

Report for the action item SCUFN 23/33 (on the usage of “Province”)

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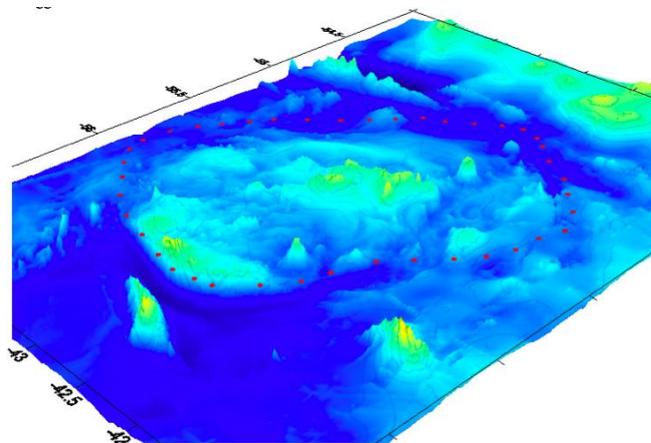
1. Formulation of the problem

Section of 4.2K of the SCUFN-23 report (page 20) reads as follows: *“the Sub-Committee noted that the generic term “Province” is normally used in connection with other generic terms, e.g. Gulf of Alaska Seamount Province or Campeche Salt Dome Province. The secretary warned that SCUFN would be creating a precedent if “Province” is accepted without a second defining generic term. After discussion, it was however agreed that both options should be allowed and, on suggestion from the Chair, to retain the generic term ‘Province’ for this feature. ...”*

If a “province” consists of multiples of a single individual feature (like seamount), then this “province” can easily be named as “seamount province”. This is the preferred usage for a “province”.

If a “province” consists of multiples of several individual features (like ridge, seamount, hill, rise, etc.), it can be difficult to place additional generic terms ahead of “province”. Placing all of the generic terms that exist in the entire feature ahead of “province” is not feasible. In this case, the viable option is to name the entire feature as just “province” without placing additional generic terms. This “province” (without additional generic terms) in turn can imply inclusion of multiples of several individual features.

According to the proposal for “Göttingen Province” (which is the original proposal for “Pirie Province”), the province consists of a “wild mixture” of features, including escarpments, ridges, seamounts, moats, plateaus etc (Fig. 1). In this case, the name “Pirie Escarpment Ridge Seamount Moat Plateau Province” is not a viable option.



3D perspective view from East, Digital Terrain Model (DTM) from RV “Polarstern” multibeam data in central part and from ETOPO2 data in surrounding area, vertical exaggeration; data errors are visible in areas which are not covered by the multibeam data:

Fig. 1. 3D image of Pirie Province taken from the SCUFN-19 document “SCUFN19-06.1T_Goettingen_Province.pdf”.

2. Recommendation from the Generic Terms Group

It is true that the generic term “province” is preferably accompanied with additional generic term(s) for clear recognition and understanding of the entire feature. However, there can be a complex “province” consisting of multiples of several individual features. In the latter case, placing all of the generic terms that exist in the entire feature ahead of “province” is not feasible. Thus, taking into these considerations, the Generic Terms Group would propose a revised definition of PROVINCE as follows (the portion written in blue):

“A region identifiable by a number of shared physiographic characteristics that are markedly in contrast with those in the surrounding areas. **This generic term should preferably be accompanied with additional generic term(s), depending on the complexity of the feature.**

e.g.: Gulf of Alaska Seamount Province (note: the shared physiographic characteristics is a single feature, i.e. seamount)

e.g.: Pirie Province (note: the shared physiographic characteristics are multiple features)”