



# Wikimedia in the developing world

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Vice-chair  
Wikimedia Foundation

# WMF board members at work...



*What is the legal status of this derivative work ?*

# Wikimedia Foundation Inc



*An international non-profit organization*

- dedicated to encouraging the **growth, development and distribution** of free, multilingual content,
- and to providing the full content of these wiki-based projects to the public free of charge.

# A Radical Idea:



*Imagine a world in which  
every single person is given free access  
to the sum of all human knowledge.*

That's what we're doing.

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That's what we're doing.

.... Really ?

to the *sum of all human knowledge*.



- A requirement : Neutrality of point of view
- Addressing everyone's concerns
- Covering all topics...  
and not only from a  
**tourist** point of view !

**Pommier de Sodome**  
(Redigé depuis [Roustonnier](#))

*Calotropis procera* est le nom scientifique d'un petit [arbre](#) très commun dans les régions arides d'[Afrique](#), en particulier dans les [oueds](#). Il porte des noms vernaculaires différents, le plus connu étant **pommier de Sodome**. Autre nom : arbre à [soie](#) du [Sénégal](#).  
[Arabe](#) dialectal ou [berbère](#) : *torha*. [Touareg](#) : *toumfafa*. [Wolof](#) : *taltan*. [Somali](#) : *boah*.

L'arbre est toxique dans toutes ses parties, notamment par son latex, ce qui ne l'empêche pas d'avoir de nombreuses utilisations, y compris médicinales. Ses [fruits](#) verts sont comparables à des petites [pommes](#) ovales, certains disent à des [lestoules](#) (d'où le nom vulgaire de *roustonnier* qui lui aurait été donné par les [légionnaires](#)).

**Sommaire** [\[masquer\]](#)

- 1 [Description](#)
  - 1.1 [écologie et habitat](#)
  - 1.2 [Morphologie générale et végétative](#)
  - 1.3 [Morphologie florale](#)

**Calotropis procera**

**Arbre en fleurs**

**Classification classique**

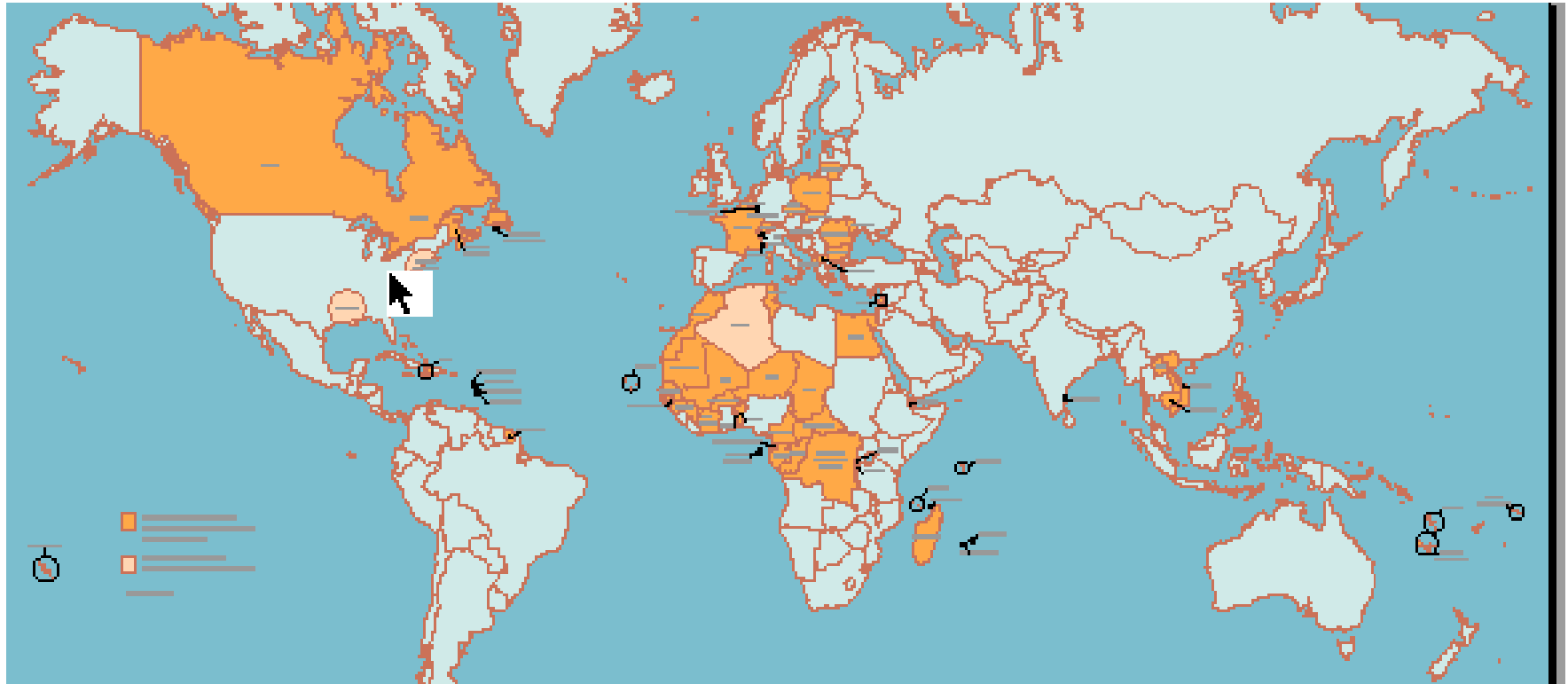
Règne :	<a href="#">Plantae</a>
Division :	<a href="#">Magnoliophyta</a>
Classe :	<a href="#">Magnoliopsida</a>
Ordre :	<a href="#">Gentianales</a>

*The example of Calotropis procera*

to the *sum of all human knowledge*.



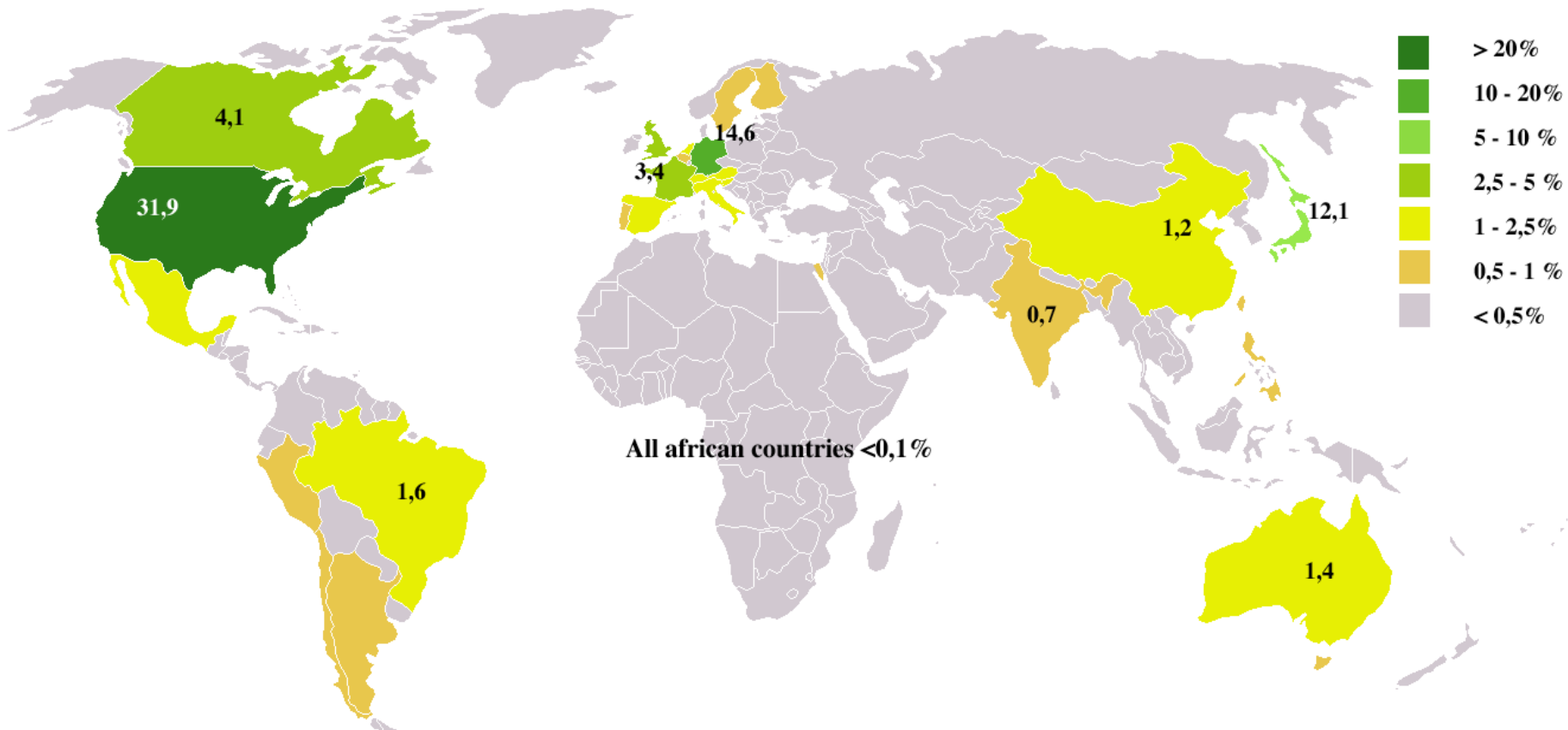
Practically, some editors seem to be missing...



*French speaking countries*

French wikipedia : > 200 very active editors  
0 from Africa

*every single person is given access...*



*From Wikimedia projects access hits stats*

Few hits from Africa, Eastern Europe...



*every single person is given access...*



## Talking to people in their mother language

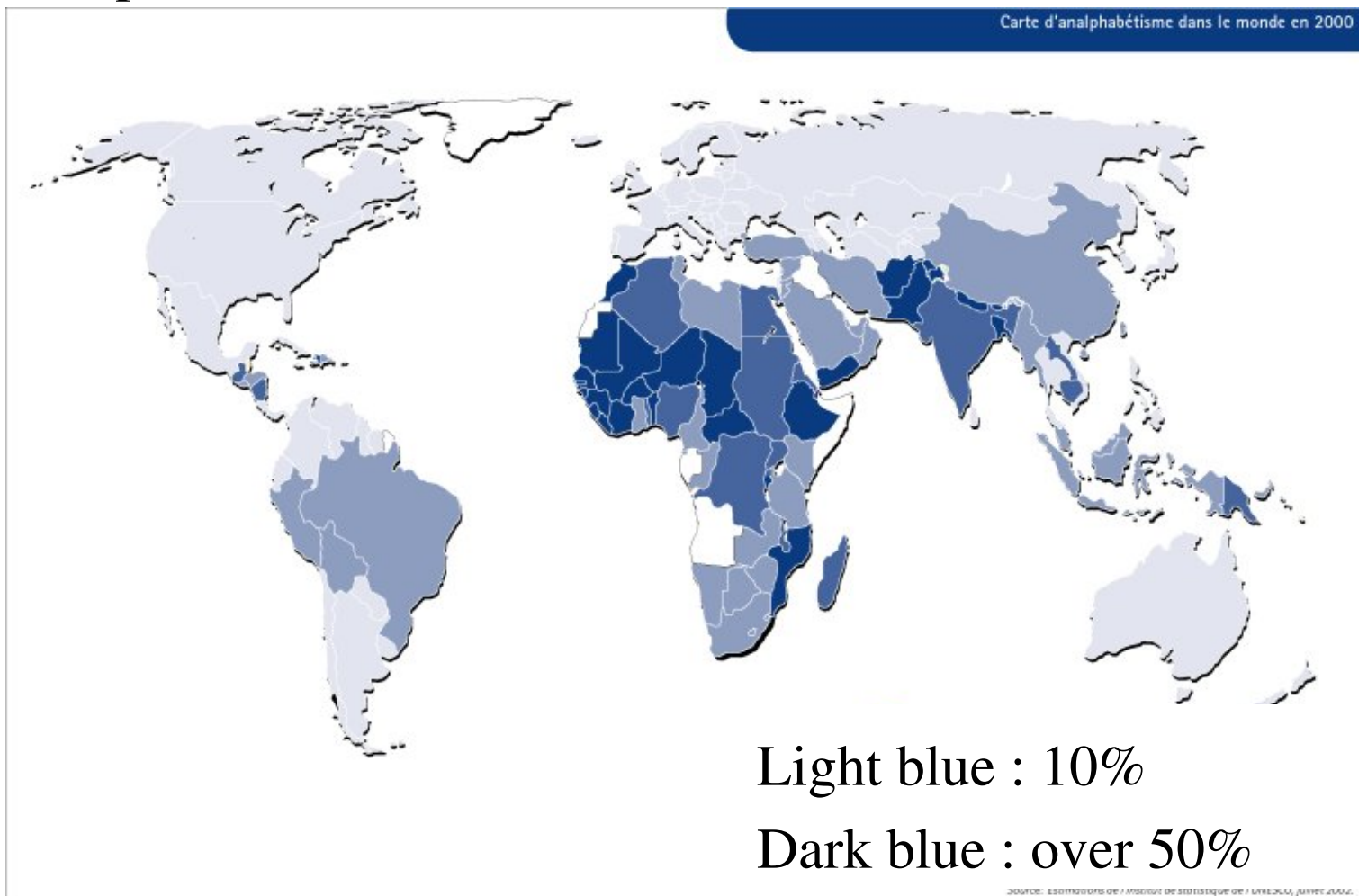
- Fulfude : <http://ff.wikipedia.org> - 2 articles
- Wolof : <http://wo.wikipedia.org> - 4 articles
- Yorube : <http://yo.wikipedia.org> - 40 articles
- Bambara : <http://bm.wikipedia.org> - 67 articles
- Kiswahili : <http://sw.wikipedia.org> - 70 articles
- Lingala : <http://ln.wikipedia.org> - 72 articles
  
- Arab : <http://ar.wikipedia.org> - 4000 articles
- Afrikaans : <http://af.wikipedia.org> - 4000 articles
  
- Portuguese : <http://pt.wikipedia.org> - 59 000 articles
- French : <http://fr.wikipedia.org> - 138 000 articles
- English : <http://en.wikipedia.org> - 650 000 articles

Xhosa, Zulu, Twi (tw), Akan (ak), Gikuyu (ki), Ewe (ee), Igbo (ig), Hausa (ha)...

*every single person is given access...*



## Analphabetism (Unesco, 2002)



*every single person is given access...*



*Photo : Photoshare*

## **Women**

- Lower levels of literacy
- Cultural perceptions of women's roles

- Heavy workload, limited time for other activities (childcare, housework...)
- The need to address basic amenities as the first-priority (food ...)
- Perception of computer (technical issues) and internet (safety issues)



# Africa : the dark side...

- 800 millions people
- The world poorest continent
- Widespread famines
- Diseases (AIDS, measles, paludism)
- Marginalization of ethnic groups



*50 km east of Tamanrasset (Algeria)*

# Africa : the dark side...

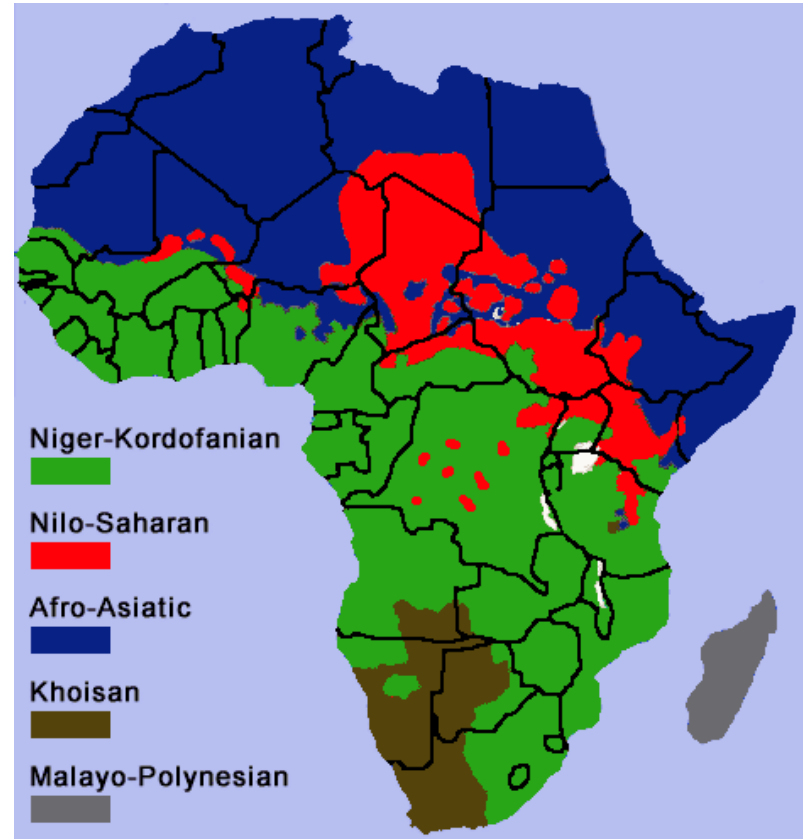


- Frequently hampered by instability, corruption and violence
- Lack of foreign investment
- Poor knowledge of market
- Capital flight
- Little autonomy of research
- Information access controlled by the State

# Diversity of indigeneous languages



- 1800 african languages
- Only a couple of dozen are spoken by more than a million people
- Languages versus dialects
- Variety of sign languages



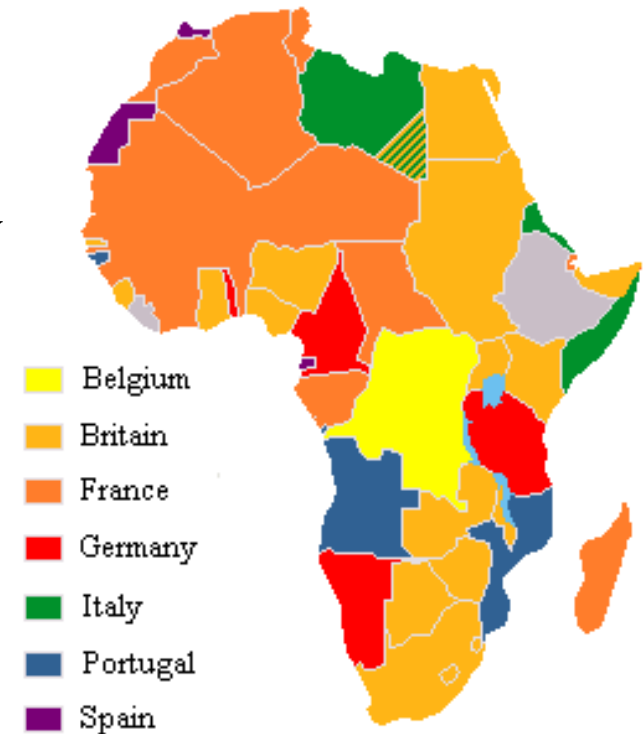
*Languages families in Africa*

How many have an encyclopedia ?

# Languages of former colonial powers



- English, French, or Portuguese
- Initially, election of one official language in a search of national unity
- In many states, the primary language of government, law, education, media, army...



**BUT** the majority of people in the nation rarely speak these European languages fluently enough to participate.

# Africa and Internet



- Few Africans have access
- “What is Internet ?”
- A weak infrastructure
- Internal digital divide  
(cities and countryside)
- No material in a language  
Africans can understand
- State and governmental impact



*Public phone and internet in Marrocco*



# Africa's assets



- Increasing number of democratic governments
- Independent judiciaries and human rights recognition
- Wealth from natural resources (oil, diamonds...)
- A major economical success : South Africa
- Increasingly awareness of the importance of linguistic diversity
- Increased networking
- Alternative communication system uses
- A desire to reduce the divide



*Cher and his turaya*

# Africa's needs...



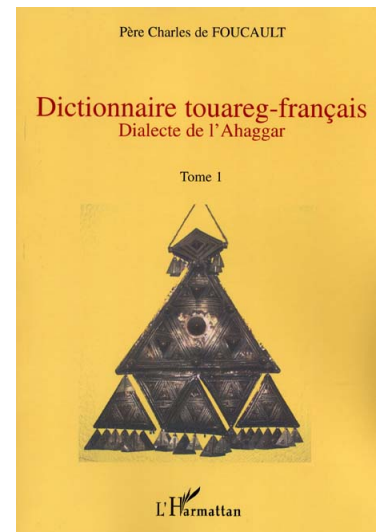
- A need for investment, trade rather than just aid and debt forgiveness
- A need for low cost or free stuff
- A need for recognition by and sharing with other continents
- A need for better communication networks
- A need for personal empowering rather than official knowledge

# How Wikimedia projects could help...



- Building a collection of African knowledge (often unknown or underestimated)
- Making it available to African people
- Sharing it with everyone else
- Increase ability to participate on a more equal level in the social, political and economic sphere.

But Africans must be the leaders !



*Tuareg-french dictionary  
by Foucault*

# Adopt an african language wikipedia



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

botamboli / navigation

- Lonkásá ya liboso
- Community portal
- El?k? ya sika / nouvelles
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Bosungi / Aide
- Donations

boluki / recherche

Go

Boluki / Recherche

bisaleli / boîte à outils

ekakoli / article | ntembe / discuter | kobalusa / éditer | likambo / histoire

kokomisa.nkombó to kok?t? (log in)

## Lonkásá ya liboso

Traducteur français - lingala recherché! [contact](#)

### Mb? t?! [\[edit\]](#)

Boyéi bolámu na ebandéli ya wikipedia, búku ya libóso ya **lingála** s? ?ki bolobaka lingála mpe s? ?ki bokanisí ete búku ya lingála ekozala malámu, bok?nd? na **Kotámbola ya libóso**.

Bien venu sur les débuts de [Wikipédia](#), la première Encyclopédie en **lingala**. Si vous le parlez, et vous pensez qu'une encyclopédie lingála serait une bonne chose, allez vous à [meta:How to start a new Wikipedia](#)

### Informations

Jusqu'à aujourd'hui, il y a **74 articles** en lingála dans Wikipédia.

- [Kotámbola ya libóso](#) *Comment débiter?*
- [Kok?t? \(log in\)](#)

### Wikipedia Lingála

[\[edit\]](#)

### Óyo nini? [\[edit\]](#)

Wikipedia eza *encyclopedie* óyo. Batu batangaka ngo bakomaka ngo.

### Mibéko [\[edit\]](#)

- 10 millions of speakers... 74 articles...
- Victim of vandalism if not taking care of
- Interface in 3 languages !

# Amharic wp (official language of Ethiopia)



ሚስቶች በየህ መርከብ ላይ

ከግዛዜ ላይ በሰፊ ዕለታት ስለ ሞት በየህ መርከብ ላይ ስለ ተገኘ ስለ አራቱ ሴቶች **አራተ ዘፍጥረት** ምንም እንኳን ዝም ቢል፣ ከሌሎች ስለነዚህ ሴቶችና በተለይ ስለ ስዎቻቸው የተገኘው አፈ ታሪክ በርካታ ነው።

በጥንታዊው ስዎት ዘንድ፣ የሴምና የዳፊት ሚስቶች ዕጅግ የረዘማቸው ዕድሜ ሲኖራቸው ከመጠን ይልቅ ለብዙ መቶ ዓመታት ኑሎ ለያንዳንዱ ትውልድ ትንቢት እየተናገሩ ናት። እነዚህ ሴቶች ተብለው ለግሪኮች ለሮማውያንም እንደ ቅዱሳን ምጻሕፍት የተቆጠሩ የሲቡሎያን ንግሮች የተባሉት ሰዶች ደራሲዎች የነበሩ እነሱ ናቸው። ከነሱም በኋላ ሌሎች ሴቶች ደግሞ እንደ ተከተሉ ለንግሮቹም እንደ ጨመሩ ይታስባል።

**በመጻፈ ኩፋሌ** የሴምና የዳፊት ሚስቶች እንዲሁ ተብለው ይሰየማሉ።

- የሴም ሚስት፡ **ሰደተ-ልባብ**
- የዳፊት ሚስት፡ **አኤል-ታግሎክ** (ወይም በሌላ ትርጉም **ናኤል-ታግሎክ**)
- የዳፊት ሚስት፡ **አድ-ታግሎክ** (ወይም በሌላ ትርጉም **አድ-ታግሎክ**) ናቸው።

ከዚህ በላይ ሦስቱ የሴም ልጆች ከተባቡት ዓመት በኋላ ከአራራት ሠፈር በየአቅጣጫ ሂደት ለሰው ልጆች ሁሉ እናቶቻቸው ለሆኑት ለሚስቶቻቸው ስዎች የተባሉ 3 መንደሮች እንደ መሠረቱ ይታረካል።

በኋላ ዘመን የክርስቲያን ጽሑፍ **ቅዱስ ሂጋሊቲስ** (235 ዓ.ም. የሞቱ) በሰርዖ ታርጉም ዘንድ ለዚህ ተመሳሳይ የሆነ ታሪክ አወጣ። ነገር ግን የሴምና የዳፊት ሚስቶች ስዎች እንዳለባቸው ይመስላል። እነሱ እንዲሁ "የሴም ልጆች ሚስቶች ስዎች አንዲሁ ናቸው። የሴም ሚስት፡ **ናግላት ግህቲኔ** የዳፊት ሚስት፡ **ዜዳካት ናቡ**፣ የዳፊት ሚስት **አራጥካ** ይባላሉ" ብሎ ጻፈ።

**ጆን ጊል** (1697-1771 እ.ኤ.አ.) በመጽሐፍ ቅዱስ ነገ አስተያይቶቹ ስለ አንድ የዳፊት አፈ ታሪክ የጻፈው እንዲሁ ነው። "የሴም ሚስት ስም **ሃልባት** ወይም **ሃሊጥ** ወይም **ሃሊት** ሲሆን፣ የዳፊት ሚስት ስም **ናግላት** ተባለች። የዳፊት ሚስት ደግሞ **አረጋሚያ** ተባለች።

በሲቡሎያን ንግሮች ዘንድ፣ ከሴቶች የአንዲቱ ስም **ሃልባት** ተመሳሳይ ነበረች። እሷም የ"በባሎን ሲቡል" **ሳምበት** ነበረች። ከተፋት ውሃ 900 አመት በኋላ ወደ ግሪክ አገር ሄደች የንግሮች ጽሑፍ እንደ ጀመረች ብላ ጻፈች። ከዚህ በላይ የጻፈችው ጽሑፍ ከግዛዜ ላይ አስተዳደራዊ የኖሩት የቤተሠብ ስዎች ይታረካሉ። እነሱም አገሩ ግዳታቸው፣ እናቷ ቢርካ፣ እሷም ሲሆን ናቸው።

# Dictionaries, books...

- Translations of languages
- Books, wikireaders (educational content)
- CD Roms in libraries
- Audio content
- Free wiki engine

Content and delivery of information must be appropriate and practical.

a multilingual free  
encyclopedia

**Wiktionary**  
[ˈwɪkʃənri] n.,  
a wiki-based Open  
Content dictionary  
Wileo [ˈwɪl kəri]



*Think free. Learn free.*



**WIKINews**



# How could the Foundation help ?



- Promotion of projects in developing countries (media coverage, participation to meetings...) --> [Elian](#)
- Contact with researchers, educational system, states, NGOs, immigrant associations, students unions...
- Open Society Institute fund to help participation to brainstorming Wikimania event
- Financial support for special projects (Ossetian or Bambara languages) ? --> [Danny](#)
- « Lobbying » for encoding issues ? Audio, video... --> [Erik](#)
- Hiring « editors-in-chief » ?