

# Ethnologue: Languages of Botswana

## Twenty-sixth edition data

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## List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
ACHPR	African Charter on Human Peoples' Rights (1987)
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCPRD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

## How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Botswana that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 36 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Botswana. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

**Primary language name** [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. *Map*: Map page. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

The “Language Map” (page 21) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 22) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 25) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by

District” (page 29) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Botswana and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 31) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 33) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 34) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 229 unique names are associated with the 36 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 40). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author’s or editor’s surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source’s first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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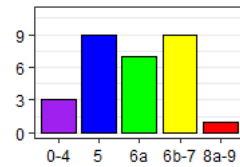
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## Country Overview

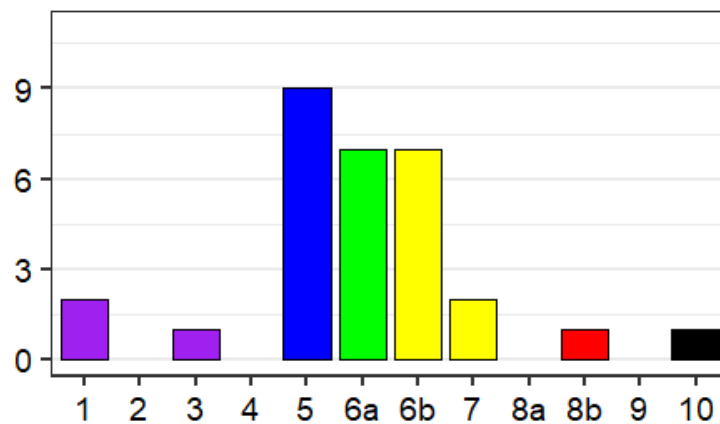
Name of country	Botswana
Other names	Republic of Botswana
Population	2,352,000 (2020 World Bank)
Principal languages	English, Setswana
Literacy rate	87% (2013 UNESCO)
Deaf population	990 deaf, 6,480 hearing impaired (1991 census)
International conventions	ACHPR (1986), CPPDCE (2020), CSICH (2010), ICCPR (2000), UNCRPD (2021), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Andersson and Janson 1997, Bendor-Samuel and Hartell 1989
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Botswana is 30. Of these, 29 are living and 1 is extinct. Of the living languages, 26 are indigenous and 3 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional, 9 are developing, 7 are vigorous, 9 are in trouble, and 1 is dying. Also listed are 6 unestablished languages.</p>



See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

## Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Botswana with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 25) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

## Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Botswana. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Botswana and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

### Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Botswana by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 22) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

**Table 1:** Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	1	3.4	3.4%	1,790,000	76.90953	76.90953%
100,000 to 999,999	1	3.4	6.9%	171,000	7.34722	84.25675%
10,000 to 99,999	9	31.0	37.9%	313,000	13.44843	97.70517%
1,000 to 9,999	15	51.7	89.7%	52,360	2.24971	99.95489%
100 to 999	2	6.9	96.6%	1,020	0.04383	99.99871%
10 to 99	1	3.4	100.0%	30	0.00129	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	29	100.0		2,327,410	100.00000	

## Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Botswana by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 25) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Botswana. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

**Table 2:** Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers					
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>	
1	2	6.9	6.9%	1,854,900	79.6980	79.6980%	927,450	927,450	
3	1	3.4	10.3%	8,000	0.3437	80.0418%	8,000	8,000	
5	9	31.0	41.4%	298,480	12.8246	92.8663%	33,164	15,000	
6a	7	24.1	65.5%	149,500	6.4234	99.2898%	21,357	6,520	
6b	7	24.1	89.7%	12,500	0.5371	99.8268%	1,786	1,470	
7	2	6.9	96.6%	4,000	0.1719	99.9987%	2,000	2,000	
8b	1	3.4	100.0%	30	0.0013	100.0000%	30	30	
<i>Totals</i>	29	100.0		2,327,410	100.0000				

## Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 5 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

**Table 3:** Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Indo-European	2	6.9	72,980	3.1	36,490	36,490
Khoe-Kwadi	9	31.0	18,220	0.8	2,024	1,470
Kx'a	3	10.3	7,030	0.3	2,343	2,000
Niger-Congo	14	48.3	2,227,180	95.7	159,084	16,850
Tuu	1	3.4	2,000	0.1	2,000	2,000
<i>Totals</i>	29	100.0	2,327,410	100.0		

## Alphabetical Listing of Languages

**!Xóǒ** [nmn] (!Khong, !Xo, !Xo'ó~, East Taa, N/amani, Nglamani, Taa, Tsasi). *Users*: 2,000 in Botswana (2011 C. Naumann). *Location*: Ghanzi district: south; Kgalagadi district: north; Kweneng and Southern districts: west. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Tuu, Taa. *Dialects*: Kakia (Masarwa), Nglulen (Nglulei, Nulen, |Nulen, |Ulen, ||Ulen), Nusan (Ng|usan, Noosan, Nu-San), !Kwi, #Hoan (Western #Hoan). *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, adjectives, numerals, relatives after noun heads; question word initial; 2 prefixes, 3 suffixes; word order distinguishes subjects, objects, indirect objects; verb affixes mark number, gender of subject and object, and is obligatory; passives; reduplication on periphrastics for causatives; periphrastic comparatives; CV, CVV, CVCV; tonal. *Lg Use*: Also use |Gwi [gwj]. Also use Herero [her]. Also use Kgalagadi [xkv]. Also use Naro [nhr]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Second languages used by people older than 10 who have been to school or have lived with speakers of the other languages. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Nulen dialect is extinct. ‡Hua (#Hoan) [huc] is different from #Hoan dialect (Western #Hoan). Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 21 (as Xóǒ). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,500. Also indigenous in: Namibia.

**|Gwi** [gwj] (Dcui, G!wikwe, Gwi, G|wi, G|wikhwe, |Gui). *Users*: 1,470 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location*: Ghanzi district: East Hanahai, Kacgae, and New Xade; Kweneng district: Dntlwe, Kautwane, Khekhenye, Letihakeng, Morwamosu, Serinane, Takotkwane, and Tsetseng. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Southwest. *Dialect*: Khute. *Lg Use*: Also use ||Gana [gnk]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Naro [nhr]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Used as L2 by !Xóǒ [nmn], ||Gana [gnk], †'Amkhoe [huc]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15–29 years: 40% in Setswana [tsn], 2% in English; 30–54 years: 2% in Tswana, 0% in English; 55 and older: 0%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 21.

**||Ani** [hnh] (Handa-Khwe, Handakwe-Dam, Handá, Handádam, Ts'exa, Ts'éxa, |Anda, ||Anikhwe). *Users*: 1,000 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location*: North West district: Khwai river, Mababe; near Khwedam [xuu] language area. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Northwest. *Dialects*: None known. May be the same language as Khwedam [xuu] (Brenzinger 2013b). *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15–29 years: 70% Setswana [tsn], 50% English; 30–54 years: 40% Tswana, 10% English. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 21.

**||Gana** [gnk] (/Gui, Dxana, Gxana, Gxanna, |Gana, |Gana-Khwe, Kanakhoe). *Users*: 1,030 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location*: Central district: Boteti subdistrict, cattleposts south and west of Rakops; Ghanzi district: New Xadi and Ghanzi, Ghanzi commercial farms, Central Kalahari Game Reserve. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Southwest. *Dialects*: Domkhoe, Glaakhwe (Balanka, |Glaa), |Glanakhwe (Kanakhoe), |Khessákhoe. *Lg Use*: Also use |Gwi [gwj]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Naro [nhr]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Used as L2 by |Gwi [gwj]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15–29 years: 40%

in Setswana [tsn], 2% in English [eng]; 30–54 years: 2% in Tswana, 0% in English; 55 and older: 0%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 21.

**†'Amkhoe** [huc] (Eastern †Hoan, †Hua, †Hû, †Hoa, †Hoan, †Hoã, †Hua, †Hua-Owani). *Users*: 30 (Brenzinger 2013b), decreasing. *Location*: Kweneng district: southern Kalahari desert. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Kx'a. *Dialects*: †Hoan, Sasi, N!aqriaxe. N!aqriaxe and †Hoan are closest, collectively referred to as West †'Amkoe; Sasi is referred to as East †'Amkoe. *Type*: SOV; genitives before noun head; adjectives, numerals, demonstratives, relatives after noun head; tonal. *Lg Use*: Elderly only. Many shifted to †Gwi [gwj]. Some shifted to Kgalagadi [xkv]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Different from †Hoan (Western †Hoan) dialect of !Xóǀ [nmn]. *Map*: 21.

**Afrikaans** [afr]. Autonym: Afrikaans. *Users*: 8,080 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). *Location*: Central and Kgatlang districts: north of Limpopo river; Ghanzi and Kgalagadi districts: widespread; North West district along Namibian border; Southern district: small area southwest of Khakea; possibly Takatokwane area. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, Low Saxon-Low Franconian, Low Franconian. *Type*: SVO (SOV in subordinate clauses); prepositions; noun head final; definite and indefinite articles; passives; tense; 20 consonants, 16 vowels, 9 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Use*: Spoken as L1 by Afrikaners (Ghanzi District) and by people of mixed racial background (Kweneng and Kgalagadi districts). Also use English [eng]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Used as L2 by Kgalagadi [xkv]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 100% in Ghanzi district, 50% in Kgalagadi districts. Literacy rate in L2: 75% in Kweneng and Kgalagadi districts in Setswana [tsn], 50% in English [eng]; few use Tswana in Ghanzi District, most use English. Fully developed. Bible: 1933–2000. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1953. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 17,674,200 (as L1: 7,359,600; as L2: 10,314,600). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: South Africa. Also established in: Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

**Birwa** [brl]. *Users*: 15,000 in Botswana (2004 R. Cook). *Location*: Central district: Bobonong subdistrict, Bobonong, Kobojango, Mathathane, Motalatau, and Semolale. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Sotho-Tswana (S.32). *Dialects*: None known. Related to Tswapong [two]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 71,000. Also indigenous in: Zimbabwe. Also established in: South Africa.

**Chinese, Mandarin** [cmn]. *Users*: 1,300 in Botswana (2022 Joshua Project). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; 6 full (concrete meaning) word classes; no articles; passives; 24 consonants, 8 vowels, 6 diphthongs; tonal (4 phonemic tones). *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1874–1983. *Writing*: Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century,

official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: China. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 60 more.

**English** [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 939,900 in Botswana, all users. L1 users: 64,900 in Botswana (2020). L2 users: 875,000 (2016). *Status*: 1 (National). De facto national working language. *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Use*: International trade, the medium of western influence. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools from grade 3; taught as subject in grades 1–2. Taught in all tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1,076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

**Gciriku** [diu] (Diriko, Diriku, Mbogedo, Mbogedu, Rugciriku, Rumanyo, Shimbogedu). Autonym: Rumanyo. *Users*: 2,000 in Botswana (2004 R. Cook). *Location*: North West district; extreme west and north borders with Namibia. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.332). *Lg Use*: Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1988. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 81,700. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Also indigenous in: Angola, Namibia.

**Gujarati** [guj]. *Users*: 1,850 in Botswana (2003 UNSD). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Gujarati. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; split ergativity; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 31 consonants, 8 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1823–2005. *Writing*: Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Bahrain, Fiji, Kenya, Pakistan, Singapore, Tanzania, Zambia. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Canada, Iran, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Oman, Réunion, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

**Herero** [her] (Ochierero, Otjierero). Autonym: Otjierero. *Users*: 18,700 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). *Location*: Central district: Letlhakane, Mahalapye, Mokoboxane, Rakops, and

Toromoja; Ghanzi district: Charles Hill, Dekar, Dryhoek, Ghanzi, Makunda, and New Kanagas; Kgalagadi district: Omaweneno, Tsabong, and Werd; Kgatleng district: Morwa; North West district: Gomare, Makakung, Maun, Nokaneng, Nxaunxau, Sehitwa, Shakawe, and western cattleposts; scattered among other ethnic groups. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Herero (R.30). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use English [eng]. Used as L2 by !Xóõ [nmn]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Nearly 60%. Literacy rate in L2: Nearly 60% in Setswana [tsn]. *Literature*. *Dictionary*. *Grammar*. *Bible*: 1987. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Spoken by the Ovaherero and Ovambanderu peoples. Erroneously called ‘Damara’. Most came as refugees from Namibia in the early 1900s. Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 248,700. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Also indigenous in: Angola (Himba), Namibia.

**Jul’hoansi** [ktz] (!Xo, !Xun, Dobe Kung, Dzu’oasi, Ju’oasi, Jul’hoan, Kung, Kung-Tsumkwe, Tsumkwe, Xaixai, Xû, Zhu’oasi). *Autonym*: Jul’hoansi. *Users*: 5,000 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Ghanzi district: Ghanzi, Grootelaagte, Kanagas, and commercial farms; North West district: west of Nokaneng. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Kx’a, !Kung. *Dialects*: Dzu’oasi (Ssu Ghassi, Zhu’oase), Nogau (Agau), †Kx’aull’ei (Auen, Kaukau, Koko, Kung-Gobabis, !Aulei, !X’aull’e, †Kx’aull’ei). *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng]. Also use Naro [nhr]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. *Lg Dev*: *Dictionary*. *Grammar*. NT: 2008. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 45,500. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Also indigenous in: Namibia.

**Kalanga** [kck] (Chikalanga, Ikalanga, Kalagan, Kalaka, Sekalaka, Sekalanga, Sekalaña, Tjikalanga). *Autonym*: Tjikalanga. *Users*: 171,000 in Botswana (2020). *Location*: Central district: east third; North East district: widespread; North West district: southeast. *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Shona (S.16). *Dialects*: Nyai (Nyayi, Rozvi), Ikalanga, Talahundra, Lilima (Humbe), Peri. *Lg Use*: The Talahundra dialect has no remaining speakers. Also use English [eng]. Also use Setswana [tsn], but men are resistant to pressures to adopt Tswana language and culture. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 90%. Literacy rate in L2: 70% in Setswana [tsn], 85% in English [eng]. *Dictionary*. *Grammar*. *Texts*. *Bible*: 2018. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Different from Holoholo [hoo] of Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 367,000. Also indigenous in: Zimbabwe.

**Kgalagadi** [xkv] (Bakgalagari, Kgalagarhi, Kgalagari, Khalagari, Khalakadi, Kxhalaxadi, Qhalaxari, Sekgalagadi, Shekgalagadi, “Makgalagadi” pej.). *Autonym*: Shekgalagari. *Users*: 78,800 (2020). *Location*: Ghanzi district: Charles Hill, Dekar, Ghanzi, Grootlaagte, Kanagas, Karakobis, Kuke, Kule, Ncojane, New Xade, and Tsotsha; Kgalagadi district: north; Kweneng district: west; Southern district; North West district: Maun and Sehitwa. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Sotho-Tswana (S.311). *Dialects*: Ngologa, Shaga, Kgalagadi (Kgalagari), Balaongwe (Boloongwe), Shelala, Pedi, Phaleng, Kenyi (Khena), Kgwatheng, Tjhauba, Khakhae, Koma, Rhiti, Siwane (Gyegwana). Ngologa is the largest

dialect and may be a separate language. Different from Setswana [tsn]. *Type*: SVO; genitives, articles, adjectives, numerals, relatives after noun heads; question word final; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect object; verb affixes mark person and number; passives formed by suffix -w; causatives formed by suffix -is; comparative locatives; CV; tonal. *Lg Use*: Also use Afrikaans [afr]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Used as L2 by !Xóõ [nmn], †Amkhoe [huc]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Ages 15–29: 85% in Setswana [tsn], 55% in English [eng]; ages 30–54: 50% in Setswana, 15% in English; ages 55 and older: 20% in Setswana, 2% in English. Grammar. Bible portions: 2014. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 21.

**Khoekhoe** [naq] (Bergdamara, Dama, Damaqua, Damara, Khoekhoegowab, Nama, Namakwa, Naman, Namaqua, Tama, Tamakwa, Tamma, “Hottentot” *pej.*, “Kupkaferri” *pej.*, “Kupkaffer” *pej.*). Autonym: Khoekhoegowab. *Users*: 200 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Ghanzi district: villages along Ghanzi-Mamuno road; Kgalegadi district: Makopong, Omaweneno, Tsabong, and Tshane. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Khoekhoe, Nama. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/common); dual number; strongly suffixing; verb affixes mark person, number, object; passives; tense and aspect; 31 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes (including 20 clicks); tonal (3 tones: high, mid, low); inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 80% in Setswana [tsn], 10% in English [eng]. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1966. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 281,200. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: Namibia. Also established in: South Africa.

**Khwedam** [xuu] (Khoe, Khwe, Kxoe, Xun, “Basarwa” *pej.*, “Mbarakwena” *pej.*, “Water Bushmen” *pej.*). Autonym: Khwedam. *Users*: 1,700 in Botswana (Brenzinger 2013b). Children and elderly are monolingual. *Location*: North West district: †Ao-Kyao, Beyetca, Cadikarauwe, Cauwe, Djaxo, Dungu, Gan, Geixa, Gudigoa, Kangwara, Kaputura, Mohembo, Moxatce, Ngarange, †Qom-ca, Sekanduko, Seronga, Shakawe, Sicokora, Sikondomboro, Tobere, †Umbexa, and Xongoa. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Northwest. *Dialect*: Buga-Kxoe (Boga, Buga-Khwe, Bukakhwe, Gani-Khwe, “River Bushman” *pej.*, Tannekwe, †Ani-Khoe, †Anikxoe). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Negative attitudes. Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15–29 years: 70% in Setswana [tsn], 50% in English [eng]; 30–54 years: 40% in Setswana, 10% in English (Buga dialect). Radio. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2010. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 2006. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,860. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Angola, Namibia. Also established in: Zambia. Unestablished in: South Africa.

**Kua** [tyu] (Cua, Tyhua, Tyua, “Basarwa” *pej.*, “Masarwa” *pej.*). *Users*: 820 (2004 R. Cook). *Location*: Central district: especially Mahalapye, Serowe subdistricts; North East district: primarily cattleposts and settlements. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Northeast. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Nomadic. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 21.

- Kuhane** [sbs] (Chikuhane, Echisubia, Ikuhane, Kuahane, Kwahane, Sesubea, Sesubiya, Subia, Subiya, Supia). *Users*: 6,520 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). *Location*: North West district: Chobe subdistrict, mixed in with Lozi [loz] language area. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Subiya-Totela (K.42). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,870. Also indigenous in: Namibia, Zambia.
- Kung-Ekoka** [knw] (!Hu, !Ku, !Kung, !Xu, !Xun, !Xung, Ekoka-!Xû). *Users*: 2,000 in Botswana (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location*: Ghanzi district: Charles Hill sub-district, northwest of Ghanzi town. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Kx'a, !Kung. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1980. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,500. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Namibia. Also established in: Angola.
- Lower Nossob** [nsb] (Lower-Nosop). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Botswana. *Location*: Kgalagadi district, South African and Namibian border area. *Status*: 10 (Extinct). *Class*: Tuu, Taa. *Dialects*: Kilhazi (!Haasi), Auni (!Auo), Xatia. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also indigenous in: South Africa.
- Lozi** [loz] (siLozi). Autonym: siLozi. *Users*: 14,000 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Location*: North West district: Chobe subdistrict, mixed in with Kuhane [sbs] language area. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Lozi (K.21). *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1951–2009. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 734,000. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Zambia, Zimbabwe. Also established in: Namibia.
- Mbukushu** [mhw] (Gova, Hambukushu, Kusso, Mambukush, Mampukush, Mbukuhu, Mbukushi, Sembukushu, Sempukushu). Autonym: Thimbukushu. *Users*: 37,100 in Botswana (2020). *Location*: North West district: north of Gomare within 30 km of Okavango river. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.333). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15–29 years: 90% in Setswana [tsn], 50% in English [eng]; 30–54 years: 3% in Setswana, 10% English; 55 and older: 0%. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1986. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 95,010. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Also indigenous in: Angola, Namibia, Zambia.
- Nambya** [nmq] (Chinambya, Nambzya, Nanzva, chiNambya). Autonym: chiNambya. *Users*: 15,000 in Botswana (2004 R. Cook). *Location*: Central district: west and southeast of Nata town, also along Nata river watershed; North West district: southeast corner. *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Shona (S.16). *Lg Dev*: NT: 1993. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 105,000. Also indigenous

in: Zimbabwe.

**Naro** [nhr] (Nharo, Nharon, Nhauru, Nhaurun, |Aikwe, |Aikwe, |Aisan, |Aille, |Aillen). Autonym: Naro. *Users*: 18,000 in Botswana, all users. L1 users: 8,000 in Botswana (2014 H. Visser). L2 users: 10,000 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location*: Ghanzi district: Bere, Dekar, Charles Hill, East Hanahai, Ghanzi, Grootelaagte, Kanagas, Karakobis, Kuke, Makunda, New Kanagas, Tshobokwane, and West Hanahai commercial farms; North West district: south. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). A dominant language in the Ghanzi district in the 19th century. Used in church, agriculture, primary school education, and literacy promotion. Tied to a strong Naro ethnic identity. *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Southwest. *Dialects*: Ts'ao (Ts'aokhoe, Tsaokhwe, Tsaukwe), Nlhai-Ntse'e (Nlhai, Ts'ao), Qabekhoe (!Kabbakwe, Qabekho). *Type*: SOV; tonal. *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng]. Used as L2 by !Xóõ [nmn], |Gwi [gwj], |Gana [gnk], Jul'hoansi [ktz]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15–29 years: 70% in Setswana [tsn], 15% in English [eng]; 30–54 years: 10% in Setswana 2% in English; 55 and older: 2% in Setswana, 0% in English. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2012. Agency: Naro Language Project. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,000 (as L1: 10,000; as L2: 10,000). Also indigenous in: Namibia.

**Ndebele** [nde] (Isinde'bele, Northern Ndebele, Sindebele, Tabele, Tebele, isiNdebele). Autonym: isiNdebele. *Users*: 23,200 in Botswana (2020). *Location*: Central district: Zimbabwe border; North East district: a few villages; North West district: Chobe area. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Nguni (S.44). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Bible: 1978. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,050,310 (as L1: 1,649,200; as L2: 1,401,110). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Zimbabwe. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Zambia.

**Setswana** [tsn] (Bechuana, Beetjuans, Chuana, Chwana, Coana, Cuana, Sechuana, Secoana, Secwana, Tshwana, Tswana). Autonym: Setswana. *Users*: 1,940,000 in Botswana, all users. L1 users: 1,790,000 in Botswana (2020). L2 users: 150,000. *Location*: Widespread as lingua franca; Central district: Mahalapye and Serowe-Palapye subdistricts; Kgatleng and South East districts; Kweneng and Southern districts: east; North West district: Maun village area. *Status*: 1 (National). De facto national language. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Sotho-Tswana (S.31). *Dialects*: Tlahaping (Thlaping, Tlapi), Rolong, Kwena, Kgatla, Ngwatu (Ngwato), Tawana, Lete, Ngwaketse, Tlokwa, Sehurutshe. High intelligibility among Southern Sotho [sot], Northern Sotho [nso], and Setswana. Standard Setswana is based on the Sehurutshe dialect and is nearly identical to it. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used among the educated. More for spoken purposes than written. Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 80%–90%. Official language of instruction grades 1–4 in all government primary schools. Taught in all primary and secondary schools in grades 1 and 2 and as subject thereafter. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1857–1993. *DLS*: Vital (0.60). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: 90%–95% of children complete standard 7 in primary school. Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 21.

*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,745,730 (as L1: 5,895,730; as L2: 7,850,000). Also indigenous in: Namibia, South Africa. Also established in: Zimbabwe.

**Shua** [shg] (Mashuakwe, Sesarwa, Shua-Khwe, Shuakhwena, Tshumakwe). Autonym: Shua.

*Users:* 2,000 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location:* Central district: Boteti subdistrict, Letlhakane, Mmatshumu, Mokoboxane, Motopi, and Popipi; Tutume subdistrict, Gweta and Nata; North West district: small area southeast. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Class:* Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, North-Central. *Dialects:* Shua-Khwe (Mashuakwe), Nloo-Khwe (Nloo, Nlookhwe), |Oree-Khwe (|Koree-Khoe, |Oree), |'Aiye (|Aaye), |Xaise (|Ais, |Hais, |Haise, |Taise), Tshidi-Khwe (Shete Tsere, Sili, Tcaiti, Tsh'iti), Danisi (Danisa, Danisis, Demisa, Madenassa, Madenasse, Madinnisane), Cara, Deti (Deti-Khwe, Kwaa-Khwe, Tete, Teti, Tletle), Ganádi, Ts'ixa. *Lg Use:* All shifting to Setswana [tsn]. *Lg Dev:* Bible portions: 1978. Agency: Toraa Dao Association. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use. *Map:* 21.

**Sotho, Northern** [nso]. Autonym: Sesotho sa Leboa. *Users:* 11,000 in Botswana (2003 J.

Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Sotho-Tswana (S.32). *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Grammar. Bible: 1904–2000. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,731,000 (as L1: 4,631,000; as L2: 9,100,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: South Africa.

**Sotho, Southern** [sot]. Autonym: Sesotho. *Users:* 9,300 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Status:*

Unestablished. *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Sotho-Tswana (S.33). *Lg Dev:* Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Grammar. Bible: 1878–1989. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,524,700 (as L1: 5,624,700; as L2: 7,900,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Lesotho, South Africa. Unestablished in: Eswatini.

**Tshuwau** [hio] (Chirechire, Chuwau, Chware, Gabake-Ntshori, G|labake, Haitshuari, Hietshware, Hiochuwau, Hiotshuwau, Kalahari Khoe, Kwe, Kwe-Etshori Kwee, Kwe-Tshori, Masarwa, Sesarwa, Tati, Tati Bushman, Tshwa, Tshwao, Tsoa, Tsua, “Sarwa” *pej.*). *Users:* 2,000 in Botswana (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location:* Central district: especially Mahalapye and Serowe subdistricts; Kweneng district: Ghanzi and Kgatleng districts' border areas; primarily cattleposts and settlements. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Class:* Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Northeast. *Lg Use:* Adults only. Shifting to English [eng]. Shifting to Setswana [tsn]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: 15–29 years: 25% in Setswana [tsn], 20% in English [eng]; 30–54 years: 2% in Setswana, 2% in English; 55 and older: 0%. Agency: Toraa Dao Association. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Nomadic. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map:* 21. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,540. Also established in: Zimbabwe (Tsoa).

**Tswapong** [two] (Setswapong). *Users:* 5,380 (2003 UNSD). *Location:* Central district:

Mahalapye subdistrict, all villages east of Mahalapye; Kgatleng district: northeast corner. *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Sotho-Tswana (S.32). *Dialects:* Reportedly

some similarities to Northern Sotho [nso] and Setswana [tsn], but not clearly a dialect of either. Some intelligibility of northern dialect speakers of Setswana (Sengwato and Setawana), and of a northwestern dialect of Northern Sotho. Some Birwa [brl] and Tswapong [two] say their varieties are more similar to one another than to Setswana or Northern Sotho. *DLS*: Still.

*Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Several groups: the Ramokgonami, Maifela, Chadibe, Sefbare, Tupsa. *Map*: 21.

**Xhosa** [xho]. Autonym: isiXhosa. *Users*: 9,300 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Nguni (S.41). *Type*: SVO; noun head initial; 17 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number, object; causatives; 58 consonant and 10 vowel phonemes; tonal (2 tones: high, low); clicks. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1859. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,216,300 (as L1: 8,216,300; as L2: 11,000,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Lesotho, South Africa. Also established in: Zimbabwe.

**Yeyi** [yey] (Ciyeyi, Seyeyi, Seyeyi, Siyeyi, Wayeyi, Yeyi, Yei, “Koba” *pej.*, “Kuba” *pej.*, “Sekoba” *pej.*). Autonym: Shiyeyi. *Users*: 4,180 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). Ethnic population: 47,000. *Location*: Central district: Letihakane, Motopi, Rakops, and Xumu; North West district: Maun, Shorobe up to Daunara, Gumare, Ikoga, Mababe, Nokaneng, Sankoyo, Sepopo, Seronga, and Shakawe. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Yeyi (R.41). *Dialect*: Shirwanga. Not closely related to other languages. Lexical similarity: 47% with Luyana [lyn], 30% with Herero [her]. *Type*: SVO; postpositions; articles, adjectives, numerals after noun heads; relatives before or after; question word initial; 4 prefixes, one suffix; word order distinguishes subjects, objects, indirect objects; noun affixes indicate case; verb affixes mark person, number, gender; CVC; nontonal. *Lg Use*: 43% who learned Yeyi from their parents said they speak Yeyi best, 57% said they speak Setswana [tsn] best. 12% of respondents said they speak only Yeyi to their children, 9% speak Yeyi and Setswana to their children. Some young people, all adults. In some villages, children speak Yeyi. In many villages used only by those over 40. All also use Setswana [tsn]. Also use English [eng], especially young people who have attended secondary school. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Age 15–29: 95% Setswana, 68% English; age 30–54: 33% Setswana, 20% English; age 55 and older: 33% Setswana, 6% English. High motivation for literacy. Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,480. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Namibia.

**ZeZuru** [sna] (Shona, chiShona). Autonym: Chishona. *Users*: 46,300 in Botswana (2020). *Location*: Central district: north; North West district: northeast. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Shona (S.10). *Dialect*: Karanga. *Type*: SVO; noun head initial; 13 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number, object; passives; causatives; 31 consonants, 5 vowels, 2 diphthongs; tonal (2 tones: high, low). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible:

1949–1980. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,873,630 (as L1: 7,371,360; as L2: 3,502,270). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Zambia (Shona), Zimbabwe (Shona). Unestablished in: Australia (Shona), Canada (Shona), Malawi (Shona), South Africa (Shona), United Kingdom (Shona), United States (Shona).

**Zulu** [zul]. *Users*: 4,600 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Nguni (S.42). *Type*: SVO; noun head initial; 13 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number, object; passives; aspect; causatives; 30 consonant and 10 vowel phonemes; stress on penultimate syllable; non-tonal. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1883–1959. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 27,804,600 (as L1: 12,104,600; as L2: 15,700,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa. Also established in: Eswatini, Malawi.

# Language Map



## Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Botswana are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

### 1,000,000 to 9,999,999

**Setswana** [[tsn](#)] *Users:* 1,790,000 in Botswana (2020). 1,940,000 in Botswana, all users. L2 users: 150,000. *Status:* 1 (National). De facto national language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,745,730 (as L1: 5,895,730; as L2: 7,850,000).

### 100,000 to 999,999

**Kalanga** [[kck](#)] *Users:* 171,000 in Botswana (2020). *Status:* 5\* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 367,000.

### 10,000 to 99,999

**Kgalagadi** [[xkv](#)] *Users:* 78,800 (2020). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous).

**English** [[eng](#)] *Users:* 64,900 in Botswana (2020). 939,900 in Botswana, all users. L2 users: 875,000 (2016). *Status:* 1 (National). De facto national working language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1,076,766,120).

**ZeZuru** [[sna](#)] *Users:* 46,300 in Botswana (2020). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,873,630 (as L1: 7,371,360; as L2: 3,502,270).

**Mbukushu** [[mhw](#)] *Users:* 37,100 in Botswana (2020). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 95,010.

**Ndebele** [[nde](#)] *Users:* 23,200 in Botswana (2020). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,050,310 (as L1: 1,649,200; as L2: 1,401,110).

**Herero** [[her](#)] *Users:* 18,700 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). *Status:* 5 (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 248,700.

**Birwa** [[brl](#)] *Users:* 15,000 in Botswana (2004 R. Cook). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 71,000.

**Nambya** [[nmq](#)] *Users:* 15,000 in Botswana (2004 R. Cook). *Status:* 5\* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 105,000.

**Lozi** [[loz](#)] *Users:* 14,000 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 734,000.

**Sotho, Northern** [[nso](#)] *Users:* 11,000 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished.

*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,731,000 (as L1: 4,631,000; as L2: 9,100,000).

## 1,000 to 9,999

**Sotho, Southern** [sot] *Users:* 9,300 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished.

*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,524,700 (as L1: 5,624,700; as L2: 7,900,000).

**Xhosa** [xho] *Users:* 9,300 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 19,216,300 (as L1: 8,216,300; as L2: 11,000,000).

**Afrikaans** [afr] *Users:* 8,080 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,674,200 (as L1: 7,359,600; as L2: 10,314,600).

**Naro** [nhr] *Users:* 8,000 in Botswana (2014 H. Visser). 18,000 in Botswana, all users. L2 users: 10,000 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 20,000 (as L1: 10,000; as L2: 10,000).

**Kuhane** [sbs] *Users:* 6,520 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 40,870.

**Tswapong** [two] *Users:* 5,380 (2003 UNSD). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous).

**Jul'hoansi** [ktz] *Users:* 5,000 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 45,500.

**Zulu** [zul] *Users:* 4,600 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 27,804,600 (as L1: 12,104,600; as L2: 15,700,000).

**Yeyi** [yey] *Users:* 4,180 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). Ethnic population: 47,000. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,480.

**Gciriku** [diu] *Users:* 2,000 in Botswana (2004 R. Cook). *Status:* 5 (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 81,700.

**Kung-Ekoka** [knw] *Users:* 2,000 in Botswana (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,500.

**Shua** [shg] *Users:* 2,000 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

**Tshuwau** [hio] *Users:* 2,000 in Botswana (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,540.

**!Xóõ** [nmn] *Users:* 2,000 in Botswana (2011 C. Naumann). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,500.

**Gujarati** [guj] *Users:* 1,850 in Botswana (2003 UNSD). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

**Khwedam** [xuu] *Users:* 1,700 in Botswana (Brenzinger 2013b). Children and elderly are monolingual. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,860.

**IGwi** [gwj] *Users:* 1,470 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened).

**Chinese, Mandarin** [cmn] *Users:* 1,300 in Botswana (2022 Joshua Project). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

**llGana** [gnk] *Users:* 1,030 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened).

**llAni** [hnh] *Users:* 1,000 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened).

## 100 to 999

**Kua** [tyu] *Users:* 820 (2004 R. Cook). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened).

**Khoekhoe** [naq] *Users:* 200 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 281,200.

## 10 to 99

**≠'Amkhoe** [huc] *Users:* 30 (Brenzinger 2013b), decreasing. *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

## 0

**Lower Nossob** [nsb] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Botswana. *Status:* 10 (Extinct). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

## Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Botswana are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

### 1 (National)

**English** [[eng](#)] *Users:* 939,900 in Botswana, all users. L1 users: 64,900 in Botswana (2020). L2 users: 875,000 (2016). *Status:* De facto national working language. *Lg Use:* International trade, the medium of western influence. *Writing:* Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

**Setswana** [[tsn](#)] *Users:* 1,940,000 in Botswana, all users. L1 users: 1,790,000 in Botswana (2020). L2 users: 150,000. *Status:* De facto national language. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used among the educated. More for spoken purposes than written. Used by all. *Lg Dev:* Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1857–1993. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,745,730 (as L1: 5,895,730; as L2: 7,850,000).

### 3 (Wider communication)

**Naro** [[nhr](#)] *Users:* 18,000 in Botswana, all users. L1 users: 8,000 in Botswana (2014 H. Visser). L2 users: 10,000 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status:* A dominant language in the Ghanzi district in the 19th century. Used in church, agriculture, primary school education, and literacy promotion. Tied to a strong Naro ethnic identity. *Lg Use:* Also use English [[eng](#)]. Used as L2 by !Xóõ [[nmn](#)], !Gwi [[gwj](#)], !Gana [[gnk](#)], Jul'hoansi [[ktz](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2012. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 20,000 (as L1: 10,000; as L2: 10,000).

### 5 (Developing)

**Kalanga** [[kck](#)] *Users:* 171,000 in Botswana (2020). *Lg Use:* The Talahundra dialect has no remaining speakers. Also use English [[eng](#)]. Also use Setswana [[tsn](#)], but men are resistant to pressures to adopt Tswana language and culture. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 367,000.

**Nambya** [[nmq](#)] *Users:* 15,000 in Botswana (2004 R. Cook). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 105,000.

## 5 (Dispersed)

**Afrikaans** [afr] *Users:* 8,080 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). *Lg Use:* Spoken as L1 by Afrikaners (Ghanzi District) and by people of mixed racial background (Kweneng and Kgalagadi districts). Also use English [eng]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Used as L2 by Kgalagadi [xkv]. *Writing:* Braille script, used since 1953. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,674,200 (as L1: 7,359,600; as L2: 10,314,600).

**Gciriku** [diu] *Users:* 2,000 in Botswana (2004 R. Cook). *Lg Use:* Used by all. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 81,700.

**Herero** [her] *Users:* 18,700 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use English [eng]. Used as L2 by !Xóǀ [nmn]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 248,700.

**Khoekhoe** [naq] *Users:* 200 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use:* Also use English [eng]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 281,200.

**Lozi** [loz] *Users:* 14,000 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 734,000.

**Ndebele** [nde] *Users:* 23,200 in Botswana (2020). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,050,310 (as L1: 1,649,200; as L2: 1,401,110).

**Zezuru** [sna] *Users:* 46,300 in Botswana (2020). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,873,630 (as L1: 7,371,360; as L2: 3,502,270).

## 6a (Vigorous)

**Birwa** [brl] *Users:* 15,000 in Botswana (2004 R. Cook). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 71,000.

**Jul'hoansi** [ktz] *Users:* 5,000 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use:* Also use English [eng]. Also use Naro [nhr]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 45,500.

**Kgalagadi** [xkv] *Users:* 78,800 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Afrikaans [afr]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Used as L2 by !Xóǀ [nmn], †Amkhoe [huc]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Bible portions: 2014. *Writing:* Latin script.

**Khwedam** [xuu] *Users:* 1,700 in Botswana (Brenzinger 2013b). Children and elderly are monolingual. *Lg Use:* Used by all. Negative attitudes. Also use English [eng]. *Writing:* Latin script, developed in 2006. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,860.

**Kuhane** [sbs] *Users:* 6,520 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 40,870.

**Mbukushu** [mhw] *Users:* 37,100 in Botswana (2020). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Also use

English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1986. *Writing*: Latin script.  
*Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 95,010.

**Tswapong** [two] *Users*: 5,380 (2003 UNSD). *Writing*: Unwritten.

## 6b (Threatened)

**Kua** [tyu] *Users*: 820 (2004 R. Cook). *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Kung-Ekoka** [knw] *Users*: 2,000 in Botswana (Brenzinger 2013b). *Writing*: Latin script.  
*Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,500.

**!Xóö** [nmn] *Users*: 2,000 in Botswana (2011 C. Naumann). *Lg Use*: Also use !Gwi [gwj]. Also use Herero [her]. Also use Kgalagadi [xkv]. Also use Naro [nhr]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Second languages used by people older than 10 who have been to school or have lived with speakers of the other languages. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,500.

**Yeyi** [yey] *Users*: 4,180 in Botswana (2015 UNSD). Ethnic population: 47,000. *Lg Use*: 43% who learned Yeyi from their parents said they speak Yeyi best, 57% said they speak Setswana [tsn] best. 12% of respondents said they speak only Yeyi to their children, 9% speak Yeyi and Setswana to their children. Some young people, all adults. In some villages, children speak Yeyi. In many villages used only by those over 40. All also use Setswana [tsn]. Also use English [eng], especially young people who have attended secondary school. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,480.

**!Gwi** [gwj] *Users*: 1,470 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Lg Use*: Also use !Gana [gnk]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Naro [nhr]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Used as L2 by !Xóö [nmn], !Gana [gnk], †?Amkhoe [huc]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**!Ani** [hnh] *Users*: 1,000 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**!Gana** [gnk] *Users*: 1,030 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Lg Use*: Also use !Gwi [gwj]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Naro [nhr]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Used as L2 by !Gwi [gwj]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

## 7 (Shifting)

**Shua** [shg] *Users*: 2,000 (Brenzinger 2013b). *Lg Use*: All shifting to Setswana [tsn]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1978. *Writing*: Latin script, no longer in use.

**Tshuwau** [hio] *Users*: 2,000 in Botswana (Brenzinger 2013b). *Lg Use*: Adults only. Shifting to English [eng]. Shifting to Setswana [tsn]. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,540.

## 8b (Nearly extinct)

≠'Amkhoe [huc] *Users:* 30 (Brenzinger 2013b), decreasing. *Lg Use:* Elderly only. Many shifted to |Gwi [gwj]. Some shifted to Kgalagadi [xkv]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Unwritten.

## 10 (Extinct)

**Lower Nossob** [nsb] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Botswana. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

## Unestablished

**Chinese, Mandarin** [cmn] *Users:* 1,300 in Botswana (2022 Joshua Project). *Writing:* Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

**Gujarati** [guj] *Users:* 1,850 in Botswana (2003 UNSD). *Writing:* Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

**Sotho, Northern** [nso] *Users:* 11,000 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,731,000 (as L1: 4,631,000; as L2: 9,100,000).

**Sotho, Southern** [sot] *Users:* 9,300 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,524,700 (as L1: 5,624,700; as L2: 7,900,000).

**Xhosa** [xho] *Users:* 9,300 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 19,216,300 (as L1: 8,216,300; as L2: 11,000,000).

**Zulu** [zul] *Users:* 4,600 in Botswana (2003 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 27,804,600 (as L1: 12,104,600; as L2: 15,700,000).

## Languages by District

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Botswana. Under the name of each district is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

### Central

!Gana [gnk], 11  
 Afrikaans [afr], 12  
 Birwa [brl], 12  
 Herero [her], 13  
 Kalanga [kck], 14  
 Kua [tyu], 15  
 Nambya [nmq], 16  
 Ndebele [nde], 17  
 Setswana [tsn], 17  
 Shua [shg], 18  
 Tshuwau [hio], 18  
 Tswapong [two], 18  
 Yeyi [yey], 19  
 Zezuru [sna], 19

### Ghanzi

!Xóǒ [nmn], 11  
 !Gwi [gwj], 11  
 !Gana [gnk], 11  
 Afrikaans [afr], 12  
 Herero [her], 13  
 Jul'hoansi [ktz], 14  
 Kgalagadi [xkv], 14  
 Khoekhoe [naq], 15  
 Kung-Ekoka [knw], 16  
 Naro [nhr], 17  
 Tshuwau [hio], 18

### Kgalagadi

!Xóǒ [nmn], 11  
 Afrikaans [afr], 12  
 Herero [her], 13  
 Kgalagadi [xkv], 14  
 Khoekhoe [naq], 15  
 Lower Nossob [nsb], 16

### Kgatleng

Afrikaans [afr], 12  
 Herero [her], 13  
 Setswana [tsn], 17  
 Tshuwau [hio], 18  
 Tswapong [two], 18

### Kweneng

!Xóǒ [nmn], 11  
 !Gwi [gwj], 11  
 †Amkhoe [huc], 12  
 Kgalagadi [xkv], 14  
 Setswana [tsn], 17  
 Tshuwau [hio], 18

### North East

Kalanga [kck], 14  
 Kua [tyu], 15  
 Ndebele [nde], 17

### North West

!Ani [hnh], 11  
 Afrikaans [afr], 12  
 Gciriku [diu], 13  
 Herero [her], 13  
 Jul'hoansi [ktz], 14  
 Kalanga [kck], 14  
 Kgalagadi [xkv], 14  
 Khwedam [xuu], 15  
 Kuhane [sbs], 16  
 Lozi [loz], 16  
 Mbukushu [mhw], 16  
 Nambya [nmq], 16  
 Naro [nhr], 17  
 Ndebele [nde], 17  
 Setswana [tsn], 17  
 Shua [shg], 18  
 Yeyi [yey], 19

Zezuru [sna], [19](#)

**South East**

Setswana [tsn], [17](#)

**Southern**

!Xóõ [nmn], [11](#)

Afrikaans [afr], [12](#)

Kgalagadi [xkv], [14](#)

Setswana [tsn], [17](#)

## Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Botswana. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

### **Indo-European, Germanic, West, English**

English [eng], 13

### **Indo-European, Germanic, West, Low Saxon-Low Franconian, Low Franconian**

Afrikaans [afr], 12

### **Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, North-Central**

Shua [shg], 18

### **Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Northeast**

Kua [tyu], 15

Tshuwau [hio], 18

### **Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Northwest**

ǀAni [hnh], 11

Khwedam [xuu], 15

### **Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Southwest**

ǀGwi [gwj], 11

ǀGana [gnk], 11

Naro [nhr], 17

### **Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Khoekhoe, Nama**

Khoekhoe [naq], 15

### **Kx'a**

ǀAmkhoe [huc], 12

### **Kx'a, !Kung**

Jul'hoansi [ktz], 14

Kung-Ekoka [knw], 16

### **Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Lozi (K.21)**

Lozi [loz], 16

### **Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.332)**

Gciriku [diu], 13

### **Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.333)**

Mbukushu [mhw], 16

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Subiya-Totela (K.42)**

Kuhane [sbs], 16

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Herero (R.30)**

Herero [her], 13

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Yeyi (R.41)**

Yeyi [yey], 19

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Nguni (S.44)**

Ndebele [nde], 17

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Shona (S.10)**

Shona [sna], 19

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Shona (S.16)**

Kalanga [kck], 14

Nambya [nmq], 16

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Sotho-Tswana (S.31)**

Setswana [tsn], 17

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Sotho-Tswana (S.311)**

Kgalagadi [xkv], 14

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Sotho-Tswana (S.32)**

Birwa [brl], 12

Tswapong [two], 18

**Tuu, Taa**

!Xóõ [nmn], 11

Lower Nossob [nsb], 16

## Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 36 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

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<b>brl</b>	Birwa, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>nhr</b>	Naro, <a href="#">17</a>
<b>cmn</b>	Chinese, Mandarin, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>nmn</b>	!Xóǒ, <a href="#">11</a>
<b>diu</b>	Gciriku, <a href="#">13</a>	<b>nmq</b>	Nambya, <a href="#">16</a>
<b>eng</b>	English, <a href="#">13</a>	<b>nsb</b>	Lower Nossob, <a href="#">16</a>
<b>gnk</b>	!Gana, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>nso</b>	Sotho, Northern, <a href="#">18</a>
<b>guj</b>	Gujarati, <a href="#">13</a>	<b>sbs</b>	Kuhane, <a href="#">16</a>
<b>gwj</b>	!Gwi, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>shg</b>	Shua, <a href="#">18</a>
<b>her</b>	Herero, <a href="#">13</a>	<b>sna</b>	Shona, <a href="#">19</a>
<b>hio</b>	Tshuwau, <a href="#">18</a>	<b>sot</b>	Sotho, Southern, <a href="#">18</a>
<b>hnh</b>	!Ani, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>tsn</b>	Setswana, <a href="#">17</a>
<b>huc</b>	ǀ'Amkhoe, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>two</b>	Tswapong, <a href="#">18</a>
<b>kck</b>	Kalanga, <a href="#">14</a>	<b>tyu</b>	Kua, <a href="#">15</a>
<b>knw</b>	Kung-Ekoka, <a href="#">16</a>	<b>xho</b>	Xhosa, <a href="#">19</a>
<b>ktz</b>	Jul'hoansi, <a href="#">14</a>	<b>xkv</b>	Kgalagadi, <a href="#">14</a>
<b>loz</b>	Lozi, <a href="#">16</a>	<b>xuu</b>	Khwedam, <a href="#">15</a>
<b>mhw</b>	Mbukushu, <a href="#">16</a>	<b>yey</b>	Yeyi, <a href="#">19</a>
<b>naq</b>	Khoekhoe, <a href="#">15</a>	<b>zul</b>	Zulu, <a href="#">20</a>

## Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

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**IAikwe**, *alt.* Naro [nhr], 17  
**IAis**, *alt. dial.* Shua [shg], 18  
**IAnda**, *alt.* ǁAni [hnh], 11  
**IAuo**, *alt. dial.* Lower Nossob [nsb], 16  
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- Chuana**, *alt.* Setswana [tsn], 17
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- Xun**, *alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 15
- !Xung**, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 16
- Yeei**, *alt.* Yeyi [yey], 19
- Yei**, *alt.* Yeyi [yey], 19
- Yeyi** [yey], 19, 21
- Zezuru** [sna], 19, 21
- Zhu'oase**, *alt. dial.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 14
- Zhu'oasi**, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 14

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