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Country names

Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories

Submitted by Poland**

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** Prepared by Maciej Zych, Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland

Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories (summary)

In 2011 the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography published the new list of country names. It was prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, and entitled “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories”. The list contains 195 countries recognized by the Republic of Poland and 69 non-self-governing territories. Attached to the register is a list of ten territories with undetermined or disputed international status.

The names of countries, territories, and their capitals included in the register have obtained approval of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The footnotes explaining the status of countries and territories have been provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The adjectives derived from names of countries and territories, as well as names of citizens and inhabitants have been provided in line with the opinion provided by the Orthography and Onomastics Commission of the Council for the Polish Language.

For each country and territory are given: short name of the country/territory (nominative, genitive, locative) in Polish; official full name of the country/territory in Polish; name of official language (languages) in Polish; short name of the country/territory in official language (or in official languages); official full name of the country/territory in the official language (or in official languages); adjective from the name of the country/territory in Polish (nominative, singular, male gender); name of inhabitants of the country/territory in Polish (male and female gender singular, and male gender plural); name of the country's/territory's capital used in the Polish language; name of the country's/territory's capital in the official language (or in official languages).

The list is published in Polish, but inset in English (with translation of the introductory parts, footnotes and dictionaries) is also added. Publication, inset and updates are available at website of the Commission: <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz.php>.

Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories

At the end of the year 2011 the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography published the new list of country names. It was prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, and entitled “Urzędowy wykaz nazw państw i terytoriów niesamodzielnych” (“Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories”). This is the eighth such Polish list.

The first Polish list of country names, entitled “Nazwy geograficzne ważniejszych jednostek polityczno-administracyjnych świata” („Geographical names of important political and administrative entities of the World”) was published in 1952¹. 187 Polish names of countries and dependent territories, as well as 263 names of administrative units were listed in this publication. The second list was published as the order of the Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology in 1975 (part 1 – Europe²) and 1977 (part 2 – the rest of the World³). The third list of country names was published, also as the order of minister, in 1986⁴. In 1997 the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names published the bilingual list entitled “Nazwy państw świata, ich stolic i mieszkańców” (“Names of countries, their capitals and inhabitants”), comprising both independent countries as well as 105 non-self-governing and autonomous territories⁵. The second edition of this publication (and the fifth Polish list of country names) appeared in 2003⁶. 192 independent countries were listed in this publication. Two supplements were added to the list. The first contained 64 territories (non-self-governing territories and territories of undefined or controversial status), the second supplement mentioned 64 autonomous territories being parts of 16 countries. In 2006 the publication entitled “Country names” was issued⁷. This small booklet mentioned only names of independent states. In the next year (2007), the third edition of “Names of countries, their capitals and inhabitants” was published⁸.

In accordance with the Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on the manner and scope of activity of the National Council of Geodesy and Cartography and Commission on

¹ This list is available in PDF format on the Commission’s website:

http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/publikacje/biuletyn_geograficzny_1952_nr_01.pdf.

² „Zarządzenie nr 1/75 Ministra Nauki, Szkolnictwa Wyższego i Techniki z dnia 8 stycznia 1975 r. w sprawie ustalenia brzmienia nazw miejscowości i obiektów geograficznych znajdujących się poza granicami Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej” (“The order No. 1/75 of the Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology of 8th January 1975 on the names of localities and geographic object located outside People’s Republic of Poland”). Publication is available in PDF format on the Commission’s website: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/dzurz_mnszwit_1975_nr_2_poz_6.pdf.

³ „Zarządzenie nr 17 Ministra Nauki, Szkolnictwa Wyższego i Techniki z dnia 19 kwietnia 1977 r. zmieniające zarządzenie w sprawie ustalenia brzmienia nazw miejscowości i obiektów geograficznych znajdujących się poza granicami Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej” (“The order No. 17 of the Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology of 19th April 1977 on amendment the order on the names of localities and geographic object located outside People’s Republic of Poland”). Publication is available in PDF format on the Commission’s website: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/dzurz_mnszwit_1977_nr_4_poz_13.pdf.

⁴ „Zarządzenie nr 22 Ministra Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego z dnia 22 sierpnia 1986 r. w sprawie ustalenia wykazu nazw miejscowości i obiektów geograficznych znajdujących się poza granicami Polski” (“The order No. 22 of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 22nd August 1986 on the names of localities and geographic object located outside Poland”). Publication is available in PDF format on the Commission’s website: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/dzurz_mimniszw_1986_nr_8_poz_32.pdf.

⁵ This list is available in PDF format on the Commission’s website:

http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/publikacje/nazwy_panstw_swiate_1997.pdf.

⁶ This list is available on the Commission’s website: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz_panstw_2.php.

⁷ This list is available on the Commission’s website: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz_panstw_1.php.

⁸ This list is available on the Commission’s website: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz_panstw_3.php.

Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland and principles governing payment for their members⁹, the competencies of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland comprise preparation of official lists of Polish names of countries and non-self-governing territories. The first edition of the “Official List of Names of Countries and Non-Self-Governing Territories”, prepared in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and published in 2011, constitutes an implementation of the content of the regulation mentioned above. In accordance with § 3 item 3 of the regulation mentioned above, the official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories is published for use by entities responsible for executing public tasks in the territory of the Republic of Poland.

The “Official List” contains, in the part I, 195 countries recognized by the Republic of Poland (193 member states of the United Nations Organization, as well as Kosovo and Vatican City) and, in the part II, 69 non-self-governing territories. Attached to the register is a list of ten territories with undetermined or disputed international status. Correct spelling of names has been provided, which the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland recommends for common use. The names included in the register should be used in written publications and spoken statements in Polish, in particular on maps, in encyclopedias, tourist guide-books, textbooks, the press, and electronic media. The publication accounts for resolutions of the Commission passed until November 23, 2011.

In Polish, names of countries, territories, and their capitals are used in Polonized form (e.g. *Szwecja*, *Sztokholm*), or in original form (e.g. *Chile*, *Santiago*). The Commission recommends the use of traditional names, which have been accepted in Polish for a long time. Among such traditional names of countries, which constitute cultural heritage and should continue to function in contemporary Polish language, there are such names as *Holandia* [*Holland*], *Moldawia* [*Moldavia*], *Włochy* [*Italy*], *Wybrzeże Kości Słoniowej* [*Ivory Coast*]. The Commission does not approve of replacing those names with original names, or names close to original ones: *Niderlandy* [*Netherlands*], *Moldowa* [*Moldova*], *Italia*, *Côte d’Ivoire*. In accordance with the recommendations of the UNGEGN, the Commission tried to eliminate some unnecessary Polonized names (exonyms), which have not been widely known and used, or their form has been controversial. In connection with that, the native spelling should be used for names like *Niamey*, *Monrovia*, *Reykjavík*, even though the previously recommended forms were *Niamej*, *Monrowia*, *Rejkiawik*. It is recommended to use one short name and one official name for the same country, e.g. *Kirgistan* [*Kyrgyzstan*], *Rwanda*, *Saint Kitts i Nevis* (the variant forms have been omitted, such as: *Kirgizja*, *Ruanda*, *Saint Christopher i Nevis*). Exceptions here are Myanmar, for which two short names have been established (*Mjanma* and *Birma*), as well as Macedonia and Vatican City, for which – as suggested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – two long names have been established: *Republika Macedonii* [*Republic of Macedonia*] and *Była Jugosłowiańska Republika Macedonii* [*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*]¹⁰, as well as *Państwo Watykańskie* [*Vatican City State*] and *Stolica Apostolska* [*Holy See*].

⁹ Rozporządzenie Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji z dnia 24 marca 2000 r. w sprawie trybu i zakresu działania Państwowej Rady Geodezyjnej i Kartograficznej i Komisji Standaryzacji Nazw Geograficznych poza Granicami Polski oraz zasad wynagradzania ich członków (“Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration of 24th March 2000 on the manner and scope of activity of the National Council of Geodesy and Cartography and Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland and principles governing payment for their members”), Journal of Law 2000, No. 26, item 316, and of 2009 No. 107, item 897: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/regulation_KSNG.pdf.

¹⁰ In accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland, of August 23, 2005, in the bilateral relations the Government of the Republic of Poland has been using the constitutional name of the Macedonian state, namely “Republika Macedonii” [Republic of Macedonia]. At the same time, the Council of Ministers decided that the name “Była

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The “Part I” of the publication lists, in alphabetical order, names of independent countries. All the entries concerning countries have been prepared in one pattern. Besides the entry name, that is the abbreviated name of the country in Polish, the location of the given country has been provided (continent). The entry contains five items, preceded by explanatory abbreviations:

- 1) short name of the country (in the nominative, genitive, and locative) and the official full name of the country used in Polish; for some countries commonly used in Polish abbreviations are given comprising the first letters of the given country’s name, e.g. *RFN* [*Germany*];
- 2) short name of the country in official language (or languages) and full official name of the country;
- 3) adjective formed from the name of the country in Polish (nominative, singular, masculine);
- 4) name of citizens of the country in Polish, singular – masculine and feminine, as well as masculine plural;
- 5) name of the capital of the country, used in Polish, should the name of the capital have a Polonized spelling, that is followed by the capital name in the country’s official language;

| Indie | Azja |
|--|------|
| <p><i>pol.</i> Indie, <i>D.</i> Indii, <i>Mc.</i> Indiach; Republika Indii <i>ang.</i> India; Republic of India // <i>hindi trl.</i> Bhārat, <i>trb.</i> Bharat; <i>trl.</i> Bhārat <i>Gaṇarājya</i>, <i>trb.</i> Bharat Ganaradžja <i>przym.</i> indyjski <i>obyw.</i> Hindus, Hinduska, Hindusi; Indus, Induska, Indusi <i>stol.</i> Nowe Delhi, <i>D.</i> Nowego Delhi, <i>Mc.</i> Nowym Delhi – New Delhi (<i>ang.</i>) // <i>trl.</i> Naī Dillī, <i>trb.</i> Naji Dilli (<i>hindi</i>)</p> | |

Fig. 1. An example of the arrangement of entry in the “Part I” (name of country).

All accessible information about names in official languages of countries and territories is given in the list – taking into account names in 115 official languages. Among these official languages 39 are given in original non-Roman scripts. For countries and capitals whose names in the original language are written using a non-Roman script, traditional Polonized names are used (e.g. *Jemen* [*Yemen*], *Pekin* [*Bejing*]) or names in Polish transcription (e.g. *Dżibuti* [*Djibouti*], *Astana*). In both cases the original name is given in romanized form. In most cases, the romanization of geographical names followed the guidelines of the United Nations Organization,

Jugosłowiańska Republika Macedonii” [The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] will be used by the Government of the Republic of Poland in multilateral relations, until the dispute concerning the name is settled between the Republic of Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO), or BGN/PCGN. A simplified Polish transcription of the name is given in second place. The transcription principles that have been followed are those adopted by the Commission for the purpose of preparing the twelve-part “Geographical Names of the World” (“Nazewnictwo geograficzne świata”; 2004–2010). Absence of Polish transcription means that the recommendation is to use, in Polish publications, only the international system of romanization (e.g. for Chinese, Korean, or Thai names) – traditional Polish transcription is given in the case of 31 languages.

If merely the short name of a country is provided (e.g. *Ukraina*), it means that it is the official name. If no words are derived from the given country name (adjective or name of citizens), then the given item has been omitted in the register. That entails recommendation of descriptive forms, such as „obywatel Wysp Marshalla” [citizen of the Marshall Islands]. In some cases, the variant forms are provided for derivatives of country names (adjectives, names of citizens), which are provided in dictionaries of Polish usage, e.g. *afgański* and *afganistański* [*Afghan*]; *Bahrańczyk* and *Bahrajńczyk* [*Bahraini*]. The Commission is not involved in standardization of derivatives, which have been published in the register only for information purposes, in the form approved by the Orthography and Onomastics Commission of the Council for the Polish Language. The fact that one of the variant forms has been put first does not entail that this specific form has been considered more worthy of recommendation than others.

The “Part II” of the publication lists names of non-self-governing (dependent) territories. The selection of those territories was difficult, as there are no criteria that would allow to decide in a conclusive way, whether a given area constitutes a non-self-governing territory, or is an integral part of a specific country. The list of non-self-governing territories provided by the UN has only 16 entries (including Western Sahara, treated by the Republic of Poland as territory with undetermined international status). Because of that the lists of overseas territories of France, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom have been used, provided by competent authorities of those countries. In the remaining cases, the distance from mother country has been taken into consideration, the particular administrative status of a given territory, as well as the customary treatment of specific territories as “dependent” or “overseas” territories in Polish and foreign publications.

Mariany Północne

Australia i Oceania

Stany Zjednoczone

pol. **Mariany Północne**, *D.* Marianów Północnych, *Mc.* Marianach

Północnych; **Wspólnota Marianów Północnych**

ang. Northern Mariana Islands; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands // *chamorro* Notte Mariãnas; Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariãnas

przym. północnomariański

mieszk. Mariańczyk, Marianka, Mariańczycy

stol. **Capital Hill*** *ndm.* – Capital Hill (*ang.*)

* Niektóre publikacje podają jako stolicę jednostkę administracyjną, w której znajduje się Capital Hill: **Saipan** – Saipan (*ang.*) // Sa’ipan (*chamorro*)

Fig. 2. An Example of the arrangement of entry in the “Part II” (name of non-self-governing territory).

Similar to the list of names of countries, also the list of non-self-governing territories is arranged in alphabetical order. Next to the entry name, the location of a given territory has been provided (the continent, in exceptional cases – the ocean), which is followed by the territory’s political affiliation (name of the country).

The entry contains the same items as a country entry, except that instead of citizen name, the name of territory inhabitants is provided. An addendum to the alphabetical list is the list of names of non-self-governing territories arranged according to the countries, which they are dependent upon.

The appendix, entitled “Territories with undetermined or disputed international status”, contains ten territories with special international status. First group consists of territories, which have their ultimate status not determined, such as Palestine, Western Sahara, and Spratly Islands. The second group consists of separatist territories, which unilaterally proclaimed their independence, sometimes recognized only by several other states. Those territories are listed as their names frequently appear in the press, in electronic media, books, on maps, that is why their correct Polish names, as well as original names should be known. None of those entities has been recognized as a sovereign state by the Republic of Poland, it should also be stressed that the provision of their names in the list below does not suggest such recognition.

Abchazja*

Azja

Formalnie pozostaje częścią Gruzji

pol. **Abchazja**, *D.* Abchazji, *Mc.* Abchazji; **Republika Abchazji**

abchaski trl. Apsny, *trb.* Apsny; *trl.* Apsny Aḥyntḡarra, *trb.* Apsny

Aḥyntkarra, *trl.* Arespublika Apsny, *trb.* Arespublika Apsny //

ros. trl. Abhazija, *trb.* Abchazija; *trl.* Respublika Abhazija, *trb.* Riespublika

Abchazija**

przym. abchaski

mieszk. Abchaz, Abchazka, Abchazowie

stol. **Suchumi** *ndm.* – *trl.* Aḡāa, *trb.* Akła (*abchaski*) // *trl.* Suhum,

trb. Suchum (*ros.*) // *trl.* Sokhumi, *trb.* Sochumi (*gruziński*)

* Terytorium, formalnie stanowiące część Gruzji, faktycznie pozostające poza jej kontrolą. Uwzględnienie nazwy „Abchazja” w wykazie nie oznacza uznania przez Rzeczpospolitą Polską funkcjonującej de facto na tym obszarze tzw. Republiki Abchazji.

** Nazwy stosowane przez władze abchaskie. Gruzja stosuje nazwy: *gruziński trl.* Apkhazeti, *trb.* Apchazeti; *trl.* Apkhazetis Avt’onomiuri Resp’ublik’a, *trb.* Apchazetis Awtonomiuri Respublika // *abchaski trl.* Apsny, *trb.* Apsny; *trl.* Apsnytāi Avtonomtāi Respublika, *trb.* Apsnytlyj Awtonomtlyj Respublika.

Fig. 3. Example of the arrangement of entry in the appendix
(name of territory with undetermined or disputed international status).

The list has been arranged in alphabetical order. The content of an entry is similar to that of the entry concerning non-self-governing territory. The entry stipulates the status of a given territory, in case of a separatist territory it has been stipulated, which country that territory is part of, in accordance with international law.

The list is published only in Polish, but inset in English is also added. The inset includes translation of the introductory parts of the publication (“Foreword”, “Introduction”, “Rules applied in romanization from languages using other forms of writing”, “Explanation of abbreviations and symbols”) and translation of footnotes that occur in some entries. As additional information, not included in main (Polish) publication, four dictionaries are added to the English inset: “Polish-English dictionary of names of countries”, “Polish-English dictionary of names of non-self-governing territories”, “Polish-English dictionary of names of territories with undetermined or disputed international status”, “Polish-English dictionary of names of languages”.

The whole publication, both the Polish version and the inset in English, is available on the website of Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz.php>. The updates to the publication are also placed on this website (to the date two updates were published: the first one on the change of the formal name of Hungary, and the second one on the adoption in Polish of a short name ‘Mjanma’ apart from ‘Birma’).