Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Honduras

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. This document contains standardization policies limited to geographic names found in Honduras, and shall be applied to all Honduran geographic names and feature records in the Geographic Names Database (GND) maintained for U.S. Government use by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).

2. Languages and Language Policy

a.   *Demographics*

The population of Honduras is currently estimated at 8,296,693 persons.[2] The majority of the Honduran population (90%) is of mestizo or mixed Amerindian and European heritage. Other ethnic groups include Amerindians (7%), blacks (2%), and whites (1%).[3]

b.   *Languages*

Spanish (ISO 639-3 language code 'spa') is the official language of Honduras, and it is spoken as a primary or secondary language by the majority of the population.[4]

English (ISO 639-3 language code 'eng') is spoken by the descendants of African slaves, who reside mostly in the Bay Islands (Guanaja, Roatán, and Utila) and in larger cities along Honduras' northern coast. Several Amerindian languages are also spoken in Honduras. For instance, Tol (ISO 639-3 language code 'jic') and Ch'orti' (ISO 639-3 language code 'caa') are spoken by small numbers of ethnic minorities in north central Honduras and along the border with Guatemala, respectively. Other languages featuring small numbers of ethnic speakers include Lenca (ISO 639-3 language code 'len'), Pech (ISO 639-3 language code 'pay'), and Sumo Tawahka (ISO 639-3 language code 'sum'). Lenca speakers reside mostly in the *Departamentos* of Comayagua, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Santa Bárbara, and Valle, while speakers of Pech are prevalent along the north central coast of Honduras and in Olancho and Gracias a Dios Departments. Sumo Tawahka is also prevalent in these two last Departments, although its speakers increasingly use Mískito (ISO 639-3 language code 'miq') and are being rapidly integrated into the Mískito culture. The Mískito language, along with Garifuna (ISO 639-3 language code 'cab'), possesses the largest numbers of minority language

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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] *Honduras*. The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) (Online). URL: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ho.html (Accessed 11 June 2012).
[3] Ibid.
[4] *Honduras: A Country Study* (Online). Tim L. Merrill (Ed.) Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. URL: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/hntoc.html, Research completed December 1993 (Accessed 11 June 2012).

speakers in Honduras. According to a document dated 1993, Mískito was spoken by about 29,000 persons residing primarily in Gracias a Dios Department, while Garifuna (also known as Caribe or Black Carib) was spoken by 98,000 persons in an area along the northern coast of Honduras between Cortés and Gracias a Dios Departments. Garifuna is also spoken in major cities such as La Ceiba, Puerto Cortés, San Pedro Sula, and Tegucigalpa.[5]

c.   *Geographic Names Standardization*

Honduras does not have a national authority for geographic names, according to a document dated August 2011 by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).[6] However, the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN) is responsible for geographic naming for cartographic purposes in Honduras.

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Orthography

Geographic names standardization policy will follow Spanish orthographic conventions. Please refer to orthographic reference materials such as *Ortografía y Ortotipografía del Español Actual* by José Martínez de Sousa (2004) for additional information.

The user of Honduran 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 names in Amerindian and other minority languages 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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[5] *Languages of Honduras*. Ethnologue: Languages of the World (Online). Paul M. Lewis (Ed.), 2009. URL: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=HN (Accessed 11 June 2012).
[6] Summary List of Authorities, National Names Authorities, UNGEGN (As of August 2011). URL: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/Authorities_listAugust2011.pdf (Accessed 11 June 2012)

In accordance with Spanish orthography, the following diacritics are encountered in standardized name forms in Honduras.

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.' Generics appearing in standardized name forms should be considered true generics. If the generic term does not identify the feature, the term should be considered a false generic and should not be collected in the GND as a generic. Generic terms are not collected for populated places in Honduras.

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

e. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling

The definite article (el, la, lo, los, las) is generally shown in approved names as found on 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 whether to accept or reject a particular name. When a name is encountered in all capital letters, a non-initial definite article will be in lowercase when the standardized name form is derived. In the absence of conclusive evidence, non-initial definite articles are written in lowercase letters in the standardized name form.

f. Numbers

Names containing cardinal or ordinal numerals as integral parts should be treated according to the following guidelines:
- Arabic numbers are generally expanded in Spanish. Examples: *Cooperativa La 25* (on source) is rendered *Cooperativa La Veinticinco*; *Colonia 1o. de Mayo* (on source) is rendered *Colonia Primero de Mayo*.
- Roman numerals are retained throughout
- These guidelines apply to both initial and non-initial numerals

g. Optional Long and Short Forms
Short forms are not added to variant names and should be removed from the GND when a formerly approved name becomes a variant name.

Administrative division names are accorded long and short forms. Example: *Departamento de Olancho* [long form]; *Olancho* [short form].

Long and short forms for names of populated places are approved when supported by official evidence. Example: *San Marcos de Colón* [long form]; *San Marcos* [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 San Pedro* [long form]; *San Pedro* [short form].

Where official maps show more than one populated place with the same name in the same *Municipio* (Second-order Administrative Division), distinguishing long forms should be obtained from census lists and other official sources.

h. Unique Linguistics Situations
Names Containing the Conjunction "o"
Some sources may show a feature with two or more names joined by the conjunction "o" (or). Example: *Río Tinto o Negro*. 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, one should use the first name as the official standard name. In accordance with standard policy, the other names for the feature will be considered as variant names.

i. Abbreviations
The following is a list of abbreviations of generics which are commonly found on Honduran cartographic products. Any abbreviations must be spelled out in the GND.

Abbreviated Form	Unabbreviated Form
Bo.	Balneario, Barrio
C.	Cabo, Cerro
Cab.	Cabecera
Cem.	Cementerio
Col.	Colonia
Depto.	Departamento
Hda.	Hacienda
I.	Isla
L., Lag.	Laguna
M.	Monte
Mtña.	Montaña
P.	Punta
Q., Qda.	Quebrada
R.	Río

4. Political Geography Policy

a. Country Name and Capital
Country Name
Conventional long form: Republic of Honduras
Conventional short form: Honduras
Approved long form: República de Honduras
Approved short form: Honduras

Capital (PPLC)
Approved name: Tegucigalpa

b. First-order Administrative Divisions[7]
Please see Appendix B for a map depicting First-order Administrative Divisions in Honduras

Name	Generic	Seat	FIPS 10-4[8]	ISO 3166-2[9]
1. Atlántida	departamento	La Ceiba	HO01	HN-AT
2. Choluteca	departamento	Choluteca	HO02	HN-CH
3. Colón	departamento	Trujillo	HO03	HN-CL
4. Comayagua	departamento	Comayagua	HO04	HN-CM
5. Copán	departamento	Santa Rosa de Copán	HO05	HN-CP
6. Cortés	departamento	San Pedro Sula	HO06	HN-CR
7. El Paraíso	departamento	Yuscarán	HO07	HN-EP
8. Francisco Morazán	departamento	Tegucigalpa (PPLC)	HO08	HN-FM
9. Gracias a Dios	departamento	Puerto Lempira	HO09	HN-GD
10. Intibucá	departamento	La Esperanza	HO10	HN-IN
11. Islas de la Bahía	departamento	Roatán	HO11	HN-IB
12. La Paz	departamento	La Paz	HO12	HN-LP
13. Lempira	departamento	Gracias	HO13	HN-LE
14. Ocotepeque	departamento	Nueva Ocotepeque	HO14	HN-OC
15. Olancho	departamento	Juticalpa	HO15	HN-OL
16. Santa Bárbara	departamento	Santa Bárbara	HO16	HN-SB
17. Valle	departamento	Nacaome	HO17	HN-VA
18. Yoro	departamento	Yoro	HO18	HN-YO

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[7] *Honduras - Administrative Structure*, Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE), Honduras (Online), URL: http:///www.ine.gob.hn/drupal/node/72 (Accessed 12 June 2012)

[8] *Countries, Dependencies, Areas of Special Sovereignty, and their Principal Administrative Divisions*, Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS), Publication 10-4 (1995) (Online), URL: http://www.itl.nist.gov/fipspubs/fip10-4.htm (Accessed 14 June 2012)

[9] International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 3166-2 Newsletter, No. II-3, p. 34 (2011) (Online), URL: http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_3166_2_newsletter_ii-3_2011-12-13.pdf (Accessed 14 June 2012)

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

Isla de Conejo, a small island off the coast of Honduras in the Gulf of Fonseca, is claimed by El Salvador. This island was not included in the 1992 judgment by the International Court of Justice which settled long-standing territorial disputes between the two countries. This same judgment established shared control by Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua over the Gulf of Fonseca.[10] Additionally, Honduras claims a number of geographic features in the Caribbean Sea region, such as the Bajo Nuevo atolls and the Serranilla Bank (both disputed by Colombia, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and the United States). Moreover, Honduras claims sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cays off the coast of Belize, which are currently administered by Belize.[11]

Domestic Disputes

None reported

5. Source Materials

a. Preferred Sources

The best authoritative maps and charts covering Honduras are produced by the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN). In addition, other Honduran government agencies as well as private companies produce high-quality maps and charts. 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 IGN and NGA and its predecessor organizations.

1. 1:12,500-scale maps, Series E952 (City Graphics), 1985 – 2007, IGN
2. 1:50,000-scale maps, Series E752, 1963 – 2002, IGN
3. 1:100,000-scale maps, Series E652, 1958 – 1975, IGN
4. *Diccionario Geográfico de Honduras* (multiple volumes), 1976 -, IGN
5. Mapa General, República de Honduras. 1:1,362,000 scale. Published by Ediciones Ramsés (2006). Map is based on the Official Map of the Republic of Honduras (1:500,000 scale) published by the IGN (1997)
6. *Nombres Geográficos de Honduras* (multiple volumes), 1976 -, IGN

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[10] *Land Boundaries: El Salvador-Honduras*. 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=92&pair=HONDURAS_EL+SALVADOR&pairFIPS=HO_ES (Accessed 12 June 2012)

[11] *International Maritime Boundaries*. Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (B.A.S.E.), U.S. Department of State (Online), URL: http://base.us-state.osis.gov/maritimeBHome.asp?letter=h (Accessed 12 June 2012).

b. Other Sources

1. *Atlas Geográfico de Honduras*. 2007 – 2008. José Canales (Ed.). Ediciones Ramsés, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

2. *Geografía de Honduras*. 1984. Noé Pineda Portillo. Editorial E.S.P., Tegucigalpa, Honduras

3. Honduras Maps. Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, The University of Texas at Austin (Online), URL: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/honduras.html

4. *Honduras y El Mundo - Atlas Geográfico Actualizado*. 2011. Ediciones Ramsés, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

5. Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE) - Honduras (Online), URL: http://www.ine.gob.hn/drupal/node/72

6. Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN), Secretaría de Obras Públicas, Transporte y Vivienda (SOPTRAVI) – Honduras (Online), URL: http://soptravi.gob.hn/dr/?q=node/6

Appendix A. Glossary of Generic Terms

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

Spanish Generic	Designation Name	Designation Code
acueducto	aqueduct	CNLA
aeródromo, campo de aterrizaje, campo de aviación	airfield	AIRF
aeropuerto	airport	AIRP
aldea, caserío, quinta, villa	populated place	PPL
arrecife	reef	RF
bahía	bay	BAY
balneario	resort	RSRT
barra	bar, sandbar	BAR
barrio, colonia, residencial	section of populated place	PPLX
cabo	cape	CAPE
campamento	camp	CMP
campo	field	FLD
canal, quinel	canal	CNL
caño, crique, quebrada	stream, intermittent stream	STM, STMI
catarata(s), raudal, salto	waterfall(s)	FLLS
cayo(s), isla(s)	island(s)	ISL(S)
cueva(s)	cave(s)	CAVE
cementerio	cemetery	CMTY
cerro(s), colina(s), loma(s)	hill(s)	HLL(S)
cerro(s), montaña(s), monte(s)	mountain(s)	MT(S)
charca, crique, manga	tidal creek	CRKT
ciénaga	marsh	MRSH
cordillera, sierra	mountains, mountain range	MTS
cuchilla, fila, filo	ridge	RDGE
cumbre, pico	peak	PK
departamento	first-order administrative division	ADM1, department
embalse, pila, presa, represa	reservoir	RSV
embarcadero	pier	PIER
estero	estuary	ESTY
farallón (plural: farallones)	cliff(s)	CLF
faro	lighthouse	LTHSE
finca, granja, hacienda	farm	FRM
finca, hacienda, rancho	ranch	RNCH
golfo	gulf	GULF
lago, laguna	lake	LK
laguna, laguntara	lagoon	LGN
llano(s), plan(es), sabana	plain(s)	PLN

meseta	plateau	PLAT
mina	mine	MN
municipio	second-order administrative division	ADM2, municipality
parque	park	PRK
paso, portillo	pass, mountain pass	PASS
playa	beach	BCH
poza	pool	POOL
pozo	well	WLL
presa	dam	DAM
puente	bridge	BDG
puerto	port	PRT
punta	point	PT
rápido(s)	rapid(s)	RPDS
río	stream	STM
roca(s)	rock(s)	RK(S)
ruinas	ancient site	ANS
ruinas	ruins	RUIN
sabana	grassland	GRSLD
vado	ford	FORD
valle	valley	VAL
volcán	volcano	VLC
zanja	ditch	DTCH
zona	area, locality	LCTY

Appendix B. Administrative Map of Honduras[12]

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[12] *Internal Administrative Boundaries – Honduras*. 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=109 (Accessed 02 August 2012).