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: 2016-7-25
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Associated Change request number : 2016-019 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : xdn (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:
   Kunda

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

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

d) Reason for preferred name:
   Kunda is what is normally most used. I and the Zambians are aware of the Bantu prefix "Chi" but because of another language with a coincidentally exact same name in neighboring countries and parts of Zambia, "Kunda" is the preferred name.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   Kunda, 40,000 first language speakers but 80,000 claim Kunda as their ethnic identity.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: n/a

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
   - [x] 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:
   Zambia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Zambia's Eastern Province, Mambwe District in the wards: Nsefu, Jumbe, Chipapa, Mphomwa, Chikwè, Mnkhanya, Kakumbi, Ncheka, Malama, Mdimu, Msoro, Kasamanda, Nyakatokoli. The Luangwa Valley between the 13th and 14th parallel of south latitude. The Kunda traditional land is bounded on the west by the Luangwa River, on the south by the Lusangazi River and on the north by the Chisitu River. There are some separated and isolated Kunda settlements north of the Chisitu under the Sub-Chiefs Chitungulu and Vunda and one colony of Kunda is situated on the western bank the Luangwa River upstream on the Nyamadzi River under a Chiefness Nawalya.

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
   n/a

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, Central

   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:
      The lexical comparisons showed that Kunda is more closely related to Nsenga (72.6%) than to Chewa (50%). Currently the Ethnologue lists Kunda as a dialect of Chewa. (Bisa, which is thought to be the language from which Kunda separated, shows a lexical similarity of 47.8% to Kunda. The Chikunda (not “Kunda of Zambia” of Zimbabwe or Mozambique) language has the least lexical similarity at only 43.2%).

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.:?
      Translation work in progress. We hope to have the Gospel of Luke printed in early 2017.
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 ethno-linguistic identity and informal domains of use:
The Chibetwe dialect of the language that is spoken in the Nsefu Chiefdom has been able to retain the oldest or most original form of the language. The other chiefdoms have been greatly influenced by the neighboring Nsenga (not "Senga" as written in the Ethnologue) language. In other words, speakers in five Kunda chiefdoms Jumbe, Kakumbi, Malama, Mnkhanya, and Msoro have been greatly influenced by Nsenga while speakers in the Nseful Chieftdom are regarded as the purer speakers of the 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:
   Have been working with the Kunda since September 2013

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
   same as above

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: