Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Trinidad and Tobago

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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago as of July 2016 was 1,220,479. The dual island nation has a population that is diverse with two major population groups of East Indian (35.4%) and African (34.2%) ethnicity. The remainder is mixed-other (15.1%), mixed African/East Indian (7.7%), other (1.4%), and unspecified (6.2%).[1,2] During much of its colonial history, Trinidad and Tobago changed hands more often than any other islands between the major European powers vying for control in the Caribbean Sea. Spanish rule lasted from 1498-1797, and a great deal of influence can be seen in the multitude of Spanish place names on the island. In order to promote population growth on Trinidad, the Spanish government allowed a large number of Roman Catholic settlers, many of whom were French, to settle on the island beginning in 1789. At the turn of the 19th century, during British colonial rule on the island, Trinidad experienced a large influx of immigrant workers from eastern India and Africa. Today, Trinidad and Tobago continues to be one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse countries in the Caribbean.[3]

b. Languages

The official language of Trinidad and Tobago is English (ISO 639-3 code *eng*). Trinidadian Creole English (ISO 639-3 *trf*) and Tobagonian Creole English (ISO 639-3 *tgh*) are prevalent throughout, sharing many linguistic characteristics while maintaining a distinct identity between the two islands. Other languages include Caribbean Hindustani, or Hindustani Sarnami (ISO 639-3 *hns*), Spanish (ISO 639-3 *spa*), and Trinidadian Creole French, or Antillean Creole French (ISO 639-3 *acf)*.[4]

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[1] "Central America and the Caribbean: Trinidad and Tobago." *CIA World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency, Web. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/td.html> (Accessed 18 May 2017).

[2] "Trinidad and Tobago 2011 Population and Housing Census Demographic Report." Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, 2011. 15-16. Print.

[3] Winer, Lise S. "Trinidad and Tobago." *Varieties of English Around the World*. John Benjamins Publishing Company, 1993. 3-12. Print.

[4] "Trinidad and Tobago." *Ethnologue*, J. Ferreira, J. Leclerc. <https://www.ethnologue.com/country/TT/languages> (Accessed 18 May 2017)

c. Geographic Names Standardization

According to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), Trinidad and Tobago does not have a national authority for geographic names as of September 2016.[5] Trinidad and Tobago's Land and Surveys Division is the main mapping institution under the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.[6] The majority of the mapping of post-colonial Trinidad and Tobago was created by the British Directorate of Overseas Surveys for the government of Trinidad and Tobago.[7]

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Orthography

Geographic names standardization policy will follow English orthographic conventions. The user of Trinidadian and Tobagonian geographic sources should be aware that native sources may contain variant place names in other languages such as Spanish (ISO 639-3 code *spa*) and French (ISO 639-3 code *fra*).

b. Romanization

Romanization is not required.

c. Diacritics

Although uncommon in Trinidadian and Tobagonian geographic names, the user may encounter occasional diacritical marks if place names are written in languages other than English. The list below contains diacritics that may be found in Trinidadian and Tobagonian toponyms. Uppercase letters in standardized name forms retain diacritics.

Character Name	Upper Case	Unicode Value	Lower Case	Unicode Value
A with grave accent	À	00C0	à	00E0
A with acute accent	Á	00C1	á	00E1
A with circumflex	Â	00C2	â	00E2
C with cedilla	Ç	00C7	ç	00E7
E with acute accent	É	00C9	é	00E9
E with grave accent	È	00C8	è	00E8
E with circumflex	Ê	00CA	ê	00EA
I with acute accent	Í	00CD	í	00ED
I with circumflex	Î	00CE	î	00EE
N with tilde	Ñ	00D1	ñ	00F1

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[5] "Authorities List." *UNGEGN*. United Nations, Web. <unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/NNA/Authorities_list_September%202016_rev.pdf>

[6] "Survey and Mapping." Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries. Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Web. <http://www.agriculture.gov.tt/divisions-and-units/divisions/survey-and-mapping.html>

[7] Parry, Robert; Perkins, Chris. *World Mapping Today*. Munich: K. G. Saur Verlag GmbH, 2002. 346-347. Print.

Character Name	Upper Case	Unicode Value	Lower Case	Unicode Value
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 collected in the GNDB as a generic. Generic terms are not collected for populated places. With some exceptions, approved Trinidadian and Tobagonian toponyms use English generic terms. There are many cases where Spanish and French generic terms may be encountered.[8,9] Appendix A provides a partial list of common non-English generic terms one may encounter in Trinidadian and Tobagonian geographic names sources.[10]

e. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling

Trinidadian and Tobagonian geographic names follow English grammar and spelling conventions. Hyphenated place names can be occasionally encountered in Trinidad and Tobago; however, when hyphens are encountered on authoritative sources, they should also be included in the feature name.

Definite articles such as *the* (eng), *el*, *la*, *los*, *las* (spa), *le*, *la*, *l'*, *les* (fra) are generally capitalized when in initial position as part of the proper feature name and should be collected as shown in the native source; for example, *The Lure*, *La Gloria, L'Anse Chausée.* Any article found past the initial position should not be capitalized, unless it is capitalized on the native source; for example, *Bande-de-l'Est*, *Morne l'Enfer River*, and *Cerro de las Cuevas y Maracas.* If the place name is written in all capital letters on the native source, a non-initial definite article, conjunction or preposition will be in lower case when the standardized name form is derived, unless nearby associated features suggest otherwise.

Conjunctions, such as *and* (eng), *y* (spa) and prepositions, such as *of* (eng), *de*, *del* (spa), *du*, *de*, *des*, *d'* (fra) are collected in lower case as in, *Louis d'Or* and *Raya del Carib*.

f. Long and Short Forms

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

Administrative division names are accorded long and short forms. Examples: *Region of Siparia* [long form]; *Siparia* [short form], *Borough of Arima* [long form]; *Arima* [short form].

Long and short forms of names of populated places are approved when supported by official evidence.

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[8] Allsopp, Jeannette. "Spanish Loanwords in Caribbean English." *Spanish Loanwords in the English Language: A Tendency towards Hegemony Reversal*. Ed. Félix Rodríguez González. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 1996. 253-68. Print

[9] Allsopp, Richard and Jeanette. *Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage*. University of the West Indies Press, 2003. xli-xliii. Print

[10] Although Spanish orthography requires a diacritic on "*río,*" Trinidadian and Tobagonian sources exclude it.

g. Numbers

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

- Arabic numbers are generally expanded in English; i.e., *No. 1024* (on source) should be written as *Number One Thousand Twenty-Four.*
- Roman numerals are retained throughout.

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

h. Unique Linguistic Situations

Alternate Names

Feature names in Trinidadian and Tobagonian sources may appear with alternate names in parentheses. In these cases, the first name will be chosen as the approved name, while the name in parentheses will be rendered as the variant name, unless overwhelming evidence suggests otherwise.

4. Political Geography Policy

a. Country Name

Approved long form: Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Approved short form: Trinidad and Tobago

b. Capital Name

Approved name: Port of Spain

c. First-order Administrative Divisions

Please see Appendix B for a map depicting first-order administrative divisions in Trinidad and Tobago.

Name	Generic	GEC	GENC	Seat
Arima	Borough	TD01	TT-ARI	Arima
Chaguanas	Borough	TD13	TT-CHA	Chaguanas
Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo	Region	TD14	TT-CTT	Couva
Diego Martin	Region	TD15	TT-DMN	Diego Martin
Mayaro/Rio Claro	Region	TD16	TT-MRC	Rio Claro
Penal/Debe	Region	TD17	TT-PED	Debe
Point Fortin	Borough	TD18	TT-PTF	Point Fortin
Port of Spain	City	TD05	TT-POS	Port of Spain[11]

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[11] In addition to being the capital of Trinidad and Tobago, the City of Port of Spain forms its own municipal corporation administered by the Port of Spain Corporation as established in the Municipal Corporations Act, Chapter 25:04, Act 21 of 1990.

Name	Generic	GEC	GENC	Seat
Princes Town	Region	TD19	TT-PRT	Princes Town
San Fernando	City	TD10	TT-SFO	San Fernando[12]
Sangre Grande	Region	TD21	TT-SGE	Sangre Grande
San Juan/Laventille	Region	TD20	TT-SJL	Aranguez
Siparia	Region	TD22	TT-SIP	Siparia
Tobago[13]	Ward	TD11	TT-TOB	Scarborough
Tunapuna/Piarco	Region	TD23	TT-TUP	Tunapuna

d. Conventional and Anglicized Names

There are no conventional or Anglicized Names in Trinidad and Tobago.

e. Unique Geopolitical Situations

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

Disputed Territories

Beginning in 2004, Barbados submitted a notice of arbitration to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) relating to a long standing dispute with Trinidad and Tobago concerning maritime boundaries and fishing rights.[14] The PCA concluded to delimit a maritime boundary between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago and placed limits to catches of flying fish in Trinidad and Tobago's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, both Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados agreed to the PCA arbitration in 2006 regarding the northern maritime boundary limit of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela extending into the territorial waters of Barbados.[15]

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[12] The City of San Fernando forms its own corporation under the City of San Fernando Act, Chapter 25:06, Act 26 of 1988 and the Municipal Corporations Act, Chapter 25:04, Act 21 of 1990.

[13] All of the first-order administrative divisions, with the exception of the Ward of Tobago, are located on the island of Trinidad. Tobago is further subdivided into seven parishes which are considered second-order administrative divisions.

[14] "Barbados v. Trinidad and Tobago." *PCA Case Repository*. Permanent Court of Arbitration. Web. <https://www.pcacases.com/web/view/104>

[15] "Arbitration between Barbados and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, relating to the delimitation of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf between them, decision of 11 April 2006." *Reports of International Arbitral Awards*. United Nations, 2008. Volume XXVII pp.147-251. Print.

5. Source Material

a. Preferred Sources

The following is a list of preferred sources for geographic name selection.

1. 1:300,000-scale map, Trinidad and Tobago, Lands and Surveys Division, 1989.
2. 1:150,000-scale map, Trinidad, Lands and Surveys Division, 1989.
3. 1:50,000-scale map, Tobago, Lands and Surveys Division, 1991.
4. 1:25,000-scale map series, Trinidad and Tobago, Directorate of Overseas Surveys, 1969-1977.
5. 1:75,000-scale map series, Trinidad, Lands and Surveys Division, 1986.

Appendix A. Glossary of Generic Terms

The following is a partial list of common non-English generic terms one may encounter in Trinidadian and Tobagonian geographic names sources:

Generic	Feature Designation Name	Designation Code
anse	bay	BAY
boca	channel	CHN
cabo	cape	CAPE
morne	hill	HLL
punta	point(s)	PT
quebrada	intermittent stream	STMI
rio	stream(s)	STM

Appendix B. First-order Administrative Divisions of Trinidad and Tobago

Administrative Divisions of Trinidad and Tobago