

1. Description

1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Ambo or the Kambonsenga,

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): 639-3: ndo

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): 13° 30" Latitude. No longitude given.

1.4 Brief history: The Ambo people emigrated from the Luba country, forced to move due to scarcity of land and the density of the population. They settled in their current location between 1830-40.

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:

1.6 Ecology (natural environment): They cultivate the soil that immediately borders the Lukusashi, Lunsemfwa, and Luangwa rivers and their tributaries and lesser streams. These areas are very fertile and the sandy loam soils retain moisture all year. There are 3 seasons; the Rainy season (also called Mainsa) that runs from November till March, the Dry Cold season (called Mwela) that runs from April till August and the Hot Dry season (called Tusuba) that runs from September till the rains come. The average rainfall is 36 inches/year. The mean temperature is 58° F and the highest temperature on record was 118° F. No date was given.

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: population of around 10,000 and a density of 5 people per square mile

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Maise, Sorghum, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and groundnuts

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Chicken, Warthog, rabbit, and cane-rat

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

2.4 Food storage: Food is stored in communal storage huts held up on stilts to keep from getting wet

2.5 Sexual division of production:

2.6 Land tenure:

2.7 Ceramics:

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

2.9 Food taboos:

2.10 Canoes/watercraft: Living on the water, they often travel by boat and much of their contact with other tribes is through passing them on the river.

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f): No age was given

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): No age was given

4.3 Completed family size (m and f): They live in clans comprised of all of their mothers relatives

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): N/a

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): Traditionally males married at around 25 while the women married much younger, just after puberty. These ages are changed with male ages lowering and female ages rising.

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: No number was given, but it was mentioned as a viable way to end a marriage and was very easy.

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: Affluent men such as chiefs or people with large amount of land are known to be polygynous but it is not very common.

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: The husband's family must pay a bride-price either in the form of a goat or in actual money, about 6 or so shillings.

4.9 Inheritance patterns: Matrilineal

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: N/A

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized? They believe that men and woman play equal parts in procreation and both genders share many of the same limitations before they become parents.

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? They believe that men and woman play equal parts in procreation and both genders share many of the same limitations before they become parents.

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)? No

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape

4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin) It is frowned upon to marry someone in the same generation, and cross cousins are preferred.

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? No, and neither do men

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? The woman's sisters and mother will take and care for the children should she die

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: 144:100 F:M is the estimate that was given

- 4.22 Evidence for couvades:** none that were mentioned
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older):** None that were mentioned
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?** The prospective husband must avoid his mother-in-law until the birth of their first child
- 4.24 Joking relationships?**
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations:** Matrilineal
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules:** one of their founding chiefs participated what was considered an incestuous relationship and was still considered a great hero. There was no direct comment on incest but I don't think it was considered a good thing but not intentionally discouraged.
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?** Yes, though it is fairly simple
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?** Each child is given a name of an ancestry, believing that this spirit will then protect them for the rest of their life. They also have a clan name, usually an animal or natural thing.
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community?** There is a large amount of cross-tribe marriage, as the men often leave their village to find work and in the process find a wife, although there is a significant number of men who return to their village to find a bride.
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?** No, the men and woman getting married are the ones in charge
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:**

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:**
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:**
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:**
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):**
- 4.18 Cannibalism?**

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:**
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):**
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):** They have a chief as well as clans
- 5.4 Post marital residence:** All families have a hut of their own
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):**
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):**
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:**
- 5.8 Village and house organization:** Each mother and children group has a home, but the food storage, garden and kitchen are shared with the clan.
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (men's houses):**
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?** They sleep on sleeping-mats
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:** Clans
- 5.12 Trade:**
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?**

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR:** There are many everyday rituals and things but most of them are fairly simple and short
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):** None that I can tell, though you can only ask certain people to help you with certain rituals, such as your mother's mother or sister to help with the marriage ceremony. There are sorcerers, who help with rituals like naming or in curing sickness.
- 6.2 Stimulants:**
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):** There are passage rituals for birth and death for all and then puberty rituals only for women.
- 6.4 Other rituals:** There are rituals for most parts of life
- 6.5 Myths (Creation):** They believe in a Supreme Being they call Lesa that created everything. This being is often associated with lightning or/and thunder
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):**
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:** Females do most of the rituals for example only women can help with the birthing process and only women who have given birth themselves. Women are the ones that help with the marriage ritual and the rituals performed when a girl comes of age.
- 6.8 Missionary effect:**
- 6.9 RCR revival:**
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:**
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?** No, in fact they are named after a dead ancestor.
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?**
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)** There is a belief in magic and things called 'shades' which are the spirits of the dead.

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint:

7.2 Piercings:

7.3 Haircut:

7.4 Scarification:

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

7.8 Missionary effect:

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system: All of your mother's sisters children as well as your mothers children are all your brothers and sisters, just as all your mothers sisters are referred to as 'mother'

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

1. Stefaniszyn, Bronislaw. *Social and Ritual Life of the Ambo of Northern Rhodesia*. London: Published for the International African Institute by the Oxford UP, 1964. Print.
- 2.