

Ethnologue: Languages of Suriname

Twenty-sixth edition data

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List of Abbreviations

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| A | Agent in constituent word order |
| <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 |
| CSICH | Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) |
| DBS | Deaf Bible Society |
| <i>dial.</i> | primary dialect name for |
| DOOR | Deaf Opportunity Outreach |
| 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 |
| SIL | SIL International |
| 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 |

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Suriname 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 25 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Suriname. 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. *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.

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 19) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 22) 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 26) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Suriname and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 27) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 29) 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 30) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 119 unique names are associated with the 25

languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 33). 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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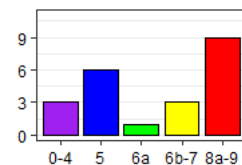
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Country Overview

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Name of country | Suriname |
| Other names | Republic of Suriname |
| Population | 591,800 (2021 UNDESA) |
| Principal languages | Dutch, Sranan Tongo |
| Literacy rate | 94% (2018 UNESCO) |
| Deaf population | 490–26,000 |
| International conventions | CSICH (2017), ICCPR (1976), UNCPRD (2017), UNDRIP (2007) |
| General references | Campbell 1997, Crevels 2007 |

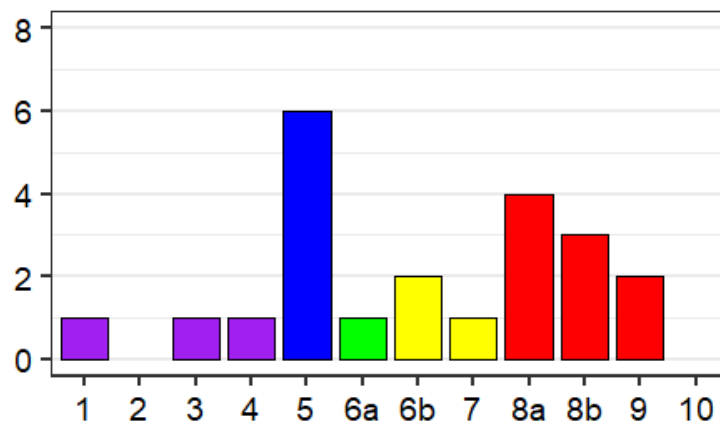
Language counts The number of established languages listed for Suriname is 22. All are living languages. Of these, 12 are indigenous and 10 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional, 6 are developing, 1 is vigorous, 3 are in trouble, and 9 are dying. Also listed are 3 unestablished languages.



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 Suriname 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 22) 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 Suriname. 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 Suriname 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 Suriname 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 19) 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 | 2 | 9.1 | 9.1% | 294,000 | 54.58353 | 54.58353% |
| 10,000 to 99,999 | 4 | 18.2 | 27.3% | 220,300 | 40.90052 | 95.48405% |
| 1,000 to 9,999 | 7 | 31.8 | 59.1% | 22,600 | 4.19588 | 99.67993% |
| 100 to 999 | 4 | 18.2 | 77.3% | 1,700 | 0.31562 | 99.99554% |
| 10 to 99 | 2 | 9.1 | 86.4% | 22 | 0.00408 | 99.99963% |
| 1 to 9 | 1 | 4.5 | 90.9% | 2 | 0.00037 | 100.00000% |
| 0 | 2 | 9.1 | 100.0% | | 0.00000 | 100.00000% |
| <i>Totals</i> | 22 | 100.0 | | 538,624 | 100.00000 | |

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Suriname 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 22) 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 Suriname. 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 | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|---------|------------|--------------------|----------|------------|---------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Cumulative | Total | Percent | Cumulative | Mean | Median |
| 1 | 1 | 4.5 | 4.5% | 1,200 | 0.2228 | 0.2228% | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| 3 | 1 | 4.5 | 9.1% | 141,000 | 26.1778 | 26.4006% | 141,000 | 141,000 |
| 4 | 1 | 4.5 | 13.6% | 1,200 | 0.2228 | 26.6234% | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| 5 | 6 | 27.3 | 40.9% | 307,050 | 57.0064 | 83.6298% | 51,175 | 38,400 |
| 6a | 1 | 4.5 | 45.5% | 2,000 | 0.3713 | 84.0011% | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 6b | 2 | 9.1 | 54.5% | 1,450 | 0.2692 | 84.2703% | 725 | 725 |
| 7 | 1 | 4.5 | 59.1% | 6,700 | 1.2439 | 85.5142% | 6,700 | 6,700 |
| 8a | 4 | 18.2 | 77.3% | 78,000 | 14.4813 | 99.9955% | 19,500 | 4,750 |
| 8b | 3 | 13.6 | 90.9% | 24 | 0.0045 | 100.0000% | 8 | 10 |
| 9 | 2 | 9.1 | 100.0% | | 0.0000 | 100.0000% | | |
| <i>Totals</i> | 22 | 100.0 | | 538,624 | 100.0000 | | | |

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 9 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> |
| Austronesian | 1 | 4.5 | 75,500 | 14.0 | 75,500 | 75,500 |
| Cariban | 6 | 27.3 | 2,972 | 0.6 | 495 | 231 |
| Creole | 5 | 22.7 | 286,050 | 53.1 | 57,210 | 45,300 |
| Indo-European | 3 | 13.6 | 155,400 | 28.9 | 51,800 | 1,200 |
| Language isolate | 1 | 4.5 | 500 | 0.1 | 500 | 500 |
| Maipurean | 2 | 9.1 | 502 | 0.1 | 251 | 251 |
| Pidgin | 1 | 4.5 | | 0.0 | | |
| Sign language | 1 | 4.5 | 2,000 | 0.4 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Sino-Tibetan | 2 | 9.1 | 15,700 | 2.9 | 7,850 | 7,850 |
| <i>Totals</i> | 22 | 100.0 | 538,624 | 100.0 | | |

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Akurio [ako] (Akoerio, Akuliyo, Akuri, Akurijo, Akuriyo, Oyaricoulet, Triometesem, Triometesen, Wama, Wayaricuri). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Last known speaker survived into the first decade of the 2000s; 2 semi-speakers (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 40 (Crevels 2012). *Location*: Sipaliwini district: Trio villages Tëpu, Kwamalasamutu, and Palumeu on Tapanahoni and Sipaliwini rivers. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Cariban, Tiriyo', Tiriyo'. *Dialects*: None known. Related to, but not inherently intelligible with, Trió [tri]. *Type*: 10 consonants and 14 vowels (7 short, 7 long). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Trió [tri] (Crevels 2012). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Contacted in 1969.

Arabic, Levantine [apc]. *Users*: 1,200 in Suriname (2018). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim, Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Mexico. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Martinique, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Qatar (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Saudi Arabia (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yemen.

Arawak [arw] (Araguaco, Arahuaço, Arahuaços, Arawac, Arowak, Arrowukas, Aruak, Aruaqui, Aruak, Lokono, Luccumi). Autonym: Lokono Dian. *Users*: 500 in Suriname (Crevels 2012). Very few monolinguals. Ethnic population: 2,000 (Crevels 2012). *Location*: Commewijne and Para districts: villages from coast to 30 km inland, mainly on the savanna. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Maipurean, Northern, Maritime, Ta-Maipurean. *Type*: 17 consonants and 10 vowels (5 short, 5 long). *Lg Use*: Lokono villages show a progressive loss of language (Crevels 2007). Home, friends; mixed use: Religion. Older adults only. Young people no longer interested in learning the language (Crevels 2007). Mixed attitudes. Most shifted to Dutch [nld]. Most shifted to Sranan Tongo [srn]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1850–1978. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 18:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,510. Also indigenous in: French Guiana. Also established in: Guyana, Venezuela.

Aukan [dj] (Aukaans, Businenge Tongo, Businengee Tongo, Eastern Maroon Creole, Ndjuká, Ndyuka, Ndyuka tongo, Nenge, Nenge Tongo, Nengee Tongo, Njuká, Okanisi, “Djoeka” pej., “Djuka” pej.). Autonym: Okanisi tongo. *Users*: 45,300 in Suriname (2018). 1,550 monolinguals. *Location*: Brokopondo district: Sarakreek commune; Commewijne district:

Bakkie, Meerzog, and Tamanredjo communes; Marowijne district: Moengo, Patamacca, and Wanhatti communes; Para district: Carolina commune; Sipaliwini district: Tapanahony commune; Aluku dialect: French Guiana border; Paramaccan dialect: Northeast. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Creole, English based, Atlantic, Suriname, Ndyuka. *Dialects*: Aluku (Aloekoe, Boni), Paramaccan (Pamaka). Ndyuka, Aluku and Paramaccan are highly mutually intelligible dialects; Kwinti [kww] is slightly less intelligible with them. *Type*: SVO; prepositions, noun head final, content q-word initial, up to 2 suffixes, clause constituents indicated by word order, passives and voice, tonal, 25 consonant (some rare) and 14 vowel (5 long monophthongs, 5 short monophthongs, 4 diphthongs) phonemes. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. In Paramaribo some shifted to Dutch [nld], some younger ones to Sranan Tongo [srn]. All domains. Also in oral and written form for religious services. Positive attitudes. Most also use Sranan Tongo [srn], especially men. Many also use Dutch [nld]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 10%. Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1999–2009. *DLS*: Emerging (0.12). *Writing*: Afaka script, developed in early 1900s, never widely used, may be in use by a few individuals. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: The society was formed by escaped slaves. Subsistence and economy is Amerindian; social culture and religion are West African. Aluku has more French influence than Paramaccan does. Spelling of Ndyuka without the initial nasal is considered derogatory. Aukan is English, Aukaans is Dutch. In early 1900s an Aukaner named Afaka developed a syllabic writing system, but few learned to read it, and it was not officially endorsed. 12 clans. In the 1980s and 1990s many went to Paramaribo. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 18:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,800. Also indigenous in: French Guiana.

Carib [car] (Caribe, Cariña, Galibí, Kali'na, Kalihna, Kalinya, Kara'ibs, Kari'na, Kari'na auran, Kari'nja, Kari'nya, Kari'ña, Karina, Maraworno). Autonym: Karina auran. *Users*: 1,200 in Suriname (Carlin 2001). Ethnic population: 3,000 (Crevels 2012). *Location*: Coronie district: Welgelegen commune; Marowijne district: Albina and Galibi communes; Para district: Bigi Poika commune; Saramacca district: Calcutta commune; Sipaliwini district: Boven Coppename commune. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Cariban. *Dialects*: Murato (Myrato, Western Carib), Tyrewuju (Eastern Carib), Areyry. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; 11 consonants and 6 vowels. *Lg Use*: Home, friends; mixed use: Religion. Some young people, all adults. All ages, but spoken less and less by children (Crevels 2007). Neutral attitudes. Also use Dutch [nld]. Also use Sranan Tongo [srn], with central dialect speakers shifting towards it and becoming bilingual in it. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2003. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Ethnic autonym: Kari'na. Glossonym: Kara'ibs in Dutch, Galibí in French, Caribe in Spanish, Carib in English. *Map*: 18:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,558. Indigenous in: Guyana, Venezuela. Also established in: Brazil (Galibi), French Guiana.

Chinese, Hakka [hak] (Kejia). *Users*: 9,000 in Suriname (2018), decreasing. Ethnic population: 12,000 (1971). Includes Yue [yue]. *Location*: Saramacca district: scattered. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; tonal. *Lg Use*: Home, friends. Older adults only. Neutral attitudes. Shifted to Sranan Tongo [srn]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers.

Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1916–2012. *Writing*: Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant. Latin script, used since early 19th century. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 44,271,630 (as L1: 44,020,430; as L2: 251,200). Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: China, China–Hong Kong. Also established in 11 other countries and unestablished in 9 more.

Chinese, Yue [yue]. *Users*: 6,700 in Suriname (2018). *Location*: Para, Paramaribo, and Wanica districts. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; noun classifiers; no articles; 18 consonants, 7 vowels; tonal (6 tones: 3 level, 3 contour). *Lg Use*: Shifting to Sranan Tongo [srn]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1894–1981. *Writing*: Braille script, used in Hong Kong. Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant, official usage in Hong Kong and Macau, also used elsewhere. Latin script, used since mid-19th century. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: China, China–Hong Kong, China–Macao. Also established in 11 other countries and unestablished in 19 more.

Dutch [nld] (Nederlands). Autonym: Nederlands. *Users*: 126,200 in Suriname, all users. L1 users: 1,200 in Suriname (2018). L2 users: 125,000 (2005). *Status*: 1 (National). De facto national language. *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, Low Saxon-Low Franconian, Low Franconian. *Type*: SVO (SOV in subordinate clauses); prepositions; noun head final; gender (common/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; passives (middle, active, passive); tense and aspect; comparatives; 21 consonants, 13 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Sarnami Hindustani [hns]. Also use Sranan Tongo [srn]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1526–2004. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1951. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,487,090 (as L1: 22,862,590; as L2: 1,624,500). Indigenous in: Belgium, Netherlands. Also established in: Aruba, Caribbean Netherlands, Curacao, Sint Maarten, United States. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

English [eng] (Engels). Autonym: English. *Users*: 202,200 in Suriname, all users. L1 users: 1,200 in Suriname (2019). L2 users: 201,000 (2019). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *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 as subject in secondary 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.

Guyanese English Creole [gyn] (Creolese, Gaiyniiz, Guyanese Creole). Autonym: Gaiyniiz. *Users*: 68,000 in Suriname (2018). *Location*: Nickerie district: Courantyne river mouth. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Creole, English based, Atlantic, Eastern, Southern. *Lg Use*: All domains. Older adults only. Negative attitudes. Shifted to Dutch [nld]. Used as L2 by Warao [wba]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Literature. Radio. TV. Videos. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian, Hindu, Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 715,200. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Guyana. Unestablished in: French Guiana, United States.

Hindustani, Sarnami [hns] (Caribbean Bharatiya, Caribbean Hindi, Caribbean Hindustani, Caribbean Urdu, Sarnami Hindi, Sarnami Hindoestani). Autonym: Sarnaanie Hiendoestaanie. *Users*: 153,000 in Suriname (2018). Ethnic population: 160,000 (2003). *Location*: Nickerie, Para, Paramaribo, Saramacca, and Wanica districts; north coast. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bihari. *Dialects*: Trinidad Bhojpuri, Sarnami Hindustani (Aili Gaili, Sarnami Hindi). Reportedly more similar to Bhojpuri [bho] than Hindi [hin]. Similar dialect to Trinidad-Tobago. Distinctive variety of Sarnami spoken in Nickerie district (Damsteegt 2002). *Lg Use*: All domains, except education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dutch [nld]. Also use Sranan Tongo [srn]. Used as L2 by Dutch [nld]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 50%–75%. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 1997–2010. *DLS*: Emerging (0.07). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Based on Bhojpuri [bho], with influences from Awadhi [awa], and loans from Sranan Tongo [srn], Dutch [nld], and English [eng]. Hindu, Christian, Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 304,800. Also established in: Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago. Unestablished in: French Guiana, Netherlands.

Indonesian [ind]. Autonym: Bahasa Indonesia. *Users*: 18,900 in Suriname (2018). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayo-Chamic, Malayic, Malay. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial, but quantifiers before noun; 3 noun classifiers; no articles; aspect; 19 consonants, 6 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable; 2 social registers; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1974–2000. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 199,113,300 (as L1: 43,666,200; as L2: 155,447,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Indonesia. Also established in: East Timor. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, China–Hong Kong, China–Taiwan, Germany, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sint Maarten, Spain, Sweden, United States.

Javanese, Suriname [jvn] (Caribbean Javanese, Surinaams Javaans). Autonym: Jawa Suriname. *Users*: 75,500 in Suriname (2018). *Location*: Commewijne, Para, Paramaribo, Saramacca, and Wanica districts; north coast. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Javanese. *Dialects*: None known. Significantly different from Javanese [jav] of Indonesia. *Lg*

Use: All domains, except education. Used by all. Also use Dutch [nld]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: 50%–75%. Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 2018. *DLS:* Emerging (0.01). *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Descended from plantation workers brought from Java between 1890–1939. Muslim, traditional religion. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,440. Also established in: French Guiana.

Kwinti [kww]. *Users:* 250 (2018), decreasing. *Location:* Sipaliwini district: Coppename river area, upstream from Kaimanstan and Witagron. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Class:* Creole, English based, Atlantic, Suriname, Ndyuka. *Dialects:* None known. Further removed from Ndyuka [njt] than Aluku and Paramaccan. *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Saramaccan [srm]. Also use Sranan Tongo [srn]. *DLS:* Emerging (0.01). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Traditional religion. *Map:* 18:6.

Mawayana [mzx]. *Users:* 2 in Suriname (2013 M. Michels), decreasing. Ethnic population: 40 (Crevels 2012). *Location:* Sipaliwini district. *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class:* Maipurean, Unclassified. *Type:* 15 consonants and 12 vowels (6 oral, 6 nasal). *Lg Use:* Elderly only. Shifted to Trió [tri] (Crevels 2007). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Indigenous in: Guyana.

Ndyuka-Trio Pidgin [njt]. *Users:* No known L1 speakers. No ethnic community. *Location:* Sipaliwini district: upper Tapanahonij river. *Status:* 9 (Second language only). *Class:* Pidgin. *Lg Use:* Used until 1960s by Ndyuka, Trio and Wayana peoples for trading. Increasing travel to the coast cut back on that trade, and also gave some opportunity to use Sranan Tongo [srn] in contact with the Ndyuka. Few Ndyuka men, even older ones, now know it. Used rarely now. *DLS:* Emerging (0.01). *Writing:* Unwritten.

Saramaccan [srm] (Saramaccaans). Autonym: Saamáka. *Users:* 31,500 in Suriname (2018). *Location:* Brokopondo district: Brownsweg, Centrum, Klasskreek, and Kwakoepron, communes, small border area; Para district: Bigi Poika commune; Paramaribo district; Sipaliwini district: Boven Saramaccan and Boven Suriname communes. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Class:* Creole, English based. *Dialect:* Matawari (Matawai, Matoewari, Matuari). Possibly Portuguese [por] based rather than English [eng] (Hancock 1988). Linguistic influences from Koongo [kng] (Hancock 1988). Lexical similarity: 20% with African component. *Type:* Tonal, one tone per vowel. *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Dutch [nld]. Used as L2 by Kwinti [kww]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Saramaccan is being used for religious instruction in Moravian schools along the Suriname River. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1991–2009. *DLS:* Emerging (0.11). *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* A Bush Negro ethnic group with background similar to the Ndyuka. Traditional religion. *Map:* 18:8. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 34,500. Also established in: French Guiana.

Sign Language of the Netherlands [dse]. *Users:* 2,000 in Suriname (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 1,100–2,300 deaf signers, assuming 0.2%–0.4% of total population. *Location:* Scattered. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Type:* One-handed fingerspelling system similar to French Sign Language [fsl]. *Lg Dev:* TV. Theater.

Dictionary. Grammar. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 22,800 (as L1: 17,300; as L2: 5,500). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Netherlands. Also established in: Aruba, Caribbean Netherlands, Curacao.

Sikiana [sik] (Chikena, Sikiuyana, Sikiyana, Sikiiyana, Tshikiana). *Users*: 12 in Suriname (Crevels 2012), decreasing. Ethnic population: 60 (Crevels 2012). *Location*: Sipaliwini district: Kwamalasamutu area on Sipaliwini river. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Cariban, Kashuyana. *Lg Use*: Home, friends. Elderly only. Shifted to Trió [tri] (Crevels 2007). *Map*: 18:9. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 45. Global EGIDS level: 8a (Moribund). Also indigenous in: Brazil.

Spanish [spa]. Autonym: Castellano, Español. *Users*: 3,400 in Suriname (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives after noun heads; articles, numerals before noun heads; adjectives before or after noun heads depending on whether it is evaluative or descriptive; question word initial; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark number, person; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonants, 5 vowels, 5 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. Silbo Gomero whistled variety of Spanish used in Canary Islands. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1553–2012. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Gibraltar, Spain. Also established in 40 other countries and unestablished in 32 more.

Sranan Tongo [srn] (Sranan, Surinaams, Suriname Creole English, Surinamese, “Taki-Taki” *pej.*). Autonym: Sranan Tongo. *Users*: 291,000 in Suriname, all users. L1 users: 141,000 in Suriname (2018). L2 users: 150,000 (2016). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language. Suriname’s lingua franca since 1725. First used as communication among slaves, and as a trade language. Now used by majority of people. *Class*: Creole, English based, Atlantic, Suriname. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Ndyuka [njt], but with cultural differences. Reportedly many similarities to Krio [kri] of Sierra Leone. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Also use Dutch [nld]. Used as L2 by Arawak [arw], Aukan [djk], Carib [car], Dutch [nld], Hakka Chinese [hak], Kwinti [kww], Sarnami Hindustani [hns], Wayana [way], Yue Chinese [yue]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%. Literacy rate in L2: 50%–75%. Literature. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 1997–2016. *DLS*: Ascending (0.30). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 18:10. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 669,600 (as L1: 519,600; as L2: 150,000). Unestablished in: Caribbean Netherlands, French Guiana, Netherlands.

Trió [tri] (Tiriyó, Tirió). Autonym: Tarëno ijomi. *Users*: 1,300 in Suriname (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 1,300 (Crevels 2012). *Location*: Sipaliwini district: Kwamalasamutu on Sipaliwini river, Palumeu on Palumeu river, Tëpu on upper Tapanahoni river. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Cariban, Tiriyó, Tirió. *Type*: 10 consonants and 14 vowels (7 short, 7 long). *Lg Use*: All domains, except education. Used by all. Very positive attitudes though not considered

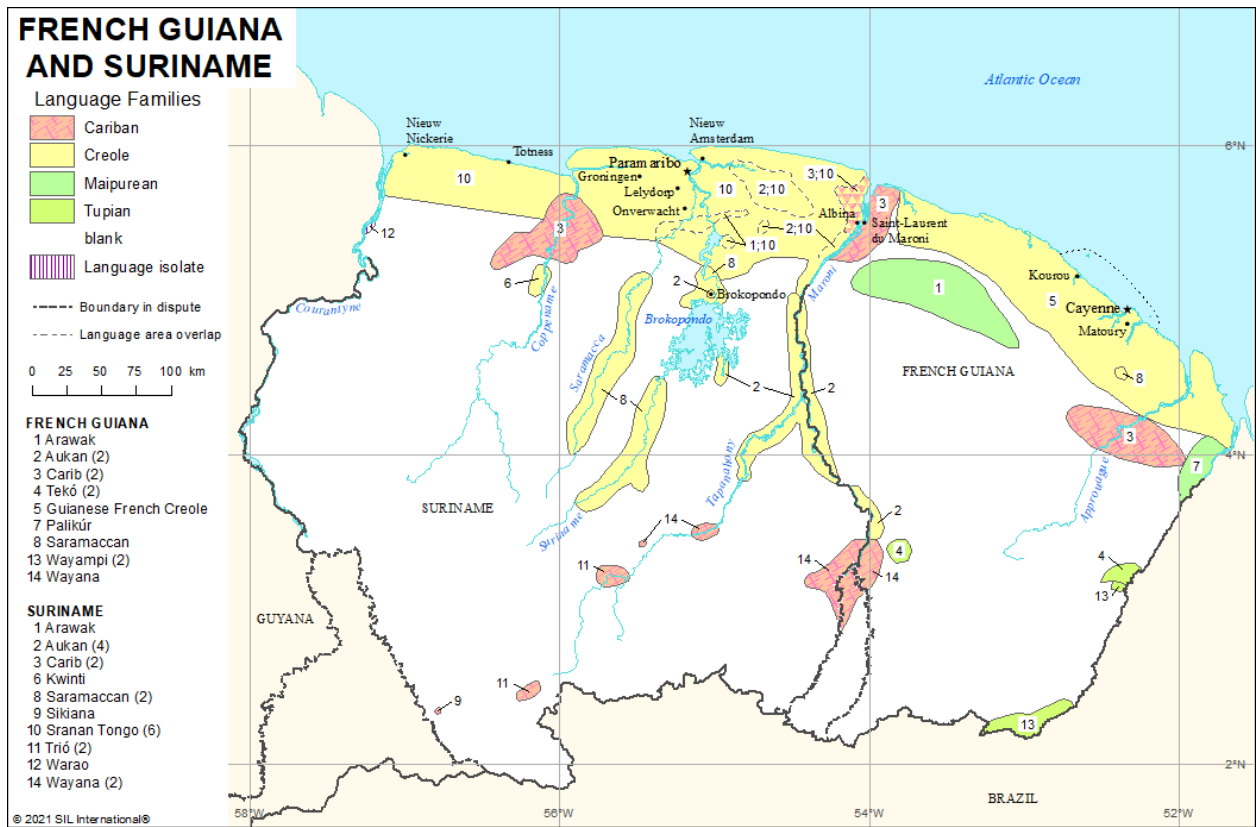
appropriate as subject in school. Also use Dutch [nld]. Used as L2 by Akurio [ako], Mawayana [mzx], Sikiana [sik], Waiwai [waw]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%–30%. Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Grammar. NT: 1979. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 18:11. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,460. Also indigenous in: Brazil.

Waiwai [waw] (Katuenta). Autonym: UaiUai. *Users*: 10 in Suriname (Crevels 2007), decreasing. Ethnic population: 80 (Crevels 2007). *Location*: Sipaliwini district: Kwamalasamutu area, Sipaliwini river, among Trio [tri] language speakers. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Cariban, Waiwai. *Dialect*: Tunayana. *Type*: 14 consonants and 6 vowels. *Lg Use*: Elderly only. Shifted to Trió [tri] (Crevels 2007). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Bible: 2002. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. A few came to Suriname in the 1960s and now speak Trio [tri] as L1 (Crevels 2007). Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,230. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Brazil, Guyana.

Warao [wba] (Guarao, Guarauno, Warrau). *Users*: 500 in Suriname (2018). *Location*: Nickerie district: near Guyana border. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Language isolate. *Type*: 11 consonants and 5 vowels. *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Guyanese English Creole [gyn]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1974–2004. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian. *Map*: 18:12. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 32,900. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Indigenous in: Guyana, Venezuela.

Wayana [way] (Alukuyana, Ayana, Oayana, Oiana, Oyana, Roucouyenne, Uaiana, Upurui, Wajana). Autonym: Wayâna. *Users*: 450 in Suriname (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 450 (Crevels 2012). *Location*: Marowijne district: upper Tapanahoni river; northwest of Trio [tri] language speakers. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Cariban, Central, Wayana. *Dialects*: None known. Partially intelligible of Apalaí [apy]. *Type*: 9 consonants and 7 vowels. *Lg Use*: Actively spoken in geographically distant and isolated villages (Crevels 2007). Also use Sranan Tongo [srn], especially in trade relations (Crevels 2007). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%–30%. Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Grammar. NT: 1979. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 18:14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,740. Also indigenous in: Brazil, French Guiana.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Suriname 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

Hindustani, Sarnami [hns] *Users:* 153,000 in Suriname (2018). Ethnic population: 160,000 (2003). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 304,800.

Sranan Tongo [srn] *Users:* 141,000 in Suriname (2018). 291,000 in Suriname, all users. L2 users: 150,000 (2016). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 669,600 (as L1: 519,600; as L2: 150,000).

10,000 to 99,999

Javanese, Suriname [jvn] *Users:* 75,500 in Suriname (2018). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,440.

Guyanese English Creole [gyn] *Users:* 68,000 in Suriname (2018). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 715,200.

Aukan [djk] *Users:* 45,300 in Suriname (2018). 1,550 monolinguals. *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 67,800.

Saramaccan [srm] *Users:* 31,500 in Suriname (2018). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 34,500.

Indonesian [ind] *Users:* 18,900 in Suriname (2018). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 199,113,300 (as L1: 43,666,200; as L2: 155,447,100).

1,000 to 9,999

Chinese, Hakka [hak] *Users:* 9,000 in Suriname (2018), decreasing. Ethnic population: 12,000 (1971). Includes Yue [yue]. *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 44,271,630 (as L1: 44,020,430; as L2: 251,200).

Chinese, Yue [yue] *Users:* 6,700 in Suriname (2018). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000).

Spanish [spa] *Users:* 3,400 in Suriname (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

Sign Language of the Netherlands [dse] *Users:* 2,000 in Suriname (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 1,100–2,300 deaf signers, assuming 0.2%–0.4% of total population. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 22,800 (as L1: 17,300; as L2: 5,500).

Trió [tri] *Users:* 1,300 in Suriname (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 1,300 (Crevels 2012). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,460.

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users:* 1,200 in Suriname (2018). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Carib [car] *Users:* 1,200 in Suriname (Carlin 2001). Ethnic population: 3,000 (Crevels 2012). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,558.

Dutch [nld] *Users:* 1,200 in Suriname (2018). 126,200 in Suriname, all users. L2 users: 125,000 (2005). *Status:* 1 (National). De facto national language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,487,090 (as L1: 22,862,590; as L2: 1,624,500).

English [eng] *Users:* 1,200 in Suriname (2019). 202,200 in Suriname, all users. L2 users: 201,000 (2019). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

100 to 999

Arawak [arw] *Users:* 500 in Suriname (Crevels 2012). Very few monolinguals. Ethnic population: 2,000 (Crevels 2012). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,510.

Warao [wba] *Users:* 500 in Suriname (2018). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 32,900.

Wayana [way] *Users:* 450 in Suriname (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 450 (Crevels 2012). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,740.

Kwinti [kww] *Users:* 250 (2018), decreasing. *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

10 to 99

Sikiana [sik] *Users:* 12 in Suriname (Crevels 2012), decreasing. Ethnic population: 60 (Crevels 2012). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 45.

Waiwai [waw] *Users:* 10 in Suriname (Crevels 2007), decreasing. Ethnic population: 80 (Crevels 2007). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,230.

1 to 9

Mawayana [mzx] *Users:* 2 in Suriname (2013 M. Michels), decreasing. Ethnic population: 40 (Crevels 2012). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

0

Akurio [ako] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Last known speaker survived into the first decade of the 2000s; 2 semi-speakers (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 40 (Crevels 2012). *Status:* 9 (Dormant).

Ndyuka-Trio Pidgin [njt] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. *Ethnic population:* No ethnic community. *Status:* 9 (Second language only).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Suriname 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)

Dutch [nld] *Users:* 126,200 in Suriname, all users. L1 users: 1,200 in Suriname (2018). L2 users: 125,000 (2005). *Status:* De facto national language. *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Sarnami Hindustani [hns]. Also use Sranan Tongo [srn]. *Writing:* Braille script, used since 1951. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,487,090 (as L1: 22,862,590; as L2: 1,624,500).

3 (Wider communication)

Sranan Tongo [srn] *Users:* 291,000 in Suriname, all users. L1 users: 141,000 in Suriname (2018). L2 users: 150,000 (2016). *Status:* De facto national working language. Suriname's lingua franca since 1725. First used as communication among slaves, and as a trade language. Now used by majority of people. *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Dutch [nld]. Used as L2 by Arawak [arw], Aukan [djk], Carib [car], Dutch [nld], Hakka Chinese [hak], Kwinti [kww], Sarnami Hindustani [hns], Wayana [way], Yue Chinese [yue]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 1997–2016. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 669,600 (as L1: 519,600; as L2: 150,000).

4 (Educational)

English [eng] *Users:* 202,200 in Suriname, all users. L1 users: 1,200 in Suriname (2019). L2 users: 201,000 (2019). *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).

5 (Developing)

Aukan [djk] *Users:* 45,300 in Suriname (2018). 1,550 monolinguals. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. In Paramaribo some shifted to Dutch [nld], some younger ones to Sranan Tongo [srn]. All domains. Also in oral and written form for religious services. Positive attitudes. Most also use Sranan Tongo [srn], especially men. Many also use Dutch [nld]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1999–2009. *Writing:* Afaka script, developed in early 1900s, never widely used, may be in use by a few individuals. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:*

Total users in all countries: 67,800.

Hindustani, Sarnami [hns] *Users:* 153,000 in Suriname (2018). Ethnic population: 160,000 (2003). *Lg Use:* All domains, except education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dutch [nld]. Also use Sranan Tongo [srn]. Used as L2 by Dutch [nld]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 1997–2010. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 304,800.

Javanese, Suriname [jvn] *Users:* 75,500 in Suriname (2018). *Lg Use:* All domains, except education. Used by all. Also use Dutch [nld]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 2018. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,440.

Saramaccan [srm] *Users:* 31,500 in Suriname (2018). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Dutch [nld]. Used as L2 by Kwinti [kw]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1991–2009. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 34,500.

Trió [tri] *Users:* 1,300 in Suriname (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 1,300 (Crevels 2012). *Lg Use:* All domains, except education. Used by all. Very positive attitudes though not considered appropriate as subject in school. Also use Dutch [nld]. Used as L2 by Akurio [ako], Mawayana [mzx], Sikiana [sik], Waiwai [waw]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. NT: 1979. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,460.

Wayana [way] *Users:* 450 in Suriname (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 450 (Crevels 2012). *Lg Use:* Actively spoken in geographically distant and isolated villages (Crevels 2007). Also use Sranan Tongo [srn], especially in trade relations (Crevels 2007). *Lg Dev:* Grammar. NT: 1979. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,740.

6a (Vigorous)

Sign Language of the Netherlands [dse] *Users:* 2,000 in Suriname (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 1,100–2,300 deaf signers, assuming 0.2%–0.4% of total population. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 22,800 (as L1: 17,300; as L2: 5,500).

6b (Threatened)

Carib [car] *Users:* 1,200 in Suriname (Carlin 2001). Ethnic population: 3,000 (Crevels 2012). *Lg Use:* Home, friends; mixed use: Religion. Some young people, all adults. All ages, but spoken less and less by children (Crevels 2007). Neutral attitudes. Also use Dutch [nld]. Also use Sranan Tongo [srn], with central dialect speakers shifting towards it and becoming bilingual in it. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,558.

Kwinti [kw] *Users:* 250 (2018), decreasing. *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Saramaccan [srm]. Also use Sranan Tongo [srn]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

7 (Shifting)

Chinese, Yue [yue] *Users:* 6,700 in Suriname (2018). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Sranan Tongo [srn].

Writing: Braille script, used in Hong Kong. Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant, official usage in Hong Kong and Macau, also used elsewhere. Latin script, used since mid-19th century. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000).

8a (Moribund)

Arawak [arw] *Users:* 500 in Suriname (Crevels 2012). Very few monolinguals. Ethnic population: 2,000 (Crevels 2012). *Lg Use:* Lokono villages show a progressive loss of language (Crevels 2007). Home, friends; mixed use: Religion. Older adults only. Young people no longer interested in learning the language (Crevels 2007). Mixed attitudes. Most shifted to Dutch [nld]. Most shifted to Sranan Tongo [srn]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1850–1978. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,510.

Chinese, Hakka [hak] *Users:* 9,000 in Suriname (2018), decreasing. Ethnic population: 12,000 (1971). Includes Yue [yue]. *Lg Use:* Home, friends. Older adults only. Neutral attitudes. Shifted to Sranan Tongo [srn]. *Writing:* Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant. Latin script, used since early 19th century. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 44,271,630 (as L1: 44,020,430; as L2: 251,200).

Guyanese English Creole [gyn] *Users:* 68,000 in Suriname (2018). *Lg Use:* All domains. Older adults only. Negative attitudes. Shifted to Dutch [nld]. Used as L2 by Warao [wba]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 715,200.

Warao [wba] *Users:* 500 in Suriname (2018). *Lg Use:* Older adults only. Shifted to Guyanese English Creole [gyn]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 32,900.

8b (Nearly extinct)

Mawayana [mzx] *Users:* 2 in Suriname (2013 M. Michels), decreasing. Ethnic population: 40 (Crevels 2012). *Lg Use:* Elderly only. Shifted to Trió [tri] (Crevels 2007). *Writing:* Unwritten.

Sikiana [sik] *Users:* 12 in Suriname (Crevels 2012), decreasing. Ethnic population: 60 (Crevels 2012). *Lg Use:* Home, friends. Elderly only. Shifted to Trió [tri] (Crevels 2007). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 45.

Waiwai [waw] *Users:* 10 in Suriname (Crevels 2007), decreasing. Ethnic population: 80 (Crevels 2007). *Lg Use:* Elderly only. Shifted to Trió [tri] (Crevels 2007). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,230.

9 (Dormant)

Akurio [ako] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Last known speaker survived into the first decade of

the 2000s; 2 semi-speakers (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 40 (Crevels 2012). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Trió [tri] (Crevels 2012). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *Writing*: Unwritten.

9 (Second language only)

Ndyuka-Trio Pidgin [njt] *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Lg Use*: Used until 1960s by Ndyuka, Trio and Wayana peoples for trading. Increasing travel to the coast cut back on that trade, and also gave some opportunity to use Sranan Tongo [srn] in contact with the Ndyuka. Few Ndyuka men, even older ones, now know it. Used rarely now. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Unestablished

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users*: 1,200 in Suriname (2018). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Indonesian [ind] *Users*: 18,900 in Suriname (2018). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 199,113,300 (as L1: 43,666,200; as L2: 155,447,100).

Spanish [spa] *Users*: 3,400 in Suriname (2021). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

Languages by District

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

Brokopondo

- Aukan [djk], 11
- Saramaccan [srm], 15

Commewijne

- Arawak [arw], 11
- Aukan [djk], 11
- Javanese, Suriname [jvn], 14

Coronie

- Carib [car], 12

Marowijne

- Aukan [djk], 11
- Carib [car], 12
- Wayana [way], 17

Nickerie

- Guyanese English Creole [gyn], 14
- Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Warao [wba], 17

Para

- Arawak [arw], 11
- Aukan [djk], 11
- Carib [car], 12
- Chinese, Yue [yue], 13
- Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Javanese, Suriname [jvn], 14
- Saramaccan [srm], 15

Paramaribo

- Chinese, Yue [yue], 13
- Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Javanese, Suriname [jvn], 14

Saramacca

- Carib [car], 12
- Chinese, Hakka [hak], 12
- Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Javanese, Suriname [jvn], 14

Sipaliwini

- Akurio [ako], 11
- Aukan [djk], 11
- Carib [car], 12
- Kwinti [kww], 15
- Mawayana [mzx], 15
- Ndyuka-Trio Pidgin [njt], 15
- Saramaccan [srm], 15
- Sikiana [sik], 16
- Trió [tri], 16
- Waiwai [waw], 17

Wanica

- Chinese, Yue [yue], 13
- Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Javanese, Suriname [jvn], 14

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Suriname. 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.

Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Javanese

Javanese, Suriname [jvn], [14](#)

Cariban

Carib [car], [12](#)

Cariban, Central, Wayana

Wayana [way], [17](#)

Cariban, Kashuyana

Sikiana [sik], [16](#)

Cariban, Tiriyo, Tiriyo

Akurio [ako], [11](#)

Trió [tri], [16](#)

Cariban, Waiwai

Waiwai [waw], [17](#)

Creole, English based

Saramaccan [srm], [15](#)

Creole, English based, Atlantic, Eastern, Southern

Guyanese English Creole [gyn], [14](#)

Creole, English based, Atlantic, Suriname

Sranan Tongo [srn], [16](#)

Creole, English based, Atlantic, Suriname, Ndyuka

Aukan [djk], [11](#)

Kwinti [kww], [15](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [13](#)

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

Dutch [nld], [13](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bihari

Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], [14](#)

Language isolate

Warao [wba], [17](#)

Maipurean, Northern, Maritime, Ta-Maipurean

Arawak [arw], [11](#)

Maipurean, Unclassified

Mawayana [mzx], [15](#)

Pidgin

Ndyuka-Trio Pidgin [njt], [15](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Sign Language of the Netherlands [dse], [15](#)

Sino-Tibetan, Chinese

Chinese, Hakka [hak], [12](#)

Chinese, Yue [yue], [13](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 25 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/>.

| | | | |
|------------|--|------------|--|
| ako | Akurio, 11 | mzx | Mawayana, 15 |
| apc | Arabic, Levantine, 11 | njt | Ndyuka-Trio Pidgin, 15 |
| arw | Arawak, 11 | nld | Dutch, 13 |
| car | Carib, 12 | sik | Sikiana, 16 |
| djk | Aukan, 11 | spa | Spanish, 16 |
| dse | Sign Language of the Netherlands, 15 | srn | Saramaccan, 15 |
| eng | English, 13 | srn | Sranan Tongo, 16 |
| gyn | Guyanese English Creole, 14 | tri | Trió, 16 |
| hak | Chinese, Hakka, 12 | waw | Waiwai, 17 |
| hns | Hindustani, Sarnami, 14 | way | Wayana, 17 |
| ind | Indonesian, 14 | wba | Warao, 17 |
| jvn | Javanese, Suriname, 14 | yue | Chinese, Yue, 13 |
| kww | Kwinti, 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.

- Aili Gaili**, *alt. dial.* Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Akoerio**, *alt.* Akurio [ako], 11
- Akuliyo**, *alt.* Akurio [ako], 11
- Akuri**, *alt.* Akurio [ako], 11
- Akurijo**, *alt.* Akurio [ako], 11
- Akurio** [ako], 11
- Akuriyo**, *alt.* Akurio [ako], 11
- Aloekoe**, *alt. dial.* Aukan [djk], 11
- Aluku**, *dial.* Aukan [djk], 11
- Alukuyana**, *alt.* Wayana [way], 17
- Levantine Arabic**, *see* Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11
- Araguaco**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Arahuaco**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Arahuacos**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Arawac**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Arawak** [arw], 11, 18
- Aretyry**, *dial.* Carib [car], 12
- Arowak**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Arrowukas**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Aruak**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Aruaqui**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Arwuak**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Aukaans**, *alt.* Aukan [djk], 11
- Aukan** [djk], 11, 18
- Ayana**, *alt.* Wayana [way], 17
- Boni**, *alt. dial.* Aukan [djk], 11
- Businenge Tongo**, *alt.* Aukan [djk], 11
- Businengee Tongo**, *alt.* Aukan [djk], 11
- Carib** [car], 12, 18
- Caribbean Bharatiya**, *alt.* Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Caribbean Hindi**, *alt.* Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Caribbean Hindustani**, *alt.* Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Caribbean Javanese**, *alt.* Javanese, Suriname [jvn], 14
- Caribbean Urdu**, *alt.* Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Caribe**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Cariña**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Chikena**, *alt.* Sikiana [sik], 16
- Chinese, Hakka** [hak], 12
see Chinese, Hakka [hak], 12
- Chinese, Yue** [yue], 13
see Chinese, Yue [yue], 13
- Creolese**, *alt.* Guyanese English Creole [gyn], 14
- Djoeka**, *pej. alt.* Aukan [djk], 11
- Djuka**, *pej. alt.* Aukan [djk], 11
- Dutch** [nld], 13

- Eastern Carib**, *alt. dial.* Carib [car], 12
- Eastern Maroon Creole**, *alt.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Engels**, *alt.* English [eng], 13
- English** [eng], 13
- Gaiyniiz**, *alt.* Guyanese English Creole [gyn], 14
- Galibí**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Guarao**, *alt.* Warao [wba], 17
- Guarauno**, *alt.* Warao [wba], 17
- Guyanese Creole**, *alt.* Guyanese English Creole [gyn], 14
- Guyanese English Creole** [gyn], 14
- Hindustani, Sarnami** [hns], 14
see Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Javanese, Suriname** [jvn], 14
see Javanese, Suriname [jvn], 14
- Jawa Suriname**, *alt.* Javanese, Suriname [jvn], 14
- Kalihna**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Kali'na**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Kalinya**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Kara'ibs**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Kari'na**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Kari'ña**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Karìna**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Kari'na auran**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Kari'nja**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Kari'nya**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Katuena**, *alt.* Waiwai [waw], 17
- Kejia**, *alt.* Chinese, Hakka [hak], 12
- Kwinti** [kww], 15, 18
- Lokono**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Lokono Dian**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Luccumi**, *alt.* Arawak [arw], 11
- Maraworno**, *alt.* Carib [car], 12
- Matawai**, *alt. dial.* Saramaccan [srm], 15
- Matawari**, *dial.* Saramaccan [srm], 15
- Matoewari**, *alt. dial.* Saramaccan [srm], 15
- Matuari**, *alt. dial.* Saramaccan [srm], 15
- Mawayana** [mzx], 15
- Murato**, *dial.* Carib [car], 12
- Myrato**, *alt. dial.* Carib [car], 12
- Ndjuká**, *alt.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Ndyuka**, *alt.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Ndyuka tongo**, *alt.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Ndyuka-Trio Pidgin** [njt], 15
- Nederlands**, *alt.* Dutch [nld], 13
- Nenge**, *alt.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Nenge Tongo**, *alt.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Nengee Tongo**, *alt.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Njuká**, *alt.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Oayana**, *alt.* Wayana [way], 17
- Oiana**, *alt.* Wayana [way], 17
- Okanisi**, *alt.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Okanisi tongo**, *alt.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Oyana**, *alt.* Wayana [way], 17
- Oyaricoulet**, *alt.* Akurio [ako], 11
- Pamaka**, *alt. dial.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Paramaccan**, *dial.* Aukan [djkk], 11
- Roucuyenne**, *alt.* Wayana [way], 17
- Saamáka**, *alt.* Saramaccan [srm], 15
- Saramaccaans**, *alt.* Saramaccan [srm], 15
- Saramaccan** [srm], 15, 18
- Sarnaanie Hiendoestanie**, *alt.* Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Sarnami Hindi**, *alt. dial.* Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
alt. Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Sarnami Hindoestani**, *alt.* Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Sarnami Hindustani**, *dial.* Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Sign Language of the Netherlands** [dse], 15
- Sikiana** [sik], 16, 18

- Sikiïyana**, *alt.* Sikiana [sik], 16
- Sikiuyana**, *alt.* Sikiana [sik], 16
- Sikiyana**, *alt.* Sikiana [sik], 16
- Sranan**, *alt.* Sranan Tongo [srn], 16
- Sranan Tongo** [srn], 16, 18
- Surinaams**, *alt.* Sranan Tongo [srn], 16
- Surinaams Javaans**, *alt.* Javanese, Suriname [jvn], 14
- Suriname Creole English**, *alt.* Sranan Tongo [srn], 16
- Surinamese**, *alt.* Sranan Tongo [srn], 16
- Taki-Taki**, *pej. alt.* Sranan Tongo [srn], 16
- Tarëno ijomi**, *alt.* Trió [tri], 16
- Tirió**, *alt.* Trió [tri], 16
- Tiriyó**, *alt.* Trió [tri], 16
- Trinidad Bhojpuri**, *dial.* Hindustani, Sarnami [hns], 14
- Trió** [tri], 16, 18
- Triometesem**, *alt.* Akurio [ako], 11
- Triometesen**, *alt.* Akurio [ako], 11
- Tshikiana**, *alt.* Sikiana [sik], 16
- Tunayana**, *dial.* Waiwai [waw], 17
- Tyrewuju**, *dial.* Carib [car], 12
- Uaiana**, *alt.* Wayana [way], 17
- Upurui**, *alt.* Wayana [way], 17
- Waiwai** [waw], 17
- Wajana**, *alt.* Wayana [way], 17
- Wama**, *alt.* Akurio [ako], 11
- Warao** [wba], 17, 18
- Warrau**, *alt.* Warao [wba], 17
- Wayana** [way], 17, 18
- Wayâna**, *alt.* Wayana [way], 17
- Wayaricuri**, *alt.* Akurio [ako], 11
- Western Carib**, *alt. dial.* Carib [car], 12

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