



**Population in China:**  
 5,643 (1990)  
 7,080 (2000)  
 8,880 (2010)  
**Location:** Yunnan  
**Religion:** Animism  
**Christians:** None Known

## Overview of the Adu

**Countries:** China

**Pronunciation:** "Ah-doo"

**Other Names:**

**Population Source:** 5,643 (1990 *Huaning Xian Minzu Zhi*); Out of a total Yi population of 6,572,173 (1990 census)

**Location:** Yunnan: Yuxi Prefecture; Huaning and Chengjiang counties

**Status:** Officially included under Yi

**Language:** Chinese, Mandarin

**Dialects:** 0

**Religion:** Animism, No religion, Ancestor Worship

**Christians:** None known

**Scripture:** None

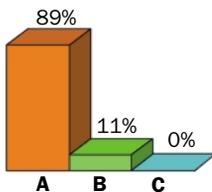
**Jesus film:** None

**Gospel Recordings:** Yi: Adu

**Christian Broadcasting:** None

**ROPAL code:** None

### Status of Evangelization



**A** = Have never heard the gospel  
**B** = Were evangelized but did not become Christians  
**C** = Are adherents to any form of Christianity

**Location:** More than 6,500 Adu people live in central Yunnan Province in southwest China. Approximately 3,500 live in Huaning County within Yuxi Prefecture. Their village names in Huaning are Songzichang, Xinzhai, Keju, and Chengmentong. There are many additional villages in the Lufeng District. An official Chinese report also lists 2,025 Adu people in the mountains of Haikou District in Chengjiang County, in the northern tip of Yuxi Prefecture.<sup>1</sup>

**Identity:** The Adu are an interesting people group, in that they have been officially included in the Yi nationality but speak a form of Yunnan Chinese.

**Language:** It is unclear whether the Adu were originally a tribe of Yi who moved to their present location and lost the use of their mother tongue as they were assimilated to the Chinese language, or if they were an early Chinese group who were influenced by minority languages that prevailed in the area they inhabited. Either way, it appears the Adu language contains a mixture of characteristics that are both Yi and Chinese in nature. The Chinese report the Adu language to be close to the dialect spoken in the Dajie District of Jiangchuan County. Adu is also said to be the same as the *Zijun* dialect of Kunming.<sup>2</sup>

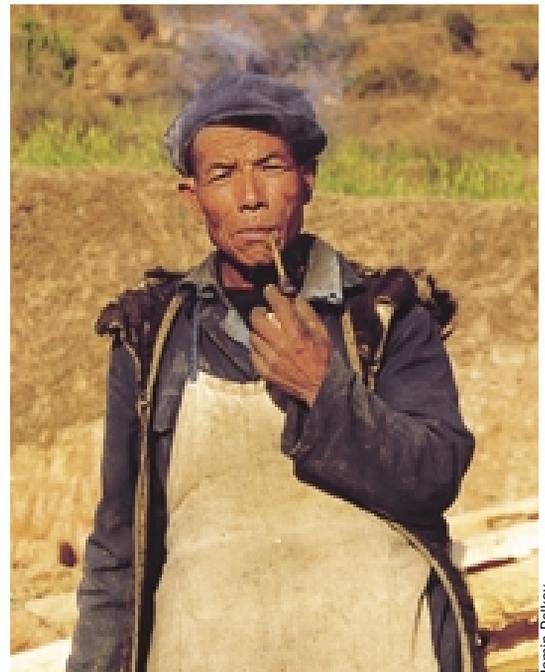
**History:** Yunnan has witnessed numerous ethnic migrations. Hemmed in by huge mountains that separate it from its Southeast Asian neighbors, Yunnan has witnessed a massive fusion and

scattering of people groups. The Yi have splintered into dozens of ethnic components, of which the Adu are just one. As clans and tribes moved away they formed their own communities and gradually forgot their relationship to the larger group. After centuries of isolation these different groups have developed their own identity, customs, and languages.

**Customs:** Marriage customs are simple among the Adu. In the past, parents were responsible for arranging their children's partners, but today most Adu youth choose their partners. The custom of paying a dowry, or bride price, has also lessened in recent decades. These days it is essential to own certain material possessions for a young Adu man to be considered attractive to a woman. These include a color TV, stereo, motorbike, sewing machine, refrigerator, and washing machine.

**Religion:** The majority of Adu under the age of 40 are nonreligious. At most they observe customs relating to ancestor worship, and they may clean their ancestors' graves once a year. Most elderly Adu, however, retain their animistic practices and rituals, including worship of the spirits of trees, mountains, dragons, and rivers. The animism of the Adu is certain to diminish as time passes.

**Christianity:** There are no known Christians among the Adu. Few members of this small tribe have ever been exposed to the gospel. The Christian organization Gospel Recordings traveled to the Adu in 1999 and produced the first ever gospel message in the Adu language. It is hoped Christians will use this resource to take the gospel to the Adu for the first time.



Jamin Pelkey