

Ethnologue: Languages of Namibia

Twenty-sixth edition data

David M. Eberhard, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig, Editors

Based on information from the *Ethnologue*, 26th edition:

Eberhard, David M., Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2023.
Ethnologue: Languages of the World. Twenty-sixth edition. Dallas, Texas:
SIL International. Online: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.

For personal use only

Permission to distribute or reuse this work (in whole or in part)
may be obtained through the Copyright Clearance Center at
<http://www.copyright.com>.

Contents

List of Abbreviations	3
How to Use This Digest	4
Country Overview	6
Language Status Profile	7
Statistical Summaries	8
Alphabetical Listing of Languages	11
Language Map	19
Languages by Population	20
Languages by Status	23
Languages by Region	27
Languages by Family	29
Language Code Index	31
Language Name Index	32
Bibliography	36

Copyright © 2023 by SIL International

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, redistributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of SIL International, with the exception of brief excerpts in articles or reviews.

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
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
WFD	World Federation of the Deaf

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Namibia 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 29 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Namibia. 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 19) 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 20) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 23) 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

Region” (page 27) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Namibia and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 29) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 31) 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 32) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 174 unique names are associated with the 29 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 36). 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.

The preferred method of submitting corrections and additions is to join our Contributor Program by applying at <http://www.ethnologue.com/contributor-program>. With a contributor account you will be entitled to complimentary access to the website and will be able to use the Contribute tab on the page for a language or country in order to propose corrections and additions. The advantage of giving feedback in this way is that it becomes part of the public record on the website. You will also be automatically notified of the editorial action.

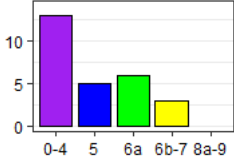
Alternatively, you may submit corrections and additions by e-mail to:

Ethnologue_Editor@sil.org

Or by post to:

Editor, Ethnologue
SIL International
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, TX 75236, U.S.A.

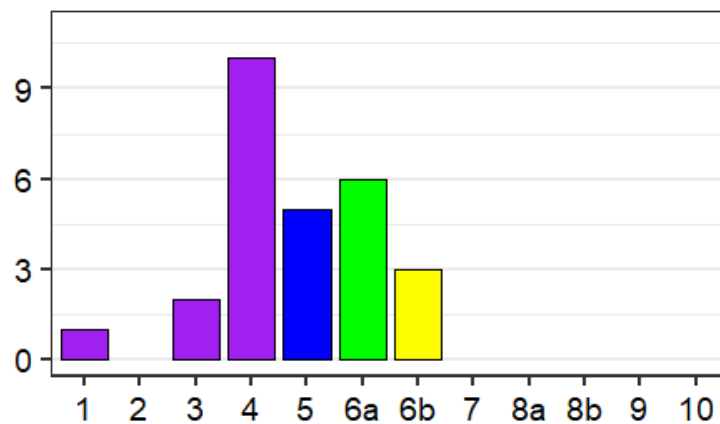
Country Overview

Name of country	Namibia												
Other names	Republic of Namibia												
Population	2,634,000 (2022 UNDESA)												
Principal language	English												
Literacy rate	92% (2018 UNESCO)												
Deaf population	8,300												
International conventions	ACHPR (1992), CPPDCE (2006), CSICH (2007), ICCPR (1994), UNCRPD (2007), UNDRIP (2007)												
General references	Brenzinger 1998, Brenzinger 2013a, Campbell and King 2011, Güldemann 1998, Güldemann 2003, Güldemann and Vossen 2000, Haacke and Elderkin 1997, Maho 1998, Stanley 1968												
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Namibia is 27. All are living languages. Of these, 23 are indigenous and 4 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 13 are institutional, 5 are developing, 6 are vigorous, and 3 are in trouble. Also listed are 2 unestablished languages.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Language Vitality Categories</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b-7</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8a-9</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Count	0-4	13	5	5	6a	6	6b-7	3	8a-9	0
Category	Count												
0-4	13												
5	5												
6a	6												
6b-7	3												
8a-9	0												

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 Namibia 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 23) 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 Namibia. 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 Namibia 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 Namibia 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 20) 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
100,000 to 999,999	6	22.2	22.2%	1,673,000	80.27292	80.27292%
10,000 to 99,999	11	40.7	63.0%	364,800	17.50362	97.77654%
1,000 to 9,999	8	29.6	92.6%	45,540	2.18507	99.96161%
100 to 999	2	7.4	100.0%	800	0.03839	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	27	100.0		2,084,140	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Namibia 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 23) 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 Namibia. 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	1	3.7	3.7%	24,100	1.1564	1.1564%	24,100	24,100
3	2	7.4	11.1%	165,000	7.9169	9.0733%	82,500	82,500
4	10	37.0	48.1%	1,730,930	83.0525	92.1258%	173,093	112,850
5	5	18.5	66.7%	62,610	3.0041	95.1299%	12,522	7,300
6a	6	22.2	88.9%	99,400	4.7694	99.8992%	16,567	13,550
6b	3	11.1	100.0%	2,100	0.1008	100.0000%	700	500
<i>Totals</i>	27	100.0		2,084,140	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 6 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	3	11.1	190,400	9.1	63,467	39,300	
Khoe-Kwadi	4	14.8	308,000	14.8	77,000	13,500	
Kx'a	3	11.1	50,800	2.4	16,933	9,000	
Niger-Congo	15	55.6	1,526,130	73.2	101,742	38,000	

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>
Sign language	1	3.7	8,310	0.4	8,310	8,310
Tuu	1	3.7	500	0.0	500	500
<i>Totals</i>	27	100.0	2,084,140	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

!Xóõ [nmn]. *Users:* 500 in Namibia (2014 C. Naumann). *Location:* Hardap region: Aranos and Leonardville area on Botswana border. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Class:* Tuu, Taa. *Dialects:* Auni (|Auni, |Auo), Kakia (Masarwa), Kilhazi, Nglulen (Nglulei, Nulen, |Nulen, |Ulen, ||Ulen), Nusan (Nglusan, Noosan, Nu-San), Xatia (Katia, Kattea, Khatia, Vaalpens, |Eikusi, |Kusi), !Kwi. *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:* N|gamani, |Nulen, l'Auni, and Kilhazi dialects have no remaining users. Some young people, all adults. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Map:* 19:20 (as Xóõ). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,500. Also indigenous in: Botswana.

Afrikaans [afr]. Autonym: Afrikaans. *Users:* 127,000 in Namibia (2018). *Location:* Hardap and Khomas regions. *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1, 5.1, 5.5), Most commonly used as educational medium. *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:* Used by 25% of the population in Windhoek in their homes (1995 census). Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe], Hai||om [hgm], Khwedam [xuu], Northwestern !Kung [vaj]. *Lg Dev:* Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1933–2000. *Writing:* Braille script, used since 1953. Latin script, primary usage. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Former official status. Not known in the north, in Owambo tribes, and Kavango and Caprivi regions. *Map:* 19:1. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,674,200 (as L1: 7,359,600; as L2: 10,314,600). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Botswana, South Africa. Also established in: Eswatini, Malawi, Zambia. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users:* 444,100 in Namibia, all users. L1 users: 24,100 in Namibia (2018). L2 users: 420,000 (2020). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1990, Constitution, Article 3(1)). *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 Dev:* Taught in all primary and secondary schools from grade 4. Many parents are opting for English as the language of instruction for all of primary education. Taught in 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: 1076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

Fwe [fwe] (Mafwe, Sifwe). Autonym: Cifwè. *Users*: 14,000 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e).

Location: Zambezi region: Kongola, Linyanti, and Sibbinda electoral constituencies. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Subiya-Totela (K.402). *Dialects*: None known. Similar to Kuhane [sbs] and Totela [ttl]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Many also use English [eng] (Gunnink 2018). Also use Afrikaans [af], especially among older generations (Gunnink 2018). Also use Kuhane [sbs] (Gunnink 2018). Also use Lozi [loz] (Gunnink 2018). Also use Totela [ttl] (Gunnink 2018). Also use Yeyi [yey] (Gunnink 2018). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 2011. *Map*: 19:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 26,000. Also indigenous in: Zambia.

Gciriku [diu] (Dciriku, Diriko, Diriku, Manyo, Mbogedo, Mbogedu, Rugciriku, Rusambyu, Shimbogedu). Autonym: Rumanyo. *Users*: 55,700 in Namibia (2018). *Location*: Kavango East, Kavango West, Otjozondjupa, and Zambezi regions. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.332). *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Simaa [sie] and Kwangali [kwn]. *Lg Use*: Administration. *Lg Dev*: Taught in many primary schools through grade 3. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1988. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 19:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 81,700. Also indigenous in: Angola, Botswana.

German, Standard [deu] (Deutsch). Autonym: Deutsch. *Users*: 39,300 in Namibia (2018).

Location: Khomas region: large Windhoek community; Omaruru, Otjiwarongo, and larger cities. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1, 5.1, 5.5), mostly as a language medium in government schools. *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 22 consonants, 22 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable of the root. *Lg Use*: Radio broadcasts. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Fully developed. Bible: 1466–2016. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy. Also established in 39 other countries and unestablished in 23 more.

Hai||lom [hgm] (Haikom, Haikum, Heikom, Heikom Bushman, Heikum, Hei||lom, Kaikom, Oshikwankala Hailom, Xwaga). *Users*: 23,000 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Location*:

Otjonzondjupa region: Grootfontein area. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Khoekhoe, Hainum. *Dialects*: Kede (Kedde, Keddi), †Akhoe, Gomkhoe (Gomaikhoe, Mangetti-Hai||om, Xomkhoe). *Lg Use*: Also use Afrikaans [afr]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Khoekhoe [naq]. Also use Kwangali [kwn]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Low in Afrikaans [afr]. *Texts*. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Possibly in Angola, where they reportedly originated. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 19:4. *Worldwide*: Unestablished in: South Africa (Hailom), Zambia (Hai||om).

Herero [her] (Ochisherero, Otshisherero, Ovaherero). Autonym: Otjiherero. *Users*: 210,000 in Namibia (2018). *Location*: Kunene region: Sesfontein north to Angola border area; Omaheke region; Otjonzondjupa region: Otumborombonga, southeast corner and central area. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Herero (R.30). *Dialects*: Mbandieru (East Herero, Mbanderu), Central Herero, Himba (Otjihimba, Ovahimba). *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1987. *DLS*: Ascending (0.16). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Erroneously called ‘Damara’. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 19:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 248,700. Also indigenous in: Angola (Himba), Botswana.

Jul’hoansi [ktz] (!Xo, !Xun, Dobe Kung, Dzu’oasi, Ju’oasi, Jul’hoan, Kung, Kung-Tsumkwe, South-Eastern Ju, Tshumkwe, Xaixai, Xû, Zhu’oasi). Autonym: Jul’hoansi. *Users*: 40,500 in Namibia (2018). *Location*: Kavango East and Kavango West regions; Omaheke region: north border; Otjonzondjupa region: east central. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), used in primary education. *Class*: Kx’a, !Kung. *Dialects*: Dzu’oasi (Ssu Ghassi, Zhu’oase), Nogau (Agau), †Kx’aul’ein (Auen, Kaukau, Koko, Kung-Gobabis, !Aulei, !X’aul’e, †Kx’aul’ei). *Lg Dev*: Nyaenyae Development Trust is teaching reading in Namibia. Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2008. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 19:6. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 45,500. Also indigenous in: Botswana.

Khoekhoe [naq] (Bergdamara, Damara, Hai||’om, Khoekhoegowap, Maqua, Nama, Namagowab, Namakwa, Naman, Namaqua, Tama, Tamakwa, Tamma, “Hottentot” pej.). Autonym: Khoekhoegowab. *Users*: 279,000 in Namibia (2018). *Location*: Erongo, Kunene, and Otjonzondjupa (Otiwarongo area) regions; south central near ||karas and Hardap regions. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Khoekhoe, Nama. *Dialects*: Sesfontein-Dama (Sesfontein Damara), Namidama, Central Damara (Central Dama), Central Nama (Nama), Bondelswarts-Nama (Bondelswarts), Topnaar-Nama (Topnaar). Lexical similarity: Sesfontein Damara over 80% with central dialects, 80% with Haiom [hgm] (Haacke 2008). *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*: Can be studied up to doctoral level at University of Namibia, also used in administration. Used as L2 by Hai||om [hgm], Xiri [xii]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1966. *DLS*: Ascending (0.17). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 19:7. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 281,200. Also established in: Botswana, South Africa.

Khwedam [xuu] (Khoe, Khwe, Khwe-||Ani, Kxoe, Kxoedam, Xun, “Barakwena” pej., “Barakwengo” pej., “Mbarakwena” pej., “Water Bushmen” pej.). Autonym: Khwedam. *Users*: 4,000 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location*: Kavango East and Zambezi regions: between Okavango and Zambezi rivers. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Northwest. *Dialects*: ||Xo-Kxoe, ||Xom-Kxoe, Buma-Kxoe, Buga-Kxoe, ||Ani (||Anikhwe). Minor dialect differences within Khwe. Related to ||Ani [hnh], Naro [nhr], and Khoekhoe [naq] but is quite distinct from each of these and not mutually intelligible. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Many non-Khwe learn Khwe for interaction with Khwe. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Afrikaans [afr]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Pidgin Bantu [fng]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%–20%. Literacy rate in L2: 10%–20%. Radio. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2010. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 2006. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 19:8. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,860. Also indigenous in: Angola, Botswana. Also established in: Zambia. Unestablished in: South Africa.

Kuhane [sbs] (Chikuahane, Chikwahane, Ciikuhane, Echisubia, Ikuhane, Mbalangwe, Subia, Subiya, Supia). *Users*: 33,000 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Location*: Zambezi region. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Subiya-Totela (K.42). *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 61% with Luyana [lyn], 60% with Tonga [toi]. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe], Yeyi [yey]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Mbalangwe applies to speakers living in Mafwe area (Maho 1998:51). Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 19:9. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,870. Also indigenous in: Botswana, Zambia.

Kung-Ekoka [knw] (!Hu, !Khung, !Ku, !Kung, !Xu, !Xun, !Xung, Ekoka !Xung, Ekoka-!Xû, Kung, Qxû, Qxü). *Users*: 9,000 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location*: Erongo and Otjozondjupa regions: to Dinguati and Usakos; Khomas region: small border group. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Kx’a, !Kung. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1980. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Possibly the same as Northwestern !Kung [vaj]. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 19:10. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,500. Also indigenous in: Botswana. Also established in: Angola.

Kwambi [kwm] (Otjiwambo, Owambo). Autonym: Oshikwambi. *Users*: 41,000 (Leclerc 2018e). *Location*: Oshana region; Omusati and Ohangwena regions bordering Oshana; Oshikoto region: southwest. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Wambo (R.23). *Lg Dev*: Texts. NT: 1951. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 19:11.

Kwangali [kwn] (Kwangare, Kwangari, Rukwangari, Sikwangali, Vakwángali). Autonym:

Rukwángali. *Users*: 170,000 in Namibia (2018). Ethnic population: 175,000 (2018). *Location*: Kavango East and Kavango West regions. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.33). *Dialect*: Shambyu (Sambio, Sambiu, Sambyu, Shisambyu). May be intelligible of Gciriku [diu]. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; 18 noun classes; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; 18 consonants and 5 vowels; tonal (2 tones: high, low); partial vowel harmony; 1 click phoneme. *Lg Use*: All domains, including education. Used by all. Used as L2 by Hai||om [hgm]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1987. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 19:12. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 192,000. Also indigenous in: Angola.

Kwanyama [kua] (Humba, Kuanyama, Kwancama, Kwanjama, Ochikwanyama, Oshikwanyama, Oshiwambo, Otjiwambo, Ovambo, Owambo). Autonym: Oshikwanyama, Oshiwambo. *Users*: 608,000 in Namibia (2018). *Location*: Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, and Oshikoto regions; northeast Omusati and east Oshana regions. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Wambo (R.21). *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng]. Used as L2 by Namibian Sign Language [nbs]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 50%. Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1974. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Map*: 19:13. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,429,000 (as L1: 1,389,000; as L2: 40,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Angola (Oshiwambo).

Lozi [loz] (Kololo, Rotse, Rozi, Rutse, Silozi, Tozvi). Autonym: siLozi. *Users*: 38,000 in Namibia (2018). *Location*: Kavango East and Zambezi regions: widespread. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as primary educational medium in certain areas. Spoken as lingua franca by all residents of East Caprivi Strip. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Lozi (K.21). *Lg Use*: Education, administration. Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe], Yeyi [yey]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1951–2009. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 734,000. Indigenous in: Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Luchazi [lch]. Autonym: Chiluchazi. *Users*: 1,300 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.13). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Bible: 1963. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 430,900. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Angola. Also established in: Zambia.

Mbalanhu [lnb] (Central Wambo, Mbaanhu, Mbalantu, Mbaluntu). *Users*: 300 (Leclerc 2018e).

Location: Kunene region. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Wambo (R.214). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. *DLS:* Still.

Mbukushu [mhw] (Gova, Hambukushu, Kusso, Mambukush, Mampukush, Mbukuhu, Mbukushi, Thimbukushu). Autonym: Thimbukushu. *Users:* 43,100 in Namibia (2018). *Location:* Kavango East and Zambezi regions. *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.333). *Dialects:* None known. Reportedly similar to Kwangali [kwm]. *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Yeyi [yey]. *Lg Dev:* Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1986. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Traditional religion, Christian. *Map:* 19:14. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 95,010. Also indigenous in: Angola, Botswana, Zambia.

Namibian Sign Language [nbs]. *Users:* 8,310 (2008 WFD). Approximately 0.35% of total population. Estimated 18,000 ‘deaf or hearing impaired’ (2010 Centre for Communication and Deaf Studies). *Location:* Scattered. *Status:* 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5). *Class:* Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Lg Use:* Used by all. Some also use English [eng] (Mwondela 2005). Some also use Oshiwambo [kua] (Mwondela 2005). *Lg Dev:* Taught in primary and secondary schools. Dictionary. Agency: Centre for Communication and Deaf Studies, Namibian National Association of the Deaf. *DLS:* Still. *Other:* Sign language education offered at the University of Namibia.

Naro [nhr] (Nharo). Autonym: Naro. *Users:* 2,000 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location:* Omaheke region: east of Gobabis to Botswana border. *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Class:* Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Southwest. *Type:* SOV; tonal. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2012. *Writing:* Latin script. *Map:* 19:15. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 20,000 (as L1: 10,000; as L2: 10,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Botswana.

Ndonga [ndo] (Ambo, Ochindonga, Osindonga, Otjiwambo, Owambo). Autonym: Oshindonga, Oshiwambo. *Users:* 279,000 (2018). *Location:* Kunene and Oshana regions: small scattered areas; Omusati region; Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions: east. *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Wambo (R.22). *Dialects:* Eunda Kolonkadhi, Kwaludhi. Partially intelligible of Kwanyama [kua]. *Lg Use:* Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: 75%. Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1954–1986. *DLS:* Ascending (0.24). *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Christian, traditional religion. *Map:* 19:16.

Ngandjera [nne] (Ngandyera, Oshingandjera). *Users:* 13,100 (2000). *Location:* Omusati region: in and around Okahao electoral constituency. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo,

Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Wambo (R.24). *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 19:17.

Northwestern !Kung [vaj] (!'O-!Khung, !Ku, !Kung, !Xun, Sekela, Vasekela Bushman, Vasekele). *Users*: 1,300 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location*: Kavango East and Zambezi regions; Otjozondjupa region: southeast of Omataku river. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Kx'a, !Kung. *Lg Use*: Also use Afrikaans [af], especially in formal domains. Also use English [eng], especially in formal domains. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Large numbers migrated to Namibia and South Africa due to war in Angola, and now it appears that many of them have returned to Angola. *Map*: 19:18 (as Northwestern Kung). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,070. Also indigenous in: Angola. Also established in: South Africa.

Nyemba [nba]. *Users*: 9,540 in Namibia (1982). *Location*: Mines. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.12). *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1955. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,059,540. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Angola.

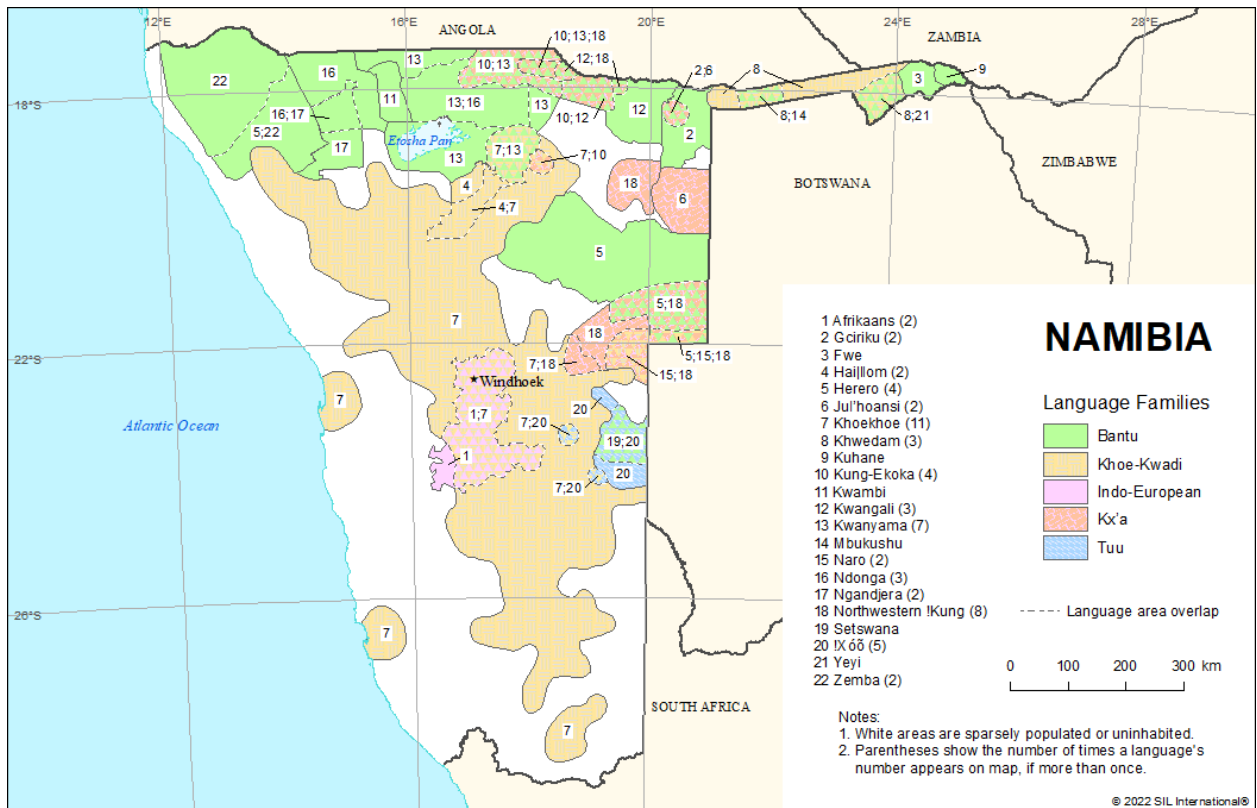
Setswana [tsn] (Tswana). Autonym: Setswana. *Users*: 6,330 in Namibia (2018). *Location*: Hardap region; Omaheke region: Botswana border. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Sotho-Tswana (S.31). *Dialects*: Tlharo, Tlhaping, Tawana. *Lg Use*: Education, administration. Used as L2 by Khwedam [xuu], Yeyi [yey]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1857–1993. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 19:19. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 13,745,730 (as L1: 5,895,730; as L2: 7,850,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Botswana, South Africa. Also established in: Zimbabwe.

Yeyi [yey] (Ciyei, Mayeyi, Seyeyi, Shiyeyi, Yeei, Yei, “Koba” *pej.*, “Kuba” *pej.*, “Sekoba” *pej.*). Autonym: Shiyeyi. *Users*: 7,300 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Location*: Zambezi region. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Yeyi (R.41). *Dialect*: Shirwanga. *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*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Kuhane [sbs]. Also use Lozi [loz]. Also use Mashi [mho]. Also use Mbukushu [mhw]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 13%. Literacy rate in L2: 68% in Setswana [tsn]. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 19:21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,480. Also indigenous in: Botswana.

Zemba [dhm] (Dhimba, Himba, Luzimba, Oludhimba, Oluthimba, Otjidhimba, Simba). Autonym: Oludhimba. *Users*: 7,300 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Location*: Kunene region: south of

Kunene river. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Herero (R.311). *Lg Dev*: Texts. NT: 2013. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 19:22. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 25,300. Also indigenous in: Angola (Dhimba).

Language Map



Primary source for locations of Khoe-Kwadi, Kx'a, and Tuu languages is Brenzinger 2013a

Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Namibia 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.

100,000 to 999,999

Kwanyama [[kua](#)] *Users:* 608,000 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,429,000 (as L1: 1,389,000; as L2: 40,000).

Khoekhoe [[naq](#)] *Users:* 279,000 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 281,200.

Ndonga [[ndo](#)] *Users:* 279,000 (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades.

Herero [[her](#)] *Users:* 210,000 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 248,700.

Kwangali [[kwn](#)] *Users:* 170,000 in Namibia (2018). Ethnic population: 175,000 (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 192,000.

Afrikaans [[afr](#)] *Users:* 127,000 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1, 5.1, 5.5), Most commonly used as educational medium. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,674,200 (as L1: 7,359,600; as L2: 10,314,600).

10,000 to 99,999

Gciriku [[diu](#)] *Users:* 55,700 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 81,700.

Mbukushu [[mhw](#)] *Users:* 43,100 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 95,010.

Kwambi [[kwm](#)] *Users:* 41,000 (Leclerc 2018e). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Jul'hoansi [ktz] *Users:* 40,500 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), used in primary education. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 45,500.

German, Standard [deu] *Users:* 39,300 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1, 5.1, 5.5), mostly as a language medium in government schools. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

Lozi [loz] *Users:* 38,000 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as primary educational medium in certain areas. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 734,000.

Kuhane [sbs] *Users:* 33,000 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 40,870.

English [eng] *Users:* 24,100 in Namibia (2018). 444,100 in Namibia, all users. L2 users: 420,000 (2020). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1990, Constitution, Article 3(1)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Hai||lom [hgm] *Users:* 23,000 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Fwe [fwe] *Users:* 14,000 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 26,000.

Ngandjera [nne] *Users:* 13,100 (2000). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

1,000 to 9,999

Nyemba [nba] *Users:* 9,540 in Namibia (1982). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,059,540.

Kung-Ekoka [knw] *Users:* 9,000 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,500.

Namibian Sign Language [nbs] *Users:* 8,310 (2008 WFD). Approximately 0.35% of total population. Estimated 18,000 'deaf or hearing impaired' (2010 Centre for Communication and Deaf Studies). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5).

Yeyi [yey] *Users:* 7,300 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,480.

Zemba [dhm] *Users:* 7,300 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,300.

Setswana [tsn] *Users:* 6,330 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language

(2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 13,745,730 (as L1: 5,895,730; as L2: 7,850,000).

Khwedam [xuu] *Users*: 4,000 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status*: 5 (Developing).

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 7,860.

Naro [nhr] *Users*: 2,000 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,000 (as L1: 10,000; as L2: 10,000).

Luchazi [lch] *Users*: 1,300 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 430,900.

Northwestern !Kung [vaj] *Users*: 1,300 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,070.

100 to 999

!Xóõ [nmn] *Users*: 500 in Namibia (2014 C. Naumann). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,500.

Mbalanhu [lnb] *Users*: 300 (Leclerc 2018e). *Status*: 6b (Threatened).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Namibia 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:* 444,100 in Namibia, all users. L1 users: 24,100 in Namibia (2018). L2 users: 420,000 (2020). *Status:* Statutory national language (1990, Constitution, Article 3(1)). *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).

3 (Wider communication)

Afrikaans [afr] *Users:* 127,000 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1, 5.1, 5.5), Most commonly used as educational medium. *Lg Use:* Used by 25% of the population in Windhoek in their homes (1995 census). Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe], Hai||om [hgm], Khwedam [xuu], Northwestern !Kung [vaj]. *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).

Lozi [loz] *Users:* 38,000 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as primary educational medium in certain areas. Spoken as lingua franca by all residents of East Caprivi Strip. *Lg Use:* Education, administration. Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe], Yeyi [yey]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 734,000.

4 (Educational)

Gciriku [diu] *Users:* 55,700 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Lg Use:* Administration. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1988. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 81,700.

German, Standard [deu] *Users:* 39,300 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1, 5.1, 5.5), mostly as a language medium in government schools. *Lg Use:* Radio broadcasts. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

Herero [[her](#)] *Users:* 210,000 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1987. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 248,700.

Jul'hoansi [[ktz](#)] *Users:* 40,500 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), used in primary education. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2008. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 45,500.

Khoekhoe [[naq](#)] *Users:* 279,000 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Lg Use:* Can be studied up to doctoral level at University of Namibia, also used in administration. Used as L2 by Hai||om [[hgm](#)], Xiri [[xii](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1966. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 281,200.

Kwangali [[kwn](#)] *Users:* 170,000 in Namibia (2018). Ethnic population: 175,000 (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Lg Use:* All domains, including education. Used by all. Used as L2 by Hai||om [[hgm](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1987. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 192,000.

Kwanyama [[kua](#)] *Users:* 608,000 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Lg Use:* Also use English [[eng](#)]. Used as L2 by Namibian Sign Language [[nbs](#)]. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,429,000 (as L1: 1,389,000; as L2: 40,000).

Mbukushu [[mhw](#)] *Users:* 43,100 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Yeyi [[yey](#)]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 95,010.

Ndonga [[ndo](#)] *Users:* 279,000 (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Lg Use:* Also use English [[eng](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1954–1986. *Writing:* Latin script.

Setswana [[tsn](#)] *Users:* 6,330 in Namibia (2018). *Status:* Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5), mainly used as education medium in primary grades. *Lg Use:* Education, administration. Used as L2 by Khwedam [[xuu](#)], Yeyi [[yey](#)]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,745,730 (as L1: 5,895,730; as L2: 7,850,000).

5 (Developing)

Khwedam [[xuu](#)] *Users*: 4,000 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Many non-Khwe learn Khwe for interaction with Khwe. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Afrikaans [[afr](#)]. Also use English [[eng](#)]. Also use Pidgin Bantu [[fng](#)]. Also use Setswana [[tsn](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2010. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 2006. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,860.

Kwambi [[kwm](#)] *Users*: 41,000 (Leclerc 2018e). *Lg Dev*: Texts. NT: 1951. *Writing*: Latin script.

Namibian Sign Language [[nbs](#)] *Users*: 8,310 (2008 WFD). Approximately 0.35% of total population. Estimated 18,000 ‘deaf or hearing impaired’ (2010 Centre for Communication and Deaf Studies). *Status*: Recognized language (2009, National Curriculum, Basic Education, Sections 4.1.5.1 and 5.5). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Some also use English [[eng](#)] (Mwondela 2005). Some also use Oshiwambo [[kua](#)] (Mwondela 2005). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary.

Zemba [[dhm](#)] *Users*: 7,300 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 25,300.

5 (Dispersed)

Naro [[nhr](#)] *Users*: 2,000 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,000 (as L1: 10,000; as L2: 10,000).

6a (Vigorous)

Fwe [[fwe](#)] *Users*: 14,000 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Many also use English [[eng](#)] (Gunnink 2018). Also use Afrikaans [[afr](#)], especially among older generations (Gunnink 2018). Also use Kuhane [[sbs](#)] (Gunnink 2018). Also use Lozi [[loz](#)] (Gunnink 2018). Also use Totela [[ttl](#)] (Gunnink 2018). Also use Yeyi [[yey](#)] (Gunnink 2018). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 2011. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 26,000.

Hai||lom [[hgm](#)] *Users*: 23,000 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Lg Use*: Also use Afrikaans [[afr](#)]. Also use English [[eng](#)]. Also use Khoekhoe [[naq](#)]. Also use Kwangali [[kwn](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Kuhane [[sbs](#)] *Users*: 33,000 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Fwe [[fwe](#)], Yeyi [[yey](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,870.

Kung-Ekoka [[knw](#)] *Users*: 9,000 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1980. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,500.

Ngandjera [[nne](#)] *Users*: 13,100 (2000). *Writing*: Unwritten.

Yeyi [[yey](#)] *Users*: 7,300 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive

attitudes. Also use Kuhane [sbs]. Also use Lozi [loz]. Also use Mashi [mho]. Also use Mbukushu [mhw]. Also use Setswana [tsn]. Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,480.

6b (Threatened)

Mbalanhu [lnb] *Users*: 300 (Leclerc 2018e). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults.

Northwestern !Kung [vaj] *Users*: 1,300 in Namibia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Lg Use*: Also use Afrikaans [afr], especially in formal domains. Also use English [eng], especially in formal domains. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,070.

!Xóõ [nmn] *Users*: 500 in Namibia (2014 C. Naumann). *Lg Use*: N|gamani, !Nulen, !'Auni, and Kilhazi dialects have no remaining users. Some young people, all adults. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,500.

Unestablished

Luchazi [lch] *Users*: 1,300 in Namibia (Leclerc 2018e). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 430,900.

Nyemba [nba] *Users*: 9,540 in Namibia (1982). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,059,540.

Languages by Region

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

||karas

Khoekhoe [naq], 13

Erongo

Khoekhoe [naq], 13

Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14

Hardap

!Xóõ [nmn], 11

Afrikaans [afr], 11

Khoekhoe [naq], 13

Setswana [tsn], 17

Kavango East

Gciriku [diu], 12

Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13

Khwedam [xuu], 14

Kwangali [kwn], 14

Lozi [loz], 15

Mbukushu [mhw], 16

Northwestern !Kung [vaj], 17

Kavango West

Gciriku [diu], 12

Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13

Kwangali [kwn], 14

Kwanyama [kua], 15

Khomas

Afrikaans [afr], 11

German, Standard [deu], 12

Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14

Kunene

Herero [her], 13

Khoekhoe [naq], 13

Kwanyama [kua], 15

Mbalanhu [lnb], 15

Ndonga [ndo], 16

Zemba [dhm], 17

Ohangwena

Kwambi [kwm], 14

Kwanyama [kua], 15

Ndonga [ndo], 16

Omaheke

Herero [her], 13

Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13

Naro [nhr], 16

Setswana [tsn], 17

Omusati

Kwambi [kwm], 14

Kwanyama [kua], 15

Ndonga [ndo], 16

Ngandjera [nne], 16

Oshana

Kwambi [kwm], 14

Kwanyama [kua], 15

Ndonga [ndo], 16

Oshikoto

Kwambi [kwm], 14

Kwanyama [kua], 15

Ndonga [ndo], 16

Otjozondjupa

Gciriku [diu], 12

Hai||om [hgm], 12

Herero [her], 13

Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13

Khoekhoe [naq], 13

Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14

Northwestern !Kung [vaj], 17

Zambezi

Fwe [fwe], 12

Gciriku [diu], 12

Khwedam [xuu], 14

Kuhane [sbs], [14](#)

Lozi [loz], [15](#)

Mbukushu [mhw], [16](#)

Northwestern !Kung [vaj], [17](#)

Yeyi [yey], [17](#)

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Namibia. 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], [11](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German

German, Standard [deu], [12](#)

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

Afrikaans [afr], [11](#)

Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Northwest

Khwedam [xuu], [14](#)

Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Southwest

Naro [nhr], [16](#)

Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Khoekhoe, Hainum

Hai||om [hgm], [12](#)

Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Khoekhoe, Nama

Khoekhoe [naq], [13](#)

Kx'a, !Kung

Jul'hoansi [ktz], [13](#)

Kung-Ekoka [knw], [14](#)

Northwestern !Kung [vaj], [17](#)

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

Lozi [loz], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.33)

Kwangali [kwn], [14](#)

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

Gciriku [diu], [12](#)

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.402)

Fwe [fwe], [12](#)

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

Kuhane [sbs], [14](#)

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, Herero (R.311)

Dhimba [dhm], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Wambo (R.21)

Oshiwambo [kua], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Wambo (R.214)

Mbalanhu [lnb], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Wambo (R.22)

Ndonga [ndo], [16](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Wambo (R.23)

Kwambi [kwm], [14](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R, Wambo (R.24)

Ngandjera [nne], [16](#)

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

Yeyi [yey], [17](#)

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

Setswana [tsn], [17](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Namibian Sign Language [nbs], [16](#)

Tuu, Taa

!Xóõ [nmn], [11](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 29 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/>.

afr	Afrikaans, 11	loz	Lozi, 15
deu	German, Standard, 12	mhw	Mbukushu, 16
dhm	Dhimba, 17	naq	Khoekhoe, 13
diu	Gciriku, 12	nba	Nyemba, 17
eng	English, 11	nbs	Namibian Sign Language, 16
fwe	Fwe, 12	ndo	Ndonga, 16
her	Herero, 13	nhr	Naro, 16
hgm	Hai om, 12	nmn	!Xóǒ, 11
knw	Kung-Ekoka, 14	nne	Ngandjera, 16
ktz	Jul'hoansi, 13	sbs	Kuhane, 14
kua	Oshiwambo, 15	tsn	Setswana, 17
kwm	Kwambi, 14	vaj	Northwestern !Kung, 17
kwn	Kwangali, 14	xuu	Khwedam, 14
lch	Luchazi, 15	yey	Yeyi, 17
lnb	Mbalanhu, 15		

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.

- IAuni**, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
IAuo, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
IEikusi, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
IKusi, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
INullen, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
IUllen, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
IIAullei, *alt. dial.* Jul’hoansi [ktz], 13
IIUllen, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
IIX’aull’e, *alt. dial.* Jul’hoansi [ktz], 13
Afrikaans [afr], 11, 19
Agau, *alt. dial.* Jul’hoansi [ktz], 13
ǀAkhoe, *dial.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
Ambo, *alt.* Ndonga [ndo], 16
||Ani, *dial.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
||Anikhwe, *alt. dial.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
Auen, *alt. dial.* Jul’hoansi [ktz], 13
Auni, *dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
Barakwena, *pej. alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
Barakwengo, *pej. alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
Bergdamara, *alt.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Bondelswarts, *alt. dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Bondelswarts-Nama, *dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Buga-Kxoe, *dial.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
Buma-Kxoe, *dial.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
Central Dama, *alt. dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Central Damara, *dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Central Herero, *dial.* Herero [her], 13
Central Nama, *dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Central Wambo, *alt.* Mbalanhu [lnb], 15
Chikuahane, *alt.* Kuhane [sbs], 14
Chikwahane, *alt.* Kuhane [sbs], 14
Cifwè, *alt.* Fwe [fwe], 12
Ciikuhane, *alt.* Kuhane [sbs], 14
Ciyei, *alt.* Yeyi [yey], 17
Damara, *alt.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Dciriku, *alt.* Gciriku [diu], 12
Deutsch, *alt.* German, Standard [deu], 12
Dhimba, *alt.* Dhimba [dhm], 17
Diriko, *alt.* Gciriku [diu], 12
Diriku, *alt.* Gciriku [diu], 12
Dobe Kung, *alt.* Jul’hoansi [ktz], 13
Dzu’oasi, *alt.* Jul’hoansi [ktz], 13
dial. Jul’hoansi [ktz], 13
East Herero, *alt. dial.* Herero [her], 13
Echisubia, *alt.* Kuhane [sbs], 14
Ekoka !Xung, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
Ekoka-!Xû, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
English [eng], 11
Eunda Kolonkadhi, *dial.* Ndonga [ndo], 16
Fwe [fwe], 12, 19
Gciriku [diu], 12, 19

- German, Standard** [deu], 12
see German, Standard [deu], 12
- Gomaikhoë**, *alt. dial.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Gomkhoë**, *dial.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Gova**, *alt.* Mbukushu [mhw], 16
- Hai||om** [hgm], 12, 19
- Haikom**, *alt.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Haikum**, *alt.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Hai||'om**, *alt.* Khoekhoë [naq], 13
- Hambukushu**, *alt.* Mbukushu [mhw], 16
- Hei||om**, *alt.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Heikom**, *alt.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Heikom Bushman**, *alt.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Heikum**, *alt.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Herero** [her], 13, 19
- Himba**, *alt.* Dhimba [dhm], 17
dial. Herero [her], 13
- Hottentot**, *pej. alt.* Khoekhoë [naq], 13
- !Hu**, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
- Humba**, *alt.* Oshiwambo [kua], 15
- Ikuhane**, *alt.* Kuhane [sbs], 14
- Jul'hoan**, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
- Jul'hoansi** [ktz], 13, 19
- Ju'oasi**, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
- Kaikom**, *alt.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Kakia**, *dial.* !Xóõ [nmn], 11
- Katia**, *alt. dial.* !Xóõ [nmn], 11
- Kattea**, *alt. dial.* !Xóõ [nmn], 11
- Kaukau**, *alt. dial.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
- Kedde**, *alt. dial.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Keddi**, *alt. dial.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Kede**, *dial.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Khatia**, *alt. dial.* !Xóõ [nmn], 11
- Khoë**, *alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
- Khoekhoë** [naq], 13, 19
- Khoekhoëgowab**, *alt.* Khoekhoë [naq], 13
- Khoekhoëgowap**, *alt.* Khoekhoë [naq], 13
- !Khung**, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
- Khwe**, *alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
- Khwe-||Ani**, *alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
- Khwedam** [xuu], 14, 19
- Kilhazi**, *dial.* !Xóõ [nmn], 11
- Koba**, *pej. alt.* Yeyi [yey], 17
- Koko**, *alt. dial.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
- Kololo**, *alt.* Lozi [loz], 15
- !Ku**, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
alt. Northwestern !Kung [vaj], 17
- Kuanyama**, *alt.* Oshiwambo [kua], 15
- Kuba**, *pej. alt.* Yeyi [yey], 17
- Kuhane** [sbs], 14, 19
- !Kung**, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
alt. Northwestern !Kung [vaj], 17
- Kung**, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
alt. Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
- Kung-Ekoka** [knw], 14, 19
- Kung-Gobabis**, *alt. dial.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
- Kung-Tsumkwe**, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
- Kusso**, *alt.* Mbukushu [mhw], 16
- Kwaludhi**, *dial.* Ndonga [ndo], 16
- Kwambi** [kwm], 14, 19
- Kwancama**, *alt.* Oshiwambo [kua], 15
- Kwangali** [kwn], 14, 19
- Kwangare**, *alt.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
- Kwangari**, *alt.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
- Kwanjama**, *alt.* Oshiwambo [kua], 15
- Kwanyama** [kua], 15, 19
- !Kwi**, *dial.* !Xóõ [nmn], 11
- ‡Kx'aull'ei**, *alt. dial.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
- ‡Kx'aull'ein**, *dial.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
- Kxoe**, *alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
- Kxoedam**, *alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
- Lozi** [loz], 15
- Luzimba**, *alt.* Dhimba [dhm], 17
- Mafwe**, *alt.* Fwe [fwe], 12

- Mambukush**, *alt.* Mbukushu [mhw], 16
- Mampukush**, *alt.* Mbukushu [mhw], 16
- Mangetti-Hai||om**, *alt. dial.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Manyo**, *alt.* Gciriku [diu], 12
- Maqua**, *alt.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
- Masarwa**, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
- Mayeyi**, *alt.* Yeyi [yey], 17
- Mbaanhu**, *alt.* Mbalanhu [lnb], 15
- Mbalangwe**, *alt.* Kuhane [sbs], 14
- Mbalanhu** [lnb], 15
- Mbalantu**, *alt.* Mbalanhu [lnb], 15
- Mbaluntu**, *alt.* Mbalanhu [lnb], 15
- Mbanderu**, *alt. dial.* Herero [her], 13
- Mbandieru**, *dial.* Herero [her], 13
- Mbarakwena**, *pej. alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
- Mbogedo**, *alt.* Gciriku [diu], 12
- Mbogedu**, *alt.* Gciriku [diu], 12
- Mbukuhu**, *alt.* Mbukushu [mhw], 16
- Mbukushi**, *alt.* Mbukushu [mhw], 16
- Mbukushu** [mhw], 16, 19
- Nama**, *alt. dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
alt. Khoekhoe [naq], 13
- Namagowab**, *alt.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
- Namakwa**, *alt.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
- Naman**, *alt.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
- Namaqua**, *alt.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
- Namibian Sign Language** [nbs], 16, 0
- Namidama**, *dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
- Naro** [nhr], 16, 19
- Ndonga** [ndo], 16, 19
- Nglulei**, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
- Nglulen**, *dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
- Nglusan**, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
- Ngandjera** [nne], 16, 19
- Ngandyera**, *alt.* Ngandjera [nne], 16
- Nharo**, *alt.* Naro [nhr], 16
- Nogau**, *dial.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
- Noosan**, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
- Northwestern !Kung** [vaj], 17, 19
- Nullen**, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
- Nusan**, *dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
- Nu-San**, *alt. dial.* !Xóǝ [nmn], 11
- Ochisherero**, *alt.* Herero [her], 13
- Ochikwanyama**, *alt.* Oshiwambo [kua], 15
- Ochindonga**, *alt.* Ndonga [ndo], 16
- !O-!Khung**, *alt.* Northwestern !Kung [vaj], 17
- Oludhimba**, *alt.* Dhimba [dhm], 17
- Oluthimba**, *alt.* Dhimba [dhm], 17
- Oshikwambi**, *alt.* Kwambi [kwm], 14
- Oshikwankala Haillom**, *alt.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
- Oshikwanyama**, *alt.* Oshiwambo [kua], 15
- Oshindonga**, *alt.* Ndonga [ndo], 16
- Oshingandjera**, *alt.* Ngandjera [nne], 16
- Oshiwambo**, *alt.* Ndonga [ndo], 16
alt. Oshiwambo [kua], 15
- Osindonga**, *alt.* Ndonga [ndo], 16
- Otjidhimba**, *alt.* Dhimba [dhm], 17
- Otjisherero**, *alt.* Herero [her], 13
- Otjihimba**, *alt. dial.* Herero [her], 13
- Otjiwambo**, *alt.* Kwambi [kwm], 14
alt. Ndonga [ndo], 16
alt. Oshiwambo [kua], 15
- Otshisherero**, *alt.* Herero [her], 13
- Ovaherero**, *alt.* Herero [her], 13
- Ovahimba**, *alt. dial.* Herero [her], 13
- Ovambo**, *alt.* Oshiwambo [kua], 15
- Owambo**, *alt.* Kwambi [kwm], 14
alt. Ndonga [ndo], 16
alt. Oshiwambo [kua], 15
- Qxú**, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
- Qxü**, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
- Rotse**, *alt.* Lozi [loz], 15
- Rozi**, *alt.* Lozi [loz], 15
- Rugciriku**, *alt.* Gciriku [diu], 12

- Rukwángali**, *alt.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
Rukwangari, *alt.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
Rumanyo, *alt.* Gciriku [diu], 12
Rusambyu, *alt.* Gciriku [diu], 12
Rutse, *alt.* Lozi [loz], 15
Sambio, *alt. dial.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
Sambiu, *alt. dial.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
Sambyu, *alt. dial.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
Sekela, *alt.* Northwestern !Kung [vaj], 17
Sekoba, *pej. alt.* Yeyi [yey], 17
Sesfontein Damara, *alt. dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Sesfontein-Dama, *dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Setswana [tsn], 17, 19
Seyeyi, *alt.* Yeyi [yey], 17
Shambyu, *dial.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
Shimbogedu, *alt.* Gciriku [diu], 12
Shirwanga, *dial.* Yeyi [yey], 17
Shisambyu, *alt. dial.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
Shiyeyi, *alt.* Yeyi [yey], 17
Sifwe, *alt.* Fwe [fwe], 12
Sikwangali, *alt.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
Silozi, *alt.* Lozi [loz], 15
Simba, *alt.* Dhimba [dhm], 17
South-Eastern Ju, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
Ssu Ghassi, *alt. dial.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
Subia, *alt.* Kuhane [sbs], 14
Subiya, *alt.* Kuhane [sbs], 14
Supia, *alt.* Kuhane [sbs], 14
Tama, *alt.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Tamakwa, *alt.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Tamma, *alt.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Tawana, *dial.* Setswana [tsn], 17
Thimbukushu, *alt.* Mbukushu [mhw], 16
Tlhaping, *dial.* Setswana [tsn], 17
Tlharo, *dial.* Setswana [tsn], 17
Topnaar, *alt. dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Topnaar-Nama, *dial.* Khoekhoe [naq], 13
Tozvi, *alt.* Lozi [loz], 15
Tshumkwe, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
Tswana, *alt.* Setswana [tsn], 17
Vaalpens, *alt. dial.* !Xóõ [nmn], 11
Vakwángali, *alt.* Kwangali [kwn], 14
Vasekela Bushman, *alt.* Northwestern !Kung [vaj], 17
Vasekele, *alt.* Northwestern !Kung [vaj], 17
Water Bushmen, *pej. alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
Xaixai, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
Xatia, *dial.* !Xóõ [nmn], 11
!Xo, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
||Xo-Kxoe, *dial.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
Xomkhoe, *alt. dial.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
||Xom-Kxoe, *dial.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
!Xóõ [nmn], 11, 19
!Xu, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
Xû, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
!Xun, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
alt. Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
alt. Northwestern !Kung [vaj], 17
Xun, *alt.* Khwedam [xuu], 14
!Xung, *alt.* Kung-Ekoka [knw], 14
Xwaga, *alt.* Hai||om [hgm], 12
Yeei, *alt.* Yeyi [yey], 17
Yei, *alt.* Yeyi [yey], 17
Yeyi [yey], 17, 19
Zemba [dhm], 17, 19
Zhu'oase, *alt. dial.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13
Zhu'oasi, *alt.* Jul'hoansi [ktz], 13

Bibliography

- Brenzinger, M. 1998. Moving to survive: Kxoe communities in arid lands. Hunter-gatherers in transition: Language, identity, and conceptualization among the Khoisan. In M. Schladt (ed.), *Language, identity, and conceptualization among the Khoisan*, pp. 321–358. Research in Khoisan Studies 15. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.
- Brenzinger, M. 2013a. *Map of the modern Khoeid, !Ui-Taa, and Kx'a languages, including Hadza and Sandawe*. Cape Town: Centre for African Language Diversity, University of Cape Town. <http://www.caldi.uct.ac.za/cal/map>. Accessed 15 February 2018.
- Brenzinger, M. 2013b. The twelve modern Khoisan languages. In A. Witzlack-Makarevich and M. Ernszt (eds.), *Khoisan languages and linguistics, Proceedings of the 3rd international symposium, July 6–10, 2008*, pp. 1–31. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.
- Campbell, G. L. and G. King. 2011. *The concise compendium of the world's languages, 2nd ed.* New York: Routledge.
- Güldemann, T. 1998. *San languages for education: A linguistic short survey and proposal, on behalf of the Molteno early literacy and language development project in Namibia*. Okahandja: National Institute of Educational Development, Ministry of Basic Education and Culture.
- Güldemann, T. 2003. Khoisan languages. In W. Frawley (ed.), *International encyclopedia of linguistics, 2nd ed., vol. 4*, pp. 359–362. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Güldemann, T. and R. Vossen. 2000. Khoisan. In B. Heine and D. Nurse (eds.), *African languages: An introduction*, pp. 99–122. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gunnink, H. 2018. *A grammar of Fwe: a Bantu language of Zambia and Namibia*. Ph.D. thesis, Ghent University.
- Haacke, W. H. G. 2008. Linguistic hypotheses on the origin of Namibian Khoekhoe speakers. *Southern African Humanities* 20:163–177.
- Haacke, W. H. G. and E. E. Elderkin (eds.). 1997. *Namibian languages: Reports and papers*. Namibian African Studies 4. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.
- Leclerc, J. 2018e. Namibie. *L'aménagement linguistique dans le monde*. Quebec City: CEFAN, Université Laval. <https://www.axl.cefan.ulaval.ca/afrique/namibie.htm>.
- Lewis, M. P. and G. F. Simons. 2010. Assessing endangerment: Expanding Fishman's GIDS. *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique* 55(2):103–120. http://www.lingv.ro/RRL_2_2010_art01Lewis.pdf. Accessed 11 January 2011.
- Maho, J. F. 1998. *Few people, many tongues: The languages of Namibia*. Windhoek: Gamsberg Macmillan.
- Mwondela, C. 2005. Beata Shihepo: A challenge to women. *Sister Namibia* 17(1):4–5.
- Stanley, G. E. 1968. The indigenous languages of South West Africa. *Anthropological Linguistics*

10:5–18.