

1. Description

1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family:

Society: Bangubangu; Mikebwe; Kasenga; Nonda; Hombo

Language: Bangubangu

Language family: Bantu

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

ISO 639-3: bnx

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude):

Maniema Province, Kasongo District, Kabambare Territory

Latitude: -4.50

Longitude: 26.80

1.4 Brief history:

“The Bangubangu are now thought to have a shared history with other early hunters (pre-Bembe hunters) who passed through the region, including the Bembe, Boyo, northern Hemba, and Holoholo. All of these peoples share similar carving styles that venerate the ancestors. They originated in the southeast around the Lualaba River and migrated in several waves to their current location near Lake Tanganyika. Like the Hemba, they have also been greatly influenced by their contact with the Luba. During the 19th century they cooperated with Moslem slave traders from the eastern coast and helped to establish a trading post at Kabambare. The population has been seriously reduced due to wars, slavery, and sickness, resulting in very few surviving examples of Bangubangu sculpture.” (3)

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

Missionaries brought Islam and Christianity.

Belgian government imposed a new political system.

1.6 Ecology (natural environment):

“Rainforests, savannas, dense grasslands, and mountains” (10)

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density:

Population size: 171,000

Mean village size: Unknown

Home range size: Unknown

Density: Unknown

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):

“Primarily subsistence farmers, with the women employing slash and burn technology to raise maize, beans, millet, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and rice.” (3)

“A number of native crops, most notably bulrush, millet, and sorghum.” (9)

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:

“Although descended from early hunters, very little hunting is currently carried out by the Bangubangu. Men contribute to the local economy by raising goats, sheep, chicken, and cows.” (3)

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

Unknown

2.4 Food storage:

Unknown

2.5 Sexual division of production:

“The women... raise maize, beans, millet, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and rice. Men contribute to the local economy by raising goats, sheep, chicken, and cows.” (3)

2.6 Land tenure:

“They are primarily subsistence farmers... employing slash and burn technology to raise maize, beans, millet, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and rice.” (3)

2.7 Ceramics:

“The Bangubangu carve freestanding anthropomorphic sculptures, which are characterized by coffee bean shaped eyes and pointed beards. Women also produce high quality pots that are sold in the local markets for profit.” (3)

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

Unknown

2.9 Food taboos:

Unknown

2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

Unknown

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):

Male: 5'7"

Female: 5'3"

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

Male: Unknown
Female: Unknown

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f):
Between 13 and 15
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):
Male: Unknown
Female: Unknown
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f):
Male: Unknown
Female: Unknown
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
Unknown
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):
Male: Unknown
Female: Unknown
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:
Unknown
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:
Marriages: Unknown
Males: Unknown
“A tax was passed on all wives above the first, but this was always paid by the women themselves, not the polygynous husband.” (7p146)
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:
Bride purchase: Unknown
Bride purchase price: Unknown
Bride service: Unknown
Dowry: Unknown
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns:
Matrilineal (3)
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:
Unknown
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
Activities: Unknown
Attitudes: Unknown
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):
Unknown
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized?
Unknown
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”)
Unknown
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
Unknown
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape
Unknown
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
Unknown
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?
Unknown
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring:
Unknown
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
Unknown
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females
Unknown
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades:
Unknown
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older):
Unknown
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?
Unknown
- 4.24 Joking relationships?

“The western and southern Lega stand in an unusual joking relationship to the Bangubangu.” (4p18)

4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations:

All matrilineal (3)

4.26 Incest avoidance rules:

Unknown

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?

Unknown

4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?

Unknown

4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)

Unknown

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?

Arranged marriages: Unknown

Arranged by: Unknown

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

Unknown

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:

Unknown

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:

Out-group: Unknown

In-group: Unknown

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:

Out-group: Unknown

In-group: Unknown

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):

Unknown

4.18 Cannibalism?

Unknown

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

Unknown

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

Unknown

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):

“The current power structure in Bangubangu villages was imposed by the Belgian colonials and consists of a paramount chief, who is assisted in governing by several officials. Many villages do not recognize his power and pay allegiance to leadership selected on the local level. Village leaders are known as Sultani, a word which is obviously of Arabic origin.” (3)

5.4 Post-marital residence:

Unknown

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

Unknown

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):

“Traditional rules governed an individual's social functions and activities, which were often performed within his or her age group.” (9)

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

“The western and southern Lega stand in an unusual joking relationship to the Bangubangu.” (4p18)

5.8 Village and house organization:

Unknown

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):

Unknown

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?

Sleep on hand-woven mats on top of mud brick beds (8p11)

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:

Matrilineal inheritance (3)

5.12 Trade:

“During the 19th century they cooperated with Moslem slave traders from the eastern coast and helped to establish a trading post at Kabambare.” (3)

“Historically, the people in this region sold rubber, palm oil, and cotton on the international market.” (3)

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

Unknown

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6.0 Time allocation to RCR:

Unknown

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):

“Within Bangubangu communities, diviners, blacksmiths, and waganga are invested with religious power.” (3)

6.2 Stimulants:

Unknown

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):

Birth: Unknown

Death: Unknown

Puberty: Unknown

Seasonal: Unknown

6.4 Other rituals:

Unknown

6.5 Myths (Creation):

Unknown

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

Unknown

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

Male: Unknown

Female: Unknown

6.8 Missionary effect:

Missionaries brought Christianity and Islam to the region.

6.9 RCR revival:

Unknown

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:

Unknown

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?

Unknown

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

Unknown

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)

A mixture of Islam (belief in and fear of djinns), Christianity, and the traditional Bangubangu religion (focuses on ancestor worship and their supreme god, Vilie Nambi; shrines are built to appease ancestral spirits).

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint:

Unknown

7.2 Piercings:

Unknown

7.3 Haircut:

Unknown

7.4 Scarification:

Unknown

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

Unknown

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

Unknown

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

Unknown

7.8 Missionary effect:

Unknown

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

Unknown

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system:

Unknown

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

“The Bangubangu, said to be the descendant’s of LEga’s daughter, are treated as the sororal nephews of the Lega.” (4p18)

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

Unknown

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

“Blacksmiths... are invested with religious power.” (3)

Numbered references

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