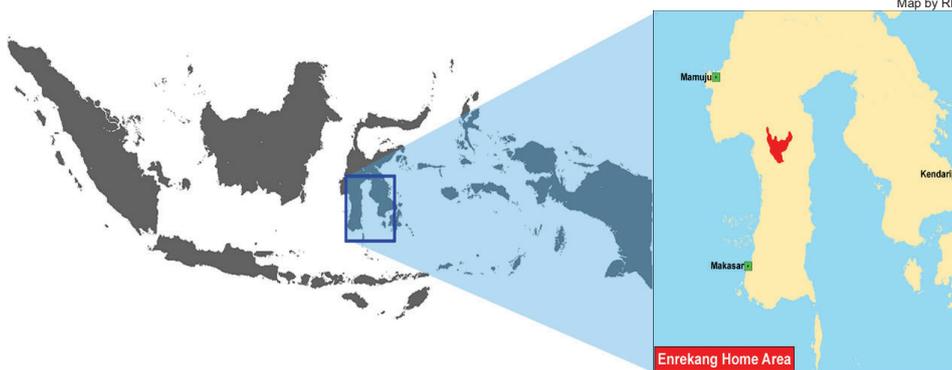


ENREKANG



Photo by RD



Demography	Enrekang Language	Status
Location: South Sulawesi	Bible: No	Believers: 0
Population: 77.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Enrekang are sometimes known as the Endekan or the East Endekan people. They live in the foothills around the regencies of Enrekang and Pinrang in the province of South Sulawesi.

Sulawesi is a large mountainous island some say is shaped like an orchid and others say is more like a crab. It contains has about 5000 kilometers of coastline surrounding its four large peninsulas, two stretching to the south and two to the east, all separated by long bays.

The Enrekang are part of the larger Masenrempulu linguistic grouping which also includes the Duri, Maiwa, and Malimpung. The culture of the Enrekang has been influenced by its more populous and more powerful neighbors, the Toraja and Bugis people. The languages of Toraja and Bugis have also influenced the Enrekang language so there are many similarities between them.

Society and Culture

The primary means of livelihood for the Enrekang people is farming. Their main crops are rice, fruits, palm sugar. Rice is their staple food. They also raise domesticated livestock such as water buffalo, goats and chickens to meet their needs. Small scale farmers work the land using a share-cropping system.

The burial ceremony has the purpose of freeing the spirit of the deceased and giving the spirit power to move to the next world

Many Enrekang marriages are still arranged by the parents and family elders. For several years after their marriage, a new couple lives with the wife's family. After they are established, the new family will move to live in their own house.

The traditional Enrekang house is raised on stilts three

meters high. This provides protection from wild animal attacks. Both the walls and floors of the house are made from wooden planks. The enclosure below the house is normally used as a stall for livestock or as a storehouse.

Beliefs

Most Enrekang are Muslims. They believe they will be judged according to their knowledge of the Qur'an (Islamic Holy Book) and the sum of their good deeds. The laws of traditional culture are still used and have been combined with Islamic law.

Despite their professed loyalty to Islam, many Enrekang are still influenced by traditional animistic beliefs and superstitions. These beliefs are focused on the quest for protection through magic, by either appeasing or controlling good and bad spirits.

Their burial ceremony has the purpose of freeing the spirit of the deceased and giving the spirit power to move to the next world. This ceremony is performed inside caves in the mountain slopes. Those accompanying the body must climb tall, steep mountainsides.

Needs

Several of the farmers in South Sulawesi do not have sufficient farmland. They work the land of rich landowners, who then take a large percentage of the crop.

Farming in the Enrekang area is considered to be less than promising and as a result many Enrekang people leave the area to work as laborers in the cities and towns throughout Sulawesi and other parts of Indonesia. A greater range of jobs would help alleviate unemployment problems.

