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: 2020-041 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier: zla (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:
      Zula
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Shuula or Kishuula
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Zura, Shuula
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      "Zula" already appears in the literature (This spelling is preferable to “Zura” because there isn't even an “r” sound in the language.)
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      The Wa-Zula or Ba-Shuula, numbering about 25,000
   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:
   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:
   Throughout the six divisions (groupements) of the Wazula collectivité (chiefdom) of Kasongo Territory, Maniema Province. North/east bank of the River Congo.
   Between 4°20’ and 4°50’ S and 27°30’ and 28° E. South and southeast of Kasongo.

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:
   Bears greatest resemblance to languages of Bantu Zone L.
   However, its Bantu referential code begins, like that of Bangubangu, with D.
   Jouni Maho (NUGL Online) has assigned it D141 for reasons of convenience.

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:
   Hemba <hem>, Songe <sop> and Bangubangu <bnx> seem linguistically closest.

   See Detail of provincial map. Songe area is southwest and south, Hemba area is southeast, Bangubangu area (Lulindi, Saramabila and Wamaza) is east.

   Zimba <zmb> area is to the north, though not adjacent (unless Mamba proves to be a Zimba dialect). Closest neighbours, along the Congo River, are called Enya. It is not known how their speech compares to Enya <gey>.

   For wordlist comparison (lexicon and phonology), we used:

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

Only initial documents to describe the language and how to spell.  
No newspapers or broadcasts.

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 official status (EGIDS 6a) but its speakers are recognized as a people (as evidenced by the continued politico-administrative status of the chiefdom).

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

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:


HYPERLINK "http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html" http://linguistlist.o