

# 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: 2009-7-8

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

Associated Change request number : 2009-045

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : wgb

(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:  
Wagawaga
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
Baeaula, Beauli, Ealeba, Gamadoudou, Gibara and Kilikilana
- d) Reason for preferred name:
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):  
Wagawaga people, population: 605 (2000 census)
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: wgw

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:  
Papua New Guinea
  
- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:  
Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea. The main area where Wagawaga is spoken is a relatively short, wide stretch of land across the bay from the town of Alotau. There is another group of Wagawaga speakers living along the Dawadawa River east of Wagawaga village. These hamlets are part of the Upper and Lower Dawadawa wards, and they are in the middle of the Tawala language area.
  
- 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:  
Suauic
  
- 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:  
Yaleba

### 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.
  
- 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?:  
A government-run primary school uses Wagawaga as a language of instruction.
  
- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:  
The Wagawaga dialect of Wagawaga shows signs of strong vitality; it is being used in most domains by adults and children alike. People of this dialect also have a strong group identity and maintain a separate identity from the languages surrounding them. The vitality of the Wagawaga Inland dialect is more questionable. While there is still a strong group

identity, the villages of this dialect have much stronger social ties with Tawala villages than with other Wagawaga villages and are shifting to using the Tawala language.

## 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:  
Potter, Margaret, Thom Retsema, Michael J. Rueck and Sabine Oetzel. 2005. Oya'oya, Wagawaga and Yaleba language survey report. Manuscript.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):

### 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>