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: 2016-5-13

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Associated Change request number : 2016-017   (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : npx   (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:
       Noipä

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

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

    d) Reason for preferred name:
       It is the name of the village where this varieity is spoken.

    e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
       The people who use this language are Melanesians living on the island of Santa Cruz in the Solomon Islands. There are several hundred speakers.

    f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: npx

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:
Noipä village, in southwest sector of Santa Cruz Island at approximately:
between -10.82084513,165.79227814 and -10.82927546,165.78266510.
http://www.longitude-latitude-maps.com/city/196_12,Lata,Temotu,Solomon+Islands

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:
It is a member of the Santa Cruz family of languages on Santa Cruz Island. Together they are part of the Reefs-Santa Cruz family, and together seem to be Oceanic languages, with some as yet unexplained non-Oceanic-looking elements.

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:
Nalögo [nlz]

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:
The children of the language community grow up speaking the language. At some point in the recent past speakers here turned away from introduced Christianity and back to forms of historic beliefs. We hypothesize that this intentional isolation has led to sufficient

divergence from Natügu [ntu] and Nalögo [nlz] to make this variety no longer mutually comprehensible with either of them.

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:
See sources in "change request."

See also attached comparative wordlist with 100 words in all five Reefs-Santa Cruz (RSC) langauges. The team collected the Swadesh 200 wordlist, but 100 are sufficient to make the point.

Of the RSC languages, Äiwoo [nfl] is spoken in the Reef Islands (a cousin), across open ocean from Santa Cruz Island. Engdewu [ngr] is known to be the most different from the other Santa Cruz languages (a sibling). And Natügu [ntu] and Nalögo [nlz] can be thought of as non-identical twins. It is difficult to know where to position Noipä [npx-pending] in relation to the latter two. It could perhaps be considered one of non-identical triplets. In the first 100 words of the Swadesh list, Noipä deviates from all the other RSC languages in 26 places. In 12 words it is cognate with or identical to Nalögo, its closest neighbor geographically. In 5 words it patterns with Natügu and in 6 words with Engdewu (formerly Nagu). But it never patterns with Äiwoo. This shows that in 49 of 100 words it is incomprehensible to two or three of the other SC languages, and that it is not always mutually intelligible with the same one. Thus, the data collected supports what speakers of all SC languages told us, i.e. that Noipä is "different" from what they speak. And therefore, it warrants its own ISO 639-3 designation.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
Honorable Jocelyn, of the Temotu Provincial Assembly was the Noipä speaker who recorded for us and at age 25 she is also among the youngest generation of speakers.

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
Simons, Gary F. 1977. A dialect survey of Santa Cruz Island. Working Papers for the Language Variation and Limits to Communication Project, 3. : npl. 41 p.

Simons's 1977 dialect survey included words from Noipä (Noepe). When these results are compared to what we collected in 2015, it becomes clear that the percentage of shared vocabulary between Noipä and the other varieties spoken on the island has decreased.

I have included all 92 words used by Simons in the attached wordlist for comparision.

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/. ??Why are we referring to the 2005 edition--bhb?

LinguistList. Ancient and Extinct Languages. http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html