ISO 639 Change Request

Request ID 2023-005

Objective Update [daz] Dao reference name to Moi-Wadea

Affected code elements The proposed change would affect the following code elements:
- [daz] Dao — Change the reference name
  Old value = Dao, New value = Moi-Wadea

Affected code sets 639-3 only
World region Pacific
Language family Trans-New Guinea
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Other submitters Mike Moxness, Wycliffe
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[daz] Dao: Change Reference Name to Moi-Wadea
24 May 2023

Submitter:

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Additional Supporters: Mike Moxness, Wycliffe

Rationale:

My name is Stephen Crockett (with Ethnos360). My wife, Carolyn, and I have been working in the area listed as Dao [daz] in the Ethnologue since June of 2000. The language area shown on the map as Dao, isn’t actually Dao. The people here call themselves Moi.

The Dao is the name of a river that borders Auye [auu] and Moi. The actual name of the people group in the upper part of the river valley and to the east is Moi. The people in the lower part of the river valley are part of the Auye language group to the west.

Further explanation: The Dao is the name of a river that borders Auye and Moi. Back in 1998, Mike Moxness (Wycliffe/SIL) working in Auye invited (NTM/now Ethnos360) to accompany him in contacting a remote area bordering Auye, particularly the location referred to by pilots as point Xray (hence the first nickname). Mike already had an outpost along the Dao river which was somewhat of a staging point for us. Our first contact with the people we have been working with was along the Maniwo river. So for a while we called them the Maniwo people (hence the second nickname). After working with them for a bit we learned that they call themselves the Moi.

For all of the Moi that we interact with, they call themselves the Moi, and refer to their language as the Moi talk (language). In light of the other Moi languages in the world and the need to disambiguate, I think a good option would be to incorporate the name Wadea. I’ve had many discussions with the people about this trying to determine what would be the best, what they prefer. Although the name Moi is used 99% of the time in reference to their people and language, if they are being specific about their particular dialect they differentiate themselves from others with the name Wadea.

Mike Moxness from Auye confirms this. In fact, it appears that the Auye would refer to the Moi more by the name Wadea (starting from the Dao river and extending into the Wolani area). When talking with Piyando (Moi man) about this, he agreed that the Wadea area extended a good 3 day hike both towards Auye (west) and Wolani (east).
So for that reason, I think using the name Wadea in combination with Moi, such as Moi-Wadea would work to disambiguate this group from other Moi languages.

Sources:
This first-hand account is based on local experience working with the Moi for the last 23 years.