

African Network for Localisation

Dwayne Bailey



Anloc

- To empower **Africans** to participate in the digital age by removing the last inch limitations imposed on language usage by the *limitation of technology*.
- **9 sub-projects:** enabling, localisation, HLT. Locales is an enabling project
- 5 African **countries** and growing



Locales

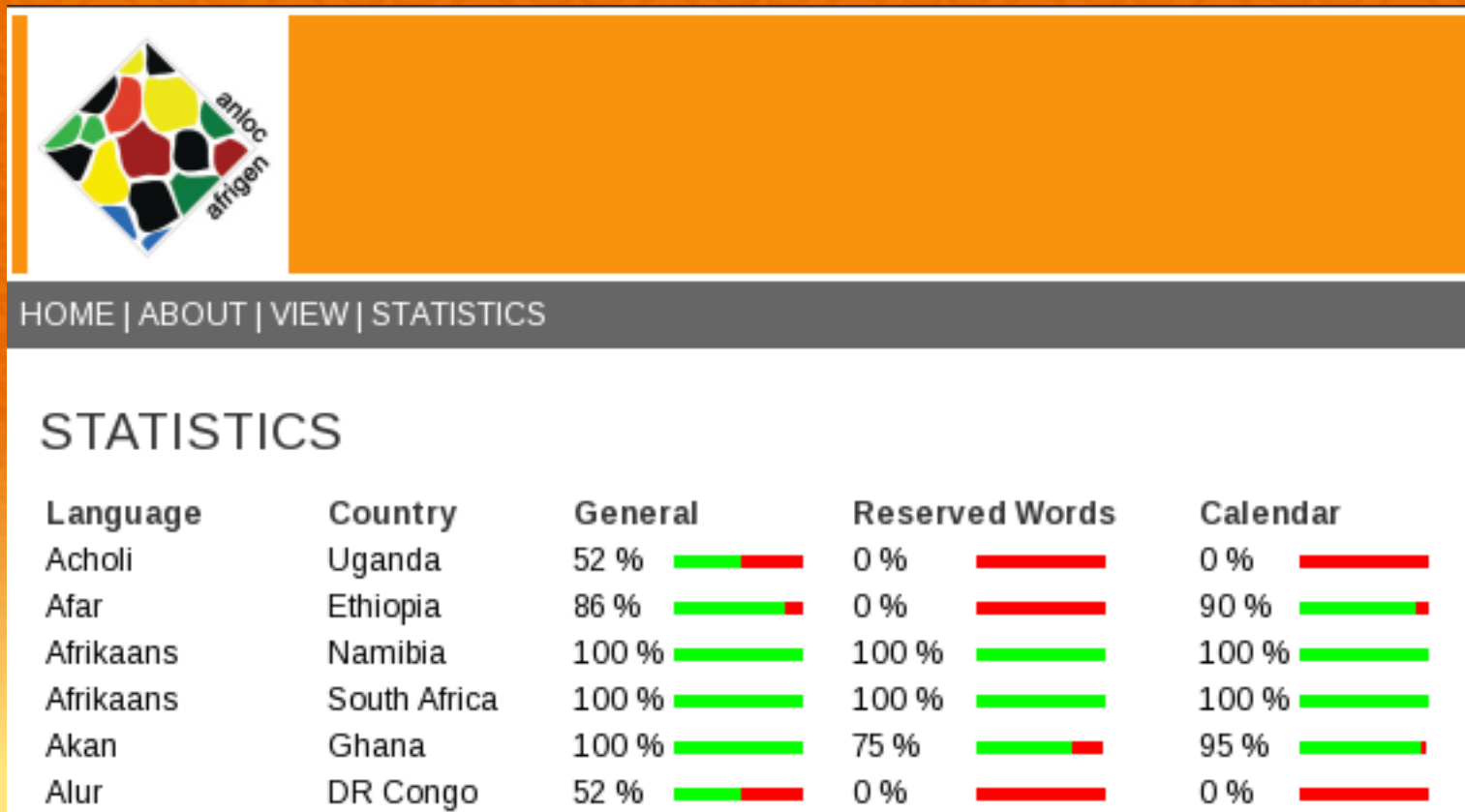
- Martin Benjamin, IT46
- locales@africanlocalisation.net
- Create **100 locales** for African languages

Strategy

- Lower the skills required to create locales
- 170 languages > 500,000 speakers
- 8 regional co-ordinators
- Target of **100 languages**

Lowering skills

- Afrigen- <http://o2.it46.se/afrigen/>



Target Coverage

- Important accessible repositories
 - **CLDR** (Common Locale Data Repository),
OpenOffice.org and glibc (Linux)
- Windows: **No**
 - Accessible through CLDR over time

Standardisation Issues I

- The need: technology can quickly change the accepted norm, sometimes negatively
- Too early or too late
- Who are the experts? Language boards or local computer experts
- Conventions: Official vs widely used
- Correctness: The effort in implementing other calendars

Standardisation issues II

- Date names: traditional vs commonly accepted
- Writing styles: e.g. capitalisation, is it known
- CLDR scope and over-requirements: too much work
- Inventions: short names. Understanding correctness vs implications for users

Status

- 39 locales, 40% to goal
- 3 months to go
- Know any African linguists? Send them to us!

Summary

- Afrigen lowers the technical barrier
- CLDR allow wider adoption penetration
- There are risks:
 - Ignore locales and you get what you get
 - Create locales and you could make mistakes
- It has to be done, so **just do it...**