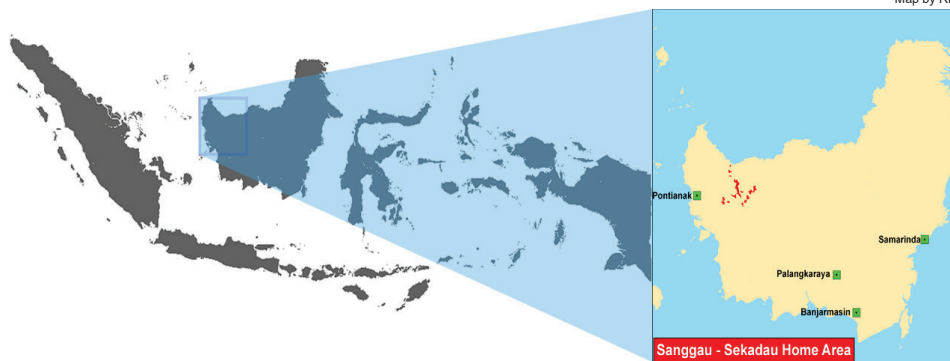


SANGGAU-SEKADAU



Photo by RD



Map by RD

Demography	Sanggau Language	Status
Location: West Kalimantan	Bible: No	Believers: <5
Population: 110.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: No
Major religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Sanggau-Sekadau are Dayak people who have converted to Islam due to personal conversion or through marriage to Malay who have settled in the Sanggau-Sekadau area. This tribe lives in two areas namely Sanggau and Sekadau. The distance between Sanggau and Sekadau is only about an hour by public transport. This tribe lives primarily around the capital region of Sanggau and Sekadau districts in West Kalimantan. The reasons for their transition to Islam are not known but have almost certainly have occurred over the past several generations.

The majority religion of the Dayak tribes in Sanggau and Sekadau is Christianity, either Catholic or Protestant. The exception is the Dayak Senganan, the diverse Dayak descendants of Islam who claim themselves as Melayu Sekadau.

Society and Culture

The Sanggau-Sekadau people live together with Dayaks and a small number of other ethnicities that have settled in the area. There are two main rivers in the area, the Kapuas and the Sekayam. Water transportation is still the main choice for people living in the village with no formidable road access.

Additionally, the river is used as the main distribution method for goods such as food, medicine, agricultural products and others via boats, barges, and motorboats. The Sanggau-Sekadau people rely heavily upon farmland and fisheries in the river for their livelihood. Thus they are mostly quite poor.

Beliefs

Generally, the Sanggau-Sekadau people are adherents of Islam. However, mystical influences are still evident in their lives. The shaman is an important figure in the community and includes the poor in his tribe because he has many taboos. They live among Christian Dayak tribes. Although there have been several conflicts with other ethnic groups of different religions, such as the Madurese and the Malay in the West Coast of West Kalimantan, religious conflicts are rare between Dayaks and Sanggau-Sekadau peoples as they are descended from a common ancestor: Dayak Mualang from the Dayak Iban cluster. So there remains a sense of brotherhood among them.

Need

Although the Sanggau-Sekadau people live in the area of the main regency, their economic lives are still quite below standard. According to statistical data, the average income of the population is still below the minimum standard of living. This inevitably has resulted in the most people lowering their minimum standards of living in order to make ends meet. Therefore, good economic aid assistance in the form of capital to start small businesses and the addition of extension workers will greatly help them to see the potential for economy growth and to utilize, among other things, their location as a district capital to facilitate economic access. In addition, to date the Sanggau area is experiencing a shortage of qualified teachers.^(RD)



River is the central live of the Sanggau Sekadau



Photos by RD

