

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Bolivia

United States Board on Geographic Names – Foreign Names Committee



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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 Bolivia, and shall be applied to all Bolivian 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

Bolivia's population is estimated at 10 million (July 2011). The nation is ethnically diverse with 30% Quechua, 30% mixed white and Amerindian ancestry, 25% Aymara, and 15% white. The population is comprised of 95% Roman Catholics and the remaining 5% are Evangelical Methodists.¹

b. Languages

Bolivia has over thirty official languages which include the Spanish language (ISO 639-3 code 'spn') and all of the nation's indigenous languages. The Bolivian constitution mandates that the federal and regional governments use at least two official languages: Spanish and the other language chosen should take into account the use, convenience, needs, and preferences of the population as a whole in the territory.²

In Bolivia, the official language of Quechua has two dialects: North Bolivian and South Bolivian (ISO 639-3 code 'qu' and 'quh' respectively). South Bolivian Quechua is concentrated in the highland and lowland regions with the exception of La Paz (a first-order administrative division of Bolivia) and has a speaker population of approximately 2.7 million. North Bolivian Quechua has a smaller speaking population of approximately 116,000, and this community of speakers is found in the department of La Paz. Furthermore, language of Aymara (ISO 639-3 code 'ayr') is primarily located in the high plains (antiplano) to the west of the Andes. Migration has taken Aymara speakers to the lowlands of Argentina, Chile, and Peru. The total population for Aymara speakers in Bolivia is 1.7 million.³

c. Geographic Names Standardization

Geographical naming for cartographic purposes falls under the domain of the Instituto Geográfico Militar de Bolivia.⁴ As of May 2011, Bolivia does not have an official body governing geographical names policy or naming within the country. Bolivia's most recent contribution to

¹ Bolivia: People. CIA World Factbook Online. < <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bl.html>>. 05 May 2011.

² Artículo 5, I y II. Nueva Constitución Política del Estado. Congreso Nacional Oct 2008. <<http://www.presidencia.gob.bo/download/constitucion.pdf>>. 14 June 2011.

³ Lewis, M. Paul (ed.), 2009. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Sixteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. <http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=BO>. 02 May 2011.

⁴ <http://www.igmsantacruz.com/>

the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was in 1994 during the 17th Session of UNGEGN in New York, USA with its paper titled *Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers and Toponymic Terminology*.⁵

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).

Bolivian mapping authorities tend to render Quechua and Aymara toponyms by castilianization, i.e., the toponyms are interpreted and written in an approximation to Spanish orthographic rules. The application of these rules to Quechua and Aymara names has been inconsistent, and the user of Bolivian sources should be aware that various name spellings for features may exist.

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 Bolivia:

| <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 |

⁵ *Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers and Toponymic Terminology for Bolivia*. UNGEGN. 13-24 June 1994. <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/17th-gegn-docs/17th_gegn_WP5-s.pdf>. 04 May 2011.

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 Bolivia.

A glossary of generic terms can be found 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 name becomes a Variant name.

Administrative division names are accorded long and short forms, e.g., Departamento de Santa Cruz [long form]; Santa Cruz [short form].

Long and short forms of names of populated places are approved when supported by official evidence, e.g., Santa Cruz de la Sierra [long form]; Santa Cruz [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 El Crucero [long form]; El Crucero [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 Bolivian 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 |
| L., 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: Plurinational State of Bolivia

Conventional short form: Bolivia

Local official long form: Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia

Local official short form: Bolivia

Capital (PPLC)

Approved name for seat of government: La Paz

Approved name for seat of judiciary: Sucre

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. | Chuquisaca | departamento | Sucre (PPLC) | BL01 | BO-H |
| 2. | Cochabamba | departamento | Cochabamba | BL02 | BO-C |
| 3. | Beni | departamento | Trinidad | BL03 | BO-B |
| 4. | La Paz | departamento | La Paz (PPLC) | BL04 | BO-L |
| 5. | Oruro | departamento | Oruro | BL05 | BO-O |
| 6. | Pando | departamento | Cobija | BL06 | BO-N |
| 7. | Potosí | departamento | Potosí | BL07 | BO-P |
| 8. | Santa Cruz | departamento | Santa Cruz de la Sierra | BL08 | BO-S |
| 9. | Tarija | departamento | Tarija | BL09 | BO-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/>.

There are no known boundary disputes with neighboring countries.

5. Source Material

The Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM) is the preferred authority for Bolivian map sources; in addition, there are other Bolivian government agencies that publish sources of geographic names information. 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. Bolivia, 1:50,000-scale series, Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), 1960's - 90's.
2. Bolivia, 1:100,000-scale series, Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), 1970's - 90's.
3. Bolivia, 1:250,000-scale series, Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), 1970's - 90's.
4. Bolivia, 1:1,500,000-scale map (four sheets), Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), 1988.

5. Bolivia, 1:1,000,000-scale Atlas, Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), 1985.
6. Bolivia, 1:1,000,000-scale map (four sheets; one missing), Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), 1996.
7. Bolivia, 1:1,000,000-scale map (four sheets), Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), 1994.
8. Bolivia, 1:1,000,000-scale map (nine sheets, hydrographic), Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), 1990.
9. Bolivia, 1:1,000,000-scale map (nine sheets), Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), 1980, 1985.

Other sources:

1. Administrative maps, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, 1970's.
2. Bolivia (geological), 1:1,000,000 (four sheets), Servicio Geológico, 1994.
3. US BGN Gazetteer of Bolivia, 1992.
4. Bolivia, 1:2,000,000, Ministerio de Transportes, 1989.

Appendix A – Glossary of Generic Terms

The following is a glossary of generic terms that one may encounter in Bolivia. 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 | first-order administrative division | ADM1, 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 | plain | PLN |
| mesa | mesa | MESA |
| parque, parque nacional | park | PRK |
| paso | pass | PASS |
| península | peninsula | PEN |
| picacho, pico | peak | PK |
| provincia | second-order administrative division | ADM2, province |
| puente | bridge | BDG |
| puerto | harbor | HBR |
| punta | point | PT |
| rapido, salto | waterfall | FLLS |
| sabana | grassland | GRSLD |