

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Albania

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee



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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 Albania 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. The country policies are intended to satisfy, in part, 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

According to the most recent estimate by Albania's Institute of Statistics, Albania has a population of 2,876,591 inhabitants. Albania's population is predominantly ethnic-Albanian. Officially recognized minority groups include Aromanians, Balkan Egyptians, Greeks, Bulgarians, Bosniaks, Macedonians, Montenegrins, Serbs, and Roma. Notably, 14% of Albania's population did not declare their ethnicity in the most recent (2011) census.

Albania is a multi-religious society. The largest proportion of inhabitants traditionally practice Sunni Islam, followed by Roman Catholicism, and Eastern Orthodoxy. The Bekteshi, a Sufi Islamic group, are numerous in Albania and have had an outsized influence in the country's history, politics, and culture. Within Albania, Sunni Muslims are most concentrated in the central part of the country, with Roman Catholics dominating in the northwest, and Eastern Orthodox and Bekteshi Muslims dominating in the south.

b. Languages

Albanian is the official language of Albania, per the Albanian constitution. Other languages spoken in the country include Greek, Aromanian, Macedonian, Romani, and Serbo-Croatian.

c. Geographic Names Standardization

There is no official body tasked with standardization of geographic names in Albania. The Albanian Military Geographical Institute's Geographic Studies Center is the most authoritative source for geographic names in Albania. Albania participates in UNGEGN.

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Script and/or Orthography

Albanian is the official language of Albania, per the Albanian constitution. It is written in a modified Latin script.

b. Romanization

Albanian-language names are written in a modified Latin script and are not romanized.

Diacritics

The following diacritics exist in Albanian.

Albanian	
Character	Unicode Value
Ç	00C7
ç	00E7
Ë	00CB
ë	00EB

c. Generic Terms

For Albanian language generic terms, please consult Appendix A.

d. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling

Albanian names follow general BGN policy in regard to hyphenation, capitalization, and abbreviation. The initial letter of prepositions in place names is never capitalized, unless the preposition occurs as the first element in a compound place name.

e. Long and short forms

Administrative division names are accorded long and short forms. Short-form names are to be ranked as the primary approved name and the long form as the secondary approved name.

Optional short forms are also provided for the BGN standard names of railroad stations, railroad stops, and populated places that contain prepositions. When supported by evidence from official sources, optional short forms are provided for BGN standard names that contain generic terms, e.g., *lumi*, *liqeni*. In such cases the specific name element becomes the short-form name.

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

f. Numbers

Cardinal and ordinal numerals that occur in geographic names should be spelled out completely in BGN standard names.

g. Abbreviations

Abbreviated names should be spelled out completely in BGN standard names. The abbreviated form is captured as the name on source; it need not be captured as a variant.

h. Unique linguistic situations

Albanian

Albanian-language mapping typically depicts the definite form of Albanian proper nouns.

Since May 1995, BGN policy has been to use the indefinite form for:

- (a) all populated place names, including those which contain a hyphen

- (b) all short-form administrative division names
- (c) all physical feature names which do not include a generic term

The definite form will be used for:

- (a) all long-form administrative division names
- (b) all physical feature names which contain a generic term

Exceptionally, in cases where the indefinite form cannot be identified or derived, the definite form may be used. In all cases, the definite form captured as the name on source, as well as a variant.

The table below instructs analysts how to convert definite nouns into their indefinite form.

	<i>Singular</i>					
	<i>Masculine</i>		<i>Feminine</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
	<i>Indefinite</i>	<i>Definite</i>	<i>Indefinite</i>	<i>Definite</i>	<i>Indefinite</i>	<i>Definite</i>
After <i>ër</i> or <i>ës</i>		-i		-a		-it
After <i>k, g, h</i>		-u				
After <i>V'</i>		-j or -u		-ja		-të
After <i>o'</i>				-ja		-t
After <i>o</i>				-ua		-t
All others		-i		-a		-t

4. Political Geography Policy

a. *Albania*

Conventional Short Form	Albania
Conventional Long Form	Republic of Albania
Albanian Short Form	Shqipëri
Albanian Long Form	Republika e Shqipërisë

b. *Capital Name*

Conventional	Tirana
Albanian	Tiranë

c. *First-order Administrative Divisions of Albania*

Albania is divided into twelve counties. They are as follows:

<i>Albanian Name</i>	<i>GEC</i>	<i>GENC</i>	<i>Seat</i>
Berat	AL40	AL-01	Berat
Dibër	AL41	AL-09	Peshkopi
Durrës	AL42	AL-02	Durrës
Elbasan	AL43	AL-03	Elbasan
Fier	AL44	AL-04	Fier
Gjirokastrë	AL45	AL-05	Gjirokastrë
Korçë	AL46	AL-06	Korçë
Kukës	AL47	AL-07	Kukës
Lezhë	AL48	AL-08	Lezhë

<i>Albanian Name</i>	<i>GEC</i>	<i>GENC</i>	<i>Seat</i>
Shkodër	AL49	AL-10	Shkodër
Tiranë	AL50	AL-11	Tirana
Vlorë	AL51	AL-12	Vlorë

d. Conventional and/or Anglicized Names

<i>Conventional Name</i>	<i>UFI</i>	<i>UNI</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Lake Ohrid	-107091	-163141	LK
Lake Prespa	-93070	-135817	LK
Lake Scutari	-95132	-139002	LK
North Albanian Alps	-90164	-131554	MTS
Tirana	-108649	-168608	PPLC

e. Unique Geopolitical Situations

For the latest country-specific boundary dispute information, consult the U.S. Department of State Office of the Geographer and Global Issues (internationalboundaries@state.gov).

There are no known disputes for the country of Albania.

5. Source Material

The website(s) cited below contain authoritative, detailed mapping over the entirety of Albania at a variety of scales, from 1:10,000 and upward.

Albanian State Authority for Geospatial Information - <https://geoportal.asig.gov.al/>

Appendix A. Generic Terms

Generic	Feature Designation
Ara	field(s) (FLD) irrigated field(s) (FLDI) meadow (MDW)
Arat	field(s) (FLD) irrigated field(s) (FLDI) orchard(s) (OCH) upland (UPLD)
Bashkia	second-order administrative division (ADM2) third-order administrative division (ADM3)
Bishti	point(s) (PT)
Bjeshka	mountains (MTS) peak (PK) upland (UPLD)
Bjeshkët	mountains (MTS) ridge(s) (RDGE)
Bregu	stream bank (BNKR) slope(s) (SLP) spur(s) (SPUR) hill (HLL) mountain (MT)
Brigjet	slope(s) (SLP)
Brinja	slope(s) (SLP)
Brinjat	hills (HLLS) slope(s) (SLP)
Burim	spring(s) (SPNG)
Burimet	spring(s) (SPNG)
Burimi	spring(s) (SPNG)
Buzat	slope(s) (SLP)
Capo	point(s) (PT)
Çesmja	spring(s) (SPNG)
Çipini	mountain (MT)
Dardha	forest(s) (FRST)
Derdhja	stream mouth(s) (STMM)
Dherat	upland (UPLD)
Faqet	slope(s) (SLP)
Faqja	cliff(s) (CLF) slope(s) (SLP) ridge(s) (RDGE) spur(s) (SPUR)
Faqja Livadhet	slope(s) (SLP)
Fusha	field(s) (FLD) plain(s) (PLN) irrigated field(s) (FLDI) upland (UPLD) meadow (MDW) valley (VAL)
Fushë	irrigated field(s) (FLDI) valley (VAL)
Gërdhata	mountains (MTS)
Gijri	bay(s) (BAY)
Gji	bay(s) (BAY)
Gjiri	bay(s) (BAY)
Gjiu	bay(s) (BAY) cove(s) (COVE) lagoon(s) (LGN)
Gjuha	point(s) (PT)

Gropa	depression(s) (DPR) ravine(s) (RVN) valley (VAL)	
Gropat	canyon (CNYN) depression(s) (DPR) karst area (KRST)	meadow (MDW) ravine(s) (RVN) valley (VAL)
Gryka	bay(s) (BAY) cove(s) (COVE) gorge(s) (GRGE) lagoon(s) (LGN)	ravine(s) (RVN) stream mouth(s) (STMM) valley (VAL)
Guri	peak (PK) rock (RK) rocks (RKS)	
Gurra	spring(s) (SPNG)	
Gurrat	spring(s) (SPNG)	
Hauzi	section of lagoon (LGNX) pond(s) (PND)	
Hidrocentrali	hydroelectric power station (PSH)	
Hunda	slope(s) (SLP) spur(s) (SPUR)	
Ishujt	islands (ISLS)	
Ishulli, Íshulli	island (ISL) islands (ISLS)	
Kalaja	castle (CSTL) fort (FT) mountain (MT)	
Kampi	camp(s) (CMP)	
Kanal	channel (CHN)	
Kanali	channel (CHN) canal (CNL)	stream(s) (STM) canalized stream (STMC)
Kas	forest(s) (FRST)	
Kasoll	hut(s) (HUT)	
Kasollet	hut(s) (HUT)	
Këneta	marsh(es) (MRSH)	
Kep	point(s) (PT)	
Kepi	cape (CAPE) headland (HDLD)	point(s) (PT)
Kershí	cliff(s) (CLF) peak (PK)	
Kisha	church (CH)	
Kodër	hill (HLL) mountain (MT)	peak (PK)
Kodra	hill (HLL) mountain (MT) peak (PK)	ridge(s) (RDGE) slope(s) (SLP)
Kodrat	hill (HLL) hills (HLLS)	mountain (MT) ridge(s) (RDGE)
Komuna	third-order administrative division (ADM3)	
Koríja	forest(s) (FRST) grove (GROVE)	
Kroi	spring(s) (SPNG)	
Kunora	mountain (MT)	
Kurriz	spur(s) (SPUR)	

Kurrizi	headland (HDL) hill (HLL) mountains (MTS) ridge(s) (RDGE) spur(s) (SPUR)
Kuvëndi	convent (CVNT)
Laguna	lagoon(s) (LGN)
Laku	peak (PK)
Lapidar	grave (GRVE)
Lapidari	grave (GRVE) monument (MNMT)
Limnë	lake (LK)
Límnj, Limni	lake (LK)
Liçejt	pond(s) (PND)
Liçen	lake (LK)
Liçeni, Liçen i, Liçen' i	lagoon(s) (LGN) salt lake(s) (LKN) lake (LK) pond(s) (PND) intermittent lake(s) (LKI) reservoir(s) (RSV)
Liçenjtë	lakes (LKS)
Lisi	field(s) (FLD)
Livadh	meadow (MDW)
Livadhet	meadow (MDW) plain(s) (PLN)
Livadhi	meadow (MDW) marsh(es) (MRSH)
Lugaja	ravine(s) (RVN) valley (VAL)
Lugina	ravine(s) (RVN) valley (VAL)
Luginë	valley (VAL)
Lugjet	karst area (KRST)
Lugu	gorge(s) (GRGE) stream(s) (STM) ravine(s) (RVN) valley (VAL)
Lum	stream(s) (STM)
Lumë	stream(s) (STM) abandoned watercourse (STMQ)
Lumi	stream(s) (STM) abandoned watercourse (STMQ) canalized stream (STMC) section of stream (STMX) stream mouth(s) (STMM)
Maja	hill (HLL) rock (RK) mountain (MT) slope(s) (SLP) peak (PK)
Mal	hill (HLL) hills (HLLS) mountain (MT) mountains (MTS) peak (PK)
Malësia	upland (UPLD)
Mali	hill (HLL) hills (HLLS) mountain (MT) mountains (MTS) peak (PK) ridge(s) (RDGE) spur(s) (SPUR)
Manastiri	monastery (MSTY)
Miniera	quarry(-ies) (MNQR)
Moçal	marsh(es) (MRSH)
Moçalet	marsh(es) (MRSH)

Moçali	marsh(es) (MRSH)
Moli	cove(s) (COVE)
Ndërmarrja Bujqësore	farm(s) (FRM)
Ngushtica	strait (STRT)
Perroi, Përroi	stream(s) (STM) canalized stream (STMC) intermittent stream (STMI)
Përrua	stream(s) (STM) intermittent stream (STMI) section of stream (STMX)
Pisha	forest(s) (FRST)
Plazhi	beach(es) (BCH)
Pllaja	slope(s) (SLP) spur(s) (SPUR)
Porti	port (PRT)
Punta	point(s) (PT)
Pusi	water well(s) (WLL)
Pylli	forest(s) (FRST) marsh(es) (MRSH)
Qaf'	pass (PASS)
Qafa	pass (PASS) saddle (SDL)
Qafat	pass (PASS)
Qafë	pass (PASS)
Qark	first-order administrative division (ADM1)
Republika	independent political entity (PCLI)
Rëre	cove(s) (COVE)
Rezervuari	reservoir(s) (RSV)
Rrasa	cliff(s) (CLF)
Rrasat	slope(s) (SLP)
Rrënojat	ruin(s) (RUIN)
Rrethi	second-order administrative division (ADM2)
Rreza, Rrëza	slope(s) (SLP)
Rruga	road (RD)
Sheshet	irrigated field(s) (FLDI)
Sheshi	meadow (MDW) slope(s) (SLP)
Sheu	stream(s) (STM)
Shkalla	slope(s) (SLP) spur(s) (SPUR)
Shkëmbejt	cliff(s) (CLF)
Shkëmbi	cliff(s) (CLF) rock (RK) spur(s) (SPUR)
Shpat	cliff(s) (CLF) slope(s) (SLP) spur(s) (SPUR)
Shpati	cliff(s) (CLF) escarpment (SCRP) ridge(s) (RDGE) slope(s) (SLP)
Shpella	cave(s) (CAVE)
Shpellë	cave(s) (CAVE)
Shtegu	gap (GAP) pass (PASS)

Shtrati i Vjetër	lagoon(s) (LGN) abandoned watercourse (STMQ)
Shullëri	slope(s) (SLP)
Skele	port (PRT)
Spardhi	peak (PK)
Stacioni	railroad station (RSTN)
Stanet	corral(s) (CRRL)
Stani	corral(s) (CRRL)
Suka	hill (HLL) mountain (MT) peak (PK)
Ujëmbledëshi	reservoir(s) (RSV)
Ujëmbledhësi	reservoir(s) (RSV)
Uji	spring(s) (SPNG)
Ultësira	depression(s) (DPR)
Ura	bridge (BDG)
Vargjet	mountains (MTS)
Varri	monument (MNMT)
Vau	ford (FORD)
Vija	stream(s) (STM)
Vila	estate(s) (EST)
Vresht	vineyard (VIN)
Vreshtje	point(s) (PT)