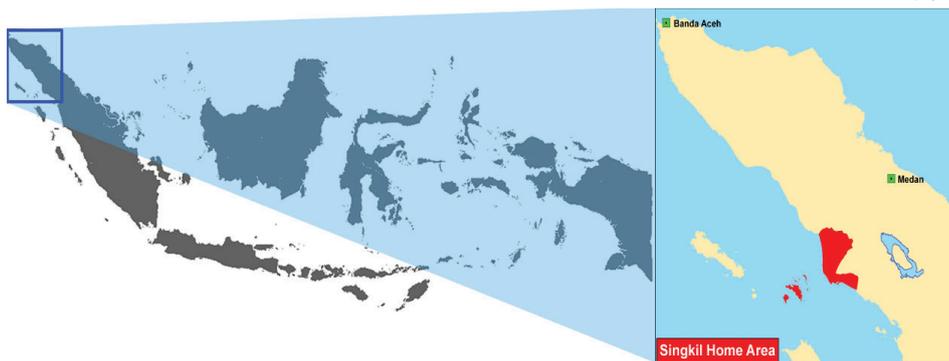


# SINGKIL MALAY

Map by RD



Photo by RD



Demography	Singkil Language	Status
Location: Aceh Population: 71.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: 0 <sup>(236)</sup> Engaged: No Indigenous church: 0

## Identity and Location

The Singkil people live in the southwestern part of the Province of Aceh, in South Aceh Regency, in the areas of Singkil, Simpang Kiri, Simpang Kanan, and Pulau Banyak. The Singkil homeland borders on the Province of North Sumatra. Singkil people are thought to be a mixture of the Mandailing, Aceh, Minangkabau, and Nias peoples.

Singkil oral mythology provides insight into the origins of the Singkil people. Their language is called Pesisir Singkil and is influenced by the Minangkabau and Batak languages.

## Society and Culture

The main source of income for the Singkil is farming and fishing. Some work as day laborers and craftsmen. Others make a living by processing nipa palm leaves and fruit that grow along the rivers and in the swamps. Nipa leaves are used to make roof thatch and cigarette wrapping, and the fruit can be eaten. The Singkil live in villages on the coast, along the rivers, and in the hills.

The 2004 tsunami and earthquakes in Aceh traumatized many Singkil people, resulting in many moving from the coastal regions to higher ground. The Singkil River is important in local daily life and is used for drinking water, bathing, trash removal and river transportation. Singkil houses are built on wooden stilts about three yards off the ground.

Togetherness and strong family ties are important in the Singkil people's way of life. Their life is regulated

by traditional culture and Islamic laws. Cultural and religious leaders are very influential and respected in the community.

The main traditional political institution in the community is called ninik-mamak. This institution functions not only in cultural affairs but also in solving village government problems. Ninik-mamak consists of older people and those chosen as elders, such as the kepala mukim (district head), pemuka adat (cultural leader), and khatib (preacher).

The Singkil have a patrilineal kinship system, meaning that they trace descent from the father. The smallest kinship group is the nuclear family. The extended family is called dulsanak. They also have clans, which are made up of several extended families. The largest Singkil clans are the Beramu and Tinambunan clans. One must marry outside one's own clan.

## Beliefs

Although most Singkil people follow Islam, many of them are still influenced by animistic beliefs and a variety of superstitions. These beliefs mainly focus on protection from supernatural powers, aiming to control or fulfill the demands of "good" spirits or evil ones.

## Needs

The coastal area of the Singkil people holds great potential for fishing and tourism. Abundant fish and pristine natural beauty with large waves could become tourist attractions if developed well. <sup>(E-RD)</sup>



Photos by RD

