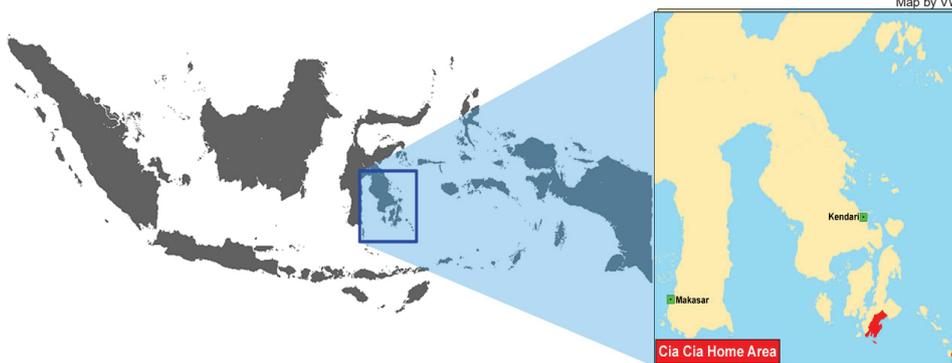


CIA CIA



Photo by CT



Demography	Cia Cia Language	Status
Location: Southeast Sulawesi	Bible: No	Believers: 13
Population: 87,000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

The Cia-Cia people are found throughout the southern part of Buton Island, generally in the more rural areas. These people also inhabit the remote island of Batu Atas (south of Buton) as well as the eastern half of the island of Binongko in the Wakatobi island chain. These last two areas attracted many Cia-Cia people because of the larger fish harvests, which are their primary source of income.

Traditional law and customs of the Cia-Cia control much of life and are a source of pride for them. The Cia-Cia can be found inland and in coastal communities. Back in the 1970's, the government forced most of the villages to move to the coast so they could better provide for themselves, but a few remained inland. The few remaining mountain communities have stronger traditional laws and beliefs. There are several communities on the east side of central Buton that have a language similar to that of the southern Muna dialect, but they have a closer cultural connection to the Cia-Cia.

The land they live on is still undeveloped. A large portion of it has been set aside as a national forest because of the large number of rare species of animals that live there.

The Cia-Cia language is part of a larger linguistic grouping under the Buton subfamily which includes the Kumbewaha and Lasalimu languages.

Society and Culture

The Cia-Cia make their living as farmers or fishermen, depending on where their village is located. Those close to the sea not only fish, but are also seaweed farmers. Those living inland grow cashews, corn, cassava, cacao, and coffee. Some of the inland villages have no running water and no water source other than collected rain water. Buton Island has the largest deposit of natural asphalt in Southeast Asia. There are currently a couple of asphalt mines operating that provide some jobs. In

general the Cia-Cia are very wary of people coming and taking their land without providing benefits or obtaining their approval first.

They believe that evil spirits cause illnesses, while helpful spirits give guidance

The Cia-Cia have always had a close relationship with the Wolio and members of these groups often dwell in close proximity to one another, especially around the outskirts of the city of Bau Bau. The port city of Pasar Wajo on the southeastern side of Buton is the current seat of the district of Buton and is the largest city among the Cia-Cia.

Beliefs

Almost all Cia-Cia people have identified with Sufi Islam, but the Hindu and animistic traditions of their past still have significant influence in their lives. According to their teachings, they practice meditation in order to receive visions from the spirits, or to find hidden truths far beyond their own reasoning.

Dreams are seen as clear direction from God about how they should conduct themselves in life. In some villages, food and flowers are still offered at the graves of ancestors in order to obtain blessings for the approaching harvest. The Cia-Cia also believe that evil spirits cause illnesses, while helpful spirits give guidance.

Needs

The Cia-Cia people are highly mobile and they have spread into other areas. However, they need training and assistance to better manage their natural resources. They need formal education as well as practical training in order to take advantage of employment opportunities. (RD & E-DM)

