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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names**

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**Item 13 of the provisional agenda \***

**Exonyms**

**Second edition of the list of Polish geographical names  
of the world**

Submitted by Poland\*\*

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\* GEGN.2/2021/1

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## 1. The first edition (2013)

At the end of 2013 the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography issued the new publication that contained Polish exonyms. This 874-page publication was prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, and entitled “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world” [Polish: “Urzędowy wykaz polskich nazw geograficznych świata”]. This was the second list comprising Polish exonyms from the whole world. The previous one, entitled “Polish Geographical Names of the World” [Polish: “Polskie nazwy geograficzne świata”], was issued in the years 1994-1996. The list of 2013 was presented during the 16th Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms (5-7 June 2014, Hermagor, Austria), and, as a short summary, during the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (28 April – 2 May 2014, New York) – see the Working Paper No. 64/14.

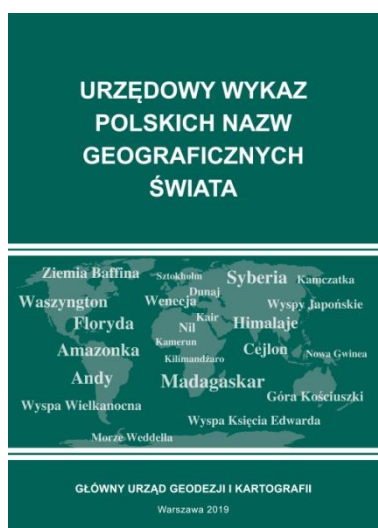
According to the *Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on the manner and scope of activity of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland*, the “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world” should be published at least every five years, i.e. till the end of 2018. However, the second edition was rescheduled to the next year, that is 2019.

The list has the official status, and the Polish names it includes should be used by public institutions performing their activities in Poland.

## 2. The second edition (2019)

The new, updated edition of the “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world” was published in December 2019.<sup>1</sup>

Fig. 1. The cover of the second edition.



Since the first edition of the list, 285 Polish exonyms were added, 146 exonyms were changed and 70 exonyms were deleted. This means that the changes concerned approximately 4% of the Polish exonyms. Most of these changes, almost 43%, are related to names of administrative units – changes in these names resulted from changes in the administrative divisions of countries.

<sup>1</sup> The whole publication is available on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wpngs\\_en.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wpngs_en.php).

Other adjustments include modification of Romanization systems for two languages: for Mongolian from the Mongolian National Center for Standardization and Metrology system of 2003 to the Mongolian National Center for Standardization and Metrology system of 2012, and for Tigrinia from the BGN/PCGN 1994 system to the BGN/PCGN 2007 system. Numerous updates and corrections in endonyms were also introduced.

### 3. Content of the publication

The list includes names of 13,599 geographical features from all continents, as well as names of undersea features, however, the names of objects lying entirely in the Polish territory have been excluded. The list refers only to features for which Polish geographical names are recommended, such as *Paryż* for Paris, *Hiszpania* [Spain] for España, *Kalifornia* for California, *Gwinea* [Guinea] for Guinée, *Wyspy Japońskie* [Japanese Archipelago] for Nihon Rettō, *Andy* [the Andes] for Cordillera de los Andes, *Wielka Pustynia Wiktorii* for Great Victoria Desert, or *Zatoka Omańska* [Gulf of Oman] for Khaliĵ ‘Umān / Daryā-ye ‘Omān. Therefore, geographical features for which this kind of name either does not exist or is not recommended have not been incorporated, including names commonly used in Polish such as *Berlin*, *Amsterdam*, *Chicago*, *Lombardia* [Lombardy], *Oregon*, *Alaska*, *Tasmania*, *Bornholm*, *Jawa* [Java], *Niger* [Niger River], *Harz*, *Jura* [Jura Mountains], *Aconcagua*, *Etna*, which – although well-established in the Polish language – are identical to the original names (which means that endonyms are used in Polish in these cases). This also applies to names originally written in a non-Roman script, where the names used in the Polish language are identical to the forms created by means of all recommended romanisation methods (transcription and transliteration), for example *Krasnojarsk* [Krasnoyarsk] for Красноярск (city in Russia), *Oka* [Oka River] for Ока (river in Russia), *Sumy* for Суми (city in Ukraine), *Tbilisi* for თბილისი (city in Georgia), or *Gorgany* for Горгани (mountain range in Ukraine).

Due to the fact that the names of transboundary features are repeated in the lists of individual countries (e.g. the name of *Morze Karaibskie* [Caribbean Sea] is included in the lists of 37 countries and territories, and the name of *Antyle* [Antilles] – in 30 lists), there is a total of 15,227 name entities in the publication. In addition, 338 Polish variant names are included in the list. 253 long forms of names, mostly used in official relations (e.g. *Wolny Kraj Saksonia* [Free State of Saxony] for a short name of *Saksonia* [Saxony] or *Region Autonomiczny Sardynii* [Autonomous Region of Sardinia] for a short name of *Sardynia* [Sardinia] for administrative units) are also listed in the publication. This means that the total of 14,190 Polish recommended names are given in the list. In addition, 129 Polish historical names (mostly for cities and towns) are included in it – but these historical names have been given solely for informational purposes without any standardization or formal recommendation.

Table 1. The number of Polish geographical names in the list by chapters

Chapter	Number of:		
	primary names	variant names	official names
1. Europe	9817	248	86
2. Asia	1624	53	61
3. Africa	729	11	52
4. North America	459	7	19
5. South America	174	5	15
6. Australia and Oceania	249	4	19
7. Antarctica	322	4	1
8. Undersea features	355	18	0
<b>Entire list*</b>	<b>13599</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>253</b>

\* The value specified in the row “Entire list” is not the sum of the values in the rows for individual chapters – some features’ names are listed in several chapters of the publication.

Two kinds of names are included in the list of geographical features: Polish geographical names (exonyms and quasi-exonyms) and the corresponding original names (endonyms, i.e. names of geographical features in the language spoken where the given feature is located). It should be stressed that the Commission on Standardisation of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland is responsible for standardisation of the Polish names only, excluding any standardisation of endonyms. If a certain feature has not been listed, it means that the Commission does not recommend using its Polish name even if such a name can be found in some publications. The reason for omitting a name may also be the fact that the feature it refers to is insignificant or has ceased to exist.

For names in languages using a non-Roman script, a romanized form is given, established according to the rules the Commission recommends for use in Poland for geographical names from that particular language. In the case of most of these languages, both the transliteration and the Polish phonetic transcription are provided. An exception is made for several Asian languages, namely Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Lao, Burmese and Khmer, where only international romanization is recommended. It should be emphasized that a name written in its Polish transcription shall not be considered a Polish name – despite being written with Polish letters, such a name remains an endonym.

#### 4. Composition of the list

The list is divided into eight parts (chapters). Seven of them correspond to the traditionally determined parts of the world (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia with Oceania, Antarctica). The last part is devoted to undersea features. In the case of countries or territories situated in two parts of the world, the entire list of names from its area is included in the chapter related to the part of the world it is usually associated with (for example, the whole list for Russia, together with the objects located in Asia, will be found in the *Europe* chapter). The allocation of particular areas and territories to particular parts of the world is for convenience only, and was based on physical geography. It should be noted that in the case of islands such allocation to particular parts of the world is often problematic.

Chapters of the particular parts of the world begin with the list of recommended Polish names of the large regional units (e.g. *Arktyka* [Arctic], *Europa Środkowa* [Central Europe], *Balkany* [Balkans], *Skandynawia* [Scandinavia], *Bliski Wschód* [Middle East], *Sahel*, *Ameryka* [Americas], *Melanezja* [Melanesia]) and oceans. After this introduction, geographical names from individual countries and non-self-governing territories are posted.

Names of geographical features from the areas of individual countries or territories have been arranged by 57 categories:

- Administrative units (if needed, also second-level and other administrative units are provided separately)
- Localities
- Parts of localities
- Research stations
- Oases
- Economic regions
- Lands, regions (other than administrative or economic regions)
- Seas
- Gulfs and bays (on seas)
- Straits (including sea channels)
- Other sea water bodies
- Ice shelves
- Ice fronts
- Lakes (including artificial reservoirs)

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- Bays of lakes
  - Groups of lakes
  - Rivers (including parts of rivers)
  - Canals (only inland ones)
  - Waterfalls (including cataracts)
  - Glaciers
  - Swamps
  - Salt pans
  - Islands (on seas)
  - Groups of islands, archipelagos (on seas)
  - Islands on lakes or rivers
  - Groups of islands and archipelagos on lakes or rivers
  - Reefs
  - Peninsulas (on seas)
  - Peninsulas on lakes
  - Capes
  - Coasts
  - Isthmuses
  - Deltas
  - Lake districts
  - Lowlands, plains
  - Valleys
  - Basins
  - High plains
  - Highlands, plateaus
  - Mountains (including mountain chains, systems, ranges, and ridges)
  - Peaks (including isolated mountains and massifs)
  - Passes
  - Deserts
  - Steppes
  - Woodlands, forests
  - Caves
  - Artesian basins
  - Other natural features
  - Nature conservation areas
  - Industrial regions
  - Places of mineral resources' extraction or occurrence
  - Roads (excluding streets)
  - Railways
  - Other transport facilities
  - Ruins of settlements
  - Other historic monuments or sites
  - Other anthropogenic features

The occurrence of a particular category depends on the specifics of a country (territory), so in some countries certain categories will not be represented. In extreme cases, where Polish names are not recommended for any geographical feature within a country or territory, only introductory information is provided (e.g. Guinea-Bissau, Samoa, Tokelau).

In the eighth chapter, related to undersea features, names are posted according to the location of features in five oceans (Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, and Pacific Ocean) with separately listed features from the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. Names of individual geographic features included in this chapter have been arranged into 14 categories:

- Ocean currents
- Ridges
- Seamounts
- Horseshoes
- Fracture zones
- Rises
- Plateaus
- Abyssal plains
- Banks
- Basins
- Trenches
- Troughs
- Deeps
- Canyons

Entries related to particular geographic features present the Polonized form (exonym) first. All names are arranged in plain alphabetical order (e.g. Jezioro Wiktorii [Lake Victoria], not: Wiktorii, Jezioro [Victoria, Lake]).

Then the original name (endonym) is given in the official language, or original names where more than one official language is applicable or the feature has official names in more than one language.

Where for one feature endonyms are given in more than one language, each name is always preceded by an indication of the language in which the name is used. For names in languages using a non-Roman script, a Romanized form (i.e. converted to the Roman script) is given, established according to the rules the Commission recommends for use in Poland for the geographical names from the respective language. In such cases, first the transliteration is specified then the transcription of the original name, or in other words, the phonetic conversion of the name into Polish, usually in letters of the Polish alphabet. Both name forms, the transcription and transliteration, are given even if they are identical.

The names are followed by the geographical coordinates of the feature. They are provided for all features excluding countries and non-self-governing territories as well as large regions and oceans. For most areal features, coordinates of the optical centre are provided, and for cities, towns and villages, the aim was to give the coordinates of their centre. In the case of scattered features, such as groups of islands or lakes, as well as features of a crescent shape, coordinates are provided for a point within the feature and not situated outside. For linear features, the coordinates of their both ends are provided. The precision of the coordinates depends on the size of the geographical feature. For smaller features such as peaks or capes coordinates are provided with an accuracy to one arc second, while the largest ones are given with an accuracy to several degrees. It should be noted that these coordinates are provided for identification purposes only. Precise determination of the spatial extent of many surface features is not always possible, as it may vary in different publications; this specifically applies to lands and regions as well as landforms.

If necessary, additional information and observations are provided, such as information about localization of a transboundary feature in other countries, additional characteristics of a feature or its localization, information that a part of a locality is situated within an independent locality, and selected historical names of a feature.

Fig. 2. Examples of the scope and arrangement of entries.

**Górna Austria;** Oberösterreich;  $48^{\circ}10'N$ ,  $13^{\circ}50'E$   
**Kanał Alberta;** *fr.* Canal Albert; *nid.* Albertkanaal;  $50^{\circ}39'13''N$ ,  $5^{\circ}37'05''E \leftrightarrow 51^{\circ}14'25''N$ ,  $4^{\circ}25'11''E$   
**Złote Piaski;** Zlatni pyasatsi (*trl.*), Złatni pjasyci (*trb.*);  $43^{\circ}17'00''N$ ,  $28^{\circ}02'30''E$  [*Warna*]  
**Brioni;** *chorw.* Veli Brijuni; *wł.* Brioni Maggiore;  $44^{\circ}54'40''N$ ,  $13^{\circ}46'00''E$   
**Bilbao;** *hiszp.* Bilbao; *bask.* Bilbo;  $43^{\circ}15'30''N$ ,  $2^{\circ}56'00''W$   
**Pejpus; Jezioro Czudskie;** Peipsi järv;  $58^{\circ}45'N$ ,  $27^{\circ}15'E$  ( $58^{\circ}40'N$ ,  $27^{\circ}30'E$ ) [*również Rosja*]  
**Morze Archipelagowe;** *fiń.* Saaristomeri; *szw.* Skärgårdshavet;  $60^{\circ}15'N$ ,  $21^{\circ}30'E$   
**Loara;** Loire;  $44^{\circ}50'29''N$ ,  $4^{\circ}13'07''E \rightarrow 47^{\circ}17'45''N$ ,  $2^{\circ}02'30''W$   
**Zatoka Koryncka;** Korinthiakós Kólpos (*trl.*), Korintiakos Kolpos (*trb.*);  $38^{\circ}12'N$ ,  $22^{\circ}35'E$   
**Puszcza Rudnicka;** Rūdninkų giria;  $54^{\circ}23'N$ ,  $25^{\circ}05'E$   
**Ren;** Rhein;  $47^{\circ}39'57''N$ ,  $9^{\circ}10'48''E \rightarrow 51^{\circ}51'55''N$ ,  $6^{\circ}03'49''E$  ( $46^{\circ}49'25''N$ ,  $9^{\circ}24'27''E \rightarrow 51^{\circ}52'23''N$ ,  $6^{\circ}02'27''E$ ) [*również Austria, Francja, Holandia, Liechtenstein, Szwajcaria*]  
**Droga Transfagaraska;** Transfăgărășan;  $44^{\circ}53'28''N$ ,  $24^{\circ}49'18''E \leftrightarrow 45^{\circ}45'46''N$ ,  $24^{\circ}34'15''E$   
**Erywań;** Yerevan (*trl.*), Jerewan (*trb.*);  $40^{\circ}11'00''N$ ,  $44^{\circ}31'00''E$   
**Ćottogram; Chittagong;** Caṭṭagrām (*trl.*), Ćottogram (*trb.*);  $22^{\circ}19'30''N$ ,  $91^{\circ}48'30''E$   
**Kolombo;** *syng.* Kołam̃ba (*trl.*), Kolamba (*trb.*); *tamil.* Kołumpu (*trl.*), Kolumbu (*trb.*);  $6^{\circ}56'00''N$ ,  $79^{\circ}50'40''E$   
**Czatkalski Rezerwat Biosfery;** Chotqol davlat biosfera qo'riqxonasi;  $41^{\circ}10'N$ ,  $69^{\circ}56'E$  oraz  $41^{\circ}20'N$ ,  $70^{\circ}18'E$   
**Ho Chi Minh;** Hồ Chí Minh;  $10^{\circ}46'30''N$ ,  $106^{\circ}42'00''E$  [*hist.: Sajgon*]  
**Fudżajra;** Al-Fujayrah (*trl.*), Al-Fudżajra (*trb.*); *ofic.* Imārat al-Fujayrah (*trl.*), Imarat al-Fudżajra (*trb.*);  $25^{\circ}28'N$ ,  $56^{\circ}14'E$  oraz  $25^{\circ}09'N$ ,  $56^{\circ}18'E$

The alphabetical index of all Polish names is attached at the end of the publication. The name index contains exclusively the Polish names from the list (without the original names), including those listed as historical. The only exceptions are long (official) names of countries, territories and administrative units (such as *Republika Francuska* [French Republic], *Terytorium Samoa Amerykańskiego* [Territory of American Samoa] or *Terytorium Autonomiczne Gagauzji* [Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia]) which have been omitted if a short Polish name is included in the list for the respective country, territory or administrative unit (e.g., *Francja* [France], *Samoa Amerykańskie* [American Samoa], *Gagauzja* [Gagauzia]).

The names are arranged in alphabetical order without considering diacritics not used in the Polish language. Unlike in the main list, the names are put in an inverted order, which means that for composite names featuring a generic term followed by a specific one, in the index the specific term is put first and the generic term second, separated by a comma, for example: *Wiktorii, Jezioro* [Victoria, Lake]; *Kolumbii, Dystrykt* [Columbia, District of].

Fig. 3. Example of descriptions used in the name index.

- Kwasówka → Pohorany Dolne  
 Kwatery · *m.* · *Białoruś* · 45  
 Kweta · *m.* · *Pakistan* · 459  
 Kwirynał · *g.* · *Włochy* · 363  
 Kyrdzali · *j. adm.* · *Bulgaria* · 101  
 Kyrdzali · *m.* · *Bulgaria* · 102  
 Kyzyl · *m.* · *Rosja* · 211  
 Kyzyl-kum · *pust.* · *Kazachstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan* · 437, 481, 484  
 Kyzylkumski, Rezerwat · *ob. chr.* · *Uzbekistan* · 484  
 Kyzylorda · *m.* · *Kazachstan* · 432  
 kyzylordyński, obwód · *j. adm.* · *Kazachstan* · 431
- L**
- La Manche · *cieśn.* · *Francja, Guernsey, Jersey, Wlk. Bryt.* · 128, 142, 152, 356  
 La Pérouse'a, Cieśnina · *cieśn.* · *Japonia, Rosja* · 218, 424  
 La Plata · *zat.* · *Argentyna, Urugwaj* · 606, 623  
 La Platy, Nizina · *niz.* · *Argentyna, Boliwia, Brazylia, Paragwaj, Urugwaj* · 607, 609, 611, 620, 623  
 Labiawa → Polessk  
 Labrador · *plw.* · *Kanada* · 578
- Lamberta, Lodowiec · *lod.* · *Antarktyka* · 653  
 Lamia · *m.* · *Grecja* · 134  
 Lancastera, Cieśnina · *cieśn.* · *Kanada* · 575  
 Landów Gaskońskich, Park Regionalny · *ob. chr.* · *Francja* · 131  
 Landsort, Głębia · *gl.* · *O. Atlantycki (M. Bałtyckie)* · 675  
 Landwarów · *m.* · *Litwa* · 162  
 Landwarów · *m.* · *Litwa* · 162  
 Landy · *j. adm.* · *Francja* · 125  
 Landy · *reg.* · *Francja* · 127  
 Langeo, Lodowiec · *lod.* · *Antarktyka* · 653  
 Langwedocja · *reg.* · *Francja* · 127  
 Langwedocka, Nizina · *niz.* · *Francja* · 130  
 Laos · *państ.* · *Laos* · 445  
 Laponia · *j. adm.* · *Finlandia* · 122  
 Laponia · *reg.* · *Finlandia, Norwegia, Rosja, Szwecja* · 123, 202, 215, 278  
 Lapońska, Brama · *dol.* · *Szwecja* · 279  
 Lapońska, Wyżyna · *wyż.* · *Finlandia, Norwegia, Szwecja* · 124, 203, 279  
 Lapoński Rezerwat Biosfery · *ob. chr.* · *Rosja* · 237  
 Larisa · *m.* · *Grecja* · 134

## 5. Final remarks

The list has been published in Polish only, but an inset in English has also been prepared. This inset includes a translation of the introductory part of the publication, i.e. editorial page, table of contents, “from the Publisher”, preface, introduction, Romanization rules, explanation of abbreviations, as well as a translation of the footnotes contained in the publication and information about the name index.

Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland has started works on extension of information on individual names (entries), which include: establishing adjectives for certain names, establishing genitives and locatives for selected names, adding original notation (such as in the Cyrillic alphabet, Arabic script or Chinese script) to endonyms originally written in non-Roman scripts. These works are in the final stage now.

Due to certain political ambiguities, it should also be noted that the “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world” presents names the Commission has established as correct solely from the linguistic point of view and corresponding to the information gathered so far. In no event shall these recommendations be regarded as an expression of the Commission’s political preferences or its position as regards the administrative affiliation of particular territories. Any decisions of a political character, if necessary, were consulted with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.