

Hunter-gatherer data information sheet/questionnaire

Be sure to put reference number and page # after each entry.
[2 points for each quantitative entry, 1 pt for other.]

I. Description

1.1 Name of group and language family: San Ildefonso Agta, Agta (Aeta)

1.2 Location: On the San Ildefonso Peninsula, located in northeastern Luzon in the northern part of Aurora Province, in the municipality of Casiguran in the Philippines.

1.3 Population size (local group, breeding): The last census taken in the early 1990s indicated 750 Agta at Palanan, 590 at Casiguran, and 900 at Cagayan.

1.4 Home range size (yearly, life): Agta mobility is tied to kinship networks in a rather restricted territory. Blood and marriage ties determine where a family or group of families forage and reside. Agta are not nomadic.

1.5 Density (person/km²):

1.6 History: The Agta as a group are classified as Negritos. Negritos are phenotypically distinct from other Filipinos, being short in stature and dark-skinned with woolly black hair and broad flat noses. Most experts believe that the Negritos were originally hunter-gatherers, although many of the groups of Negritos have practiced swidden horticulture for hundreds of years. The Agta still remain practicing foragers but also plant some crops and obtain most of their carbohydrates by trading meat and forest products with local Filipino farmers. Agta history in recent centuries is marked by exploitation, deprivation, land loss, and increased dependence on non-Agta Filipinos. Well before Spanish colonialism, Agta were raided by slavers sailing from the south. Since Spanish colonialism Agta have been conscripted into guerrilla and military forces. Since World War II Agta independence has eroded visibly and is related to massive in-migration by farmers and laborers, to ongoing deforestation, and current environmental degradation.

II. Environmental Features

2.1 ecotype: The peninsula is mountainous and the hilly terrain runs in a northeast-southwest direction, with the higher land tending to run along the eastern side of the peninsula and in places forming cliffs on the eastern coast facing the Pacific Ocean. Within the Casiguran municipality, 28% of the land area consists of mountains with more than 50% slope.

2.2 temperature: Heat and humidity make moving within the area difficult. The mean average temperature is 26.45 degrees Celsius per year (79.6 degrees Fahrenheit) with a range of 28.2 degrees to 23.9 degrees Celsius. The average annual humidity is 85%, with January being the most humid and May to July being the least humid months.

2.3 rainfall: Movement is also hindered by heavy rainfall evenly distributed throughout the year. Average annual rainfall is 3393 mm (134 inches), with 203 rainy days per year, or about 17 days per month.

III. Economy

3.1 Main carbohydrate staples (% of energy in diet): The more remote, interior Agta plant small pots of roots, a few square meters of corn, and a banana stalk or two, but usually only in the rainy season. Naturally occurring carbohydrate sources are rare in the forest, so the Agta depend on trade or their own limited agricultural skills for carbohydrates. However, during the rainy season the Agta do process a traditional resource for carbohydrates, the caryota palm. (4, pgs. 191-192)

3.1.1 return rates upon encounter

3.1.2 resource abundance, density Carbohydrate resources are very rare in the forest so the Agta mainly depend on trade for carbohydrates. The main naturally occurring resource that Agta process for carbohydrates is the caryota palm, and even then Agta only process this plant during the rainy season. (4, pg. 192)

3.1.3 sharing patterns of carbohydrate staples Roots are collected by women whenever a visit to relatives or friends calls for a special treat. When Agta women process the starch of the caryota palm, the resulting flour is usually given as a gift. (4, p.195)

3.2 Main protein lipid sources (% energy, % protein-lipid) The three main prey that are hunted by the Agta are the Philippine bearded pig, deer, and monkey. Agta men and women also fish 2-3 times a day.

3.2.1 return rates upon encounter

3.2.2 resource abundance, density

3.2.3 sharing patterns of protein-lipid sources

3.2.4 Search Party/Pursuit group size for major protein-lipid resources. In certain tribes of Agta women participate in hunting as well. In certain groups women are active and proficient hunters who usually do their hunting with dogs and machetes instead of bows and arrows like men. Women usually go in groups to do their hunting which is necessary to ensure that there is someone to watch over young children while another woman hunts, while men usually hunt alone. (4, p.193)

3.3 Dietary intake: (calories per capita)

(seasonality)

3.4 Special tools and foraging techniques:

3.5 Storage:

3.6 Sexual division of production (% calories, % protein-lipid by males and females)

3.6.5 Cooperation during production (% time in cooperation, % cal produced cooperatively, do men hunt solitarily or together, etc.) Agta men tend to hunt alone, while women tend to hunt in groups. Often sisters, or mother and daughter, or aunt and niece will hunt together. However, occasionally men and women will hunt together. Sisters and brothers may cooperate together on a hunt. (4, p. 194)

3.7 Age divisions of production (production by children and elderly):

3.8 Non-foraging economy:

Rattan that is sold to make furniture

Wild orchids that are sold to traders in Casiguran

Imperata grass and leaves of the livistona and nipa palms sold to lowlanders for roof thatching

Wooden poles sold to lowlanders for house posts and other building purposes

Firewood sold to lowlanders for cooking purposes

Time use:

3.8.1 Men's food acquisition work: (hr/day) Agta men worked about 80% of the daytime

(seasonality)

food processing-Hunting and fishing both made up about 6% of this work time

tool work- Rattan collecting was the largest category of time usage, totaling 35%

housework

3.8.2 Women's food acquisition work- Agta women worked about 50% of the daytime

(seasonality)

food processing- 4% was spent on fishing

tool work- 15% on collecting rattan

housework

3.8.3 Children and Elderly food acquisition work

food processing

tool work

housework

Food sharing patterns:

3.9.1 Percent meat kept by nuclear family of acquirer

(by game size)

3.9.2 Percent collected kept by nuclear family of acquirer

(by package size or resource)

3.9.3 Kin bias (close kin fraction/ non-relative fraction)

3.9.4 Other specified sharing patterns

3.10 Food taboos

IV. Anthropometry

4.1 Mean adult height (m and f) M- 152 cm (5 feet), F- 141 cm (4.5 feet)

4.2 Mean adult weight (m and f) M- 47.0 kg, F- 40.5 kg

4.3 Age specific child weight or height

4.4 % wasted/stunted, nutritional status

V. Demography and Life History

5.1 Major causes of mortality (0-5, 5-60) Under the age of 15 most deaths are due to illness. After age 15, the main cause of death is still illness but the death rates contributed to violence rise substantially, about a seven times greater risk. (2, p. 326)

5.3 Juvenile survival rate (0-1, 0-15 m and f) – Agta mortality is high at all ages and initial immature mortality is two to three times greater when compared to other hunter-gatherer groups. (2, p. 326)

5.4 Adult survival rate (15- 55, 15-70 m and f)- Low adult life expectancy rate. Age 31 for peasant Agta and age 36 for transitional Agta. Low life expectancy is attributed to acculturation. Mortality increases in the age 15-40 range. (2, p. 325)

5.5 Age first birth (m and f) Data not available for male. F- 19.5 years

5.6 Completed family size (m and f)

(range and variance, percent non-reproducers)

5.7 Inter-birth-interval (f) 2.82 years (1, p. 179)

Marriage and parenting

5.8.1 Age first marriage (m and f) F: Mean age=19.3 years, median is 18.7, and mode is 18 (1, p. 159) However, conflicting information states that a young man in his early twenties will often take a bride of about fifteen. Girls entering marriage before puberty are not uncommon and in such cases the husband may help raise the girl until the marriage is consummated and full wifehood is recognized. (4, p.197)

5.8.2 Mean number of "divorces" (age 15-50, m and f) Divorce is infrequent, with only 18% of adults ever having been divorced. However, when divorce did happen it was usually between newlyweds or couples who were still in a trial period of incipient marriage. It is very rare for couples with dependent children to divorce. (1, p. 151) However, it does happen often enough to look at the causes. Causes for divorce are mainly laziness or improvidence, excessive adultery, or personality clashes and incompatibility. When divorce does happen, either sex may divorce the other with equal ease. Divorced spouses then take their personal possessions and return to the residential group of close relatives. (4, p. 198)

5.8.3 Polygyny (%males, % females, mean and range of spouse #) 20% of males are polygynous at any one time, much higher than any other Asian group (1, p.142) However, other studies show that it is not just males who are polygamous, but females as well. It is less common for females to have more than one husband, but just as possible. (4, p. 198)

5.8.4 Arranged marriage, bride purchase, evidence of coercion: Mate selection is limited by the prohibition against marriage between relatives. Agta are forbidden to marry any person whom they already call by a consanguineal or affinal kinship term. A man's parents select a prospective bride and enter into negotiations with her family in order to form a marriage between the two. Sometimes, a boy and a girl may simply run away to the camp of a friend of distant kinsman, then return to the camp of either set of parents and live as a married couple. (1, p. 164) Often neither the bride nor the groom has much say in their future spouses but serious dislike would probably stop negotiations before the marriage happened. Mothers are the most important in choosing who will marry whom. (4, p.197)

(kin preference)

5.8.5 Percent of time spent in childcare

Sex ratio

5.9.1 ratio at birth

5.9.2 juvenile ratio (age 5-15)

5.9.3 adult ratio (age 25-40)

5.9.4 sex biased homicide/neglect: 21% of all male deaths are due to homicide, which is 33 times higher than the United States homicide rate. (2, p. 323)

Warfare/homicide

5.10.1 Percent adult male deaths due to warfare

5.10.2 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death (ratio)

5.10.3 Percent children killed before age 10: 58% (2, p. 334)

5.10.4 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing

5.10.5 Percent females in residential group captured by raiding Both rape and abduction by Agta men are very rare. Abduction must involve a slightly willing female and is not done by young people. A mature man might abduct a married woman, but abducting a young girl would be difficult. (4, p.197)

VI. Social Organization and Interaction

6.1 Residential group size: Agta are loosely organized into extended family residential groups. A group, called a pisan, usually consists of between two and five nuclear families in the dry season. This number may be slightly higher during the wet season. The residential group is organized as a cluster of nuclear families united either through a common parent or sibling ties. (4, p.192)

(seasonality)

6.2 Mobility pattern: The settlement pattern is determined in part by the seasonal cycle of rains and sunny weather and by the availability of food sources. Rainy season flooding restricts forest travel and brings many hardships, but is compensated by good condition of the game animals that the Agta hunt. The dry season permits travel over greater distances and into the mountains. Predictable fish resources enhance the advantages of mobility; only the need to carry trade meats to farmers inhibits distant residence placement. (4, p. 193)

(seasonality)

6.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Agta have no chiefs or rulers. No one has control over another person and Agta tend to maintain their internal egalitarian ethic by limiting their subordination to the realm of external relations. Respecting one another, people maintain solidarity in the face of external conditions where they are exploited by non-Agta Filipinos. (3, p. 292)

6.4 Post marital residence:

(first marriage, mid-life)

6.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense)

6.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex)

6.7 Special friendships/joking relationships

6.8 misc. social relations. When a man or woman has more than one spouse, all members of the marriage live together in harmony. It is not unusual for an Agta to marry siblings and then reside with both spouses during the marriage. (4, p. 198)

VII. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion

7.1 Time allocation to ritual, ceremony and religion: Believe that their world is populated by spirits, most of whom are malevolent and the spirits of deceased Agta, though they believe some of the spirits of deceased Agta have returned as helpers to their children. (3, p. 292)

(seasonality)

7.2 Specialization (shamans, etc)

7.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal)

VIII. Other interesting features, anecdotes, etc.

1) Men and women have equal access to decision making and neither gender is inferior. A couple, together decide the major issues in their lives and consult others around them. (3, p. 292)

References (list and label references with numbers: 1, 2, 3...)

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