

## 1. Description

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

- **Namibia (Formerly South West Africa), Kwanyama, Kwambi, Angola (ethnologue.com)**
- **The language is Ndonga which is in the Ovambo language family.**

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

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): **-18.00/16.80**

1.4 Brief history:

- **Namibia was colonized by Germany and South Africa. People did not like colonial rule and so became an independent country only after much bloodshed. (everyculture.com)**

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

- **Germany and South Africa had considerable influence on the peoples of Namibia. Namibia is an independent country but was oppressed for a long time by Germany. There has also been much missionary work in Namibia, which is why most of the population is Christian. (everyculture.com)**

1.6 Ecology (natural environment):

- **Ndonga is spoken by 48.5% of Namibia, throughout the countries rural and urban centers. The people that speak it are spread across multiple cultures and countries. (biodiversity.org)**

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

- **Total population size of 1,070,000 for Ndonga speaking people (this is across multiple countries).**
- **807,000 Ndonga speaking people in Namibia**
  - **Note: This data is from 2006. (ethnologue.com)**

## 2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):

- **The staples are millet, Beans, and sorghum. (everyculture.com)**

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:

- **The main protein sources are fish, beef, and goat. (everyculture.com)**

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

- **Modern weapons**

2.4 Food storage:

- **Namibia has modern commercial agriculture, with all modern storage facilities. (everyculture.com)**

2.5 Sexual division of production in the rural areas:

- **Males:**
  - **Shepherds**
  - **Construct and maintain homes**
  - **Plow fields**
  - **Contribute to agricultural labor**
- **Females do:**
  - **Majority of the agricultural labor**
  - **Food preparation**
  - **Child rearing,**
  - **Household work****(everyculture.com)**

2.6 Land tenure:

- **In central and southern Namibia land tenure is based on private property. In rural parts there are communal areas, where land is not bought or sold. Families have inherited rights to use specific plots of land or pay fees to the government for land use rights. In pastoral communities, all members have access to communal grazing and water areas. (everyculture.com)**

2.7 Ceramics: **N/A**

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: **N/A**

2.9 Food taboos: **N/A**

2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

- **Modern watercraft.**

### 3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): N/A

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): N/A

### 4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f): N/A

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): N/A

4.3 Completed family size (m and f): N/A

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

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): N/A

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: N/A

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:

- **There are about 12% of marriages in Namibia that are polygynous and it seems to be on a decline. (Ovis 2005)**

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:

- **There is no mention of this for the typical Namibian Ndonga speaker.**

4.9 Inheritance patterns:

- **“Children may inherit property (namely cattle) from their father whilst he is alive” (Davies 1993:8)**

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: N/A

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

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):

- **“Marriage is characterized by exogamy and preferably sub-group endogamy” (Davies 1993:7)**

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized?

- **“The germ of the man joins with the blood of the woman” to produce a child. (Davies 1993:1)**

4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”)

- **“The *essense* of an embryo is to be found in women”, but if no child comes from intercourse it is always because the female is infertile. (Davies 1993:1)**

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?

- **There is no mention of this.**

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape

- **There are no specific numbers, but rape is considered a serious transgression. (Davies 1993:21)**

4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin) N/A

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? N/A

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring N/A

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? N/A

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females N/A

4.22 Evidence for couvades N/A

4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older) N/A

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? N/A

4.24 Joking relationships? N/A

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

4.26 Incest avoidance rules N/A

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?

- **Yes, they have traditional church weddings. (everyculture.com)**

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

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

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

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: N/A

### Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: N/A

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: N/A

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: N/A

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

#### 4.18 Cannibalism?

- **No mention of cannibalism.**

### 5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

#### 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

- **They do not maintain villages more of just districts (Davies 1993:8)**
- **There are large Cities in Namibia although not everyone will speak the Ndonga language.**

#### 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): N/A

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

- **Namibia is a Democracy.**

#### 5.4 Post marital residence:

- **Live with the Husband's matrilineal family and/or neolocal. (Davies 1993:8)**

#### 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

- **Namibia has defined Political boundaries.**

#### 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): N/A

#### 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: N/A

#### 5.8 Village and house organization:

- **Patriarch social organization (Davies)**

#### 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):

- **Namibia has modern cities and many modern homes.**

#### 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?

- **Sleep in a house.**

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

- **Clan based system (Davies 1993:8)**

#### 5.12 Trade: (Imports slightly exceed exports)

- **Exports:**
  - **Diamonds and other minerals**
  - **fish,**
  - **food products**
  - **live animals.**
- **Imports:**
  - **Food**
  - **Beverages**
  - **Wide variety of manufactured goods.**  
(everyculture.com)

#### 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

- **In the rural areas of Namibia the social elite are:**
  - **Teachers,**
  - **Health care workers,**
  - **Government employees,**
  - **Successful business people**  
(everyculture.com)

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

#### 6.0 Time allocation to RCR: N/A

#### 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):

- **Priests**

#### 6.2 Stimulants: N/A

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

- **Baptism**

- **Namibians have *efundula* feasts which are puberty rituals. (Davies 1993:8)**

6.4 Other rituals: N/A

6.5 Myths (Creation):

- **God created the heaven and Earth in 7 days....They follow Christianity.**

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

- **Traditional Christian beliefs so, no sex differences.**

6.8 Missionary effect:

- **Europeans converted the majority of natives to Christianity (everyculture.com)**

6.9 RCR revival: N/A

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:

- **Traditional Christian beliefs**
  - **Heaven & Hell**

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?

- **None that was mentioned anywhere.**

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

- **No**

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

- **They practice traditional Christianity with many different denominations, but most of the population is Lutheran. (everyculture.com)**
- **Witchcraft is present. (Haugh 2009)**

## 7. Adornment

- **This section is not applicable as the language is spoken across many different cultures and multiple countries.**

## 8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system: N/A

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

- **Sororate relationships do happen but do not seem to be widespread in Namibia (Ovis 2005)**

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

## 9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

### Numbered references

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