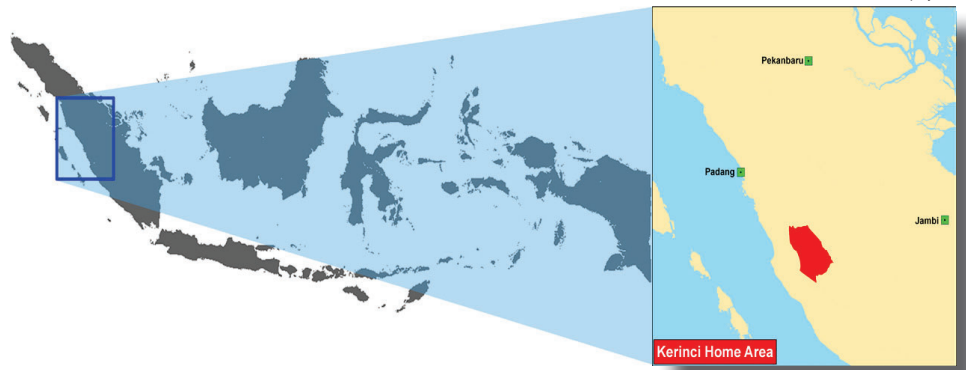


KERINCI



Photo by RD



Map by RD

Demography	Kerinci Language	Status
Location: Jambi Population: 290.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: NT Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: <350 ⁽³⁵⁸⁾ Engaged: Yes Indigenous Church: 1

Identity and Location

The Kerinci originally lived on the east coast of Sumatra. During an ancient war they fled from local Muslim sultanates and moved into their existing homeland high in the Bukit Barisan mountain range around Mount Kerinci in Jambi Province. Although the highlands present challenges for living, intensive agriculture coupled with fishing has been sufficient to sustain a sizeable Kerinci population.

Additionally, a world class national park is being developed by the World Wildlife Fund to protect the rain forest with its associated flora and fauna. This will draw the attention of many foreigners who wish to visit this beautiful yet hard-to-reach area. The villages in this area are in the lowlands, grouped around Lake Kerinci, a large lake encircled by mountains.

Society and Culture

Most Kerinci are farmers. In addition to rice (their primary crop, planted in both irrigated and non-irrigated fields), they also grow potatoes, vegetables, and tobacco. They farm plantations of coffee, cinnamon, and cloves. Their primary products from the forest are rattan and resin. Most Kerinci living near Lake Kerinci and other smaller lakes are fishermen.

The Kerinci have been able to resist mixture with other, stronger ethnic groups. They currently interact with transmigrants from the Jawa, Sunda and Bali groups who work on the plantations of this fertile land.

Even though the Kerinci adhere to the matrilineal system, the basic family unit is led by the husband

They build their houses very close to neighboring houses. Their hamlets are called dusun, and are inhabited by close relations who came from the same ancestor. In each dusun there are several long houses, located cheek-to-

jowl along the road.

The basic family unit is called the tumbi. After a man marries, he goes to live with the family of his wife. Normally, the daughter will have a room made for her, joined to her parents' house, after she is married. In a similar manner, this woman's daughter will later be made a similar room, joined to the house when she is married. The ancestral line from the mother's side is called kelbu. The kelbu is the most important family unit for the Kerinci and consists of closely related relatives.

Even though the Kerinci adhere to the matrilineal system (following the line of the mother), the basic family unit is led by the husband rather than the wife's brother (as is the case in the Minangkabau matrilineal system). The wife's brother only plays a role in his sister's affairs, not in the whole family. The inheritance is given to the female children.

Beliefs

Islam is the main religion, although the Kerinci retain many animistic beliefs. These relate mostly to areas of healing and agriculture. In their daily lives, they use the phrases tataman (met a ghost), tatampo (hit by a ghost), and tapijek anaok antau (stepped on by a ghost).

Needs

The Kerinci are truly dependent upon the fertility of their soil and good irrigation. However, they also need to improve the quality of appropriate technology so they can increase the productivity of their farm land and rain forests.

The potential for tourism around Lake Kerinci has not been developed, though it holds potential to bring income to the community.