

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Iraq

United States Board on Geographic Names – Foreign Names Committee



March 2013

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 Iraq, and shall be applied to all Iraqi 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

a. Demographics

Iraq has a population of over 29 million¹ composed primarily of ethnic Arabs (75-80%) and Kurds (15-20%). Other ethnic minorities include Iraqi Turkmens,² Assyrians,³ Chaldeans, and Armenians.

b. Languages

Ethnic Arabs speak Arabic (ara⁴). Kurds, Iraqi Turkmens and Assyrians speak Kurdish (kur), South Azerbaijani (azb)⁵ (600,000), and Neo-Aramaic (aii),⁶ (140,000) respectively, as well as Arabic (for most).

Several dialects of Arabic are spoken in Iraq, including Modern Standard Arabic (arb) (in formal contexts), Mesopotamian Arabic (acm) (11 million), Northern Mesopotamian (ayb) (5 million), and Najdi (ars) (900,000).⁷ Arabic belongs to the Afro-Asiatic language family.

Kurdish belongs to the Iranian group of languages, and is the third most widely spoken language of that group after Persian itself and Pashto. Kurdish belongs to the Indo-European language family and is closely related to Persian. Although it has many Arabic loan words, it is not related to Arabic. Multiple dialects of Kurdish are spoken in Iraq, but the two major dialects are Kurmanji (kmr), spoken by some 2.2 million people (8.4% of Iraq's population), and Soranî

¹ CIA World Factbook: Iraq. 29,671,605 (July Estimate). Retrieved 12 January 2010.

² The Turkmens of Iraq are most closely related to the Azeri people of Azerbaijan, not the Turkmen of Turkmenistan.

³ Assyrians speak the Neo-Aramaic language, also referred to as Northeastern Neo-Aramaic or Syriac.

⁴ All language codes are from the ISO-639-3 standard.

⁵ Note that Turkmens speak South Azeri, not the Turkmen language, which is spoken in Turkmenistan. Hendrik Boeschoten. 1998. "The Speakers of Turkic Languages," *The Turkic Languages* (Routledge, pp. 1-15).

⁶ Assyrians speak the Neo-Aramaic language, also referred to as Northeastern Neo-Aramaic or Syriac.

⁷ Ethnologue: Iraq. <www.ethnologue.com>. Retrieved 12 January 2011.

(ckb), also referred to as Central Kurdish, spoken by some 2.8 million people (10.6% of Iraq's population). Both dialects utilize a modified Arabic script.

The geographical divide between the two Kurdish dialects is roughly a straight line that runs northeast from the confluence of Great Zab and Tigris Rivers to the border between Iraq, Iran, and Turkey. The southwestern half of this line roughly follows the course of the Great Zab itself. Within Iraq, the Kurmanji dialect is found to the north of this line; Soranî to the south of it.

According to the Iraqi constitution,⁸ Arabic and Kurdish are official languages in Iraq. The constitution also states that Turkmen (i.e., South Azerbaijani) and Syriac (i.e., Neo-Aramaic) are both official where locally predominant, and it states that local governments have the right to adopt other languages as official. Speakers of Neo-Aramaic have exercised their rights by posting street signs in their language with local government approval.⁹

Official maps are produced in only Arabic or Kurdish, although geographic names in these languages may originally be derived from other languages.

c. Geographic Names Standardization

In Iraq, geographic names standardization is handled at the province level.¹⁰ There are no known efforts to create a geographic names standardization authority at the national level. Iraq is not participating in the United Nation Group of Experts on Geographical Names.¹¹

The Iraqi Military Survey Service of the Iraqi Armed Forces is the de facto national names authority in Iraq. Official maps and charts of Iraq are produced in Arabic. The existence of official Kurdish sources is a relatively new occurrence. All the new Kurdish sources are produced by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kurdistan Regional Government. Sources created by the central government are typically produced solely in Arabic. No official geographic sources are published in any other minority language of Iraq

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Script and Orthography

Arabic toponyms are written in standard Arabic script along with four additional letters common to Perso-Arabic script (see Appendix B). Kurdish toponyms, however, are written in Perso-Arabic script with an orthography that is unique to Kurdish.¹²

⁸ Washington Post: Full Text of Iraqi Constitution. <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/10/12/AR2005101201450.html>>. Retrieved 12 January 2011.

⁹ Assyrian International News Agency. <<http://www.aina.org/news/20090417102031.htm>>. Retrieved 12 January 2011.

¹⁰ As learned from communication with members of Iraq's national mapping authority.

¹¹ United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. <<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/>>. Retrieved 13 January 2011.

b. Romanization

Arabic geographic names are to be transliterated using the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic (see Appendix A) while incorporating those modifications for special characters approved by the BGN for Iraqi toponymy (see Appendix B). For names collected from Kurdish language sources in Kurdish script, the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Kurdish is applied. This system can be found in Appendix C.

c. Language Policy

The recommendation for Iraq's dual-language policy was approved at FNC 371. The policy states:

"The policy for dual attribution of approved name types for both Kurdish and Arabic language names will apply only to the provinces of Arbīl, As Sulaymānīyah, and Dahūk.¹³ Geographic features for which an Arabicized Kurdish name has been collected as BGN-approved (Name Type N) in the Geographic Names Database (GNDB) will also have a BGN-approved Kurdish name. After a hierarchy of Kurdish sources has been determined, those Kurdish variant and variant-script entries from the most authoritative source will be changed to the BGN approved Kurdish name, while the remaining Kurdish names from less reliable sources will remain as variant and variant-script. BGN-approved Arabic names, for which no Kurdish names are available, will remain unchanged. The dual language policy of Iraq can be found in Appendix D."

d. Generics

A generic is a term that describes a feature. 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, in which case the term would not be collected as a generic. Generics are not collected for populated places.

For a glossary of Arabic generic terms, see Appendix C.

For a glossary of Kurdish generic terms, see Appendix E.

e. Hyphenation and Capitalization

Hyphenation is rare in Iraqi geographic names. If a hyphen does occur, it is included in the approved romanized form of the name as well. Romanized geographic names are written in upper- and lower-case letters. All name elements are written with an initial uppercase letter, except for the various forms of the definite article and any conjunctions, such as the word "wa," meaning "and," when they are in medial positions.

¹² Two Kurdish characters (ﻻ and ﻻ) do not display correctly with the Arial Unicode MS font, which is used in the database. However, these characters will display correctly with other fonts, such as Arial and Times New Roman.

¹³ At FNC 373 (11 December 2012) Kurdish names were approved for the three first-order administrative divisions of Arbīl, As Sulaymānīyah, and Dahūk, as well as for Baghdad (PPLC) and Iraq (PCLI)

f. Short Forms

Short forms of geographic names in Iraq are collected for such features as Country name (PCLI), Country Capital (PPLC), and First-order Administrative Division (ADM1).

g. Numbers

Arabic, Kurdish, and Roman numerals are rarely found in Iraqi geographic names. When they do occur, they are written out then romanized.

h. Abbreviations

Abbreviations are not generally found in Iraqi geographic names, however, if present they will be expanded to their full form and romanized accordingly.

4. Political Geography Policy

a. Country Name

Conventional Short Form	Iraq
Conventional Long Form	Republic of Iraq
Arabic Short Form – Native Script	العراق
Arabic Short Form – Romanized	Al ‘Irāq
Arabic Long Form – Native Script	جمهورية العراق
Arabic Long Form – Romanized	Jumhūrīyat al ‘Irāq
Kurdish (Sorani) Short Form – Native Script	عێراق
Kurdish (Sorani) Short Form – Romanized	‘Êraq
Kurdish (Sorani) Long Form – Native Script	كۆماری عێراق
Kurdish (Sorani) Long Form – Romanized	Komar-î ‘Êraq

b. Capital Name

Conventional Short Form	Baghdad
Arabic Short Form – Native Script	بغداد
Arabic Short Form – Romanized	Baghdād
Kurdish (Sorani) Short Form – Native Script	به‌غداد
Kurdish (Sorani) Short Form – Romanized	Beghdad

b. First-order Administrative Divisions

<i>Short Form Name</i>	<i>Seat</i>	<i>FIPS Code</i>	<i>ISO 3166-2 Code</i>
Al Anbār الأنبار	Ar Ramādī الرمادي	IZ01	IQ-AN
Al Baṣrah البصرة	Al Baṣrah البصرة	IZ02	IQ-BA
Al Muthanná	As Samāwah	IZ03	IQ-MU

المتنى	ال سماوه		
Al Qādisīyah القادسية	Ad Dīwānīyah الديوانية	IZ04	IQ-QA
As Sulaymānīyah السليمانية	As Sulaymānīyah السليمانية	IZ05	IQ-SU
Slêmanî سليمانى	Slêmanî سليمانى		
Bābil بابل	Al Ḥillah الحلة	IZ06	IQ-BB
Baghdād بغداد	Baghdad* بغداد Beghdad* بهغداد	IZ07	IQ-BG
Dahūk دهوك	Dahūk دهوك	IZ08	IQ-DA
Dihok دهوك	Dihok دهوك		
Dhī Qār ذي قار	An Nāṣirīyah الناصرية	IZ09	IQ-DQ
Diyālā ديالى	Ba‘qūbah بعقوبة	IZ10	IQ-DI
Arbīl أربيل	Erbīl أربيل	IZ11	IQ-AR
Hewlêr هولير	Hewlêr هولير		
Karbalā’ كربلاء	Karbalā’ كربلاء	IZ12	IQ-KA
Kirkūk كركوك	Kirkuk كركوك	IZ13	IQ-(**)
Maysān ميسان	Al ‘Amārah العمارة	IZ14	IQ-MA
Nīnawá نينوى	Mosul موصل	IZ15	IQ-NI
Wāsiṭ واسط	Al Kūt الكوت	IZ16	IQ-WA
An Najaf النجف	An Najaf al Ashraf النجف الأشرف	IZ17	IQ-NA
Ṣalāḥ ad Dīn صلاح الدين	Tikrīt تكريت	IZ18	IQ-SD

*Also serves as a PPLC.

**There is an old ISO 3166-2 code for Kirkuk under the old Province name of at Ta'mim as IQ-TA.

c. Unique Geopolitical Situations

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/>.

Iraq and Iran dispute certain aspects of their riverine boundary along the Shatt al Arab, but this dispute does not affect names policy. Also, Iraq and Iran differ in how each refers to what is conventionally known as the Persian Gulf. Iraq uses the name *Al-Khalīj al-Arabī*, which means Arabian Gulf. The BGN-approved conventional name for that feature is 'Persian Gulf.'

5. Source Material

d. Preferred Sources

Following is a list of sources utilized in geographic names collection, listed in order of preference.

1- Primary Sources:

Iraqi Military Survey is the de facto national names authority in Iraq. The primary sources used for populating the Iraq country database are Iraqi map series of 1:100,000 and some 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 maps published by the Iraqi Military Survey Service, Iraqi Armed Forces. At present the entire country of Iraq is covered by modern detailed maps at 1:50,000, 1:100,000 and 1:250,000. Also during the period 1974 – 78 about 1,500 map sheets at 1: 25,000 scale were produced.

2- Secondary Sources:

There are some other maps that are used as secondary sources, which are based on the Gazetteer of Iraq, Third Edition, 1980 such as:

- a-** Iraq Tourist Map, 1:2,000,000 published by the State Organization for Tourism (Iraq) 1980.
- b-** Iraq Tourist map, 1:1,500,000 published by the Summer Resort and Tourism Administration (Iraq), 1976.
- c-** Joint Operation Graphic (Series 1501), 1:250,000 US Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic / Topographic Center, 1966 – 1982.
- d-** Asia, 1:1,000,000, GSGS 2555, Geographical Section, U.K. General Staff, 1942 – 44.
- e-** Map of Provinces of Iraq, 1:250,000, Survey Directorate, Baghdad, 1951.
- f-** Iraq, 1:253,440, GSGS 3919, Geographical Section, U.K. General Staff, 1942.

Maps published by Kurdistan Regional Government:

- a-** Map of Kurdistan region Iraq, 1:382,000, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of K. R. G., 2004.
- b-** The Map of Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 1:300,000, Kurdistan Reconstruction & Development Society (KURDS), Sulaymaniyah, 1991.

Approved: FNC 374
12 March 2013

c- Administrative map of Dihok province, 1:191,192, Kurdistan Regional Government, Ministry of Planning, 2010 (Pure Kurdish Kurmanji dialect map).

Appendix A. BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR ARABIC

BGN/PCGN 1956 System

This System was adopted by the BGN in 1946 and by the PCGN in 1956 and is applied in the systematic romanization of geographic names in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Uniform results in the romanization of Arabic are difficult to obtain, since vowel points and diacritical marks are generally omitted from both manual and machine writing. It follows that for correct identification of the words which appear in any particular name, knowledge of its standard Arabic script spelling including proper pointing, and recognition of dialectal and idiosyncratic deviations are essential. In order to bring about uniformity in the Roman-script spelling of geographic names in Arabic language areas, the system is based insofar as possible on fully pointed modern standard Arabic. In the interest of clarity, vowel pointing has been applied to the examples below. Arabic is written from right to left, and does not make a distinction between upper and lower case.

CONSONANT CHARACTERS

Arabic				Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
Final	Medial	Initial	Independent			
1. ء				<i>not romanized in word-initial position</i>	أَبُو كَمَالٍ	Abū Kamāl
				' in all other positions	بِنْرُ زَيْتٍ صَنْعَاءُ	Bi'r Zayt ² Şan'ā'
2. ل		ا		<i>not romanized in word-initial position</i>	أُمُّ الْعَمَدِ	Umm al 'Amad ³
3. ب	ب	ب	ب	b	الْبَحْرَيْنِ	Al Baḥrayn
4. ت	ت	ت	ت	t	الْكُوتِ	Al Kūt
5. ث	ث	ث	ث	th	الثَّلَاثِيَّاتِ	Ath Thulaythuwāt
6. ج	ج	ج	ج	j	الْجَزِيرَةِ	Al Jazīrah
7. ح	ح	ح	ح	ḥ	الْمَحْمُودِيَّةِ	Al Maḥmūdīyah
8. خ	خ	خ	خ	kh	خَيْبَرَ	Khaybar
9. د		د		d	دَمَنْهَوْرَ	Damanhūr
10. ذ		ذ		dh	دَهَبَ	Dhahab
11. ر		ر		r	الرَّوَضَةِ	Ar Rawḍah
12. ز		ز		z	الزَّوَايَةِ	Az Zāwīyah
13. س	س	س	س	s	سُلَيْمَانِيَّةِ	Sulaymānīyah
14. ش	ش	ش	ش	sh	الشَّامِ	Ash Shām
15. ص	ص	ص	ص	ṣ	قَيْصُومَةَ	Qayṣūmah

	Arabic				Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent			
16.	ض	ضد	ضد	ض	ḍ	ضَوْرٌ	Ḍawr
17.	ط	طط	طط	ط	ṭ	القَنْيَطِرَة	Al Qunayṭirah
18.	ظ	ظظ	ظظ	ظ	ẓ	أبو ظَبِي	Abū Ḍaby
19.	ع	عع	عع	ع		أبو عَرِيْش	Abū 'Arīsh
20.	غ	غغ	غغ	غ	gh	بَغْدَادٌ	Baghdād
21.	ف	فف	فف	ف	f	الفِرَاتُ	Al Furāt
22.	ق	قق	قق	ق	q	قَطْرٌ	Qaṭar
23.	ك	كك	كك	ك	k	الكوَيْتُ	Al Kuwayt
24.	ل	لل	لل	ل	l	حَلَبٌ	Ḥalab
25.	م	مم	مم	م	m	مَكَّة	Makkah
26.	ن	نن	نن	ن	n	نَخْلٌ	Nakhl
27.	ه	هه/هه	هه	ه	h	جَبَلُ هَارُونَ	Jabal Hārūn
28.	و		و	و	w	وَادِي غَضَا	Wādī Ghaḍā
29.	ي	يي	يي	ي	y	اليَمَنُ	Al Yaman

VOWEL CHARACTERS AND DIACRITICAL MARKS

	Arabic	Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
1.	اَ	a	البَصْرَة	Al Baṣrah
2.	إِ	i	الرِّيَاضُ	Ar Riyāḍ
3.	أُ	u	القُدْسُ	Al Quds
4.	آ	ā	بَابُ المَنْدَبِ	Bāb al Mandab ³
5.	إِي	ī	المَدِينَة	Al Madīnah
6.	أُو	ū	ضَوْرٌ	Ṣūr
7.	أُوِي		مَرْسَى مَطْرُوحٍ	Marsá Maṭrūḥ ⁷
8.	اَ	not romanized	Indicates absence of a short vowel.	
9.	أَي	ay	شَيْدَا	Ṣaydā
10.	أَو	aw	الدَّوْحَة	Ad Dawḥah
11.	اَ	a ⁿ	See note 8	
12.	إِ	i ⁿ	See note 8	
13.	أُ	u ⁿ	See note 8	
14.	اَ	doubling of consonant letter	See note 9	
15.	اَ	'	See note 10	
16.		ā in word-initial position	أَلْبُوْمُعَيْطُ	Ālbu Mu'ayṭ ^{3,11}
	آ	'ā in word-medial position	قُرْآنٌ	Qur'ān ³

NUMERALS									
١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩	٠
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

Although Perso-Arabic script is written from right to left, numerical expressions, e.g., 1956 - ١٩٥٦ are written from left to right.

NOTES

1. The symbol ○ represents any Arabic consonant character.
2. *Hamzah* (ء) is written in Arabic in association with most instances of initial *alif*, except those which belong to the definite article **al** or which bear a *maddah* (see note 11). *Hamzah* is written above the *alif* if the accompanying short vowel is a *fathah* (َ) or *ḍammah* (ُ) and below the *alif* if the accompanying short vowel is a *kasrah* (ِ). When the purpose is to indicate the presence of a glottal stop, *hamzah* is written over medial and final *alif* (أ), *wāw* (و) and *yā'* without dots (ي). *Hamzah* following *kasrah* (ِ) is written (ي). Almost always the *yā'* is in the initial or medial form and the dots are omitted: example: (ي). *Hamzah* following *ḍammah* (ُ) is written (و). *Hamzah* following a long vowel is written without a bearer and is positioned on the line of print like a regular character. The romanization of *hamzah* () should always be carefully distinguished from that of *ayn* ().
3. *Alif* as such is not romanized when it is a bearer of *hamzah*, but see *fathah alif* (أ) and *alif maddah* (آ) in the vowel table. See also notes 2 and 11.
4. In certain endings, an original *tā'* (ت) is written (ة), i.e., like *hā'* with two dots, and is known as *tā marbūṭah*. It is romanized **h**, except in the construct form, where it is romanized **t** instead. Example: *hamzah, hamzat al qaṭ'*. The ending *fathah hā'* (هـ) may be romanized **a h** when the character *hā'* (هـ) is not silent. Example: **Muntaza h**. See also note 5.
5. Occasionally, the character sequences كـهـ, تـهـ, دـهـ and سهـ occur. They may be romanized **k h, t h, d h, and s h** in order to differentiate those romanizations from the digraphs **kh, th, dh, and sh**. See also note 4.
6. Where special considerations are paramount, the sub-dot () may be used in place of the cedilla.
7. The character *yā'* (in final form but without dots) preceded by the vowel point *fathah* is a combination known as *alif maqṣūrah*. See character 7 in the vowel table.
8. The classical Arabic grammatical endings written with the nunation symbols (*tanwīn*) may be romanized, when necessary, by **aⁿ, iⁿ, uⁿ**. In modern Arabic, these endings have become silent and should not be romanized: classical *alifuⁿ* modern *alif*.
9. Doubled consonant sounds are represented in Arabic script by placing a *shaddah* (ّ) over a consonant character. In romanization the letter should be doubled. However, the combination of the consonant character *yā'* with a *shaddah* preceded by a *kasrah* (يّ) is romanized **īy** rather than **iyy**. e.g., (يّ) is romanized (**īyah**) and not (**iyyah**).

When the definite article (**al**) precedes a word beginning with one of the sun letters **t, th, d, dh, r, z, s, sh, ṣ, ḍ, ṭ, ḏ, l**, or **n** the **l** is assimilated in pronunciation and romanization, thus yielding **tt, thth,** etc., in romanization. Example, **An Nīl**, not **Al Nīl**.

10. *Hamzat al waṣl* (ّ), which is utilized only in the pointing of classical Arabic, is romanized as illustrated in the classical form of its name *hamzatu'l waṣli*.
11. Since *maddah* (̣), which is placed over *alif* (ا), nearly always occurs in word-initial position, no confusion results from the use of **ā** for *alif maddah* (آ) as well as for *fatḥah alif* (آ).
12. The ligatures لآ and لآ represent *lām- alif*, and should be romanized **lā**.

SPECIAL RULES

1. Initial definite articles and prepositions should be capitalized and hyphens should not be used to connect parts of names, e.g., **Ash Shāriḳah** and **Tall al Laḥm**.
2. If any evidence is found for the use of the definite article in a name, the article should be used in the name chosen.
3. The Arabic word for God should be written **Allāh** (الله).
4. Names which consist of noun phrases should be written as separate words. The definite article within such names should be romanized **al**, not **ul**, e.g., **Abd Allāh**, **Abd ar Raḥmān**, **Dhū al Faḳār**.
5. The Arabic word بن should be romanized **Bin** rather than **Ibn** whenever written without *alif*, that is between two proper nouns, e.g., **Umar Bin al Khaṭṭāb**.
6. The Turkish word **Paṣa** should be romanized from Arabic script as **Bāshā**. The Turkish word **Bey** should be romanized as **Bey** in Egyptian names, no matter how it is written in Arabic-language sources, but in other Arabic areas it should be romanized as **Bak** where written بك and as **Bayk** when written بك.
7. The modern colloquial word **Sīdī** should be give precedence over the classical form **Sayyidī**. This does not preclude the spelling **Sayyidī** if the latter is indicated by the Arabic script or other evidence for instance, if the *yā'* is written with a *shaddah* (ّ).
8. The colloquial word **Bū** should not be changed to the standard form **Abū**.
9. The colloquial word for water, written مية on Arabic maps, should be romanized **Mayyat**.
10. Place names of Aramaic origin in Syria often contain initial consonant clusters consisting of **b**

plus another consonant such as **l** or **h**. In romanizing such place names in Syria and Lebanon, the clusters **bl**, **bh**, etc., should be so represented.

11. In names containing the Arabic word for back, ridge, or hill, appearing as either **ظهر** or **ضهر** in Arabic sources, the word should be romanized to reflect the particular Arabic spelling shown.

Appendix B. Provisions for the Romanization of Non-Standard Arabic Characters in Iraqi Geographic Names

These additional letters are used in Iraqi cartography:

Isolated	Final	Medial	Initial	Name	Phonemic Value (IPA)
پ	پ	پ	پ	pe	/p/
چ	چ	چ	چ	che	/tʃ/
گ	گ	گ	گ	gāf	/g/
ف	ف	ف	ف	ve	/v/

Appendix C. BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Kurdish

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR KURDISH

BGN/PCGN 2007

The tabulation below is applicable to the Kurdish language as a whole. It is based for the most part on the Hawar Roman alphabet used in the Library of Congress *Standard Kurdish Orthography Table*, but it also incorporates certain non-Hawar elements found in *A Kurdish-English Dictionary* (Taufiq Wahby & C J Edmonds, OUP, 1966). The tabulation covers both major varieties of the Kurdish language: Kurmanji and Sorani. *Kurmanji* is spoken principally in Turkey and in Iraq north of the Great Zab River (Muḥāfaẓat Dahūk (Dahūk Governorate)). It is usually written in Roman script, employing much of the Roman orthography in the table below. *Sorani* is spoken principally in Iraq south of the Great Zab river (Arbīl and As Sulaymānīyah governorates). It is usually written in Perso-Arabic script, employing much of the Perso-Arabic script orthography below.

Kurdish forms of geographical names in Turkey will usually be found in Roman script, and so no romanization process will be required. The digraph options for consonant letters 6, 15, and 20 will not be encountered for such names. In Iraq, Syria, and Iran, Kurdish will usually be encountered in Perso-Arabic script as in column 1 below, in which case it should be romanized into the corresponding Roman script form in column 2 below, here employing the digraph options for consonant letters 6, 15, and 20. Kurdish geographical names for places and features outside Turkey, found in Roman script form, should, where necessary and if possible, be tailored to fit the orthography of column 2 below and should employ the digraph options for consonant letters 6, 15, and 20.

CONSONANT CHARACTERS

	Kurdish	Romanization	Notes
1.	ء	'	see note 1
2.	ب	b	
3.	پ	p	
4.	ت	t	see note 2
5.	ج	c	
6.	چ	ch / ç	see note 3
7.	ح	h	
8.	خ	x	
9.	د	d	
10.	ر	r	
11.	ژ	ɹ	formerly written ژ or زر according to typeface available; may vary on older sources

	Kurdish	Romanization	Notes
12.	ز	z	see note 2
13.	ژ	j	
14.	س	s	see note 2
15.	ش	sh / ş	see note 3
16.	ص	ş	see note 2
17.	ض	ḍ	see note 2
18.	ط	ṭ	see note 2
19.	ع	'	
20.	غ	gh / ħ	see note 3
21.	ف	f	
22.	ڤ	v	see note 4
23.	ق	q	
24.	ك	k	
25.	گ	g	
26.	ل	l	
27.	ل	l	formerly written ʃ according to type available; may vary on older sources
28.	م	m	
29.	ن	n	
30.	و	w	see note 4
31.	ه	h	see note 5
32.	ي	y	

VOWELS

	Kurdish	Romanization	Notes
1.	ئه/ه	e	see note 5
2.	ئا/ا	a	
3.	ئى/ي	î	see note 6
4.	(no mark) / ئ	i	see note 6
5.	ئى/ئى	ê	
6.	ئو/و	u	

	Kurdish	Romanization	Notes
7.	ئوو / وو	û	
8.	ئۆ / وۆ	o	
9.	و	ö	Rare; previously written وي
10.	ۆ	ü	Only appearing in some dialects and only in old sources. Often equated to /û/ (row 7 above). Sometimes written يو

NOTES

1. In pure Kurdish words *hamza* is borne by *yā'* (ئ) and occurs only before initial vowels; it is not romanized. Medial and final *hamza* in Arabic borrowings are romanized by ' (apostrophe).
2. The letters ط ظ ص ض ن ث do not occur in pure Kurdish words. In Arabic borrowings some writers retain these letters, others substitute ز س ز ت ز respectively. Only the letters ض ط and ص are catered for in the Library of Congress tabulation, as reflected in lines 16-18 of the above table. Words of obvious Arabic origin occurring in a Kurdish toponymic environment will be treated as Kurdish rather than Arabic.
3. The digraph options should be used for Kurdish geographical names in Iraq, Iran, and Syria. The single character options should be used for Kurdish geographical names in Turkey.
4. ئۆ is used to represent "v" in foreign words. Some southern Kurdish writers use it to represent the "v" in borrowings from northern Kurdish dialects. و is pronounced as a "v" in the north and as a "w" elsewhere.
5. *Hā'* can be used as a vowel or a consonant. The initial (هـ) and medial (هـ) forms are used for the consonant 'h', while the final (هـ) and independent (هـ) forms are used to represent the vowel 'e'. Therefore, when used as a consonant, the final and independent forms of *hā'* will be seen as 'h' instead of 'هـ' and 'هـ', respectively. For example, مهـ meh, ("month"). When used as 'e', the *hā'* behaves like the letters *alif* (ا), *wāw* (و), *dāl* (د), *rā* (ر), in that it never joins to the following letter (*i.e.*, it has no medial form). Consequently, the following letter will display the initial form (unless there is only one following letter, in which case it will be written in the independent form). As with other vowels (see special rules 2 and 3), initial 'e' is preceded by the *kursī hamza*, yielding initial هـ (e.g., هـ ئهـ enî "forehead").
6. In pure Kurdish words, the vowel ی is always long î. When it represents *îzafe*, it is also romanized î and joined by means of a hyphen to its preceding word.

SPECIAL RULES

1. The conjunction 'and' (و) should be rendered u if the preceding word ends in a consonant, and w if the preceding word ends in a vowel. It should be separated by spaces from the preceding and following words.

2. In the Perso-Arabic orthography for Kurdish, all vowels are written, with the exception of the short i, which is expressed with a *kasrah* under the preceding consonant (ـِ). In Perso-Arabic script, the *kasrah* will rarely be written (e.g., کړن kirin “to do”). Like all Kurdish vowels, the short i will be preceded by a *kursî hamza* (ئ) if it appears at the beginning of a word (see 3. below)
3. In the Perso-Arabic orthography for Kurdish, when a vowel comes at the beginning of a word, or when a vowel directly follows another vowel, a *kursî hamza* precedes it (e.g., ئاگر agir “fire”).
4. A Kurdish word will never start with *alif* (ا). A Kurdish word may begin with a *yā'* (ي) or *wāw* (و), but only when they are used as a consonant, when they will be romanized as y and w, respectively.
5. When preceded by a consonant, *yā'* (ي) and *wāw* (و) should be romanized î and u, respectively. When preceded by a vowel (including short i, which is not written), *yā'* (ي) and *wāw* (و) should be romanized y and w, respectively.
6. The Arabic sign *shaddah* (ّ) denoting a doubled consonant is not used in Kurdish; doubled consonants, which are rare, are written twice. *Shaddah* might be used in Arabic borrowings but, as in unpointed Arabic, would generally be omitted.
7. Particles such as *le* (= at, in, on) and *be* (= to, for, by, with) should be written separately from their following word.
8. Occasionally the character sequences چ, سه, and گه, occur. They may be romanized c-h, s-h, and g-h in order to differentiate those romanizations from the digraphs ch, sh, and gh.

Appendix D. Dual Language Names Policy (Kurdish / Arabic)

FNC 371

TO: BGN Foreign Names Committee
FROM: S. Ameen, Staff
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED POLICY CHANGE: IRAQ
DATE: 29 March 2012

Summary: This paper recommends a policy change concerning the official languages of Iraq.

In August 2005, the Iraqi National Assembly finalized the Iraqi constitution. In October 2005, the constitution was approved in a national referendum. According to article four of the 2005 Constitution, Arabic and Kurdish are identified as the two official languages of Iraq.

Additionally the other languages of Turkmen, Syriac, and Armenian shall be guaranteed in government educational institutions in accordance with educational guidelines, or in any other language in private educational institutions. The scope of the term “official language” and the means of applying the provisions of this article shall be defined by a law and shall include:

1. Publication of the Official Gazette, in the two languages, Kurdish and Arabic.
2. Speech, conversation, and expression in official domains, such as the Council of Representatives, the Council of Ministers, courts, and official conferences, in either of the two languages.
3. Recognition and publication of official documents and correspondence in the two languages.
4. Opening schools that teach the two languages, in accordance with the educational guidelines.
5. Use of both languages in any matter enjoined by the principle of equality such as bank notes, passports, and stamps.

The federal and official institutions and agencies in the Kurdistan region shall use both languages.

Each region or governorate may adopt any other local language as an additional official language if the majority of its population so decides in a general referendum.

The policy for dual attribution of approved name types for both Kurdish and Arabic language names will apply only to the provinces of Arbīl, As Sulaymānīyah, and Dahūk. Geographic features for which an Arabicized Kurdish names has been collected as BGN-approved (Name Type N) in the Geographic Names Database (GNDB) will also have a BGN-approved Kurdish name. After a hierarchy of Kurdish sources has been determined, those Kurdish variant and variant-script entries from the most authoritative source will be changed to the BGN approved Kurdish name, while the remaining Kurdish names from less reliable sources will remain as variant and variant-script. BGN-approved Arabic names, for which no Kurdish names are available, will remain unchanged.

The recommended policy change is based on evidence contained in the following sources:

Article four of the Iraqi constitution approved and published on October 2005:

<http://www.cabinet.iq/PageViewer.aspx?id=2>

Iraqi Parliament, Iraqi Cabinet, and Iraqi supreme court logo in both Language Kurdish and Arabic:

<http://www.iraqipresidency.net/index.php?language=arabic> (Arabic)

<http://www.iraqipresidency.net/index.php?language=kurdish> (Kurdish)

<http://www.parliament.iq/> (Arabic)

<http://www.parliament.iq/kurdish/index.php?newlang=arabic> (Kurdish)

http://www.mojkurdistan.com/Arabic_Malper.aspx (Arabic)

http://www.mojkurdistan.com/Kurdish_Malper.aspx (Kurdish)

<http://www.perlemanikurdistan.com/> (Kurdish)

<http://www.perlemanikurdistan.com/Default.aspx> (Arabic)

Appendix E. Glossary of Generic Terms

Glossary of Arabic Toponymic Terms in Iraq

Generic Name	Language Code	Designation	Designation Name
Jāl	Ara	CLF, HLLS, RDGE	cliff(s), hills, ridge(s)
'Ayādat, 'Iyādah, 'Iyādat	Ara	HSPC	clinic
'Ayn, 'Uyūn, 'Uyūn Mā'	Ara	SPNG, WLL	spring(s), well
'Uqlah, 'Uqlat	Ara	POOLI, WLL, WLLS	intermittent pool, well, wells
Arḍ, Arāḍī	Ara	AREA, CULT, LCTY	Area, cultivated area, locality
Āthār	Ara	ANS, PPLQ, RUIN	ancient site, abandoned populated place, ruin(s)
Aṭlāl	Ara	ANS, RUIN	ancient site, ruin(s)
Āw	Ara	STM, STMI, WAD	Stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Bādiyat	Ara	DSRT	desert
Baḥr	Ara	LKI, MRSH	intermittent lake, marsh(es)
Bank	Ara	PK	peak
Bāsk	Ara	RDGE, MT	ridge(s), mountain
Bi'r Naḥḥ, Ābār Naḥḥ	Ara	OILW, OILWS	oil well, oil wells
Bi'r, Bi'ār, Ābār, Abiār	Ara	SPNG, WLL, WLLS, WLLQ	spring(s), well, wells, abandoned well
Bid'at, Bid'ah	Ara	CNL, CNLQ	Canal, abandoned canal, section of canal
Birkat, Birkah	Ara	LKI, MRSH, PNDI, PND, POOL, WLL, WLLS, WTRH	intermittent lake, marsh(es), intermittent pond, pond, pool, well, wells, waterhole(s)
Buḥayrat, Buḥayrah	Ara	LK, LKI, RSV	Lake, intermittent lake, reservoir(s)
Burj	Ara	TOWR	tower
Bustān, Basātīn	Ara	CULT, FRM, FRMS, GDN, GRVP, OCH	cultivated area, farm(s), palm grove, gardens, orchard(s)
Cham	Ara	STM, RVN, STMA, STMC, STMD, STMI, WAD	Stream, ravine(s), anabranch, canalized stream, tributary(-ies), intermittent stream, wadi
Chīā	Ara	HLL, HLLS, MT, PK, PROM, RDGE, SDL, SLP, SPUR	Hill, hills, mountain, peak, promontory(-ies), ridge(s), saddle, slope(s), spur(s)
Dā'irat Kamārik, Markaz	Ara	CSTM	customs house

Kumruk			
Dār, Dūr	Ara	BLDG	building(s)
Darb	Ara	RD, TRL	Road, trail
Dasht	Ara	PLN	plain(s)
Dayr	Ara	MSTY	monastery
Ḍulayṯ, Ḍulay'āt	Ara	HLLS	hills
Duwaykhalat	Ara	WAD	wadi
Fayḍat, Fayḍah	Ara	DPR, FLTM, SALT, SBKH, WAD, WADJ, WTRH	depression(s), mud flat(s), salt area, sabkha(s), wadi, wadi junction, waterhole(s)
Funduq	Ara	HTL	hotel
Galī, Kalī	Ara	GRGE, MT, PASS, RVN, STM, STMI, STMX, WAD	gorge(s), mountain, pass, ravine(s), stream, intermittent stream, section of stream, wadi
Ghadifat	Ara	WAD	wadi
Ghadīr, Ghudayrāt	Ara	HLL, POOLI, SPNG, WAD, WLL, WLLS, WTRH	Hill, intermittent pool, spring(s), wadi, well, wells, waterhole(s)
Gīrd, Kird	Ara	HLL, MT, PK, RDGE, SPUR, STMI	Hill, mountain, peak, ridge(s), spur(s), intermittent stream
Ḥamrat	Ara	SPNG	spring(s)
Ḥaql Naft, Ḥuqūl Naft	Ara	OILF	oilfield
Ḥaql, Ḥuqūl, Ḥuqūl Dawājīn	Ara	CULT, FRM, FRMS, GRVP, OCH	cultivated area, farm, farms, palm grove, orchard(s)
Hasār	Ara	MT, SLP	Mountain, slope(s)
Ḥāwī	Ara	PLN	plain(s)
Hawr, Hawrat, Ahwār	Ara	LK, LKI, LKSI, MRSH, SYSI, WTRH	Lake, intermittent lake, intermittent lakes, marsh(es), irrigation system, waterhole(s)
Ḥayy	Ara	PPLX, PPL	section of populated place, populated place
Imām	Ara	SHRN, TMB, GRVE, CMTY	Shrine, tomb(s), grave, cemetery
Īshān	Ara	MND	mound(s)
Jabal, Jibāl	Ara	HLL, HLLS, MT, MTS, PK, PROM, RDGE, SCRIP, SDL, SLP, SPUR	Hill, hills, mountain, mountains, peak, promontory(-ies), ridge(s), escarpment, saddle, slope(s), spur(s)
Jadwal	Ara	CNL, STM, STMI, SYSI, WAD	Canal, stream, intermittent stream, irrigation system, wadi

Jalīb	Ara	WLL	well
Jaltat	Ara	POOLI, WLL, WLLS, WTRH	intermittent pool, well, wells, waterhole(s)
Jam'iyah, Jam'iyat	Ara	FCL	facility
Jāmi'	Ara	MSQE	mosque
Jāmi'at, Jāmi'ah	Ara	SCH	School, College
Jaww	Ara	DPR	depression(s)
Jazīrah, Jazīrat	Ara	ISL, AREA	Island, area
Jisr	Ara	BDG, FORD	Bridge, ford
Jithm, Jithūm	Ara	CARN, HLL, HLLS	Cairn, hill, hills
Jumhūrīyah, Jumhūrīyat	Ara	PCLI	independent political entity
Jurf	Ara	LDGU	undersea ledge
Kahf	Ara	CAVE	cave(s)
Kand, Kandī	Ara	STM, WAD, STMI	Stream, wadi, intermittent stream
Kānī	Ara	SPNG, STM, STMH, STMI, WAD	spring(s), stream, headwaters, intermittent stream, wadi
Karmat	Ara	CNLI, STM, STMC, STMD	irrigation canal, stream, canalized stream, distributary(-ies)
Kāzīnū	Ara	CSNO	casino
Khabrat, Khabrah, Khabārī	Ara	LKI, LKNI, LKSI, FLTM, PAN, POOLI, MRSH, STMI, WTRH	intermittent lake, intermittent salt lake, intermittent lakes, mud flat(s), Pan, intermittent pool, marsh(es), intermittent stream, waterhole(s)
Khashm, Khashmah	Ara	HLL, PK, SCRIP, SPUR	Hill, peak, escarpment, spur(s)
Khaṭṭ Unbūb, Unbūb Naṭṭ, Khaṭṭ Anābīb	Ara	OILP, FCL	oil pipeline, facility
Khawr	Ara	CNL, LK, CNLI, STMI, CHNM, WAD	Lake, irrigation canal, canal, intermittent stream, marine channel, wadi
Khazzān Mā'	Ara	RSVT	water tank
Khīr	Ara	STM, STMI, WAD	Stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Khīrbat, Khīrbah, Kharābah, Kharābat, Kharā'ib	Ara	ANS, RUIN	ancient site, ruin(s)
Lūtka	Ara	MT, PK	Mountain, peak

Ma'bad	Ara	TMPL	Temple
Ma'mal	Ara	MFG, MFGB, ML, MNQR	Factory, brewery, mill(s), quarry(-ies)
Mabzal, Mabāzil	Ara	CNL, CNLX, CNLI, SYSI	canal, section of canal, irrigation canal, irrigation system
Maḡīq	Ara	PASS	pass
Madrasah, Madrasat	Ara	SCH, SCHM	School, military school
Mafqas	Ara	FCL, FRM	Facility, farm
Maḡaṭṭah, Maḡaṭṭat Qiṭār, Maḡaṭṭat Rādīw	Ara	RSTN, RSTNQ, STNR	railroad station, abandoned railroad station, radio station
Maḡaṭṭah, Maḡaṭṭat, Maḡaṭṭat Kahrabā', Maḡaṭṭat Tāqah, Maḡaṭṭat Ḍaḡḡḡ	Ara	PS,	power station
Maḡaṭṭat aḍ Ḍakhkh	Ara	PMPO	oil pumping station
Maḡaṭṭat aḍ Ḍakhkh, Maḡaṭṭat Ḍakhkh Mā', Miḍakhkhat Mā'	Ara	PMPW	water pumping station
Maḡfūr	Ara	WTRH	waterhole(s)
Makhāzin	Ara	SHSE	storehouse
Makhfar Ḥudūd	Ara	PSTB, BP	border post, boundary marker
Makhfar, Makhfar Shurṭat, Makhfar Shurṭah, Markaz Shurtat, Markaz Shurṭah	Ara	PP, PSTB	police post, border post
Mal'ab	Ara	STDM	stadium
Mamarr	Ara	PASS	pass
Manārah, Manārat	Ara	MSQE, SHRN, TOWR	Mosque, shrine, tower
Manzil, Manāzil	Ara	HSE	house(s)
Maqām	Ara	SHRN, GRVE, CMTY, TMB	Shrine, grave, cemetery, tomb(s)
Maqbarah, Maqbarat	Ara	CMTY, GRVE, TMB	Cemetery, grave, tomb(s)
Maraqqaṭ	Ara	SHOL	shoal(s)
Markaz	Ara	FCL	facility
Markaz aṣ Ṣiḡḡī	Ara	HSPC	clinic

Markaz Nāḥiya	Ara	ADMF	administrative facility
Marqab	Ara	HLL	hill
Marqad	Ara	SHRN, GRVE, CMTY, TMB	Shrine, grave, cemetery, tomb(s)
Maşfá, Maşāfi	Ara	OILR, OILRS	oil refinery, oil refinery(ies)
Mashtal	Ara	NSY	nursery(-ies)
Maşif	Ara	RSRT	resort
Maşlaḥat Majārī	Ara	FCL	facility
Maṭār	Ara	AIRB	Airbase, airfield, airport
Maṭḥaf	Ara	MUS	museum
Mazār	Ara	SHRN, GRVE, CMTY, TMB	Shrine, grave, cemetery, tomb(s)
Mazra'at, Mazra'ah, Mazāri'	Ara	FRM, FRMS	Farm, farms
Milah, Mila	Ara	MT, PASS, PK, SDL	Mountain, pass, peak, saddle
Mīnā'	Ara	TRMO	oil pipeline terminal
Minṭaqat, Minṭaqah	Ara	LCTY, AREA	Locality, area
Miṭḥanah, Miṭḥanat	Ara	ML	mill(s)
Mu'askar	Ara	FT, LCTY, MILB	Fort, locality, military base
Muḥāfaẓat	Ara	ADM1	first-order administrative division
Mujamma', Mujama'	Ara	PPL	populated place
Mukhayyam, Mukhayyamāt	Ara	CMP	camp(s)
Munkhafaḍ	Ara	CNL, DPR, LKI, WTRH	Canal, depression(s), intermittent lake, waterhole(s)
Muntazah	Ara	PRK	park
Mustanqa'	Ara	MRSH	marsh(es)
Mustashfá	Ara	HSP	hospital
Mustawşaf	Ara	CTRM, HSPC	medical center, clinic
Mutawasiṭah, Mutawasiṭat	Ara	SCH	school
Nafaq	Ara	TNL	tunnel
Nāḥiyah, Nāḥiyat	Ara	PPLA3, ADM3	populated place, seat of a third-order administrative division, third-order administrative division
Nahr	Ara	CNL, CNLQ, CNLX, CRKT, DTCH, DTCHD, DTCHI, MOTU, MRSH,	Canal, abandoned canal, tidal creek(s), ditch, drainage ditch, irrigation ditch, undersea moat, marsh,

		STM, STMA, STMC, STMD, STMI, STMQ, STMX, SYSI, WAD	stream, anabranh, canalized stream, distributary(-ies), intermittent stream, abandoned watercourse, section of stream, irrigation system, wadi
Nāẓim	Ara	SLCE	sluice
Qā'idah, Qā'idat	Ara	MILB	military base
Qabr	Ara	CMTY, GRVE, TMB	Cemetery, grave, tomb(s)
Qaḍā'	Ara	ADM2	second-order administrative division
Qal'at, Qal'ah	Ara	FT, RUIN	Fort, ruin(s)
Qalīb, Qulbān	Ara	OILW, PMPW, SPNG, WLL, WLLS	oil well, water pumping station, spring(s), well, wells
Qanāt	Ara	CNL, CNLI, CNLX, SYSI	Canal, irrigation canal, section of canal, irrigation system
Qārat	Ara	HLL, HLLS, WAD	Hill, hills, wadi
Qaryah, Qaryat	Ara	PPLL	populated locality
Qaṣr	Ara	FT, PAL, RUIN	Fort, palace, ruin(s)
Qimmah, Qimmat	Ara	CAPE, HLL, MT, PK, SPUR	Cape, hill, Mountain, peak, spur(s)
Qawch	Ara	MT, PK	Mountain, peak
Qūr	Ara	HLL, HLLS	Hill, hills
Quwayrat, Quwayrah, Quwayrāt	Ara	HLL, HLLS	Hill, hills
Ra's	Ara	CAPE, HLL, MT, PK, SPUR	Cape, hill, Mountain, peak, spur(s)
Radīf, Radīfat, Radā'if	Ara	DPR, HLLS, SBKH, LKNI	depression(s), hills, sabkha(s), intermittent salt lake
Rajmat, Rajmah, Rujm	Ara	CARN, HLL, HLLS	Cairn, hill, hills
Raṣīf	Ara	WHRF	wharf(-ves)
Rijlah, Rijlat	Ara	STM, STMI, VAL, WAD, WADM, WTRH	Stream, intermittent stream, valley, wadi, wadi mouth, waterhole(s)
Rūbār	Ara	STM, STMA, STMC, STMD, STMI, WAD	Stream, anabranh, canalized stream, distributary(-ies), intermittent stream, wadi
Sabkhah, Sabkhat	Ara	SBKH	sabkha(s)
Sadd, Saddat, Saddah	Ara	DAM, LEV	Dam, levee
Sāḥah, Sāḥat	Ara	SQR	square
Sahl	Ara	PLN	plain(s)

Şaḥrā'	Ara	DSRT	desert
Sāqiyat, Sāqiyah	Ara	CNL, CNLI, DTCH, STMI, SYSI	Canal, irrigation canal, ditch, intermittent stream, irrigation system
Sar	Ara	HLL, MT, PK, RDGE, SPUR	Hill, mountain, peak, ridge(s), spur(s)
Sawḥ	Ara	WAD, WADM	Wadi, wadi mouth
Shaṭb, Shu'ayb, Shi'b	Ara	STM, STMI, WAD, WTRH	Stream, intermittent stream, wadi, waterhole(s)
Shākh	Ara	MT, MTS, PK, PROM, RDGE, SCRP, SDL, SLP, SPUR	Mountain, mountains, peak, promontory(-ies), ridge(s), escarpment, saddle, slope(s), spur(s)
Shāri'	Ara	ST	street
Sharikah, Sharikat, Sharikat Şinā'āt	Ara	MFG	factory
Shaṭṭ	Ara	CNL, CNLI, STM, STMA, STMC, STMD, STMI, STMIX, STMQ, STMX, SYSI	Canal, irrigation canal, stream, anabranch, canalized stream, tributary(-ies), intermittent stream, section of intermittent stream, abandoned watercourse, section of stream, irrigation system
Sikak ḥadīd, Sikkat Qiṭār, Sikkat Ḥadīd	Ara	RR	railroad
Silsilah, Silsilat, Silsilat Jibā I, Silsila, Salāsil	Ara	HLL, HLLS, MT, MTS, RDGE	Hill, hills, mountain, mountains, ridge(s)
Ṭabr	Ara	CNL, CNLI, CNLQ, DTCH, SYSI	irrigation canal, abandoned canal, ditch, canal, irrigation system
Ṭāḥūn, Ṭāḥūnah, Ṭāḥūnat	Ara	ML	mill(s)
Tall	Ara	ANS, HLL, MND, MT, PK, PROM, RUIN, SLP, SPUR	ancient site, hill, mound(s), mountain, peak, promontory(-ies), ruin(s), slope(s), spur(s)
Tappah	Ara	HLL	hill
Ṭarīq	Ara	RD	road
Ṭawī	Ara	WLL	well
Thānawīyah, Thānawīyat	Ara	SCH	school
Thuqb	Ara	WTRH	waterhole(s)
Tulūl, Tilāl, Tulaylāt	Ara	HLL, HLLS	Hill, hills
Ṭūr	Ara	HLL	hill
Wādī, Wudyān	Ara	CNL, DTCHI, LCTY, RVN, STM,	Canal, irrigation ditch, locality, ravine(s), stream,

		STMI, SYSI, WAD, WADS, WADJ, WADM, WADX	intermittent stream, irrigation system, wadi, wadies, wadi junction, wadi mouth, section of wadi
Ẓahrat	Ara	UPLD	upland
Āv, Āveh	Ara	STM, STMI, WAD	Stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Shīv	Ara	RVN, STM, STMI, WAD	ravine(s), stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Āb, Ab-e	Far	STM, STMI, WAD	Stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Kūh	Far	HLL, HLLS, MT, MTS, PK, PROM, RDGE, SCRIP, SDL, SLP, SPUR	Hill, hills, mountain, mountains, peak, Promontory(-ies), ridge(s), escarpment, saddle, slope(s), spur(s)
Pāsgāh, Pāsgāh-e Marzī	Far	PP, PSTB	police post, border post
Rūdkhāneh	Far	STM, STMA, STMC, STMD, STMI, WAD	Stream, anabranh, canalized stream, distributary(-ies), intermittent stream, wadi
Bīrm	Tur	LK	lake
Chāy, Çay	Tur	STM, STMA, STMC, STMD, STMI, WAD	Stream, anabranh, canalized stream, distributary(-ies), intermittent stream, wadi
Dāgh, Dağ	Tur	HLL, HLLS, MT, RDGE, MTS, PK, SDL, SLP	Hill, hills, mountain, mountains, ridge(s), peak, saddle, slope(s)
Deresi	Tur	STM, STMA, STMC, WAD	Stream, anabranh, canalized stream, wadi
Suyu	Tur	STM, STMA, STMC, WAD	Stream, anabranh, canalized stream, wadi

Appendix F. Glossary of Generic Terms

Glossary of Kurdish Toponymic Terms in Iraq

Āv, Āveh	Kur	STM, STMI, WAD	Stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Shīv	Kur	RVN, STM, STMI, WAD	ravine(s), stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Aw	Kur	STM, STMI, WAD	Stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Ban	Kur	RDGE, PLN	ridge(s), plain(s)
Bank	Kur	RDGE	ridge(s)
Bask	Kur	MT, RDGE	Mountain, ridge(s)
Bermil, Barmil	Kur	PK	peak
Chem	Kur	RVN, STM, STMA, STMC, STMD, STMI, WAD	ravine(s), stream, anabranh, canalized stream, distributary(-ies), intermittent stream, wadi
Chîa	Kur	HLL, HLLS, MT, MTS, PK, SDL, SLP, SPUR	Hill, hills, mountain, mountains, peak, saddle, slope(s), spur(s)
Dê	Kur	VLG	Village
Derbend	Kur	GRGE	gorge(s)
Desht	Kur	PLN	plain(s)
Doĭ, Dôl	Kur	STM, STMI, WAD, VLY	Stream, intermittent stream, wadi, Valley
Gelî	Kur	GRGE, MT, MTS, PASS, RVN, STM, STMI, STMX, WAD, GLY	gorge(s), mountain, mountains, pass, ravine(s), stream, intermittent stream, section of stream, wadi, Gulley
Gird	Kur	HLL, MT, PK, RDGE, SPUR, STMI, MND	Hill, mountain, peak , ridge(s), spur(s), intermittent stream, mound
Gom, Gôm	Kur	LKI, POOL	intermittent lake, pool
Gor	Kur	CMTY, TMB, GRVE	Cemetery, tomb(s), grave
Goristan	Kur	CMTY, GRVE, TMB	Cemetery, grave, tomb(s)
Gumrug	Kur	CSTM	customs house
Kanî	Kur	SPNG, STM, STMH, STMI, WAD	spring(s), stream, headwaters, intermittent stream, wadi
Kend	Kur	STM, WAD, STMI	Stream, wadi, intermittent stream
Kêw	Kur	HLL, HLLS, MT, MTS, PK, SCRP, SDL, SLP, SPUR	Hill, hills, mountain, mountains, peak, escarpment, saddle, slope(s), spur(s)

Khîr, Khîrr, Xîr	Kur	STM, STMI, WAD	Stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Kur	Kur	MT, MTS, PK	mountain, mountains, peak
Lutke	Kur	MT, PK	Mountain, peak
Mîle	Kur	MT, PASS, PK, SDL	Mountain, pass, peak, saddle
Pîrd	Kur	BDG	bridge
Qebr	Kur	CMTY, GRVE, TMB	Cemetery, grave, tomb(s)
Qela	Kur	FT, RUIN	Fort, ruin(s)
Qendîl	Kur	SPUR	spur(s)
Qoch	Kur	MT, PK	Mountain, peak
Rûbar	Kur	STM, STMA, STMC, WAD	Stream, anabranh, canalized stream, wadi
Ser	Kur	HLL, MT, PK, RDGE, SPUR	Hill, mountain, peak, ridge(s), spur(s)
Shax, Shakh	Kur	MT, MTS, PK, PROM, RDGE, SCRP, SDL, SLP, SPUR	Mountain, mountains, peak, promontory(-ies), ridge(s), escarpment, saddle, slope(s), spur(s)
Shîw	Kur	RVN, STM, STMI, WAD	ravine(s), stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Tepe	Kur	HLL	Hill
Âb, Ab-e	Far	STM, STMI, WAD	Stream, intermittent stream, wadi
Kûh	Far	HLL, HLLS, MT, MTS, PK, PROM, RDGE, SCRP, SDL, SLP, SPUR	Hill, hills, mountain, mountains, peak, Promontory(-ies), ridge(s), escarpment, saddle, slope(s), spur(s)
Pâsgâh, Pâsgâh-e Marzî	Far	PP, PSTB	police post, border post
Rûdkhâneh	Far	STM, STMA, STMC, STMD, STMI, WAD	Stream, anabranh, canalized stream, distributary(-ies), intermittent stream, wadi
Bîrm	Tur	LK	lake
Chây, Çay	Tur	STM, STMA, STMC, STMD, STMI, WAD	Stream, anabranh, canalized stream, distributary(-ies), intermittent stream, wadi
Dâgh, Dağ	Tur	HLL, HLLS, MT, RDGE, MTS, PK, SDL, SLP	Hill, hills, mountain, mountains, ridge(s), peak, saddle, slope(s)
Deresi	Tur	STM, STMA, STMC, WAD	Stream, anabranh, canalized stream, wadi
Suyu	Tur	STM, STMA, STMC, WAD	Stream, anabranh, canalized stream, wadi