

1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Central African Republic/ Sango (Sangho) / Creole, Ngbandi based
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): SAG
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Central African Republic / Latitude: -1.5 / Longitude: 12.50
- 1.4 Brief history: Sango or Sangho indicates a vehicular language spoken mainly by Central African Republicans or the people who use the language. After French colonization of 1900s, locals and newcomers created Sango as a mean to communicate each other by combining their traditional language and French. Central African Republic had been ruled by France until 1960 when it became independent.
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: French missionaries and officials have had impact on society westernization.
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): "The country lies at the center of Africa in a region where wooded grasslands adjoin dense rain forests and has an area of about 239,400 square miles (620,000 square kilometers)."
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: "The population in 1988 was 2,688,426, of whom 43 percent was less than fifteen years old. The UN estimated that 41% of the population lived in urban areas in 2005, and that urban areas were growing at an annual rate of 2.81%. The capital city, Bangui, had a population of 698,000 in that year. Other cities and their estimated populations include Bouar (95,193), Bambari (87,464); and Berbérati (82,492)."

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): The staple is a doughlike mixture of processed and dried detoxified cassava (gozo) or sorghum.
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Peanut-related products. However, since the country is mainly located in forest, protein is at a low level in the diet throughout the country.
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns: What they used traditionally remains unknown, but since colonization, people started to use modern weapons such as guns.
- 2.4 Food storage: Dwelling is the main method of storing.
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: "Women traditionally are responsible for the production and preparation of food. Women also work in private holdings growing cotton and other products to participate in the money economy. They are the principal vendors of food products in markets. Men contribute heavy work in rural areas and constitute most of the employed workforce."
- 2.6 Land tenure: Lands are mostly owned by small number of educated civilians, plantation owners, and officials of the country.
- 2.7 Ceramics: Unknown
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: Unknown
- 2.9 Food taboos: Unknown
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? Dugout canoes used to be a crucial method of transportation near Ubangi River until westernization.

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): Unknown
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): Unknown

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): 15-19
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): More than 50% of pregnant couple range from 15 to 19.
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): Average family member of 7, yet most children die out at their early stage.
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): Unknown
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): 15-19
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: "Divorce traditionally depends on the return of the brideprice, with added contributions that depend on the number of children."
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: Few could afford polygamous marriages, although polygamy varies both between rural areas and urban centers, and between ethnic groups.
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: "The young man is obliged to work for the girl's family for as long as up to four years, after which his family pays a brideprice. With the increased emphasis on acquiring monetary wealth, the brideprice and the accompanying gifts have become onerous or unachievable for many in urban centers."
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: Traditionally, and to some extent in modern-day rural areas, marriages were arranged by the members of a family's lineage.
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: Parents on social behavior, and corporal punishment is never severe. A child's exaggerated screams bring adults to mediate on behalf of the child. Siblings avoid fighting.
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: 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: over 20% of women responded that their first sexual encounter was the result of rape.
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): Unknown
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?: According to the customs, maintaining women's virginity before marriage is necessitated.

- 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: 4.7/5.3 on average
- 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?: A child's most important responsibilities are to respect, obey, and serve adults and to avoid causing trouble (such as theft) with non-kin.
- 4.24 Joking relationships?: Unknown
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: While children in matrilineal societies recognize some affiliation with their father's matrikin and often enjoy warm ties with their father, such patrilineal ("father's side") links are of secondary importance when it comes to the inheritance of property, titles, or political office. For in these societies, one is supposed to inherit such resources from the mother's brother, the matrilineal authority figure, rather than one's father, as is the case in patrilineal societies.
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: Unknown
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?: In modern day, the marriage is held in church.
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?: matrilineal, from the mother's side.
- 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)? Traditionally, and to some extent in modern-day rural areas, marriages were arranged by the members of a family's lineage.
- 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: After westernization, regional warfare has been repeatedly reported in Central Africa.
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: tribal warfare, regional conflict
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): Unknown
- 4.18 Cannibalism? It seems that cannibalism has been traditionally around in mid-Africa. However, no specific information on cannibalism in the assigned region was found.

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: Villages, mostly inhabited by the male descendants of a lineage or clan of different size, are located along and face the roads. This practice was introduced in the 1920s, to create "plantation villages" for cotton cultivation. In the 1970s, villages often were consolidated, ostensibly to modernize agriculture.
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): Settled.
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): "Social class is differentiated by place of residence and work: rural versus urban. In recent years, the imitation of French culture has led people to refer to the "provinces" and to their inhabitants as paysans—"peasants." Power differentiates the bureaucrats from the governed. People with power, economic security, and education are considered intellectuals. These constitute the upper class. The middle class consists of people in commerce and business, most of whom are Muslims.
- 5.4 Post marital residence: Many parents choose to live where they grew up and send their kids to city for education.
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): Unknown
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Unknown
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: Unknown
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Most of each traditional village consist of single lineage.
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): The typical dwelling, which must be replaced frequently because of termites, is made with sundried brick and thatched with wild grass; in the deep forest area palm fronds are tiled on. Mud-and-wattle structures were discouraged under French rule but still exist. Floors are made of pounded earth, on which people sleep on mats with adults sometimes using home-made beds. A whole family lives in a single dwelling, the interior of which is divided, especially when the owners have been influenced by Western culture.
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Dwellings are used primarily for storage and sleeping. However, in the six-month dry and hot season in the savannah, people frequently sleep outdoors.
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: In rural areas, people tend to live together as one lineage or tribe, while city areas are close to any other westernized city with different ethnicity and lineage.
- 5.12 Trade: The Central African Republic relies heavily on its exports, of which the most important are timber, diamonds, cotton, and coffee.
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?: In politics, the civil service, the military, and the police force, women are well represented despite being less educated. Women are less likely to attend, much less finish, primary school.

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR: the majority of Central African Republicans started to believe Christianity since the colonization. They spend decent amount of day to RCR.
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Traditional religious practices continue in the annual grass-burning hunts of the dry season and in rare initiation rites. More common are ceremonies associated with clitorrectomy, although modern-day circumcision has been

almost entirely secularized with boys being sent to a local clinic. Expressions of traditional religion in Bangui are rare, but marches and parades, especially among Christian youth and women, are common, with uniforms and banners displaying one's allegiances. Members of syncretistic churches wear special clothing.

6.2 Stimulants: Kola nut

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): At traditional wakes, kin frequently charge each other with having killed the deceased; all-night dancing and mourning last for several days. There may have been traditional burial grounds, but cemeteries were introduced by Christians and Muslims.

6.4 Other rituals: Unknown

6.5 Myths (Creation): Unknown

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Literature. The CAR is an oral society and the percentage of literate people in both French and Sango is very low. There have been only intermittent and ephemeral periodicals, mostly in French. A poorly stocked nonreligious bookstore for readers of French exists in Bangui.

6.7 Sex differences in RCR: Unknown

6.8 Missionary effect: French missionaries have spread Christianity throughout the country, making Christianity the most widely believed religion in Central African Republic in past 100 years.

6.9 RCR revival: Unknown

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Most people believe that death is the consequence of ill will (sorcery).

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? Unknown

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

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

→Though about 50% of the population are Christians, it is believed that most of these followers incorporate traditional indigenous elements into their faith practices. Catholic and Protestant missions are scattered throughout the territory. Islam is practiced primarily in the north. About 25% of the population are Protestant, another 25% are Roman Catholic, and 15% are Muslim. Traditional indigenous beliefs are practiced by about 35% of the population as a primary or exclusive belief system. Missionary groups within the country include Lutherans, Baptists, Grace Brethren, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint: white paints under eyes were shown in multiple pictures of them.

7.2 Piercings: Unknown

7.3 Haircut: Unknown

7.4 Scarification: Unknown

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): According to several pictures, some tribal members wore feather hat.

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: traditional dress

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: Older siblings act as senior to younger ones. Age-status relationship is strong.

8.2 Sororate, levirate: No

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

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

a. Etiquette

People adjust their speech according to the age and role of their interlocutors. Although the second person plural pronoun is used to express deference in speaking to an individual, among young urban dwellers there is an ideology of equality and solidarity that leads to the use of the singular pronoun.

Numbered references

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