

ACALAN – AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES



PALE - PLATfORM FOR African Language EMPOwERment

The African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) is finalizing a proposal for a comprehensive platform for African languages in Cyberspace. The platform will serve four functions:

1. Information about ACALAN and African language policies and commissions
2. Information about African language research and characteristics
3. A hub for growth and dissemination of African linguistic data
4. A communications center for research and development on African languages

The goal is to produce an ever-growing central resource for scholars, policy-makers, students, and the public to learn about, contribute to, and benefit from knowledge regarding all African languages.

1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

- ACALAN events
- Projects
- Internal publications (Kuwala journal, reports, documents)
- Media (Video, radio, photos)
- Vehicular Cross-border Language Commissions
- National language policies
- Personnel
- Mission and structure

2. Language INFORMATION

- Linguistic Atlas of Africa
 - Language metadata
- External events (conferences, etc)
- External publications
 - Articles, books (archives and bibliography)
 - Dictionaries, grammars
- Research and technology projects
 - Software
 - Corpora
- Language organizations
 - National language boards
 - University departments
- Language learning resources

3. Language DATA

- Gathering data
 - Existing sources – digitization and harmonization
 - Experts – sophisticated tools
 - Crowd – games and activities
- Storing data
 - Monolingual microdata
 - Translation equivalencies
- Disseminating data
 - Mobile apps
 - Web tools
 - Human readable (eg dictionaries)
 - Embedded (eg translation software)
- Language learning

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- Researchers
 - Private internal network
- Language communities
 - Discussion forums using open social media
 - Internal network for data and learning groups
- Outreach
 - Newsletter
 - Social media