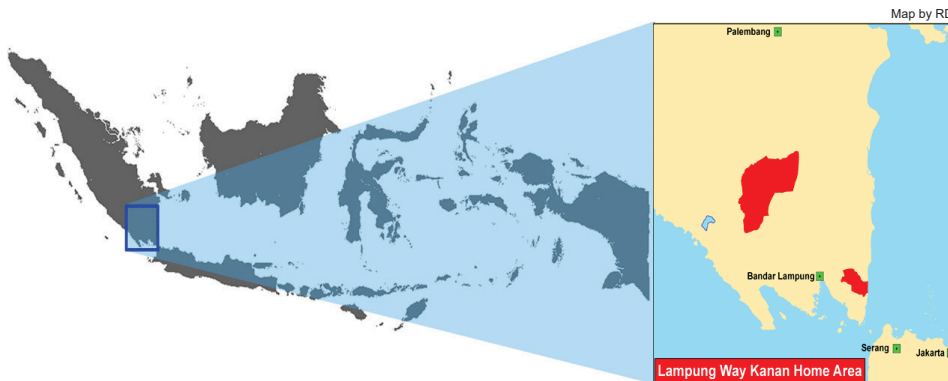


LAMPUNG WAY KANAN



Photo by RD



Demography	Lampung Api Language	Status
Location: Lampung Population: 44.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: NT Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: No	Believers: 0 Engaged: No Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Lampung Way Kanan are a small group with a strong cultural structure that is distinct within the larger Lampung cluster. The Way Kanan people are made up of five large families known as the Buay Lima Kay Kanan. The Way Kanan live in the regencies of Way Kanan and North Lampung. In North Lampung they live in Bukit Kemuning District. In Way Kanan they live in Bahuga, Banjit, Baradatu, Blambangan Umpu and Pakuan Raya Districts.

Society and Culture

The Way Kanan language is the Api dialect of the Lampung language. There are several levels of formal language (registers) used for special situations. Most of the people can also speak Indonesian. A few of them can even use languages of transmigrants in the area, such as Jawa and Sunda.

They hold to the Pepadun cultural tradition. The word pepadun means “chair” or a seat used by a ruler. The leadership system in Way Kanan is congregational in that there are many punyimbang (cultural leaders) who have the right of voice in community meetings, acting much like a congress. Family ties among the Way Kanan are very strong and the Way Kanan clans use a system of consensus for resolving issues amongst themselves.

According to their ancient historical manuscripts, the Way Kanan most likely are from the same lineage as the Lampung Pesisir, Sungkai and Pubian. However, they have their own special characteristics in that their dialect is part of the Lampung Api language and they use the Pepadun tradition.

Farming is the primary means of livelihood among the Way Kanan. They mostly live in remote areas because the main highways don’t run through their villages. Their houses have tended to shift from the traditional wooden homes on poles to the more modern cinderblock and

cement or wooden houses built at ground level. They live apart from the outsiders in their area, who tend to live among the fields.

The roads among the Way Kanan are in poor condition. There is only one paved road in the whole area—the Central Trans-Sumatra highway. The rest are dirt or gravel roads that are difficult to pass. The regency government is still trying to open up the most isolated areas by creating passable roads. Many parts of the Way Kanan area are still dependent on an electric power station that runs on diesel fuel in North Lampung. If that one electric power station fails, electricity for the entire area is cut off.

Beliefs

The Lampung Way Kanan people hold strongly to Islam and strongly oppose conversion to other religions. As a result, no Way Kanan people profess any other religion. The principle of religious homogeneity is very strong here. Marriage with people from other faiths is forbidden for both men and women. If a Way Kanan person—male or female—does marry someone from a different religion, he or she will work very hard to try to convert the spouse to Islam.

Needs

Compared to other Lampung groups, the Way Kanan are the farthest behind economically. Therefore, working together with the people to improve their local economy would be very meaningful to these people. Coffee and pepper production are a main source of income for the Way Kanan. Unfortunately, farmers often have difficulty accessing information about the frequently fluctuating market prices of coffee and pepper. Remoteness and lack of appropriate technologies makes it difficult for them to monitor the price of coffee and pepper, which can change on a daily basis.^(RD)