

# 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: 2021-8-30

Name of Primary Requester: James Woodward

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

Associated Change request number : 2021-032

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : rib

(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:  
Bribri Sign Language
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
- d) Reason for preferred name:  
Name used in Woodward 1991, following usual conventions for naming sign languages
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):  
One small village among the Bribri Indians, three deaf people (now deceased) and their hearing friends and relatives. The village numbered about 400 people in 1991, but there is no information as to what proportion of them knew the sign language. Since the three deaf people were deceased in 1991, the language likely has also fallen into disuse, with only very elderly people remembering any of it. I have no information about whether any new deaf children have been born into the community, which would be an occasion for reviving the language.
- 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 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:  
Costa Rica
- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:  
Southern part of the country, among the Bribri Indians, exact location of the pueblo unknown.
- 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:  
isolate
- 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:  
no definitive influence from any other signed language. Possible influence from gestures commonly-used among indigenous people in Costa Rica. Hearing population speaks Bribri [bzd], which is structurally distinct from Bribri SL.[

### 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:  
none known
- 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 formal recognition or use in education

- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:  
Presumably was used in all domains when the deaf residents were still alive.

## 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):  
see Change Request Form

### 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>