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: 2014-9-8

Name of Primary Requester: Prof Dr Dany Adone
E-mail address: adoned at uni-koeln dot de

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Dr. Bentley James, Australian National University (ANU) & Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education, Charles Darwin University, NT, Australia
bentley.James.dr at gmail dot com

Associated Change request number : 2014-037 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : yhs (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:
      Yan-nhaŋu Sign Language
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Gokulu mana dhanjuny’ bulthun (name used by the Yan-nhaŋu people)
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      This is the name that is currently used in research by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Yan-nhaŋu people, approximately 10 speakers of Yan-nhaŋu language
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: YNS

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)
(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:
   Australia, The Crocodile Islands

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Murrunga Island

11 56' 03.1 S, 135 04' 44.4 " E

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:
   The Crocodile Islands Sign Languages

   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:
   Yolnu Sign Language

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   video recordings from the current "Sign Languages of Arnhem Land" project

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, it is not officially recognized. It is also not taught at schools. Dr James with the traditional elder of this language have recently invited Adone to work on it.
In the past Yan-nhanu children used to acquire it from birth. Since the intergenerational transmission has ceased YNSL is on the brink of extinction.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
This sign language qualifies as an alternate sign language following Kendon's (1988) classification. It is used when speech is culturally inappropriate (e.g. speech taboos). It is used nowadays by a handful of Yan-nhanu speakers to communicate in a number of socio-cultural and religious environments particular to the Crocodile Islands.
**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:
   as stated in first form

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
   +20 years of ethnographic research by Dr. B. James and Yan-nhanju speaking people

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):


d) **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: