



Activities on national standardization of geographical names in Russia in 2015 – 2016





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Legislation of the Russian Federation in the field of geographical names

National institutions working in the field of standardization of geographical names

- The Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) is the federal executive authority in the field of names of geographical objects, as well as a body exercising federal state supervision in the field of geodesy and cartography.
 - The Ministry of Economic Development is imposed with a responsibility to establish and implement the state policy as well as normative and legal regulation of geodesy and cartography.
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- Rosreestr develops and maintains the State Catalogue of Geographical Names, implements standardization of geographical names in Russian, prepares expert reports for proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects, and ensures compliance with the requirements of the legislation of the Russian Federation on names of geographical objects.
- It operates directly and through its territorial bodies and subordinate organizations in cooperation with the other federal executive authorities, executive authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, public associations and other organizations.

- Rosreestr generally communicates with:

the Russian Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Finance; Russian Academy of Sciences and its subordinate institutions, including the Institute for Linguistic Studies (St. Petersburg);

with regional ministries authorized in maintaining of registers of administrative-territorial division; archive authorities (federal and regional) to identify legal acts for establishment of names, with the Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church in coordination of names assigned after saints; regional toponymic commissions, including the St. Petersburg Interdepartmental Commission on Names.

Legal base on the setting up, normalization and implementation of geographic names

- Legal base for naming and renaming of geographical objects as well as for standardization, use, registration, and storage of geographical names are set by the Federal law No. 152-FZ “On names of geographical objects” that was passed on December 18, 1997.
- In 2015 it was adopted the Order of Ministry of Economic Development as of May 29, 2015 No. 322 "On approval of the Procedure for identification of the existing names of geographical objects". This legal act is the final plan for development and adoption of legal acts to implement the Federal law “On names of geographical objects”.

This act establishes the rules for identification of existing names and sources on the basis of which identification is made.

- The Procedure defines if the results of identification establishes that the name of a geographic object was used in violation of the requirements of the legislation of the Russian Federation on names of geographical objects, the authority initiates the administrative proceedings in accordance with article 19.10 of the Russian Code of Administrative Offences, and in order to address the issue about the assignment of names to geographic objects or renaming in the established order it informs the legislative bodies of constituent entities of the Russian Federation located on the territory of geographic objects.

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- For the period of implementation of the Federal Law “On names of geographical objects” (about 19 years) in connection with the improvement of the policy implementation of the Government of the Russian Federation and in order to implement this Federal law in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, amendments of certain provisions of the articles were adopted:

Federal Law as of July 23, 2008 No. 160-FZ “On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation in connection with improving the policy of the Government of the Russian Federation”;

The Federal Law as of October 27, 2008 No. 191-FZ “On amendments to the Federal law “On names of geographical objects”;

Federal Law as of July 10, 2012 No. 99-FZ “On amendments to the Federal law "On names of geographical objects”;

The Federal Law as of December 30, 2015 No. 431-FZ “On geodesy, cartography and spatial data and amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation”.



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- In 2015 – 2016 it was adopted a number of legal acts affecting the area of geographic names.
 - Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation as of May 22, 2015 No. 492 “On the set of the address data recorded in the public address registry, the order of interdepartmental information interaction in maintenance of the state address register, on amendments and termination of some acts of the Government of the Russian Federation”

It is approved the Rules of the interdepartmental information interaction in maintenance of the state address registry and the information about the addresses recorded in the state address registry in accordance with which it is determined that Rosreestr within 3 working days from the date of recording into the State Catalogue of Geographical Names transfers to the Federal Tax Service the information on the names of the newly formed settlements and details of legal documents.

- The Federal law as of December 30, 2015 No. 431-FZ “On geodesy, cartography and spatial data and amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation” is supplemented with part 3 as follows: “Ensuring compliance with the requirements of the legislation of the Russian Federation on names of geographical objects is performed by the federal executive body authorized to exercise the federal state supervision in the field of geodesy and cartography”.
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- The Order of the Ministry of Economic Development of March 29, 2016 No. 180 “On approval of standard terms of reference for territorial body of Federal Service of State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography”.

It is established that a territorial body of Rosreestr by implementing the authority in the certain field of activity carries out:

monitoring of the location of geographic objects and their names;

coordination of the content of dictionaries and manuals for names of geographical objects, the preparation and publication of which is performed by state authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation within their competence;

activities to identify existing names of geographical objects;

ensuring compliance with the requirements of the legislation of the Russian Federation on names of geographical objects

- Legal acts in the field of names of geographical objects published on the official web site of Rosreestr: <https://rosreestr.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/zakonodatelstvo-rf-o-naimenovaniyakh-geograficheskikh-obektov/>.

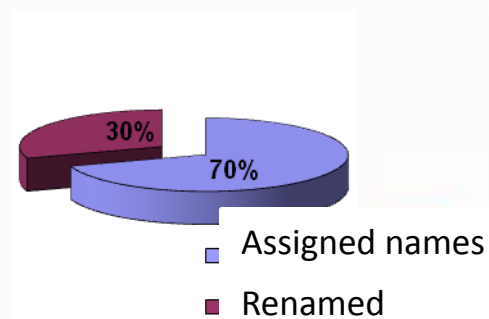
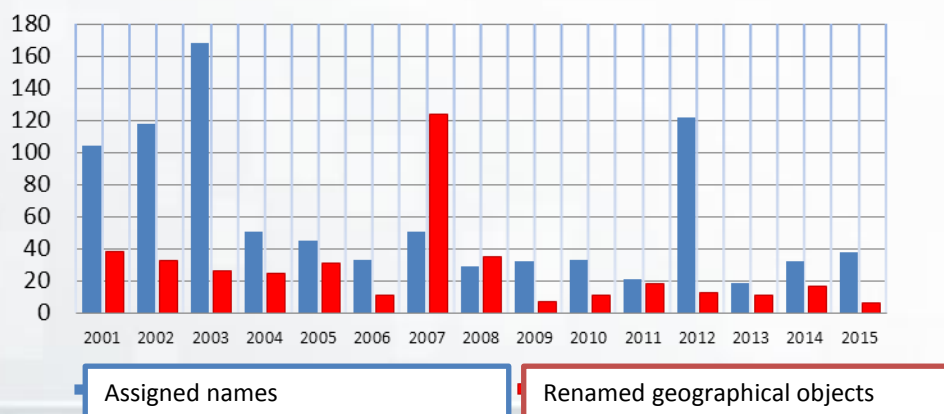
On the basis of the Federal law “On names of geographical objects”:

243 federal legal acts were approved;

1496 names of geographical objects were assigned including: renaming of **451** geographical object names and naming of **1045** geographical object on the territory of the Russian Federation and the geographical objects discovered or allocated by the Russian researchers within the high seas and Antarctica.

- In connection with the organization in 2016 of the all-Russian agricultural census, the authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation have been recommended not to exercise in 2016 administrative and territorial reorganization and renaming of geographical objects. In 2016 the number of applicants for expertise of proposals for assignment of names and renaming of settlements significantly decreased.

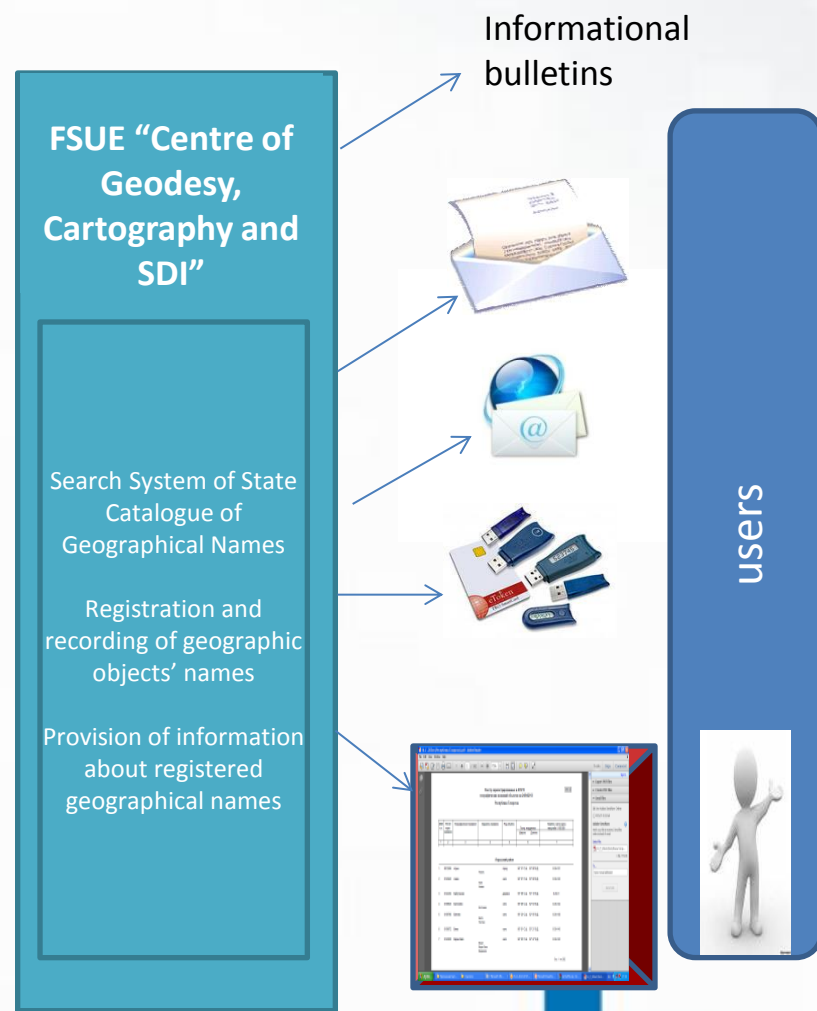
The ratio of assigned names and renamed objects in the period 1998-2016



Activities on creation of national databases of geographical names

- Activities on creation of the State catalogue of geographical names and its maintenance are performed in accordance with the order of Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation as of March 27, 2014 No. 172 “On approval of Procedure of registration and accounting of names of geographical objects, the publication of dictionaries and manuals of names of geographical objects, and also implementation of activities on creation of the State catalogue of geographical names and its maintenance”.
- The database of the State catalogue of geographical names includes information about over 784 000 names of geographical objects of the Russian Federation, identified on the basis of the regulations, topographic maps of scale 1:100 000, dictionaries and reference books, and other sources.
- Currently the main activities are aimed to create reliable and relevant information on names of geographical objects and ensure compliance of the database of the State catalogue of geographical with the basic state information resources. A coordination has been performed for the registered geographical objects’ names on the territory of constituent entities (subjects) of the Russian Federation with public authorities of these subjects and territorial authorities of Rosreestr.
- The Catalog data is published on the official web site of Rosreestr: <https://rosreestr.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/gosudarstvennyy-katalog-geograficheskikh-nazvaniy/>.

- For the purpose of operational provision of information on geographical names it is continued the maintaining of information bulletins about the official changes of geographical names on the territory of Russia for the period 1997-2015 and CIS countries for the period 1998-2015. The information is published on the official web site of Rosreestr: https://rosreestr.ru/wps/portal/p/cc_ib_other_lines_activity/cc_ib_cartographical_activity/cc_ib_names_geographical_objects/cc_ib_works_names_geographical_objects.
- In 2016 the Federal Service for Intellectual Property issued a certificate of state registration for electronic computer “Search system of the State catalogue of geographical names”, the copyright of which is assigned to Rosreestr.
- Pursuant to the Federal law of February 9, 2009 No. 8-FZ “On providing access to information on activities of public authorities and authorities of local self-government” and the implementation of the Concept of openness of the federal executive authorities on the official web site of Rosreestr a set of open data is published and called “State catalogue of geographical names”: https://rosreestr.ru/wps/portal/cc_ib_opendata.

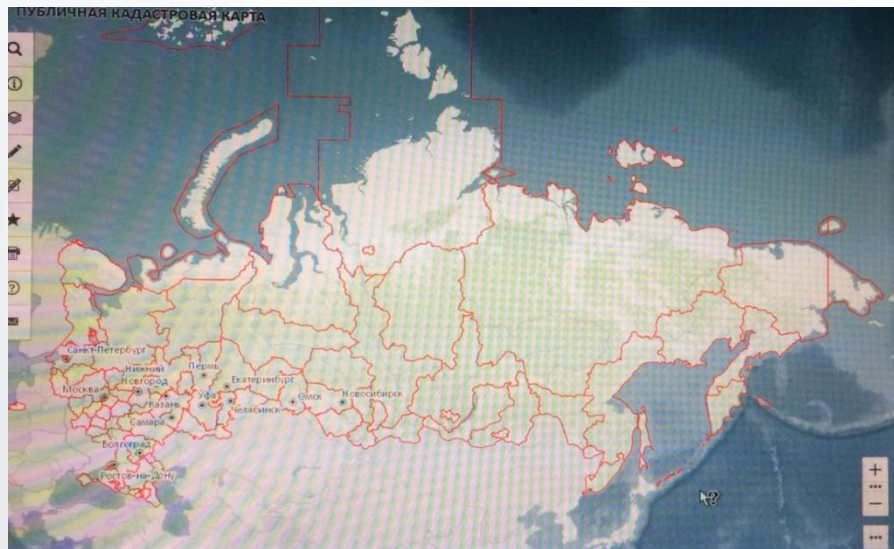
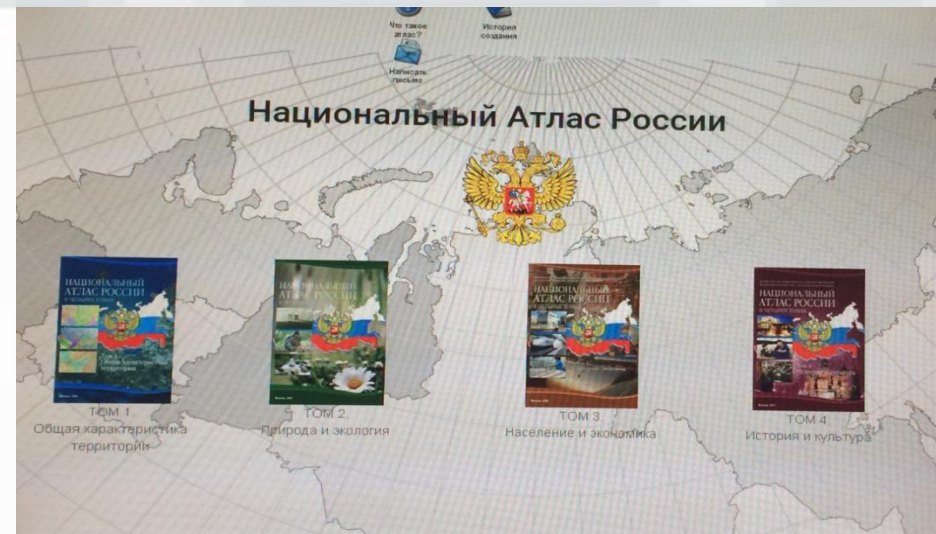


Dictionaries and gazetteers

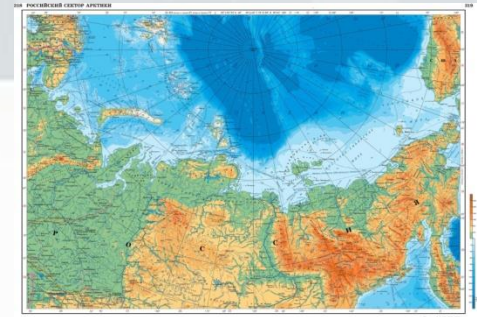
- Coordination of the content of the dictionaries and reference books of geographical objects' names by Rosreestr is stipulated by the Federal Law "On names of geographical objects".
- Reference books of administrative-territorial division of the Republic of Bashkortostan and the Republic of Karelia received from constituent entities of the Russian Federation have been reviewed and approved.
- The reference book "States and territories of the world", being updated by Rosreestr, contains brief information about the names of all states and territories of the world (possessions and territories with a special status), the names of country capitals and centers of territories, the territorial specifications of states and territories, border issues and territorial disputes.

Basic cartographic activities

The most important publication is the National Atlas of Russia - encyclopedic scientific and reference cartographic product that contains information about the political system, nature, resources, population, economy, environment, history and culture of Russia. The National Atlas of Russia (four volumes) is produced in print and electronic form.



the National Atlas of Russia and the Public Cadastral Map is publicly available on the Rosreestr web site:
<https://rosreestr.ru/site>.



- In accordance with the instruction of the President of the Russian Federation Rosreestr, together with interested federal executive authorities, scientific and public organizations creates the National Atlas of the Arctic.

The main purpose of the Atlas is its use as an official reference publication of scientific and applied character containing a set of mapping and synthesis of scientific knowledge about natural and resource potential of territory of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation.

The Atlas is being created in three versions: basic - printed and additional versions electronic and multimedia. In 2016 it is planned to finalize the printed version of the Atlas for publication.

- In accordance with the Federal law “On geodesy, cartography and spatial data and amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation” Rosreestr develops a single electronic cartographic base to support public authorities, local self-government bodies, individuals and legal entities with spatial data.

The national system of romanization of geographical names, exonyms

- On the maps intended for international circulation, the Romanization system for the Cyrillic characters GOST-83 approved by the Fifth UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names (Montreal, 1983) continues to be used:
<https://rosreestr.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/zakonodatelstvo-rf-o-naimenovaniyakh-geograficheskikh-obektov/>.
- Current Instructions for transferring Russian geographical names of the peoples of the Russian Federation and foreign countries contain provisions on traditional names - exonyms. Draft rules on transmission of Russian language names of geographical objects with Tatar, Ossetic, Nogay, Mansi and Buryat languages have been developed.



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