

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

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Associated Change request number : 2020-040 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : okc (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:

Kobo

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

Kobo

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

Ikobo

- d) Reason for preferred name:

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

Initial reports (2011) were that the Kobo people probably number between 10,000 and 15,000; more recent estimates have been 50,000 (2014) or even higher.

- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: [As I understand it, the code okc has been reserved in connection with request 2012-155.](#)

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:
Democratic Republic of Congo
- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Twenty villages of Walikale Territory (northwest of Goma, near 29° E, 1° S) – according to Mme Saruti, the homeland is bounded on the east by the river Kihuhwe, on the north by the river Bilati, on the west by the river Kamuli, and on the south by the river Luholu.
- 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:
Bantu J, related to Nande, Hunde, and other languages of Western Shores of Lake Kivu
- 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:
Either Nande (J.40) or Hunde (J.50)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

There are a few booklets already in Kobo; a functioning language program team began Bible translation efforts in earnest in 2018.

- 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:

Used in homes; limited use to date in churches.

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:

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b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

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

Jean-Baptiste Murairi Mitima, *Parlons kihunde : Kivu, R.-D. Congo : langue et culture*, L'Harmattan, Paris, 2008, 249 p.

([ISBN 978-2-296-06494-2](https://www.isbn-international.org/view/title/978-2-296-06494-2)) - the Bakobo people are mentioned on p. 10

(**Reference found on French Wikipedia page** for a neighboring language <[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunde_\(langue\)](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunde_(langue))>)

Book excerpt available:

<http://livre.prologuenumerique.ca/telechargement/extrait.cfm?ISBN=9782296207684&type=pdf>

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

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>
HYPERLINK

"<http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>"[http://linguistlist.o](http://linguistlist.org/)