ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

This form is to be used in conjunction with a "Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code" form

Date: 2011-7-27

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Associated Change request number : 2011-080   (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : nvo   (completed by Registration Authority)

PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the <u>public record</u> of this change request and the history of the ISO 639-3 code set. Use Shift-Enter to insert a new line in a form field (where allowed).

1. NAMES and IDENTIFICATION

    a)   Preferred name of language for code element denotation:
    Nyokon

    b)   Autonym (self-name) for this language:
    [nìɲɔ́ʕɔ̀]

    c)   Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
    Previous researchers have chosen to write the autonym as ninyɔ'ɔ or some variation (Guthrie & Malcom 1956:29; Mous 2003:283; Nga 2000; Richardson 1957:29; Breton & Fohtung 1991:39). There is no orthography established for the language.

    d)   Reason for preferred name:
    "Nyokon" is the French version of the local name. The term is accepted by the speakers as the label used in French. It is also the official name of the town where the language is spoken. There is not yet a standardized way to write the autonym.

    e)   Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
    The ethnic group is also called "Nyokon" in French.

    Guthrie & Tucker 1956:29 "Population: 3,900 C.E.C" [Carte Ethnique du Cameroun, Institut Français d'Afrique Noire, Centre du Cameroun (Dépot légal No. 49 - le trimestre 1949).]

    f)   Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifiers is not intended to be an abbreviation for a name of the language, but to serve as a device to identify a given language

uniquely. With thousands of languages, many sets of which have similar names, it is not possible to provide identifiers that resemble a language name in every case.

2. TEMPORAL DESCRIPTION and LOCATION

a) Is this a   ☒   Living language
               ☐   Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
               ☐   Recently extinct language
               ☐   Historical language
               ☐   Ancient language
               ☐   Artificially constructed language
               ☐   Macrolanguage

(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
Cameroon

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Centre Region, Mbam and Inoubou Division, Makenene Subdivision, Nyokon

Google coordinates: 4°57' 0" North, 10°45' 0" Eas t

d) For an ancient or historical language, give approximate time frame; for a recently extinct language, give the approximate date of the last known user's death

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: ☐ Signed   ☒ Spoken   ☐ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Mbam, West (A.40)

c) Closest language linguistically. For a Macrolanguage, list the individual languages (adopted and/or proposed) to be included in its group. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
Tunen [baz], Nomaande [lem], Tuotomb [ttf] (Mous & Breedveld 1986, Mous 2003)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:

Only the notes and publications of linguistic researchers listed in previous change request form.

b) Is this language officially recognized by any level of government? Is it used in any levels of formal education as a language of instruction (for other subjects)? Is it taught in schools?:
No.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
It appears that the majority of Nyokon speakers also use French—the language of education in the region. Christianity is the dominant religion and church services in the area are performed in French with interpretation in Nyokon indicating that part of the population may not have a very high level of French comprehension (or at least a strong preference for use of the local language). The language is spoken by all age groups. The population identifies themselves as an autonomous group disctinct from all neighboring ethnolinguistic groups.

There is mention of a dialect cited as "fuŋ" in (Guthrie & Tucker 1956:29) and "huŋ" by (Nga 2000). The pronunciation [huŋ] (in French orthography "houng") was heard in all personal communication but no contact was made with speakers of the dialect. Nga (2000) presents a list of 10 words in the dialect one of which shows no phonological relation to the "standard" Nyokon word. The other nine are very similar or identical. The consensus of the small group consulted was that the differences did not prevent intercomprehension.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

You do not need to repeat sources previously identified in the form, "Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code"

a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:
   see "Request for Change…" form

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
   see "Request for Change…" form

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
   see "Request for Change…" form

Please return this form to:

ISO 639-3 Registrar
SIL International, Office of Language Information Systems
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, Texas 75236 USA
ISO 639-3/RA web site: http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/default.asp
Email: iso639-3@sil.org
An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

Further information:

If your request for a new language code element is supported by the Registration Authority as a formal proposal, you may be contacted separately by researchers working with the Ethnologue or with LinguistList asking you to provide additional information.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: http://www.ethnologue.com/ .

LinguistList. Ancient and Extinct Languages. http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html