

The Kowiai of Indonesia

There are at least 600 speakers of the Kowiai language. They dwell in the coastal area within the province of Papua, Indonesia. Nutmeg and seashells are readily available in the area because the Kowiai people are coastal and island-dwellers. At an elevation of less than 100 meters above sea level, the Kowiai people can best be reached by boat.

Historically, when a king ruled the Kowiai area, the king's spit was used to "water" the garden because it was alleged to have the power to keep pigs and birds away. They also sold Nanesa and Mairasi people to slave traders who came. The Kowiai are reported to have come from Maluku in the mid 1800s and intermarried with Papuans. For marriage celebrations those invited by the groom's side are to bring something for the wedding. Burial happens within twenty-four hours of death, after the body is washed by members of the same gender. Burial can turn out to be quite expensive.

The main staple of the Kowiai people is fish and coconuts, but they also eat game. They wear modern clothing, although the sarong is sometimes still worn. Within the typical Kowiai home, there is a front room and bedrooms. A structure apart from the home is built for the kitchen. The Kowiai people have machetes, boat motors, and spear guns among other tools. But the Kowiai people have no gospel cassettes, films, or videos in their language.

It has been reported that more than ninety-nine percent of the Kowiai people practice Islam as their religion.

Image
 Unavailable

Primary Religion:

Islam

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

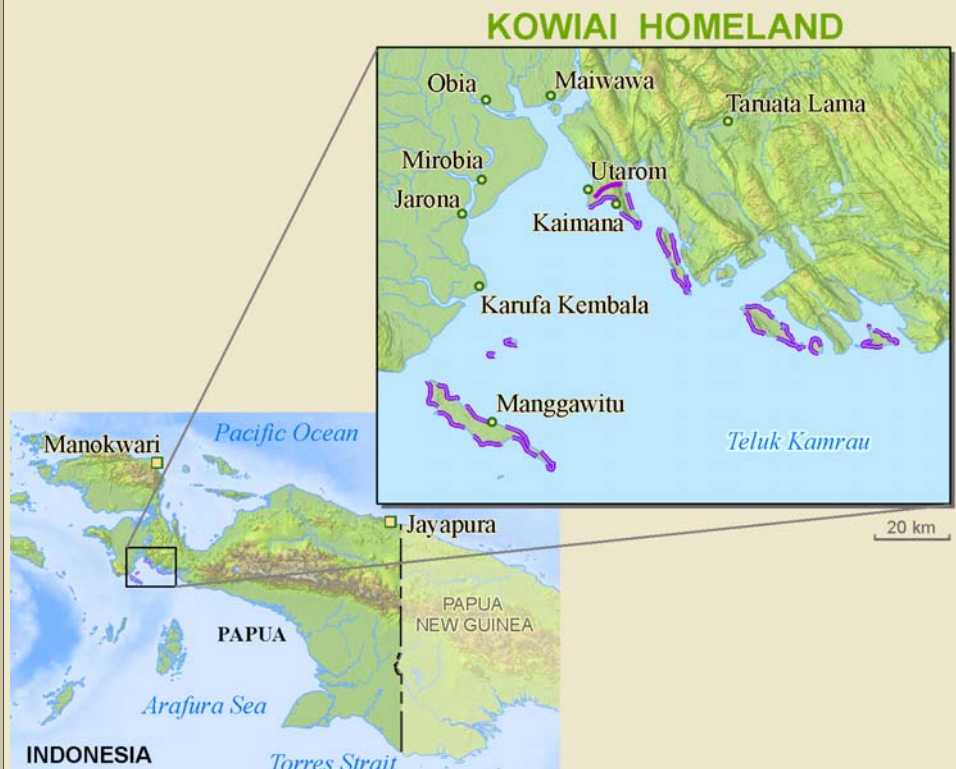
Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None

Population (date):

600 (2002)



The Kowiai of Indonesia

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	99%	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	600	
World Population (Date)	2002	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Indonesia	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Coastal area in the province of Papua, Indonesia	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Coastal	
Elevation	<100 meters	
Longitude	134E	
Latitude	4S	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Hunter-gatherers	
Subsistence Type	Fishers	
Modernization / Utilities	Boat motors	
Community Development		Group Description
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Diet)	Do not have a variety of vegetables	
Shelter Description	Within the typical KOWIAI home, there is a front room and bedrooms. A structure apart from the home is built for the kitchen.	
Clothing	They wear modern clothing although the sarong is sometimes still worn.	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
History Of People Group	The KOWIAI are reported to have come from Maluku in the mid 1800's and intermarried with Papuans.	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Verified	
Reached Classification	Unreached	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	For marriage celebrations, those invited by the groom's side are to bring something for the wedding. Burial happens within 24 hrs of death, after the body is washed by members of the same gender. Burial can turn out to be quite expensive.	
Attitude To Christianity	Very resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	Possible	
Available Scripture	None	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No	

The Kowiai of Indonesia

Item Name	Item Note
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No