

BAMBARA

COUNTRY: Mali

POST: Bamako

There are almost 900 Niger-Congo languages spoken across Africa. Divided into six genetic sub-groups, the Benue-Congo Branch (Bantu languages) far outnumbers the other groups in numbers of languages and speakers per language. One of the smaller sub groups called Mande, is located in West Africa and includes such languages as Bambara, Mende, Vai. These languages are spoken from Mauritania to Ghana.

Bambara is the most widely spoken and written local language. However, all tribal groups have their own nonwritten languages.