

The Tsakwambo of Indonesia

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There are at least 500 speakers of the Tsakwambo language. They reside within the province of Papua, Indonesia. The Tsakwambo people maintain their livelihood by food gathering, hunting, fishing and logging in their isolated lowlands (within about 100 meters of sea level). The best way to reach the Tsakwambo area is to boat up the Digul and Arup rivers. By motorized canoe it is a three-hour trip from Kouh to Tsakwambo land. Also, the national domestic airline, Merpati, flies into Tanah Merah, which is somewhat close.

The Tsakwambo people have sago worm feasts for some visitors, and festivities often include dressing up in traditional clothing (with dog teeth, bird feathers, etc). The Tsakwambo people often intermarry with the "Taret" people of Danokit village. Most Tsakwambo people wear modern clothing but rarely washed the clothing. The people eat sago, sago worms, vegetables and fruits, as well as animals they hunt. The Tsakwambo have machetes, steel axes, and bow and arrows that they regularly use. Houses are generally framed with log posts having palm or cement floors and plank or stem walls. A tin or leaf roof completes the house. There are no SSB radios, telephones, or electric facilities in the area but there is a community television. A health clinic is in Biwage but many of the Tsakwambo people have skin and lung diseases as well as malaria. Some also have elephantiasis. The nearest market is a long distance away in Kouh.

Tsakwambo people have no gospel cassettes, films or videos in their language. It is estimated that less than 50% of the Tsakwambo speakers have understood the gospel but there is at least one Reformed church in the area. With family, the Tsakwambo people usually use their own language. With friends, they use either Tsakwambo or Indonesian.

Primary Religion:

Indigenous

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

1

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

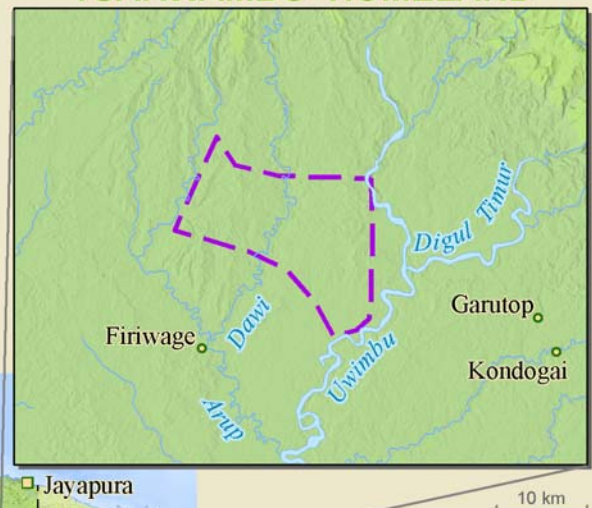
None

Population (date):

500 (2002)



TSAKWAMBO HOMELAND



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Number Of Churches	1	
Comment (Churches)	At least one.	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	500	
World Population (Date)	2002	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Indonesia	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Within the province of Papua Indonesia	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Swampy	
Elevation	<100 meters	
Longitude	140E	
Latitude	5S	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Subsistence Type	Hunter-gatherers	
Occupation	Food gathering, hunting, fishing and logging.	
Income Sources	Occupation	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	A health clinic is in Biwage, but many of the TSAKWAMBO people have skin and lung diseases, and malaria. Some also have elephantiasis.	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Diet)	The people eat sago, sagoworms, vegetables and fruits, as well as animals they hunt.	
Shelter Description	Houses are generally framed with log posts having palm or cement floors and plank or stem walls. A tin or leaf roof completes the house.	
Electricity	None	
Clothing	Most TSAKWAMBO people wear modern clothing but rarely wash the clothing.	
Transportation	Boat	
Comment (Community Development)	There are no SSB radios, telephones, or electric facilities in the area, but there is a community TV.	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Social Habits/Groupings	The TSAKWAMBO people often intermarry with the "Taret" people of Danokit village.	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive	
Comment (Attitude To Outsiders)	The TSAKWAMBO people have sagoworm feasts for some visitors and festivities often include dressing up in traditional clothing (with dog teeth, bird feathers, etc).	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Adopted	
Comment (Reached Status)	There is at least 1 Reformed church in the area.	

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Item Name	Item Note
Reached Classification	Unevangelized

Religion & Response

Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive
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Status of Christianity

Scripture

Translation Status	Definite
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No

Status of Christianity

Missions and Churches

Organization Name	Reformed
Number Of Congregations	1
Comment (Number Of Congregations)	At least one

Status of Christianity