Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Brazil

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 requirements levied upon the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in Public Law 242 - 80th Congress 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 Brazil, and shall be applied to all Brazilian 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 in Brazil

a.   Demographics
According to the 2010 CIA World Factbook, the Brazilian population is estimated at 201 million. The population is ethnically diverse with 53.7% white, 38.5% multiracial, 6.2% black, and 0.9% described as other (Japanese, Arab, and Amerindian). Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion, followed by Protestantism.[1]

b.   Languages
The official language of Brazil is Portuguese (ISO 639-3 code: por). Brazil is linguistically diverse with 181 living languages, many of which are indigenous languages.[2]

The linguistic diversity of Brazil also extends to European languages and dialects that were brought to Brazil by immigrants. The Hunsrik dialect of German (also known as Hunsiker and Rio Grande Hunsiker) is spoken by 3 million Brazilians in the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Paraná. Hunsrik (ISO 639-3 code: hrx) is derived from the German dialect Hunsrücker (Westpfälzisch) with great influence from Portuguese. The Talian dialect (also known as Taliano, Venetian, Veneto, or Vèneto) is spoken in the Brazilian states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina by approximately 4 million people. Talian (ISO 639-3 code: vec) is a Gallo-Italian language from Northern Italy.[3]

c.   Geographic Names Standardization
The following update summarizes Brazil's geographic names standardization efforts.

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[1] Brazil. The 2010 CIA World Factbook. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/br.html> 8 Nov 2010.

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

[3] Lewis, M Paul. Ethnologue.

This information was included in the 39th United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Bulletin.[4]

In 2005, Brazil began the Project Geographical Names of Brazil to standardize geographical names, restore the historical and cultural value of geographical names, and promote the interest in Brazilian toponyms. The Geographical Names Database of Brazil (BNGB)[5] will provide information of geographical names regarding the name's etymology, history, spelling, variants, and associated legislation.

In December 2008, the Committee of Geographical Names was created within the National Commission on Cartography in Brazil (CONCAR). The main goal of the committee is to promote the standardization of geographical names within the Brazilian territory, establish national principles and policies, promote collaboration between local, state and federal government agencies, and develop procedures for geographical names standardization while taking into account the resolutions of the United Nations and international recommendations and practices.

For more information on the committee's activities visit:
<http://www.concar.ibge.gov.br/detalheEntidades.aspx?cod=8 >

3. Toponymic Policies

a.   *Orthography*

Portuguese orthographic conventions are to be followed. For more information, please refer to Portuguese orthographic reference material such as *Portuguese Orthography* by Lambert M. Timpledon, Miriam T. Marseken, and Susan F. Surhone (2010). Over the decades, the orthographies of European Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese have been adjusted and standardized by agreements between the respective governments and academies.

There is a new agreement to unify the orthography of Portuguese in Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, and Timor-Leste. This new orthographic agreement became effective on January 1, 2009. In Brazil, the president signed a decree for a period of transition and implementation, valid until 2012, during which both old and new orthographies will be accepted.[6] See Appendix A for details on these new orthographic conventions. The effects of these orthographic changes on geographic names are currently unclear. The elimination of some accent marks could have a direct influence on geographic names; however, there could also be instances where changes to the spelling of geographical names also occur.

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[4] United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). Bulletin 39. Fall 2010.
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/Bulletin/ungegnbulletin39.pdf>. 14 Feb 2011
[5] Working Paper No. 40. The Database of Geographical Names in Brazil. UNGEGN Twenty-fifth session. Nairobi, 5-25 May 2009. < http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/25th-gegn-docs/wp%20papers/wp40-database-brazil.pdf >. 14 Feb 2011.
[6] Reforma Ortográfica. <www.reformaortografica.com>. 20 Dec 2010.
  Academia Brasileira de Letras. <www.academia.org.br>. 20 Dec 2010.

b.   *Generic Terms*

A generic is a term that identifies a feature class. Examples include words such as 'river,' 'hill,' and 'lake.' A generic term associated with a specific is considered a true generic unless map symbology indicates otherwise. Generics are not collected for populated places in Brazil.

Care should be taken when using medium to small-scale map sources, which may show all inhabited areas as populated places.

A list of generic terminology for Brazil is located under Appendix B.

c.   *Capitalization*

Definite articles are used in approved names according to 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 on native sources, non-initial definite articles will be rendered in lowercase for the approved form in the database. In the absence of conclusive evidence non-initial definite articles are written in lowercase letters in the standardized name form.

d.   *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 Portuguese. Examples: *2 Montes* (on source) is rendered *Dois Montes*. *1 de Abril* (on source) is rendered *Primeiro de Abril*.
- Roman numerals are retained throughout.
- These principles apply to both name initial and non-initial numerals.

e.   *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., Estado do Amazonas [long form], Amazonas [short form].

Long and short forms of populated places are approved when supported by official evidence, e.g., São Gabriel da Cachoeira [long form]; São Gabriel [short form].

Railroad station names that appear on official sources with the generic term *estação* are given long and short forms as supported by evidence. Example: Estação Macaúbas [long form]; Macaúbas [short form].

Where official maps show more than one populated place with the same name in the same *estado* (administrative division), a special effort is to be made to obtain distinguishing long forms from census lists and other official sources.

f.   Diacritics

Diacritics are shown in standardized name forms as they appear on native sources and in accordance with Portuguese orthography. Uppercase letters in standardized name forms retain diacritics.

In accordance with Portuguese orthography, the following diacritics are encountered in standardized name forms in Brazil:

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
Capital A with grave accent	À	00C0
Capital A with acute accent	Á	00C1
Capital A with circumflex	Â	00C2
Capital A with tilde	Ã	00C3
Capital C with cedilla	Ç	00C7
Capital E with grave accent	È	00C8
Capital E with acute accent	É	00C9
Capital E with circumflex	Ê	00CA
Capital I with acute accent	Í	00CD
Capital O with grave accent	Ò	00D2
Capital O with acute accent	Ó	00D3
Capital O with circumflex	Ô	00D4
Capital O with tilde	Õ	00D5
Capital U with acute accent	Ú	00DA
Capital U with dieresis	Ü	00DC
Small a with grave accent	à	00E0
Small a with acute accent	á	00E1
Small a with circumflex	â	00E2
Small a with tilde	ã	00E3
Small c with cedilla	ç	00E7
Small e with grave accent	è	00E8
Small e with acute accent	é	00E9
Small e with circumflex	ê	00EA
Small i with acute accent	í	00ED
Small o with grave accent	ò	00F2
Small o with acute accent	ó	00F3
Small o with circumflex	ô	00F4
Small o with tilde	õ	00F5
Small u with acute accent	ú	00FA
Small u with dieresis	ü	00FC

g. *Other*

Names containing the conjunction "ou"

Some sources may show two or more names for a feature joined by the conjunction "ou," meaning "or" (example: Rio Lunno ou Unho). For the purposes of standardization, only one name will be selected as the official standard name. The choice of name as standard will depend on 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.

4. Political Geographic Policy

a. *Country Name and Capital*

Country Name
Conventional long form: Federative Republic of Brazil
Conventional short form: Brazil
Standard long form: República Federativa do Brasil
Standard short form: Brasil

Capital
Approved name: Brasília

b.   *First-order Administrative Divisions*

	Name	*Generic*	*Seat*	*FIPS 10-4*	*ISO 3166-2*
1.	Acre	estado	Rio Branco	BR01	BR-AC
2.	Alagoas	estado	Maceió	BR02	BR-AL
3.	Amapá	estado	Macapá	BR03	BR-AP
4.	Amazonas	estado	Manaus	BR04	BR-AM
5.	Bahia	estado	Salvador	BR05	BR-BA
6.	Ceará	estado	Fortaleza	BR06	BR-CE
7.	Distrito Federal	distrito federal	Brasília	BR07	BR-DF
8.	Espírito Santo	estado	Vitória	BR08	BR-ES
9.	Goiás	estado	Goiânia	BR29	BR-GO
10.	Maranhão	estado	São Luis	BR13	BR-MA
11.	Mato Grosso	estado	Cuiabá	BR14	BR-MT
12.	Mato Grosso do Sul	estado	Campo Grande	BR11	BR-MS
13.	Minas Gerais	estado	Belo Horizonte	BR15	BR-MG
14.	Pará	estado	Belém	BR16	BR-PA
15.	Paraíba	estado	João Pessoa	BR17	BR-PB
16.	Paraná	estado	Curitiba	BR18	BR-PR
17.	Pernambuco	estado	Recife	BR30	BR-PE
18.	Piauí	estado	Teresina	BR20	BR-PI
19.	Rio de Janeiro	estado	Rio de Janeiro	BR21	BR-RJ
20.	Rio Grande do Norte	estado	Natal	BR22	BR-RN
21.	Rio Grande do Sul	estado	Porto Alegre	BR23	BR-RS
22.	Rondônia	estado	Porto Velho	BR24	BR-RO
23.	Roraima	estado	Boa Vista	BR25	BR-RR
24.	Santa Catarina	estado	Florianópolis	BR26	BR-SC
25.	São Paulo	estado	São Paulo	BR27	BR-SP
26.	Sergipe	estado	Aracaju	BR28	BR-SE
27.	Tocantins	estado	Palmas	BR31	BR-TO

c.   *Disputed Territories*

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

There is a territorial dispute between the first-order administrative divisions of Piauí and Ceará. Features within the disputed areas will receive the FIPS administrative code BR99.[7]

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[7] República Federativa do Brasil. Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística. 2004.

Brazil has a boundary dispute with Uruguay at a site called Arroio Invernada.[8]

The dispute that had existed between Brazil and Uruguay over the sovereignty of Isla Brasileña (Ilha Brasileira) at the confluence of Rio Urugai and Rio Quaraí has been resolved. The U.S. Department of State informed NIMA (NGA's predecessor) on 8 May 1997 that the island belongs entirely to Uruguay. The international boundary in this area follows the center of the main channel of Río Uruguay north of Isla Brasileña.

d.   *Abbreviations*

The following are common abbreviations found on native source maps and in native source gazetteers. Please note that abbreviations must be spelled out in the Geographic Names Database.

Abbreviated Form	*Unabbreviated Form*
A.	Arroio
B.	Baía
C.	Cabo
Cach.	Cachoeira
Corr.	Córrego
Esc.	Escola
Est.	Estação
Ig.	Igarapé
I(s)	Ilha(s)
L.	Lago or Lagoa
Lag.	Lagoa
M.	Monte
Mo.	Morro
Pta.	Ponta
R.	Rio
S.	Serra

5.   Source Material

The Diretoria do Serviço Geográfico (DSG) and the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) are the preferred authorities for Brazilian map and chart sources. In addition, there are other Brazilian government and private agencies that issue material suitable for use in geographic names collection. The Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação is also a preferred source for nautical charts. 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. Brazil, 1:50,000-scale series, Diretoria do Serviço Geográfico (DSG), 1980-91.

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[8] Guo Rongxing. Territorial Disputes and Resource Management: A Global Handbook. Nova Science Publishers Inc. 2007. Page 144.

2. Brazil, 1:100,000-scale series, Diretoria do Serviço Geográfico (DSG), 1970's-80's.
3. Brazil, 1:250,000-scale series, Diretoria do Serviço Geográfico (DSG) and government agencies, 1980-91.
4. Amazonia Legal, 1:3,000,000, Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), 1995.
5. Brazil, 1:15,000,000, Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), 1993.
6. Brazil, 1:5,000,000, Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), 2004.
7. Brazil Atlas, 1:1,000,000, 1971.
8. Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) website: www.ibge.gov.br

Other sources of information:
1. BGN Gazetteer of Brazil, 1963.
2. BGN Gazetteer of Brazil - Supplement, 1992.
3. Dicionário Geográfico Brasileiro, second edition, Pôrto Alegre, 1972.
4. State (estado) maps, various scales and dates.

APPENDIX A - New Orthographic Agreement for Portuguese Language[9]

1) Accentuation in diphthongs with paroxytone words

Elimination of accent of open diphthongs (when there are two vowels in the same syllable **éi** and **ói** of paroxytone words (words in which the strongest syllable is the penultimate):

Old	New
idéia	ideia
bóia	boia
asteróide	asteroide
Coréia	Coreia
platéia	plateia
assembléia	assembleia
heróico	heroico
estréia	estreia
paranóia	paranoia
Européia	Europeia
apóio	apoio
jibóia	jiboia
jóia	joia

2) Circumflex accent in êem and ôo

Elimination of circumflex accent in words ending in **êem** and **ôo** (**ôos**):

Old	New
crêem	creem
lêem	leem
dêem	deem
vêem	veem
prevêem	preveem
enjôo	enjoo
vôos	voos

3) Acute accent in some paroxytone words

Elimination of accent in strong **i** and **u** after diphthongs (junction of two vowels) in paroxytone words. Note: if the **i** and **u** are in the last syllable, the accent will remain. Example: tuiuiú or Piauí.

Old	New
baiúca	baiuca
bocaiúva	bocaiuva

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[9] Reforma Ortográfica. <www.reformaortografica.com>. 20 Dec 2010.
  Academia Brasileira de Letras. <www.academia.org.br>. 20 Dec 2010.

feiúra   feiura

4) Differential accent

Elimination of differential accent (the one used to distinguish vocal tones). Note: No differential accent elimination in pôr (verb) / por (preposition) and pôde (preterit) / pode (present tense). Fôrma: to differentiate forma; circumflex accent may be used to differentiation.

Old	New
pêlo	pelo
pára	para
pólo	polo
pêra	pera
côa	coa

5) Acute accent in strong u

Elimination of acute accent in strong u in verb groups: **gue**, **gui**, **que**, **qui**. Examples: averiguar, apaziguar, redarguir, enxaguar (all other accent rules remain the same):

Old	New
averigúe	averigue
apazigúe	apazigue
ele argúi	ele argui
enxagúe você	enxague você

6) Alphabet: Addition of Three Letters

The alphabet now consists of 26 letters after the inclusion of **k**, **w**, and **y**.

7) Hyphen: Elimination in Some Cases

a) Elimination occurs when the prefix ends with a vowel and the second element starts with a different vowel:

Old	New
extra-escolar	extraescolar
aero-espacial	aeroespacial
auto-estrada	autoestrada

b) Elimination occurs when the second element starts with **s** or **r**, making it necessary to duplicate that consonant. Note: The hyphen will be kept when the prefix ends in r- examples: hiper-requintado, inter-resistente, super-vista.

Old	New
anti-religioso	antirreligioso

anti-semita	antissemita
contra-regra	contrarregra
infra-som	infrassom

8) **Dieresis: Elimination of the Dieresis**

The dieresis is eliminated in all words. Note: the dieresis remains in names like Möller and Citröen.

Old	New
freqüente	frequente
lingüiça	linguiça
seqüestro	sequestro

APPENDIX B – Glossary Generic Terms

Generic	*Feature Designation Name*	*Feature Designation Code*
açude	reservoir	RSV
água	stream	STM
aparados	escarpment	ESCU
arquipélago	islands	ISL
arroio	stream	STM
atol	atoll	ATOL
baia	bay	BAY
baixo	reef	RF
banco	marine bank	BNK
banhado	stream marsh	STM
barra	entrance	BAR
barragem	reservoir	RSV
bracinho	distributary	STMD
braço	stream	STMD
braço de mar	inlet	INLT
brejão, brejo	intermittent stream	STMI
cabeceira	stream	STM
cabeços	hills	HLL
cabo	cape	CAPE
cachoeira	waterfall	FLLS
calhau	rock in water	RK
campina	plain	PLN
campos	upland	UPLD
canal	stream	CNL
cêrro	hill	HLL
chapada	plain	PLN
chapadão	spur	SPUR

contraforte	ridge	RDGE
cordilheira	hill range	HLL
corixo	stream	STM
corredeira	rapids	RPDS
córrego	stream	STM
distrito federal	federal district	ADM1
enseada	cove	COVE
espigão	upland	UPLD
estado	first-order administrative division	ADM1, state
estação	railroad station	RSTN
fonte termal	hot springs	SPNT
furo	stream	STM
galho	stream	STM
garganta	gorge	GRGE
grota, grotão	stream	STM
igarapé	stream	STM
ilha	island	ISL
ilhéu	island	ISL
ilhota	island	ISL
ilhote	island	ISL
lago	lagoon	LGN
lago	lake	LK
lagoa	intermittent lake	LKI
lagoa	lake	LK
lagoa	pond	PND
laje	reef	RF
lajeado	stream	STM
mar	marine channel	CHNM
marimbu	stream	STM
monte	hill	HLL
monte	mountain	MT
monte	upland	UPLD
morro	headland	HDLD
morro	hill	HLL
morro	mountain	MT
morro	peak	PK
morro	ridge	RDGE
morro	upland	UPLD
município	second administrative division	AMD2
outeiro	hill	HLL
paraná	distributary	STMD
parcel	shoal	SHOL
passagem	reach	RCH
pedra	hill	HLL
pedra	mountain	MT
pedra	rock in water	RK

pedral	rock in water	RK
pico	hill	HLL
pico	mountain	MT
pico	peak	PK
planalto	plateau	PLAT
planalto	upland	UPLD
plataforma	railroad stop	RSTP
ponta	point	PT
pontal	point	PT
praia	beach	BCH
quedas	waterfall	FLLS
quedas	rapids	RPDS
raso	upland	UPLD
recife	reef	RF
região	region	RGN
represa	reservoir	RSV
reservatório	reservoir	RSV
restinga	barrier beach	BCH
restinga	sand area	SAND
riachão	intermittent stream	STMI
riachão	stream	STM
riacho	intermittent stream	STMI