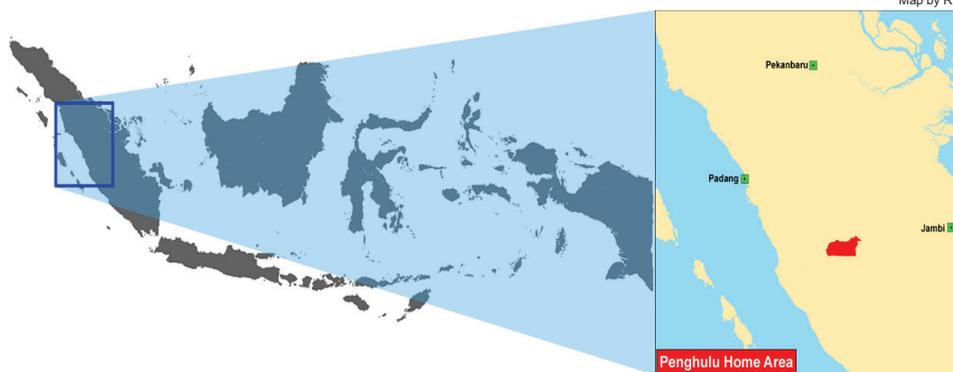


PENGHULU



Demography	Penghulu Language	Status
Location: Jambi	Bible: NT	Believers: 14 ⁽¹²³⁾
Population: 27.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: No
Major Religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Penghulu tribe is one of the ethnic groups regarded as original inhabitants of Jambi Province in Sumatra. They live in Sarolangun Bangko Regency, mainly along the banks of the Manau, Batang Asai, and Ulu Tabir rivers. Some also live in Bungo Tebo Regency.

It is thought that this group came from West Sumatra to Jambi in the 15th century seeking gold. They are believed to be part of the “Old Malay” race due to their physical characteristics. They tend to generally be shorter than other ethnic groups in the area, who belong to the “Recent Malay” ethnic groups. In accordance with their area of origin, their language is a mixture of Minangkabau and Jambi Malay.

Society and Culture

Their main livelihood is cultivating rice paddies and non-irrigated fields. Besides planting rice, they also cultivate rubber, cinnamon and coffee. Others earn a living gathering wood and rattan from the jungle.

The nuclear family is called a “kalbu.” Many kalbu joined together form a clan, which is led by a Tua Tengganaï (clan elder). A Tua Tengganaï has the responsibility to supervise the members of his clan and resolve problems

Some Penghulu have developed a livelihood by traditional gold mining. The main gold mining activity is around the Manau River and Batang Asai areas. They also produce woven handicrafts consisting of balls, floor mats, baskets, bowls, and winnowing trays. Additionally, they make metalwork handicrafts such as knives, axes, cleavers, and adzes.

One tradition important to the Penghulu is co-op group work, for example fellow villagers will help prepare or work a rice field at planting or harvest time. This kind of work involves almost every member of the village.

Penghulu settlements are typically clustered along a road or riverbank. Homes are built very close together. In times past, these villages formed a tightknit community called a “marga”. A marga was led by the village chief. A remnant of this system still remains.

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Beliefs

Though in general the Penghulu are Muslims, they still cling to traditional animistic beliefs for everyday life. They believe that strong spirits inhabit sacred sites. Some are still in the habit of giving offerings to appease the spirits. Many people seek help from the shaman for daily needs like treating the sick or casting out evil spirits.

Needs

The Penghulu need help in becoming better equipped to develop their natural resources (forestry as well as gold mining) so that the products can be processed in a way that yields the best balance of financial profit and social welfare. They also need capital to increase their agricultural yields. Education is also needed to increase their skills to support development of their area.