



TONGWE
TRUST



REPORT OF ON GOING ON BENDE/TONGWE CULTURAL VALUES INFORMATION COLLECTION

INTRODUCTION

Based on our previously report reported on June 2014, cultural value Assistant (Mr.Kudra Jumanne) and Said Katensi continuing a work of finding more details about the Tongwe/Bende culture. The information contained in this report was generated from informal interviews of Bende/Tongwe elders. The information collected summarized as follows:

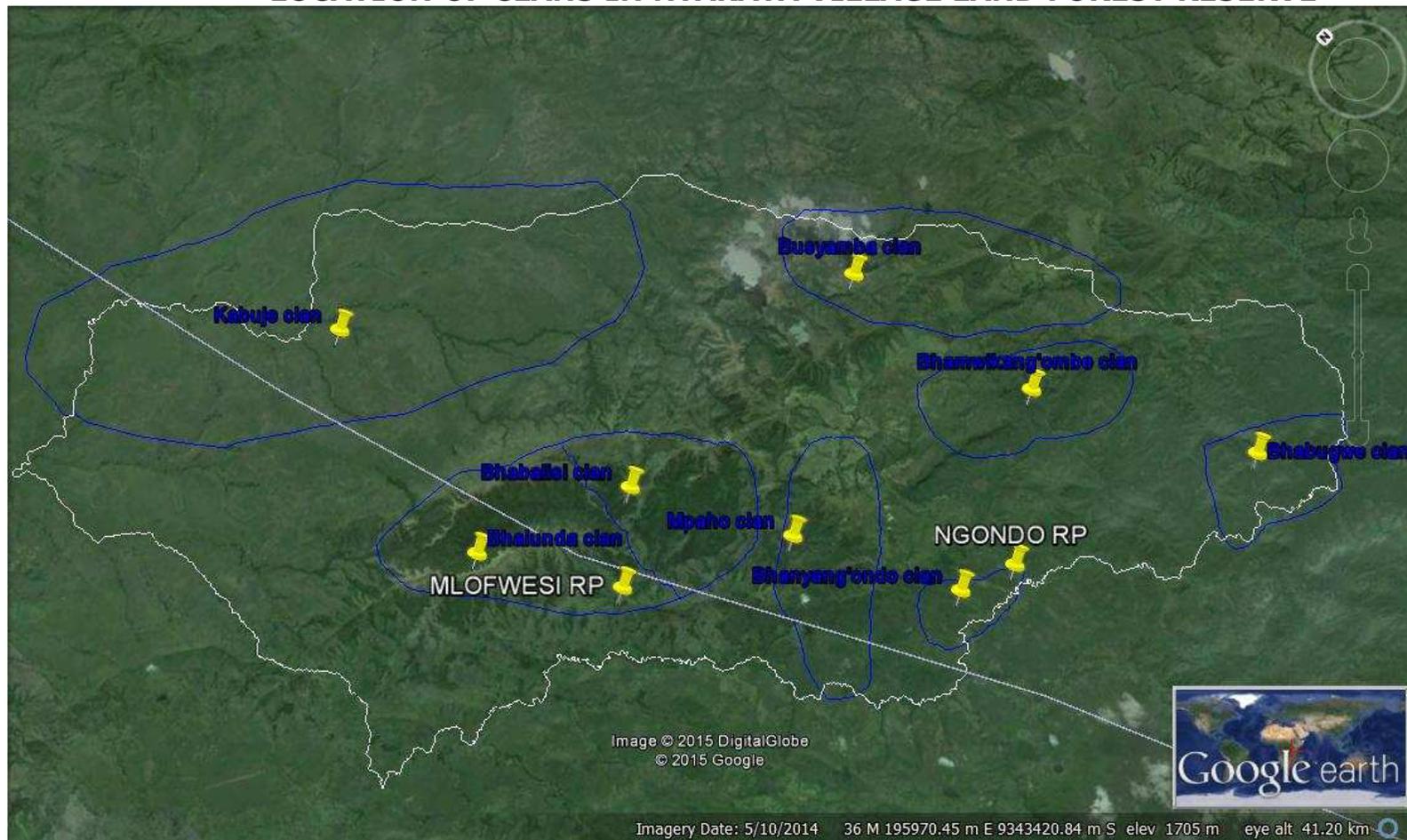
Tongwe/Bende clans & lifestyle

Tongwe/bende people live in a small group (clan), the size of clan range from 5-30people, live in extended family. The clan live in certain territory called "Sihugo" every Sihugo headed by Chief and Mtwale (Secretary of the Chief). Chief and its people plan the uses of their land like area for Agriculture, fishing, hunting, burial places and for worship. No any body is allowed to inter into burial or worship place without the permission of the chief. The main work of the chief is to rule its people and to pray for clan's God.

There is almost 40clans among tongwe/bende people, but only 36clans already identified which are: Kabuje, Kalinda, Kasala, Lubhende, Luhinda, Ikunda, Mukwala, Mulengo, Mulonga, mpaho, Bhalunda, Mukasa, Ndubhula, Nkolongo, Ntambi, Mujonga, Mutahia, Mughansa, Ngela, Mpasa-Nkungwe clan, Bhasoba, Bhanyang'ondo, Bhamwikang'ombe, Bhabugwe, Bhusyamba, Bhanamsyolwa, Bhanyamsomoko, Bhanakafwamagulu, Bhanamanenge, Bhanyamuhama, bhabalisi, Bhanakansase, Bhanakasisiko, Bhafinsa, and bhakemsolihama.

Among these; six clans belong to Ntakata Forest which are: Bhalunda, Bhabugwe, Bhamwikang'ombe, Mpaho, Kabuje, Bhanyang'ondo, Bhabalisi and Bhusyamba clans. No any clan is living in Ntakata Forest but are still connected to Ntakata Forest area for Worship, Chief burial place, and medicine. Ntakata & mfunkwe river still believed to most of the clans that their water when the chief bless it can heal different diseases. We have already started conversation with the elders of the clans found in Ntakata forest so as they can be part of our conservation partners and they can continue preserving their cultures, they happy to be part and agreed. They have already started communicating with us when they need to inter into the forest for worships.

LOCATION OF CLANS IN NTAKATA VILLAGE LAND FOREST RESERVE



Tongwe Gods (Spirits)

The main spirits respected by Tongwe and Bende people are Nkungwe, Mlangwa, Katabi, Lubaju, Ntakata, Wakuleba, and Mwikang'ombe. Bende/Tongwe people believe that Katabi and Lubaju are nephews of Nkungwe. Ntakata, wakuleba and Mwikang'ombe are spirits found in Ntakata Village Land Forest Reserve.

Chief funeral

When the chief dies, the Mtwale and elders of that clan lead a funeral in a secret way, no any members of that clan is allowed to participate in funeral apart of the elders and Mtwala, if he/she do so will die.

Funeral process:

-When the chief dies they cut a head, and put up smoke of the fire it will remain their till remain skull, at all this time of almost two months the elders and mtwale will be at chief place, eating, dancing and worshipping, and discussing who will lead the clan.

-When the skull is ready they put it into a pot of honey, and they carry it into a forest like Ntakata Forest for burial, normally they burry into the cave. No member of that clan is allowed to visit this site, or to destroy the forest of this site, if she or he do so will die.

-When his wife also die, she cut the right hand and take it to her husband place.

Elephant & Lion

Tongwe people they don't eat elephant or Lion, but hunted them to get some parts for medicines power and ruling power. And when some one kill a elephant or lion called "Mujege" a hero, the member of that clan make a big ceremony to congratulate him.

Chimpanzee

No one is allowed to hunt or eat chimps, if he do so he will be punished to death, chimps are ancestral of Tongwe People who is living in the forest.

Tongwe and Forest Conservation

-No member of the clan is allowed to cut a burial forest, worship forest and big forest for any purpose, because is believed is a home of their spirits and ancestral chimps.

Bride price

A gun (Gobole) used by Tongwe people as a bride price.

Traditional dances

Tongwe has the following traditional dances: Bukota, Mutibo (wedding ceremony), Bujege (hunting ceremony), Mahasa (twin ceremony), Buhufumo (medicinal ceremony). All this dances they use forest resources for materials and medicines.

Handcrafts & Iron smith

Tongwe people are good in handcrafts and iron smith.

Tongwe Museum

Not yet completed still in process.

FILMS: Kudra & Jimmy are going on, on documenting information and preparation of tongwe cultural values films.

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Tongwe Trust

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