



## The Tankarana of Madagascar

The Tankarana (literally 'people of the rocks') occupy the far northern part of Madagascar where they are geographically cut off from the southern regions of Madagascar by the Tsaratanana mountain range.

In spite of their geographic isolation, the Antakarana were conquered during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by the Sakalava, the Merina and the French. Some believe that the Antakarana language and ethnography would reflect the strong Sakalava influence in the area, but the Tankarana historically had closer bonds to the Betsimisaraka of the north. They are mostly fishermen, although those in the interior raise cattle.

At the center of their group identity is the story of their survival in the nineteenth century when they were being exploited and pursued by the Merina. On one occasion, they escaped extinction after King Tsimiaro I made a prayer, vowing that, if his people - having safely hidden in caves for more than a year before discovery - survived the Merina onslaught, the Tankarana would embrace Islam. This vow was honored and today the Muslim religion is evident there, strongly intermingling with traditional Malagasy customs. This syncretistic and mostly nominal practice of Islam has inspired concentrated effort on the part of zealous Muslims to teach and give the prescribed doctrinal content.

**Primary Religion:**

Islam

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

5%

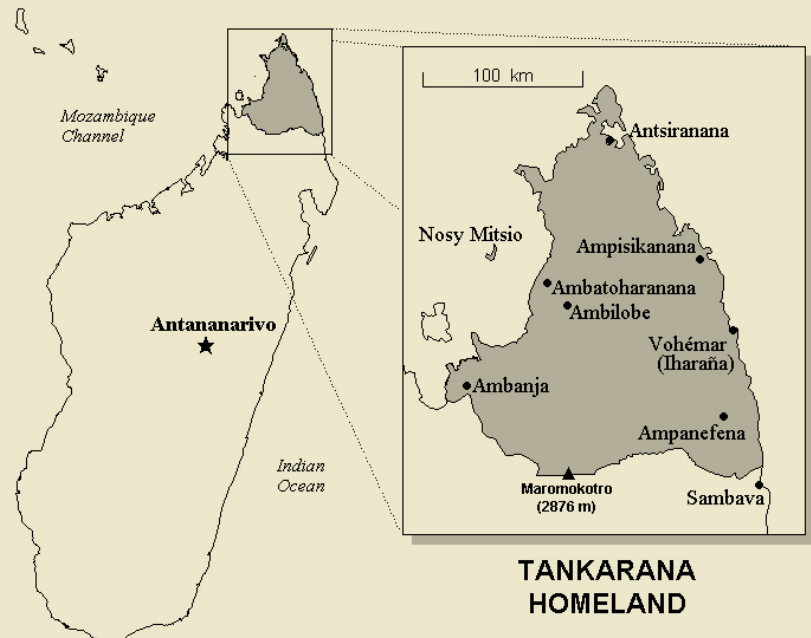
**Churches:**

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

No Bible

**Population (date):**

100,000



**TANKARANA  
HOMELAND**

## The Tankarana of Madagascar

### Item Name

### Item Note

#### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%) 5%

What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed? Yes, help is needed in areas of literacy, health and education.

#### Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name Madagascar

#### Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage 42%

#### Scripture

Available Scripture None

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature No

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings No

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos No

### Profile Summary

### Group Description

### Group Description

### Status of Christianity