

Paper for Consideration by SCUFN

Report of the work made during the inter-sessional period

Monitoring the list of PENDING names

Submitted by:	IHO Secretariat (as SCUFN Secretary)
Executive Summary:	This document reports on the monitoring, since SCUFN-36, of the PENDING names from the on-line GEBCO Gazetteer database. These include all new PENDING names agreed at SCUFN-36.
Related Documents:	Summary Report of SCUFN-36, Annex B, Part 2 Intersessional SCUFN work by correspondence (Dec 2022) Decision/Action SCUFN36/07.2/03
Related Projects:	KHOA Beta Gazetteer - GEBCO Gazetteer Interoperation

Introduction / Background

1. Following the SCUFN-36 meeting, held in November 2023, considering the limited resources available within its Sub-Committee, the Secretariat of the GEBCO Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) decided to contract several tasks in order to improve the content of the IHO-IOC online GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names (the Gazetteer) and support SCUFN activities managed by the IHO Secretariat. The following tasks were contracted to the former SCUFN Secretary.

Tasks	Objectives	Outcome reported in
1	<i>Update the Gazetteer from all undersea feature naming decisions and actions taken at SCUFN-36, ensuring quality control and standardization of the documentation provided as part of the relevant proposals. Prepare a draft report as a submission document to SCUFN-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-07.2B
2	<i>Monitor the list of pending names. Prepare a draft report as a submission document to SCUFN-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-07.2D
3	<i>Monitor the relationships with NCEI and KHOA to maintain and/or improve the Gazetteer, as necessary and/or appropriate. As part of that work, assess the new version 5.0.0 prior to its launching during 2024. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-07.1B
4	<i>Launch, monitor and provide advice on the development by KHOA of the prototype UFN database and SCUFN Operations Web services (OWS), as well as the integration of the SCUFN OWS and the existing GEBCO Gazetteer. This will include testing the integrated system in operational mode for a couple of undersea feature names, also covering the direct online submission procedure. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-07.3B

Tasks	Objectives	Outcome reported in
5	<i>Preload in the Gazetteer tentatively through the SCUFN OWS all undersea feature names from the proposals to be submitted to SCUFN-37, in advance of the meeting. In doing so, quality control and standardization of the documentation provided will be ensured. All preloaded names to be put in Edit mode. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-04.0A
6	<i>As a complement to Task 4, monitor the development of the SCUFN OWS Repository and the transfer of the IHO SCUFN Digital Archive, the interface to move proposals (in restricted access mode before SCUFN meetings) to the Repository after SCUFN meetings (open access and links to GEBCO Gazetteer). Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-07.3C
7	<i>Support to the outgoing Secretary during the hand-over with the incoming Secretary for a couple of training sessions. Deadline: October 2024.</i>	

2. The objective of this submission paper is to report on Task 2.

Analysis/Discussion

3. A “pending name” is an undersea feature name that was submitted to, and considered by SCUFN, but was not accepted, either due to lack of bathymetric evidence for the feature, or because the proposed specific name is questioned, or following a conflict in naming the feature that must be solved by the authorities involved. The name is kept pending until further information or data is provided by the proposer or an agreement is reached between relevant authorities.

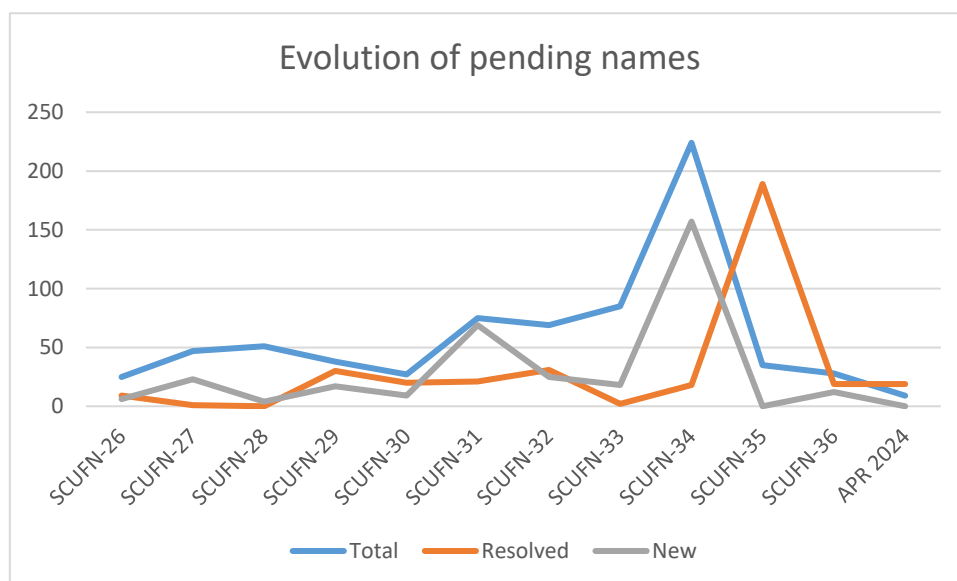
4. Document SCUFN36-07.2D reported that, as of October 2023, there were 16 pending names remaining in the Gazetteer. The number of pending names has recently decreased dramatically as the SCUFN-35.2 meeting in fall 2022 was almost exclusively devoted to addressing the 205 pending names. [Annex A](#) provides the status of all actions and decisions from SCUFN-36, relating to pending names.

5. [Annex B](#) provides details of the remaining 9 pending names, including comments on the actions in progress. An important decision was taken at SCUFN-36 about the names proposed in the South China Sea (SCS). In effect, SCUFN agreed to “freeze” the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01). Meanwhile, they are kept in the Gazetteer with an EDIT status. Consequently, as 15 out of the 16 pending names that were listed in SCUFN36-07.2D are located in the SCS, their status has been changed from PENDING to EDIT in the Gazetteer, meaning that they no longer appear in the current list of pending names. Furthermore, 12 new pending names resulted from SCUFN-36 (9 of them relating to Decision SCUFN36/04.20/00), of which three have been resolved by correspondence: Kawio Barat Seamount, Rivoli Canyon and Burns Seamount. [Annex C](#) lists those 15 names which have been removed from the previous list of pending names, with details on the actions taken. This includes Mestayer Seamount as NZGB has been unable to provide the missing data within two years and that Decision SCUFN33/47 (former SCUFN32/188) therefore applied.

6. A summary of the evolution of the number of pending names over the past years is given in the following table:

Meeting	Total number of pending names at the end of the meeting	Number of pending names resolved at the meeting or since the previous meeting	Number of new pending names resulting from the meeting
SCUFN-26	25	9	6
SCUFN-27	47	1	23
SCUFN-28	51	0	4
SCUFN-29	38	30	17
SCUFN-30	27	20	9
SCUFN-31	75	21	69
SCUFN-32	69	31	25
SCUFN-33	85	2	18
SCUFN-34	224	18	157
SCUFN-35	35	189	0
SCUFN-36	28	19	12
Feb 2024	9	19	0

The graphic below shows the evolution of the number of pending names since 2013.



Recommendations

It is recommended:

7. That SCUFN Members review the current list of pending names at [Annex B](#), noting the comments in the right-hand column, and conclude on the best way forward for each name, including by encouraging mutual consultation between the authorities involved, in accordance with B-6 (Art. I.E).
8. That SCUFN Members consider [Annex A](#) and [Annex C](#), and comment as appropriate.
9. That as many pending names as possible be processed by correspondence, with a view to reduce the list and to avoid congesting future SCUFN meetings.

Justification and Impacts

10. Regulating SCUFN intersessional work by correspondence, through new [practical voting arrangements](#) as agreed at SCUFN-35.2, aims to put on an equal footing, decisions taken at meetings and by correspondence. Implementation of Decision SCUFN32/188 (SCUFN33/47) clearly helps reducing drastically the number of conflicting pending names, as well as limiting their proliferation.

Action required of SCUFN

11. SCUFN is invited to:
 - a. note this report.
 - b. consider the recommendations in sections 7 to 9.

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS FROM SCUFN-36 RELATING TO TASK 2

Decision/ Action	Details	Status (Apr 2024)	Comments
	Proposals Submitted during Intersessional Period		
4.1	From Indonesia, PUSHIDROSAL		
SCUFN36/04.1/01	Proposal for Kawio Barat SEAMOUNT is kept PENDING, with complementary information (index map with reference to Kawio, polygon, ...) to be provided by the proposer.	Complete	Gazetteer updated 17 Jan 2024. Index map and revised polygon received from the proposer 24 Nov 2023 and 9 Jan 2024. Kawio Barat Seamount ACCEPTED by SCUFN Members by correspondence 16 Jan 2024.
4.2	From Australia, Australian National University, Canberra		
SCUFN36/04.2/03	Proposal for Rivoli CANYON is kept PENDING. Proposer to prepare a new proposal with the polygon extended to the South (to include the proposed Rivoli East Canyon).	Complete	Gazetteer updated 23 Dec 2023. Revised proposal received from proposer 11 Dec 2023. New Rivoli Canyon ACCEPTED by SCUFN Members by correspondence 23 Dec 2024.
4.6	From China, CCUFN		
SCUFN36/04.6/01	After considerable discussions, despite the decision made at SCUFN-35, noting the sensitivity of the location of naming proposals in the South China Sea, in line with statements made by Member States represented (CN, PH, MY, VN), SCUFN agreed "to freeze" the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties.	Complete	All concerned proposed names kept in Gazetteer with EDIT status.
4.13	From UK, Ascension Government		

Decision/ Action	Details	Status (Apr 2024)	Comments
SCUFN36/04.13/01	Proposal for Burns SEAMOUNT is kept PENDING. Proposer to provide a revised polygon, to be extended to capture at least the 3700 m contour for qualification as a seamount, if possible. If not possible, revised proposal for HILLS or HILL to be submitted at the next meeting.	Complete	Gazetteer updated 28 Nov 2023. Revised polygon received from proposer 13 Nov 2024. Burns Seamount ACCEPTED by SCUFN Members by correspondence 28 Nov 2023.
4.20	From China, CCUFN		
SCUFN36/04.20/00	SCUFN noted the statement from Japan , who has invited CCUFN to engage in mutual consultation since 9 naming proposals (#12 to #20) are located in the area of interest of Japan.	In progress	Mutual consultation in progress (note from JCUFN to CCUFN sent 27 Oct 2023). Meanwhile those names are kept PENDING.
SCUFN36/04.20/12	Proposal for Changying RIDGE	Pending	
SCUFN36/04.20/13	Proposal for Changxia RIDGE	Pending	
SCUFN36/04.20/14	Proposal for Haotian SEAMOUNT	Pending	
SCUFN36/04.20/15	Proposal for Fangchun SEAMOUNT	Pending	
SCUFN36/04.20/16	Proposal for Jinqiu SEAMOUNT	Pending	
SCUFN36/04.20/17	Proposal for Jinsu SEAMOUNT	Pending	
SCUFN36/04.20/18	Proposal for Sushang SEAMOUNT	Pending	
SCUFN36/04.20/19	Proposal for Shachuan CANYON	Pending	
SCUFN36/04.20/20	Proposal for Suqiu SEAMOUNT	Pending	

CURRENT LIST OF PENDING NAMES
(9 names as of April 2024)

Pending Name	Action/Doc No	Action Details	Comments / Current Status (Apr 2024)
		From China, CCUFN (9)	
	SCUFN36/04.20 /00	SCUFN noted the statement from Japan , who has invited CCUFN to engage in mutual consultation since 9 naming proposals (#12 to #20) are located in the area of interest of Japan.	Mutual consultation in progress (note from JCUFN to CCUFN sent 27 Oct 2023). Meanwhile those names are kept PENDING.
Changying RIDGE			In progress
Changxia Ridge			In progress
Haotian Seamount			In progress
Fangchun Seamount			In progress
Jinqiu Seamount			In progress
Jinsu Seamount			In progress
Sushang Seamount			In progress
Shachuan Canyon			In progress
Suqiu Seamount			In progress

NAMES REMOVED FROM THE LIST OF PENDING NAMES SINCE SCUFN-36
(15 names as of April 2024)

Name	Actions taken	Comments
	From Australia, Australian National University, Canberra (1)	
Rivoli CANYON	Gazetteer updated 23 Dec 2023. Status changed from PENDING to APPROVED.	Name ACCEPTED by SCUFN Members by correspondence 23 Dec 2024. Action SCUFN36/04.2/03 complete.
	From China, CCUFN (7)	
Daiyu CANYON (originally proposed as Xiongnan CANYON)	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed “to freeze” the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Action SCUFN35.2/195 put on hold.
Haiman CANYON (originally proposed as Dayuan CANYON)	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed “to freeze” the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Action SCUFN35.2/197 put on hold.
Haishe CANYON (originally proposed as Antang CANYON)	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed “to freeze” the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Action SCUFN35.2/205 put on hold.
Canghai SEAMOUNT (originally proposed as Meiji SEAMOUNT)	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed “to freeze” the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Action SCUFN35.2/205 put on hold.
Hongbo RIDGE (originally proposed as Bisheng SEAMOUNT)	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed “to freeze” the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Action SCUFN35.2/208 put on hold.

Name	Actions taken	Comments
Qifeng HILL	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed "to freeze" the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Action SCUFN35.2/186 put on hold.
Guangya SEA CHANNELS	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed "to freeze" the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Action SCUFN35.2/209 put on hold.
From Indonesia, PUSHIDROSAL (1)		
Kawio Barat SEAMOUNT	Gazetteer updated 17 Jan 2024. Status changed from PENDING to APPROVED.	Name ACCEPTED by SCUFN Members by correspondence 16 Jan 2024. Action SCUFN36/04.1/01 complete.
From Malaysia, NHC (1)		
Senoi HILL	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed "to freeze" the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Actions SCUFN35.1/246 & SCUFN35.2/92 put on hold.
From New Zealand, NZGB (1)		
Mestayer SEAMOUNT	Gazetteer updated 01 Apr 2024. Name removed from Gazetteer.	Decision SCUFN33/47 (former SCUFN32/188) applies. Actions SCUFN34/VTC03/45 & SCUFN35.2/140 closed.
From Philippines, NAMRIA (1)		
Balabac HILL	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed "to freeze" the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Actions SCUFN34/VTC03/29, SCUFN35.1/246 & SCUFN35.2/136 put on hold.
From UK, Ascension Government (1)		
Burns Seamount	Gazetteer updated 28 Nov 2023. Status changed from PENDING to APPROVED.	Name ACCEPTED by SCUFN Members by correspondence 28 Nov 2023. Action SCUFN36/04.13/01 complete.

Name	Actions taken	Comments
	From Viet Nam, Viet Nam Hydrographic Office (2)	
Đại Lãnh SEAMOUNT	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed “to freeze” the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Actions SCUFN35.1/180 & SCUFN35.2/30 put on hold.
Long Mỹ CANYONS	Gazetteer updated 02 Feb 2024. Status changed from PENDING to EDIT.	SCUFN agreed “to freeze” the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties. (Decision SCUFN36/04.6/01) Actions SCUFN35.1/209 & SCUFN35.2/77.2/30 put on hold.