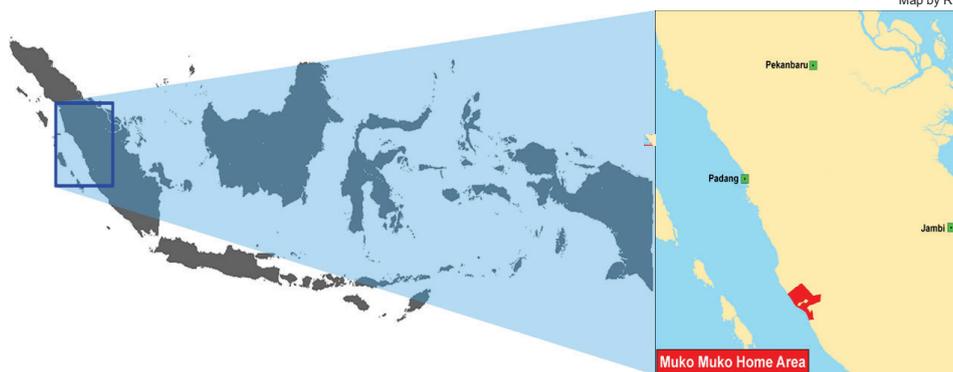


MUKO MUKO



Photo by RD



Map by RD

Demography	Muko Muko Language	Status
Location: Bengkulu Population: 55.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: Yes (Minangkabau) Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: < 10 ⁽³³⁵⁾ Engaged: No Indigeneous Church: 1 ^{JRT}

Identity and Location

The Muko-Muko (also called Muke-Muke) come from the North Muko-Muko and South Muko-Muko districts of Mukomuko Regency in Bengkulu Province. They are located near the southern border of West Sumatra Province, west of South Sumatra Province, and along the coast of the Indian Ocean.

Part of their area is swampland or tidal waters with a brackish mixture of ocean and river water. There are also many rivers, the largest of which is the Muko-Muko River. The Muko-Muko are no longer isolated, as the government has constructed a highway connecting Bengkulu Province to West Sumatra Province that passes through the Muko-Muko area. In everyday communication, the Muko-Muko speak their own language, a mixture of the Malay, Minangkabau and Rejang languages.

Society and Culture

The Muko-Muko are farmers, hunters, daily laborers, merchants, and rattan craftsmen. Their most famous handicraft is carved cigarette lighters. In addition to this, they have community farms which produce rubber, cloves, and palm oil. The kinship system is matrilineal, which means that descent and property are passed down to the daughters in the family. This is due to the influence of the nearby Minangkabau people.

The Muko-Muko still use their traditional leadership system. Their villages are governed by a pasirah (village chief) and his assistants. The role of the pasirah is to safeguard stability and harmony according to their cultural customs, as well as to collect taxes and community fees. These fees can take the form of working three days every year for the village head or giving

money amounting to the same value of the three days of work. Other fees are paid to get a certificate of marriage, certificate of divorce, peace treaties, and permission to court a young maiden.

The Muko-Muko use the term kaum to refer to a group of families. The kaum is led by the clan chief and his assistants. Five clans still exist: Delapan, Berenam, Empat Belas (Seven Ancestors), Lima Suku, and Gersik Tunggul.

The most famous aspect of the Muko-Muko culture is the gandai dance. This dance is similar to the Malay dances but has been influenced by the Minangkabau style of dancing. When they attend a cultural celebration the men wear traditional clothes called teluk belangga, which is a black jacket with a turban. The women wear traditional clothing called betabur, which is a blouse with a gold threaded cloth and a wrap-around skirt.

Beliefs

Islam is the religion of the majority of the Muko-Muko, but in everyday life they still hold to animistic beliefs. At the core of these animistic beliefs is the effort to get protection from spirits using occult power to control good and bad spirits. They are very afraid of the spirits of deceased mothers who died in childbirth. They also worship large trees, rocks, natural springs, ancestral graves, and their ancestors.

Needs

At this time the Muko-Muko need agricultural assistance, particularly with their community farms, so that the farms can be better managed and improve people's standard of living. They are currently unable to compete with outsiders who can improve the living standards of plantations.