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**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names**



United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

National report of Costa Rica for the period 2023-2025 **



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National report		
A	Summary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey of the database of geographical names stored in the physical archive to transfer it to digital format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With an update of oronyms, 2,490 records or names and lithonyms (coastal features) 1,008 records. • As well as the update of the Populated Centers / Localities layer. In total, 6,350 records or names were updated. • An update of the Populated Centers/Localities layer of 440 records was carried out. This year, with fieldwork, this layer was reviewed in the cantons of Santa Cruz, Upala and Los Chiles, for a total of 254 records. 2. Work of the National Nomenclature Commission (CNN): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In total, CNN met on 10 occasions, responding to 42 requests for the baptism of public works, of these 28 requests were approved, highlighting names on road infrastructure. 3. Relationships, links and connections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September 2024, the workshop "<i>Capacity Building in Geographical Names and Geospatial Information for Experts of the Member States of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)</i>" was held for the third time, which was held in the City of Suwon, South Korea, thanks to the collaboration between the PAIGH and the National Institute of Geographic Information of the Republic of Korea. This meant the continuation and implementation of a work plan among those in charge of geographical names in the PAIGH member countries, coinciding, of course, with the member states of the UN-GEGN. • In October 2023, the Commission on Geographical Names was made official at the PAIGH, in which Costa Rica is an active member and participates in the PAIGH Technical Assistance Project: "<i>Training in regulations and guidelines for the standardization of geographical names</i>". 4. Knowledge transfer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conjunction with UN-GEGN Latin America and the PAIGH Commission on Geographical Names, has been developed the project "<i>Training in standards and guidelines for the standardization of geographical names</i>" is being developed. • Costa Rica is an active participant and made a presentation on the Management of Geographical Names to guests from Latin America. • The NGI of Costa Rica is a co-sponsor and host of the seminar Geographical Names Costa Rica 2025, which was taking place from February 17 to 20 in the city of San José, Costa Rica.
B	Member state report on the situation in their country.	<p>The GNI of Costa Rica has invested significant economic, human, and logistical resources in the last two years to maintain the geographic layers of toponyms in the country. It is understood that the GNI is the governing body in this matter according to national legislation.</p> <p>Thus, in 2023, a pilot plan began for the updating of the geographic layer of "populated centers and localities". To initiate this work, a methodological tool was created, which is developed through the document: "<i>Methodology for the Updating, Maintenance and Dissemination of Geographic Databases of Geographic Names and Other Toponyms of Costa Rica</i>." This guide lays the foundations and lines of action for a standardized, normalized, and interoperable data update. In accordance with the standards determined by the UN-GEGN and</p>

the technical standards of the country such as the "*Catalog of Geographic Objects for Fundamental Data of Costa Rica*" known as **Geographic Names**.

This work comprises the phases of Source Review, Office Update, Fieldwork, and Officialization/Dissemination, as seen in figure 1."

Figure 1. Stages and activities of the methodology.

Stage	Activity	
Stage 1. Font Review	Analog files: files, records, maps, charts, minutes, books, various documents.	Internal and external digital sources: geographic databases, records, maps, tables, books, various documents.
Stage 2. Cabinet update	Layer cleaning: Topological and attribute review of the layer in GIS.	Rectification of spatial objects: Review with other databases, geometry adjustment, and attribute tabulation in GIS.
Stage 3. Field Update	Interviews, meetings, and workshops: With communal, municipal, and association representatives.	Field surveys: Collaborative mapping with state universities.
Stage 4. Disclosure	Officialization in the CNN and Storage in IGN databases: Layer management in the GIS .	External layer publication: Through the SNIT or dissemination in maps, brochures, or other documents.

Source: Authors.

The document can be reviewed through the following link in its Spanish version:

With this project, the following was achieved in 2024:

- An update of oronyms, 2,490 records or names and lithonyms (coastal features) 1,008 records.
- As well as the update of the Populated Centers / Localities layer. In total, 6,350 records or names were updated. for a total of approximately 16,000 records
- An update of the Populated Centers/Localities layer of 440 records was carried out. This year, with fieldwork, this layer was reviewed in the cantons of Santa Cruz, Upala and Los Chiles, for a total of 254 records.

Within the alliances with academia, a pilot plan was developed and advanced for the updating of official geographic layers, applying the Voluntary Geographic Information (VGI) model or Collaborative mapping, between the National Geographic Institute (GNI) of the National Registry (RN) and the School of Geographic Sciences (ECG) of the National University of Costa Rica (UNA). For both the GNI and the Academia, VGI is important because:

- It allows for the collection of information more quickly and at a lower cost than traditional methods.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a transfer of knowledge and learning for the students and a tangible product of impact on the competencies of the GNI. • As the students themselves provide the data, the information is always up to date, reflecting the changes that occur in the environment. • It encourages student participation and a sense of community, by allowing people to actively contribute to the creation of knowledge about their geographic environment. • It has a direct impact on the updating of geographic layers managed by the GNI for multiple applications in fields such as urban planning, emergency management, tourism, and scientific research. <p>The document can be reviewed through the following link in its Spanish version:</p> <p>To standardize national toponymy, the National Nomenclature Commission (CNN) was established in 1965 by Law No. 3535 of August 14, 1965. The CNN, a collegiate body of the State of Costa Rica, authorizes the names of public places. By law, the officialization of geographical names must be conducted through the CNN and subsequently publicized by the GNI. With the following data for 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CNN held 10 meetings, during which they considered 42 requests for the official naming of public works. 28 of these requests were approved, notably those related to road infrastructure. <p>It is important to mention that the official and standardized geospatial information of Costa Rica can be consulted and downloaded through the geportal National Territorial Information System (SNIT) through the following link: https://www.snitcr.go.cr/.</p>
C	National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications	<p>Costa Rica, an active member of the PAIGH and UN-GEGN DLA. Participated in the formalization of the Commission on Geographical Names in October 2023 and is currently involved in the PAIGH Technical Assistance Project: <i>Training in regulations and guidelines for the standardization of geographical names</i>.</p> <p>Within this project, the GNI has carried out two important interventions of knowledge transfer and support to the countries of the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2024, the presentation "Training in standards and guidelines for the standardization of geographical names" was held. • The NGI of Costa Rica was a co-sponsor and host of the seminar Geographical Names Costa Rica 2025, which was taking place from February 17 to 20 in the city of San José, Costa Rica. • In addition to the local logistical tasks for carrying out the event, the institute made two presentations at the seminar: Geographical Names Management in Costa Rica and Costa Rica: Updating the layer of populated centers and localities. <p>These presentations can be accessed through the UN-GEGN Division Latin America page (https://www.genung-dal.org.mx/) or downloaded at the following link:</p>
D	Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of	<p>The implementations in this matter are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of the "Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names":

	geographical names, including the economic and social benefits	<p>The NGI uses this manual, published by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), to guide its standardization practices. This ensures coherence with international standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Law № 3535 and its Regulations: This law and its regulations establish the legal framework for the standardization of national toponymy. The National Nomenclature Commission, regulated by this law, is crucial in the process of approving geographical names. • Participation in International Organizations: The GNI is an active member of the Geographical-Linguistic Division of Latin America of the UN-GEEN and the Geographical Names Committee of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (IPGH) and a participant in the events of the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea. This facilitates the exchange of knowledge and regional collaboration. • Dissemination and Training: The institute offers talks, presentations, and training on geographical names. In addition, it publishes standardized geospatial data through the National Territorial Information System (SNIT), which facilitates access to accurate information. • Preparation of Technical Documentation: The GNI creates documents, reports, and posters that detail methodologies, procedures, and results related to the standardization of geographical names. <p>In summary, the standardization of geographical names is an investment that generates tangible benefits for Costa Rica, by improving territorial management, boosting the economy, strengthening cultural identity, and promoting scientific development.</p>
E	National standardization	
Ea	Field collection of names	See document: Methodology for the Updating, Maintenance and Dissemination of Geographic Databases of Geographic Names and Other Toponyms of Costa Rica. Review the document at the following link:
Eb	Office treatment of names	See document: Methodology for the Updating, Maintenance and Dissemination of Geographic Databases of Geographic Names and Other Toponyms of Costa Rica. Review the document at the following link:
Ec	Treatment of names in multilingual areas	Unsolved
Ed	Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures	Law 3535: Law of Creation of the National Nomenclature Commission and Decree No. 21608-C Regulations to the Law of the National Nomenclature Commission of Costa Rica. Review the document at the following link:
Ee	Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors	The Technical Standards of the National Geographic Institute (IGN) of Costa Rica. Review the document at the following link: https://www.snitcr.go.cr/ico_normativa
F.	Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity	Unsolved
G.	Exonyms <i>New exonyms, extinct exonyms, projects regarding exonyms.</i>	Unsolved
H.	Toponymic data files and gazetteers	

Ha	Content requirements and standards	The Technical Standards of the National Geographic Institute (IGN) of Costa Rica. Review the document at the following link: https://www.snitcr.go.cr/ico_normativa
Hb	Data management and interoperability	The Technical Standards of the National Geographic Institute (IGN) of Costa Rica. Review the document at the following link: https://www.snitcr.go.cr/ico_normativa
Hc	Data services, applications and products.	Review the following link: https://www.snitcr.go.cr/ico_servicios_ogc_info?k=bm9kbzo6OTM=&nombre=IGN%20Cartograf%C3%ADa%201:5mil%20CO
I	Terminology in the standardization of geographical names	Without changes
J	Writing systems and pronunciation	
Ja	Romanization	Without changes
Jb	Conversion into non-Roman writing systems	Without changes
Jc	Writing of names in unwritten languages	Without changes
Jd	Pronunciation	Without changes
K	Country names	Without changes
L	Toponymic education	Without changes
M	Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation	
Ma	Features common to two or more nations	Unsolved
Mb	Bilateral and multilateral agreements	Unsolved
Mc	Coastal seas	Unsolved
Md	Geonames of international waters and marine features in international waters	Unsolved
Me	Geonames in Antarctica	Unsolved
Mf	International cooperation	The GNI is an active member of the Geographical-Linguistic Division of Latin America of the UN-GEGN and the Geographical Names Committee of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (IPGH) and a participant in the events of the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea.
N.	Arrangements for the UNGEGN	Collaboration with reports and activities whit Geographical-Linguistic Division of Latin America of the UN-GEGN and the Geographical Names Committee of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (IPGH) and a participant in the events of the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea.
O	Supporting sustainable development	Without changes
P	Other	Not at this time.