

## The Akurijo of Suriname and Brazil

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The Akurijo were originally a distinct nomadic ethnic group that has been largely assimilated into the Trió culture. In the late 1970s, they could only be found in one Trió village, but today they have settled in at least three Trió villages in Suriname. Occasionally, they can be found in Trió villages in north Brazil with Triós that have traveled there for one reason or another. There are also a couple of Akurijo now living among the Wayanas to the east, and a couple living and working in the capital city of Paramaribo.

Life among the Trió is dramatically changing the Akurijo culture. Ethnic Akurijos have been observed speaking Trió among themselves even in the privacy of their own homes. And they are even beginning to intermarry as a few Akurijo women are known to have married Trió men. Those living among the Wayana were observed speaking the Wayana language. There may be 60 or so Akurijos that still speak Akurijo.

There are churches in most of the Trió villages both in Suriname and in north Brazil. These are Trió churches, but other tribes are represented. Sometimes Wayana, sometimes Aparai, Waiwai, Wapashana, Ketuweina, and others. Usually there is a mix of languages in the services, at least as far as the singing is concerned, and quoting of memorized scriptural portions as part of the service. But none of this is done in Akurijo.

There are a few traveling missionaries who minister to the Trió and therefore the Akurijo. However, there are currently no known resident missionaries working with the Trió, though work is proceeding on the Trió Old Testament.

Some organizations are no longer recruiting cross-cultural missionaries to evangelize the Trió. The churches are established, leadership is in place, and the nationals are doing the ministry, though further encouragement and training may be necessary at their request. The need among the Trió and Wayana churches is continued church leadership training.

**Primary Religion:**

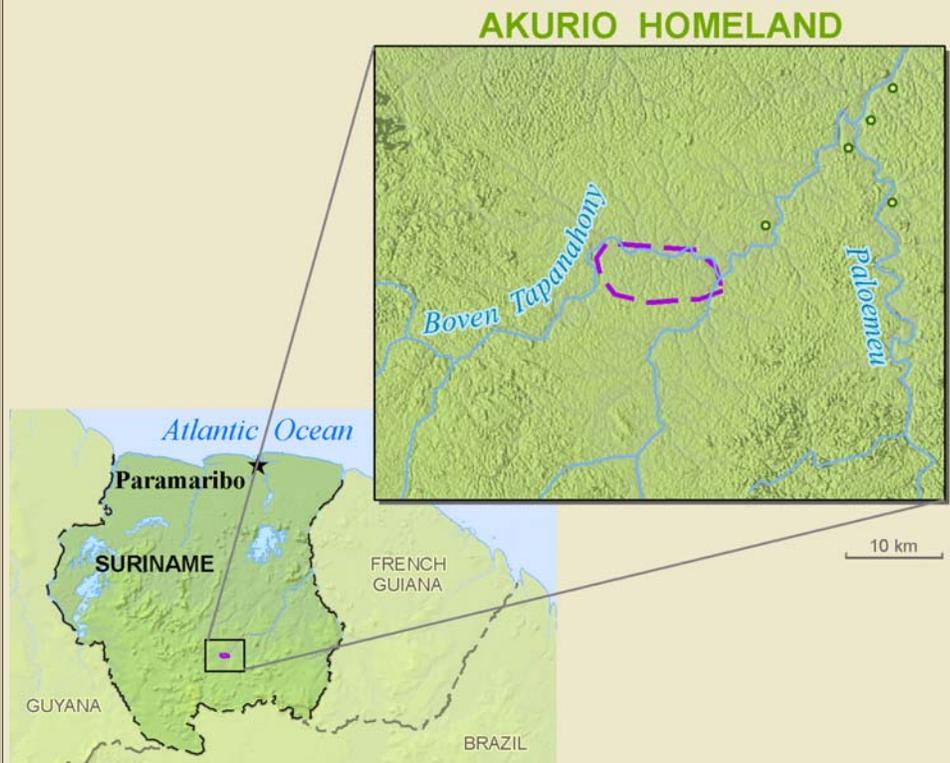
Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

**Churches:**

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

**Population (date):**



# The Akurijo of Suriname and Brazil

## Item Name

## Item Note

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

### Profile Summary

Comment (Churches)

The need among the Trió and Wayana churches is continued church leadership training. There are problems among these churches but the Triós and the Wayanas themselves are dealing with the problems, sometimes with greater success than at other times. Different churches are at different levels of maturity, with different degrees of needs.

### Countries Where People Group Lives

### Group Description

Country Name

Suriname

### Language & Linguistics

### Group Description

Comment (Language)

There was an initial analysis of the Akurijo language done with the desire to prepare primers to help them learn to read and write. But, this was abandoned. The Akurijos themselves seem to show the desire to learn Trió rather than learning to read and write in their own language. There has been no translation done among the Akurijo. All scriptural and spiritual input that they receive is through the Trió language. In many of the villages, the people are multi-lingual, speaking at least Trió and in many cases Wayana.

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Comment (Culture)

In the past, they could be easily distinguished by their short stature (5 feet or less), large eyes, full lips, and by their eyebrows (Wayana & Trió used to pluck all facial hairs off their faces and skin, but not anymore as they have come in contact with the city, and they do not want to look different). Akurijo men also had a distinguishing type of mustache. Today, they can still be distinguished from Trió by their distinct facial features or by the clicks of their language if they choose to use it.