

## The Marind of Indonesia

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There are at least 7000 speakers of the Marind language. They reside within the province of Papua, Indonesia. They primarily live by hunting and selling game, gardening, and gathering food as well as logging, in this large southern swampy land. With their land at an altitude of less than 100 meters above sea level, the Marind people can best be visited by boat. There are some asphalt roads and a number of non-paved roads are good to travel on in the dry season.

The people eat sago, fish, bananas, jambu, coconut and meat among other foods. They enjoy carving, and sometimes paint cloth or even their own body. Some Marind have boat motors; and many have knives, axes, shovels, rifles, and tableware. A few Marind people own motorcycles also. Horses, while rare in other parts of Papua are used in the Okaba district (east of Merauke). Remote village homes are often one-room affairs, either on stilts or with dirt floors, and a leaf roof. There are some roads in the area. Regular electricity is in Merauke and evening electric in Okaba. There are some SSB radios but no telephones outside the main city. Lack of good nutrition is common, as is malaria, skin diseases, leprosy, and typhoid. Many villages have a medical worker.

There are a number of junior high schools and high schools in the language area (particularly in Merauke). It is estimated that less than 50% of the Marind speakers have understood the gospel, but there are several Reformed churches and a number of Catholic churches in the area.

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

**Churches:**

>4

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

**Population (date):**

7,000 (2002)



# The Marind of Indonesia

## Item Name

## Item Note

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Number Of Churches

>4

Comment (Churches)

There are several Catholic and Reformed churches in the area.

## Profile Summary

### Population All Countries

World Population For This People

7,000

World Population (Date)

2002

## Group Description

### Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name

Indonesia

## Group Description

### Geography & Environment

Location

The people are located in the province of Papua, Indonesia.

Ecosystem Type

Tropical Forest

Geological Type

Swampy

Elevation

<100 meters

Longitude

140E

Latitude

8S

## Group Description

### Economics

Subsistence Type

Fishers

Occupation

Hunting, gardening and logging

Income Sources

Occupation

Products / Crafts

Carving

Modernization / Utilities

Boat motors, rifles and motorcycles

## Group Description

### Community Development

Health Care (Quality)

Poor

Comment (Health Care)

Many villages have a medical worker. Malaria, skin diseases, leprosy, and typhoid are common.

Diet (Quality)

Poor

Shelter Description

Remote village homes are often one-room affairs, stilted or dirt floors, with a leaf roof.

Electricity

Twenty-four hour commercial electricity is available in some villages, and evening service only in others.

Transportation

Boat, motorcycle and horse

Comment (Community Development)

There are some SSB radios, but no telephones outside the main city.

## Group Description

### Society & Culture

History Of People Group

Legend says the MARIND people descended from Geb and Sami and came from Africa on a boat or giant raft.

## Group Description

### Education

Secondary Schools

>2

Comment (Education)

There are a number of junior high schools and high schools in the language area (particularly in Merauke).

## Group Description

### Church Growth

Reached Status

Adopted

Reached Classification

Unevangelized

## Status of Christianity

### Religion & Response

## Status of Christianity

# The Marind of Indonesia

## Item Name

Religious Practices & Ceremonies

## Item Note

The "Samb-anim" ritual is for young people who have been initiated into the traditional knowledge and customs. There are a number of other spiritual ceremonies as well.

Attitude To Christianity

Somewhat receptive

## Scripture

Translation Status

Possible

## Status of Christianity

## Missions and Churches

Organization Name

Roman Catholic Church

Number Of Congregations

>2

Organization Name

Reformed

Number Of Congregations

>2

## Status of Christianity