

# 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: 15/12/2020

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

Associated Change request number : 2021-013 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : lsw (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:  
Lalang Siny Seselwa
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
Seychellois Sign Language = SSL (in english) Langue des Signes  
Seychelloise = LSS (in french)
- d) Reason for preferred name:  
The name given in Kreol language
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):  
Deaf community of the Seychelles, approximatively 100 people
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: LSS

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:

The Seychelle Islands

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:

the three major islands : Mahé, Praslin, La Digue

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

description initiated in 2010

### 3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is:  Signed  Spoken  Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:

signed languages

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:

influenced by Kreol Seselwa (local spoken language), French Sign Language and French Sign language used in La Réunion

### 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

No literature, but cultural/ educational projects in LSS with the Kreol Institute. An online page on Facebook , managed by the Association for People with Hearing Impairment (APHI) gives a translation of official information in LSS

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?:

The Council of Ministers adopted in 2010 the project Development of Seychellois Sign Language. The publication of the LSS dictionary, in 2019, gives the opportunity to request a recognition by the government. That was one of the aims of the project. There is a school for the deaf, until 2010, where LSS is used as teaching language

c) **Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:**

LSS is used in the families and contacts of deaf people, the deaf community and during activities and meetings of the APHI. SBC, The Seychelles television broadcast asks for interpretation in sign language when important information is given. But there are only two interpreters in the Seychelles.

## 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:

in the project 'Development Seychellois sign language', from 2010 til 2017, founded by Unesco and the Seychelles's government. I went to the Seychelles for three missions, in 2014, 2017 and 2019, where I met a lot of signers in the aim to collect data, validate the analyses and present the dictionary. I went to the the school for the deaf, and I met people from the Creole Institute and University of Seychelles.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

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

– Gendrot, M. & Gébert, A. (2010). Les projets de développement de la Langue des signes mauricienne (MSL) et de la Langue des signes seychelloise (SSL) [1]: Leur lien avec le pôle LSF de l' INJS de Paris. *La nouvelle revue de l'adaptation et de la scolarisation*, 49(1), 171–180. <https://doi.org/10.3917/nras.049.0171>

– Gendrot, M. (2016). Langue des signes et administration de la justice : le cas des Seychelles. *Éla. Études de linguistique appliquée*, 183(3), 343–353. <https://doi.org/10.3917/ela.183.0343>

– Risler, A. (2019) “Pointing gestures and personal references in Seychelles Sign Language and Creole Seychellois” , Theoretical Issues in Signed Languages (TISLR) 13, Hambourg, 25–27 septembre 2019, Poster

– Alain Gébert, Annie Risler. (2019) A dictionary and grammar of SEYCHELLOIS SIGN LANGUAGE A. P. H. I. Ed, Mahé. < [hal-02986623](https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-02986623) >

### 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>  
HYPERLINK

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