

# 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: 2008-4-11

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2008-022

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : keh

(completed by Registration Authority)

PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the public record 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:  
Keak
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
Tshwosh, Tshuosh, Kwaruwikwundi, Sepik Plains
- d) Reason for preferred name:  
This name is the choice of the people.
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: keh

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifier 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:  
Papua New Guinea
- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:  
East Sepil Province. Approximate center: 143.174088, -3.987083
- 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:  
Sepik-Ramu, Sepik, Middle Sepik, Ndu.
- 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:  
Gaikundi

### 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:  
no newspapers, radion or television broadcasts. Maybe some scripture portions.
- 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?:  
Unsure if there are any local schools teaching Keak. There were plans for some to start.
- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

## 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:  
Sociolinguistic survey, 2005.
- b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:  
Some personal communication with a local translator.
- c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):

### 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](mailto: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>