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Exonyms

**Recent discussions in the United States Board on
Geographic Names concerning the creation of
anglicized exonyms**

Submitted by the United States of America**

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Summary

Over the past few years, the United States Board on Geographic Names has been discussing the use and application of English-form exonyms. An acknowledgement that there are different types of users of geographic names within the United States Government has led to the identification of certain problems inherent in using strict native-form names of geographic features in a domestic context. These problems include native versus English generic terms, translation of adjectival forms of names, and the use and applicability of diacritical marks. Problems also occur when attempting to enforce the Board's policy to limit the use of conventional names (popular English-form exonyms) when the approved endonyms are unfamiliar to domestic users. The long-standing policy of "one name for one feature", based on the official local native form, is increasingly being viewed as unsuitable for domestic users of geographic names. Proposals to create official anglicized exonyms for domestic users are being discussed.
