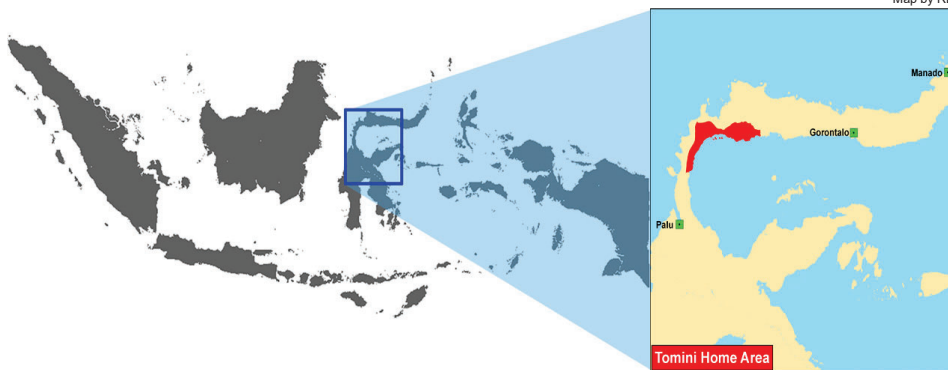


TOMINI



Demography	Tomini Language	Status
Location: Central Sulawesi	Bible: No	Believers: 0
Population: 30.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: No
Major religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous church: 0

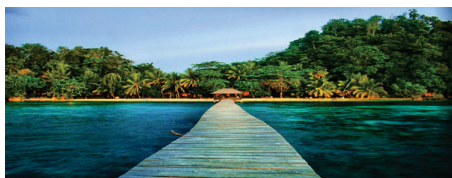
Identity and Location

The Tomini live in the districts of Tomini, Tinombo and Moutong in the Donggala Regency of Central Sulawesi Province. According to their own history, the Tomini are the original inhabitants of this area. These three contiguous districts stretch from the northeast to the south and form a half circle facing the Tomini Bay. The coastal area is made up of plains, specifically in the northern part of Moutong District. The plains grow narrower to the south, and the interior areas are hilly and mountainous. The valleys in the interior have fertile, irrigated rice farms and the land is well cultivated. Other original inhabitants of this area are the Dampelas, the Balaesang and the Pikoro. The Tomini have their own language (Tomini) but several trade dialects have emerged because of their interactions with their neighbors. The Tomini language is part of a larger linguistic group called the Northern Tomini subgroup which also includes the Lauje and Dondo.

Society and Culture

Tomini villages consist of small wooden houses built on stilts. Those living in the coastal areas are farmers of cloves and copra (dried coconut meat). Many of these also supplement their income through trading, forestry or fishing. In the mountains, Tomini people cultivate rice and corn. They also gather rattan to be sold on the coast.

Their marriage customs follow Islamic guidelines. An intermediary talks with the parents of the bride-to-be and makes arrangements according to the status of the girl. Marriage is allowed between first cousins, and polygamy, although allowed, rarely occurs. After



The beauty of Tomini Bay



marriage, the couple usually stays with one of their families until their first child is born. Tomini marriage ceremonies have elements of traditional culture as well as Islam. A local matchmaker will represent the bride and groom-to-be to their parents, and arrangements will be made according to the social status of the bride. It's not unusual for marriage to take place between first cousins. Newly married couples may choose to stay with either set of parents until they have their own children. Polygamy is legal, but rare.

Tomini history is divided into five eras. These areas are the traditional era, the Islamic entrance era, the Dutch colonization, the Japanese colonization during World War II, and Independence which Indonesia achieved in 1945. In the past, Tomini was a sultanate. The sultan and his aides were chosen through ancestral lines. During those times, there were four classes of people: royalty, nobility, commoners and slaves.

Beliefs

The Tomini people are faithful Muslims, but they are not fanatical about their faith. Many still hold to their ancient religion of animism. They believe spirits indwell certain inanimate objects and places, and many Tomini mix worship of their ancestors and nature with Islam.

Needs

Tomini Bay is very famous for its natural beauty - both above and in the sea. It is also famous for high carbon dioxide absorption due to large coral reefs, mangrove forests and vast ocean waters. These hold great tourism potential that could be developed by the Tomini community. ^(E-RD)