

# 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: 2020-7-20

Name of Primary Requester: Bernadette Mitterhofer

E-mail address: survey\_utb at sil dot org

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Tim Roth, linguist, SIL-Tanzania, tim\_roth at sil dot org

Associated Change request number : 2020-038 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : rwl (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:  
Ruwila
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
Kiruwila
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
different spellings: Luwila, Luwira, Lwila, Lwira, Ruwila, Ruwira, Rwila, Rwira
- d) Reason for preferred name:  
During the survey (2012), the main village was spelled 'Uruwira', however in the census 2012 (a little later) it is spelled 'Urwila'. There hasn't been any linguistics, so it's a combination of some asking around & looking at how it was spelled most often in the villages.
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):  
Waruwila, 5,600 (based on percentages given during the survey (2012) and census data (2012). Tim Roth's 3,500 in his unpublished paper is based on data before the census.)
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: rwl

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifier 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:  
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:  
Tanzania: Katavi Region, Mlele District, Urwila and Nsimbo wards. GPS for Uruwira: 6° 26.953' S, 31° 21.154' E
- 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:  
It is probably in Bantu F (Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, F). However, further analysis is needed.
- 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:  
Konongo [kcz], Bende [bdp] and Tongwe [tny]

### 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:  
In 2019 an oral Bible translation project was started.
- 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 ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:  
Ruwila speakers are bordered by the Galla people to the north, the Pimbwe people to the south, the Bende people to the west and the Konongo people to the east. Of these

neighbouring people groups, Ruwila speakers feel closest to the Konongo. There is intermarriage both with Konongo speakers and Bende speakers. Ruwila is used in everyday life in the village where there are only Ruwila speakers present. With others Swahili is used. According to teachers of the area (not Ruwila speakers) Ruwila children do not know any other local languages, but some Ruwila adults know Nyamwezi and many understand Konongo. At least half of the children do not know Swahili (national language) when they start school.

## 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:

The SIL Tanzania Language Assessment Team carried out a sociolinguistic survey of the Ruwila and Konongo peoples in Mlele District, Katavi Region, Tanzania in February and March 2012. The findings are presented in the survey report and in an unpublished paper (Roth (2012). A brief look at the genetic affiliation of Ruwila, a previously undocumented language in Tanzania. Unpublished manuscript.).

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):

Abe, Yuko. 2011. The Continuum of Languages in West Tanzania Bantu: A Case Study of Gongwe, Bende and Pimbwe. In Hieda, Osamu, König, Christa and Hiroshi Nakagawa (eds.), *Geographical Typology and Linguistic Areas, with special reference to Africa*, 177-188. Tokyo University of Foreign Studies/University of Cologne.

Tambila, A. (1981). A history of the Rukwa region (Tanzania) ca. 1870-1940: Aspects of economic and social change from precolonial to colonial times. A. Tambila.

Tanzania, United Republic of. (1970) 1967 Population census.

Waters, Tony. 2001. “Historia ya Kabila ya Wagongwe (Julai 2001)”. Unpublished report.eas, with special reference to Africa, 177-188. Tokyo University of Foreign Studies/University of Cologne.

### **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  
ISO 639-3/RA web site: <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/default.asp>  
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:**

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/> .

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

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>