

## 1. Description: Sangasanga

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

-Sangasanga, Bomwali, Niger-Congo

-Alternative names: Bomali, Boumoali, Bumali, Lino

1.2 ISO code: bmw

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): 2.20/15.15

1.4 Brief history:

-Bantu tribes first immigrated to Cameroon from Nigeria around 200 BC.(3) Some people, though, think that Bantu originated in Cameroon. (4) The traditional Bantu tribes were very agricultural and they started taking over lands of the native pygmies for more farmland. In 1472 the Portuguese become the first Europeans to arrive in Cameroon. The arrival of the Europeans marked the beginning of the slave trade for this area. The Sangasanga probably didn't have much interaction with the Europeans until after the slave trade ended in the late 1800s and the Europeans started pushing deeper into the country. (3) The Sangasanga live in the southeast corner of Cameroon and Congo.

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

-Christian Missions constituted a second informal layer of colonialism in Cameroon. (5) The missionaries protested the slave trade and created a colony of freed slaves. After slavery is abolished in the U.S. and Europe the slave trade dies out. A British naval engineer and missionary, Alfred Saker, who starts building schools and churches in 1858. He tries to get the country to be part of the British Empire but the Queen does not want to deal with becoming a protectorate so the Germans take over and become the protectorate of Kamurun. After WWI the country is the League of Nations splits the country between mostly French rule and partial British rule. The country more or less is ran by their strong neighbor Nigeria. Nigeria is continuously at differences with Cameroon. The country eventually wins its independence but has been greatly influenced by many nations. (3)

1.6 Ecology (natural environment):

-Terrain: diverse, coastal plain in southwest, dissected plateau in center, mountains in west, plains in north, river basin and rainforests in the southeast (6)

-Climate: tropical along coast and south, semi arid and hot in north. (6)

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

-less than 5 persons/Km.sq (7)

## 2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):Plantains and Maize(7)

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Various livestock on low scale and wild game (7)

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Bow and arrows, spears, blowguns, and traps. (7)

2.4 Food storage: Granaries (5)

2.5 Sexual division of production: Females are gatherers and Males are hunters (7)

2.6 Land tenure: Agricultural (7)

2.7 Ceramics: NA

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: Trade with the native Baka Pygmies (7)

2.9 Food taboos: Some animals are deemed special by individual families and groups, that animal is not to be eaten. (5)

2.10 Canoes/watercraft? NA

## 3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): M-170.6cm, F-161.3cm (8)

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): NA

## 4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f): adolescence

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): NA

4.3 Completed family size (m and f): large families

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): NA

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): 12 to 15 years old (9)

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: NA

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: Males can have multiple wives (5)

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Male must pay females family to marry her but can get it back if marriage is annulled

4.9 Inheritance patterns: Patrilineal (5)

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: Children are close to mothers and siblings

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: NA

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): Exogamy is preferred (5)

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

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows") NA

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

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: very frequent (9)

- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin) NA
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? Pre-marital of lower class females if it is kept fairly unknown (5)
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring NA
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? Close relatives (5)
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: 1.01males/female (6)
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: Man will lay with wife for 2 or three days after childbirth to show he is father of child (10)
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older) major/older
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? NA
- 4.24 Joking relationships? NA
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: Patrilineal
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: forbidden
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? Yes
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name? Marriage
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) outside of community (5)
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Arranged by parents (5)
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: NA

### **Warfare/homicide**

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: NA
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:NA
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: Insurgency
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): NA
- 4.18 Cannibalism? No

### **5. Socio-Political organization and interaction**

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: small
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): NA
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): chiefs are headmen in villages
- 5.4 Post marital residence: NA
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): NA
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): NA
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: NA
- 5.8 Village and house organization: rural polygynous compounds composed of male head of household surrounded by wives and children. Wives and children usually have different dwellings within compound. (5)
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): Men usually have separate dwellings within a compound (5)
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Sleeping mats (10)
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:Clans
- 5.12 Trade: trade with native Baka pygmies. (7)
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? Chief of a tribe or clan. (5)

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

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR: varies
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): spirit mediums and healers (5)
- 6.2 Stimulants: drugs for ritualistic use (10)
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Birth, death, puberty, and seasonal. (5) (10)
- 6.4 Other rituals: NA
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): People, animals, and natural objects are invested with spiritual power (5)
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): music and dance (5)
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: males take a larger role
- 6.8 Missionary effect: High population of christian religion but mixed with traditional beliefs (5)
- 6.9 RCR revival: NA
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: A year after death the deceased is honored as an ancestor (5)
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? NA
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? NA
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) Animism, ancestor worship, magic, and totems all play a vital role in their religion. (5)

### **7. Adornment**

- 7.1 Body paint: For ceremonial rituals (5)
- 7.2 Piercings: NA
- 7.3 Haircut: Shave heads bald after someone close has died (5)

- 7.4 Scarification: NA
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): masks are worn in ceremonies (5)
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: masks, body paints, feathers, and beads (5)
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: NA
- 7.8 Missionary effect: NA
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: NA

## **8. Kinship systems**

- 8.1 Sibling classification system: NA
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate: NA
- 8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): NA

## **Numbered references**

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