

## 1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Maco (alternative names include Itoto, Jojod, Mako, and Wotuja), Sálivan
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): wpc
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): 6° N, 68° W
- 1.4 Brief history: Some believe the Maco language is just a dialect of another Sálivan language called Piaora (2). “Extensive interethnic contacts involving trade, intermarriage, and cultural borrowing characterized the region in pre- and early contact times. In view of the evidence of interethnic contacts, as well as the great similarity of cultural traits region wide, some investigators hypothesize that the middle Orinoco region, perhaps the entire Guiana region, comprised a culturally and ethnically interdependent system” (5).
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Missionaries have had very little effect on the Maco (5).
- 1.6 Ecology: They live on the banks of the Orinoco River (3).
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, and density: There are currently about 1,500 Maco speakers (1).

## 2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Manioc (3).
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Unable to find specific information; however, many sources cited their hunting with blow guns, so they must have game from the forest but it was not specific in what exactly the Maco hunt.
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow and/or blowguns?: They do use blow guns for hunting. The quivers that they use are made out of woven palm leaf (3).
- 2.4 Food storage: The Maco do make woven baskets to carry and store food (3).
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Men hunt while women tend to the farms. Meals are often made to reflect the different male and female roles (ie. meat and manioc flour) (3).
- 2.6 Land tenure: Unable to find information.
- 2.7 Ceramics: The Maco do use and make ceramics (3).
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: There are few rules on food sharing. Everything that is from the forest is basically fair game for sharing with the village, although anything from individual gardens is kept separate unless the owner decides to share with another person, or the village (4).
- 2.9 Food taboos: Unable to find information.
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?: The Maco use canoes that they call “bongos” to navigate rivers (3).

## 3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): Unable to find information.
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): Unable to find information.

## 4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): Unable to find information.
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): Unable to find information.
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): Unable to find information.
- 4.4 Inter-birth interval (f): Unable to find information.
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): Unable to find information.
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: Unable to find information.
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: Unable to find information.
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Unable to find information.
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: Unable to find information.
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: Children are punished with silence and are expected to respect their elders at all times (6).
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: Unable to find information.
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): Maco practice endogamy to keep their group together and keep kin ties strong (6).
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized?: Unable to find information.
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”): Unable to find information.
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?: Unable to find information.
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: Unable to find information.
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): Cross cousin is the preferential category for a spouse (6).
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?: Unable to find information.
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: Unable to find information.
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?: Unable to find information.
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: Unable to find information.
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: Unable to find information.
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older): Unable to find information.
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?: Unable to find information.
- 4.24 Joking relationships?: Unable to find information.
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: Unable to find information.

- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: Unable to find information.
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?: Unable to find information.
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?: Unable to find information.
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?): Preferred to be in the community (6).
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Marriages are often arranged for political reasons and to keep strong ties between kin groups. Parents often arrange marriages (6).
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: Unable to find information.

### **Warfare/homicide**

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: Unable to find information.
- 4.15 Outgroup vs. ingroup cause of violent death: Unable to find information.
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: Unable to find information.
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): Unable to find information.
- 4.18 Cannibalism?: The Maco do not practice cannibalism (4).

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

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: Unable to find information.
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): Unable to find information.
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): The Maco are firm believers that everyone gets to choose their own actions. They have no certain person in charge, although shamans usually have say in community decisions (7).
- 5.4 Post marital residence: Unable to find information.
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): Unable to find information.
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Unable to find information.
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: Unable to find information.
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Families are organized into groups with multiple families. These family groups often share a single home (6).
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): Multi-family groups sleep in a single conical hut (6).
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?: Unable to find information.
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Everything is organized by the family group on is in. This is considered the kin for that person even if they are not genetically so (6).
- 5.12 Trade: Unable to find information.
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?: Unable to find information.

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

- 6 Time allocation to RCR: Unable to find information.
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Shamans are present. They are able to heal sicknesses and offer spiritual protection from evil spirits (3).
- 6.2 Stimulants: Maco shamans sometimes consume the seeds of the *Anadanthera peregrine* tree. This hallucinogen is used in ceremonies where the shaman must stay up all night (3).
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Unable to find information.
- 6.4 Other rituals: Unable to find information.
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): Unable to find information.
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Unable to find information.
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: Unable to find information.
- 6.8 Missionary effect: Unable to find information.
- 6.9 RCR revival: Unable to find information.
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Unable to find information.
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?: Unable to find information.
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?: The Maco believe that it "...is important is for the names...to be continued or recycled throughout the generations (7).
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.): Unable to find information.

### **7. Adornment**

- 7.1 Body paint: Unable to find information.
- 7.2 Piercings: Unable to find information.
- 7.3 Haircut: Unable to find information.
- 7.4 Scarification: Unable to find information.
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): Unable to find information.
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: Unable to find information.
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: Unable to find information.

7.8 Missionary effect: Unable to find information.

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: Unable to find information.

## 8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system: Unable to find information.

8.2 Sororate, levirate: The Maco do practice sororate, but little additional information was given (6).

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

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

There are only about 30 actual words documented for the Maco language (2). The Maco language seems to be very intertwined with the Piaroa language. The two traditions seem to share many words and have similar cultural practices. It was very hard to find information on just the Maco Indians; it was often in a short passage within a larger article about the Piaroa.

## Numbered references

1. Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2013. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Seventeenth edition*. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.
2. Hammarström, Harald. "A Note on the Maco [wpc] (Piaroan) Language of the Lower Ventuari, Venezuela." *Cadernos de Etnolingüística*. 3.1 (2011). <<http://www.etnolingüística.org/issue:vol3n1>>.
3. "The Piaroa Indians." *Indian Cultures*. <<http://www.indian-cultures.com/cultures/piaroa-indians/>>.
4. "Encyclopedia of Selected Peaceful Societies." *Peaceful Societies: Alternatives to Violence and War*. <<http://www.peacefulsocieties.org/Society/Piaroa-Maco.html>>.
5. "Piaroa-Maco History and Cultural Relations." *Countries and Their Cultures*. <<http://www.everyculture.com/South-America/Piaroa-History-and-Cultural-Relations.html>>.
6. Kaplan, Joanna Overing. "Cognation, Endogamy, and Teknonymy: The Piaroa Example." *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology*. 28.3 (1972): 282-297.
7. Overing, Joanna. "Death and the Loss of Civilized Predation among the Piaroa of the Orinoco Basin." *L'Homme*. 33.126 (1993): 191-211.