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: 2015-7-8

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

Associated Change request number : 2015-050 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : fnb (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:
      Fanbak

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

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Orkon

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Fanbak is the name of the village where the speakers of this language originate from. Orkon is the language name used previously by other scholars in the field, and refers to another village situated close to Fanbak. The people from Orkon were said to speak another language (Orkon), but switched to the Fanbak language. There are no speakers of Orkon left and I am unsure yet as to whether it was a dialect of Fanbak or a separate language.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Fanbak ethnic group. Currently 95 speakers of varying fluency, which is about half the ethnic population.

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: FNB

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/iso639-3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used: Vanuatu

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible: Faramsu village, Ranvetlam village, Konkon village - North Ambrym, Malampa province. Faramsu is the centre of the language and its co-ordinates are 16°09.674', 168°06.461'

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: Oceanic

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: North Ambrym (mmg)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
There are a three or four hymns in a Presbyterian hymn book. There are no other writings of the language. I am currently documenting and describing the language and I have a collection of 15 recorded texts. By the end of 2016 there will be an alphabet and a collection of traditional stories available in the language and an archive of recorded texts in the Endangered Language Archive (ELAR, SOAS, University of London).

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?:

All local languages are protected under the constitution of Vanuatu. The language is not used in any formal education settings.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   The domains of use of the language are at home and in the garden and at formal ceremonies that involve members of the community. As the speakers of Fanbak live in villages populated by North Ambrym speakers, interaction with these speakers is in North Ambrym. Children attend North Ambrym speaking kindergarten, church services are held in Bislama or in North Ambrym. All ceremonies and interaction with North ambrym speakers is conducted in the North Ambrym language.
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: