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: 2013-4-15

Name of Primary Requester: Damir Cavar, the PI of MultiTree

E-mail address: multitree at linguistlist dot org

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

Associated Change request number : 2013-009   (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : gev   (completed by Registration Authority)

PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the <u>public record</u> 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:
       Eviya

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

    c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
       Evia, Ivéa, Gevia

    d) Reason for preferred name:
       The spelling "Gevia" was rejected by the Eviya people.

    e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
       The name of the ethnic group is Eviya; the number of Eviya is estimated around 400. Because they live on national grounds, obtaining precise figures is difficult. In the official censuses led by the Gabonese government, the Eviya are consistently grouped with other communities. However, linguists believe that the number of fluent speakers does not exceed approximately twenty.

    f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: gev

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:
Gabon

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Eviya is spoken in the central part of Gabon, in one single village located on the right bank of the Ngounié river, opposite the city – prefecture – of Fougamou. Some traces of former villages remain, located out in the bush, east of today's village. Other speakers of the language now live scattered over large urban centers, Libreville especially.

According to migration narratives, the Eviya came from the Ogooué-Ivindo region (northeastern Gabon) along with peoples of Mitsogo, Apindji, Okandé, Pové, and Himba. They are said to have settled in the current area following a long stay somewhere near the sea.

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:
Niger-Congo, Bantu

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:
Getsogo

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
Since 2003, the Eviya have their own dictionary (ca. 6,600 entries) thanks to a 15 years-long collaboration between Lolke van der Veen and the two native speakers of Eviya, Sébastien Bodinga-bwa-Bodinga and Moïse Modandi wa-Komba.

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?:
Despite a national language status, like every other indigenous language in Gabon, Geviya nowadays is severely threatened with extinction. It can be viewed as another significantly moribund minority language. No one uses Eviya outside its speakers. It is relatively unknown in Gabon, where vernaculars are left out of the education system. There is no support for the language from the government.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
The Eviya all speak at least two indigenous languages: theirs and Eshira; many also speak Getsogo; most of them also speak fluent French. Eviya is only spoken in the village: if outside the village, it is only spoken within the family sphere or among members of the community, incidentally with a growing discretion especially in the presence of people who do not speak the language.
Cross-generational transmission is under process of interruption. The children are still taught the language (passive command) but they usually answer in French when addressed by the older generations. Children communicate in French, the language they learn and use in school. This shows an unequal form of bilingualism. A rise in interest towards the language has been observed since the publication of a Geviya-French dictionary in 2002, though it would be wrong to consider this could reverse the trend, in today's context of globalization and economy crisis.

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):
Van der Veen, L. J., Bodinga-bwa-Bodinga, S. (2002). Gedandedi sa Geviya, Dictionnaire geviya-français. Collection Langues et littératures de l'Afrique Noire. XII. Directed by G. Philippson, Leuven-Paris, Peeters Publishers. 569 p.

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
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