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: 2020-8-24

Name of Primary Requester: Christina Riepe
E-mail address: christina_riepe at sil dot org

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Luther Hon, Survey Team Leader of SIL Nigeria, luther_hon at sil dot org
Yakubu Danladi, Language Survey Specialist, SIL Nigeria, yakubu_danladi at sil dot org
Roger Blench, Independent Linguistic Consultant, Kay Williamson Educational Foundation, rogerblench@yahoo.co.uk

Associated Change request number : 2020-033 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : glb (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:
Belning

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


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

d) Reason for preferred name:
Preferred name is the spelling used by speakers of the heritage language

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
500

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

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:
Nigeria

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS
coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Langung, Dunglim, Dungkulom, Korom, and Zong; Pankshin District; Pankshin Local
Government Area; Plateau State

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:
Proposed classification: Afro-Asiatic, West Chadic

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:
Ngas [ank]

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

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?:

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   Strong use in home domains intergenerationally. Belning has a dual identity: a broader one as Ngas and a principal identity as Belning.
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:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
On February 13 and 14, 2020, Yakubu Danladi lead a survey trip to Belning villages to either confirm or deny the existence of Belning. Despite their close social relationship with the Ngas, the Belning still consider themselves to be distinct. We collected a wordlist and asked questions regarding identity and language use. We later compared the Belning wordlist we elicited with Ngas which revealed only 62-70% of lexical similarity. A report has been drafted based upon the findings of this language survey and is currently under revision before being published on SIL’s Electronic Survey Reports archive. Copies of this draft are available upon request.

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