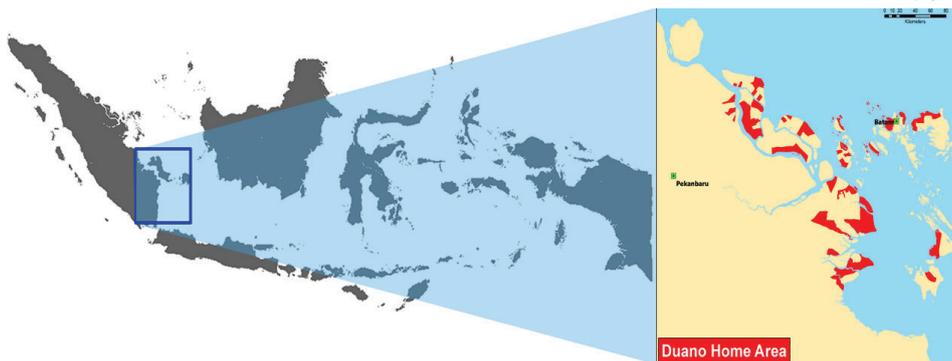


# DUANO <sup>New</sup>



Photo by RD



Map by RD

Demography	Duano Language	Status
Location: Riau & Malaysia Population: 18.500 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: 0 Engaged: No Indigenous Church: 0

## Identity and Location

The Duano people live in two countries: Indonesia and Malaysia. About 16,000 of them live in Indonesia and 2,500 in Malaysia. It is unclear when the migration from Indonesia to Malaysia took place, but it is certain that the original homeland of the Duano was Indonesia.

In Malaysia they live in Peninsular Malaysia, on the west coast of Johor, especially in the districts of Muar, Batu Pahat, Pontian and Kota Tinggi.

In Indonesia they live in villages along the east coast of Riau Province, in the regencies of Bengkalis and Indragiri Hilir, as far as the province of Kepulauan Riau.

Duano people are also often called Sea people (orang Laut), Original people (orang Asli), Estuary people (orang Kuala) and Strait people (orang Selat). As Sea people, they are sometimes confused with another maritime group, orang Lanun (Pirates).

Historically, the Duano were robbers, but they played an important role in the Sriwijaya Kingdom, the Malaka Sultanate and the Johor Sultanate. They guarded the straits, drove off pirates, guided traders to the ports of the kingdoms, and maintained their hegemony in the area.

The Duano language resembles Malay and is considered a local Malay language. At present, most Duano people work as fishermen. Like the Bajau people, the Duano are sometimes dubbed "sea wanderers," because they live traveling around on boats.



Photo by TK



## Society and Culture

The Duano are also called Sea people because they don't usually live on dry land, but live on the edge of the sea and build their houses over the water – either over the sea or the mouth of a river. As time goes on, the number of Duano people is diminishing because more and more of them live on land and adopt a lifestyle like other groups. Although they still gain their living from the sea they don't live like most Duano, whose whole life is on the water. The life of the Duano (Sea) people in western Indonesia is similar in many ways to the Bajau people mostly spread throughout the eastern part of Indonesia. Their language is different but their lifestyle is the same.

### Beliefs

At present, all Duano people profess Islam, but in practice almost none of them follow the requirements of Islam such as saying the five daily ritual prayers.

### Needs

One of the main issues that needs to be addressed is personal cleanliness of houses and surroundings. Because they live above the sea, they have a great shortage of clean water for drinking, bathing and washing. As a result, even a cursory look reveals that many of them are afflicted with skin ailments. Also, their pattern of dumping garbage into the sea near their homes causes garbage to collect near the homes because the poles of the houses hamper the flow of water nearby. Their main need is handling sanitation.<sup>(RD)</sup>



Photo by RD

