

# 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: 2012-6-27

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Associated Change request number : 2012-141

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : hrc

(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:  
Niwer Mil
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
Tangga
- d) Reason for preferred name:  
This is the name the people use for themselves and their language.
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):  
Niwer Mil 6300 (2000 National Census)
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: hrc

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:  
Niwer Mil is spoken on the Tangga Islands off the north coast of New Ireland. The islands are a part of New Ireland Province.
- 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:  
Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Western Oceanic, Meso Melanesian, New Ireland, South New Ireland-Northwest  
Solomonic, Patpatar-Tolai
- 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:  
The closest languages will be the other languages that are being split out of the Tangga language, Fanamaketa and Warwar Feni.

### 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:  
None
- 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?:  
Niwer Mil is not officially recognized by the government. However, the educational system in the Tangga Islands is contributing positively to linguistic vitality for Niwer Mil. The presence of vernacular elementary schools on Boeng means that children learn first to read and write in their own language, before switching to English. The teachers use mainly the vernacular for first level of education, EP, and some English and Tok Pisin for the E1 and E2 level students in order to prepare them for grade 3. At Amfar the children of some health workers from other language areas do not know Niwer Mil, and so, in the elementary school, the teacher uses Tok Pisin for them. Members of the community are invited to visit

the elementary schools to give lessons, using the Niwer Mil language, on community and traditional culture.

- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:  
Niwer Mil is the primary language used to communicate among people of both sexes and all ages. It is the first language learned by children. Tok Pisin is learned as a second language and used to communicate with outsiders.

## 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):  
All the information comes from the accompanying survey report which has not been published. See also the accompanying Change Request for Tangga.

### 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>