



## The Mubami of Papua New Guinea

The Mubami live on the banks of the Aramia, Guavi, and Wawoi Rivers in southwestern Papua New Guinea. International timber companies have contracted to log the forests on Mubami land. The logging industry has brought change to the area. Healthcare and education are more readily available, but prostitution is on the rise. Landowners receive royalties, enabling them to pay school fees for their children and purchase manufactured goods. However, having cash in hand can open the door to new temptations.

Although the influence of the logging companies has brought change, outside the logging camps the Mubami maintain much of their traditional lifestyle. They continue to harvest sago palm to remove the starch, which is their traditional staple food. They also fish, hunt and plant vegetable gardens. Some still build their houses on stilts from local forest materials, such as split black palm for the walls and floor and shingles made of sago fronds for the roofs. Others use roofing iron and other purchased materials.

The name Mubami and the alternate name Dausuame originate from their traditional jewelry. Some used to wear a bamboo stick, called a mabari'i, through their nose, while others twined bark strings in their hair and coated them with clay to make dreadlocks, called da'uso. These words were combined with the word for 'men' or 'people', ami/ame, and they came to be called Mubami/Dausuame.

The Gospel was brought to the Mubami people by their neighbours, the Gogodala, who became a great missionary force in the mid 1900's. The Mubami and many other groups in the region use the Gogodala New Testament and sing worship songs in Gogodala. However, with the exception of the residents in Kala, few Mubami know Gogodala, and understand the Scripture or songs. They have asked for assistance in translating the Bible into their language, but are still waiting. Recently, several Mubami have begun to write worship songs in their own language.

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

25 - 40%

**Churches:**

6

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None

**Population (date):**

1,900 (2002)



## The Mubami of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	Profile Summary
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		
Call Themselves Christian (%)	>50%	
Comment (Call Themselves Christian)	It is reported that 80% would call themselves Christian.	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	25 - 40%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	0%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	40-70%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Number Of Pastors	3	
Number Of Missionaries Working	5	
Response To The Gospel	The Mubami have readily accepted the Christian Church and some of the practices of Christianity, but people still turn to traditional spiritual means to address certain everyday difficulties.	
Number Of Communities	Six	
Comment (Number Communities)	Four of the Mubami villages, Kala on the Aramia River and Diwami, Pariame, and Sogae on the Wawai River, are located in an Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea (ECPNG) area and each village has an ECPNG church. The Guavi River is a Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) area. The inhabitants of Warehu and Kubiai, the two Guavi River villages, have relocated to settlements at the logging camp, which is situated on the river between the two old village sites. One of the settlements, Warehu, retains the village name. There is an SDA church at the logging camp, attended by the local Mubami people, and an ECPNG church attended by Mubami who have come from the other villages. Both churches at the camp are also attended by Papua New Guineans from other language groups.	
Number Of Churches	6	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No, not in the mother tongue of this people group.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	The literacy rate is reported to be between 30 and 60 %.	
	<p>The ECPNG churches use Scripture in Gogodala, a neighbouring language. Gogodala is not closely related to Mubami, but has been used as a church language in the area. Many ECPNG pastors are Gogodala and all of them receive their training in the Gogodala language area, whether taught in Gogodala or English. As a result, the pastors are able to read and speak Gogodala. However, with the exception of the Mubami in the Kala village, most are not fluent in Gogodala and therefore have only limited understanding when Scripture is read.</p> <p>At the logging camp, the ECPNG church uses English Scriptures in addition to Gogodala, and the SDA church uses English Scriptures exclusively. English is more widely spoken at the camp, due to the need for a language of wider communication, but many of the women do not know it.</p> <p>There are elementary schools, which teach in Mubami, at Pariame Village and Kamusi Logging Camp. The people of Sogae planned to start one in 2003 and have sent a community member to receive teacher training. If these schools continue, and succeed in teaching students to read in the mother tongue, there will be a corpus of literate individuals if and when vernacular Scriptures become available.</p> <p>Mubami women are less likely to be bilingual than are Mubami men. Men have more contact with the logging industry, which exposes them to English and/or Tok Pisin, a trade language that is only beginning to make inroads in Western Province. Men are more likely to have attended school beyond grade six, increasing their exposure to English, the language of education. All Mubami who attend high school and some of those who attend grades seven and eight do so in the Gogodala language area, so those who continue are also likely to learn Gogodala. The difference between the sexes in the rate of bilingualism means it is harder for women to understand the Gospel message unless it is in their own language.</p>	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Gospel presentations are not available in any of these forms in Mubami. Christian bookstores sell a variety of materials in English and Tok Pisin, but the individuals who can take advantage of such materials are a small minority. They must be literate in one of those languages, have cash, and be able to get to a town with a bookstore. Some materials may be available in Gogodala, but would have a limited audience among the Mubami as well. Recordings, videos, and radio programs all require the use of equipment dependent upon batteries or electricity, which may not be readily available.	

# The Mubami of Papua New Guinea

## Item Name

What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?

## Item Note

The main involvement needed from cross-cultural missionaries is Bible translation. Medical care is available, though people may have to travel some distance to get it. The churches are well established. The Christian Training Centre (CTC) at Mapodo, run by ECPNG, trains pastors and their wives. Most pastors in the area received three years of training through CTC. All of the classes were taught in Gogodala until the 1990s, when instruction began to be offered in English. The maintenance of old religious practices by people claiming to be Christians suggests that there is a need for more in-depth Bible teaching and discipling at the village level. Having the Scriptures in their heart language would facilitate meeting both of these needs and in communicating clearly that belonging to Jesus means leaving behind the worship and appeasement of spirits.

## Population All Countries

World Population For This People

1,900

World Population (Date)

1,900 (2002)

World Population (Urban Percent)

500

Comment (World Population)

1,900 (2002). The urban percent of 500 is at the Kamusi Logging Camp, which is considered urban by the government, but is not a city.

## Group Description

## Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name

Papua New Guinea

## Group Description

## Geography & Environment

Location

Western Province, Middle Fly District, along the Aramia, Wawoi and Guavi Rivers

Ecosystem Type

Tropical Forest

Geological Type

Riverine

Elevation

<300 meters

Longitude

E 143°

Latitude

S 7.3-8°

Climate

Tropical

Comments (Geography & Environment)

Kamusi Logging Camp: S 7.43519 E 143.13277 (Waliho is now so close that it may be better just to include Kamusi, as people from Waliho and Kubiai, another village, have moved close to the camp)

Balimo: S 8.05039 E 142.93267 (Nearest town - there is a high school there and is where some government functions are carried out.)

It would be good to have the Aramia, Wawoi, and Guavi Rivers, which flow into the Bamu, on the map. Even if it might mean leaving off some of the villages, that is fine. Maybe just show Pariame, Kamusi, Kala, and Diwami.

Map Features

Kala:S 7.95905 E 143.1336  
Diwami:S 7.67545 E 143.12157  
Pariame: S 7.65218 E 142.97251  
Sogae:S 7.60377 E 142.97822  
Waliho:S 7.43519 E 143.13297

## Group Description

## Language & Linguistics

Comment (Alternate Names)

Reported alternate names for this people group are, Dausame, Dausuami, and Ta (which simply means 'language' and is used alone or following Mubami, Dausame, or Dausuami). Tao-Suamato and Tao-Suame are also used in the literature, but not by people interviewed during the survey.

Comments (Dialect)

The people of Kala speak slightly differently.

Percent Monolingual (%)

50%

Comment (Second Language)

It is reported that 25% (Mostly at Kamusi) speak Tok Pisin; 20% of the people speak Hiri Motu, (which is a trade language in the Mubami area, mostly at Kamusi but also some older people in other villages). English, another second language, is spoken by 15-20% of this people group (Mostly at Kamusi, and a few individuals in other villages). In addition, Gogodala is spoken by 5-10% of the people.

Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)

None

Comments (Related Languages)

Karami (extinct) and Minanibai (possibly extinct) are in the same family. Ipiko, spoken in Gulf Province, belongs to the same stock.

## Group Description

## The Mubami of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	Group Description
<b>Literacy</b>		
Adult Literacy Percentage	30-60%	
Percent Literate For Men	79%	
Percent Literate For Women	64%	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Comment (Active Literacy Program)	There is no active adult literacy program. Those who are literate learned while attending school.	
Publications In Vernacular	The Waliho-Kubiai elementary school, which is located at Kamusi Logging Camp has shell books in the Mubami language, which are used to teach the children to read in the mother tongue. The Diwami community is in the process of compiling a songbook in the Mubami language. There are currently forty-six original Mubami songs composed by community members to be included, but additional ones are still being collected.	
Comment (Literacy)	The % literacy reported for both men and women was for Waleho, Block 3, and Kala per the 2000 National Census. Census figures are not available for Diwami, Pariame, and Sogae, but literacy rates are likely to be considerably lower in those villages.	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Hunter-gatherers	
Comment (Subsistence Type)	They are hunter-gatherers (sago palm is staple food) and they plant garden plots.	
Average Annual Income	Above the GNI per capita of US\$530 (UNICEF 2002).	
Occupation	Processing sago palm, fishing, hunting and gathering. Some of the Mubami work for the timber companies.	
Income Sources	Logging royalties and salaries, selling sago, vegetables, and crocodile skins are sources of income.	
Products / Crafts	Kundu drums, bows & arrows, and spears.	
Trade Partners	In the past they mostly traded with other Mubami, but now that the time of fighting is over, they trade with various groups including the Gogodala, Bamu, Dibiyaso, and Kamula. They also trade with groups in Gulf Province for shells.	
Modernization / Utilities	Outboard motors are common, and the village of Pariame has a 2-way radio.	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Health Care (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Health Care)	Aid posts and health centers are reasonably accessible, but medicines and medical supplies are often in short supply in PNG.	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Water (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Water)	They have tanks for rain collection, but river water is not suitable for drinking.	
Shelter Description	Some houses are built on stilts from local forest materials, such as split black palm for the walls and floor and shingles made of sago fronds for the roofs. Other houses use roofing iron and other purchased materials.	
Electricity	None	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Good	
Clothing	Clothing is reported as 'adequate'.	
Transportation	Good, relative to other areas of PNG. Canoe (with and without outboard motor), and motor vehicles near the Kamusi logging camp.	
Infant Mortality Rate	The national average is 5.5% (World Fact Book 2003).	
Life Expectancy	National average is 64.19 (World Fact Book 2003).	
Comment (Community Development)	This people group need to negotiate good contracts with the timber company. Also, they would like to have bridges and improved roads provided by the timber company.	
<b>Society &amp; Culture</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Neighbor Relations	They used to be enemies with the Kamula, Doso, Dibiyaso, Gogodala, and the Kaili of Gulf Province, but now generally live peacefully. However, there are occasional land disputes.	

## The Mubami of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image	Neutral
Comment (Self Image)	Their self-image is reported to be neutral to positive. They are a smaller and less influential group than the Gogodala, but they are the owners of large stretches of valuable forest land, which may well boost their group image.
Judicial / Punishment System	There is a reported compliance with the national system. However, when one of the lumber companies failed to pay landowners properly or bring development, equipment was destroyed and company bosses were beaten.
Celebrations	They sometimes hold a traditional singing (traditional music and dancing) for Independence Day.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive
Attitude To Change	Very receptive
Education	
Primary Schools	3
Comment (Primary Schools)	One ends at grade 3, another goes through grade 6, and the third through grade 8.
Primary School Enrollment	165
Comment (Primary School Enrollment)	165 Mubami, of which 39 who have 1 Mubami parent and 1 parent from another language group.
Secondary School Enrollment	5 (reported)
Comment (Language Of Instruction)	Language of instruction the first three years are in Mubami in the Pariame village, and in half of the Kamusi school. After the first three years, English is the language of instruction.
Comment (Language Of Textbook)	Textbooks are scarce. Teachers at the elementary schools are to develop their own books in Mubami for the first three years.
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	2 (for first three years only): Pariame and the Mubami track of the Kamusi school.
Comment (Education)	The teacher to pupil ratio in primary school is reported to be 1 teacher for every 30 students. Those who attend high school go to Awaba or Balimo, which are in the Gogodala language area. The teacher to pupil ratio in secondary school is unknown.
Church Growth	
Reached Status	Evaluated
Reached Classification	Evangelized
Comment (Bible Schools)	There is a Christian Training Centre at Mapodo just a few kilometres from Kala, although it is in the Gogodala language area.
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	2
Comment (Christian Clinics/Hospitals)	It is reported there are Christian clinics/hospitals in Balimo and Awaba.
Comment (Church Growth)	There are 3 Mubami pastors and 5 Gogodala pastors, but no missionaries among this people group.
Religion & Response	
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant
Resistance / Receptivity	Most people would call themselves Christians, but one of the pastors spoke of people working "magic" (traditional charms, rituals, etc.) against others in the village. Some have truly embraced Jesus as the only savior and others attend church, but continue to practice their traditional spiritual practices when it is convenient or expedient.
Spiritual Climate And Openness	The Mubami seem to be quite open, but some still cling to former religious practices.
Comment (Religion)	The SDAs engaged the survey team in a discussion about some points of doctrine. It opened the door to talk about Scripture. The motivation seemed to stem from checking out whether the team had acceptable views, but it also suggests a desire to understand the things of God.

### Group Description

### Status of Christianity

### Status of Christianity

## The Mubami of Papua New Guinea

### Item Name

Items For Prayer

### Item Note

·Please pray for fair contracts with the logging companies, that the people would make good use of the income, and that the land and waterways would not be destroyed.  
·Protection of people from troubles often associated with large economic enterprises in this country (violence, alcohol abuse, prostitution, breakdown of family and community life, loss of interest in things of God).  
·True conversion (not superficial acquiescence).  
·That they would know God cares about and has power to address the difficulties, both great and small, in their daily lives.

### History Of Christianity In Group

### Status of Christianity

Year Began

1900's

Comments (History of Christianity)

Christianity was probably introduced to this people group by national missionaries from the Gogodala language group after the first Gogodala pastors completed their training in the late 1940s/early 1950s.

### Scripture

### Status of Christianity

Translation Status

Definite

Available Scripture

None

Form Of Scripture Available

None

Reason For Urgent Need Of Translation

The ECPNG churches use Scripture in Gogodala, a neighbouring language. Gogodala is not closely related to Mubami, but has been used as a church language in the area. Many ECPNG pastors are Gogodala and all of them receive their training in the Gogodala language area, whether taught in Gogodala or English. As a result, the pastors are able to read and speak Gogodala. However, with the exception of the Mubami in the Kala village, most are not fluent in Gogodala and therefore have only limited understanding when Scripture is read.

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

### Missions and Churches

### Status of Christianity

Organization Name

Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea (see APCM)

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Number Of Congregations

7

Language Used By Workers

Gogodala

Language Used By Workers

Mubami

Organization Name

Seventh Day Adventists

Number Of Congregations

1

Number Of Workers Using Local Language

0