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: 2011-4-26

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Associated Change request number : 2011-024 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : gfx (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:
      Mangetti Dune !Xung
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      !Xung
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      !Xu, !Kung, Schmittsdriift !Xung
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      The name for the language derives from the geographical location of the speakers in Mangetti Dune, Namibia. A geographical identifier is needed because many of the languages in the Juu subgroup of the Ju+Hoan language family are referred to as !Xung. The older speakers originally resided in Angola, but fled Angola due to the civil war. Some of the speakers left Namibia at Namibian independence to continue their employment with the South African defence force in South Africa.
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      500-1000 people
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: MDX

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/iso639-3/types.asp)

   For individual languages, also complete:
   b) Countries where used:
      Namibia, Angola, South Africa

   c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
      Mangetti Dune, Namibia (-19.59306, 19.7122), Omtaku, Namibia (-19.59306, 19.3), Schmittsdrift, South Africa (-28.71667, 24.11667). It is unknown if there are still speakers in Angola, and where they reside.

   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:
      Northern branch of the Juu subgroup of the Ju-+Hoa language family.

   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:
      Ekoka !Xung

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      There is part of a bible translation in !Xung, but I think it is in a different language. There is a radio broadcast in the language in Schmittsdrift, South Africa.
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:
The language is mainly used at home with the family. Afrikaans and English are spoken in more formal domains.
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:

I lived in Tsumkwe, Namibia from 1990-1994. I made trips to Mangetti Dune periodically, and was aware that there was another language spoken in the area. Though I am fluent in Ju’hoansi, I can not understand Mangetti Dune !Xung speakers, when they speak to each other. I returned to get my Ph.D. in Linguistics from 1994-2001. In 1998, while I was doing my dissertation research on Ju’hoansi, I worked with one speaker of Mangetti Dune !Xung. I received an NSF grant to describe new click types in the Ju-+Hoan language in 2007, and I have been collecting lexical and ultrasound data on Mangetti Dune !Xung, Grootfontein !Xung, Ekoka !Xung and +Hoan. I spent 2 months in Mangetti Dune doing this research in 2008, and I spent two weeks there in 2010 continuing my research. I have published two papers on Mangetti Dune !Xung. I will list these in the published sources below.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

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
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:

