

## 1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Kinga (also Ekikinga or Kikinga) in Tanzania; speak Kinga language and some Swahili; written Latin script
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): zga
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): -9, 34 (Tanzania)
- 1.4 Brief history: The Kinga people live high in the mountain ranges to the northeast of Lake Malawi. The Kinga speaking community is situated in Makete District, Iringa Region in the Kipengere Mountain Range and in the green highlands of northeastern Lake Malawi. Even though many Kinga are subsistence farmers, the Kinga are business people who travel extensively. They can be found in all the bigger towns and cities in Tanzania and are known for their good business skills.
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): Savannah and gallery forest
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: 140, 000 (2003). 57,000 in Makete District. It is estimated that there are about 55,000 Kinga speakers in the Kinga speaking area and up to 140,000 Kinga speakers in the whole of Tanzania.

## 2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): potatoes, wheat, peas, maize, millet, beans, bananas, and other crops
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: cattle, sheep, goats
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: iron-tipped spears, knives
- 2.4 Food storage: The temperate climate and the high altitude mean that people have sufficient nutritious food and little problems with malaria or other tropical illnesses. However, the water supply is not always good and HIV/AIDS is a very big problem due to the extensive traveling.
- 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: The temperate climate and the high altitude mean that people have sufficient nutritious food and little problems with malaria or other tropical illnesses. However, the water supply is not always good and HIV/AIDS is a very big problem due to the extensive traveling.
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

## 3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): no particular physical type, their facial features and physique all being different; Alexander Merensky found only one common characteristic: due to their [mountain climbing](#) the muscles on their legs were very well developed and they had acquired a distinct type of [jogging](#) while going up and down these heights.
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): [See above.]

## 4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): between ages 12.9 – 22.7
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f):
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns:
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- 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?
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”)
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?
- 4.24 Joking relationships?
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations

- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

[4.1 – 4.31 not available. Information on Tanzania, but not the Kinga specifically.]

### **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?

[4.14 – 4.18 not available. Information on Tanzania, but not the Kinga specifically.]

### **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):
- 5.4 Post marital residence:
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Dating is not generally accepted in rural areas of Tanzania.
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:
- 5.8 Village and house organization:
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): personally dirty and their homesteads of cylindrical and conical shaped **huts** disorderly and surrounded by hedges of thorn
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: The Kinga were to be found in hidden areas, probably having been driven there by the **Magwangwara** Ngoni, and then the **Wasangu**, and even the **Hehe**, and were not easily located. They had little interaction with their neighbors, and felt comfortable only in their mountains. While they provided early warning posts against invasion of the Nyakyusa territory from the south and east, the Nyakyusa were not thankful, and generally held the Kinga in contempt. Merensky thought them a mixed group of runaway slaves hiding in the mountains.
- 5.12 Trade:
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

### **6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)**

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR:
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Kinga **priests** claimed they belonged to an ancient heritage, a line older than their chiefs. The priests also seemed to interpret subterranean water movement (much as a **Rutengänger**). The Nyakyusa would watch with fear and dismay as these pilgrims descended the mountain paths each year heading for 'Lwenbe's' shrine.
- 6.2 Stimulants:
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):
- 6.4 Other rituals:
- 6.5 Myths (Creation):
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:
- 6.8 Missionary effect:
- 6.9 RCR revival:
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) The Kinga were reached by Lutheran missionaries over a hundred years ago and as a result, most call themselves Christian. Some also practice traditional African religion.

### **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:
- 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):**

The Kinga speak the [Kinga language](#) almost exclusively at home. They usually know [Swahili](#), but are not fluent.[4] 57,000 Kinga live in the [Makete district](#), the rest in the [Iringa Region](#) of the [Kipengere Range](#).

## **Numbered references**

1. <http://www.thetask.net/mbeya-iringa/the-kinga>
2. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinga\\_people#Metalwork](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinga_people#Metalwork)
3. [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=zga](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=zga)
4. [http://www.culturecrossing.net/basics\\_business\\_student.php?id=202](http://www.culturecrossing.net/basics_business_student.php?id=202)