



## The Gabobora of Papua New Guinea

The Gabobora people live along the north coast of Cape Vogel, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea. Each of the villages is well-kept, sometimes with grassy compounds. Peripheral decorative shrubbery, coconut palms, and mango trees mark most villages. There are abundant local fish, birds and wildlife.

Celebratory feasts are part of the routine of the Gabobora peoples' lives – for weddings, funerals, the birth of first child, and harvest. Large competitive feasting events are within living memory of all of the adults of the community (Cf. Michael Young, 1971. *Fighting with Food*). The people have a strong sense of cultural identity that is now intricately woven within activities of the Anglican Church as well as local sport. In sport the Anuki field teams in volleyball, netball (a kind of basketball), and football (soccer) for local competition.

Church activities fill the weekly calendar. Their church services are conducted in regional languages as well as English, with announcements and lay comments in Anuki. However, they lack Anuki Scriptures in the church context. Those would add immeasurably to their understanding of the religious practices faithfully followed by so many. Priests and lay leaders alike have expressed the desire to have God's Word in the Anuki language. Outside sources have noted them to be "very interested" in having such a translation.

The Anuki community has produced three illustrated short-story booklets by Gabobora authors, all penned in the Anuki language, and a small hymn book of Anuki choruses. Recently they joined project VITAL (Vernacular Initiative in Translation And Literacy), a multilanguage translation project in Milne Bay province. Through VITAL the Anuki translation team has started working on a dictionary. They have completed chapters four to six of Mark and twenty trial copies have been distributed.

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

**Churches:**

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None in their language

**Population (date):**

892 (2001)



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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Response To The Gospel	The Anglican church was established among the Gabobora in the 1930s. The people are actively involved in church groups and events. Church involvement does bring the community together for church instigated projects – such as the raising, roofing, or repair of church buildings. Individual members are also active members of various church associations. The traditional yearly calendar of clearing, cultivation, planting, weeding and harvest is maintained. The Gabobora people have traditional singsings (dances) and have also adopted and adapted singsings from other language groups. Costumes are elaborate and protectively preserved. Magic is still practiced for purposes ranging from gardening, to fishing, to matchmaking. Malevolent sorcery is still feared, obliquely threatened by a handful, and blamed when people die.	
Number Of Communities	5	
Comment (Number Communities)	Anuki villages and associated hamlets include Tapio with Nuabiina, Yagowa, and Kivikivivi; Woruka with Kwarebu, Taritari, Putumwara, and Anata in the east; Pem with Sisikorokoro, Besima, Siapa and Busaianiki; Tototo with Sisirokii; and Tapiasanu with Kiiwatara, and Yabuyabusanu at the western margin of Anuki territory.	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	The Gabobora have chapters 4-6 of Mark's Gospel translated and available in a trial edition. They also have a few "big books" with some Bible stories in the Anuki language. They also have 3 Gabobora authored booklets written in Anuki, the product of an orthography design workshop and subsequent writer's workshops. There is in addition a small hymn book of Anuki worship songs.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Since literacy and education are valued among the Gabobora community, it is likely there would be few hindrances to Scripture distribution if an Anuki translation were available.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	The recording "Word of Life", including 8 short messages (approx. 3 minutes each), is available. Chapters 4-6 of Mark have been published.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	892	
World Population (Date)	2001	
Comment (World Population)	(Counted by name, during an intensive year-long research project in 2000-2001 by MLL)	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Papua New Guinea	