

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Argentina

United States Board on Geographic Names – Foreign Names Committee



November 2011

1. Introduction

The standardization policies presented below have been prepared to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in U.S. Government data bases, publications, maps, and charts, and are intended to satisfy the statutory requirement levied upon the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in Public Law 242 of the 80th Congress (43 U.S.C. §§ 364 et seq) to develop principles, policies and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography. The policies described herein are limited to geographic names encountered in Argentina, and shall be applied to all Argentine geographic name and feature records in the Geographic Names Database maintained for U.S. Government purposes by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).

2. Languages and Language Policy

a. *Demographics*

In July 2011, the population of Argentina is estimated to be 42 million. 97% of the population is white (Spanish and Italian), and the remaining 3% is mixed white and Amerindian ancestry, Amerindian, or other non-white group. The nation is predominately Roman Catholic with 92% of the population (although less than 20% are practicing), 2% Protestant, 2% Jewish, and 4% other.¹

b. *Languages*

Spanish (ISO 639-3 code ‘spn’) is the official language of Argentina. Most of the surviving indigenous languages are encountered in the eastern half of the country. Mapudungun (ISO 639-3 code ‘arn’) is an indigenous language located in the Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut, Buenos Aires, and La Pampa provinces. Moreover, there are an estimated 100,000 speakers of Mapudungun in these provinces. Guaraní (ISO 639-3 code ‘gui’) is a Tupí language with an Argentine speaking population of 15,000. Finally, an estimated 855,000 speakers of South Bolivian Quechua (ISO 639-3 code ‘quh’) live in Argentina. These speakers are concentrated in Buenos Aires, approximately 500,000, and throughout the nation there are an additional 200,000 temporary laborers and 100,000 looking for work.²

c. *Geographic Names Standardization*

Geographical naming for cartographic purposes falls under the domain of the Instituto Geográfico Militar de la Republica de Argentina and Servicio de Hidrografía Naval.³ As of May 2011, Argentina does not have an official body governing geographical names policy or naming within the country. Argentina’s most recent contribution to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was in 2006 during the 23rd Session of UNGEGN in Vienna, Austria. The last Argentinean paper was titled *Sobre los Progresos Realizados en Materia de Normalización de Nombres Geográficos*.

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnSession23.html>

¹ Argentina: People. CIA World Factbook. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ar.html>>. 10 May 2011.

² Lewis, M. Paul (ed.), 2009. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, Sixteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. <http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=AR>. 10 May 2011.

³ 23rd Session of the UNGEGN. <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/Authorities_listApr2011.pdf>. 11 May 2011.

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Orthography

Spanish orthographic conventions are to be followed. For more information, please refer to Spanish orthographic reference material such as *Ortografía y ortotipografía des español actual* by José Martínez de Sousa (2004).

b. Romanization

Romanization is not applicable.

c. Diacritics

Diacritics are shown in standardized name forms as they appear on native sources and in accordance with Spanish orthography. Uppercase letters in standardized name forms retain diacritics.

In accordance with Spanish orthography, the following diacritics are encountered in standardized name forms in Argentina:

<u>Character Name</u>	<u>Character</u>	<u>Unicode Value</u>
Capital A with acute accent	Á	00C1
Capital E with acute accent	É	00C9
Capital I with acute accent	Í	00CD
Capital N with tilde	Ñ	00D1
Capital O with acute accent	Ó	00D3
Capital U with acute accent	Ú	00DA
Capital U with dieresis	Ü	00DC
Small a with acute accent	á	00E1
Small e with acute accent	é	00E9
Small i with acute accent	í	00ED
Small n with tilde	ñ	00F1
Small o with acute accent	ó	00F3
Small u with acute accent	ú	00FA
Small u with dieresis	ü	00FC

d. Generic Terms

A generic is a term that describes a feature. Examples include words such as ‘river,’ ‘hill,’ and ‘lake.’ Except in cases in which the generic type does not identify the feature type, generics appearing in standardized name forms should be considered true generics. Otherwise, the term is considered to be a false generic and should not be collected as a generic. Generics are not collected for populated places in Argentina.

A glossary of generic terms is available in Appendix A.

e. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling

The definite article (*el, la, lo, los, las*) is generally shown in approved names as found on native sources. When source evidence regarding the capitalization of the definite article is mixed, names of associated features, if present, will be examined to assist in the decision. When a name is

encountered in all capital letters, a non-initial definite article will be in lower case when the standardized name form is derived. In the absence of conclusive evidence non-initial definite articles are written in lowercase letters in the standardized name form.

f. Numbers

Names containing numerals as integral parts, both cardinal and ordinal, should be treated according to the following principles:

- Arabic numerals are ordinarily expanded in Spanish. Examples: *4 Caminos* (on source) is rendered *Cuatro Caminos*; *2da Palma* (on source) is rendered *Segunda Palma*.
- Roman numerals are retained throughout.
- These principles apply to both initial and non-initial numerals.

g. Optional Long and Short Forms

Short forms are not added to Variant names and should be removed when a formerly Approved names becomes a Variant name.

Administrative division names are accorded long and short forms, e.g., Provincia del Chubut [long form]; Chubut [short form].

Long and short forms of names of populated places are approved when supported by official evidence, e.g., Gobernador Solá [long form]; Solá [short form].

Railroad station names that appear on official sources with the generic term *estación* are given long and short forms as supported by the evidence. Example: Estación Caucete [long form]; Caucete [short form].

Where official maps show more than one populated place with the same name in the same *provincia* (second administrative division), a special effort is to be made to obtain distinguishing long forms from census lists and other official sources.

h. Unique Linguistic Situations

Names Containing the Conjunction "o"

Some sources may show two or more names for a feature joined by the conjunction "o," meaning "or" (e.g., Río Rojo o Colorado). For the purposes of standardization, only one name is selected as the official standard name. The choice of name as standard will depend on the weight of evidence. If there is no further evidence, one should use the first as the official standard name. In accordance with standard policy, the other names for the feature will be considered variants.

i. Abbreviations

The following is a list of abbreviations of generics which are regularly found on Argentinean cartographic products. Abbreviations must be spelled out in the Geographic Names Database.

<u>Abbreviated Form</u>	<u>Unabbreviated Form</u>
A.	Arroyo
B.	Bahía
Bco.	Banco

Bo.	Boca
C.	Cabo, Cayo, or Cerro
Co.	Cerro
Ca.	Cañada
Cdon.	Cordón
Cem.	Cementerio
Clla.	Cuchilla
Cord.	Cordillera
Dpto.	Departamento
Ensa.	Ensenada
Esc.	Escuela
Est.	Estación, Estero
Fte.	Fuerte
G.	Golfo
Hac.	Hacienda
I(s).	Isla(s)
Ilte(s).	Islote(s)
L.	Loma, Lago, or Laguna
Lag.	Lago or Laguna
Mo.	Morro
Mte.	Monte
Nvdo.	Nevado
P.	Playa, Presa, or Pico
Pco.	Pico
Pen.	Península
Pta.	Punta
Pte.	Puente
Pto.	Puerto
Pvcia.	Provincia
Q., Queb., Qda.	Quebrada
R.	Río
Reg.	Región
S.	Sierra
Serr.	Serranía
V.	Valle, Volcán

4. Political Geographic Policy

a. Country Name and Capital

Country Name

Conventional long form: Argentine Republic

Conventional short form: Argentina

Local official long form: República Argentina

Local official short form: Argentina

Capital (PPLC)

Approved name: Buenos Aires

b. First-order Administrative Divisions

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Generic</u>	<u>Seat- PPLA</u>	<u>FIPS 10-4</u>	<u>ISO 3166-2</u>
1.	Buenos Aires	provincia	La Plata	AR01	AR-B
2.	Catamarca	provincia	San Fernando del Valle de Catamarca	AR02	AR-K
3.	Chaco	provincia	Resistencia	AR03	AR-H
4.	Chubut	provincia	Rawson	AR04	AR-U
5.	Córdoba	provincia	Córdoba	AR05	AR-X
6.	Corrientes	provincia	Corrientes	AR06	AR-W
7.	Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires	cuidad autónoma	Buenos Aires (PPLC)	AR07	AR-C
8.	Entre Ríos	provincia	Paraná	AR08	AR-E
9.	Formosa	provincia	Formosa	AR09	AR-P
10.	Jujuy	provincia	San Salvador de Jujuy	AR10	AR-Y
11.	La Pampa	provincia	Santa Rosa	AR11	AR-L
12.	La Rioja	provincia	La Rioja	AR12	AR-F
13.	Mendoza	provincia	Mendoza	AR13	AR-M
14.	Misiones	provincia	Posadas	AR14	AR-N
15.	Neuquén	provincia	Neuquén	AR15	AR-Q
16.	Río Negro	provincia	Viedma	AR16	AR-R
17.	Salta	provincia	Salta	AR17	AR-A
18.	San Juan	provincia	San Juan	AR18	AR-J
19.	San Luis	provincia	San Luis	AR19	AR-D
20.	Santa Cruz	provincia	Río Gallegos	AR20	AR-Z
21.	Santa Fe	provincia	Santa Fe	AR21	AR-S
22.	Santiago del Estero	provincia	Santiago del Estero	AR22	AR-G
23.	Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Atlántico Sur	territorio nacional	Ushuaia	AR23	AR-V
24.	Tucumán	provincia	San Miguel de Tucumán	AR24	AR-T

c. Disputed Territories

Note: For the latest country specific boundary dispute information, visit the U.S. Department of State's Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia, or B.A.S.E., at <http://base.us-state.osis.gov/>.

Argentina claims the UK-administered Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), as well as South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Argentina has territorial claims in Antarctica which partially overlap with UK and Chilean claims. The US does not recognize any sovereignty claims over Antarctica.

The joint boundary commission, established by Chile and Argentina in 2001, has yet to map and demarcate the delimited boundary in the inhospitable Andean Southern Ice Field (Campo de Hielo Sur). Furthermore, the "Continental Glaciers" issue with Argentina has not been fully resolved, leaving a section of the boundary indefinite.⁴

⁴ Argentina: Disputes - International. CIA World Factbook Online. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ci.html>>. 29 Apr 2011.

Finally, there is an uncontested dispute between Brazil and Uruguay over Brazilera, or Brasilera Island, in the Quarai or Cuareim River which leaves the tripoint with Argentina in question.

5. Source Material

The preferred mapping authority for Argentina is the Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM). The following is a listing of source material, prioritized according to recommended usage for geographic name selection. All items are available at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Research Center.

1. Argentina, 1:100,000 topographic maps, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1976-1993.
2. Argentina, 1:250,000 topographic maps, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1975-1991.
3. Argentina, 1:50,000 topographic maps, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1975-1979, 1986-1987.
4. República Argentina, 1:8 M ADM1 map, Angel Estrada y Cia, S.A., 1993.
5. República Argentina, 1:2.5 M country map, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1986 and 2000
6. Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM) Website: www.igm.gov.ar

Other sources:

1. Atlas Geográfico Argentino, Ediciones Docentes Argentinas (EDA), 1993.
Located in the Library of Congress G1755, .P25
2. Various scales and authorities ADM1 maps, 1970's and 1980's.
3. US BGN Gazetteer of Argentina, 1992.

Appendix A – Glossary of Generic Terms

The following is a glossary of generic terms that one may encounter in Argentina. Please note that this list is incomplete and only represents the most frequently occurring generics.

<u>Spanish Generic</u>	<u>Designation Name</u>	<u>Designation Code</u>
acequía, canal	canal	CNL
alto, cerro, cuchilla, morro, montaña, serranía, sierra	mountain	MT
alto, cerro, loma, morro	hills	HILL
arroyo, caño, morichal, quebrada, río	stream	STM
bahía	bay	BAY
banco	bank	BNK
boca, estuario	estuary	ESTY
boca, ensenada	inlet	INLT
bosque, selva	forest	FRST
cabo	cape	CAPE
caño	tidal creek	CRKT
ciénaga	marsh	MRSH
ciénaga, laguna	lagoon	LGN
cuchilla, fila, filo	ridge	RDGE
delta	delta	DLTA
departamento	second-order administrative division	ADM2, department
embalse, represa	reservoir	RSV
ensenada	cove	COVE
estero	wetland	WTLD
estrecho	strait	STRT
golfo	gulf	GULF
isla, islote	island	ISL
lago	lake	LK
llano, sabana, pampas	plain	PLN
mesa	mesa	MESA
parque, parque nacional	park	PRK
paso	pass	PASS
península	peninsula	PEN
picacho, pico	peak	PK
provincia	first-order administrative division	ADM1, province
puente	bridge	BDG
puerto	harbor	HBR
punta	point	PT
rapido, salto	waterfall	FLLS
sabana	grassland	GRSLD