

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for the Dominican Republic

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee



June 2017

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 the Dominican Republic for United States Government use. The BGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in US 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

The estimated population of the Dominican Republic as of July 2016 was 10,606,865 people. The population is diverse with approximately 73% mixed heritage, 16% white and the remaining 11% black.¹

b. Languages

The principal and official language of the Dominican Republic is Spanish (ISO 639-3 language code 'spa')². Additional languages used are: Haitian Creole (ISO 639-3 language code 'hat') and English (ISO 639-3 language code 'eng')³.

c. Geographic Names Standardization

Law No. 208-14 of 30 June 2014 established the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN) José Joaquín Hungría Morell and appointed it as the national authority in charge of geographic names for the Dominican Republic.⁴

1 Central America and Caribbean: Dominican Republic. The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) (Online). URL: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/dr.html>

2 Languages of the Dominican Republic. Ethnologue: Languages of the World. URL: <https://www.ethnologue.com/country/DO> (Accessed 9 February 2017).

3 Languages of the Dominican Republic. Ethnologue: Languages of the World. URL: <https://www.ethnologue.com/country/DO/languages> (Accessed 7 March 2017).

4 *Ley No. 208-14 que crea el Instituto Geográfico Nacional "José Joaquín Hungría Morell". G. O. No. 10760 del 30 de junio de 2014.* (Online), URL: <http://economia.gob.do/mepyd/wp-content/uploads/archivos/despacho/ordenamiento-territorial/seminario-taller/ley-208-14-instituto-geografico-nacional.pdf>

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Orthography

The geographic names standardization policy will follow Spanish orthographic conventions. Please refer to orthographic reference sources such as *Ortografía básica de la lengua española* by the Real Academia Española (2012) and *Ortografía y ortotipografía del español actual* by José Martínez de Sousa (2004) for additional information.

b. Romanization

Romanization is not required.

c. Diacritics

Diacritics are shown in standardized and variant names in conformance with native sources and Spanish orthography. Uppercase letters retain diacritics. In accordance with Spanish orthography, the below letter/diacritic combinations are those found in standardized name forms in the Dominican Republic:

Character Name	Upper Case	Unicode Value	Lower Case	Unicode Value
A with acute accent	Á	00C1	á	00E1
E with acute accent	É	00C9	é	00E9
I with acute accent	Í	00CD	í	00ED
N with tilde	Ñ	00D1	ñ	00F1
O with acute accent	Ó	00D3	ó	00F3
U with acute accent	Ú	00DA	ú	00FA
U with dieresis	Ü	00DC	ü	00FC

d. Generic Terms

A generic is a term used to describe a geographic feature, such as ‘river,’ ‘hill,’ and ‘lake.’ If the generic term does not identify the feature, the term should be considered a false generic and should not be added to the generic field of the Geographic Names Database (GNDB). Generic terms are not collected for populated places. Appendix A provides a partial list of common generic terms one may encounter in the Dominican Republic’s geographic names sources.

e. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling

The Dominican Republic’s geographic names follow Spanish grammar and spelling conventions. Hyphenated place names are seldom found in the Dominican Republic; however, when hyphens are encountered on authoritative sources, they should also be included in the feature name.

Definite articles such as *el, la, los, las* are generally capitalized when in initial position and should be collected as shown in the native source—for example, *La Altagracia*. If the place name contains more than one article, only the initial one should be capitalized, unless it is also

capitalized on the native source. If the article is capitalized on the native source, it becomes part of the proper name—for example, *Cerro de Las Mercedes*.

If the place name is written in all capital letters on the native source, the name is collected with all definite articles capitalized, including those in the non-initial position. When source evidence regarding the capitalization of the definite article is inconsistent, names of associated features (if present) can assist in deciding whether to accept or reject a particular name.

Conjunctions, such as *y* ('and') and prepositions, such as *de/del* ('of', 'from'), are collected in lower case, as in, La Ceja del Jobo.

The chart below shows the proper capitalization of articles and conjunctions found in the Dominican Republic's features:

Native Source Spelling	Collect as
Caño de la Jagua	Caño de la Jagua
Loma del Fresco	Loma del Fresco
Cañada El Agua de la Vaca	Cañada El Agua de la Vaca
ENSENADA DE LA GRANADA	Ensenada de La Granada
CUCHILLA LA LECHUZA	Cuchilla La Lechuza
BAHÍA DE SAMANÁ	Bahía de Samaná

f. Long and Short Forms

Short forms are not assigned to variant names in the GNDB.

Administrative division names are accorded long and short forms, e.g., *Región Cibao Nordeste* [long form]; *Cibao Nordeste* [short form].

Long and short forms of names of populated places are approved when supported by official evidence. Example: *Santa Lucía de Camba* [long form]; *Camba* [short form].

Where official maps show more than one populated place with the same name in the same *provincia* (province) (second-order administrative division), distinguishing long forms should be obtained from census lists and other official sources.

g. Numbers

Names containing cardinal or ordinal numerals should be treated according to the following guidelines:

- Arabic numbers are generally expanded in Spanish; i.e., *Batey No. 24^{1/2}* (on source) should be written as *Batey Número Veinticuatro y Medio*; *2da Palma* (on source) should be written as *Segunda Palma* (Ordinal numbers are not commonly found in the Dominican Republic geographic names, but this example is provided as a general guideline).
- Roman numerals are retained throughout, although these are not commonly found in the Dominican Republic's geographic names.

These guidelines apply to numerals in both initial and non-initial positions.

h. Abbreviations

The following is a list of abbreviations of generics which are commonly found on cartographic products of the Dominican Republic. This list is not exhaustive, and other abbreviations may be found. Any abbreviations must be spelled out in the GNDB.

Abbreviated Form	Unabbreviated Form
A.	Arroyo
B.	Bahía
Bco.	Banco
Bo.	Boca
C.	Cabo
C.	Cayo
C., Co.	Cerro
Clla.	Cuchilla
Cord.	Cordillera
Emb.	Embarcadero
Ensa.	Ensenada
Est.	Estación
Est.	Estero
Fte.	Fuerte
G.	Golfo
Hac.	Hacienda
I(s)	Isla(s)
L.	Loma
L., Lag.	Lago, Laguna
Mte.	Monte
P.	Playa
P.	Presa
P., Pco.	Pico
Pen.	Península
Pta.	Punta
Pte.	Puente
Pto.	Puerto
Pvcia.	Provincia
Q., Queb., Qda.	Quebrada

Abbreviated Form	Unabbreviated Form
R.	Río
S.	Sierra
V.	Valle

i. Unique Linguistic Situations

Names Containing the Conjunction ‘o’

Some sources may show a feature with two or more names joined by the conjunction ‘o’ (or); e.g., *Los Higos o El Higo*. For standardization purposes, only one name is selected as the official approved name, which will depend on the weight of the available evidence. In the absence of additional evidence, the first name shall be used and, according to standard policy, the other names will be considered variant names.

Alternate Names (research if applicable)

Feature names in the Dominican Republic sources often appear with alternate names in parentheses. The alternate name may appear in English, Spanish, or any indigenous language; for instance, La Pringamosa (Pringamoza) and Cayucal (El Tunal). The name chosen as the official approved name will depend on the weight of the available evidence. In the absence of additional evidence, the first name shall be used as the official approved name, and other names appearing in parentheses will be considered variant names.

4. Political Geography Policy

a. Country Name

Country Name

Conventional long form:	Dominican Republic
Conventional short form:	None
Spanish long form:	República Dominicana
Spanish short form:	None

b. Capital

Capital

Approved Name:	Santo Domingo
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c. First-order Administrative Divisions

The Dominican Republic’s first-order administrative divisions are ten *regiones* (regions). The regions are subdivided into *provincias* (provinces) which are Dominican Republic’s second-order administrative divisions. Additionally, the Dominican Republic is divided in three Macro-Regions with no administrative division functions.

Please see Appendix B for a map depicting first-order administrative divisions in the Dominican Republic.

Name	GEC	GENC	Seat
Cibao Nordeste	DR38	DO-33	San Francisco de Macorís
Cibao Noroeste	DR39	DO-34	Mao
Cibao Norte	DR40	DO-35	Santiago
Cibao Sur	DR41	DO-36	La Vega
El Valle	DR42	DO-37	San Juan
Enriquillo	DR43	DO-38	Barahona
Higuamo	DR44	DO-39	San Pedro de Macorís
Ozama	DR45	DO-40	Santo Domingo Este
Valdesia	DR46	DO-41	San Cristóbal
Yuma	DR47	DO-42	La Romana

d. Conventional Names and Anglicized Variants

Conventional Names:

Antilles

Dominican Republic

Greater Antilles

West Indies

e. Unique Geopolitical Situations

The Dominican Republic has no territorial disputes. For the latest information on country-specific boundary disputes, consult the US Department of State Office of the Geographer and Global Issues.

5. Source Material

The preferred mapping authorities for the Dominican Republic are the National Office of Statistics (Oficina Nacional de Estadísticas—ONE) which published the document *División Territorial 2012*, the Military Cartographic Institute (Instituto Cartográfico Militar—ICM) and the University Geographic Institute (Instituto Geográfico Universitario—IGU), which possesses a catalog of maps covering the country. Other preferred references include those produced by Dominican Republic government agencies. Sources produced by Dominican Republic academic institutions and UN and US government agencies may be used; however, these sources are not considered authoritative unless they contain a caveat that the information contained was produced by the Dominican Republic's government.

a. Preferred Sources

The following list of preferred sources is not all-inclusive, but it includes those to be used for geographic name selection. Some maps series listed below have been produced by the ONE (DR), ICM (DR), IGU (DR), NGA, CIA, and NGA's predecessor organizations NIMA and DMA.

1. Oficina Nacional de Estadísticas – División Territorial 2012 (Online), URL: <http://www.one.gob.do/SEN/259/division-territorial-oficial>
2. Atlas de los Recursos Naturales de la Republica Dominicana, 2004
3. 1:50,000-scale maps, Dominican Republic's Instituto Cartográfico Militar, 1988
4. 1:50,000 –scale maps, Dominican Republic's Instituto Geográfico Universitario, 1983
5. Dominican Republic and Haiti Country Studies, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1999 (Online), URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/scd0001.0009522006A>

b. Other Sources

1. Dominican Republic Maps, Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, The University of Texas at Austin (Online), URL: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/dominican_republic.html
2. Maps of the Dominican Republic (Online), URL: <http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/search~S60/?searchtype=X&searcharg=dominican+republic&searchscope=60&sortdropdown=-&SORT=DZ&extended=0&SUBMIT=Search&searchlimits=&searchorigarg=Xmap+dominican+republic%26SORT%3DDZ>

Appendix A. Glossary of Generic Terms

The following is a partial list of common generic terms one may encounter in the Dominican Republic's geographic names sources:

Spanish Generic	Generic Designation	Designation Code
abra	gorge	GRGE
acueducto	aqueduct, intermittent stream	CNLA, STMI
albufera	cove, lagoon	COVE, LGN
alto(s)	hill(s), mountain(s)	HLL(S), MT(S)
alturas	mountains	MTS
apeadero, apeadero de ferrocarril	railroad stop	RSTP
archipiélago	islands	ISLS
arenales	beach	BCH
arrecife(s)	reef	RF
arroyo	inlet, intermittent stream, stream, tidal creek	INLT, STMI, STM, CRKT, STM, STMI
bahía	bay, cove, inlet, sound	BAY, COVE, INLT, SD
bajo(s)	reef, shoal	RF, SHOL
banco	bank, reef, shoal	BNK, RF, SHOL
boca	bay, bight, confluence, cove, estuary, inlet, marine channel, navigation channel, stream mouth	BAY, BGHT, CNFL, COVE, ESTY, INLT, CHNM, CHNN, STMM
bolsón	bay	BAY
brazo	intermittent stream , stream	STM, STMI
caballete	ridge	RDGE
cabecería	reef	RF
cabeza	reef	RF
cabezadas	headwaters	STMH
cabezo(s)	reef, shoal	RF, SHOL
cabo	cape	CAPE
caleta(s)	bay, bight, cove(s)	BAY, BGHT, COVE
caletón	cove	COVE
camino	road	RD
cañada	intermittent stream, stream,	STM, STMI
canal	canal, canalized stream, channel, ditch, inlet, marine channel, navigation channel, strait	CNL, STMC, CHN, DTCH, INLT, CHNM, CHNN, STRT
canalizo	marine channel	CHNM
cañón	gorge, marine channel	GRGE, CHNM
cantera	mine, quarry	MN, MNQR
carretera	road	RD
castillo	fort	FT
cayo(s)	hammock, island(s)	HMCK, ISL(S)

Spanish Generic	Generic Designation	Designation Code
cayuelo(s)	island(s)	ISL(S)
cementerio	cemetery	CMTY
central	sugar mill	MLSG
cerro(s)	hill(s), mountain(s)	HLL(S), MT(S)
ciénaga(s)	lake, mangrove swamp, marsh, swamp	LK, MGV, MRSH, SWMP
colegio	school	SCH
compañía agrícola	estate	EST
complejo agroindustrial	agricultural facility	AGRF
cordillera	mountains, hills, ridge	MTS, HLLS, RDGE
corte	ditch	DTCH
costa	coast	CST
cuchillas	mountains, ridge	MTS, RDGE
cuesta	mountain	MT
cueva	cave	CAVE
dársena	port	PRT
delta	delta	DLTA
derramadero	plain	PLN
desembarcadero	landing	LDNG
desembocadura	estuary	ESTY
embalse	intermittent reservoir, lagoon, reservoir	LGN, RSVI, RSV
embalse hidráulica	reservoir	RSV
embarcadero	landing, quay	LNDG, QUAY
ensenada	bay, bight, cove, estuary, inlet, lagoon, marine channel	BAY, BGHT, COVE, ESTY, INLT, LGN, CHNM
entrada	cove	COVE
entronque	railroad junction	RJCT
ermita	shrine	SHRN
escuela	school	SCH
estación	railroad station	RSTN
estero	bay, distributary, estuary, inlet, lagoon, marine channel, marsh, stream, stream mouth, tidal creek	BAY, STMD, ESTY, INLT, LGN, CHNM, MRSH, STM, STMM, CRKT
estrecho	marine channel, tidal creek, strait	CHNM, CRKT, STRT
estribo	ridge	RDGE
faro	lighthouse	LTHSE
fondeadero	anchorage, point, shoal	ANCH, PT, SHOL
fortaleza	fort	FT
fuerte	fort	FT
fundo	estate	EST
golfo	gulf	GULF
hacienda	estate	EST
hato	estate	EST

Spanish Generic	Generic Designation	Designation Code
hoyo	depression	DPR
isla(s)	island(s)	ISL(S)
lago(s)	pond	PND
laguna(s)	cove, inlet, intermittent lake(s), lagoon, lake(s), lake bed, mangrove swamp, marsh, pond, reservoir, salt area, swamp	COVE, INLT, LKI(S), LGN, LK(S), LBED, MGV, MRSH, PND, RSV, SALT, SWMP
lagunato	lagoon	LGN
loma(s)	hill(s), mountain(s), ridge, terrace	HLL(S), MT(S), RDGE, TRR
lomerío	mountains	MTS
manglares	mangrove swamp	MGV
marismas	mangrove swamp	MGV
médano	reef	RF
mesa	mesa	MESA
mina(s)	mine	MN
mirador	tower	TOWR
mogote	hill(s), mountain(s)	HLL(S), MT(S)
montaña(s)	mountain(s)	MT(S)
monte(s)	hill(s), mountain(s)	HLL(S), MT(S)
monumento	monument	MNMT
morillo	hill	HLL
muelle(s)	landing, pier	LDNG, PIER
nacimiento	spring	SPNG
paradero	railroad stop	RSTP
pasa	ford, inlet, marine channel	FORD, INLT, CHNM
paso	ford, pass, marine channel, road	FORD, PASS, CHNM, RD
peñas	cliff, rocks	CLF, RKS
península	peninsula	PEN
peñón	headland	HLDL
pico	mountain, peak	MT, PK
placer	shoal	SHOL
playa	beach	BCH
poza	cove, lagoon, pool, undersea basin	COVE, LGN, POOL, BSNU
pozo	pond, well	PND, WLL
presa	dam, reservoir	DAM, RSV
provincia	second-order administrative division	ADM2
puente	bridge	BDG
puerto	bay, cove, harbor, inlet, marine channel, port	BAY, COVE, HBR, INLT, CHNM, PRT
punta	cape, headland, point	CAPE, HLDL, PT
quebrada	marine channel	CHNM
quebrado	marine channel, stream	CHNM, STM
rada	anchorage	ANCH

Spanish Generic	Generic Designation	Designation Code
rancho	farm	FRM
realengo	area	AREA
región	first-order administrative division	ADM1
restinga	reef, shoal	RF, SHOL
río	intermittent stream, stream	STMI, STM
roca	rock	RK
ruinas	ancient site	ANS
sabana(s)	grassland, plain	GRSLD, PLN
salina(s)	salt area, tidal flat	SALT, FLTT
salto(s)	waterfalls	FLLS
sierra(s)	hill(s), mountain(s), ridge	HLL(S), MT(S), RDGE
sierrita	ridge	RDGE
silla	mountain, saddle	MT, SDL
subida	slope	SLP
surgidero	anchorage	ANCH
terrenos	area	AREA
tetas	hills	HLLS
torno	stream bend	STMB
torreteras	marine channel	CHNM
universidad	college	SCHC
valle	valley	VAL
zanja	ditch, stream	DTCH, STM

Appendix B. First-Order Administrative Divisions of Dominican Republic

Oficina Nacional de Estadística * www.one.gob.do



División TERRITORIAL 2012