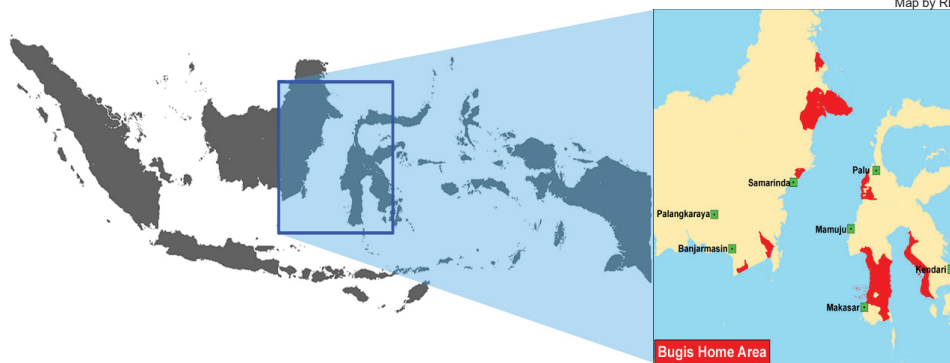


BUGIS



Karl Müller



Map by RD

Demography	Bugis Language	Status
Location: South Sulawesi Population: 5.500.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: Yes Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: Yes	Believers : 300 Engaged: Yes Indigenous Church: 10

Identity and Location

The Bugis (sometimes called the Ugi) live in the province of South Sulawesi. The Bugis region is called Tellumponcoe and it consists of the regencies of Bone, Soppeng and Wajo (known by the acronym "Bosowa"). Some Bugis also live in the regencies of Luwu, Sidenneng, Polam, Pinrang, Parepare, Barru, Pangkajene, Maros, Bulukumba and Sinjai.

The Bugis are dynamic, highly mobile people, considered to be the dominant people group in South Sulawesi. Many Bugis have left their home area to seek success and wealth and have moved to Sumbawa, Java, Papua and even to Malaysia and Singapore. However, wherever they go they have a tendency to live together and make small Bugis communities. Their Ugi language has several dialects: Luwu, Wajo, Bira Selayar, Palaka, Sindenreng and Sawito.

Society and Culture

Most Bugis make their living by hunting, fishing, farming, raising livestock, or making handicrafts. Typically, the Bugis who live in the mountain ranges make their livelihood by working the soil, while those living along the coastal regions work as fishermen. By and large, the Bentong live as farmers and fishermen.

Two of the most important cultural values for the Bugis are siri (personal honor) and siri-pesse (communal honor)

The Bugis traditional dress is called Wajo Ponco, which is believed to have originated from Malay clothing. Nowadays this type of clothing is used only for traditional ceremonies and dances.

The Bugis believe very strongly that certain days are special, with good fortune for events and activities held on the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month.

Conversely, they consider Saturday to be a bad day, more likely to bring misfortune.

Bugis society has several social classes based on one's ancestors. These different levels include descendants of a king, nobles (La Patau), district administrators (Aru Lili) and various kinds of slaves. Two of the most important cultural values for the Bugis are called siri (personal honor) and siri-pesse (communal honor).

A Bugis person must defend, maintain and build one's own siri. The effort to obtain and maintain siri varies according to the context. For example, in an economic context, siri means working hard and being faithful. If one's siri is offended, serious forms of revenge will be considered. Islam reinforced the traditional Bugis concept of siri. Nowadays Bugis people identify themselves as Bugis Muslims. The Bugis line of descent is bilateral (traced through both parents). After marriage, the newlyweds may choose to live near either the husband's or the wife's family, although only for a short time.

Beliefs

Almost all Bugis are Muslim. The Bugis are well known for their fervent adherence to Sunni Islam. However, many of them are still bound to their traditional system of animistic beliefs (panngaderreng). Traditional culture has a significant impact on the Bugis due to its religious values.

Needs

At present, the Bugis need financial investment and modernization in public shipping and the fishing industry. There is great potential in these sectors because the Bugis are known historically as a seafaring people famous for their sailing ability.

