

## The Kombai of Indonesia

There are at least 5,000 speakers of the Kombai language. They reside within the province of Papua, Indonesia. They maintain their livelihood by primarily subsistence farming, hunting, and some eaglewood logging in the lowlands of south Papua. With their land at an elevation of less than 100 meters above sea level, the Kombai people can best be accessed by boat. Boats can be rented in Kouh.

They enjoy dressing up traditionally with gourds and kasuari bird feathers to greet visitors. They also perform welcome dances with drums and arrows. There is one junior high school in the language area, but no high schools.

The women primarily gather food and do the gardening. The clothing the Kombai people wear is usually modern but rarely washed. The people eat vegetables, sago, pig & wild animals that they hunt. The Kombai use knives, steel axes, bows/arrows, and shovels as tools. Log posts are used to frame houses. Walls are usually stem or plank, and palm or cement is used for flooring. A tin or pleated-leaf roof tops off each house. The infrastructure in the area consists of a SSB radio in Kombai and another six in Kouh, some personal generators and a community satellite television. The people get their drinking water usually straight from the river, a well or rainwater. No clinics are in the northern part of Kombai land, and malaria, skin & lung diseases are common.

A Reformed church is in the language area. Sixty-five percent of the people claim to be Christian, while the remaining thirty-five adhere to the tribal religion.

There are several known dialects within the language: Central Kombai and Tayan. The Kombai people use Kombai at home with family members and use both Kombai and Indonesian with friends. The church services are normally in Indonesian.

**Image**  
 Unavailable

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

**Churches:**

1

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

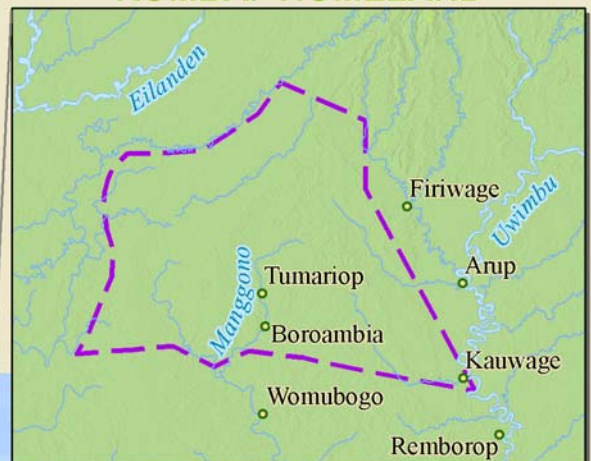
No Scripture

**Population (date):**

5,000 (2002)



**KOMBAI HOMELAND**



20 km

# The Kombai of Indonesia

| Item Name                                 | Item Note   |                          |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>        |   | <b>Profile Summary</b>   |
| Call Themselves Christian (%)             | >50%  |                          |
| Number Of Communities                     | At least two communities are in the language area.  |                          |
| Number Of Churches                        | 1   |                          |
| Comment (Churches)                        | One Reformed Church in the area   |                          |
| Is The Word Of God Translated?            | No  |                          |
| <b>Population All Countries</b>           |   | <b>Group Description</b> |
| World Population For This People          | 5,000   |                          |
| World Population (Date)                   | 2002  |                          |
| <b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b> |   | <b>Group Description</b> |
| Country Name                              | Indonesia   |                          |
| <b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>        |   | <b>Group Description</b> |
| Location                                  | Lowlands of southern Papua Indonesia  |                          |
| Ecosystem Type                            | Tropical Forest   |                          |
| Geological Type                           | Swampy  |                          |
| Elevation                                 | <100 meters   |                          |
| Longitude                                 | 140E  |                          |
| Latitude                                  | 6S  |                          |
| <b>Economics</b>                          |   | <b>Group Description</b> |
| Subsistence Type                          | Agriculturalists  |                          |
| Subsistence Type                          | Hunter-gatherers  |                          |
| Comment (Subsistence Type)                | Gardening is usually performed by the women.  |                          |
| Occupation                                | Eaglewood loggers   |                          |
| Income Sources                            | Occupation  |                          |
| <b>Community Development</b>              |   | <b>Group Description</b> |
| Health Care (Quality)                     | Poor  |                          |
| Comment (Health Care)                     | No clinics in the northern part of the language area. Malaria, skin and lung diseases are common.   |                          |
| Diet (Quality)                            | Fair  |                          |
| Comment (Diet)                            | The people eat vegetables, sago, pig & wild animals that they hunt.   |                          |
| Water (Quality)                           | Poor  |                          |
| Comment (Water)                           | Drinking water is obtained from the river, wells or rainwater   |                          |
| Shelter Description                       | Houses are generally framed by log posts with palm or cement floors, and plank or stem walls. A tin or pleated-leaf roof tops off each house.         |                          |
| Electricity                               | There are some personal generators.   |                          |
| Clothing                                  | The clothing the KOMBAI people wear is usually modern but rarely washed.  |                          |
| Transportation                            | Boat  |                          |
| Comment (Community Development)           | There are SSB radios in Kombai and Kouh. There is also a community satellite TV.  |                          |
| <b>Society &amp; Culture</b>              |   | <b>Group Description</b> |
| Neighbor Relations                        | Some of the Kimaama people live in the Kombai villages.   |                          |
| Recreations                               | They enjoy dressing up traditionally with gourds and kasuari bird feathers to greet visitors. They also perform welcome dances with drums and arrows. |                          |
| Local Language Broadcasting               | None  |                          |

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| Item Name                      | Item Note   |                               |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Education</b>               |   | <b>Group Description</b>      |
| Secondary Schools              | 1   |                               |
| Comment (Education)            | The one secondary school is a junior high school. |                               |
| <b>Church Growth</b>           |   | <b>Status of Christianity</b> |
| Reached Status                 | Engaged   |                               |
| Reached Classification         | Unevangelized                                     |                               |
| <b>Religion &amp; Response</b> |   | <b>Status of Christianity</b> |
| Attitude To Christianity       | Somewhat receptive                                |                               |
| <b>Scripture</b>               |   | <b>Status of Christianity</b> |
| Translation Status             | Possible  |                               |
| Available Scripture            | None  |                               |
| <b>Missions and Churches</b>   |   | <b>Status of Christianity</b> |
| Organization Name              | Reformed  |                               |
| Number Of Congregations        | 1   |                               |