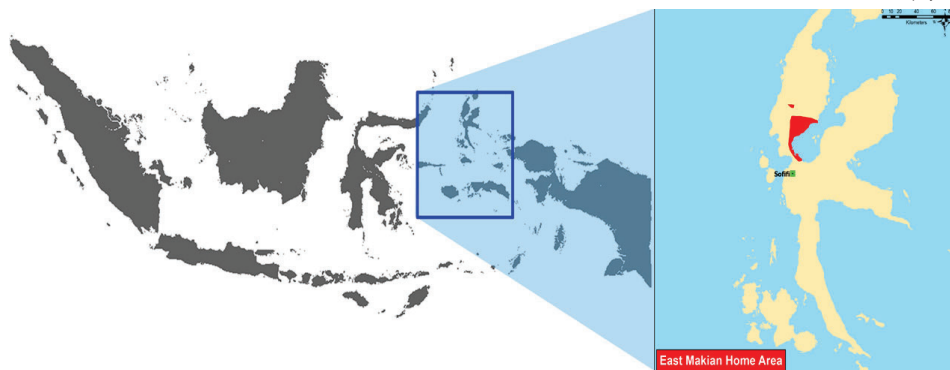


EAST MAKIAN



Demography	Makian Language	Status
Location: North Maluku Population: 33.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: 0 Engaged: Yes Indigenous church: some

Identity and Location

The East Makian (Makian Timur), also called the Makian Dalam (Inner Makian), live on the east coast of Makian Island in North Maluku Province. The rest of the island is inhabited by the West Makian (Makian Barat or Outer Makian). The East Makian people can also be found in small communities on the islands of Bacan, Obi, and Mori Kayoa.

The islands on which the Makian live have many volcanoes, one of which is Kei Besi, which has erupted several times. Its sudden eruption in 1975 claimed many lives, and caused the government to evacuate residents near the volcano to Halmahera Island. For a long time, the Maluku Islands have been called the Spice Islands, consisting of more than 1000 islands spread across east Indonesia, including most of the islands between Sulawesi and New Guinea, and between Timor and the Philippines.

In the past, most observers classified the Makian as one people group with one language consisting of two dialects. However, careful linguistic analysis has shown the the West Makian language Jitinee, is part of the West Papuan language cluster, while the East Makian language Tabayama, is part of the Austronesian language cluster. Makian Timur is part of the Halmahera language cluster and includes the Gane, Buli, Maba, Patani, Swai dan Iratutu.

Society and Culture

Most East Makian are farmers. Since their land is not appropriate for growing rice, their primary crops are corn and bananas. Infertile land (called jerame) is generally left to lie fallow for as long as 7-10 years. Such land becomes available for use

by anyone who wishes, until the owner returns to work it again. The East Makian also cultivate coconuts, which are processed to become copra.

The East Makian who live on Halmahera and other islands mostly work as fishermen, using fishing rods and hooks, dragnets, or large bamboo fish traps. The social system of the East Makian is a clan system, in which each family line is known as a soa. Individuals must marry someone from outside their soa. Traditionally, a new couple lives in the neighbourhood of the husband's family.

Beliefs

As Muslims, the East Makian practice rites such as circumcision, prayer services at the mosque, and fasting during the month of Ramadan. Traditional beliefs about the supernatural realm, however, have a powerful influence on their daily lives. The shaman is a powerful figure in East Makian communities.

Islam was brought to the East Makian through a man named Mohamad Arzad, a Minangkabau Muslim from West Sumatra. He married the daughter of the Makian king, and they had four children, named Torano, Bangsa, Um Imam, and Sangaji.

Needs

The East Makian need better means of sea transportation in order to expedite their trade and relationships with the neighboring islands. ^(E-RD)