



ADMINISTRATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN URUGUAY

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SUMMARY

- The Military Geographic Service: Mision & Vision.
- SGM's structure.
- Geodesy & Topography Division.
- Administration of Geographical Names.
- Final words.



MISSION OF THE SGM

Ensure the preparation, updating, conservation, distribution and evaluation of cartographic material necessary for the fulfillment of its fundamental mission assigned to the Army by Law No. 15,688 dated November 30, 1984 and in support of the integral planning of Security activities and National Development.

Supervise, control and approve all publications made by State or Private Organizations of their specialty without prejudice to the competence assigned Law No. 10,808 of October 16, 1946 and Decree-Law No. 14,747 dated December 28, 1977.

Establish, conserve and expand the national geodetic network of triangulation, as well as the national active geodetic network, leveling, gravimetry and terrestrial magnetism.

Integrate study and characterization of our international boundaries and participate in the representation of the country in all activities of its specialty and derived from international commitments.

Establish, maintain and operate a Geographic Information System (GIS) to support management and decision making.





VISION OF THE SGM

To be a reference of quality in the production of Geographic Information (GI) of Uruguay with national and international recognition.





SGM's STRUCTURE

The SGM is basically composed of:

- a. General Directory
- b. Secretary and Public Relations Division.
- c. Commercial Division.
- d. Administration & Logistics Division.
- e. Technical Divisions:

1. Geodesy & Topography

2. Cartography & GIS

3. Photogrammetry and Teledetection.

4. Computer Systems Division.



GEODESY & TOPOGRAPHY DIVISION

Advise on procedures of geodetic, geophysical and topographic equipment.

Establish, maintain and archive the information corresponding to the National Geodetic System (Networks and Permanent Stations of Horizontal and Vertical Control, Geophysical, etc.)

Determine and perfect the shape and dimensions of the geoid in the entire national territory area and eventually in international projects.

Determine the control points necessary for photogrammetric exploitation.

Perform quality control of photogrammetric and cartographic products.

Perform all types of geodetic or topographic procedures necessary to fulfill the functions of the Service.

Maintain and archive surveys of geographic and toponymic data for cartographic support.

Carry out the updating of maps and charts by using the appropriate technology available for that purpose.

Support the implementation and maintenance of the Geographic Information System.





ADMIN. OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Country: URUGUAY

Official Language: Spanish

Recognized indigenous, minority or regional languages used: NO

Is there a Names Board to standardize names? YES (Military Geographic Service)

Institute/government department attached to: National Army (Ministry of Defence)

Date of establishment: 30th May, 1913.

Types of names responsible for: Geographical Names.

Membership of the Board: General Directory of the SGM, Chiefs of Technical Divisions (Geodesy & Topography, Cartography & GIS, Photogrammetry & Tele Detection, Computer Systems and technical experts assigned to each Technical Division).

List, Gazetteer and/or Data Base of Geographical Names existing at national level: Yes (Gazetteer, Toponymy Tables (or Dictionary of Toponyms), Catalog of Geographical Objects and a database).

Map scale based on: 1:50.000.

Is the data available to the public? Most of it is free and open to the public, with a few exceptions (Ex. Gravimetric data).





Is there a policy to diffuse names for government and public use?

In Uruguay, the management of geographical names is carried out by the Military Geographic Service (Servicio Geográfico Militar or SGM, in Spanish), in relation to the base cartography.

Although local and regional governments are involved in determining the streets names and public spaces names of cities, as well as the national government (through the Executive and Legislative Branch) in some cases, naming routes and populated centers, it is the SGM, in its role of the official National Cartographic Agency, which collects the toponymy, which is then processed and added to the gazetteer, elaborated by the SGM.

On the other hand, the SGM is in charge of studying, evaluating and managing the toponyms of hydrography, orography, characteristic places, and others, which are also part of the Dictionary of Toponymies and Toponymy Tables.

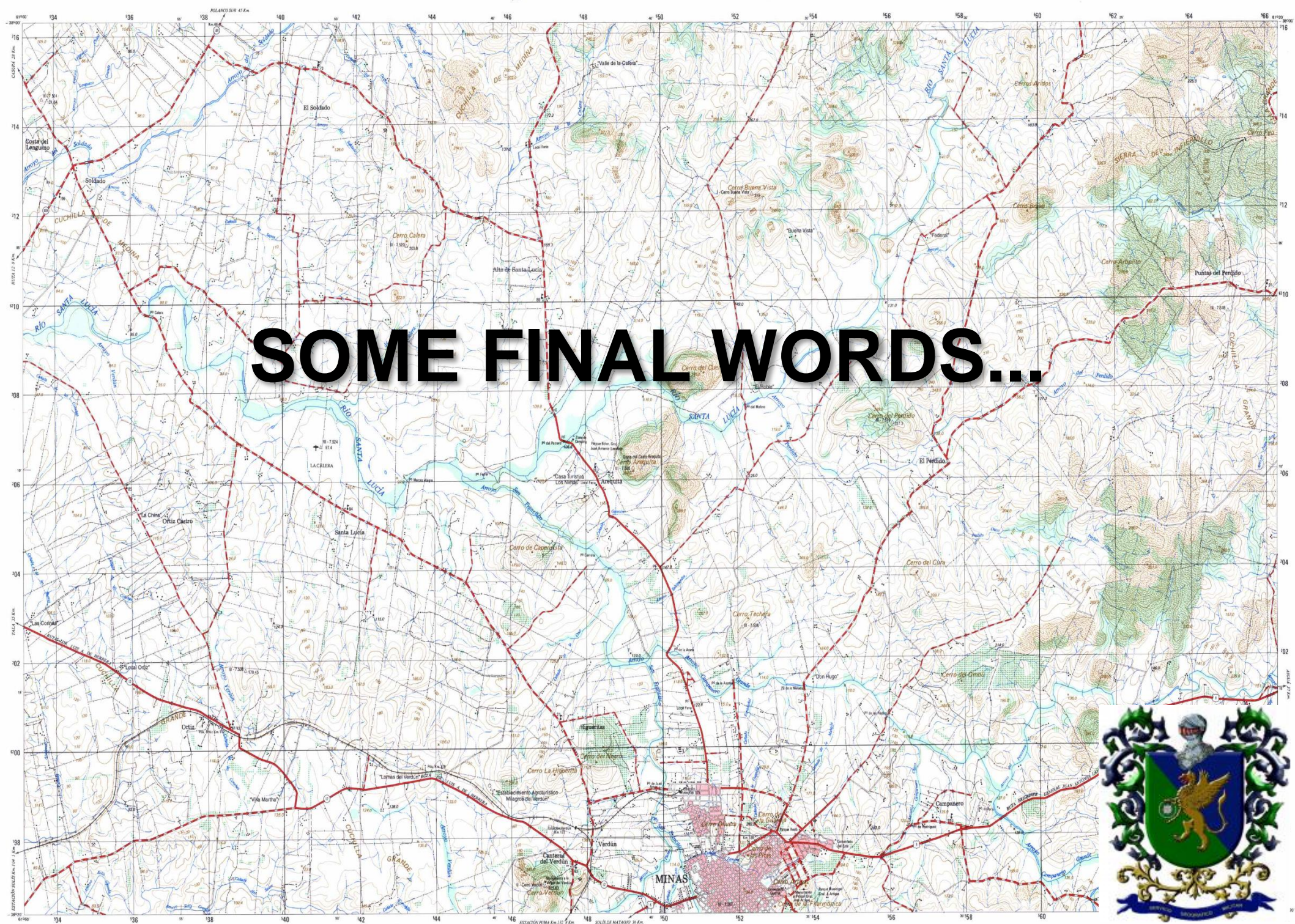
The National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estadística or INE in Spanish) is also a source of consultation, referring to populated centers and vice versa. We worked together and coordinated accordingly, for the last census.

In case of modifications of names of populated centers, after being approved by regional or national legislative process, it is then published in the Official Gazette, and then it is compiled. The SGM compiles the geographical names, using all available sources. That is the main management function.

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SOME FINAL WORDS...

