geography, Cartography, History**, and the intercessions with linguistics, languages, ethnography, among others, to match facts, events or occurrences on Earth's surface, for past, present or future analysis.

Importance:

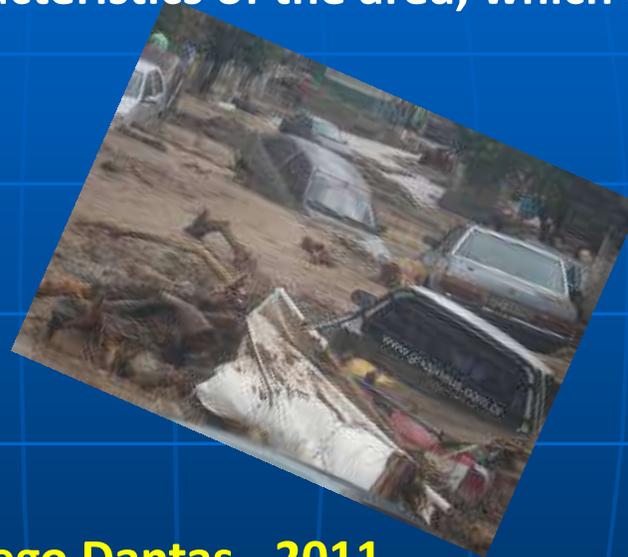
- (i) a way to identify a place, either locally, nationally or globally giving a mean of communication;
- (ii) Are a relevant part of the cartographic representations, identifying the positioning of a place on maps;
- (iii) They are diachronic, crossing over even thousands of years, referring to the same place, giving, in this way, one of the aspects of the definition of a cultural heritage;
- (iv) Are used as a fast way for access to other knowledges, such as genealogy, geodiversity, touristic activities, etc .;
- (v) Can be used aggregating irreplaceable and significant cultural values for a place, a people and a topophilic identity and feeling. They are part of a memory and function as social identifiers.

They polarize elements of culture, history, folklore, social structure among others.

2 – A Name, (A Map), A Place, An Identity

The first question that arises when any kind is reported, catastrophe, parties, sports, celebrations, among others, is "**Where?**".

A simple mention of the place name of the occurrence, is a source of information about the place, people, and characteristics of the area, which are connected to it.



Natural disaster in Friburgo – Córrego Dantas - 2011

Geographical names are **geoinformation**, associating them to a coordinate system, and geometry, they can be treated as a "**geonymy**".

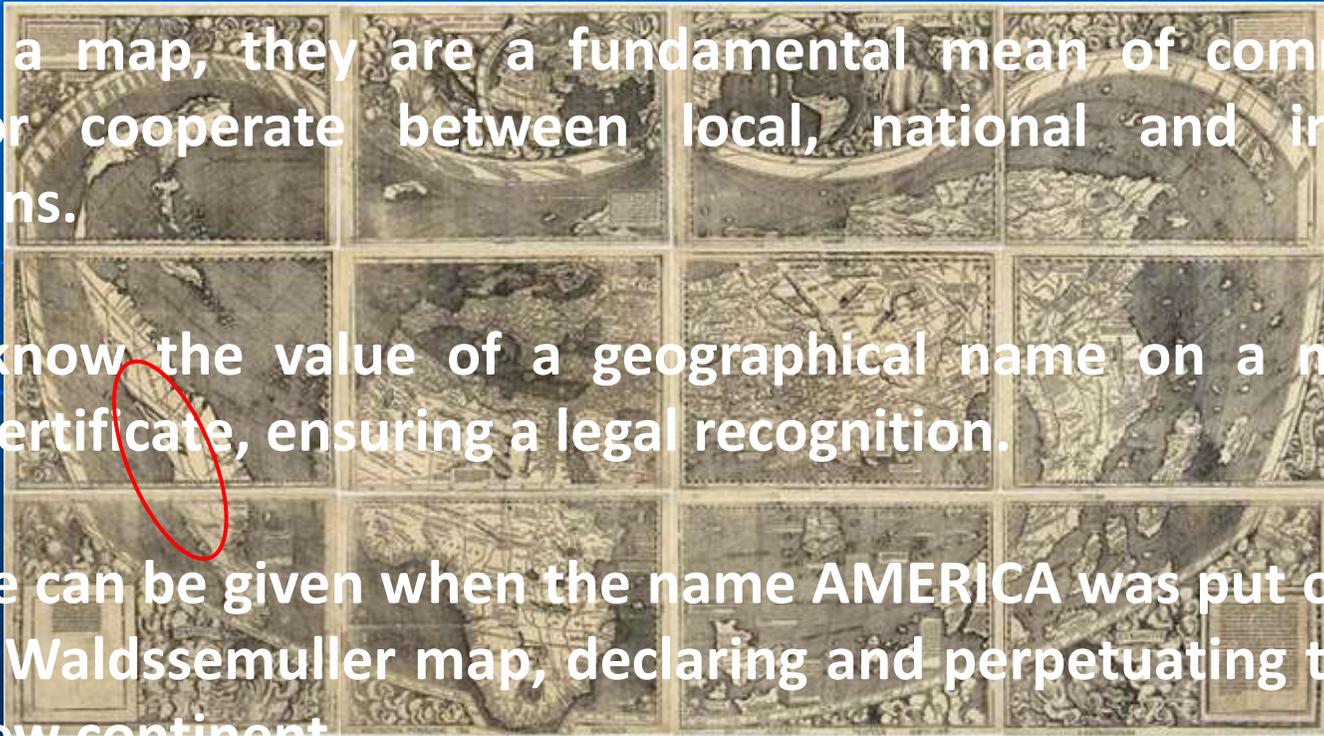
By its direct relationship to places, are considered one of the most used ways to access the geographical space, in an analogue or digital structure.

They can be considered as an indispensable element to locate any spatially organized information system, allowing the integration of digital data sets, becoming one of the most powerful tools used for planning, managing and decisions making for public or private policies.

Geographical names can therefore be seen as more than just place names on a map, they are a fundamental mean of communication, helping for cooperate between local, national and international organizations.

All of us know the value of a geographical name on a map. It's its existence certificate, ensuring a legal recognition.

An example can be given when the name AMERICA was put on a map on the 1507's Waldseemuller map, declaring and perpetuating the name of the then new continent.

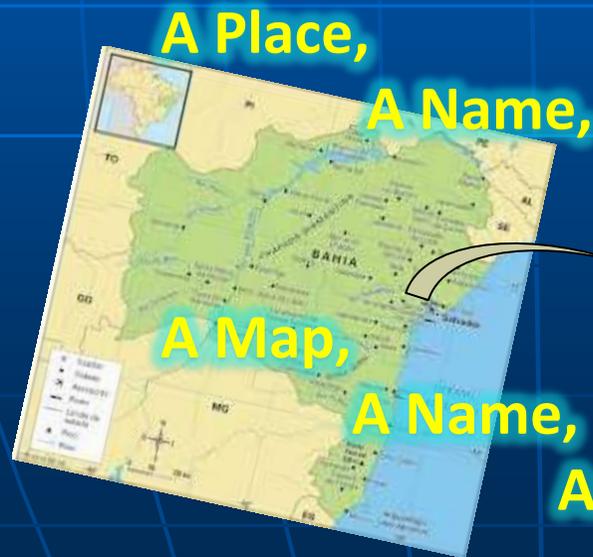


Waldseemuller's Map: World 1507 (Library of Congress)

The strongest connection between "Man" and "Land" is given by the toponymy, bringing a huge cultural charge, power and empowerment to a people or nation, even minorities.

Topophilic feeling comes from the atavistic feeling over one place, the feeling to belong to this place, as well as the gentilic, indicating the place where people were born.

A simple quote from a geographical name will open the way for a huge amount of information that will be entirely linked to that place.



An Identity



An Identity



Rio de Janeiro

City: South America, Brazil

Culture

Samba, Bossa Nova, Carnaval, Music "The Girl from Ipanema"

Geographic features

Beach, Sun, Summer, Copacabana, Sugar Loaf, Christ the Redeemer,

Drink

Caipirinha, Beer

Food

Barbecue, "Feijoada"

Favela (slums) – Violence (?)

Carioca - from the Tupi language CARI (White Man) and OKA (House), gentilic of people who was born in Rio de Janeiro. We speak "cariquês"

Information immediately extracted from a simple mention of a geographical name.

A geographical name is an information depository, a living archive of information about the historical, geographical and sociocultural space as well as having the most diverse of meanings.



On the other hand, a place may be associated with each name, which, in turn, possesses its own associated identity.

But identical geographical names can be found, in different places having different identities.

New York - endonym of the USA's city

Nova York, Nova Iorque - exonyms in Portuguese for the same city

Nova Iorque - Homologated city in Maranhão State of, Brazil



Welcome to New York – NY - USA



Welcome to Nova Iorque – MA - Brasil

3 – Standardization of Geographical Names

Toponymy can become a problem, for everyone who comes to work or use them.

Few years ago, the Brazilian Economic Development Bank, had registered 8577 municipalities in its database, while all Brazilian municipalities were 5565.

Some Town names, sometimes, were written in 3 or 4 different ways.

Varre-Sai, a city of Rio de Janeiro State,

Also written as, Varre Sai, Varre e Sai and Varressai.

Varre-Sai is the standardized name of the previous example.

Paraty or Parati.

Paraty is the standardized name, because the original indigenous name.

Each of these place names was considered a record within the database.

What is the meaning of geographical names standardization and why to standardize?

Defined by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) as:

- (a) the development, by a competent authority, of a specific set of rules or standards, to be applied to all types of geographical names;
- (b) The standardization of an item, such as a geographical name, according to the rules.

A standardized name is defined as "**A name sanctioned by an authority on geographical names as a preferred name among a series of variant names for a particular feature.**"

However, a single feature may have more than one standardized name
Helsinki (Finnish) or Helsingfors (Swedish).

Is. Malvinas (Arg) or Falkland Is. (Brit) – International Relationships

Pico da Neblina (Br) or Cerro Jimé (Ven)

Phra Borom Maha Ratcha Wang, Phra Nakhon, Bangkok (Thailand) – In the same Country

Standardization at a national level involves selecting the most appropriate names in their written form based on the principles, policies, and procedures established by the **National Authority on Geographical Names** of their own country.

Global standards for geographical names are equally important for a clear communication, involving data exchange.

Portuguese Language in Brazil

Brazil is, in principle, a country with a single official language, Portuguese.

Until the eighteenth century, there was a "**General Language**", a mixture of **Tupi-Guarani**, one of 1175 spoken languages, **Latin** and **Portuguese**.

Forbidden in 1756, Portuguese came to be the unique official language.

Nowadays the Portuguese spoken in Brazil include a vocabulary of **32%** of indigenous languages contribution, as well as, about **18%** of African languages contribution, mainly **Bântu** and **Nagô**.

Toponymy

Regarding City's names, relating to indigenous names, the proportion reaches an average of 45%,

Considering rivers, mountains and other geographical features, this ratio goes until 70% or more in some States.

City names such as:

PYNDAMONHAGABA, from the Tupi language (“place where fishhooks are made”);

PINDAMONHANGABA

BORBOREMA, from the Cariri Language (“desert place”);

VOTUPORANGA, from the Tupi Language (“hill of the fresh wind”);

VOTIPORANGA

OYAPOQUE, from the Aruak language (“house of the warriors”),

OIAPOK

ATROARY, from the Karibe Language, (“wild warriors”);

ATROARI

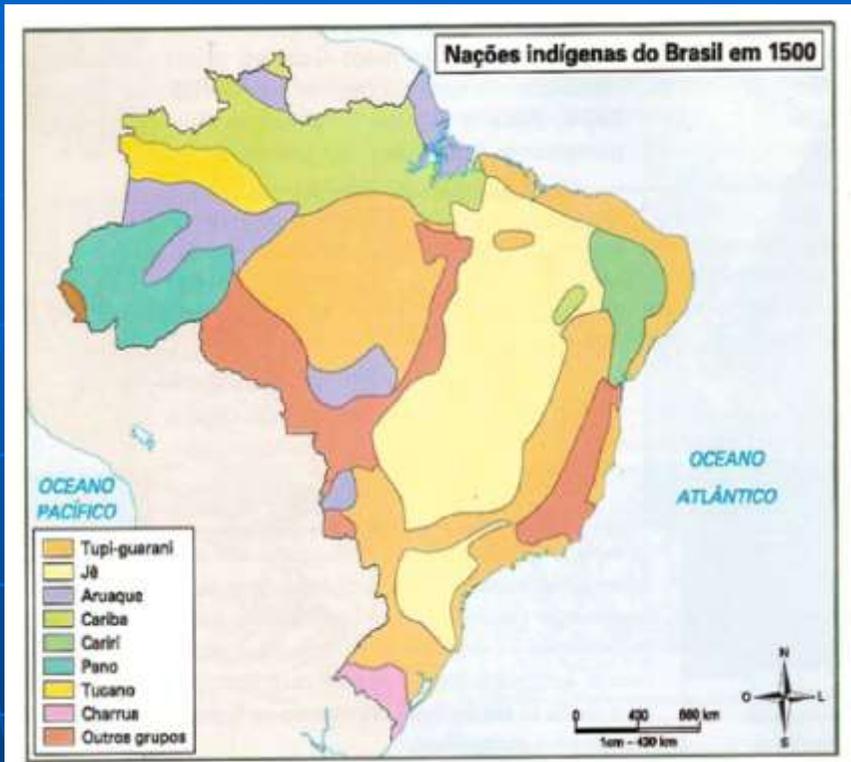
UATUMÃ, from the Pano language, (“big mouth”).

UATUMAM

These names are just a few examples of the more than 400,000 toponyms from the in several indigenous languages that have been or will be standardized.

There are some bi or trilingual municipalities, mainly in the Amazon region and they are multiplying.

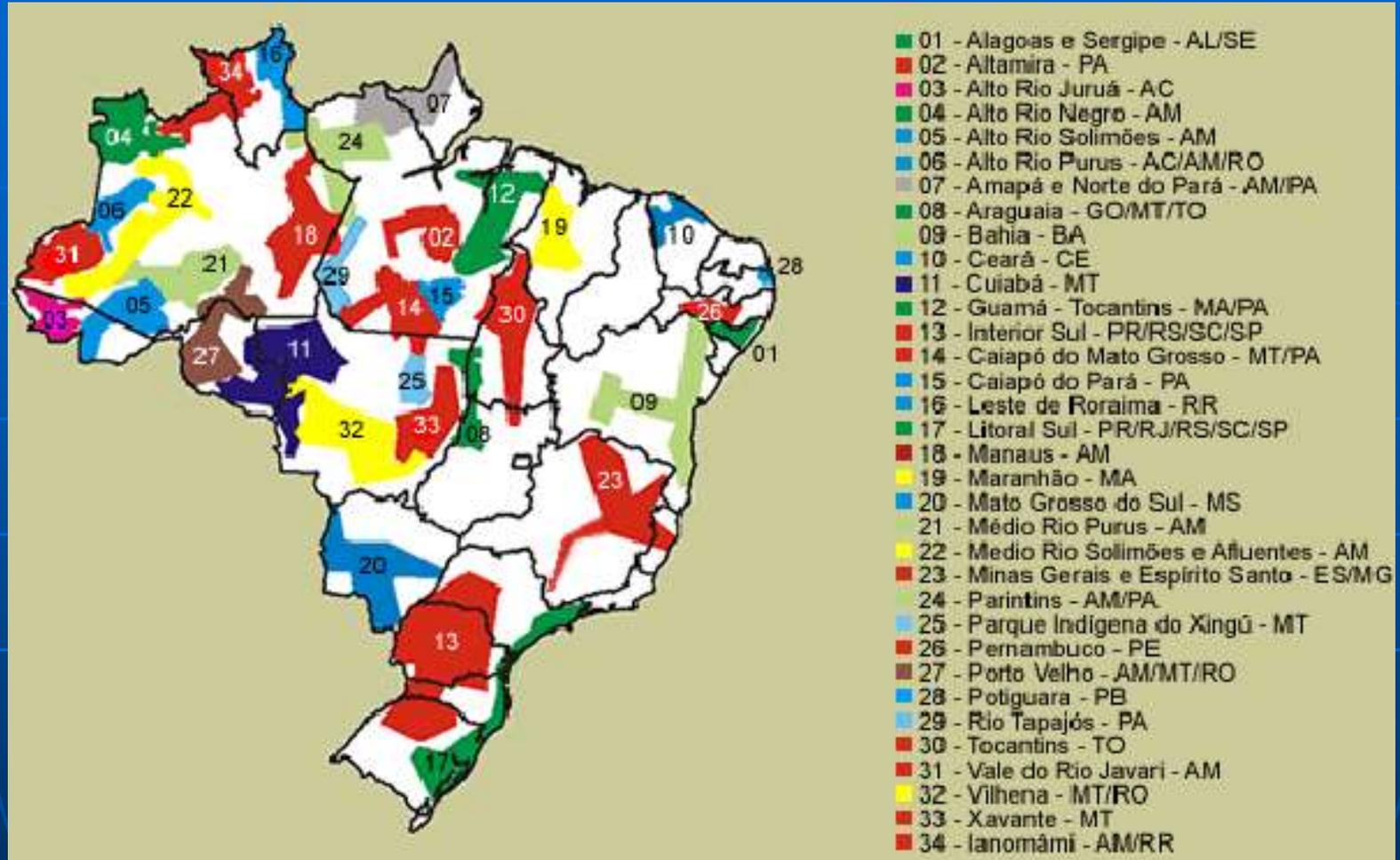
It is assumed that there are still **300,000** names in Brazil that are not yet standardized.



Indigenous Branches in 1500
> 6,000,000



Current days Indigenous Distribution
< 400,000



Indigenous Lands in 2014

Due to the compatibility and standardization problems, required for the toponymic planning, a **National Geographical Names Authority**, it was created in 2005, directly linked to the **National Commission of Cartography**, the **National Committee of Geographical Names** managed by the **Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistic**.

This Committee has the purpose of **standardizing, regulating** and **manage** the national toponymy, to allow the Society and users to have access to all issues involving geographical names. All issues are incorporated in the INDE (Brazilian Spatial Data Infrastructure).

**Planning
Ministry**

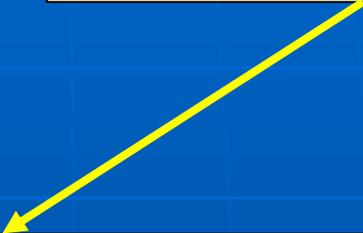
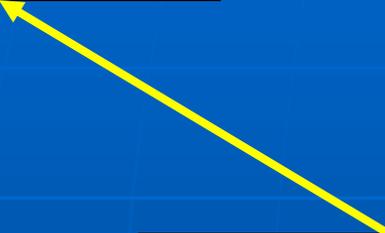
**National Cartography
Commission (CONCAR)**

**Brazilian Geography and Statistics
Institute (IBGE)**

**National Committee on
Geographical Names**

**Representatives
Council**
State's Governement
Federal Ministries
Federal Organizations
Academia

**Brazilian National Committee on Geographical
Names' Organization**



The management of geographical names in a systematic, consistent and permanent way, through an efficient standardization, defined a **policy for creation, maintenance and availability** of this information for all users.

The standardization of geographical names is worldwide promoted by the **United Nations through the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, UNGEGEN**, created in the 1960s by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The Signatory countries seek to create a **national standardization** and report the results through country reports, regional and linguistic divisions and thematic working groups.

Facing the challenge of standardization, there are two possible attitudes:

-Interpretation of the names as tools of linguistic reference and **must be adapted to the norms of the written language according to the pronunciation.**

-Consider the geographical names as proper names, taking part of the cultural heritage, **and therefore should not be changed, but preserved.**

The Society today depends on the use of standardized geographical names for an **accurate, efficient administration** and **communication**. A national standardization program saves time and money, increasing the operational efficiency at all levels of government, industry, commerce, and education.

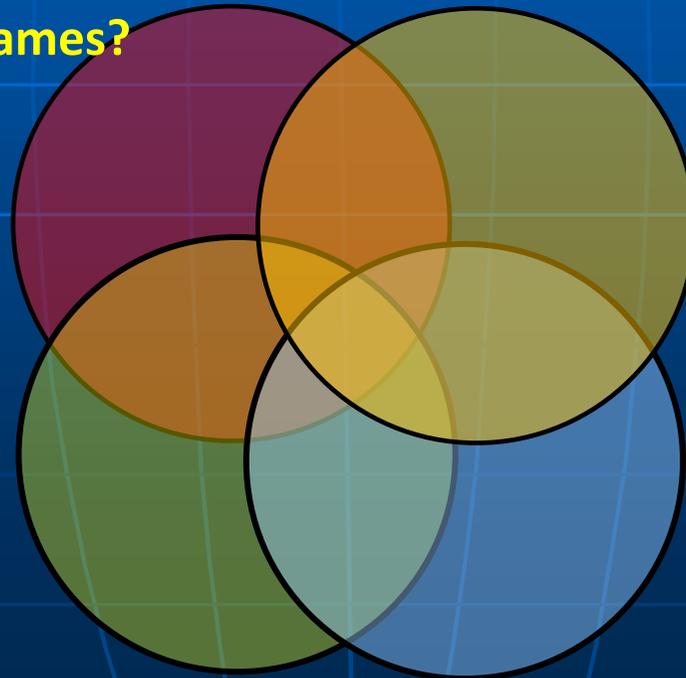
Benefits of standardized names?

Technical
benefits

Economic
benefits

Social
benefits

Cultural
benefits



Examples of use and users that depend on the efficiency and consistency of geographical names:

- Map makers and national surveying institutions;
- Regional and local authorities responsible for administering the needs of people identified by their address;
- Legal institutions such as offices which register land holdings that are usually tied to a named locality;
- Institutions which administer, and conserve named natural and cultural heritage sites including antiquities, nature reserves and national parks;
- Statistical bureaus which base their population censuses and social surveys on named, populated places;
- Tourism authorities which cater to both domestic and international markets promoting named attractions, hotels, restaurants and other facilities;

- Public works departments engaged in signposting along roads and other lines of communication;
- Producers and users of automatic surface, air and sea navigation systems
- Authorities of law and order such as the police and the armed forces who need to respond quickly to events at named locations;
- Emergency services such as firefighting, civil defense and ambulance networks as well as air and sea rescue;
- Natural disaster control and humanitarian relief agencies;
- The public media when dealing with events worldwide;
- The corporate world in developing brand names, geographical indications;
- Internet users in creating domain names and searching for geographically referenced information; (UNEGN MEDIA KIT, 2005)

4 – UNGEGN – United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

UNGEGN is one of the seven expert groups of ECOSOC, The Economic and Social Council of United Nations.

The mission of UNGEGN is the implementation of the resolutions and to continue the activities between the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The goal is to **emphasize** the **importance** of standardizing geographical names at the national and international levels, showing the benefits, and helping countries to achieve the standardization of geographical names. **In this way facilitates and encourages the discussion of the results of work on national standardization and arising issues, the dissemination of best practices, and a wide user community awareness of nationally authorized geographical names.**

To reach these goals, UNGEGN setting up a structure of Working Groups and Divisions to address questions of general or regional interest – hence the 12 Working Groups and special committees, and 23 geographical/linguistic Divisions.

5 - The Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy

The talks for the **creation of an ICA/ IGU working group or technical commission** acting on toponymy, were initiated during the 26th UNGEGN, in Vienna.

It was discussed the need of a specific group inside ICA and IGU, due to its importance, mainly for the geographical and cartographic aspect.

There were no dedicated forum for the discussions.

During ICC2011, in Paris, it was exposed the importance of toponymy and the need of a cooperation among the sisters' organizations, just as IGU. It was explained the role and structure of existing toponymic fora such as the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS).

Proposed to the ICA Executive Committee, was created a Working Group on Toponymy, as a first step to define a Joint ICA/IGU commission on toponymy.

Accepted by IGU, as a joint model, the Joint IGU/ICA Commission/ Working Group was created during the EC Meeting in Vienna, 2011;

The joint Commission/Working Group would be co-chaired by a representative of IGU and ICA.

Composed by a steering committee of up to 10 persons from different countries, and opened to everyone interested on toponymy's research, forming a body membership.

The Reference Terms and a Research Agenda were also approved for the next four years, and inside the ToR, was the actions with UNGEGN for the creation of National Committees and/or National Authorities on Geographical Names.

In 2015 a new ICA Commission on Toponymy was confirmed by the 16th General Assembly, during the 27h International Cartographic Conference, held in Rio de Janeiro.

This new Commission was proposed by Brazil, because the success reached by the Working Group on Toponymy, continuing the previous adopted model of a Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymmy.

The approved ToR, once more, incentivised the creation of National Committees or National Authorities on Geographical Names.

Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy - current structure:

ICA Chair – Peter Jordan - Austria

ICA Vice-chair – Paulo Menezes - Brazil

IGU Chair – Cosimo Palagiano - Italy

Full Members (Steering Board)

Choo, Sungjae (Republic of Korea)

Ferland, Yaïves (Canada)

Jordan, Peter (Austria, ICA Co-Chair)

Menezes, Paulo de (Brazil, Common Vice-Chair)

Ormeling, Ferjan (Netherlands)

Palagiano, Cosimo (Italy, IGU Co-Chair)

Raper, Peter (South Africa)

Watanabe, Kohei (Japan)

Corresponding Members – 103 members of 36 different Countries.

6 - Conclusions

Geographical names are an aspect of humanity's cultural heritage in the sense that they have been transmitted from generation to generation for hundreds or thousands of years. **In many cases, geographical names are the only elements, sometimes surviving to extinct languages.**

Many geographical names have been created as descriptions of geographic features, places, by some descriptive form, an animal name, plant, tree or historical data and they are structures of **enormous historical value**. Even more recent names, for example, names of **dwelling places, streets, fields and farms**, as well as various **topographical features**, form a part of this collective patrimony and memory.

Thus, geographical names are **living stories** emerging from different periods of the past.

They are **compressed texts** that say something about the **places they nominate**, and about those **who gave the names**, showing the **power** that a geographical name has, regardless of the majority or minority characteristics of whoever named them.

UNGEGN has the **authority** to monitor the implementation of UN resolutions and to continue the activities between the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Emphasizes the importance of geographical names standardizing at all levels, showing their benefits.

It is the **international political forum** for the resolution of international problems regarding geographical names.

ICA, through its Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, works on **research** on geographical names, seeking to encourage the participation of country members in Symposia, Conferences and Seminars carried out by its own initiative or associated with ICA and IGU.

With a close connection with UNGEGN, the Commission in Toponymy strongly support and suggest the **creation of National Geographic Names Committees and / or Authorities** in accordance with the importance of standardization and the importance of geographical names in the current globalized world.

Finally, the Commission needs strengthen its participants and researchers, therefore, I **suggest you to join us.**

Thank You for your Attention!
Obrigado!
Hvala!

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