

The Dampelas of Indonesia



The Dampelasa people live in the district of Damsol (Dampelasa Sojo), in Buol Regency, Central Sulawesi Province. Their area on the northwestern peninsula of Sulawesi is bounded by the straits of Makassar to the west, Tomini District to the east, and Dampal Selatan District to the south.

The Dampelasa make their living primarily as hunters, farmers and craftsmen. As a result of their farming methods, they frequently are forced to move as they do not use methods that will keep the soil fertile. When the land begins to produce a poor crop they move to look for a more fertile area.

For the most part, the land available is mountainous and is used for agricultural purposes. However, in the interior areas, the forest is still primarily in its natural state. The jungle is noted for its harvest of rattan, lumber and resin. The major commodities of the area exported to other islands are copra, cloves, rattan, and resin. Traditional handicrafts include woven silk and crafts made from cloves exclusive to Toli-Toli.

The majority of the Dampelasa people are Muslims. However, some of the Dampelasa still hold to traditional animistic beliefs, such as belief in powerful spirits and sacred places. These sacred places are believed to give protection to people. They also function as places where it is possible to ask for special blessings in accordance with following certain customs. The Dampelasa use weapons or amulets with supernatural powers to thwart enemy attacks. People who use these weapons are said to become "tough skinned" so as to be invulnerable to knives and other weapons.

At this time they need medical help as the standard of healthcare in their area is poor. They also need technical assistance and training to increase the yield of their harvests. This in turn will increase their standard of living, which remains relatively low.

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Primary Religion:

Islam

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0.0004%

Churches:

0

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Population (date):



DAMPELASA



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Item Name

Item Note

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0.0004%
Number Of Churches	0

Profile Summary

Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name	Indonesia
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Group Description

Society & Culture

History Of People Group

The word Dampelasa originates from the words dampe and las. The word dampe means "seed" or "ancestry". The word las is used as an abbreviation of the word Ihlas, which was the name of the first king that ruled in this area. Therefore, "Dampelasa" means those who are descended from the line of King Ihlas. Before the Dutch entered, this area was a small kingdom under the rule of King Banawa.

The Dampelasa people believe that their forefathers were Tomanoru. These beings from heaven could incarnate themselves in certain plants and one of these incarnated plants became a man.

Group Description

Religion & Response

Religious Practices & Ceremonies

One of the Dampelasa traditions is the mogupa ceremony. This ceremony is a blend of cultural (adat) and Islamic elements. It is performed as a means of honoring those who have died. Moguto buwiyen is a ceremony to exorcise epidemics or serious illness. Other life cycle ceremonies include the monilam (circumcision) and malead (the teenagers teeth are filed as a sign of coming of age).

Status of Christianity