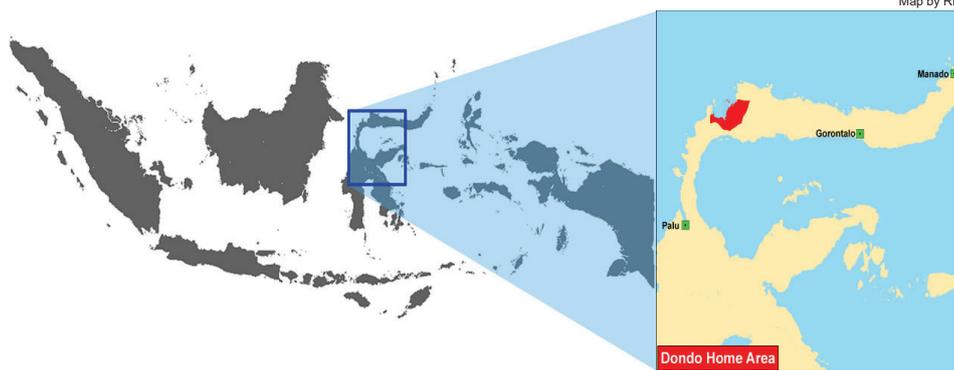


DONDO



Demography	Dondo Language	Status
Location: Central Sulawesi	Bible: No	Believers: 0
Population: 14,500	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

The Dondo live in the districts of Baolan, Dondo, Galang and North Dampal in the Toli-Toli Regency of Central Sulawesi. They tend to live in groups, scattered over this entire area. They generally prefer to live by a riverbank in the jungle. These groups usually take the name of the rivers where they live, such as the Salungan, Ogomolobu, Oyom and Kambuno.

The Dondo speak the Dondo language, which is different from the languages of the Toli-Toli, Dampelas, Pendau (Ndau) and Balaesang, who live far from the Dondo on the west coast. This occurred because the Dondo are separated from the Tomini area. The people of Oyom village are the most traditional and isolated Dondo subgroup. The Dondo language is part of the larger Northern Tomini subgroup, which also includes the Lauje and Tomini languages.

Society and Culture

The most common flora in the Dondo area are mangroves, grasses, shrubs and sparse secondary forests. The most common cultivated plants are coconut trees and rice. The principle livelihoods of the Dondo are farming and fishing. They practice migratory agriculture (shifting from one field to another) mainly because their farming practice depletes the nutrients in the land and they cannot maintain the soil's fertility. New farmland is opened by cutting down trees and burning the underbrush (the slash and burn method). They tend to plant rice in unirrigated fields and have several secondary crops such as bananas, coconut, chocolate and coffee. The jungle is noted for its harvest of rattan, lumber and resin. They also hunt small deer (kijang), pigs and wild chickens. They hunt with spears, traps, and bow and arrow, and are helped by hunting dogs.

At 16 years old, a Dondo person is considered an adult. This

status is symbolized by the young person having his or her teeth filed in a community ceremony

The traditional house of the Dondo is built on a raised platform and made of wood, bamboo and rattan, raised off the ground about two meters. The houses are rectangular, roughly five by seven meters with a roof made from sago leaves.

In the past, Dondo was a sultanate. The Dondo sultan and his nobles and aides were chosen through their ancestral lines. During those times, there were four classes among the people: royalty, nobility, commoners and slaves.

At 16 years old, a Dondo person is considered an adult. This status is symbolized by the young person having his or her teeth filed in a community ceremony. Newlywed couples may choose to live with either the husband's or the wife's family. Dondo tradition allows polygamy, and divorce is permitted if the couple is not compatible. However the divorce has to be witnessed by a traditional leader (kapitalau).

Beliefs

The Dondo have followed Islam for many generations. However, many still practice animism, especially those living in the highlands. In the past, the Dondo placed the body of the deceased inside a sago palm trunk that had been scraped out. The burial took place in the yard of the family residence, and the family members bid farewell to the spirit of the deceased by sleeping near the grave for several days.

Needs

Agricultural training and assistance in utilizing appropriate technology would help the Dondo increase their harvests. They also need significant help in improving the system of formal education in their area. ^(E-RD)