



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

Definition: An *anglicized* name is an exonym that is derived by modifying the endonym to render it more accessible or meaningful to an English language user. Modification of the endonym can take different forms: substitution of the local language generic term for an English language generic term e.g., Helmand River for Helmand Rōd), removal of diacritical marks or special characters (e.g., Ilam for Īlām), simplification of an inflected form (e.g., Perm' Kray for Permskiy Kray), translation of all or part of the specific name to an English equivalent (e.g., White Nile State for Wilāyat A'ālī an Nīl, West Kalimantan Province for Provinsi Kalimantan Barat), adoption of an established conventional name for an associated feature (e.g., Sofia City for Sofiya-Grad), or a combination of the above.

Policy: In general, the Board does not formally approve an anglicized name as an official standard name. However, recognizing the special needs of users operating in an English language context, the Board may approve standardized anglicized names. These names would not be official, but would serve as a distinct class of variant names to be available for use in a specific context.