



translate.org.za

opensource software translation project



## PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Making local lekker - promoting your content in South African languages

**South Africa, 8 May, 2007:** Wouldn't it be wonderful if the song you had written in your mother tongue, Zulu, could be distributed with a license written in the same language? *Creative Commons South Africa* and *Translate.org.za* announced the availability of licenses in Afrikaans, isiZulu and Sesotho sa Leboa at the Digital Freedom Expo in Cape Town in April.

Translate.org.za is a world leading Open Source software translator. It was the Translate.org.za team that brought you the first word processor in a South African language. They have gone to great lengths to ensure that OpenOffice.org is available in all of the 11 official languages. And now they have taken their commitment to language one step further with the translation of the actual licensing agreements into local South African languages.

Alternative licensing organisation, Creative Commons, has been working with the Translate.org.za team, and have adopted the South African developed and led Pootle translation tool to translate its Creative Commons Host and Publisher software. (Pootle is a web-based tool that allows users to easily translate free and open source software into their own language without them having to be a programmer).

The Creative Commons South Africa team have developed a set of free copyright licences that enable people to make clear the conditions under which their works can be freely copied, remixed and shared.

Says, Dwayne Bailey of Translate.org.za, *"For us this was a natural extension of what we do. We use the Creative Commons licenses on some of our works, so it made sense that if we could translate the license, we should."* And they did. The result for Translate.org.za is that when people use their software and website site in Afrikaans they can also see the licenses in Afrikaans. For most South Africans it means that a blog in Sesotho sa Leboa can point to a license in that language, instead of to an English license. This will stimulate and support mother-tongue content.

The process of using a translated license is simple - users go to <http://creativecommons.org/license>

Here is an example of the Attribution ShareAlike license in Zulu <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.zu>

The process of creating the translations involved more consultation and meetings than one would imagine. Translate.org.za translators and Creative Commons legal experts met for the translators to be educated around the purpose of the licenses and the terms used. The translators created and discussed terms for words such as *ShareAlike* and *non-Commercial* ~ all words that needed to tightly align with the English equivalent. The translators translated, reviewed and corrected the licenses. The translations were in *beta* for approximately two months as translators reviewed the work and assessed accuracy of terminology.

The team at Creative Commons South Africa is thrilled with the result. *"This was a real team effort and we're looking forward to working with Translate.org.za in the future to translate the licence into more languages and to look at translating more free content into our local languages."*

Dwayne Bailey is available for interviews. His fields of specialisation include:

- Free and Open Source Software
- Multi-lingualism
- Software translation
- Language rights advocacy

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:  
Dwayne Bailey (083 443 7114)**