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 : tvu (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:
   Tunen

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   Tunen

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   Banen, Banend, Penin, Penyin, Nen

   d) Reason for preferred name:
   Current Ethnologue name

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   Banen 35,300 (Gordon 2005)

   The Ethnologue (Gordon 2005) gives the reference (SIL 1982) for this population information. The managing editor was unable to find any other information about this reference. No 1982 SIL publications were found citing population figures for the Tunen so the source of this figure remains unknown. A later SIL publication gives the figure 35,000 for the Tunen without citing a source (Johnson & Taylor 1989:3). This publication names the Nyokon as a separate ethnic group indicating that they are not counted in the population of Tunen-speakers. Therefore correcting the clerical error of listing Nyokon as a dialect of Tunen does not affect the population figures for the Tunen which most likely did not include the Nyokon in the first place.

   Another publication states that a 1987 census counted about 40,000 Banen but that there may be more than 100,000 in the Banen ethnic group including those outside the traditional
territory (Mbongue 1997). [D’après le recensement général de 1987, la population “Banenophone” est d’environ 40,000 locuteurs. En ajoutant la population extérieure des grandes agglomérations telles que Yaoundé, Douala, Ebolowa, Edéa, cette population peut être estimée a plus de 100,000 âmes.]

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: [baz]

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 Province, Mbam Division, Ndikinimeki and Makenene Subdivisions; Littoral Province, Nkam Division, Yingui Subdivision.

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:
Nyokon, 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.?:
   Literacy materials and Gospel of John. Linguistic and anthropological studies cited below.

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:
   Sociolinguistic research by Taylor & Johnson identified three dialects: Toboany, Tufombo, and Tuling (1989). Further testing by Joseph Mbongue added a fourth dialect: Ndoktuna (1997). Mbongue also grouped the dialect or village names currently in Ethnologue into these four subgroups. Current research by Ginger Boyd (SIL Cameroon, PhD thesis forthcoming) confirms Mbongue's groupings and lists a fifth dialect, Niguessen, currently mentioned in Ethnologue but not found in Mbongue's research.

1. Toboany (Tɔbɔanyɛ): reference dialect for Bible translation, includes Itundu
2. Tufombo (Tufɔmbɔ): includes Ndogbang (Ndɔkbanɔl), Ndokbiakat and Logananga (Lognanga)
3. Alinga (Eling, Tuling)
4. Ndoktuna
5. Niguessen (Mɛsɛ): in Ethnologue as "Mese (Paningesen, Ninguessen, Sese)"
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:

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
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: