

Relationship of National Antarctic Gazetteers to the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica

The SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (SCAR CGA) is a product, compiled purely for the convenience of the SCAR community and has no legal authority or standing. It is digital application that collects and compiles place names, locations of names and descriptions of names in Antarctica provided by the national names committees of nations active in Antarctica, for a range of purposes.

1. The SCAR CGA is a tool with content such that any contained place names can be:

- incorporated into any Geographic Information System (GIS) or internet mapping service for map production purposes,
- used for reference purposes in tasks that require a common understanding of location,
- used for any purpose that requires a user to identify a place where individual nations have assigned different names to the same Antarctic feature.

2. To provide these services effectively requires that the SCAR CGA:

- accurately portrays the information for names in any given national gazetteer,
- uses database identifiers for the purpose of data management
- reaches in due time a content with a known level of accuracy.

3. It should be noted that the National Names Committees:

- are the sole authorities for names in Antarctica,
- act as governing authorities for Antarctic place names,
- direct the use of particular names on national mapping products,
- confer any legal or statutory authority over the names in their national gazetteers,
- assign preferred names to features.

4. The SCAR CGA acts only on the information provided by the National Names Committees.