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: 2016-3-21

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Ms Julian Lilo,(Director of Community Education and School Services, Ministry of Education), Ms Decima Regatule (Commission Secretary for the Office of the Leadership Code Commission), & Ms Margaret Laloga (Deaf teacher in San Insidro School for the Deaf).

Associated Change request number : 2016-013   (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : szs   (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:
        Solomon Islands Sign Language

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

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

    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):
        Deaf Community in the Solomon Islands, about 70,000

    f)   Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

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%2D3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
    Solomon 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:
    Latitudes 5 10' and 12 45' south and longitudes 155 30' and 170 30' east (UNDP 1986)

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:

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:
    Influence from surrounding spoken languages e.g. Pijin on Guadalcanal island and from
    Signed English, and AUSLAN, e.g. in mouth gestures. Many AUSLAN signs have simply
    been taken over from the AUSLAN dictionaries available (e.g. in kinship, food etc.
    domains). But there are SISL signs in these domains.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers,
    radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
    One documentary film 'The forgotten people' available on the internet produced by Brent
    Macpherson is the only documentary avalaible so far. One unpublished report on our pilot
    study (Laloga, Leve, Moli, Macpherson and Adone in prep.). This report is the outcome of
    the Deaf community-based action based research and us. There is no media broadcast or
    newspapers in this language.

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?:
    Not yet officially recognized by the government. We are currently working with several
    Ministries to get this process going.

c) Both children population as well as adult population use it in their daily interaction.However

d) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
There are several languages and language groups on Guadacanal island with the capital city Honiara being the hub for Deaf people. The SI shows an amazing linguistic diversity and multilingualism. Many Deaf people leave their islands and villages and gather in Honiara where they can be together with the other Deaf people. In the Deaf village at San Isidro we have established that there are Deaf young people attending the school from almost all of the 9 provinces. In terms of linguistic variation, we have also been able to establish that there are some noticeable differences in signs (e.g. Malaita versus Guadalcanal). Further work is needed here. SISL signs are used in all domains of daily interaction interwoven with Signed English and AUSLAN signs which were brought into the country by foreigners. There is a relatively high incidence of deafness due to poverty-related diseases such malaraia, meningitis, rubella, and otitis media.The majority of the Deaf people is not literate. Attitide towards SISL is very positive and the decision of the Deaf community to link the the survival of SISL to th Dic/grammar project is a community-based action research project firmly in the hands of the the Deaf community.

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 per invitation from the Deaf Association in Honiara and the Deaf Village in San Isidro we collected data on site for a pilot project in 2015. We work in close collaboration with the Deaf community whose members explained the urgent necessity to develop their local sign language and their concern that AUSLAN (which has been taught to many Deaf people) does not reflect their culture and language needs.This has been confirmed by the pilot data collection.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
No published source on SISL to our knowledge. Laloga, Leve, Moli, Macpherson and Adone (in prep.) are currently working on a paper which describes the ecology of SISL. To our knowledge it is the first time that a scholarly paper is written on the local sign language. We have taken note of the book and papers published by R. Kuschel which is based on his research with one 'Deaf -mute' signer on Rennell, one of the tiny Polynesian islands (Kuschel 1973, Kuschel 1974)

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
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