

**24th SCUFN MEETING**  
**Beijing, China, 12-16 September 2011**

Dear Michel,

Position 3.4 in "Action Items by Galina Agapova" (Draft Report of SCUFN-XIX, Annex 4, p.41) was done by Nataliya Turko during the SCUFN-19, as told in p.10.3 "Submit a detailed written proposal...to address questions and issues regarding transliteration included in GEBCO Products ..**before the end of the meeting**", and questions are listed above in the p.10.3.

If these questions are still not clear, I'll try to explain our position one more time.

1. In GEBCO products (GDA and Gazetteer) we include undersea features names from different countries. Users of the products should can read and pronounce the names in the same way. For this names should be in one language and one system of transliteration to this language should be used.

In 3d and 4<sup>th</sup> editions of GEBCO undersea feature names were in French, in 5<sup>th</sup> – in English. What language should be used – is a question of the specification of the map. I can give as example the Specification of IBCEA, section 501 C. ([http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/ibcea/html/ibcea\\_se.htm](http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/ibcea/html/ibcea_se.htm)) -attached

I remember that the same position was approved for the IBCM Specification, prepared by Russian Hydrographic Office as publisher. In the specification of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition section 500 was approved that nomenclature would be in English, but nothing was said about names, only that they would be provided by scientific coordinators. Seems it was practically decided to be in English, because it would be strange to have the term and own name in different languages..

At present time in GEBCO Gazetteer appeared, instead of names in English, some others (one can see that all types of features are in English) ([http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gebco/gazet\\_mar2006.xls](http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gebco/gazet_mar2006.xls)):

<b>Açor</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Açores Este</b>	<b>Fracture Zone</b>
<b>East Azores</b>	<b>Fracture Zone</b>
<b>Águilas</b>	<b>Seamount, Bank</b>
<b>Alborán</b>	<b>Ridge, Basin, Seachannel</b>
<b>Bérrio</b>	<b>Saddle</b>
<b>Bijagós</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Camarón</b>	<b>Knoll</b>
<b>Camões</b>	<b>Seamount, Bank</b>
<b>Çandarli</b>	<b>Basin, Shelf</b>
<b>Ceará</b>	<b>Seamounts, Terrace, Abyssal Plain, Ridge</b>
<b>Colón</b>	<b>Seamount, Ridge</b>
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	<b>Eскарpment</b>
<b>De Santarém-Escobar</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Dom João de Castro</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Dos Niños</b>	<b>Knoll</b>
<b>Dvorák</b>	<b>Seamount</b>
<b>East Alborán</b>	<b>Basin</b>

<b>Ekström</b>	<b>Basin</b>
<b>Engaño</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Farallón</b>	<b>Basin</b>
<b>Fernando de Noronha</b>	<b>Ridge</b>
<b>Fernão Barreto</b>	<b>Ridge</b>
<b>Fernão Oulmo</b>	<b>Ridge</b>
<b>Frøya</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Fugløy</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Gökova</b>	<b>Trough</b>
<b>Gonçalves Zarco</b>	<b>Peak</b>
<b>Gröll</b>	<b>Seamount</b>
<b>Île Rousse</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Ingøydjupet</b>	<b>Hole</b>
<b>Jagüey</b>	<b>Spur</b>
<b>João de Lisboa</b>	<b>Passage</b>
<b>João Leonardes</b>	<b>Hills</b>
<b>João Pessoa</b>	<b>Plateau</b>
<b>João Valadão</b>	<b>Ridge</b>
<b>Küre</b>	<b>Escarpment</b>
<b>La Coruña</b>	<b>Valley, Seamounts</b>
<b>La Désirade</b>	<b>Escarpment, Valley</b>
<b>La Feuillée</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>La Pérouse</b>	<b>Seamount</b>
<b>La Renaiçença</b>	<b>Hills</b>
<b>La Réunion</b>	<b>Trough</b>
<b>Lapérouse</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Lapérouse</b>	<b>Fracture Zone</b>
<b>Maimón</b>	<b>Basin</b>
<b>Maimonide</b>	<b>Ridge</b>
<b>Mazarrón</b>	<b>Escarpment</b>
<b>Möller</b>	<b>Trough</b>
<b>Nazaré</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Nazareth</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Niños</b>	<b>Knoll</b>
<b>Niños</b>	<b>Valley</b>
<b>Nordenskjöld</b>	<b>Basin</b>

<b>Ôjin</b>	<b>Guyot</b>
<b>Oléron</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Parnaíba</b>	<b>Ridge</b>
<b>Pedro Nunes</b>	<b>Seamounts</b>
<b>Petit Rhône</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Pinzón</b>	<b>Knoll</b>
<b>Portimão</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Provençal</b>	<b>Escarpment</b>
<b>Provençaux</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Príncipes de Avis</b>	<b>Hills</b>
<b>Príncipes de Avis</b>	<b>Terrace</b>
<b>Pêro Correia da Cunha</b>	<b>Hill</b>
<b>Queirós</b>	<b>Seamount</b>
<b>Queirós</b>	<b>Fracture Zone</b>
<b>Quitassueño</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Quitassueño</b>	<b>Gap</b>
<b>Ré</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Rhône</b>	<b>Fan</b>
<b>Rhône</b>	<b>Cone</b>
<b>Røst</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Río De La Plata</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Sala y Gómes</b>	<b>Ridge</b>
<b>San José</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>San Pedro Mártir</b>	<b>Basin</b>
<b>San Quintín</b>	<b>Basin</b>
<b>São Gabriel</b>	<b>Valley</b>
<b>São Miguel</b>	<b>Hole</b>
<b>São Paulo</b>	<b>Channel</b>
<b>São Paulo</b>	<b>Fracture Zone</b>
<b>São Paulo (Santos)</b>	<b>Plateau</b>
<b>São Pedro</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>São Rafael</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>São Vicente</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Sète</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Setúbal</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Sørbakken</b>	<b>Slope</b>

<b>Sørkapp</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>St. Barthélemy</b>	<b>Valley</b>
<b>St. Géran</b>	<b>Ridge</b>
<b>Tanoûdêrt</b>	<b>Canyon</b>
<b>Tiburón</b>	<b>Basin</b>
<b>Tofiño</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Tres Marías</b>	<b>Basin</b>
<b>Vitória</b>	<b>Seamount</b>
<b>Vitória-Trindade</b>	<b>Seamounts</b>
<b>Vöring</b>	<b>Plateau</b>
<b>Wüst</b>	<b>Seamount</b>
<b>Yucatán</b>	<b>Basin</b>
<b>Yucatán</b>	<b>Escarpment</b>
<b>Yucatán</b>	<b>Shelf</b>
<b>Zélée</b>	<b>Bank</b>

Situation looks crazy even with names from countries with Latin alphabet, because in every language additional signs are used to fit the phonetics of the language. In this case we need to mark (in Gazetteer? On map?) what language is the name originated from and according which rules it should be pronounced.

We hope to get to SCUFN more proposals from different regions (and regional projects), with variety of languages and alphabets, and the problems will grow up. So we should find the solution in the near future.

2. GEBCO is international IHO/IOC project, and official UNESCO and IHO (article XII) languages are English or French. So we can choose between them.

In Guidelines for the standardization of undersea future names, section I.General p.F is written:

“Names not in the writing system of the country applying the names on maps or other documents should be transliterated according to the system adopted by the national authority applying the names.”

The publisher of GEBCO DGA now is BODC. Is also important that traditionally marine community (navigators, hydrographers and marine scientists) are using English for communications.

We think that English is also more comfortable for publishers and user, because has no diacretic symbols and can be used in printing and Web-pages without special codes.

Taking into consideration mentioned above, we propose to discuss the matter at SCUFN-XX and look more carefully (or edit) GEBCO specification.

Our opinion is that is preferable to put names in English and transliterate non-english names according to the system adopted by the national authority of UK. We think that our colleagues can inform us about this system(s?).

Sincerely

Galina Agapova  
Nataliya Turko