Case 6-Afr-DR Congo-Pende-Female Statue-Wood and Raffa-19th c

*Note: The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) has been known as, in chronological order, the Congo Free State, Belgian Congo, the Republic of Congo-Léopoldville, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Zaire, before returning to its current name the DR Congo.*

*Note: The Kongo people (singular: Mukongo, pl. Bakongo) speak Kikongo, a Bantu language, who have lived along the Atlantic coast of Central Africa, in a region that, by the 15th century, was a centralized and well-organized Kongo Kingdom but is now a part of three countries: DR Congo, the Republic of the Congo and Angola.*



Figs. 1-4. Afr-DR Congo-Pende-Female Statue-Wood and Raffa-19th c

Case no.: AFRICAN MASKS

Accession Number:

Formal Label: Afr-DR Congo-Pende-Female Statue-Wood and Raffa-19th c

**Display Description:**

This Pende wooden statue of a female from DR Congo, western Kasai region, Tsbikapa zone, Kitangwa

Community, is dressed in a raffia skirt, wears a raffia necklace and a floral-shaped earring for the left ear. Her lower face is covered with kaolin, used as protection from the sun and as a sign of being pregnant. Her umbilical cord is everted and her beasts are small, which indicates that she is not lactating. However, her lower abdomen appears inflated as though she is pregnant.

The Pende, who are comprised of both eastern and western groups, govern themselves along extended family lineages rather than through chiefly authority. Before 1620 when the Kingdom of Lunda forced both groups to emigrate north, the Pende inhabited a strip between the Atlantic Ocean and the Cuanza River, in what is now Angola. Then, in 1885, the Chokwe put pressure on the eastern Pende to emigrate, but the creation of the Congo Free State under European colonials ended this forced removal.

**LC Classification: N1099.C6**

Date or Time Horizon:

Geographical Area:

**Map:**

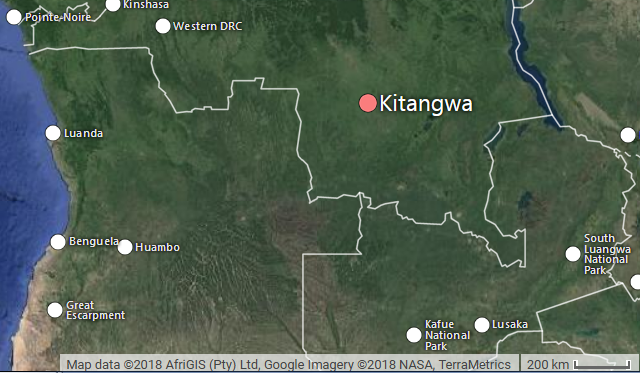


Fig. Map of Pende removal from between the Cuanza River and the Atlantic Ocean to modern DR Kongo after a base map <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6c/Cuanza.jpg>

Fig. Google map of DR Congo showing location of Kitangwa.





Fig. 1. Map of Kongo Cultures, West Central Africa. After Walker Art Center 1967. 9 is Pende.

**GPS coordinates:** 7° 46' 19.3" (7.772°) S, 24° 17' 44.9" (24.2958°) E

Cultural Affiliation: Pende, Central Bantu

Media: wood, raffia, kaolin, ferruginous earth

Dimensions: H 20.866 in

Weight: 2.52 pounds

Condition: original

Provenance: Kitangwa

**Discussion:**

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