



# Atauro's musical endangered heritage

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International Conference TLSA-PT

10 September 2020

PANEL 6 - Atauro peoples' local knowledge and cultural  
policies. Preliminary findings of an interdisciplinary research

**CASE**  
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**PALOC**  
PATRIMOINES LOCAUX, ENVIRONNEMENT  
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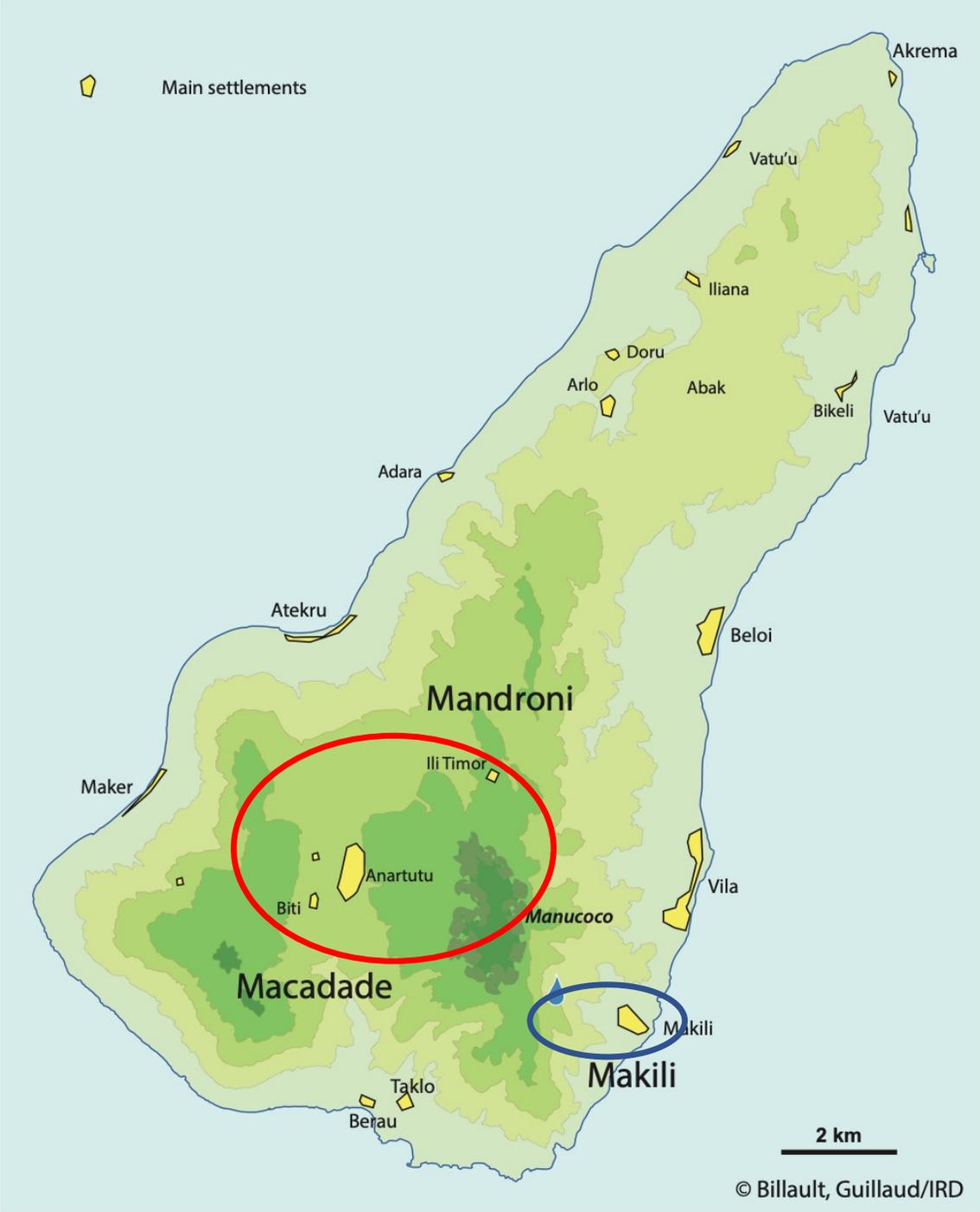




Abilio playing  
the musical bow,  
Abak Tede, 10v.  
2019

# Atauro island

8000 inhabitants



# Atauro's musical heritage: an overview

1. Music and rituals in Makili and Makadadé before 1974
2. Atauro's music in the present
3. Musical forms and styles
4. The endangered music of Atauro



# 1. Music and ritual before 1974

- 1. Singing at the water spring (*souk, sour*)
- 2. Singing for the ancestors (*sosé*)
- 3. Renovating houses (*roi nelu, roi ruma lelait*)
- 4. Funerary singing (*sita, maté hléri*)
- 5. War music (gong, drum, dance) (*tama, hrotu*)



## 2. Music in the present

- **Intimate vocal music**

- **With soft instruments: Musical bow with singing** (*rama*), **Jew's harp** (*aklamu*)
- **Soloist singing for oneself** (*reknoté/redai, rinano*)
- **Small vocal ensembles** (*hleri hru a, hleri...*)

- **Loud collective music in motion**

Responsorial chorus singing (soloists and chorus)

- **Canoe choruses** (pulling down, rowing: *raho, klorun ro, hraeng ro*)
- **Round dances:** *rakkais, hrotu, hleri kaklai, roi nélu, roi hleri*
- **Funeral lamentation:** *sita*

- **Imported music**

- Church choral music
- Organs, violins, guitars
- Popular music





Makadadé, jew's harp (*aklamu*)





On the photo: Aleixo Martins (Tari Sosé)

Makadadé, musical bow (*rama*)

Vocal: Fransisco Suares (Koli Doé)

Musical bow: Cornelio Martens (Ba'ak Kali)



# Intimate music – vocal singing

## Solo singing

*Rekngoté*

*Rédu rédai*

*Rinano*

*Raknote-raknei*

Josefa Soares (Kia Kali),  
singing on the road,  
Anartutu, nov 2019



## Collective singing

Mixed vocal song,  
*Hleri hru-a*  
Makadadé, nov 2019



# Loud collective music in motion





*Klorun ro* « dragging the boat », Makili, nov 2019



# Imported music



Makadadé,  
*grupo Hajoma*,  
nov 2019



### 3. Musical forms and styles



- **Loudness** : wide range
- **Pitch**: scales, tritones
- **Time**: variety of metrics
- **Vocal technique**: yodel, vibrato



Kuli Kuru, Makili, nov 2019

# Vitality of Vocal music

- Dance singing (*rakkais, hrotu, kaklai, roi nélu*)
- Court singing (*hleri tato aklara*)
- Sad songs (*aklamu raur, ...*)
- Canoe dragging singing (*klorun ro*)
- Intimate singing (*reknoté-reknei, redu redai, ...*)
- Songs for the spirits (*hleri klan opun, ...*)
- Various other songs (*hleri « songs »*)



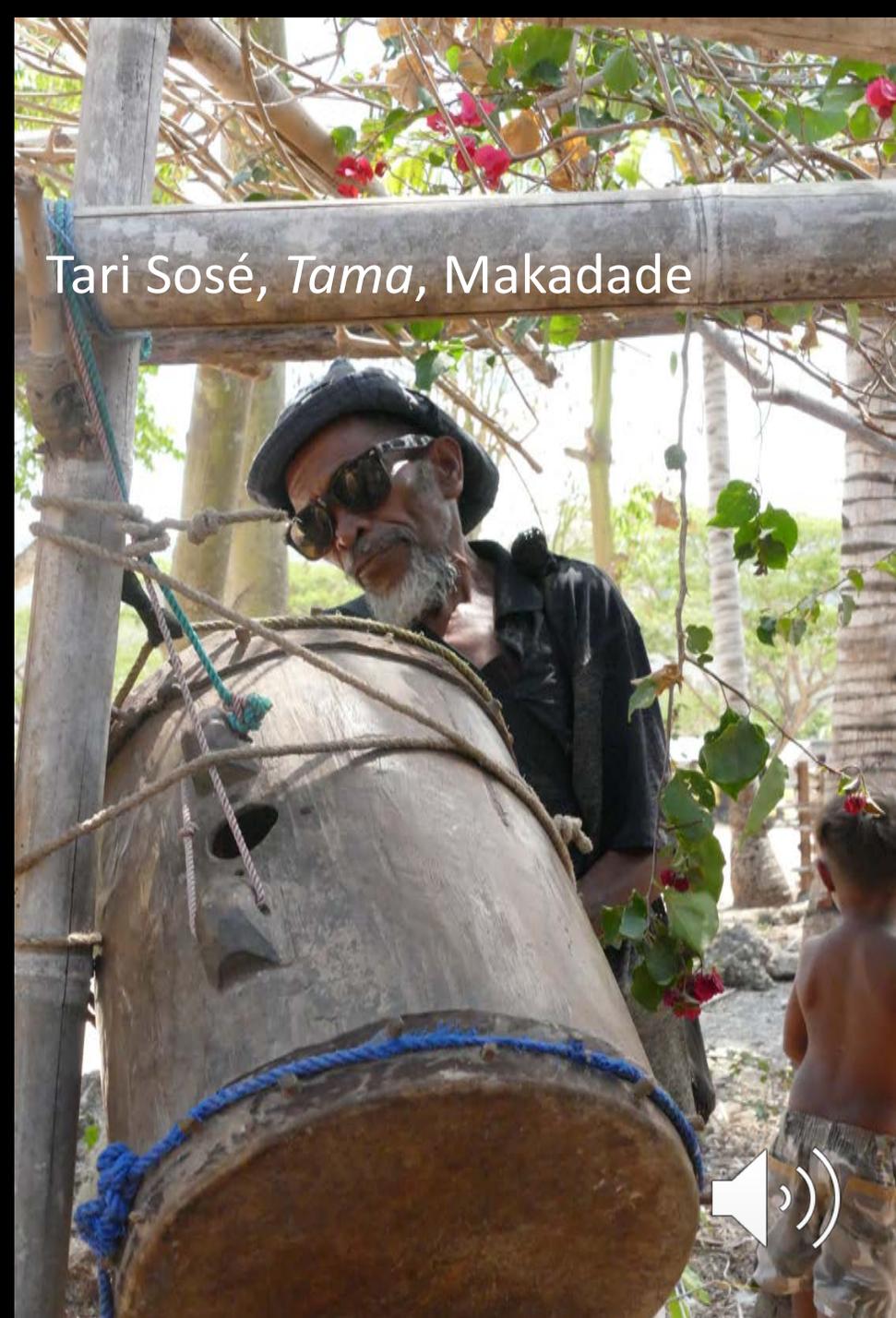
Adriano Mepais singing, Makili, nov 2019



Mepais playing the  
*Tihak* drum, Makili



Tari Sosé, *Tama*, Makadade





Anartutu,  
*diktama* gong  
drum  
ensemble, nov  
2019



## 4. Endangered music heritage

- Water spring songs (*souk, sosé/ tei sour*)
- Rowing songs (*hraeng ro*)
- Boat pulling songs (*raho, tei, klorun ro*)
- Funeral chanting (*sita, maté hléri*)
- Myth of origin
- Gong/drum music (*tama*)

Ba'ak Kali (Cornelo Martins), Ebak Tede, nov 2019



# Conclusion

- To safeguard Atauro's musical heritage online
  - **Sound documentation:** 179 musical items are secured on [https://archives.crem-cnrs.fr/archives/collections/CNRSMH I 2019 039/](https://archives.crem-cnrs.fr/archives/collections/CNRSMH_I_2019_039/)
  - **Video documentation:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLi0n1LHrw5fO5jPIPkqDxg?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLi0n1LHrw5fO5jPIPkqDxg?view_as=subscriber)
- To continue collaborative research with the musicians of Atauro
  - to document, record, film, analyze and transcribe Atauro's music
  - to list the repertoires, to describe the musical techniques
  - to think to a plan of transmission for the future to the next generations

