



UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
Foreign Geographic Names:
Standardization Policy:
Provisional Names

The Board's Foreign Geographic Names Standardization Principles apply to foreign geographic names in general and form the basis for the Board's foreign names decisions. Additional normative regulations must be developed to address specific geographic and linguistic phenomena peculiar to countries or regional areas. Special classes of place-names, such as high seas features, may also require special analysis and treatment. For this reason the Board develops supplementary standardization policy and procedure on a country basis, and to address specific standardization issues.

Policy: Provisional Name:

Definition: A geographic name of an area for which the territorial status is not finally determined or not recognized by the United States.

Policy: The provisional name type (P) is meant for a small and select number of features that, for political or other reasons, should not be formalized with a BGN approved name (name type N or C), but because of pervasive usage require a standard name for provisional use. Because of the sensitive nature of this category, all provisional names added to the database must be approved by the Foreign Names Committee.