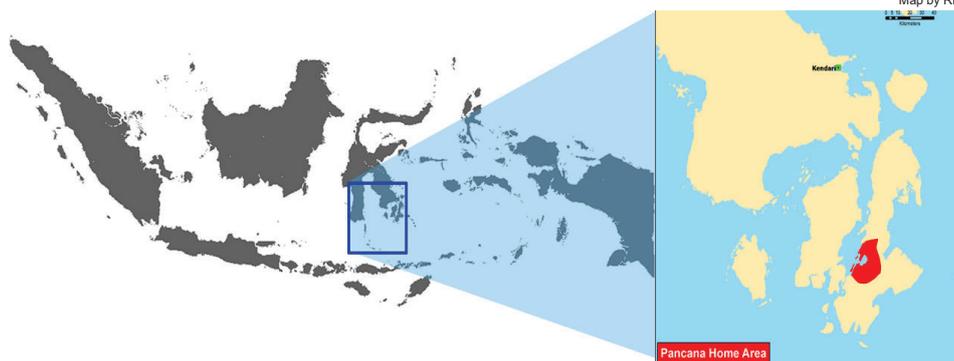


PANCANA



Photo by Kai Müller



Demography	Pancana Language	Status
Location: Southeast Sulawesi Population: 7,000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: 0 Engaged: No Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

The Pancana people, also known as the Kapontori, live on the south side of the Mekongga mountains in the province of Southeast Sulawesi.

Analysis of their language shows a close relationship between them and the Pancana, Cia-Cia and Muna peoples. Pancana culture shows apparent influence from their neighbors: the Muna, Bingkokan, and Moronene.

The Pancana language has three dialects: Kapontori (Akido), Kalende (Lawele) and Labuandiri. The names of the dialects are also the names of the areas where these subgroups live. The Pancana language is part of the West Muna language group, which also includes Kioko, Muna and Liabuku.

Society and Culture

The main livelihood of the Pancana people is farming, with corn being their main crop. In addition to corn they also grow sweet potatoes, sugar cane, vegetables, tobacco, and coffee. The Pancana work on transient cultivation because they cannot maintain the fertility of the land where they cultivate due to inappropriate farming methods. New farmland is opened by the slash and burn method, common to many people groups throughout Indonesia.

Their homes are scattered on land that has been prepared for agriculture. Their houses are built on stilts as high as 1.5 to 2 meters with a high roof made of leaves.

Like most groups in Sulawesi, the Pancana recognize different levels of social class: nobles, middle class, and commoners. Typically, each class has its own customs. The privilege of owning land is decided by the village advisory council, which has unconditional authority over the whole land.

The lineage of the Pancana is patrilineal (from the father's side). In Pancana marriages, the groom pays a bride price. This price is determined by the social status of the bridegroom: the higher his status, the higher the price.

Before the wedding, the prospective husband must undergo a probation period by the wife's family. This requirement is the main cause of many elopements.

In the past, slaves were not allowed to marry, but were allowed to live together. Women of the noble class were not allowed to marry men from lower classes. Polygamy used to be common among the nobles, but nowadays it is rarely practiced.

The improvement of education and health facilities is still a key need for the Pancana people.

Beliefs

Almost all Pancana people embrace Sunni Islam, however traditional beliefs and animism play an important role in their lives. They often use shamans for various things such as curing diseases, cursing enemies and asking for luck.

Need more research