## ISO 639 Change Request

**Request ID** 2023-004

**Objective** Merge [dek] Dek into Suma [sqm] as duplicate

**Affected code elements** The proposed change would affect the following code elements:
- [dek] Dek — Deprecate as duplicate
  - Merge into Suma [sqm] as duplicate

**Affected code sets** 639-3 only

**World region** Africa, Central

**Language family** Niger-Congo

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**Other submitters**

**Submission date** 2023-02-24

**Publication date** 2024-01-31
Proposal: 2023-004

[dek] Dek: Retire as Duplicate of [sqm] Suma

Submitter:
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Rationale:

The rationale for the change is given by Elders (2006: 44-45). He notes the following:
(a) The first mention of Dek is by Tessmann (1928: 322, 340), who locates the Dek between the rivers Mbaye and Ouham in the Central African Republic (NOT in Cameroon, as claimed by Ethnologue);
(b) Ethnologue’s listing of Dek as a Mbum language of Cameroon originates in Greenberg (1963: 9). [Greenberg lists Dek under his Adamawa-Eastern subgroup 6, together with Mbum. However, he gives no references for this listing];
(c) In his discussion of Tessman (1928), Moñino (1995: 709) concludes that the Dek are identical with the Suma, living north-west of Bossangoa in the CAR. Elders (2006:45) agrees with Moñino’s assessment and concludes, “The name Dek should therefore be omitted from the inventory of Kebi-Benoue [= Mbum] languages.”

References:


