

PROPOSED RULES FOR ADMISSION OF NOMADMANIA REGIONS

Terminology

- a. UN Country = one of the 193 UN Countries
- b. De Facto Country = non UN 'country' in control of its defined surface (i.e. Taiwan etc.)
- c. Territory = Dependent Territory of a UN Country (i.e. Gibraltar, Hong Kong etc.)
- d. Administrative Divisions = a UN Country's internal regions (states, provinces etc.)
- e. NM region = current (January 2020) NomadMania region
- f. Surface = a Country's Territorial Size
- g. Optimal = The calculation of an ideal number of regions per UN country; the methodology of this calculation is explained in the appendix.

The purpose of this document is to establish the precise rules by which regions are developed on the NomadMania Masterlist. The document has been subject to discussion and scrutiny by NomadMania's 5-member Executive Committee and has passed following compromise and a majority vote. This document is valid as of **January 21, 2020**. This document is to be reviewed **every 2 years**; however, its rules and regulations will be discussed and possibly amended, in line with current geopolitical developments and changes to the optimals, not before the end of 4 years and not after the end of 5 years since the start of its validity. This implies that the next period of scrutiny will be in 2024.

A. USE OF THE OPTIMAL

1. With the exception of all issues mentioned below in items A2 to A4 and B to F below, the optimal will be taken as a guide to how many splits should be awarded to a country. The optimal will be updated once every two years to reflect new realities on the ground. The method of calculating the optimal is detailed in Appendix I.
2. a. Once all the exception points mentioned in B to F below have been satisfied, divisions according to the optimal will be made by the Executive Committee based on the most reasonable geographical or ethnic divisions within a UN country, allowing for interpretation and taking the specific circumstances of each UN country into consideration. In all cases when the optimal is used, it is better to err toward more NM regions rather than less, when possible.
b. the optimal, when not affected by rules B to F below, should not differ from the number of regions in NM by more than (for UN countries with territories, the 'mother country' only will be examined in terms of the optimal)
 - i. For UN countries with 3 optimal regions, 20% of the optimal number
 - ii. For UN countries with 4-15 regions, more than one integer up or down from the optimal
 - iii. For UN countries with 16-25 regions, 15% of the optimal number
 - iv. For UN countries with 26 regions and above, 10% of the optimal number
3. The optimal will be amended in the following cases, if:
 - a. A country's territory is composed of more than 50% desert, then a reduction factor of 30% of the territory score alone in the optimal will be considered before any other reductions mentioned below
 - b. The country's population density is less than 5 per square kilometre, then a reduction factor of 30% of the total optimal score will be administered
 - c. One of the secondary related measures of the optimal (population, culture, economy or tourism numbers) for up to the top 3 countries is more than 100% higher than the same measure for the next countries, leading to an imbalance in the total score; in that case the score for this measure will be halved.
 - d. A country has an optimal split of 2, a 3rd region can be accorded at the discretion of the Executive Committee, provided it has a minimum territory of 25,000 km² and can be justified under one of the following:
 - i. There is an autonomous region of a size of at least 10,000 km²
 - ii. There are a number of significant islands present which make a third split reasonable
 - iii. There is considerable, internationally significant, historical background to the country in question
 - iv. There is unique tourist appeal
 - v. There is a notable area with different linguistic and cultural background
 - e. Islands make up more than 50% of a UN country's total surface, and there is an ethnic fractionalisation index exceeding 7.5, given the perceived high ethnic diversity, a 'bonus' of 40% on the total optimal is to be applied.

4. In the event of a sudden change of internal circumstances (war, financial crash, tourist boom etc.) that severely affects optimal scores following January 1, 2020, it is at the discretion of the Executive Committee to take specific circumstances into consideration before accepting any 'new' optimal. The amendment of the optimal in these cases does not in any way imply an immediate change of the NM Masterlist.

5. Regardless of any of the rules above (A1 to A4) and below (B to F), once they have all been applied, the Executive Committee reserves the right to deviate from all rules for a maximum of 8 UN countries in the event that these countries are over-represented in terms of regions compared to the optimal and a maximum of 2 countries in the event that they are under-represented. However, the Executive needs to justify its decision for each one of the UN countries involved. Under no circumstances can this discrepancy exceed the number of countries stated above. The justification for these deviations, as applied in January 2020, is in Appendix II.

B. SPECIFIC RULES REGARDING SURFACE, POPULATION and TERRITORIES

1. Every internationally legally recognised administrative division of any UN country whose territory exceeds 2,500,000 square kilometers (or 1,000,000 square miles), as these stand on January 1, 2020, shall count as one NM region, with the exception of autonomous cities with a population inferior to one million. Additional sub-regions may be added by subdividing these administrative divisions to reach the optimal number of regions according to the optimal formula mentioned in A, or if any of the other rules mentioned below from B2 to F necessitate this. In the event of future upward changes (additions) to the number of a country's administrative divisions, these shall be considered in line with the optimal and the existing rules rather than automatically amended.
2. A UN Country with a territory exceeding 2 million kms² must have a minimum of 8 splits
3. A UN Country with a territory exceeding 1,250,000 kms² must have a minimum of 4 splits
4. A UN Country with a territory exceeding 300,000 kms² must have a minimum of 3 splits
5. A UN Country with a territory exceeding 20,000 kms² must have a minimum of 2 splits
6. A UN Country with a population exceeding 50 million must have a minimum of 4 splits
7. A UN Country with a population exceeding 30 million must have a minimum of 3 splits
8. A UN Country with a population exceeding 10 million must have a minimum of 2 splits
9. UN Countries with a surface (not including territories) smaller than 200,000 km² but bigger than 100,000 km² will not be given more than 6 NM regions under any circumstances unless international tourist arrivals exceed 30 million people, in which case they can be awarded up to 8 NM regions.
10. UN Countries with a surface (not including territories) smaller than 100,000 km² but bigger than 40,000 km² will not be given more than 4 NM regions unless there are significant linguistic divisions in the country, in which event they can be given a maximum of 5 NM regions.
11. UN Countries with a surface smaller than 40,000 km² will not be given more than 3 NM regions unless:
 - a. They have an exclusive economic zone exceeding 2,500,000 km², in which case they must be accorded as many regions as their accepted general administrative divisions or archipelagos
 - b. There are areas which can be construed as areas of disputed sovereignty.
12. UN Countries with a surface smaller than 5,000 kms² will not be split unless one of the other criteria in sections B, D or E can be applied.

13. De Facto Countries are not bound by the same rules; a de facto country must only be split if
 - a. it has a surface exceeding 100,000 kms²; OR
 - b. it has a population exceeding 20 million.

14. As far as the Arctic and Antarctica are concerned, where there is no sovereignty, these areas will be divided as follows:
 - a. North and South Poles are defined as regions of special interest and included;
 - b. Antarctica is to further be divided into a maximum of 5 regions at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

15. All inhabited territories which have the explicit status of a territory and a population of at least 50 will be included as NM regions.

16. Territories which are islands will be split in more than one region only if
 - a. The distance from the 'mother country' is at least 2,000 kms² at its shortest point and the surface of the territory is at least 10,000 kms²; OR
 - b. The distance from the 'mother country' is at least 2,000 kms² and, regardless of surface, the distance between the archipelagos of the territory is at least 500 kms and with a permanent population in each archipelago of at least 1,000 people.

C. SPECIFIC RULES REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

1. An administrative division with a surface exceeding 2 million kms² and a population exceeding 2 million must be split at least three times.
2. An administrative division with a surface exceeding 800,000 kms² regardless of population must be split at least twice.
3. An administrative division with a surface exceeding 500,000 kms² and a population exceeding 50 million must be split at least three times.
4. An administrative division with a surface exceeding 250,000 kms² and a population exceeding 20 million must be split at least twice.

D. SPECIFIC RULES REGARDING ISLANDS AND ARCHIPELAGOS

1. Islands with a size above 100,000 km² and a population of at least 50,000 must be split in two NM regions.
2. Islands with a size above 50,000 kms² and a population of at least 500,000 must be split in two NM regions.
3. Archipelagos/islands must be added as a NM region if
 - a. They have a surface of at least 500 kms² AND
 - b. They have a population of at least 20,000 AND
 - c. They have a minimum distance from any other land of at least 160 kms (100 miles) ; OR
 - d. If they are a world heritage site, they have a minimum distance from any other land of at least 100 kms and a population of 2,000, regardless of size; OR
 - e. If another country is closer to them than the 'mother' country to a degree that it would be reasonable for this archipelago/island to rather belong to the 'other' country, regardless of size and with a population of at least 5,000.
4. UN Countries with a size below 5,000 km² which are exclusively island nations will have two NM regions if (and only if):
 - a. There are recent (after 1975) strong autonomous and independentist tendencies on the islands, as evidenced by the holding of secession referendums and other independentist events; OR
 - b. The distance of the islands at their shortest distance is at least 5 kms 'as the crow flies' and the UN country has a total population of at least 75,000.
- E. Archipelagos and islands with no permanent population will not be considered unless
 - a. They have a land size of at least 15,000 kms² in which case they will be considered along with their general archipelago; OR
 - b. They have a land size of at least 40 kms² and the explicit status of a territory, even if they are not inhabited.

E. RULES CONCERNING CULTURAL AND TOURIST FACTORS

1. Any NM region with 12 or more distinct WHS (not part of the same site, but if split across regions, the site in the NM region in question will count) must be split, unless it is smaller than 25,000 kms².
2. Any NM region with more than 15 million annual international tourist arrivals must be split - with the split resulting in a standalone division, usually as the administrative division - unless
 - a. The NM region is smaller than 50,000 kms²
 - b. in the case of an island/archipelago, the NM region is smaller than 5,000 kms².

F. OTHER APPLICABLE RULES

1. Exclaves/enclaves will be considered if and only if they exceed 200 kms² in size and have a shortest distance from the 'mother country' as the crow flies of 10 kms.
2. Places under the control of the UN will not be considered.
3. Places with sovereignty over only buildings or land smaller than 100 acres will not be considered.
4. Micronations, regardless of size or population, will not be considered.
5.
 - a. In cases of territorial dispute over populated territory, a 5-year period is to be considered the minimum before consideration of a new region is created; such consideration will take into account the specific circumstances of each situation and it is at the discretion of the Executive Committee to decide on the creation or not of a region. In cases of disputed territory, the regions will be marked on the NM Masterlist as disputed.
 - b. disputed territories with no population will not be considered.
6. Administrative regions of a UN country with a separate visa regime – where this is the entire entry regime, not just special permits - can be a NM region provided they are not limited to cities only, are larger than 100 kms² and with a population of at least 20,000 people.
7. UN Countries or de facto countries with a clearly territorially defined and ethnically divided situation (which can be construed as an 'invisible' ethnic border with distinct languages and administration rules) must have at least one split along this ethnic border; if the resulting remaining surface merits it, then this could be construed as a 'country' so that NM regions are awarded accordingly. However, this can in no circumstances supercede other rules, especially not rules under B above.
8. Former UN countries which are now united as one UN country can be treated as if they were still separate states, in which case their NM regional divisions might reflect their former sovereign entity, especially when applying rules B2-B8 above.

*** END ***

APPENDIX I – CALCULATION OF THE OPTIMAL

The optimal is to be calculated based on the criteria named below. Attempts are made to always access the most recent available statistics and data, and have these cross-checked, particularly for items (b), (d) and (e) below, which are subject to constant change.

- a. Territory, weighed at 35% of the total, will be calculated by 100,000 km² – where 100,000 is equal to 1 unit. Decimals will be used to nuance the calculations as much as possible
- b. Population, weighed at 15% of the total, will be calculated by 10 million – where 10 million people is equal to 1 unit. Decimals will be used to nuance calculations as much as possible.
- c. Cultural richness and diversity, weighed at 25% of the total will be calculated by two measures, as follows
 - i. Cultural richness (10%) will be calculated based on the number of World Heritage Sites per country. WHS which are trans-national will count separately per country where they are listed
 - ii. Cultural diversity (15%) will be calculated with an absolute score between 0 and 10 as given by [Fearon's analysis](#) of ethnic fractionalisation.
- d. Economic significance, weighed at 10%, will be calculated by \$100 billion – where each \$100 billion is equal to 1 unit. Decimals will be used to nuance the calculations as much as possible
- e. Tourist appeal, weighted at 15%, will be calculated by 1 million international tourist arrivals - where 1 million arrivals are equal to 1 unit. Decimals will be used to nuance the calculations as much as possible.

To finalise the optimal the additional considerations outlined in rules A3 will be used; following these, the final optimal per UN country is rendered, and then compared to the existing number of NM regions per UN country.

APPENDIX II – COUNTRIES WITH DEVIATIONS AND JUSTIFICATION

Over-represented on NomadMania

Ethiopia – over-representation of one region; justified due to immense cultural richness, ethnic diversity and geographic diversity and a rapid level of population growth that is likely to increase the optimal soon.

Fiji – over-representation of one region; justified due to popularity of country, size of the main island and diversity of cultures and peoples across the islands

India – over-representation of 15 regions following a lower score due to population; a special case given that this is as much a sub-continent as it is country, given its immense number of sights for the visitor, this is justified

Myanmar – over-representation of one region; justified due to the popularity, geographic variety and ethnic diversity of this country

Namibia – over-representation of one region following a lower score due to low population density; justified due to the diverse sites and unique tourist appeal of this country

Papua New Guinea – over-representation of two regions justified due to unique cultural diversity, the many island groups and the wealth of experiences for visitors

Philippines – over-representation of two regions, justified due to expanse and diversity of different islands groups

Venezuela – over-representation of one region, justified due to the significantly lower numbers observed as a result of the political crisis of the country.

Under-represented on NomadMania

Saudi Arabia – under-representation of two regions, justified mainly because of the ‘false’ tourist arrival statistics given at 18 million, which are almost always religious tourists rather than international ‘traveller’ arrivals; were the number to be substituted by 2 million – in itself probably exaggerated in terms of real ‘tourists’ - the optimal is precisely reflected in the NM Masterlist.