Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2017-021

Outcome: Partially approved
Effective date: January 23, 2018
Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2017-021: to split the code element [maa] San Jeronimo Tecoatl Mazatec and create the code elements [pbm] for Puebla Mazatec and [wmz] Western Mazatec.

The request to split the code element [maa] and create the code elements [pbm] for Puebla Mazatec and [wmz] for Western Mazatec is partially approved. The request mentioned that the original code [maa] has been used for a cluster of Mazatec varieties for many years. Recent studies have shown that there is a clear split between two sets of dialects, seeming to necessitate a split of the language code. Further investigation, however, showed that the Mazatec villages in Puebla had not been included within [maa] San Jeronimo Tecoatl Mazatec as it is currently documented. For this reason, it was decided to create a new code [pbm] for Puebla Mazatec and leave the [maa] code intact. The English name Puebla Mazatec was assigned the new code, as the ISO 639 language names are in English and French, although Spanish speakers are free to use the suggested name of Mazateco de Puebla y del Noroeste. For this reason, the request to split [maa] San Jeronimo Tecoatl Mazatec is rejected, while the code [pbm] is created for Puebla Mazatec.