Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2020-005

Outcome: Revised and accepted
Effective date: January 15, 2021
Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2020-005: to change the reference name of the code element [wad] for Wandamen.

The request to change the reference name for the code element [wad] for Wandamen was revised and accepted. As a part of our review process the Registration Authority posts requested changes for three months. A Ph.D. linguist contributed comments that the requested name, Wondama, is used in the largest town in the language area, but is not accepted throughout the area. Her research had revealed that the name Wamesa was accepted throughout the area. Her comments are attached below. Because of this the name Wamesa has been adopted as the reference name and the originally requested name, Wondama, has been added as an additional name for the code element [wad].
Hello,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed change for ISO 639-3 from Wandamen to Wondama. I've been working on the language since 2010, and my dissertation (2014) was a grammar and analysis of its phonology and morphology. In general I support this change, as the speakers I've worked with tend to use 'Wandamen' when speaking Indonesian/Papuan Malay, but 'Wondama' in the language itself. That said, my consultants, who are primarily from the Windesi dialect, would only use that name for the Wondama Bay dialect specifically, and prefer the name Wamesa for the language as a whole. (See my dissertation and subsequent publications.) I expect the proposers are working with communities in the Wondama or Wasior area, as past SIL researchers have. The name Wondama is appropriate for one of the three dialect groups, and is an improvement on 'Wandamen', but does not represent the whole speech community.

-Emily Gasser

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