INTEGRATING GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

2022 Meeting of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group - 28 June 2022

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Overall vision of UNGEGN World Geographic Names Database
Why are we doing this?

- ☑ **UNGEGN is mandated by the Economic and Social Council as one of its nine Subsidiary Bodies – this is implementing UNGEGN Decision 2/2019/2**

- ☑ **Position UNGEGN as the center of excellence for authoritative, comparable, and high-quality geographic names/toponyms**

- ☑ **Provide a dramatically improved platform for collating toponyms by end of 2022**

- ☑ **Enhance visibility and use of toponymic data, irrespective of language, from across the UN system and globally**

- ☑ **Focus on data to support evidence-based action**

- ☑ **Increase visibility of UNGEGN, its intergovernmental role and its work**

Basic Data Model / Geographic Extent

Authoritative, multi-lingual information on:

- All Countries
- All cities with a population of 100k or higher

	Data Header	Arabic	Chinese	English	French	Russian	Spanish	Endonyms		
Country	• M49:450 • SKOS • ISO3: MDG • Bounding Box / Coordinates • SKOS MOS	مدغشقر	马达加斯加	Madagascar		Мадагаскар	Madagascar	Malagasy	Madagasikara	Repoblikan'i Madagasikara
City		أنتاناناريفو	塔那纳利佛	Antananarivo	Antananarivo	Антананариву	Antananarivo	Antananarivo	Antananarivo	

Technical Development

Previous Application	Prototyping	Current Development	Continuous Development	Into the Future?
WGN 2009-2019	WGN 2020-2021	WGN 2021-2022	WGN 2022- 2026	WGN ~2027

Unknown	Surplus	RTPC	None Currently Allocated	
Ad-hoc	3 x P3, 1 P4	2 x P3, 1 P4		

Previous Application
- Adobe Flash
- Data not frequently updated
- Unfriendly user experience

Prototyping
- Surplus funding from COMTRADE
- Restoring and recovering WGN Database, including all historical contributions made by UNGEGN
- Development of a prototype application

Current Development
- Public Access API – Open Data
- Administration Panel
- Data Explorer / Dashboard

Continuous Development
- Cloud-based hosting
- Data Integration
- Security Updates
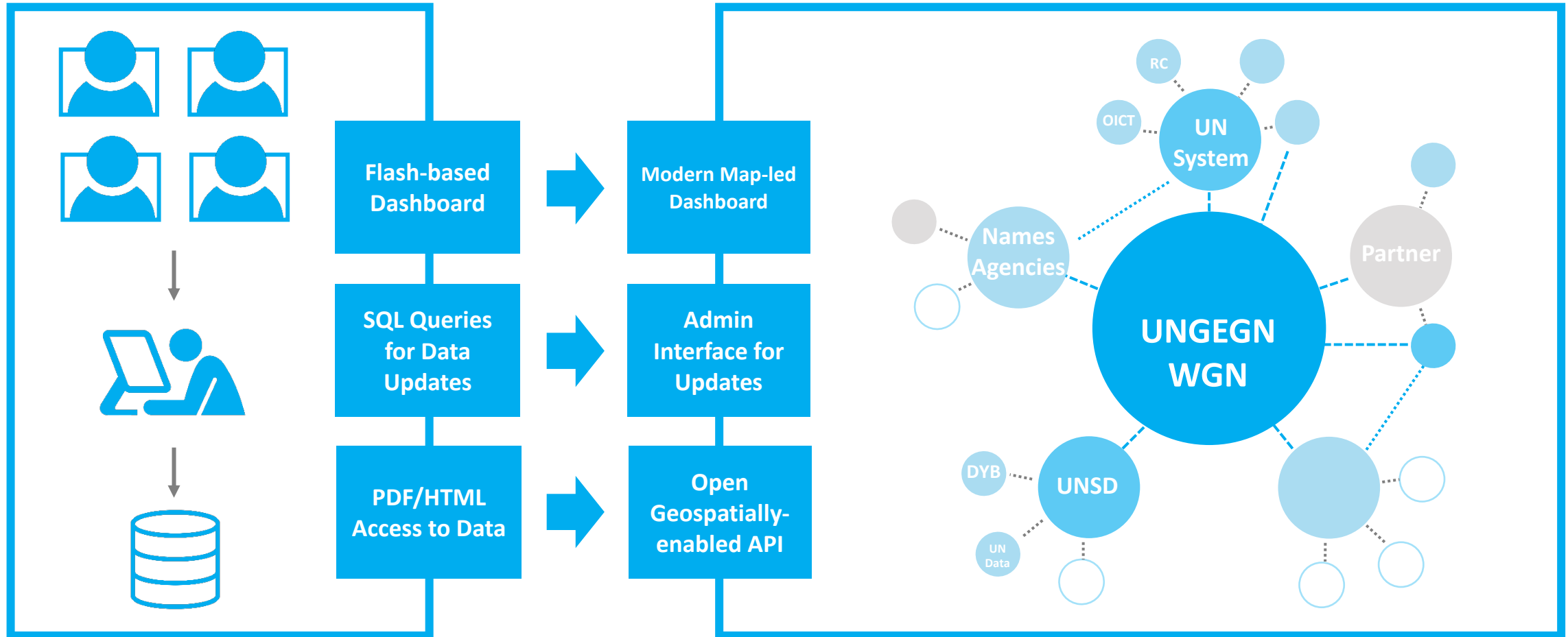- Ongoing Compliance

WGN System Components

Position the UNGEGN as a global leader in authoritative geographical names

1 **WGN Dashboard - Publicly Accessible Dashboard**

2 **WGN API - Publicly Accessible, read-only geoJSON, API**

3 **WGN Administration System – User Interface for UNGEGN Secretariat**

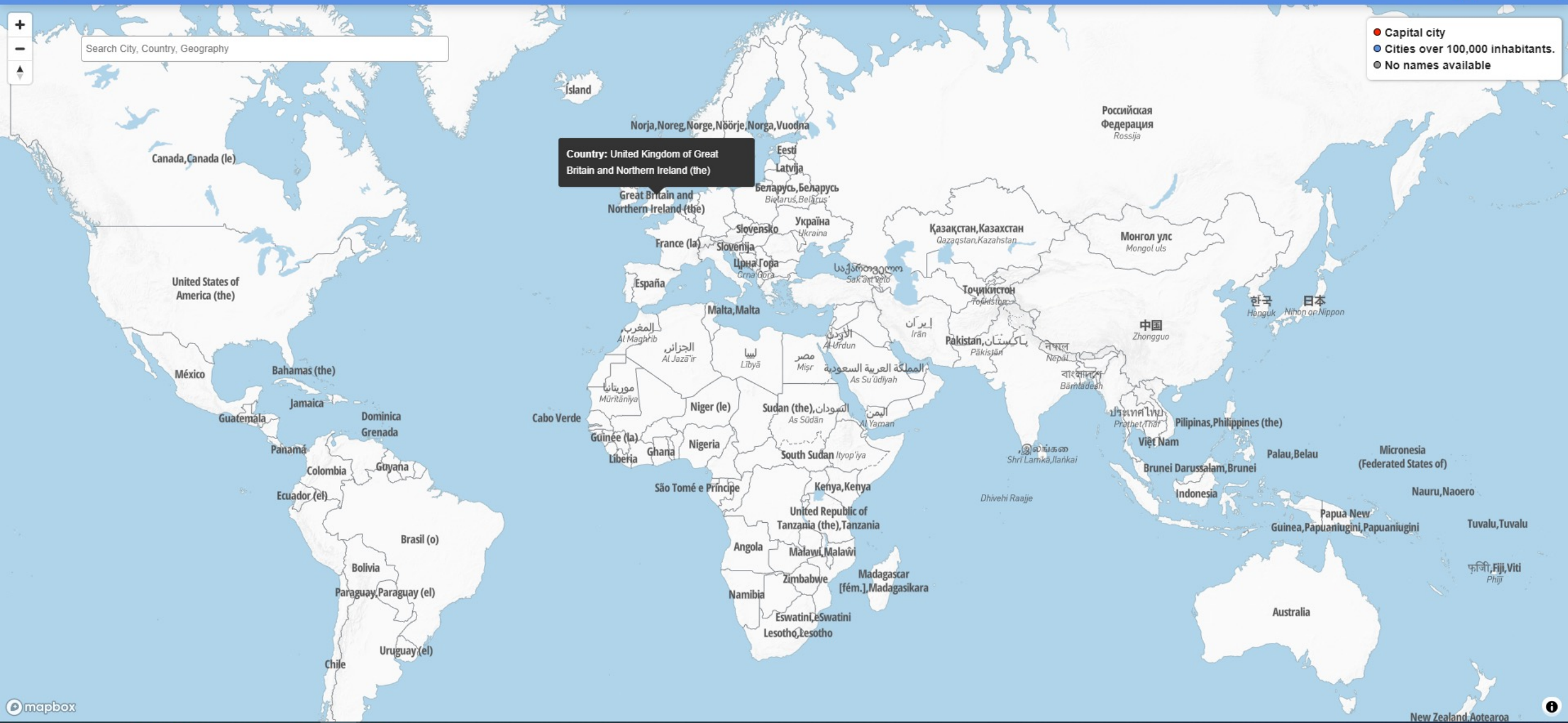# Previous World Geographic Names Database vs the modernized WGN

Flash-based Dashboard → Modern Map-led Dashboard

SQL Queries for Data Updates → Admin Interface for Updates

PDF/HTML Access to Data → Open Geospatially-enabled API

WGN 2009
Web 1.0 Technology

WGN 2022
Automated processes and high capacity

WGN Public Dashboard

WGN Public Dashboard

The Basemap is provided by OICT from their "UN Clear Map" product. Provided for UNGEGN the basemap is provided without labels. In showing UNGEGN's Authoritative labels the map remains in compliance with ST/AI/189

WGN Public Dashboard

1

UNGEGN World Geographical Names

Preferences | Endonyms | English

Search City, Country, Geography
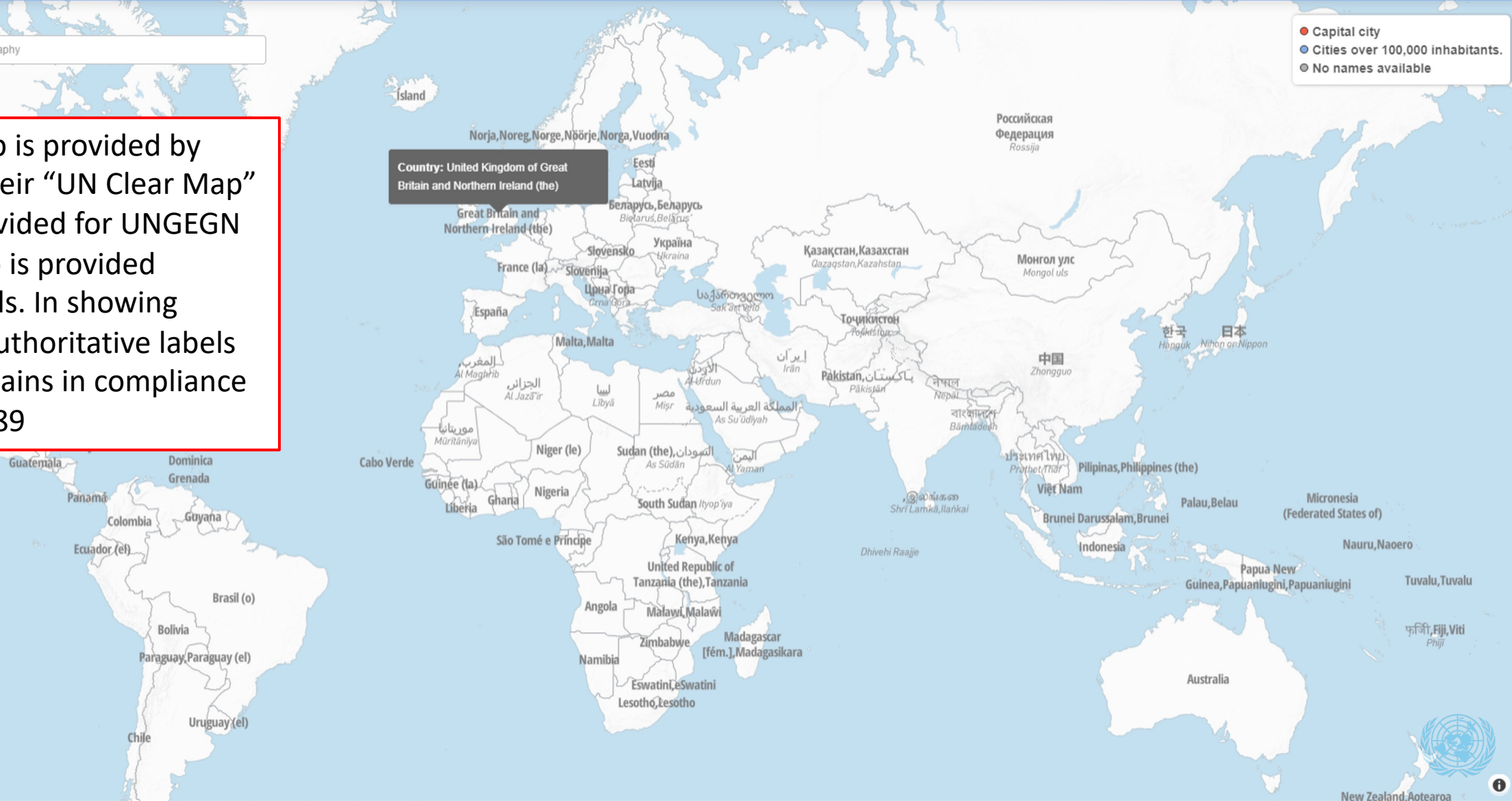
Search for Toponyms, regardless of language

Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)

Interactive Map Labels

Data Available in 100+ Languages, including non-romanised languages ... Interface available in six UN languages

UNGEGN World Geographical Names

Preferences | Toponym: Endonyms | Interface Languages: English

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)

Search City, Country, Geography

- Capital city
- Cities over 100,000 inhabitants.
- No names available

Endonyms

Language	Short Name	Formal Name	Info
English	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)	the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	

United Nations Languages

Language	Short Name	Formal Name	Info
Arabic	المملكة المتحدة لبريطانيا العظمى وأيرلندا الشمالية	المملكة المتحدة لبريطانيا العظمى وأيرلندا الشمالية	
Chinese	大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国	大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国	
French	Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord (le)	le Royaume-Uni (de Grande- Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord)	
Russian	Соединенное Королевство Великобритании и Северной Ирландии	Соединенное Королевство Великобритании и Северной Ирландии	
Spanish	Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte (el)	el Reino Unido (de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte)	

Cities

City	
London (Capital City)	Lat: 51.5842514368 Long: -0.13075498882
	Lat: 49.4696464615 Long: -2.55097197725
	Lat: 49.1890449298 Long: -2.11032098454
Aberdeen	Lat: 57.13333333 Long: -2.1
Belfast	Lat: 54.58333333 Long: -5.933333333
Birmingham	Lat: 52.46666667 Long: -1.916666667

Toponyms captured for all countries and capital cities in the six UN official languages

City data provided by Member States and other authoritative sources covering 100+ Languages, including non-romanised languages

2 WGN API

The WGN API:

1. **An open access, RESTful API**, provides read-only access to the WGN database, through several API endpoints (Cities – via WGN Unique City ID, Countries – via M49 code, Languages, Romanisation Systems, and other endpoints)

2. **Documented via Swagger's** Interface Description Language

3. **Provides Standardised GeoJSON**. Can be downloaded as a standalone file or be consumed into Excel or other GIS applications

4. Meets the highest requirements of the **SG's Data Strategy**, as data is available as Open Access, publicly, without restriction in machine readable formats.

WGN Administration System

3

Cities

+ Add City

Search by [City ▼] [_____] [Search] [Back to Full List]

Country Name	City Name - [Romanized Name]	Is Captial?	Coordinates Source	Actions
Ukraine	Kyiv	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Belarus	Minsk	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Republic of Moldova (the)	Chisinau	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Romania	Bucharest	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Finland	Helsinki	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Latvia	Riga	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Lithuania	Vilnius	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
North Macedonia	Skopje	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Bulgaria	Sofia	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Serbia	Belgrade	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Poland	Warsaw	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Ireland	Dublin	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Germany	Berlin	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Denmark	Copenhagen	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Albania	Tirana	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Italy	Rome	☑	UNGEGN	✏ 👁 🗑
Andorra	Andorra la Vella	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Monaco	Monaco	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Croatia	Zagreb	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
San Marino	San Marino	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Switzerland	Berne	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Hungary	Budapest	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Slovenia	Ljubljana	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Austria	Vienna	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑

Showing 133 of 139 pages   [25 ▼] rows per page   [First] [Previous] [Next] [Last]

UNGEGN World Geographical Names

Hello prasad.shikhare@trigyn.com! | Log out

Cities

Search Across all relevant data

Search by [City ▼] [   ] [Search] [Back to Full List]

[+ Add City]

Country Name	City Name - [Romanized Name]	Is Captial?		Actions
Ukraine	Kyiv	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Belarus	Minsk	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Republic of Moldova (the)	Chisinau	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Romania	Bucharest	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Finland	Helsinki	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Latvia	Riga	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Lithuania	Vilnius	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
North Macedonia	Skopje	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Bulgaria	Sofia	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Serbia	Belgrade	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Poland	Warsaw	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Ireland	Dublin	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Germany	Berlin	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Denmark	Copenhagen	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Albania	Tirana	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Italy	Rome	☑	UNGEGN	✏ 👁 🗑
Andorra	Andorra la Vella	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Monaco	Monaco	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Croatia	Zagreb	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
San Marino	San Marino	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Switzerland	Berne	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Hungary	Budapest	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Slovenia	Ljubljana	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑
Austria	Vienna	☑	United Nations Cartographic Section	✏ 👁 🗑

Showing 133 of 139 pages   [25 ▼] rows per page

Pagination across all data

[First | Previous | Next | Last]

Country Details - Bosnia and Herzegovina

M49 Code
70

ISO2
BA

ISO3
BIH

ISO Standard
ISO 3166-1 alpha-3

Display
☐

UN Member
☐

Continent
5 Europe

Region
16 Southern Europe

First Official Language

SKOS URI

Visualization Order

Map location
15.7364,42.564522,19.619699,45.276901

Historical Progression

| Event D890 : State Seceded From | D... | Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia | | Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia | | |
| Event D70 : State Seceded To | | | | Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina | Bosnia and Herzegovina | |

FootNotes

Toponyms (Since 23-Nov-2021 - 08-Mar-2022)
Endonyms

Language	Short Name	Formal Name	Source
Bosnian	Bosna i Hercegovina	Bosna i Hercegovina	UNGEGN Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names
Croatian	Bosna i Hercegovina	Bosna i Hercegovina	UNGEGN Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names
Serbian	Босна и Херцеговина Bosna i Hercegovina	Босна и Херцеговина Bosna i Hercegovina	UNGEGN Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names

United Nations Languages

Language	Short Name	Formal Name	Source
Arabic	البوسنة والهرسك	البوسنة والهرسك	UN terms
Chinese	波斯尼亚和黑塞哥维那	波斯尼亚和黑塞哥维那	UN terms
English	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	UN terms
French	Bosnie-Herzégovine (la)	la Bosnie-Herzégovine	UN terms
Russian	Босния и Герцеговина	Босния и Герцеговина	UN terms
Spanish	Bosnia y Herzegovina	Bosnia y Herzegovina	UN terms

3 WGN Administration System

UNGEGN World Geographical Names   Log in

Country Details - Bosnia and Herzegovina

M49 Code
70

ISO2
BA

ISO3
BIH

ISO Standard
ISO 3166-1 alpha 3

Display
☑

UN Member
☑

Continent
5 Europe

Region
16 Southern Europe

First Official Language

SKOS URI

Visualization Order

To greater zoom levels

Map location

Historical Progression

Event D890 : State Seceded From	D... Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia	Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
Event D70 : State Seceded To		Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ability to capture historical name changes

Toponyms (Since 23-Nov-2021 - 08-Mar-2022)
Endonyms

Language	Short Name	Formal Name	Source
Bosnian	Bosna i Hercegovina	Bosna i Hercegovina	UNGEGN Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names
Croatian	Bosna i Hercegovina	Bosna i Hercegovina	UNGEGN Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names
Serbian	Босна и Херцеговина / Bosna i Hercegovina	Босна и Херцеговина / Bosna i Hercegovina	UNGEGN Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names

Toponyms provided by National Name Authorities

Data in Six Official UN Languages provided by Authoritative Sources

| Language	Short Name	Formal Name	Source
Arabic	البوسنة والهرسك	البوسنة والهرسك	UN terms
Chinese	波斯尼亚和黑塞哥维那	波斯尼亚和黑塞哥维那	UN terms
English	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	UN terms
French	Bosnie-Herzégovine (la)	la Bosnie-Herzégovine	UN terms
Russian	Босния и Герцеговина	Босния и Герцеговина	UN terms
Spanish	Bosnia y Herzegovina	Bosnia y Herzegovina	UN terms

WGN Administration System
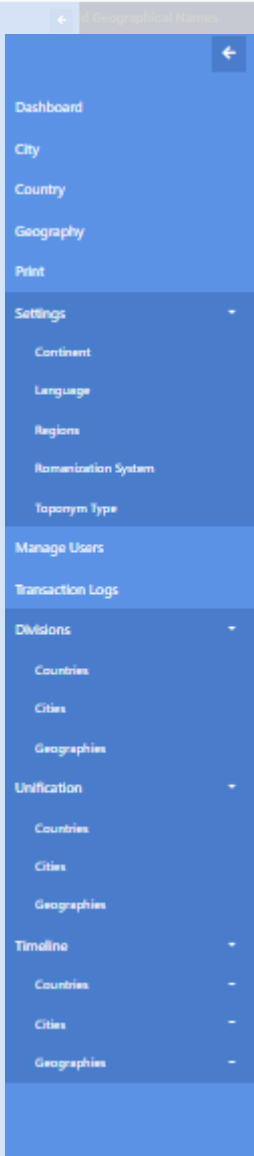
- [Dashboard] To the WGN Dashboard

- [City] To the "**City"** Tables

- [Country] To the "**Country"** tables

- [Geography] To the **"Geography"** tables

- [Print] – Print the tables

- [Settings] – Add/Edit: Continents, Regions, Languages, Romanisation Systems, Toponym Types

- [Manage Users] – Manage User Access

- [Transaction Logs] – Monitors and records what data has changed and by whom – Virtual breadcrumbs

- [Divisions] – Manage Divisions of Countries, Cities and Geographies

- [Unifications] – Manage Unifications of Countries, Cities and Geographies

- [Timeline] – Observe timelines of Countries, Cities and Geographies
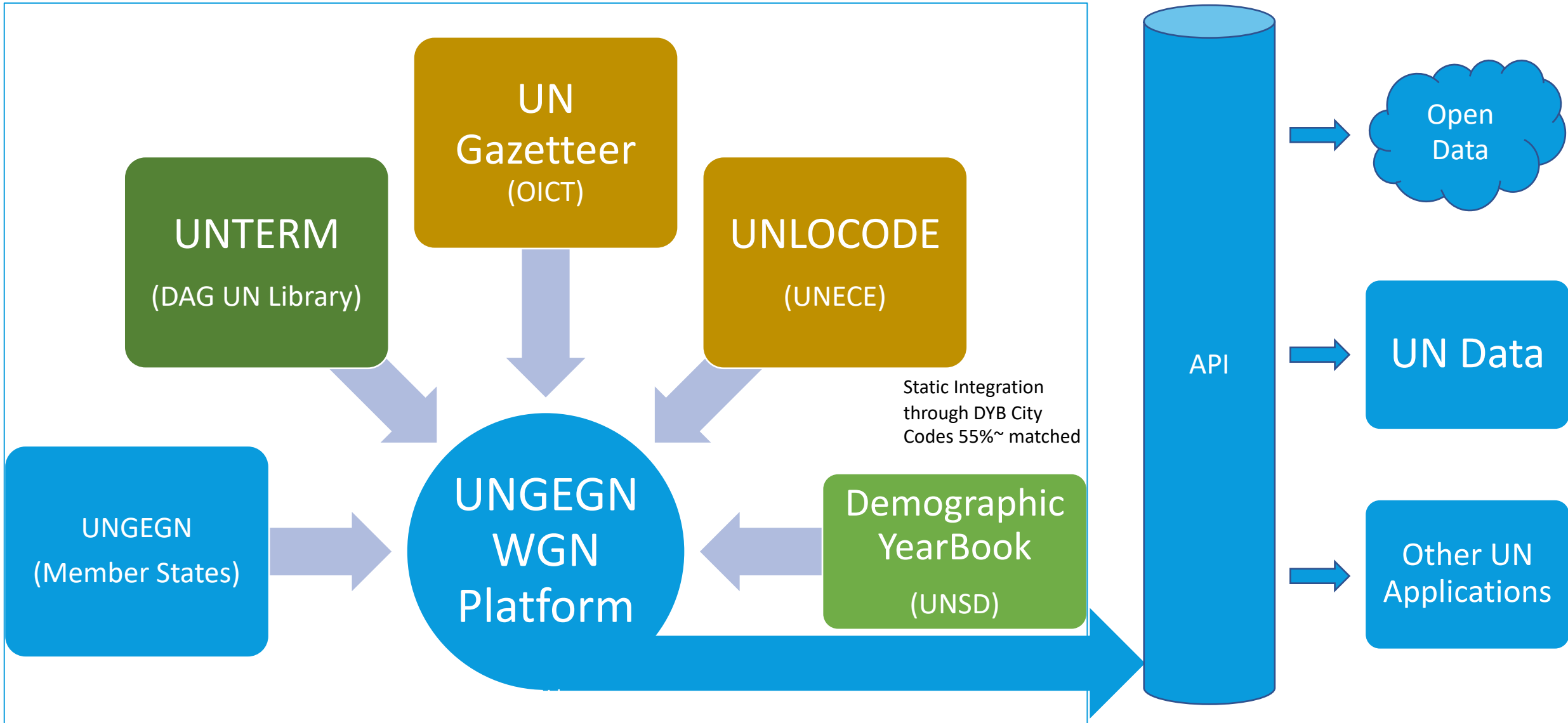
WGN SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE
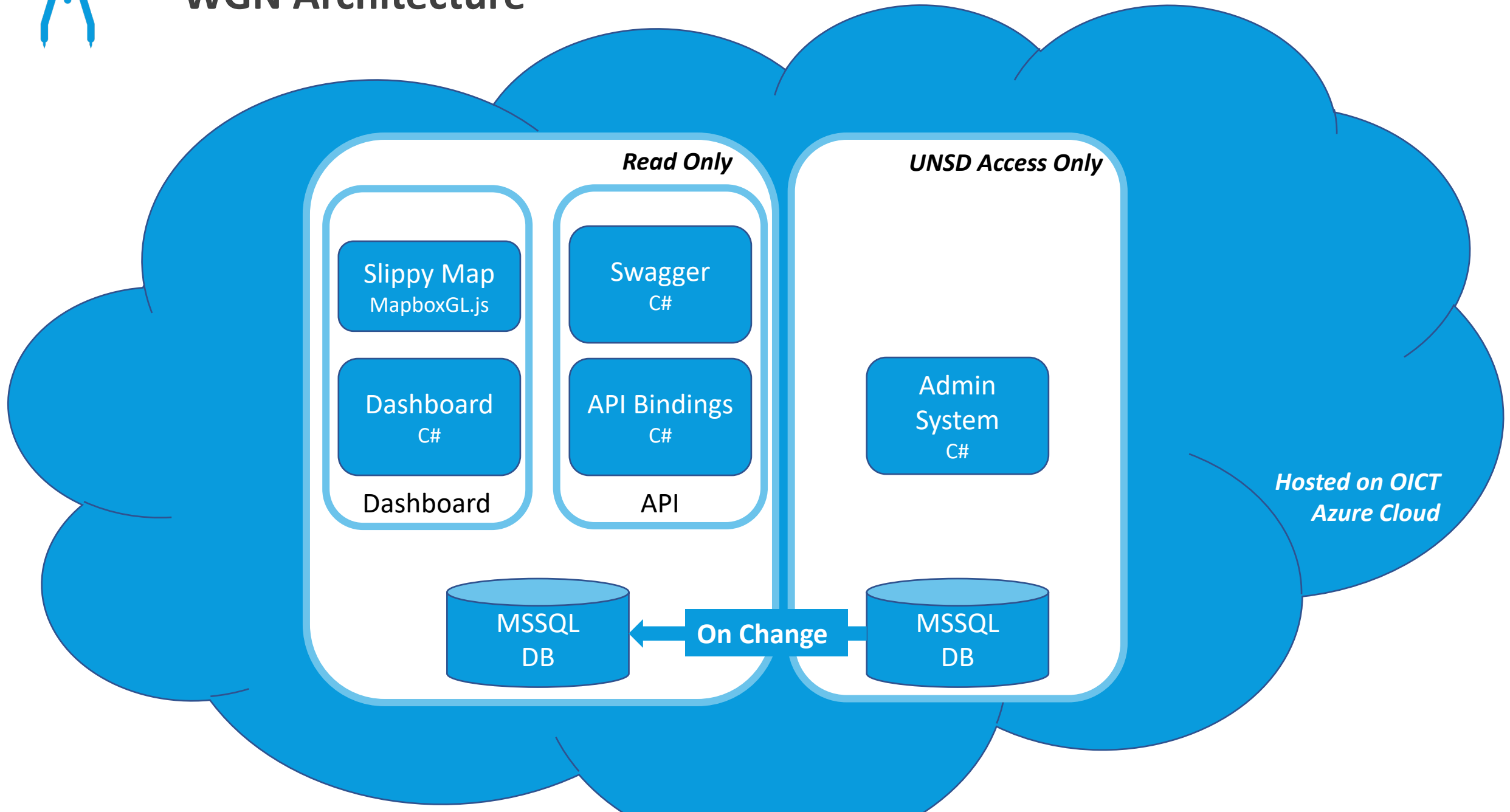
RE-ESTABLISHING THE WGN DATABASE

Intended Data Integration Flows

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

1. Collaboration with the Library

2. Potential collaboration with other institutions providing authoritative geographical names

3. Addition of SKOS to Geographic Features