
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
Asia South-East Division
9th Divisional Meeting
24 November 2021
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Country Report

Country Report
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**Report of the
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

to the

**9th Divisional Meeting of the
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
Asia South-East (ASE) Division
24 November 2021**

I. INTRODUCTION

This report, prepared by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) of the Republic of the Philippines, provide updates on geographical names activities of the Philippines since the 8th United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Asia South East Division Meeting on 27 October 2020.

II. PAST AND MOST RECENT ACTIVITIES

A. UNGEGN Programs

1. On 27 October 2020, the Philippines attended the 8th UNGEGN-ASE Division virtual meeting and presented its accomplishment from 2018-2020.
2. On 3-7 May 2021, attended the Second Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) online.
3. On 30 August 2021, the Philippines attended the webinar and was one of the resource speakers with a theme “Recognizing Generic Terms in Geographical Names from Local Languages” organized by UNGEGN-ASE Division. During the said event, the Philippine representative presented the local languages and toponyms in the Philippines.
4. On 31 August 2021, the Philippines attended the webinar focused on “Geographical Names Standardization Supporting National Development” facilitated by UN-GGIM:Americas.

B. National Programs

1. Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC)

The Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC) is a systematic classification and coding of geographic areas in the Philippines. It classifies local government units (LGUs) according to well-established geographical-political subdivisions of the country such as administrative region, province, city/municipality and barangay. The PSGC is a

collaborative effort of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), and its interagency Technical Working Group on Geographic Code (TWGGC) composed of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Commission on Elections (COMELEC), National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), and the Land Management Bureau (LMB).

The latest PSGC updated quarterly as of June 2021 shows no changes on the total number of Local Government Units (LGUs) as shown in the table below. However, the names of seventeen (17) barangay were corrected based on the recommendations of the TWGGC.

Geographic Level	As of June 2021
No. of Regions	17
No. of Provinces	81
No. of Cities	146
No. of Municipalities	1,488
No. of Barangays	42,046

2. Updating of the Philippine Gazetteer Project

The “*Updating of the Philippine Gazetteer Project*” was implemented in 2020. The project aims to update the 1989 Philippine Gazetteer based on the 1:250,000 scale topographic maps. The updated Philippine Gazetteer will be based on the latest 1:50,000 topographic maps and will cover eighty-one (81) provinces and the National Capital Region (NCR). The project duration was amended from the original target of five (5) years to 10 years due to circumstances which were not considered during the project formulation such as the cost and lengthy duration of fieldwork survey and the effects of Covid-19 pandemic. At the end of the project, a collection of geographical names is stored in a Geographical Names Geospatial Database and a book compilation will be published.

Geographic names from 1:50,000 topographic maps were processed and uploaded to the Geographical Names Geospatial Database for five (5) provinces in 2020 and eight (8) provinces for the current year as listed on the table below:

Year 2020	Year 2021
1 Abra	1 Bataan
2 Apayao	2 Benguet

3	Ilocos Norte
4	Kalinga
5	Mountain Province

3	Bulacan
4	Ifugao
5	Ilocos Sur
6	La Union
7	Pampanga
8	Zambales

Field data collection and verification activity was suspended in 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic and therefore added to the eight (8) field survey target this year. Thus, a total of thirteen (13) provinces for field survey activity was carried out this year. Attributes of geographical names such as history, meaning, spelling, pronunciations (sound recordings), etc. were collected and validated. To date, twelve (12) provinces were already completed. The remaining one (1) province is scheduled for field data collection and validation in December. Encoding of geographical name's attributes including field gathered data is intensified to populate the database before the year ends.

III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A. Updating of the Philippine Gazetteer Project

The Updating of the Philippine Gazetteer Project shall cover ten (10) provinces in 2022. Data processing, field data collection and validation, and field data processing shall continue to realize the completion of the project.

B. Integration of Geographical Names in the Philippine Geoportal Project

The Philippine Geoportal Project is a platform for collaboration, data and resource sharing, integration and utilization. This will provide data sharing and access of geospatial information of the Philippines through the web. Upon completion of the Updating of the Philippine Gazetteer Project, geographical names in the Geographical Names Geospatial Database will be uploaded to the Philippine Geoportal Project (www.geoportal.gov). It will have its own layer which will include point data of significant features and recordings of geographical names.

