

2. PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE AREA

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- Study existing maps and air photographs
- Study previous map editions
- Study location of linguistic boundaries in the area
- Study issues:
 - What to do with local variation in dialects?
 - What to do if no names exist?
 - What to do if names change over time? (In certain parts of the world villages might be named for their chief: a new chief would mean a new name.)
 - What to do with *allonyms**, *homonyms**?
 - Render local pronunciation or standard orthography?
 - Local generics or official generics? (The official word for *river* in the Indonesian language is *sungai*. But local languages might have local words for *river*.)
 - How to deal with *abbreviations* or *composite names**?
- Produce preliminary list of existing geographical names
- Produce preliminary list of *generic names** specific to the area

* See UNGEGN [Glossary of Terminology](#) (pdf) on the UNGEGN website.



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