

Weyto

Alternate spellings of Weyto:
Wayto, Waito, Whotio, Weyt'o,
Woyto, Weyito
Population: 2,250
Language: Amharic; formerly
Weyto which became extinct in
the 19th century
Location: Only in Ethiopia in
North central, Amhara region on
the shore of Lake Tana;
settlements are near the city of
Bahir Dar; Addis Ababa
Religion: Islam
% Christian: 4.4% (55%
Protestant, 45% Orthodox)
% Evangelical: 1.2%
Christian resources
available: Many Bible, Audio
Bible; Jesus Film

The Weyto may have originally come from Sudan and Egypt.

The Weyto were hippopotamus hunters until the 1950's. Due to diminishing number of hippopotamus, they were forced to change their way of life. Now they mostly fish; some also sell and mend baskets. They make handmade lightweight boats of papyrus reeds, known as "tankwas," which only last two or three months. Other groups use more modern boats.

The Weyto do not own land, so they live in extremely precarious conditions. They build their thatched roofed round huts wherever the government allows them to, knowing they may be asked to move at any time. They live in a region dominated by Amhara.

The Weyto have been considered as outcasts by neighboring groups because they eat food that is taboo for the Amhara people. They are considered dirty and non-Weyto would not share food with them or invite them into their houses. They have been linked with two other outcaste groups of Ethiopia that have similar names and are also hunters, the Watta or Manjo of the Gie region and the Watta who live amongst the Borana people.

In the 2007 census, Weyto was not an ethnic choice. This may be due to the government giving them a different name, Nagade, which means "the tribe" in Amharic.

Though they claim to be Muslims, they are not recognized as true Muslims by others, but considered pagans, because some still believe in spirits.



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Prayer Points

- Pray for the Ethiopian churches in the diaspora and in Ethiopia to mobilize their people and resources to reach the Weyto for Christ.
- Ask God to send Amharic believers to help them see God's love.
- Pray for God to send intercessors and laborers for the Weyto.
- Ask God to open the hearts of the Weyto to hear and receive the gospel.
- Pray that the Christian resources will draw them to Christ.
- Ask God for a disciple making movement among the Weyto.

You can watch a short video of a Weyto village at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



Information from The Joshua Project at www.joshuaproject.net; http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/fulltext/Darmon/Darmon_2010_Weyto.pdf; <http://thirdeyemom.com/2014/07/21/lake-tana-battle-of-the-hippos-and-papyrus-boats/>

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching?
And how are they to preach unless they are sent?
As it is written 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'"
Romans 10: 14 - 15



For information on adopting the Weyto

www.hornofafrica.org

www.engagers.org



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