

# People Group Data Feedback Process

## Global Research Department, IMB

### Purpose of This Document

The purpose of this feedback process document is to describe how the International Mission Board's Global Research Department utilizes feedback to consider changes to our people group listing or to data related to our people group listing.

### Basic View on People Groups

The Vision of the International Mission Board is: "A multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ." Our mission is to "Make disciples of all peoples in fulfillment of the Great Commission." In order to make disciples of all peoples, a comprehensive listing of peoples (nations) is of utmost importance to our organization and to our churches.

The primary purpose of the listing of peoples of the International Mission Board is to make sure that all the peoples of the world have the opportunity to hear, understand and respond to the Gospel. Our listing of peoples is a reflection of our limited understanding of the peoples of the world, just as other listings of peoples are reflections of the limited understanding of those list holders. It is our desire to have a listing that accounts for the peoples of the world so that if the Gospel is introduced to every people group on our list, the Gospel will flow throughout the whole earth without encountering significant barriers of understanding or acceptance.

The International Mission Board partners with a number of likeminded organizations who seek to share the Gospel with the entire world. We post our people group listing and information about each people group on the Internet to provide mission critical information for ourselves and our partners. It is our desire to make this information both timely and accurate, and we welcome feedback on people groups or information about them. When feedback is received, it is shared with our personnel on the field. At times, our personnel request additional information from partners on the field. After feedback has been considered, field personnel may make changes or they may not. The subsequent posting of reports on the Internet is the product of our reflection on feedback about people groups and is under constant revision due to the nature of our changing world.

### The Feedback Process

As people, churches, and organizations use our people group list around the world, they will no doubt find that some changes are needed; we welcome their observations and suggestions. We prefer firsthand, well-documented information whenever possible. We feel that when it comes to people groups, all peoples have a right to characterize themselves by people name, language and dialect preference, worldview, and other elements that make them unique. The following process guides us when someone contacts the Global Research Department. We ask that those providing feedback use the feedback link found at <http://www.peoplegroups.org/Feedback.aspx> or contact the Global Research Information Center ([gric@imb.org](mailto:gric@imb.org)).

1. Upon receipt of feedback, the Global Research Information Center (GRIC) will confirm that the feedback includes basic information needed for consideration and will log the information provided along with a contact name.
2. GRIC will assign the feedback to a staff liaison(s) in the Global Research Department responsible for relating to the region(s) of the world relevant to the feedback.
3. The liaison will initiate a dialogue with the appropriate regional research coordinator (RRC).
4. The RRC will seek to verify the feedback offered to determine if there are sufficient grounds to modify our information based upon the feedback.
  - If a change is needed, the regional research coordinator will change the data and upload it to the database.
  - If a change is not needed, the list will be left as is.

Note: The regional research coordinator may or may not contact the feedback provider during this time.

5. The GRD liaison will notify the feedback provider of decision reached by the field about the feedback.

All correspondence concerning the feedback is preserved in case questions arise, or in the event similar feedback is received in the future. Additionally, various steps in the process are logged, and GRIC monitors the log to ensure that resolution occurs in a timely fashion.

#### Summary Report and the Running Log

In special instances, a monthly summary report and running log will be offered to partners of the International Mission Board to give an overview of feedback disposition in the previous reporting month.