



Kartidaya 2002

The Sikaritai of Indonesia

The Sikaritai live in Papua, the easternmost province of Indonesia. Their language, also called Sikaritai, is used as a language of wider communication by some of the surrounding language groups. The Sikaritai live in four small villages in the area where the Idenburg and Rouffaer Rivers empty into the Mamberamo River about 250 km west of the city of Jayapura. Much of their area is quite flat and swampy.

The Sikaritai make their living by hunting and gathering food in the forest, as well as planting gardens and fishing in the rivers of the area. For getting their drinking water and for washing, they mainly use the river. The area of the Sikaritai is not serviced by electricity or telephones. Their main mode of transportation is by riverboat along the many rivers that wind through the area, or simply by walking. They build their homes from materials from the forest. Most of the children attend primary school, but there is no further education available in their area. The Sikaritai often intermarry with the neighboring language groups. Polygamy is still quite common among the Sikaritai, with many men having two or three wives.

The majority religion of the Sikaritai is Christianity. The church is established in the area, but there is still a strong influence from traditional religion. There are a few Sikaritai who are training to be pastors or ministers among the people. They currently have no access to the Bible in their language, but a translation team has recently been assigned to work among them.

The Sikaritai are in great need of community development. They have basically no health care and no source of clean water. Their education level and literacy rate among adults is quite low. The church also needs strengthening as the influence of traditional religion is still strong, and polygamy is quite common in the area.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

15%

Churches:

3

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Bible portions (1992)

Population (date):

900 (2002)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	90%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	15%	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	up to 15% Disciples	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	0%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Number Of Missionaries Working	4	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	national missionaries	
Response To The Gospel	Rapid growth, mostly syncretistic. When Joseph Liem of Kartidaya was staying there, they asked him many questions about what the Bible (God) wants them to do in their lives. So, as far as he is concerned, they really want to know God and obey Him.	
Number Of Churches	3	
Comment (Churches)	based on 1:300 churches:population ratio	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Bible portions (1992); these portions have not been checked and are not available to the people; Luke and I John were translated completely, and also some chapters of Corinthians, Ephesians, Philipians, Galatians, James, John (Gospel), Mark, Matthew, Romans, Acts, Hebrews, 2 Thes 3, 2 Pet 3, 1 Tim 3 and some verses of the Old Testament.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Low literacy rate	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	RBMU once showed "The Jesus Film " (in Indonesian) in Sikari village (now called Sikari 1). RBMU Aviation brought the projector to Sikari village. It was about 5 years ago. Only a portion of the people would have been able to understand it. No literature, recordings, or videos are available in the Sikaritai language	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	There is a need for missionaries to facilitate Bible translation, Bible teaching, medical work, and other community development projects.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	900	
World Population (Date)	(2002)	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Indonesia	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Located west of the Mamberamo River, near the place where the Rouffaer and Idenburg Rivers empty into the Mamberamo. Their area is about 15 km wide and 25 km long.	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Plains	
Geological Type	Riverine	
Elevation	100-200 meters	
Longitude	138 degrees 15' E	
Latitude	2 degrees 43' S	
Climate	Rainy and dry seasons, temperature average: 25 C at night time, 30 C at noon time.	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Much of their area is swampy	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Primary Language	Sikaritai	
Comment (Alternate Names)	Aikwakai, Tori Aikwakai, Sikari, Ati, Tori, Araikurioko	
Comments (Dialect)	none	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	>60%	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Comment (Second Language)	Indonesian, up to 20%	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	none	
Comments (Related Languages)	Eritai, Papasena, Kwerisa, Kai, Waritai, Biritai, Obokuitai, Doutai	
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	Eritai, Papasena	
Corrections To Ethnologue Entry	population 900 (2002), the list of villages is now Sikari 1, Sikari 2, Iri, and Haya	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	15%	
Percent Literate For Men	20%	
Percent Literate For Women	5%	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Comment (Literacy)	estimate 15% in Indonesian and 5% literate in Sikaritai; up to 15% (up to 20% for the men, up to 5% for the women)	
Economics		Group Description
Comment (Subsistence Type)	hunter-gatherers, fishers, agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	US \$ 350	
Occupation	hunting, gathering, fishing, agriculture	
Income Sources	selling sago, alligator skins, nuts, pigs, cassowaries	
Products / Crafts	string bags, bow and arrows	
Trade Partners	traders who travel the ocean (people from Java, Makasar, or from Jayapura)	
Modernization / Utilities	outboard motors, chain saw, batteries, transistor radios, flashlights, no electricity	
Comment (Economy)	There is a traditional market in Sikari 1 that runs about one hour three times a week. They sell things such as matches, fish, fruits, nuts, detergent, sago, corn, instant noodles, tooth brushes, and knives.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	None	
Comment (Health Care)	There is a community health center building in Sikari 1, but it is not in use, and there is a lack of medicines	
Diet (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Diet)	They have fish, crocodiles, pigs, and chicken as their sources of protein, but they still lack nutrition	
Water (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Water)	Water comes from the river	
Shelter Description	houses made from wood, roof from sago tree leaves; usually one family per house	
Electricity	none	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	They use firewood	
Clothing	usually wear western clothing that is purchased or given to them from donations	
Transportation	walking, riverboat	
Leading Cause Of Death	probably cancer, TB, malaria	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	polygamy is common; many men have 2 or 3 wives. They sometimes travel to other areas to find wives and exchange their women in marriage.	
Authority / Rule	authority/rule comes from three areas: from the government, from the church, and from the traditional group leaders	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Judicial / Punishment System	no formal system	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Celebrations	Christmas celebration is important	
Recreations	hunting, playing football and volleyball	
Art Forms	string bags	
Media	none	
Local Language Broadcasting	none	
Comment (Culture)	they are very community minded.	
Youth		Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	for boys: look for food such as fishing; for girls: look for food, look for firewood, take care of younger siblings etc.	
Comment (Youth)	lack of teachers is a problem	
Education		Group Description
Primary Schools	1	
Comment (Primary Schools)	The only primary school in the language area is in Sikari I.	
Primary School Enrollment	50	
Comment (Primary School Enrollment)	about 50 students	
Secondary Schools	0	
Secondary School Enrollment	20 males	
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	75% for primary school	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	about 1:20	
Comment (Teacher to Pupil Ratio)	In Sikari I there are two teachers from outside the group paid by the government, and one helper from the language group.	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Indonesian	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Indonesian	
Comment (Education)	There are no secondary schools in the language area; there is a secondary school in the district capital (Dabra). Just a few from the language group attend there. There are a few that attend secondary schools in Jayapura/Sentani (province capital).	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Verified	
Reached Classification	Unreached	
Bible Schools	0	
Comment (Bible Schools)	none in the area	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	0	
Comment (Christian Clinics/Hospitals)	none in the area	
Christian Literacy Centers	0	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Resistance / Receptivity	Rapid growth, mostly syncretistic. When Joseph Liem of Kartidaya was staying there, they asked him many questions about what the Bible (God) wants them to do in their lives. So, as far as he is concerned, they really want to know God and obey Him.	
Recommended Approaches	Bible translation project in close connection with the existing local church	
Current Needs	-Bible in their own language -Community development projects -Strengthening of the local church -Freedom from traditional religion	
Items For Prayer	Pray for people who are in training in the city to be evangelists. Pray for the workers from Kartidaya who are working on translation, literacy, and community development. Pray that they would break free from the bonds of traditional religion.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity

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Item Name	Item Note
Year Began	1970s
By Whom	missionary from Greece
Significant Events	In 1985 the first Sikari person was baptized by a missionary from RBMU. He served among the Sikari people from 1980s to 1990.

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Available Scripture	none
Form Of Scripture Available	None
Comment (Scripture)	The Sikaritai language is one of the languages of wider communication in this area (Mamberamo). One of the Kai church leaders told me that he really wants to use the Sikaritai Bible (whenever it is ready) as the source text to translate it into his language (Kai). The denominational leader (of the Sikaritai) confirmed the idea, and he said that there are other people groups in the Mamberamo area who can use the Sikaritai translation as the source text as well.
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	Yes
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name	GIDI
Main Ministry	Church Planting
Number Of Congregations	3
Number Of Expatriate Workers	0
Number Of National Workers	0