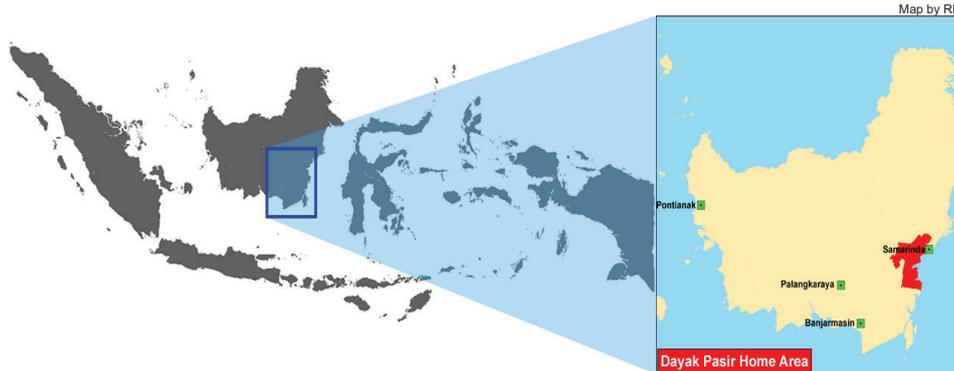


# DAYAK PASIR



Karl Muller



Demography	Pasir Language	Status
Location: East Kalimantan Population: 60.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: <1.000 Engaged: Yes Indigenous Church: 0

## Identity and Location

The Dayak Pasir people are native to the Pasir Regency in East Kalimantan Province. The Pasir are settled in 5 distinct locations and thus consist of five different groups: (1) The Pasake of Telake, who live along the Telake River which includes the Long Kali area, (2) Pasir Adang, who live along the Adang River in the Long Ikis area, (3) Pasir Kendilo, who live from upstream along the Kuaro River to the mouth of the Pasir River (which includes Muara Koman and Batu Ranjang), (4) the Pasir Labuan people, who live in Labuan village, and (5) Pasir Tanjung Aru, who reside throughout the whole Tanjung Aru area.

The Dayak Pasir live with the Banjar, Bugis and Javanese as their neighbors. They speak the Pasir language, which has twelve dialects. These dialects include: Pamatung, Telake, Tukos, Adang, Pias, Toyo, Slopes, Nyowo, Tajur, Penuhan, Melting and Megi. In addition to Pasir and Indonesian, they also speak Banjar and Bugis.

## Society and Culture

Some Dayak Pasir live in villages along the river and some live in remote areas in the jungle. Large families of 20-30 people each populate the villages. The distance between one house and another house is about three hundred meters.

Most of the Dayak Pasir area is lowland. The southern part is swamp area whereas the western part is hilly and mountainous. Many rivers used by the inhabitants mainly for transportation flood this area. Forests covering an area of 1,149,000 hectares are used for various purposes.

The lineage of the Dayak Pasir are drawn from the

father's side as well as the mother's. Some of the Dayak Pasir must shift cultivation because they cannot maintain soil fertility. Many are forced to cut down trees and burn the underbrush in order to open up new fields. Their produce is primarily rice, corn, cassava, sweet potatoes, peas and vegetables. In addition they also work in oil palm and rubber plantations and have even begun to grow coffee, chocolate and pepper. There are also Dayak Pasir people who tap trees for resin, search for rattan, gaharu wood, honey and swallow nests, as well as make a living producing palm sugar.

## Beliefs

Generally, Dayak Pasir people are Muslim. However, in some matters they still adhere to the beliefs of their ancestors, such as for treatments for healing and fertility. In the harvest season the Dayak Pasir give offerings to the Sang Hyang (god of fertility), which is accompanied with chanting mantras.

They also celebrate besoyong, a ceremony in which they ask the ancestral spirits to guard their safety both at home and in the fields.

## Needs

Although the land of the Dayak Pasir is rich and fertile in natural resources, this does not necessarily make their lives better. In most cases, their income is only enough to meet their daily needs. One reason for this is the lack of reliable transportation that makes it so difficult for them to market their agricultural produce or other products of any kind. Lack of capital is also an obstacle to small business. Therefore, business assistance would be especially helpful to them.