Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Ecuador

United States Board on Geographic Names – Foreign Names Committee

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1. Introduction

The principal objective of the standardization policies presented below is to ensure consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in U.S. Government databases, publications, maps and charts. These policies are also intended to satisfy the statutory requirement levied upon the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in Public Law 242 of the 80th Congress (approved 25 July 1947)[1] to develop principles, policies, and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions regarding geographic nomenclature and orthography. The standardization policies contained in this document deal only with geographic names found in Ecuador, and shall be applied to all Ecuadorian geographic names and feature records in the Geographic Names Database (GNDB) maintained for U.S. Government use by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).

2. Languages and Language Policy

a. Demographics

The population of Ecuador is currently estimated at 15,223,680 persons.[2] The majority of Ecuador's population (65%) is of mestizo or mixed Amerindian and European heritage. Other ethnic groups in Ecuador include Amerindian (25%) and persons of African (3%) or Spanish or other descent (7%).[3]

b. Languages

Spanish (ISO 639-3 language code 'spa') is the official language of Ecuador.[4] It is spoken by approximately 9,500,000 persons, according to 1995 figures.[5]

Other languages spoken include several Amerindian tongues belonging to the Barbacoan, Chibchan, Choco, Jivaroan, Quechuan, Tucanoan, and Zaparoan language families. These languages are spoken by 2,300,000 persons, with most speaking several varieties of Quechua/ Quichua (ISO 639-3 language code 'que').[6] Moreover, Quechua/ Quichua, Shuar (ISO 639-3 language code 'jiv'), and Spanish are recognized in the 2008 Ecuadorian Constitution as official languages with the promotion of intercultural relations among Ecuador's various ethnic groups in mind. Ecuadorian law also recognizes other native or indigenous languages as official languages in those areas where they are predominantly spoken.[7]

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[1] Public Law 242-80th Congress. NGA GEOnet Names Server (GNS) website. URL: http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/public_law_80_242.htm (Accessed 11 June 2012).
[2] Ecuador. The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) (Online). URL: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ec.html (Accessed 27 July 2012).
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.
[5] *Languages of Ecuador*. Ethnologue: Languages of the World (Online). Paul M. Lewis (Ed.), 2009. URL: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=EC (Accessed 27 July 2012).
[6] Ibid.
[7] *2008 Constitution, Republic of Ecuador*. Political Database of the Americas, Center for Latin American Studies, Georgetown University (Online). URL:

c. Geographic Names Standardization

The Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM) is responsible for geographic naming for cartographic purposes in Ecuador.

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Orthography

Geographic names standardization policy will follow Spanish orthographic conventions. Please refer to orthographic reference materials 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.

The user of Ecuadorian geographic sources should be aware of the existence of variant place names in local languages other than Spanish, as well as various spellings resulting from attempts to render indigenous place names in accordance with Spanish orthographic rules.

b. Romanization

Romanization is not required.

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.

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http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Ecuador/ecuador08.html#mozTocId273089 (Last Updated 11 July 2011, Accessed 12 December 2012).

In accordance with Spanish orthography, the following letter-diacritic combinations are encountered in standardized name forms in Ecuador.

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
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 used to describe a geographic feature. Examples include words 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. Finally, generic terms are not collected for populated places in Ecuador.

A glossary of generic terms for Ecuador is available in Appendix A.

e. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling

The definite article (el, la, lo, los, las) is generally collected as part of the approved name as found on native sources (i.e., *Loma El Infiel, San Pablo de La Cangahua*). When source evidence regarding the capitalization of the definite article is mixed, names of associated features (if present) can assist in deciding whether to accept or reject a particular name. When a name is encountered in all capital letters, any definite article found beyond the initial position will be entered in lowercase when the standardized name is derived. For example, LLANOS DE LOS ALBAS should be entered in the GNDB as *Llanos de los Albas*. In the absence of conclusive evidence, definite articles found beyond the initial position should be entered in lowercase letters as part of the standardized name form (i.e., *Colonia Altos de la Cruz, Quebrada de la Buitrera*).

f. Numbers

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

- Arabic numbers are generally expanded in Spanish. Examples: Comité del Pueblo No. 2 (on source) should be written as *Comité del Pueblo Número Dos*; *Silanti 2do.* (on source) should be written as *Silanti Segundo*.
- Roman numerals are retained throughout.
- These guidelines apply to numerals found in both initial and non-initial positions.

g. *Optional Long and Short Forms*

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

Administrative division names are accorded long and short forms. Example: *Provincia del Azuay* [long form]; *Azuay* [short form].

Names of populated places featuring long and short forms are approved when supported by official evidence. Example: *Santa Rosa de Cusubamba* [long form]; *Cusubamba* [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 Casiguana* [long form]; *Casiguana* [short form].

Distinguishing long forms for multiple populated places with the same name and in the same *Cantón* (Second-order Administrative Division) should be obtained from census lists and other official sources.

h. *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). Example: *Quebrada El Rosario o Concepción*. For standardization purposes, only one name is selected as the official standard name. The name chosen as the approved name will depend on the weight of the available evidence. In the absence of additional sources, use the first name as the official standard name and any additional names as variant names.

i. *Abbreviations*

The following is a list of abbreviations of generics which are commonly found on Ecuadorian cartographic products. Any abbreviation must be spelled out in the GNDB. Please see Appendix A for translations of all unabbreviated forms on this list.

Abbreviated Form	Unabbreviated Form
C.	Cabo, Cerro
Cdla.	Ciudadela
Cem.	Cementerio
Col.	Colegio
Coop.	Cooperativa
Cord.	Cordillera
Esc.	Escuela
Est.	Estero
F.	Finca
H., Hda.	Hacienda
I.	Isla
Igl.	Iglesia
L.	Lago

Lag.	Laguna
P.	Punta
Pto.	Puerto
Q.	Quebrada
R.	Río
Urb.	Urbanización

4. Political Geography Policy

a. Country Name and Capital
Country Name
Conventional long form:	Republic of Ecuador
Conventional short form:	Ecuador
Approved long form:	República del Ecuador
Approved short form:	Ecuador

Capital (PPLC)
Approved name:	Quito

b. First-order Administrative Divisions

Name	Generic	Seat	FIPS 10-4[8]	ISO 3166-2[9]
1. Galápagos	provincia	Puerto Baquerizo Moreno	EC01	EC-W
2. Azuay	provincia	Cuenca	EC02	EC-A
3. Bolívar	provincia	Guaranda	EC03	EC-B
4. Cañar	provincia	Azogues	EC04	EC-F
5. Carchi	provincia	Tulcán	EC05	EC-C
6. Chimborazo	provincia	Riobamba	EC06	EC-H
7. Cotopaxi	provincia	Latacunga	EC07	EC-X
8. El Oro	provincia	Machala	EC08	EC-O
9. Esmeraldas	provincia	Esmeraldas	EC09	EC-E
10. Guayas	provincia	Guayaquil	EC10	EC-G
11. Imbabura	provincia	Ibarra	EC11	EC-I
12. Loja	provincia	Loja	EC12	EC-L
13. Los Ríos	provincia	Babahoyo	EC13	EC-R
14. Manabí	provincia	Portoviejo	EC14	EC-M
15. Morona-Santiago	provincia	Macas	EC15	EC-S
16. Pastaza	provincia	Puyo	EC17	EC-Y
17. Pichincha	provincia	Quito (PPLC)	EC18	EC-P

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[8] Provinces of Ecuador. Statoids (Online), URL: http://www.statoids.com/uec.html (Accessed 31 July 2012).
[9] Ecuador/ Équateur. ISO 3166-2 Newsletter, No. II-2, 30 June 2010, p. 19 (Online), URL:
http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_3166-2_newsletter_ii-2_2010-06-30.pdf (Accessed 31 July 2012).

18. Tungurahua	provincia	Ambato	EC19	EC-T
19. Zamora-Chinchipe	provincia	Zamora	EC20	EC-Z
20. Sucumbíos	provincia	Nueva Loja	EC22	EC-U
21. Napo	provincia	Tena	EC23	EC-N
22. Orellana	provincia	Puerto Francisco de Orellana	EC24	EC-D
23. Santa Elena	provincia	Santa Elena	EC25	EC-SE
24. Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	provincia	Santo Domingo de los Colorados	EC26	EC-SD

c. Disputed Territories

Note: For the latest information on country-specific boundary disputes, please visit the Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (B.A.S.E.), U.S. Department of State (Online), URL: http://base.us-state.osis.gov/home.asp.

International Disputes

The status of the international boundary between Ecuador and its neighbors Colombia and Perú is *De Jure, ratified*, according to the U.S. Department of State's Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia. Decades-long border disputes between Ecuador and Perú were settled in 1998 through the implementation of the Brasilia Declaration. Boundary demarcation between the two nations was completed in 1999, with no further disputes or resurgent claims identified at present.[10] Ecuador and Perú also signed an accord in 2011 which settled their maritime boundary following over 120 years of dispute. This accord is awaiting ratification by both countries' legislatures.[11]

Domestic Disputes

A map by Ecuador's Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (National Institute of Statistics and Census – INEC) shows three areas in Ecuador described as '*Zonas No Delimitadas*' (Undelimited Zones).[12] This information is confirmed by a 2008 political map of Ecuador published by the IGM which also depicts areas labeled '*Zona de Límite Provincial en Estudio*' (Zone of Provincial Boundary under Study) (please see Appendix B below). For the latest information on the status of Ecuador's provincial boundaries, please consult statements or

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[10] *Land Boundaries: Ecuador-Peru*. Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (B.A.S.E.), U.S. Department of State (Online), URL: http://base.us-state.osis.gov/landBHome.asp?mode=details&pairDetailsId=89&pair=ECUADOR_PERU&pairFIPS=EC_PE (Accessed 31 July 2012).

[11] *Maritime Boundaries: Ecuador-Peru*. Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (B.A.S.E.), U.S. Department of State (Online), URL: http://base.us-state.osis.gov/maritimeBHome.asp?mode=details&pairDetailsId=166&pair=ECUADOR_PERU&pairFIPS=EC_PE (Accessed 02 August 2012).

[12] *Internal Administrative Boundaries – Ecuador*. Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (B.A.S.E.), U.S. Department of State (Online), URL: http://base.us-state.osis.gov/adminBHome.asp?mode=details&entityId=70 (Accessed 31 July 2012).

reports by Ecuador's Interior Ministry and its Special Commission on Internal Boundaries of the Republic (Comisión Especial de Límites Internos de la República - CELIR).[13]

5. Source Materials

a. Preferred Sources
The most authoritative maps and charts covering Ecuador are produced by the Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM). In addition, other Ecuadorian government agencies as well as private companies produce high-quality maps and charts. These IGM references should be considered as primary sources, followed by geographic sources produced by Ecuadorian government agencies, academic institutions, and commercial vendors. The following list of preferred sources is not exhaustive, but it depicts those references to be used for geographic name selection. Some maps series listed below have been produced jointly by the IGM and NGA and its predecessor organizations.

1. 1:15,000-scale maps, Series J922 (City Graphics), 1969 – 2008, IGM (Ecuador)
2. 1:25,000-scale maps, Series J821, 1974 – 1997, IGM (Ecuador)
3. 1:50,000-scale maps, Series J721, 1964 – 2011, IGM (Ecuador)
4. 1:100,000-scale maps, Series J621, 1968 – 1999, IGM (Ecuador)
5. *Political Map of Ecuador*, 1:1,000,000-scale, 2000, IGM

b. Other Sources
1. Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM) [Military Geographic Institute] – Ecuador (Online), URL: http://www.igm.gob.ec/site/index.php
2. Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC) [National Institute of Statistics and Census] – Ecuador (Online), URL: http://www.inec.gob.ec/inec/
3. *Nuevo Atlas del Ecuador*. 2004. Nelson Gómez E. Ediguías C. Ltda., Quito, Ecuador.
4. Ecuador Maps. Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, The University of Texas at Austin (Online), URL: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/ecuador.html

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[13] *Ley Definirá los Límites Internos del Ecuador*. EcuadorInmediato.com (Online), URL: http://www.ecuadorinmediato.com/Noticias/news_user_view/el_telegrafo_guayaquil_ley_definira_los_limites_internos_del_ecuador--130706, 22 July 2010 (Accessed 01 August 2012).

Appendix A. Glossary of Generic Terms

The following is an incomplete list of common generic terms one may encounter in Ecuadorian geographic names sources.

Spanish Generic	Designation Name	Designation Code
aeropuerto	airport	AIRP
albarrada	reservoir	RSV
bahía	bay	BAY
balneario	resort	RSRT
barrio, ciudadela, comité, cooperativa, lotización, quinta, urbanización	section of populated place	PPLX
boca, bocana	cove	COVE
cabo	cape	CAPE
camaronera	aquaculture facility	AQC
campamento	camp	CMP
campo	field	FLD
canal	canal	CNL
canal de riego	irrigation canal	CNLI
cantera	quarry	MNQR
cantón	canton, second-order administrative division	ADM2
capilla, iglesia	church	CH
cascada(s)	waterfall(s)	FLLS
cementerio	cemetery	CMTY
centro turístico	resort	RSRT
cerro	peak	PK
cerro(s), loma(s)	hill(s)	HLL(S)
cerro(s), loma(s), montaña(s)	mountain(s)	MT(S)
cocha(s)	lagoon(s)	LGN
colegio	school, secondary school	SCH
colonia agraria	agricultural colony	AGRC
comuna, cooperativa, quinta	populated place	PPL
cordillera, contrafuerte	mountains, mountain range	MTS
cuchilla, filo	ridge	RDGE
cuesta, ladera	slope	SLP
escuela	school, elementary school	SCH
estación	railroad station	RSTN
estero, estuario	estuary	ESTY
estero, quebrada	stream, intermittent stream	STM, STMI
estribación (plural: estribaciones)	spur(s)	SPUR
faro	lighthouse	LTHSE
finca, granja, hacienda	farm	FRM

golfo	gulf	GULF
gruta(s)	cave(s)	CAVE
hacienda, lotización, quinta	estate	EST
iglesia	church	CH
isla(s)	island(s)	ISL(S)
lago, laguna	lake	LK
laguna	lagoon	LGN
llano, pampa	plain	PLN
malecón	promenade	PRMN
parque	park	PRK
pista de aterrizaje	airfield	AIRF
poza(s)	pool(s)	POOL
provincia	province, first-order administrative division	ADM1
puente	bridge	BDG
puerto	port	PRT
punta	point	PT
rancho	ranch	RNCH
reservorio	reservoir	RSV
río	stream	STM
ruina(s)	ruin(s)	RUIN
valle	valley	VAL
volcán	volcano	VLC

Appendix B. Political Map of Ecuador (2008) showing provincial boundaries under study[14]

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[14] Political Map of Ecuador, 1:4,000,000-Scale (2008). In Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (B.A.S.E.), U.S. Department of State (Online), URL: http://base.us-state.osis.gov/adminBHome.asp?mode=details&entityId=70 (Accessed 01 August 2012).