

# Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Paraguay

United States Board on Geographic Names – Foreign Names Committee



April 2012

## **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 requirement levied upon the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in Public Law 242 of the 80<sup>th</sup> Congress (43 U.S.C. §§ 364 et seq) 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 Paraguay, and shall be applied to all Paraguayan 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***

The July 2011 estimated population of Paraguay is 6.5 million. The population is 95% mestizo (Spanish and Amerindian) and 5% other. According to a 2002 census, the major religious groups are Roman Catholics (89.6%), Protestant (6.2%), other Christian (1.1%), other (1.9%), and none (1.1%).<sup>1</sup>

### ***b. Languages***

Spanish (ISO 639-3 code ‘spn’) and Paraguayan Guaraní (ISO 639-3 code ‘gug’) are the official languages of Paraguay. There are approximately 4.6 million speakers of Paraguayan Guaraní.<sup>2</sup>

### ***c. Language Codes***

Geographic features collected from authoritative native Paraguayan maps should be coded with the language code for Spanish (ISO 639-2 code ‘spn’).

### ***d. Geographic Names Standardization***

Paraguay’s Dirección del Servicio Geográfico Militar (DSGM) is responsible for geographic naming for cartographic purposes.

---

<sup>1</sup> Paraguay. The 2010 CIA World Factbook. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pa.html>> 01 Mar 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Lewis, M. Paul (ed.), 2009. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, Sixteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=py](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=py)>.

### 3. Toponymic Policies

#### a. Orthography

Spanish orthographic conventions are to be followed. For more information, please refer to Spanish orthographic reference material such as *Ortografía y ortotipografía del español actual* by José Martínez de Sousa (2004).

#### 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.

In accordance with Spanish orthography, the following diacritics are encountered in standardized name forms in Paraguay:

<u>Character Name</u>	<u>Character</u>	<u>Unicode Value</u>
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 that describes a feature. Examples include words such as ‘river,’ ‘hill,’ and ‘lake.’ Except in cases in which the generic type does not identify the feature type, generics appearing in standardized name forms should be considered true generics. Otherwise, the term is considered to be a false generic and should not be collected as a generic. Generics are not collected for populated places in Paraguay.

A glossary of generic terms for Paraguay 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. When a name is encountered in all capital letters, a non-initial definite article will be in lower case 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 numerals as integral parts, both cardinal and ordinal, should be treated according to the following principles:

- Arabic numerals are ordinarily expanded in Spanish. Examples: *4 Caminos* (on source) is rendered *Cuatro Caminos*; *2da Palma* (on source) is rendered *Segunda Palma*.
- Roman numerals are retained throughout.
- These principles 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 when a formerly approved name becomes a variant name.

Administrative division names are accorded long and short forms, e.g., Departamento de Concepción [long form]; Concepción [short form].

Long and short forms of names of populated places are approved when they are supported by official evidence, e.g., San Pedro de Ycuamandiyú [long form]; San Pedro [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 *distrito* (second-order administrative division), a special effort is to be made to obtain distinguishing long forms from census lists and other official sources.

**h. *Unique Linguistic Situations***

*Guaraní*

Paraguayan toponyms are influenced by the Guaraní language. A list of Guaraní toponyms is available in Anselmo Jover Peralta's *Guaraní-Español y Español-Guaraní Diccionario* beginning on page 491 (1950). The names on this list have Guaraní origins but are considered to be Spanish today.

*Names Containing the Conjunction "o"*

Some sources may show two or more names for a feature joined by the conjunction "o," meaning "or" (e.g., Río Rojo o Colorado). For the purposes of standardization, only one name is selected as the official standard name. The choice of name as standard will depend on the 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.

*i. Abbreviations*

The following is a list of abbreviations of generics which are regularly found on Paraguayan cartographic products. Abbreviations must be spelled out in the Geographic Names Database (GNDB).

<u>Abbreviated form</u>	<u>Unabbreviated Form</u>
A.	Arroyo
Bco.	Banco
Bo.	Boca
C.	Cabo, Cayo, or Cerro
Co.	Cerro
Ca.	Cañada
Cdon.	Cordón
Cem.	Cementerio
Clla.	Cuchilla
Cord.	Cordillera
Dpto.	Departamento
Ensa.	Ensenada
Esc.	Escuela
Est.	Estación, Estero
Fte.	Fuerte
Hac.	Hacienda
I(s).	Isla(s)
Ilte(s).	Islote(s)
L.	Loma
L., Lag.	Lago or Laguna
Mo.	Morro
Mte.	Monte
P.	Presa or Pico
Pco.	Pico
Pen.	Península
Pta.	Punta
Pte.	Puente
Pto.	Puerto
Pvcia.	Provincia
Q., Queb., Qda.	Quebrada
R.	Río

S. Sierra  
Serr. Serranía

#### 4. Political Geographic Policy

##### a. Country Name and Capital

###### *Country Name*

Conventional long form: Republic of Paraguay  
Conventional short form: Paraguay  
Approved long form: República del Paraguay  
Approved short form: Paraguay

###### *Capital*

Approved name: Asunción

##### b. First-Order Administrative Divisions

For an official administrative map of Paraguay, please see Appendix B.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Generic</u>	<u>Seat</u>	<u>FIPS 10-4</u>	<u>ISO 3166-2</u>
1.	Alto Paraguay	departamento	Fuerte Olimpo	PA23	PY-AG
2.	Alto Paraná	departamento	Cuidad del Este	PA01	PY-AA
3.	Amambay	departamento	Pedro Juan Caballero	PA02	PY-AM
4.	Asunción	distrito capital	Asunción	PA22	PY-AS
5.	Boquerón	departamento	Filadelfia	PA24	PY-BQ
6.	Caaguazú	departamento	Coronel Oviedo	PA04	PY-CG
7.	Caazapá	departamento	Caazapá	PA05	PY-CZ
8.	Canindeyú	departamento	Salto del Guairá	PA19	PY-CY
9.	Central	departamento	Areguá	PA06	PY-CE
10.	Concepción	departamento	Concepción	PA07	PY-CN
11.	Cordillera	departamento	Caacupé	PA08	PY-CR
12.	Guairá	departamento	Villarrica	PA10	PY-GU
13.	Itapúa	departamento	Encarnación	PA11	PY-IT
14.	Misiones	departamento	San Juan Bautista	PA12	PY-MI
15.	Ñeembucú	departamento	Pilar	PA13	PY-NE
16.	Paraguarí	departamento	Paraguarí	PA15	PY-PG
17.	Presidente Hayes	departamento	Villa Hayes	PA16	PY-PH
18.	San Pedro	departamento	San Pedro del Ycuamandiyú	PA17	PY-SP

##### 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/>.

## 5. Source Material

The best authoritative maps and charts are produced by Dirección del Servicio Geográfico Militar (DSGM). In addition, other Paraguayan government agencies and commercial producers also publish maps and 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, except where noted.

1. 1:250,000-scale map series, Dirección del Servicio Geográfico Militar (DSGM), Asunción, 1987-1991.
2. 1:100,000-scale map series, Dirección del Servicio Geográfico Militar (DSGM), Asunción, 1982-1993
3. 1:50,000-scale map series, Dirección del Servicio Geográfico Militar (DSGM), Asunción, 1976-1988.
4. 1:25,000-scale map series, Dirección del Servicio Geográfico Militar (DSGM), Asunción, 1978.
5. 1:10,000-scale map series, Dirección del Servicio Geográfico Militar (DSGM), Asunción, 1987-1994.
6. Mapa de Ciudades del Paraguay, Dirección del Servicio Geográfico Militar (DSGM), Asunción, 1994.
7. Mapa del Paraguay: Diviscon Política. Dirección del Servicio Geográfico Militar (DSGM), Asunción, 2004.

Other sources:

1. BGN Gazetteer of Paraguay, 1992.
3. Dirección General de Estadística y Censos. Website: <http://www.dgeec.gov.py>
4. Dirección del Servicio Geográfico Militar. Website: <http://www.disergemil.mil.py>
5. Paraguay Travel Reference Map. International Travel Maps. 1:800,000. <<http://www.itmb.ca/catalogue.php#p>> 14 Mar 2012.

**Appendix A** – The following is a glossary of generic terms shown on maps of Paraguay. Please note that this list is incomplete and only represents the most frequently occurring generics.

<u>Spanish Generic</u>	<u>Guaraní Generic</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>Designation Name</u>	<u>Designation Code</u>
acequía, canal	ysyry, ysyryhá, yrapé	canal	CNL
aeropuerto	---	airport	AIRP
aguada	yguá	watohole	WTRH
arroyo, riacho, río	y, yakã, ysyry	stream	STM
banco	ysyryha	bank	BNK
barranca	yvy'ã, yvyesap' cá	cliff	CLF
bosque, selva	ka'aguy	forest	FRST
campos	ñupyso	field	FLD
centro experimental	---	experiment station	STNE
cerro, serra	yvy'pu'ã, yvyty, yvyty'ymi	hill	HILL
cuchilla, fila, filo	---	ridge	RDGE
departamento	tetã'i	first-order administrative division	ADM1
destacamento, militar, fortín	---	fort	FT
distrito	---	second-order administrative division	ADM2
embalse	---	reservoir	RSV
estancia, retiro	kapuéra	farm, ranch	FRM
laguna	yno'õ	lake	LK
llano, sabana	ñūguasú, ñūpeguasú, ñūpucú	plain	PLN
mesa	---	mesa	MESA
obraje	---	factory	MFG
parque	yvotyty	park	PRK
paso	iko, ikove, mbohasa	pass	PASS
península	yvyapy, yvyacuá	peninsula	PEN
picacho, pico	hu'ã, ru'ã, tu'ã	peak	PK
punte	vovi, yvyvo	bridge	BDG
puerto	ñai, ygarupá	port	PRT
punta	apymy	point	PT
roca	ita, itapu'á, itaembó	rock	RK

<sup>3</sup> Britton, Scott A. Guaraní-English, English-Guaraní. Hippocrene Concise Dictionary. Hippocrene Books, Inc.: New York, 2005.

Peralta, Anselmo Jover. Guaraní-Español y Español-Guaraní Diccionario. Editorial Tupã: Buenos Aires, 1950.



salto  
sierra, monte,  
cordillera

ytororõ, ytu  
yvyty, yvytyrusu

waterfall  
mountain

FLLS  
MT

## Appendix B – Administrative Map of Paraguay<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Map of Paraguay's First-Order Administrative Divisions. United States Department of State. <[http://base.us-state.osis.gov/images/Paraguay\\_802621.pdf](http://base.us-state.osis.gov/images/Paraguay_802621.pdf)>. 21 Feb. 2012.