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Location: A total of more than 35,000 Southeastern Luoluopo live in southern Yunnan Province of China. The majority, more than 20,000, live in Maguan County. Some live in Funing and Xichou counties (5,000 each). An additional 4,000 live in Malipo County and 1,600 in Honghe County.¹ The Southeastern Luoluopo also spill across the border into northern Vietnam where approximately 3,200 are recognized as the official *Lolo* minority group.

Identity: Although they have received status as a separate ethnic group in Vietnam, the Southeastern Luoluopo have not been so fortunate in China where they are considered to be just one subgroup of the massive Yi nationality. The self-name of this group is *Luoluopo*. *Southeastern* has

been added to distinguish this group from the other Luoluopo groups in China who speak completely different languages, even though they share the same autonomy.

Language: As their name suggests, this group speaks a language belonging to the Southeastern group of Yi languages. Yi, in turn, is just one of the branches of the Tibeto-Burman language family.

History: According to Vietnamese sources, the Luoluopo migrated to Vietnam in two different waves: one in the fifteenth century and the other in the eighteenth century. This suggests that the Luoluopo have been living in southern China for more than 500 years. In recent years, many of the Southeastern

Luoluopo in China who live near the townships or in the valleys have started mixed communities with the Han Chinese and are rapidly losing their language and culture.

Customs: When a Luoluopo dies, his or her relatives organize a “dance of the spirits.” They believe this dance will help the soul find its way back to the resting place of its ancestors. At the dance the son-in-law of the deceased carries a bag on his shoulder. Inside the bag is a cloth ball which represents the head of the deceased person.

Religion: The Luoluopo are a very superstitious people. Even their homes are arranged to reflect this. The altar to the “spirit of the house” stands against the back wall. A room on the right side contains a bedroom with a fireplace and the room on the left side contains the kitchen and the ancestral altar. The oldest surviving member of each family is expected to maintain the altar and to faithfully execute all the ancestral ceremonies and rituals. In addition to their intricate system of ancestor worship, the Lolo believe in two gods who created the world, *Mit Do* and *Ket Do*. *Ket Do* created the entire universe and mankind, while *Mit Do* governs the earth and watches over the Luoluopo.

Christianity: The Southeastern Luoluopo are one of the most neglected and gospel-starved peoples in the region. There are no known believers in their midst in either China or Vietnam today. No Scriptures or evangelistic

tools exist in their language and no ministries are known to be targeting them for salvation.



Population in China:
 35,800 (1999)
 36,700 (2000)
 46,050 (2010)
Location: Yunnan
Religion: Polytheism
Christians: None Known

Overview of the Southeastern Luoluopo

Countries: China, Vietnam
Pronunciation: “Luoh-luoh-po”
Other Names: Lolo, Hanluo, Hualuo, Bailuo, Heiluo
Population Source: 35,800 (1999 J. Pelkey); Out of a total Yi population of 6,572,173 (1990 census); 3,134 in Vietnam (1989 census)
Location: S *Yunnan*: Maguan (20,000), Funing (5,200), Xichou (5,000), Malipo (4,000), and Honghe (1,600) counties
Status: Officially included under Yi
Language: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmese-Lolo, Lolo, Northern Lolo, Yi, Southeastern Yi
Dialects (4): Han Lolo, Hua Lolo, Bai Lolo, Hei Lolo
Religion: Polytheism, Animism, Ancestor Worship
Christians: None known
Scripture: None
Jesus film: None
Gospel Recordings: None
Christian Broadcasting: None
ROPAL code: None

