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: 2015-8-23

Name of Primary Requester: Benny Kurian
E-mail address: bennymaryk at gmail dot com

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Mark Penny, SIL-South Asia Group, mark_penny at sil dot org

Associated Change request number : 2015-062 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : esg (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:
      Gondi, Aheri
   
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Koyam
   
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Aheri Gondi, Raj Gond
   
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      The Gondi people who speak this variety live in villages around the village called Aheri. Aheri is a ‘taluk’ place where the Gonds often come for buying and selling goods in the market. They also come here for interacting with officers in the Government offices..
   
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Gondi, Aheri; Speakers number 150,000
   
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: ESG

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

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Macrolanguage

(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   India

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   This is spoken in the Talukas of Aheri, Etapalli, Sironcha, Mulchera, Bhamragarh of the District Gadchiroli of the State of Maharashtra AND in the Mandals of Koutala, Beijur of District Adilabad of the Telangana states of India.

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:
   Dravidian, South-Central, Gondi-Kui, Gondi

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:
   Gondi, Southern; Existing Code - 'ggo'
   Proposed "Gondi, Adilabad" - Western Southern Gondi

d) 

e) 

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   Dictionary, Primers, Scripture portions, Web site, Audio Recordings of scripture portions, Christian messages, Jesus Film, Mobile Apps for reading scripture.
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?:

This is recognised as a language but not used at any level as a language of instruction in School.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

The Raj Gonds who live around Aheri have a rich history. Many years back they ruled the area - hence the name Raj Gond (meaning Gonds who are rulers). The Gondi people have a king and he lives in Aheri in his palacial house. He is Raje Amrishrao Atram. He is also Tribal minister of Gadchiroli District right now. He is honoured one time of the year when Gondi and Hill Maria people carry him on Palanquin during the Dussehra festival in a traditional way to the beat of huge Drums and music. He owns various Schools and colleges in the region. His cousins and close relatives are in active politics in the Government of the state of Maharashtra. Language vitality is very strong with Gondi being used exclusively in most domains.
**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:
   I, (Benny Kurian) have personally met the previous king Satyawan Rao Maharaj and have witnessed the religious pomp and glory that is created around him during the dussehra Festival. This festival is still continuing with his son who is the present king.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
   Please refer to: http://www.language-archives.org/language/ggo for a list of books already published.

**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
Email: 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:**

