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

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Associated Change request number: 2017-026 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier: umh (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:
      M'hun

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:

      1. M'hun (pronounced [mʰ hun])
      2. Thmon (pronounced [tʰmon]). Thmon is the name M'hun people use for themselves when speaking Khmer.

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      T'moan. 2008 national census form written "Thmoon"

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      M'hun is the autonym used by M'hun speakers when speaking M'hun

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      The ethnic group is also called M'hun. The population of M'hun is about 1,381.

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

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/iso639-3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:

Cambodia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:

Most Thmon people live and speak Thmon in:
- Phtar village, Roluos Mean Chey commune, Sambour district, Kratie province. N13° 10.375' E106° 26.269'
- Ton village, Srae Chis commune, Sambour district, Kratie province. N13° 06.418' E106° 37.753'
- Srae Hiu village, Srae Chis commune, Sambour district, Kratie province. N13° 06.952' E106° 34.350'
- Memom village, Roya commune, Kaoh Nheaek district, Mondul Kiri province. N13° 06.243' E106° 59.758'

The main two villages are Phtar and Ton, which represent two varieties of M'hun language, Lower M'hun and Upper M'hun, respectively. The general area which Thmon people are associated with is the Ou Preah river, a tributary east of the Mekong river, and the forest north of the Ou Preah. All the M'hun villages are located within the borders of Mondul Kiri province, but the first three listed in Kratie province are administered under Kratie province.

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:

Bahnaric, Mon-Khmer

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:
Kraol [rka]

Note: The “Tà Mun” of Vietnam, which the Ethnologue lists as a dialect of Chrau [crw], is not the focus of this ISO code request. Both “Tà Mun” and M’hun / Thmon are in the Bahnaric language family but are separated by about 180km and show only as much similarity as one would expect between two Bahnaric languages.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
There is a word list recording from a 2016 survey trip.

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?:
M’hun was a choice (written "Thmoon") on the mother tongue list in the 2008 national census form. M’hun is not used in schools.

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

All M’hun people identify as M’hun people and, generally, all M’hun people speak M’hun language. They identify as a distinct ethnic and language group. Some M’hun children in Memom village do not speak M’hun, but the group in that village is shifting to Bunong and Khmer. There is no language shift in progress in the other villages, but people prefer to use M’hun in all domains, and the children learn M’hun as their first 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:

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
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: