

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee
Statement Regarding the Names of the Provinces of Nepal

At its 399th meeting on September 10, 2019, the Foreign Names Committee of the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) voted unanimously to approve the names of Nepal’s seven provinces as its first-order administrative divisions (ADM1). The provinces were established by the September 20, 2015 Constitution of Nepal. Only three of the seven provinces (Gandakī, Karnālī, and Sudūrpashchim) have finalized their provincial names. The other four provinces are temporarily assigned the Provisional names (Name Type code ‘P’) “Province Number One”, “Province Number Two”, “Province Number Three” and “Province Number Five”. The permanent names of these four provinces will be determined by a two-thirds vote of the respective province's legislature according to Article 295 of the Constitution.

The use of the Provisional name type for this purpose is exceptional. The new names are based on the usage in the 2015 Constitution (e.g., “Province No. 1”) and have been expanded in conformance with BGN policy on numerals.

Congress established the BGN in its present form in 1947 with the express mandate to standardize geographic nomenclature for official U.S. Government use.

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