

# 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: 2011-8-10

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Associated Change request number : 2011-111

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : azn

(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:  
Nahuatl, Western Durango-Nayarit
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
Meshikan de San Agustin Buenaventura y de Santa Cruz
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
Durango Aztec Western, Meshikan del occidente, Mexicanero del occidente, Nahuatl del Occidente en Durango y Nayarit.
- d) Reason for preferred name:  
There are two Meshikan (Nahuatl) languages in the state of Durango; therefore it is necessary to give names with geographic distinctions. Furthermore this language extends across the border from the state of Durango to state of Nayarit; therefore it is important that Nayarit be a part of the name of the language and the code element denotation.
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):  
Meshikan Western, around 900 people: 600 in Durango State and 300 in Nayarit State.
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: AZN

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:  
Mexico
- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:  
Municipio of Mezquital in Durango State of Mexico: San Agustin de Buenaventura, Curachitos de Buenavista, San Diego, Tepetates II (Berenjenas), Alacranes y Tepalcates. GPS: West: 105°00' - East: 104°45' - North: 22°45' - South: 22°30'.  
Municipio of Acaponeta in Nayarit State of Mexico: Santa Cruz, La Laguna, Mesa de las Arpas y El Duraznito. GPS: West: 105°15' - East: 105°05' - North: 22°35' - South: 22°25'.
- 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:  
Uto-Aztecan, Southern Uto-Aztecan, Aztecan, General Aztec
- 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:  
Western Durango-Nayarit Nahuatl. 85% intelligibility between Western Durango-Nayarit Aztec [AZN] and Eastern Durango Aztec [AZD]. Most similar to Michoacan Nahuatl [ncl] with 76% intelligibility.

### 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:  
Several books and booklets have been published for literacy in the schools. Some bilingual teachers are producing other materials and literature (short stories) about their culture. Some recordings and videos with information, songs, and narrations about their own culture have been made. Radio broadcasts (dialogs, messages and songs) have been

broadcast from Jesus Maria in Nayarit. A written grammar exists, and a book of spelling rules.

- 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?:  
Recognized by INALI (see supporting documentation). A community-based literacy project is in operation, and bilingual teachers continue to assess the sociolinguistic situation. The language is taught in primary schools and is used in radio programs.

- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:  
The Nahuatl Western Durango-Nayarit language is in different circumstances than the Eastern Durango language. In the Municipio of Mezquital of Durango State, there are six communities of Western Durango: San Agustin de Buenaventura; Curachitos de Buenavista; San Diego; Tepetates II (Berenjenas); Alacranes; and Tepalcates (GPS: West: 105°00' - East: 104°45' - North: 22°45' - South: 22°30'). With the exception of the community of Tepalcates, all demonstrate strong use of the language in all daily activities, because there are few speakers of other languages in these communities. Even "walkie talkie" messages are normally spoken in Nahuatl. This region is now the heart of the Durango Nahuatl culture, yet they show less interest than speakers of Eastern Durango Nahuatl in preserving their customs and language. In the Municipio of Acaponeta in Nayarit State, there are four communities of speakers: Santa Cruz; La Laguna; Mesa de las Arpas; and El Duraznito (GPS: West: 105°15' - East: 105°05' - North: 22°35' - South: 22°25'). These four communities are isolated from the six communities of speakers in Durango, they are fewer in number, and they are surrounded by larger ethnic groups (Cora and Huichol), all of which makes continued language use difficult. There are pockets of the region where the language has fallen into disuse and shows signs of language death. A program to promote the use of the language has been initiated in the schools, but at home the children do not speak it much, although they still understand it. The educational authorities in Nayarit State have supported literacy programs in the language, and they have trained the teachers in the area to use the language in the classroom. There is also a positive attitude on the part of the traditional authorities of the Aztec communities in this area to promote their language in various ways.

## 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  
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>