

YAMBES LANGUAGE PROFILE

EAST SEPIK PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Part of the **Yambes** people (ymb) live on a ridge in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea, while the

remaining people live beyond the next valley. Surrounded by the Wom language to the east, Urat to the south, and Kombio to the west, they understand portions of each of these languages. With no usable car road, it is about a two hour hike to the highway to catch a vehicle to town. Neither canoes or planes are viable transport options.

There is one school located between two of the Yambes villages which teaches primary school age children. Tok Pisin and English are the languages of instruction. If students continue on to grades nine through twelve, they must board in other language areas.

Subsistence farming provides most of the food in the area. Cocoa and vanilla are grown to sell. Men cook for the men and women cook for the women, but the women are responsible for clean up. There is a felt need for a closer, better water supply.

Villages: 4

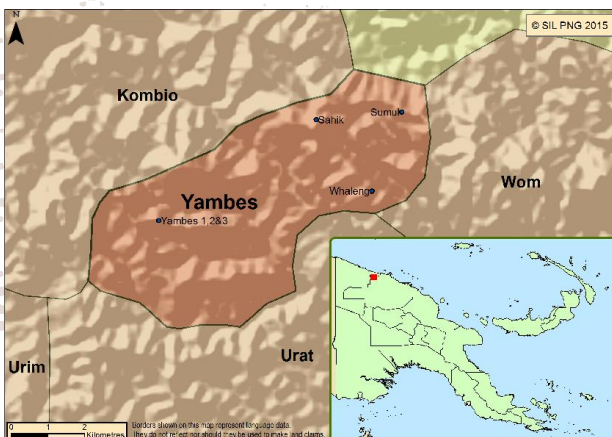
Yambes 1, 2, & 3; Sahik; Sumul; Waleng

Population: 500-600

Denominations: 4

South Seas Evangelical Church, Seventh Day Adventist, Catholic, Revival

Before, the Yambes people were feared because of their power related to sorcery. However, they now seem to have favorable relationships with the neighboring language groups. Traditional spirit houses are no longer seen in the area, although some still practice animism, syncretism, and sorcery. Three Yambes men attended Oral Bible Storytelling workshops in Wewak and now have tools to share some oral Scriptures in their communities. ***With no previous Scripture in their language, how could they know what God really wanted for their lives?***



PRAYER ITEMS

- That the Oral Bible Storytelling participants would find ample opportunities to share their stories and that lives would be changed because of God's talk.
- That the communities would know what the next steps should be after Oral Bible Storytelling.
- That they would be able to find a better water supply.
- That God's Word could stand alone, without having traditional beliefs added in as well.

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