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: 2014-8-13

Name of Primary Requester: Editor Ethnologue
E-mail address: editor_ethnologue at sil dot org

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2014-038 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : syx (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:
      Samay
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Shamay, Shamayi, Sama, Osamayi, Samaye
   d) Reason for preferred name:
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Samay 1,000
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: smi

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

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(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:
   Gabon

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS
coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible: Ogooué-Lolo, Haut-Ogooué, and Ogooué-Ivindo provinces. In Ogooué-Lolo Province, Lastourville area; in the other 2 provinces, along the main road between Makokou and Okondja.

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, Narrow
   Bantu, Northwest, B. Kele (B.203)

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:
   Mahongwe [mhb]

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?:
   No

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
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):


van der Veen, Lolke J. 2007. La description des langues du Gabon: état des recherches. Laboratoire Dynamique du Langage (UMR 5596), Lyons, France


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:
