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: 2020-8-14

Name of Primary Requester: Heidrun Kröger
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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
João Maulana, speaker of the language and main translator of the Ngoni Bible translation program.

Joao Maulana <joao.maulana1 at gmail dot com>

Associated Change request number: 2020-018 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier: xNq (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:
   Mozambican Ngoni

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

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

d) Reason for preferred name:
   to differentiate from Tanzanian, Malawian and Zambian Ngoni

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   53 000 in Mozambique, more in Tanzania around Masasi

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: NGO or XNG

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:
   Mozambique, Tanzania

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Mozambique: Cabo Delgado province - in the districts Montepuez, Nangade, Meluco and Mueda; Niassa province: in the district of Mecula. The heartland of the Moyambican Ngoni is administrative post Nairoto in the district of Montepuez. Tanzania: Around Masasi.

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    [x] Spoken    [ ] Attested only in writings

   b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
      Bantu, N10 Manda group

   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:
      Matengo

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      Grammar Notes, vocabulary list, booklet with traditional stories, 3 biblical story booklets, translation of Genesis and Luke. The community wants their local radio, but the provincial government is denying this on the ground that they need to prove that Ngoni is a 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?:
      On national and provincial level no (although Ngoni appeared on the t-shirt for the third seminary on the orthography standardization of Mozambican languages, Ngoni did not make it into the publication), on district level yes (district education and pedagogical university in Montepuez).
c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
They trance their history to Ling'wata the one who entered Mozambique from Tanzania about a 100 years ago in search for better living conditions. It could have to do with the Maji-Maji under German colonial rule. They trance their more ancient history to the Mfecane, the wanderings and conquests of the Nguni warring parties in the 19th century, but this may be deducted from their general knowledge of the history of Southern Africa.


**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: João Maulana as Ngoni speaker

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe: interview that João Maulana conducted with three older men

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](mailto: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:


LinguistList. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)