

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Iran

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee



March 2024

1. Introduction

This geographic names standardization policy has been prepared as an aid to those geographic names experts who are the working staff for the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in the standardization of the geographic names of Iran for United States Government use. The BGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in U.S. Government databases, publications, maps, and charts, and are intended to satisfy the statutory requirements levied upon the BGN in Public Law USC 80-242 to develop principles, policies, and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography.

2. Languages and Language Policy

a. Demographics

The July 2023 estimated population of Iran was 85.5 million people, up from an estimated 79.9 million people in July 2016.¹ Demographic estimates show a population that is 61 percent Persian, 16 percent Azeri, 10 percent Kurd, 6 percent Lur, 2 percent Baluch, 2 percent Arab, 2 percent Turkmen and Turkic tribes, and 1 percent other.² Islam is the official religion with the 2016 census reporting 74.68 million followers of Islam in Iran. The CIA World Factbook indicates that 90-95 percent of this population is Shia and 5-10 percent is Sunni.³ Other religious groups reported in Iran's 2016 census include over 117,000 people of Christian faith, 25,000 people of Zoroastrian faith, and 8,000 people of Jewish faith, along with Baha'i and other religions comprising, in total, approximately 2 percent of the population. **Appendix A: Map of Languages Spoken in Iran** contains a map with approximate areas of interest for ethnic and religious groups.

b. Languages

The most common first language in Iran is Persian (also known as Farsi, Western Farsi, or Western Persian), a language within the Indo-European language family. ISO 639-3 lists 'FAS' as the identifier code for Persian, and ISO 639-2 classifies Persian as a macrolanguage that includes two individual languages within its linguistic family tree. These two individual languages are Eastern Persian and Iranian Persian. Eastern Persian, also known as Dari, is recognized by the individual language identifier 'PRS', and Iranian Persian is recognized by the individual language identifier 'PES'.⁴ Other languages spoken in Iran are Azeri, Kurdish, Gilaki, Mazandarani, Luri, Baluchi, Turkish, and Arabic. Even though Persian is not related to Arabic via linguistic familial roots—as Arabic is a member of the Semitic language family—it borrows copiously from Arabic words and expressions. Collectively, Persian and other Indo-Iranian

¹ "Selected Findings of the 2016 National Population and Housing Census." Vice Presidency Plan and Budget Organization, Statistical Center of Iran. Tehran: 2018. <<http://www.amar.org.ir>>. July 2023.

² "Atlas des peuples d'Asie méridionale et orientale." Sellier, Jean, Le Fur, Anne, Brun, Bertrand de. La Découverte, Paris: 2008.

³ Iran. CIA World Factbook Online. <<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/iran/>>. July 2023.

⁴ "ISO-639-3, 639 Identifier Documentation: pes." <<https://iso639-3.sil.org/code/pes>>. July 2023.

languages are spoken as first languages by approximately 70 percent of Iranians.

In fact, a wide variety of dialectal forms make up the modern language of Persian, but official Iranian mapping favors the Tehran dialect of Persian. Additionally, Persian is the only language used in official Iranian government documents. As specified in Article 15 of the Iranian Constitution, the national language of Iran is Persian:⁵

"Article 15: The official language and script of Iran, the lingua franca of its people, is Persian. Official documents, correspondence, and texts, as well as text-books, must be in this language and script. However, the use of regional and tribal languages in the press and mass media, as well as for teaching of their literature in schools, is allowed in addition to Persian."

The only other language mentioned in the Iranian constitution is Arabic. Although Arabic is not an official language in Iran, Article 16 specifically mandates its teaching at post-elementary levels:

"Article 16: Since the language of the Qur'ān and Islamic texts and teachings are in Arabic, and since Persian literature is thoroughly permeated by this language, it must be taught after elementary level, in all classes of secondary school and in all areas of study."

c. Geographic Names Standardization

The national names authority of Iran is the Iranian Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names (ICSGN) (کمیته تخصصی نام نگاری و یکسان سازی نامهای جغرافیایی ایران). It is associated with the National Cartography Center (NCC) (سازمان نقشه برداری کشور) and the National Geographic Organization (NGO) (سازمان جغرافیایی نیروهای مسلح). Along with a large number of countries, worldwide, the ICSGN participates in the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEGN). A variety of Iranian institutions, such as their Armed Forces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Geography Institute of Tehran University, and National Surveying Organization attend these sessions as representatives of Iran and the ICSGN. The mailing address for the ICSGN organization is:

P.O. Box 13185
1684 Azadi Square, Meraj Blvd.
Tehran, Iran
geoname@ncc.org.ir
Tel: +98(21) 6000031/37.
Fax: +98(21) 6001972.

Within the ICSGN, transliteration issues are handled by a Transcription Working Group. The ICSGN is headed by the NCC. Within the ICSGN, there are working groups for: (a) geographical names website and database; (b) terminology; (c) Romanization; (d) undersea features (new in 2004); (e) exonyms; (f) historical names.

⁵ "Iran (Islamic Republic of) 1979 (rev. 1989)." <https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Iran_1989>. July 2023.

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Native Script

Iran's only official names sources are exclusively in Persian script or the Persian Broad Transcription System. When these official sources occasionally supplement with English-language maps, they are typically produced by non-government entities, like private corporations, or for the purposes of encouraging tourism. Similarly, Iran does not publish any official maps in minority languages. Approved Persian-script toponyms for Iran are written in a modified version of the Arabic script, hereafter referred to as the Perso-Arabic script. It is written from right to left and has no case distinction between capital and lower-case letters. In standard written form, each letter appears in up to four forms: initial, medial, final, and isolated. Some letters join either on the right or left side with adjoining characters.

The Persian alphabet consists of thirty-two letters (shown in *Table 1* below).

Table 1: Dictionary Order of Persian Alphabet

Letter	Unicode	Letter	Unicode	Letter	Unicode
آ Alef maddeh	0622	ذ Zāl	0630	غ Ghayn	063A
ا Alef	0627	ر Re	0631	ف Fe	0641
ب Be	0628	ز Ze	0632	ق Qāf	0642
پ Pe	067E	ژ Zhe	0698	ک Kāf	06A9
ت Te	062A	س Sīn	0633	گ Gāf	06AF
ث Še	062B	ش Shīn	0634	ل Lām	0644
ج Jīm	062C	ص Šād	0635	م Mīm	0645
چ Che	0686	ض Žād	0636	ن Nūn	0646
ح He	062D	ط Tā	0637	و Vāv	0648
خ Khe	062E	ظ Žā	0638	ه He	0647
د Dāl	062F	ع ‘ayn	0639	ی Ye	0649

Numerals in Persian are written left-to-right, even though otherwise Persian is written right-to-left (See *Table 2*). Per the FNC Principles, Policies, and Procedures, the following will also be the policy for Persian names containing numbers, when added to the GNS:

- 1) Numerals will ordinarily be spelled out (in the language of the country concerned).
- 2) Roman numerals will be retained in specific terms.
- 3) Arabic numerals will be retained in names that consist of a unit of measure or time (with or without a generic) plus a number.
- 4) Initial numerals will be spelled out.

- 5) Ordinal numerals (except as in clause 2) will be considered as abbreviations and spelled out.
- 6) A numeral following a generic will be retained if generally used.
- 7) 'No.,' 'Number,' or an equivalent foreign language abbreviation or word will always be spelled out and retained when mapping in Iran.
- 8) Non-initial numerals will be alphabetized as if spelled out.

Table 2: Persian Numerals

Number	Persian Script	Transliteration	Number	Persian Script	Transliteration
0 : ۰	صفر	Şefr	20 : ۲۰	بیست	Bīst
1 : ۱	یک	Yek	30 : ۳۰	سی	Sī
2 : ۲	دو	Do	40 : ۴۰, ۴۰	چهل	Chehel
3 : ۳	سه	Seh	50 : ۵۰, ۵۰	پنجه	Panjah
4 : ۴, ۴	چهار	Chahār	60 : ۶۰, ۶۰	شست	Shast
5 : ۵, ۵	پنج	Panj	70 : ۷۰	هفتاد	Haftād
6 : ۶, ۶	شش	Shesh	80 : ۸۰	هشتاد	Hashtād
7 : ۷	هفت	Haft	90 : ۹۰	نود	Navad
8 : ۸	هشت	Hasht	100 : ۱۰۰	صد	Şad
9 : ۹	نو	Now	200 : ۲۰۰	دویست	Devīst
10 : ۱۰	ده	Dah	1000 : ۱۰۰۰	هزار	Hezār

b. Romanization

Romanization of Persian names occurs by using the 1958 BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Persian. The system can be found in the publication *Romanization Systems and Roman Script Spelling Conventions* (September 2008, 6th Edition), published by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. For convenience, the transliteration system can be found on the Geographic Names Server website by clicking on the link to “Romanization Systems” after navigating to the “Reference” page and selecting “Persian” from the drop-down menu provided to the end-user.⁶

The current United Nations recommended system was approved in 2012, based on the system called ‘broad transcription’ that had been developed for Persian since 1988⁷, and officially approved in 2003. While this system was endorsed by the United Nations for the romanization of geographic names in Iran, its use is not widespread in Iran due to the continued preference for Persian script names in government mapping for Iran.⁸ Prior to this, the NCC approved a

⁶ “Geographic Names Server.” An official website of the United States Government.

<https://geonames.nga.mil/geonames/GNSHome/reference.html>

⁷ “Toponymic Guidelines for map and other editors – Revised edition 1998.” Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran. UNGEGN, 20th session. New York, 17–28 January 2000, Working Paper No. 41.

⁸ “REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF UNITED NATIONS ROMANIZATION SYSTEMS FOR GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES.” Compiled by the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems Version 4.0, February 2013. http://www.eki.ee/wgrs/rom1_fa.pdf

separate transcription system, the 2003 NCC Transliteration System, developed in partnership with linguists from Tehran University. While not directly related to the process of romanization of names in Persian, it should be noted that Tehran University, in coordination with the Dehkhoda Lexicon Institute and International Center for Persian Studies, remains the most comprehensive source for Persian language resources in the entire world. The Dehkhoda Dictionary produced by the Dehkhoda Lexicon Institute is an integral part of any romanization of Persian names.

c. Diacritics in Romanization

The following diacritic marks are permitted in romanized standardized name forms in Iran, as shown in Table 3:

Table 3: BGN Approved Diacritic Marks for Iran Toponyms

<i>Character Name</i>	<i>Character</i>	<i>Unicode</i>	<i>Character Name</i>	<i>Character</i>	<i>Unicode</i>
Uppercase a with acute accent	Á	00C1	Lowercase a with acute accent	á	00E1
Uppercase a with macron	Ā	0100	Lowercase a with macron	ā	0101
Uppercase h with cedilla	Ĥ	1E28	Lowercase h with cedilla	ĥ	1E29
Uppercase i with macron	Ī	012A	Lowercase i with macron	ī	012B
Uppercase s with macron	Ŝ	0053+0304	Lowercase s with macron	ŝ	0073+0304
Uppercase s with cedilla	Ș	015E	Lowercase s with cedilla	ș	015F
Uppercase t with cedilla	Ț	0162	Lowercase t with cedilla	ț	0163
Uppercase u with macron	Ū	016A	Lowercase u with macron	ū	016B
Uppercase z with macron	Ž	005A+0304	Lowercase z with macron	ž	007A+0304
Uppercase z with sub-macron	Ẑ	1E94	Lowercase z with sub-macron	ẑ	1E95
Uppercase z with cedilla	Ẓ	005A+0327	Lowercase z with cedilla	ẓ	007A+0327

The apostrophe (') and inverted apostrophe (‘) are special symbols, and are permitted in the romanized forms of geographic names. The single high reversed-9 quote (’) is not permitted in romanized official names for Iran. Uppercase letters in standardized name forms retain diacritics. Diacritic marks other than the ones listed in Table 3 above are not permitted in official names for Iran.

d. Generic Terms

A glossary of generic terms can be found at the Geographic Names Server website. After navigating to the “Services” page by clicking the link on the toolbar at the top of the webpage, open the “GNS Tools” drop-down menu. Click and select the “Generic Term Glossary” from the drop-down menu provided to the end-user. Once selected, the webpage will scroll until the “Generic Term Glossary” link is visible on the column to the right. Instructions on using the Generic Term Glossary, in addition to instructions on creating your own generic term glossary for individual searches, are provided along with the link. The Generic Term Glossary is available in HTML or CSV Format, and users may choose between sorting by Designation Code or Generic Term, prior to selecting a country from the drop-down menu.

e. Hyphenation, Commas, and Parentheses

The above-mentioned characters are non-standard characters in Persian script, but they will occasionally appear on maps written primarily in Persian script. In the event that a geographic name in Iran contains a hyphen, comma, or parentheses, these names will be treated as separate (Variant) entries of the original name, unless analysis favors other methods of name extraction.

4. Political Geography Policy**a. Country Name and Capital**Country Name:

Conventional Short Form	Iran
Conventional Long Form	Islamic Republic of Iran
Native Short Form – Romanized	Īrān
Native Long Form – Romanized	Jomhūrī-ye Eslāmī-ye Īrān
Native Short Form – Native Script	ایران
Native Long Form – Native Script	جمهوری اسلامی ایران

Capital:

Conventional	Tehran
Romanized Approved	Tehrān
Native Script	تهران

b. First-Order Administrative Divisions

The BGN recognizes the following structure of administrative divisions in Iran: It recognizes استان - ostān as the first-order administrative division (ADM1); شهرستان – shahrestān as the second-order administrative division (ADM2); بخش - bakhsh as the third-order administrative division (ADM3); and دهستان - dehestān as the fourth-order administrative division (ADM4). Additionally, Iran provides administrative structure for large individual cities, which may operate separately from the country-wide administrative structures. Due to the complexity and frequent updates to any administrative level beyond the second level in Iran, BGN Policy is to

not capture administrative divisions listed beyond the ADM2 level. **Appendix B: Map of Administrative Divisions of Iran** contains a map of Iranian first-order administrative divisions (Current as of July 2023).

	<i>Name</i>	<i>GENC</i>	<i>Seat</i>
1	Alborz	IR-30	Karaj
	البرز		کرج
2	Ardabāī	IR-24	Ardabāī
	اردبیل		اردبیل
3	Āzarbāyjān-e Gharbī	IR-04	Orūmīyeh
	آذربایجان غربی		ارومیه
4	Āzarbāyjān-e Sharqī	IR-03	Tabrīz
	آذربایجان شرقی		تبریز
5	Būshehr	IR-18	Bandar-e Būshehr
	بوشهر		بندر بوشهر
6	Chahār Maḥāl va Bakhtīārī	IR-14	Shahr-e Kord
	چهار محال و بختیاری		شهر کرد
7	Eṣfahān	IR-10	Eṣfahān
	اصفهان		اصفهان
8	Fārs	IR-07	Shīrāz
	فارس		شیراز
9	Gīlān	IR-01	Rasht
	گیلان		رشت
10	Golestān	IR-27	Gorgān
	گلستان		گرگان
11	Hamadān	IR-13	Hamadān
	همدان		همدان
12	Hormozgān	IR-22	Bandar ‘Abbās
	هرمزگان		بندر عباس
13	Īlām	IR-16	Īlām
	ایلام		ایلام
14	Kermān	IR-08	Kermān
	کرمان		کرمان
15	Kermānshāh	IR-05	Kermānshāh
	کرمانشاه		کرمانشاه
16	Khorāsān-e Jonūbī	IR-29	Bīrjand
	خراسان جنوبی		بیرجند
17	Khorāsān-e Razavī	IR-09	Mashhad
	خراسان رضوی		مشهد
18	Khorāsān-e Shomālī	IR-28	Bojnūrd
	خراسان شمالی		بجنورد

	<i>Name</i>	<i>GENC</i>	<i>Seat</i>
19	Khūzestān	IR-06	Ahvāz
	خوزستان		اهواز
20	Kohgīlūyeh va Bowyer Aḥmad	IR-17	Yāsūj
	کهگیلویه و بویر احمد		ياسوج
21	Kordestān	IR-12	Sanandaj
	کردستان		سنندج
22	Lorestān	IR-15	Khorramābād
	لرستان		خرم آباد
23	Markazī	IR-00	Arāk
	مرکزی		اراک
24	Māzandarān	IR-02	Sārī
	مازندران		ساری
25	Qazvīn	IR-26	Qazvīn
	قزوین		قزوین
26	Qom	IR-25	Qom
	قم		قم
27	Semnān	IR-20	Semnān
	سمنان		سمنان
28	Sīstān va Balūchestān	IR-11	Zāhedān
	سیستان و بلوچستان		زاهدان
29	Tehrān	IR-23	Tehrān
	تهران		تهران
30	Yazd	IR-21	Yazd
	یزد		یزد
31	Zanjān	IR-19	Zanjān
	زنجان		زنجان

c. Conventional Names and Anglicized Variant Names

<i>Conventional Name</i>	<i>UFI</i>	<i>UNI</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Alborz Mountains	-3052317	11514813	MTS
Aras	-3053542	-4278734	STM
Aras River	-3053542	-4278751	STM
Azerbaijan	-3054143	-4280185	RGN
Balochistan	-3055016	19188510	RGN
Iran	-3067252	14063233	PCLI
Islamic Republic of Iran	-3067252	4308347	PCLI
Kurdistan	-3072069	16763901	RGN
Lake Urmia	-3077457	-4331223	LK

<i>Conventional Name</i>	<i>UFI</i>	<i>UNI</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Pasargadae	-3077983	-4332315	ANS
Persepolis	-3090313	-4332755	ANS
Shatt al Arab	-3053484	-4278638	STM
Tehran	-3087341	17537160	PPLC
Zagros Mountains	-3088792	-4355389	MTS

<i>Anglicized Variant Name</i>	<i>UFI</i>	<i>UNI</i>	<i>Designation</i>
East Azerbaijan	-3054145	14838184	ADM1
North Khorasan	9237536	14838188	ADM1
Razavi Khorasan	9237535	14838187	ADM1
South Khorasan	9237534	14838186	ADM1
West Azerbaijan	-3054144	14838185	ADM1

5. Unique Geopolitical Situations

Note: For the latest information on the status of boundaries, please contact the U.S. Department of State Office of the Geographer and Global Issues at internationalboundaries@state.gov or consult the Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia at <https://statetoday.net/base>.

a. Disputed Names

Iran and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula use different names for the body of water between them. Iran uses *Khalij-e Fārs* (Persian Gulf). The Arabian countries use the name *Al Khalīj al ‘Arabī* (Arabian Gulf). The BGN-approved Conventional name for that feature is 'Persian Gulf'.

b. Non-Defined Boundaries

The border between Iran and Turkmenistan has an undefined section due to the construction of a new dam that submerged the border. However, no names policy issues have emerged as a result of the undefined border.

c. Riverine Boundaries

Iran and Iraq dispute certain aspects of their riverine boundary along the Shatt al Arab. Iran names the mouth of the river *Arvand Rūd*, but no names policy issues have emerged as a result of this dispute.

d. Other Unusual Boundary Issues

For its maritime boundaries, Iran maintains an excessive straight baseline claim; the extension of the Shatt al Arab riverine boundary out to the territorial sea limit is undefined. No names policy issues have emerged out of this situation.

6. Source Material

Note: Map sources are listed in order of authoritative nature.

a. Map Series Containing Official Names

Note: NCC and NGO maps are preferred civilian and military authorities, respectively, for topographic map sources.

Iran National Cartographic Center, Various Map Series. These Iranian government produced maps provide a wide range of information, from topographic and populated place data, to tourist maps and evacuation charts. They provide the most up-to-date sources for the country of Iran, with accurate data in both digital and cartographic mediums. Names are given in native script, with guidance for hypsographic, hydrographic, and spot features. The NCC produces a large number of maps, ranging from nationwide 1:25,000 scale maps, to a wide variety of inner-city maps produced at scale ranges as small as 1:5,000. Topographic relief is shown. The Iranian NCC hosts a digital online map database, but it is frequently plagued by access issues.

Iran National Geographic Organization, Various Map Series. Specific statements on historical sources for names and imagery for these maps are no longer available. Names are given in native script, with guidance for hypsographic, hydrographic, and spot features also given. Topographic relief is shown.

Iran Census Bureau, Various Map Series. Names and mapping information for the Iranian Census Bureau are provided via an Iranian government census carried out every five years. Names are given in native script, with guidance for legend features and administrative data from 1st-4th level provided in margins. Data is limited to populated places, roads, administrative boundary data, and occasional major hydrographic feature data. With the addition of the 2006 Census maps, Iran shifted to map production based on fourth-order administrative unit. The last series of Census maps produced by the Iranians was in 2021 (1400 by the Iranian calendar), but they have yet to be released by the Iran Census Bureau.

www.amar.org.ir/

b. Map Series Containing Unofficial Names

Note: Working closely with the National Cartographic Center, a multitude of commercial firms function as quasi-official names authorities. These are: Gītāshenāsī, Saḥāb, and Ershād. All three have such close associations with the NGO that their products are treated as more authoritative than other Iranian commercial sources. However, in the event that a source published by one of

these firms differs from an NGO source, the name from the commercial source is treated as a variant spelling. If a feature appears on a commercial source from one of these three firms, but on no authoritative sources, it is treated as an Approved Non-authoritative (D) name.

1:300,000 and 1:600,000-scale province maps, Gītāshenāsī, 1982-1995.

1:1,000,000-scale province maps, Gītāshenāsī, 1982-1985 (four sheets).

Road Atlas of Iran, 1:1,000,000, Gītāshenāsī, 1990.

There is no statement on the three-source series from Gītāshenāsī as to the provenance of either names or imagery. Thus, while the names on those sources are presumed to be an accurate reflection of NGO – ICSGN policies, their reliability is uncertain. Names on these maps are mostly for populated places, though a limited amount of information is also contained on them for hydrographic and hypsographic features. Limited spot-feature and elevation information is also given. These maps do not fully cover all names and features of comparable area found in the GNDB.

c. Gazetteers Containing Standardized Names

Note: Gazetteers on this list are only recommended in the absence of other sources.

National Geographic Organization Geographic Dictionaries with accompanying 1:250,000-scale maps, 1975-1995 (136 volumes).

This series was mostly produced during the decade of the 1990s, based primarily on field surveys and census materials. The main entry names in the books are populated places, although other types of features may be coincidentally mentioned in the brief descriptions of their contextual geographic settings. There is generally a presumption of names density at the 1:50K scale, although there are names in the books not found on the accompanying maps, and vice versa. The maps do not contain topographic relief information, and sometimes lack PPL symbols next to the names. In the books, BGN romanizations of the names accompany the Persian-script entries. Coordinates for PPLs are given only in degrees and minutes, not in seconds.

A. Ja'farī (1997). Rivers of Iran. Tehran: Gītāshenāsī.

A single-volume distillation of the four-volume NGO gazetteer of Iranian rivers. It uses the new NCC transliteration system, not the BGN/PCGN Persian transliteration system.

A. Ja'farī (2005). Mountains of Iran, Volume 1. Tehran: Gītāshenāsī.

A single-volume distillation of the four-volume NGO gazetteer of Iranian mountains. It uses the new NCC transliteration system, not the BGN/PCGN Persian transliteration

system.

Iran National Geographic Organization (2002 - 4). *National Gazetteer of the I.R. of Iran*.

This Gazetteer covers the provinces Kerman and Yazd.

BGN Gazetteer of Iran, 2 volumes, 1984.

This publication is a handy reference for Persian Geographic names only, albeit of limited utility given updating activities within Iran since the 1984 publication. Feature coordinates are given only in degrees and minutes, not in seconds. Names are in alphabetical order, and tagged with JOG-reference maps listings. Names are given both in BGN-approved official format and in alternate cross-referent variant forms. These variant forms offer a handy link from other unofficial maps to the correct BGN-approved name. The names are derived from various sources, such as JOG/NGO 1:250K-scale maps, Iran Statistical Center 1:200K maps, and various Iran geographic dictionaries.

d. Other Sources

Dehkhoda, Ali Akbar. مقدمه لغت نامه دهخدا: به قلم گروهی از نویسندگان, ed. Mohammad Mo'in & Ja'far Shahidi. Tehran, Tehran University Publications, 1999. 16 volumes.

This publication is written entirely in Persian, and is an important Persian language resource, with over 200 volumes of Persian language lexicography. Originally planned and written at the direction of an Iranian scholar, Ali Akbar Dehkhoda, and several of his contemporaries, the first publication occurred in 1931 via the University of Tehran. Subsequent publishing efforts gained political and academic backing when a bill announcing the support of the Dehkhoda Dictionary passed the Iranian Parliament in December 1945. The original Dehkhoda Dictionary contained entries for Persian words in various disciplines, from literature to geography and medicine. Although hard to find, physical copies are available from various vendors. The University of Tehran is the primary publisher and provides a digital version of these dictionaries updated annually.

<https://dehkhoda.ut.ac.ir/fa/dictionary>

Appendix A. Map of Languages Spoken in Iran

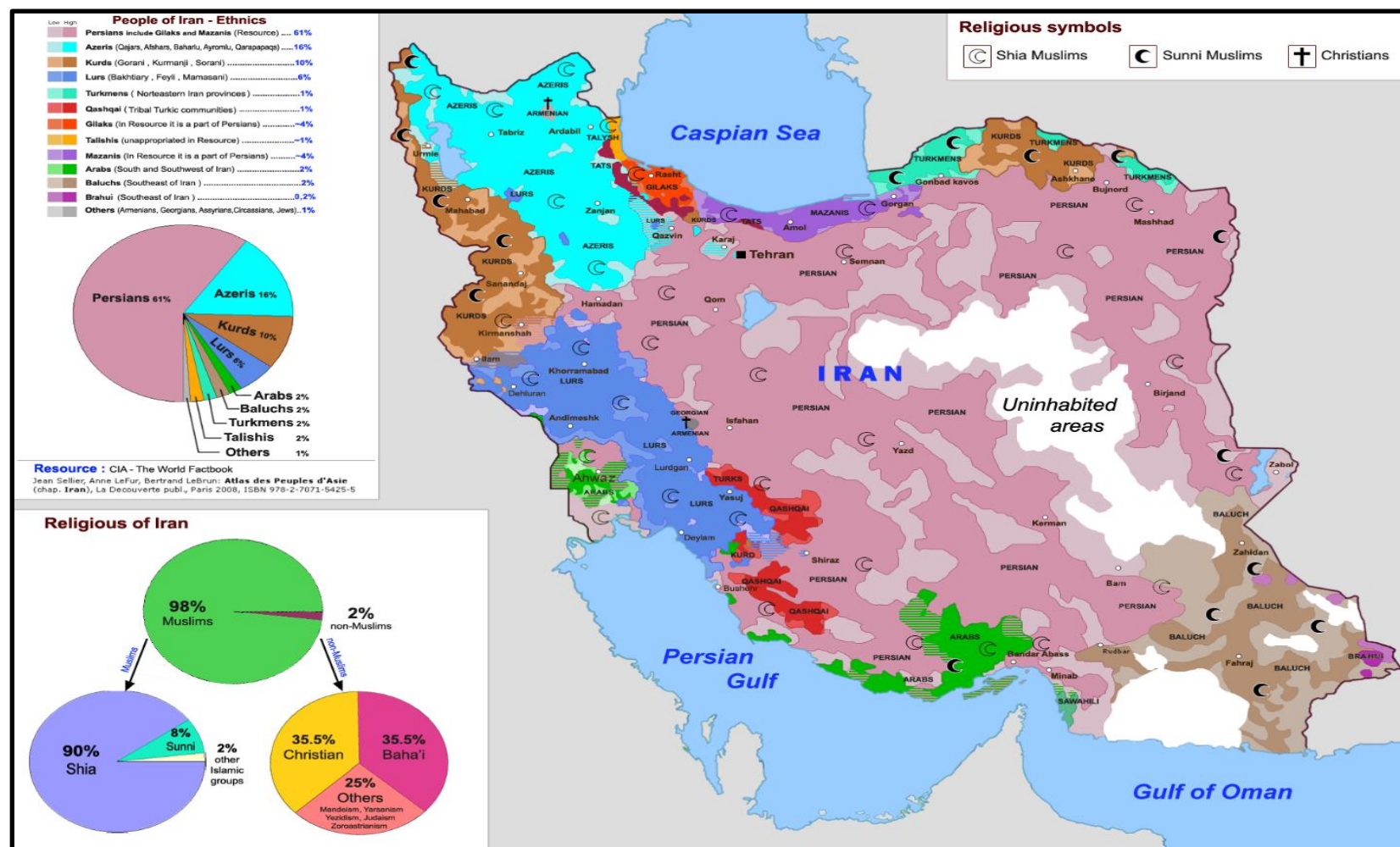


Figure 1 Names do not represent Geographic Names policy and are provided for reference only. Map accessed from Wikimedia.org, with citation referenced to the “Atlas des peuples d'Asie méridionale et orientale” written by Jean Sellier (see Section 2.a “Demographics”).

Appendix B. Map of Administrative Divisions of Iran

