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: 6.6.2020

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Associated Change request number : 2020-021  (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : lxm  (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:
   Lakurumau

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

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

d) Reason for preferred name:
   “The decision on how to name Lakurumau for the wider audience has not been an easy one. I had at first decided to use the endonym Loxodumau [loŋɔdumau]. However, for non-members of the community – people from other speech communities of Papua New Guinea, as well as linguists – the name Lakurumau is more transparent and easier to use (the grapheme <x> is used in all languages of Northern New Ireland to represent the voiced velar fricative, but it can be mistaken for a [ks], leading to the mispronunciation of the language name). Moreover, Lakurumau is the official name of the village and the one commonly used by speakers of other languages in New Ireland to refer to it. I decided eventually, in accordance with the community leaders, to use the term Lakurumau for any publication in English, Tok Pisin, or another foreign language, while keeping the endonym Loxodumau when writing in Lakurumau.” Footnote 1 “Documentation of Lakurumau: Making the case for one more language in Papua New Guinea” by Lidia Federica Mazzitelli (http://hdl.handle.net/10125/24922).

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use): Spoken only in Lakurumau Village, Tikana Local Level Government, Kavieng District, New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea or by persons from that village living elsewhere. Village population ca 800
f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: LKM

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: Papua New Guinea

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Lakurumau Village, Tikana Local Level Government, Kavieng District, New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea.
   -2.883; 151.250

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:
   Austronesian - Malayo-Polynesian - Oceanic - Western - Meso-Melanesian - New Ireland - Lavongai/Nalik

c) Closest languages 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:
Nalik (spoken to the south) and Kara (spoken to the north).
It has been previously referred to as a “transitional” dialect or language between the neighbouring Kara and Nalik languages (Lithgow & Claassen 1968:10; Volker 1998:3), while Wurm (2007)3 recognised it as a separate language, calling it Lakuramau:

Lithgow, David & Oren Claassen. 1968. Languages of the New Ireland District. Port Moresby: Department of Information and Extension Services.


4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:

nothing

b) Is this language officially recognised 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?:

It has been used off and on in the village elementary school, grades prep through grade 2

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

Lakuramau people tend to have a proud local identity as being distinct from Kara and Nalik people and resent being placed with one or the other. I live nearby in a Nalik-speaking village and am well known in Lakuramau Village. When I went to a community meeting and asked them whether they would like a linguist to work with them to describe their language, they were adamant they did because their language was not a type of Kara or Nalik and, while Kara had had an SIL team and I have been working on Nalik, they had been “ignored” by linguists.

Lakuramau is used informally in family groupings, for social occasions, and occasionally for customary events when outsiders are not present. Increasingly Tok Pisin is used instead, however, especially by younger persons.

Note: Generally the local identifier “Kara-Nalik” is used for political or other groupings that include Kara, Lakuramau, and Nalik speakers. People speaking these three languages share one culture, an almost identical clan system, and have many family relationships.
**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:
   I live in Madina, a Nalik-speaking village about 15km away. I have recorded Lakuramau narratives and asked Nalik speakers to help me translate or transcribe them, and they have not been able to. Although I have described Lakuramau in earlier work as a transitional dialect between Nalik and Kara, I no longer think that is the case and now feel it is a separate language.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
   Lidia Mazzitelli makes a convincing case for Lakuramau being a separate language in:

**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:**

