

# 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: 2007-5-15

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

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Associated Change request number : 2007-090

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : lkc

(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:  
Kucong
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
Lahu
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
Cosung, Lahlu
- d) Reason for preferred name:  
Used in Chinese sources to refer to this language as distinct from Lahu proper (cf. Sun 1992, YJDZ 1983, etc). Treated as a distinct ethnic minority in Vietnam under the similar name, "Cosung".
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):  
40,000 in China; 6,874 in Vietnam; 47,000 in all countries (Bradley 2007) cf., Bradley (1997).
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: lkc

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:  
 China, Vietnam
- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:  
 Scattered in Central Yunnan Province, China, in the following counties: Jinping, Luchun, Jiangcheng, Mengla, Yuanjiang, Xinping, Jinggu, and other counties. Also living in Muang Te District of Lai Chau Province, Vietnam.
- 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:  
 Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmic, Ngwi (Loloish), Central.
- 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:  
 Lahu [lhu]

### 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?:
- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:  
 Number of speakers is decreasing. Declining use among children. Potentially endangered. Most speakers also speak Hani and/or Chinese.

## 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:  
Dr. David Bradley

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

BRADLEY, DAVID. 1997. Tibeto-Burman Languages and Classification. Tibeto-Burman Languages of the Himalayas, ed. by David Bradley, PLS-A-86-14:1-72.

BRADLEY, DAVID. 2007. East and South East Asia. Atlas of the World's Languages, 2nd edition., ed. by R. E. Asher and Christopher Moseley. London: Routledge.

SUN JIANYI. 1992. Lahuyu Kucong hua Ruogan Tedian [Various linguistic distinctives of Kucong Lahu]. Minzu Yuwen, 1992.5:68-73.

YJDZ. 1983. Editorial Committee, eds. Yuanjiang xian diming zhi [The geographic place name gazetteer of Yuanjiang county]. Yuanjiang: Renmin Zhengfu.

### 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>