# Geographic Names Standardization Policy
# for Algeria

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee



December 2015

# 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 (USBGN) in the standardization of the geographic names of Algeria for United States Government use. The USBGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in US Government databases, publications, maps, and charts, and are intended to satisfy the statutory requirements levied upon the US Board on Geographic Names 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 in Algeria

## a. Demographics

As of August 2015, Algeria's population is estimated at 39 million. Most Algerians are of Berber origin, but only about 15% self-identify as Berber. The remaining majority identify themselves as Arab, with 1% claiming European descent. The Berber population is largely clustered in specific areas of the country, notably the Kabylie region east of Algiers and the southern desert areas of the country. Approximately 99% of the population identifies itself as Sunni Muslim, the state religion. The remaining people are mainly Christian and Jewish.

## b. Languages

Algeria has long struggled with its national identity, and no aspect of its evolution better reflects this struggle than its language policy. Initially, Algeria was inhabited by Berber groups speaking many different varieties of this Afro-Asiatic language. Following the early Islamic conquests, Algeria assimilated many Arab traditions and customs, as well as the Arabic language.

Long after Arab culture suffused the region, French colonization of Algeria began in 1830, eventually resulting in the administration of the country as a province of France. Just as Arabs had done before them, the French heavily influenced the linguistic tapestry of Algeria. By the time Algeria gained its independence in 1962, the French language was deeply entrenched within society. Especially in the early post-independence years, Algeria made a push to eliminate French from national culture, though diplomatic and official functions were generally handled in French. The imposed Arabicization that resulted gained some traction, but it was not able to fully stifle the by-then generations-long embedding of French language and customs. To date, French (ISO 639-3 code: fra) is still the lingua franca in Algeria, Modern Standard Arabic (ISO 639-3 code: ara) is the official language, and Tamazight (Kabyle) (ISO 639-3 code: kab) is a national language.[1] However, this national language falls short of the status of an official language.

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[1] Algerian Constitution: Law No. 02-03, April 10, 2002

### c. Geographic Names Standardization

The Commission Permanente Specialisée de Toponymie is the names authority in Algeria.[2] Established in 1998, this committee is working to integrate toponymic practice into national mapping efforts, including standardizing the geographic names in Algeria. Algeria is an active participant in UNGEGN conferences, submitting updates on its work in toponymy. Algeria currently holds the title of Coordinator of the UNGEGN Task Team for Africa.

Geographic names should be collected as they appear on authoritative sources, which are rendered in roman script, in accordance with French orthography. Arabic script names coming from authoritative sources should be collected as Non-Roman Script (NS) names, though names romanized in accordance with the BGN/PCGN 1956 System for the romanization of Arabic may be collected as variants. The sole exception to this policy is the current Approved name for the state itself which is romanized according to the BGN/PCGN 1956 System, given the lack of an official Arabic-language rendering of the republic's name in French orthography (See paragraph 4.a., "Country Name and Codes," below). Map sources produced exclusively by France's Institut Géographique National (IGN) should no longer be considered authoritative unless no Algerian source has been produced over a particular area.

## 3. Toponymic Policies

### a. Orthography

Geographic names on authoritative Algerian cartographic sources are rendered in Roman script, in accordance with French orthography; the toponyms themselves could be French, Arabic, or Berber in origin.[3] Many toponyms throughout Algeria incorporate a varied and complex mix of names and terms from these languages and thus will not have a single, clear etymology. Coding geographic names by a single language is difficult and deemed unnecessary.

### b. Diacritics

Roman characters bearing diacritical marks are used in the rendering of place names on Algerian map sources, being generally in keeping with French orthography. Uppercase letters in name forms retain diacritics. The table below lists Unicode values for those diacritic-bearing letters currently seen on Algerian sources.

| Character | Unicode Value |
|:---:|:---:|
| Â | 00C2 |
| â | 00E2 |
| È | 00C8 |
| è | 00E8 |
| É | 00C9 |
| é | 00E9 |
| Ê | 00CA |

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[2] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/Authorities_listAugust2011.pdf

| Character | Unicode Value |
|:---:|:---:|
| ê | 00EA |
| Î | 00CE |
| î | 00EE |
| Ï | 00CF |
| ï | 00EF |
| Ô | 00D4 |
| ô | 00F4 |

## c. Generic Terms

French and romanized Arabic and Berber generic terms are used in names on the most current authoritative maps sources in Algeria. Many IGN-produced maps from Algeria's colonial period almost exclusively used French generics, but maps produced by Algerian mapping agency Institut National de Cartographie et de Télédétection (INCT) have adopted Arabic and Berber generics in Roman script for most features in the country. Non-Arabic script names with generics will be collected in reverse-generic order. Arabic script names will be collected in reading order. (See Appendix A for a list of generics associated with Algeria.)

False generics are generic terms that do not agree with the feature being described. These terms should not be treated as true generics. For example, a locality named "Lake Forest" would not be collected as "Forest, Lake". Generics should not be captured for populated places.

## d. Capitalization

### 1. Definite Articles

For French definite articles, refer to the IGN Toponymy Charter dated February 2003.[3]

Arabic definite articles are capitalized if they occur at the beginning of the toponym (El Bordj, El Haouch). If the article is in a medial placement, it will not be capitalized (Aïn el Beïda, El Gaada el Hamra). The general exception to this is if the Arabic article is paired with the French particle *d'*, where the Arabic article remains capitalized as *El*. This can be seen with the long form of the first-order administrative division Wilaya d'El Oued and the long form name of the railroad station Station d'El Outaya.

### 2. Honorifics: Patronyms and Teknonyms

Elements of Arabic and Berber patronyms ("son of," "daughter of") and teknonyms ("father of," "mother of") as incorporated into geographic names should always be capitalized, regardless of placement within a toponym. Arabic patronyms can variously include Ibn, Bin, Ben, Ouled, Ould (all meaning "son of") and Bent ("daughter of"), while Ou, Berber for "son of," will also be incorporated into place names. Arabic *kunyas*, or teknonyms, found within Algerian geographic names typically incorporate Bu, Bou, Abou,

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[3] http://www.ign.fr/adminV3/display/000/526/725/5267258.pdf

Ba (variously, "father of"), or Oum/Oumm ("mother of"). Examples: Douar Ouled Bou Ali, Hassi Bent Abbad, Aït Ou Salah, Djebel Oumm el Arar.

## a. Long and Short Forms

Administrative division names (ADM) and the country name (PCLI) are accorded long and short forms. Railroad station names that appear on official sources with corresponding generic term are given long and short form names.

## b. Numbers

Names containing numerals as integral elements, whether cardinal and ordinal, should be collected in an expanded form, in a French spelling. Thus, "Les 4 Chemins" is expanded to "Les Quatre Chemins."

## c. Abbreviations

There are many abbreviations used in Algerian cartography that are unique to Algeria or North Africa. The most common of these abbreviations follow with their expanded forms. Toponyms will be collected using the expanded meanings of the abbreviation, while the abbreviation will be retained when referencing the name as it appears on the source.

| Abbreviation | Expanded Form | Meaning |
|---|---|---|
| A. / Ae. | Aïn(e) | Spring |
| Abr. | Abreuvoir | Watering place |
| A.E. | Abd el | Proper Name |
| A.E.K. | Abd el Kader | Proper Name |
| A.E.R. | Abd er Rahmane | Proper Name |
| Ag. | Aguelmam | Pool/Spring/Well |
| Anen./Ancnes. | Ancien/Anciennes | Former |
| Argb. | Argoub | Hill/Mountain |
| b. | Bou | Father of |
| b. | Ben | Son of |
| bi. | Beni | Sons of |
| B./Bj. | Bordj | Fort/Tower |
| B. | Bir | Well |
| Bl. | Bled | Locality/Area |
| C. | Cap | Cape |
| Ch. | Chaba | Wadi |
| Ch./Chet. | Chabet | Wadi |
| Cim. | Cimitière | Cemetery |
| Det./Dret. | Dechret | Farm |
| Dr. | Douar | Houses/Village |
| Dj. | Djebel | Mountain |
| Dja. | Djemaa | Mosque |

| Abbreviation | Expanded Form | Meaning |
|---|---|---|
| Djat. / Djet. | Djebbanat/Djebbanet | Cemetery |
| Dom. | Domaine | Estate |
| Fd. | Faïd / Faid | Depression |
| Fme. | Ferme | Farm |
| Ft. | Forêt | Forest |
| Ha./Hta. | Houita | Shrine |
| Hi. | Hassi | Well |
| Hr. | Hennchir | Farm |
| I. | Île | Island |
| Ka. | Koubba | Tomb |
| Ka./Kia. | Koudia | Hill |
| Kat./Kiat. | Koudiat | Hill |
| Kbet. | Koubbet | Tomb |
| Ket./Kiet. | Koudiet | Hill |
| Mat. / Ma. / M'ta | Mechta | Farm |
| Med./Md./M'hamed | Mohammed | Proper Name |
| Mgne. | Montagne | Mountain |
| Mon. | Maison | House |
| Mon. Fre. | Maison Forestière | Forester's lodge |
| Pte. | Pointe | Point |
| Pts. | Puits | Waterholes |
| Rba. | Rokba | Rocks |
| Sk. | Souk | Market |
| St./Ste. | Sainte | Honorific |
| Ston. | Station | Station |
| Ta./Tia. | Tenia | Pass |
| Tet. | Teniet | Pass |
| Za. | Zouia | Religious Site |
| Zet | Zribet | Building |

### d. Unique Linguistic Situations

Algerian toponyms greatly resemble those of Morocco in orthography and convention. While French acts as a lingua franca, Arabic is the official language. Additionally, Tamazight (a Berber language) is a national language, as noted above.

During the French colonial period, Algeria was mapped by the IGN in French orthography, which in the process imposed French names upon geographic features throughout the country. Once Algeria claimed independence from France, antipathy for all things French permeated every sphere, coming to bear upon even the country's geographic names. Though many geographic names as found on the IGN-era mapping were changed to strip away French terms, the maps produced by its native Algerian successor, the Institut National de Cartographie et de Télédétection (INCT), retained the French orthography, rather than turning to an Arabic script rendering of toponyms.

Algeria does not currently have an official romanization system,[4] though the schema used in romanizing place names in government mapping reflects many aspects of the IGN System 1973 (See Appendix B for an Algeria-specific profile of this system used by the IGN in the past, as incorporated into STANAG 3689). While it is said that use of the system (and variations derived from it) can better preserve local pronunciations of particular place names in theory, such a system in practice functions as a loose set of guiding principles which can make a true standardization of place names difficult, leading to multiple romanized forms of particular names and terms. Thus, one Arabic term for mosque, *jāmiʻ*[5](جامع), is romanized variously as Djama', Djama, Djamaa, Djêma, Djêma', Djema', Djema and Djemaa on Algerian source material. It is unclear if at some point in the future Algeria may turn to using a romanization system not unlike the UN System. If such a change does occur, BGN policy would be updated accordingly.

## 4. Political Geography Policy

### a. Country Name

The Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard[6] two-character code for Algeria is DZ, with the three-character code being DZA. The Geopolitical Entities and Codes (GEC) designation for Algeria is AG.[7] Algeria is composed of forty-eight (48) first-order administrative divisions (ADM1s), known as *wilayas* (provinces). Each province shares its name with its corresponding seat. Second-order administrative divisions, known as *daïras*, likewise share their names with their administrative seats.

| | |
|---|---|
| Conventional Short Form | Algeria |
| Conventional Long Form | People's Democratic Republic of Algeria |

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[4] UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems. "Report on the Current Status of United Nations Romanization Systems for Geographical Names – Arabic." January 2003.

[5] Romanized according to the BGN/PCGN 1956 System.

[6] The Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard is the U.S. Government profile of ISO 3166.

[7] Maintenance of the Geopolitical Entities and Codes (formerly FIPS PUB 10-4) listing has ceased as of December 31, 2014.

| | |
|---|---|
| Arabic Short Form - Romanized | Al Jazā'ir |
| Arabic Short Form - Non-Roman Script | الجزائر |
| Arabic Long Form - Romanized | Al Jumhūrīyah al Jazā'irīyah ad Dīmuqrāţīyah ash Shaʻbīyah |
| Arabic Long Form - Non-Roman Script | الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية |

## b. Capital Name

| | |
|---|---|
| Conventional Form | Algiers |
| Approved Form | Alger |

## c. First-Order Administrative Divisions

| Name | GEC | GENC | PPLA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alger | AG01 | DZ-16 | Alger (Also, PPLC) |
| Batna | AG03 | DZ-05 | Batna |
| Constantine | AG04 | DZ-25 | Constantine |
| Médéa | AG06 | DZ-26 | Médéa |
| Mostaganem | AG07 | DZ-27 | Mostaganem |
| Oran | AG09 | DZ-31 | Oran |
| Saïda | AG10 | DZ-20 | Saïda |
| Sétif | AG12 | DZ-19 | Sétif |
| Tiaret | AG13 | DZ-14 | Tiaret |
| Tizi Ouzou | AG14 | DZ-15 | Tizi Ouzou |
| Tlemcen | AG15 | DZ-13 | Tlemcen |
| Bejaïa | AG18 | DZ-06 | Bejaïa |
| Biskra | AG19 | DZ-07 | Biskra |
| Blida | AG20 | DZ-09 | Blida |
| Bouira | AG21 | DZ-10 | Bouira |
| Djelfa | AG22 | DZ-17 | Djelfa |
| Guelma | AG23 | DZ-24 | Guelma |
| Jijel | AG24 | DZ-18 | Jijel |
| Laghouat | AG25 | DZ-03 | Laghouat |
| Mascara | AG26 | DZ-29 | Mascara |
| M'sila | AG27 | DZ-28 | M'sila |
| Oum el Bouaghi | AG29 | DZ-04 | Oum el Bouaghi |
| Sidi Bel Abbès | AG30 | DZ-22 | Sidi Bel Abbès |
| Skikda | AG31 | DZ-21 | Skikda |
| Tébessa | AG33 | DZ-12 | Tébessa |
| Adrar | AG34 | DZ-01 | Adrar |
| Aïn Defla | AG35 | DZ-44 | Aïn Defla |
| Aïn Temouchent | AG36 | DZ-46 | Aïn Temouchent |
| Annaba | AG37 | DZ-23 | Annaba |

| Name | GEC | GENC | PPLA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Béchar | AG38 | DZ-08 | Béchar |
| Bordj Bou Arréridj | AG39 | DZ-34 | Bordj Bou Arréridj |
| Boumerdes | AG40 | DZ-35 | Boumerdes |
| Chlef | AG41 | DZ-02 | Chlef |
| El Bayadh | AG42 | DZ-32 | El Bayadh |
| El Oued | AG43 | DZ-39 | El Oued |
| El Tarf | AG44 | DZ-36 | El Tarf |
| Ghardaïa | AG45 | DZ-47 | Ghardaïa |
| Illizi | AG46 | DZ-33 | Illizi |
| Khenchela | AG47 | DZ-40 | Khenchela |
| Mila | AG48 | DZ-43 | Mila |
| Naama | AG49 | DZ-45 | Naama |
| Ouargla | AG50 | DZ-30 | Ouargla |
| Relizane | AG51 | DZ-48 | Relizane |
| Souk Ahras | AG52 | DZ-41 | Souk Ahras |
| Tamanrasset | AG53 | DZ-11 | Tamanrasset |
| Tindouf | AG54 | DZ-37 | Tindouf |
| Tipaza | AG55 | DZ-42 | Tipaza |
| Tissemsilt | AG56 | DZ-38 | Tissemsilt |
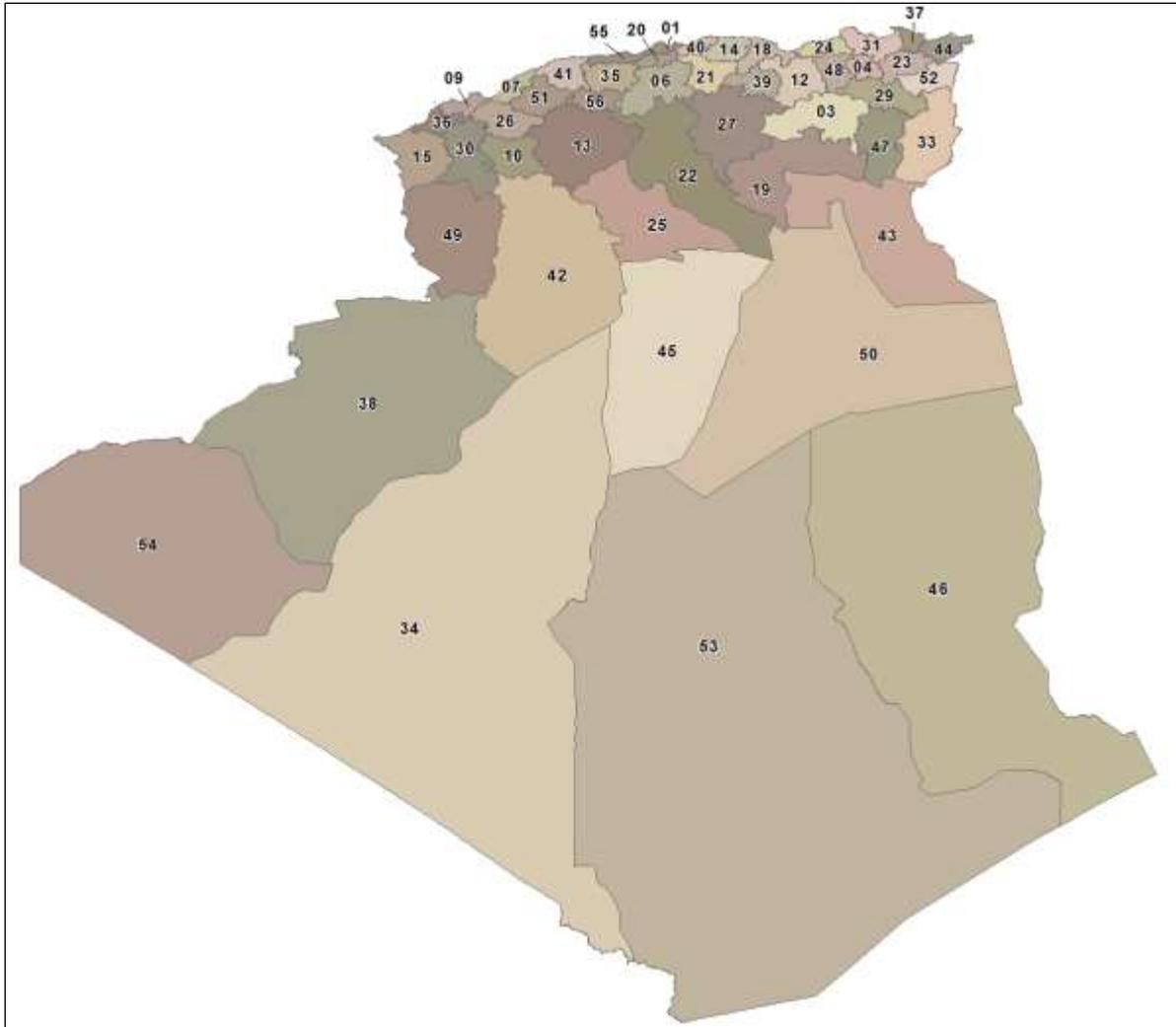
Figure: Current first-order administrative divisions of Algeria. Divisions are identified by their GEC codes.

## d. Conventional and Anglicized Names

### Conventional Names

| Name | UFI | UNI | Designation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Algeria | 336619 | 14033580 | PCLI |
| People's Democratic Republic of Algeria | 336619 | 6080631 | PCLI |
| Algiers | -458371 | -659067 | PPLC |

### *e. Boundary Disputes*

Note: For the latest country-specific boundary dispute information, visit the US Department of State Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia, or B.A.S.E., at http://base.us-state.osis.gov/.

## 5. Source Material

### *a. Preferred Sources*

The producer of preferred source material is the Institut National de Cartographie et de Télédétection (INCT). Recent editions are preferred over older editions. Sources produced by Algerian federal agencies or IGN are preferred over other sources. The following is a list of authoritative map series for Algeria ordered from most authoritative to least:

1. Institut National de Cartographie et de Télédétection. Topographic Maps, 1:25,000, 1:50,000, and 1:200,000.
2. Service Géologique de Algerie. Carte Géologique de l'Algerie, 1:200,000.
3. Institut Géographique National. Carte d'Algerie, 1:200,000.
4. Institut Géographique National. Carte du Sahara, 1:200,000.
5. Institut Géographique National. Carte d'Afrique, 1:500,000.

# Appendix A: Glossary of Generic Terms

| Generic | Designation | Description |
|---|---|---|
| ´Erg | ERG | sandy desert, dune(s), Sand dune(s), area of moving dunes |
| ʼÂgueïlet | WTRH | waterhole(s) / well |
| ʼAïn | SPNG | spring(s) |
| Abreuvoir | WTRH | waterhole(s) / watering place |
| Adrar | CLF | cliff(s) |
| Adrar | HLL | hill |
| Aérodrome | AIRF | airfield |
| Aguelmam | LK, POOL | lake, rain pool |
| Aguelt | WLL | well |
| Aïn | PND | pond |
| Aïn | POOL | pool(s) / Spring |
| Akbet | MT | mountain |
| Annexe | ADMD | administrative division |
| Annk | GRGE | gorge(s) |
| Anou | WLL | well |
| Anse | BAY | bay |
| Arch | TRB | tribal area |
| Archane | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Archane | HLLS | hills |
| Argoub | HLLS | hills |
| Arich | BUTE | butte(s) |
| Arich | HLL | hill |
| Arigat | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Arigat | HLL | hill |
| Arrêt | RSTP | railroad stop |
| Arrondissement | ADMD | administrative division |
| Assif | STM | stream |
| Azrou | MTS | mountains |
| Bab | PASS | pass |
| Bahiret | PLN | plain(s) |
| Baie | BAY | bay |
| Barrage | DAM | dam |
| Barrage | RSV | reservoir(s) |
| Base | INSM | military installation |
| Batterie | FT | fort |
| Biʼr | WLL | well |
| Biar | WLL | wells |

| Generic | Designation | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Bled | AREA / LCTY | area / locality |
| Bois | FRST | forest(s) |
| Bois | PRK | Forest, Woods, park |
| Bordj | INSM | military installation |
| Borj | FT | fort |
| Cap | CAPE, PT | Cape, point |
| Cape | CAPE | cape |
| Cercle | ADMD | administrative division |
| Cha'ba | WAD | wadi |
| Chaba | STMI | intermittent stream |
| Chabket | HLLS | hills |
| Chaïb | RVN | ravine(s) |
| Chapelle | CH | church |
| Chebket | SLP | slope(s) |
| Chott | WTLDI | intermittent wetland, Playa, Lake, salt lake |
| Chouachi | HLLS | hills |
| Chouf | MT | mountain |
| Cimetiere | CMTY | cemetery |
| Cité | PPL | populated place |
| Cité | PPLX | section of populated place |
| Col | PASS | pass |
| Colline | HDLD | headland |
| Commune | ADMD | administrative division |
| Couvent | CVNT | convent |
| Crique | COVE | cove(s) |
| Dahar | MT | mountain |
| Daiet | DPR | depression(s), salt lake, pool, swamp, marsh |
| Daïet | PNDI | intermittent pond |
| Daïra | ADMD | administrative division |
| Dalaa | RDGE | ridge(s) |
| Dalàaroum | RDGE | ridge(s) |
| Dar | HSE | house(s) |
| Defour | HLL | hill |
| Delaat | HLLS | hills |
| Demrhat | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Dhraa | HLL | hill |
| Dir | RDGE | ridge(s) |
| Dir | SLP | slope(s) |

| Generic | Designation | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Djamaa | MSQE / SHRN | mosque / shrine |
| Djebel | CUET | cuesta(s) |
| Djebel | MESA | mesa(s) |
| Djebel | MT | mountain |
| Djenane | EST | estate(s) |
| Djenane | HSE | house(s) |
| Djerf | MT | mountain |
| Djorf | HLL | hill |
| Djorf | SCRP | escarpment |
| Djorf | SLP | slope(s) |
| Dlaa | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Douar | AREA | area |
| Douar | PPLX | section of populated place |
| Dra | RDGE | ridge(s) |
| Dra' | HLL | hill |
| Dra' | MT | mountain |
| Draa | CLF | cliff(s) |
| Draa | HLLS | hills |
| Dzîra | ISL | island |
| Écueil | RK | rock |
| Elb | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Faid | WAD | wadi |
| Faïd | DPR | depression(s) |
| Faïd | RVN | ravine(s) |
| Faidh | STM | stream |
| Feïd | CULT | cultivated area |
| Feïdj | TRGD | interdune trough(s) |
| Fer'at | WAD | wadi |
| Ferchet | DPR | depression(s) |
| Ferket | RDGE | ridge(s) |
| Ferket | SPUR | spur(s) |
| Ferme | FRM | farm |
| Foret | FRST | forest(s) |
| Forêt | RESF | forest reserve |
| Ga'raet | LKN / LK | salt lake, lake |
| Gaada | HLL | hill |
| Gada | RDGE | ridge(s) |
| Gadet | CLF | cliff(s) |

| Generic | Designation | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Gara | BUTE | butte(s) |
| Gassi | TRGD | interdune trough(s) |
| Ghaba | FRST | forest(s) |
| Gherd | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Golfe | GULF | gulf |
| Guelb | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Guelb | HLL | hill |
| Habel | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Hadjar | RK | rock |
| Hafa | CAPE | cape |
| Haï | PPLX | section of populated place |
| Halte | RSTP | railroad stop |
| Hamada | HMDA | rock desert |
| Hamma | HLL | hill |
| Hammada | PLAT | plateau |
| Hammar | HLL | hill |
| Haouch | CULT | cultivated area |
| Haouch | FRM | farm |
| Haoud | DPR | depression(s) |
| Haouita | CMTY | cemetery |
| Haoutia | SHRN | shrine |
| Hassi | POOL | pool(s) / Well |
| Ḥassi | WLL | well(s) |
| Hassiane | DPR | depression(s) |
| Hedeb | HLL | hill |
| Henchir | RUIN | ruin(s) |
| Hezam | HLL | hill |
| Hofret | DPR | depression(s) |
| Houillères | MN | mine(s) |
| Iguidi | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Ile | ISL | island |
| Îlot | ISLT | land-tied island |
| Irhil | MT | mountain |
| Irhzer | WAD | wadi |
| Isk | MT | mountain |
| Jorf | SCRP | escarpment |
| Jumhūrīyah | PCLI | independent political entity |
| Kaber | TMB | tomb(s) |

| Generic | Designation | Description |
|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Kalaa | MT | mountain |
| Kalaa | SLP | slope(s) |
| Kef | CLF | cliff(s) |
| Kef | HLL | hill |
| Kef | HLLS | hills |
| Kerba | RDGE | ridge(s) |
| Kern | SPUR | spur(s) |
| Khalidj | BAY | bay |
| Khalidj | STM | stream |
| Khanguet | GRGE | gorge(s) |
| Khanqat | PASS | pass |
| Khebb | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Khebtet | HLL | hill |
| Khechem | HLL | hill |
| Khelidj | MRSH | marsh(s) |
| Khelidj | STMA | anabranch |
| Kherbet | RUIN | ruin(s) |
| Kouba | SHRN | shrine |
| Koudia | HLL | hill |
| Koudiet | SLP | slope(s) |
| Kraâ | HLL | hill |
| Kraâ | HLLS | hills |
| Krebb | RDGE | ridge(s) |
| Krenak | PASS | pass |
| Ktef | HLL | hill |
| Lac | LK / LKI | lake / intermittent lake |
| Lari | HLL | hill |
| Lari | RDGE | ridge(s) |
| Ma'der | DPR | depression(s) |
| Mader | WAD | wadi |
| Madjen | POOL | pool(s) |
| Madjene | DPR | depression(s) |
| Maison | BLDG | building(s) |
| Maison | HSE | house(s) |
| Makabra | TMB | tomb(s) |
| Makbarat | CMTY | cemetery |
| Marabout | MSQE | mosque |
| Marabout | SHRN | shrine |

| Generic | Designation | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Marais | MRSH | marsh(es) |
| Marhder | DPR | depression(s) |
| Massif | MT | mountain |
| Massif | MTS | mountains |
| Mazraet | CULT | cultivated area |
| Medjez | FORD | ford |
| Mehareg | DPR | depression(s) |
| Meksem | PASS | pass |
| Mennkeb | HLL | hill |
| Merdja | DPR | depression(s) |
| Merdja | MRSH | marsh(es)-swamp |
| Merdjet | PLN | plain(s) |
| Merfeg | HLLS | hills |
| Mezraâ | FRM | farm |
| Mine | MN | mine(s) |
| Mine de Fer | MNQ | abandoned mine |
| Mkam | SHRN | shrine |
| Mont | HLL | hill |
| Mont | MT | mountain |
| Mosquée | MSQE | mosque |
| Mouiet | WLL | well |
| Moulin | ML | mill(s) |
| Moungar | HLL | hill |
| Mzara | SHRN | shrine |
| Nahr | STM | stream |
| Nif | HLL | hill |
| Nza | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Oasis | OAS | oasis(-es) |
| Oglat | WLL | well(s) |
| Ouad | WAD / STM | wadi / stream |
| Oucht | HLL | hill |
| Oued | CNL | canal |
| Outha | PLN | plain(s) |
| Pépinière | NSY | nursery(-ies) |
| Phare | LTHSE | lighthouse |
| Rabet | HLL | hill |
| Rade | RDST | roadstead |
| Ragoubet | HLL | hill |

| Generic | Designation | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Ras | CAPE | cape |
| Ras | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Ras | HLL | hill |
| Redjem | HLL | hill |
| Région | RGN | region |
| Rekab | HLLS | hills |
| Rich | RDGE | ridge(s) |
| Rivière | STM | stream |
| Rokba | HLL | hill |
| Roknet | HLL | hill |
| Rouissat | HLL | hill |
| Ruine | RUIN | ruin(s) |
| Sebkha | SBKH | sabkha(s) |
| Sebkra | SBKH | sabkha(s) |
| Seguiet | CNL | canal |
| Sehb | WAD | wadi |
| Souk | MKT | market |
| Sra | HLLS | hills |
| Srassif | HLLS | hills |
| Srat | MT | mountain |
| Station | RSTN | railroad station |
| Steïhat | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Tassili | PLAT | plateau |
| Tayert | TRGD | long depression |
| Tehi | PASS | pass |
| Tellet | MT | mountain |
| Teniet | PASS | pass |
| Timas | WLL | well, water hole, pool |
| Tizi | PASS | pass |
| Tombeau | TMB | tomb(s) |
| Vallée | VAL | valley |
| Wādī | WAD | wadi |
| Wilaya | ADM1 | first-order administrative division |
| Zaouia | CTRR / SHRN | religious center / shrine |
| Zebaret | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Zemla | DUNE | dune(s) |
| Zrîbet | BLDG / FARM | building(s) / farm |
| Zumlat | HLL | hill |

# Appendix B: From STANAG 3689: Transliteration of Algerian Arabic

Note: This document is for historical purposes and does not reflect current collection policy.

TRANSLITERATION OF ALGERIAN ARABIC
IGN (France) System

Explanatory Notes

1. The first column gives the Arabic letter, the second its name in Roman letters, the third its transliteration into Roman letters, the fourth remarks on transliteration.
2. Only the forms of the letters in isolation are given; for the forms in initial, medial and final positions, see any Arabic grammar or dictionary.
3. Short initial vowels are represented by alif bearing hamza and the appropriate pointing, though the pointing and hamza are usually omitted.
4. The definite article is transliterated el, except before words beginning with the letters t, ts, j, d, dz, r, s, z, ch, and n, when it is pronounced and transliterated et, ets, ej, ed, ~~edz~~, er, es, ez, ech, and en respectively.

| Arabic Letter | Name of letter | Transliteration | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| ا | alif | a, e, i, o, ou | Following the vowel point which it bears, and according to local pronunciation. |
| ب | bâ | b | |
| ت | tâ | t | |
| ث | tâ or tsâ | t, ts | According to local pronunciation. |
| ج | djîm | dj | |
| ح | hâ | h | |
| خ | kha | kh | |
| د | dâl | d | |
| ذ | dâl or dzâl | d, dz | According to local pronunciation. |
| ر | râ | r | |
| ز | zîne | z | |
| س | sîne | s | Between two vowels is transliterated ss. |
| ش | chîne | ch | |
| ص | sâd | s | Between two vowels is transliterated ss. |
| ض | dâd | d | |
| ط | tâ | t | |
| ظ | dâ or dzâ | d, ~~dz~~ | According to local pronunciation. |
| ع | 'aïn | ' | |
| غ | ghaïn | gh | |

| Arabic Letter | Name of letter | Transliteration | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| ف | fâ | f | |
| ك/ق | kâf/gâf | k, g | According to local pronunciation. Before e or i, g is transliterated gu. |
| ك | kef | k | |
| ل | lâm | l | |
| م | mîm | m | |
| ن | noûn | n | Followed by e mute when n is preceded by a, e, i, or o; to avoid pronunciation as a nasal vowel an, en, in, or on. Exceptions: ben, bin. |
| ه | hâ | h | |
| و | ouâou | ou | |
| ي | yâ | i, ï, y | Between two vowels or at the beginning of a word is transliterated y; as second element of a diphthong, transliterated ï. |
| ـَ | fatha | a, e | According to local pronunciation. |
| ـِ | kesra | e, i | According to local pronunciation. |
| ـُ | Damma | o, ou | According to local pronunciation. |
| ـَا | fatha alif | â | |
| ـِي | kesra yâ | î | |
| ـُو | damma ouâou | ô, oû | According to local pronunciation. |
| ة | tâ marboûta | a | In the construct state, transliterated et. |
| ـً | tanouîne | omitted | Found in classical Arabic only. |
| ـٍ | tanouîne | omitted | Found in classical Arabic only. |
| ـٌ | tanouîne | omitted | Found in classical Arabic only. |
| ـْ | jezm or soukoûn | omitted | Indicates the end of a syllable. |
| ـّ | chedda or tachdid | | Indicated by doubling the consonant concerned. |
| ء | hamza | omitted | Glottal stop not always found in local pronunciation. |
| أ | hamzet el ouesla | omitted | Written over an unpronounced initial alif. |
| آ | alif madda | â | Takes the place of a lengthened alif. |
| ـَى | alif maksoura | a | In the final position. |