

# Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Chile

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 80<sup>th</sup> 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 Chile, and shall be applied to all Chilean 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

The July 2011 population of Chile is estimated at approximately 17 million. The 2002 Chilean census reported that 95.4% were white and white-Amerindian, 4% were Mapuche, and 0.6% was classified as other indigenous groups. The same census also reported that 70% of Chileans identified themselves as Roman Catholic, 15.1% as Evangelical, 1.1% as Jehovah's Witness, 1% as other Christian, 4.6% as other, and 8.3% had no religious affiliation.<sup>1</sup>

### b. Languages

Spanish (ISO 639-3 code 'spa') is the official language of Chile.

The Mapuche are the largest surviving indigenous group with 200,000 first-language speakers, or L1 speakers, of Mapudungun (ISO 639-3 code 'arn'). The Mapudungun language has several dialects (Moluche, Picunche, and Pehuenche) all of which are mutually intelligible. The group is centered predominantly in the middle of the country between the Itata and Tolten rivers, but there is also a community of around 100,000 speakers in Argentina. A variety of other indigenous languages also survive in Chile but with much smaller linguistic communities. These languages are Central Aymara (ISO 639-3 code 'ayr'), Huilliche (ISO 639-3 code 'huh'), Chilean Quechua (ISO 639-3 code 'cqu'), and Rapa Nui (ISO 639-3 code 'rap').<sup>2</sup>

### c. Geographic Names Standardization

In Chile, geographical naming for cartographic purposes falls under the domain of the Instituto Geográfico Militar. As of April 2011, Chile does not have an official body governing geographical names policy or naming within the country. Chile's most recent contribution to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was in 2007 during the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in New York. During this conference, Chile presented the following three papers: *Recopilación Preliminar de la Normativa Vigente Para la Asignación y Uso de Nombres Geográficos en Chile*, *Compendio de Toponimia Limítrofe Nacional-Primera Parte*, and *Lineamientos Generales de Toponimia Para Editores de Mapas y Otras Publicaciones de Chile*. These papers are available online on the UNGEGN website at <<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf9.html>>.

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<sup>1</sup> Chile: People. CIA World Factbook Online. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ci.html>>. 29 Apr 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Lewis, M. Paul (ed.), 2009. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, Sixteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/>.

### 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).

#### 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 Chile:

<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

#### 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 Chile.

A glossary of generic terms is available 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., *Región de Tarapacá* [long form]; *Tarapacá* [short form].

Long and short forms of names of populated places are approved when supported by official evidence, e.g., *San Pedro de Atacama* [long form]; *San Pedro* [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 Purey* [long form]; *Purey* [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 Chilean 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: Republic of Chile

Conventional short form: Chile

Local official long form: República de Chile

Local official short form: Chile

#### *Capital Name (PPLC)*

Approved name: Santiago

**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. Antofagasta	región	Antofagasta	CI03	CL-AN
2. Araucanía	región	Temuco	CI04	CL-AR
3. Arica y Parinacota	región	Arica	CI16	CL-AP
4. Atacama	región	Copiapó	CI05	CL-AT
5. Aysén del General Carlos Ibáñez del Campo	región	Coihaique	CI02	CL-AI
6. Biobío	región	Concepción	CI06	CL-BT
7. Coquimbo	región	La Serena	CI07	CL-CO
8. Libertador General Bernardo O'Higgins	región	Rancagua	CI08	CL-LI
9. Los Lagos	región	Puerto Montt	CI16	CL-LL
10. Los Ríos	región	Valdivia	CI17	CL-LR
11. Magallanes y de la Antártica Chilena	región	Punta Arenas	CI10	CL-MA
12. Maule	región	Talca	CI11	CL-ML
13. Metropolitana de Santiago	región	Santiago (PPLC)	CI12	CL-RM
14. Ñuble	región	Chillán	CI18	CL-NB
15. Tarapacá	región	Iquique	CI13	CL-TA
16. Valparaíso	región	Valparaíso	CI01	CL-VS

**c. Disputed Territories**

Note: For the latest country specific boundary dispute information, consult the US Department of State Office of the Geographer and Global Issues.

Chile has a territorial claim in Antarctica, which is not recognized by the U.S. Government. The claimed Chilean Antarctic Territory overlaps Argentine and British claims. The joint boundary commission, established by Chile and Argentina in 2001, has yet to map and demarcate the delimited boundary in the inhospitable Andean Southern Ice Field (Campo de Hielo Sur). Furthermore, the “Continental Glaciers” issue with Argentina has not been fully resolved, leaving a section of the boundary indefinite.<sup>3</sup>

On 16 January 2008, Peru began proceedings against Chile before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding a dispute in relation to the delimitation of the boundary between the maritime zones of the two countries and to the recognition of Peru’s claims about the maritime zone lying within 200 nautical miles of the nation’s coast.<sup>4</sup> On 28 April 2010, The International Court of Justice authorized a submission of Reply by Peru for 9 November 2010 and a Rejoinder by Chile on 11 July 2011.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Chile: Disputes - International. CIA World Factbook Online. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ci.html>>. 29 Apr 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Maritime Dispute Peru v. Chile. International Court of Justice. <<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/137/14387.pdf>>. 29 Apr 2011.

<sup>5</sup> Maritime Dispute Peru v. Chile. International Court of Justice. <<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/137/15907.pdf>>. 29 Apr 2011.

## 5. Source Material

The preferred mapping authority for Chile is the Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM). 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. Chile, 1:250,000 topographic maps, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1980s
2. Chile, 1:500,000 topographic maps, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1990
3. Chile, 1:3 M ADM1 map, Instituto Geográfico Militar 1988.
4. Chile, Mapa Politico Administrativo, 1:700,000, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 2001
5. Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM) Website: [www.igm.cl](http://www.igm.cl)

Other sources:

1. Atlas de la República de Chile, Instituto Geográfico Militar Ed. 2 1983
2. Listado de Nombres Geográficos (Geographic Names Lists coverage above Lat.43°30'S). Vol I & II, Instituto Geográfico Militar 1983
3. US BGN Gazetteer of Chile, 1967. Supplement 1992.

## Appendix A – Glossary of Generic Terms

The following is a glossary of generic terms that one may encounter in Chile. 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
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
región	first-order administrative division	ADM1, region
sabana	grassland	GRSLD