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Good to produce, good to share: Food, hunger, and social values in a contemporary Mentawaian community, Indonesia

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**Good to Produce, Good to Share:
Food, Hunger, and Social Values
in a Contemporary Mentawaian Community, Indonesia**

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door
Darmanto
geboren te Lamongan (Indonesië) in 1980

To Nadya and Gerei

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Cover photo: Teu Rima and his wife give a blessing for ceremonial meat (*iba-t-punen*) during a mortuary ceremony (*panunggru*) of a Sagari family in Muntei on 24 December 2014 © Darmanto (2014)

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Names of Places and Persons

In the text, I use the real names of places known to people in Muntei, while for persons I employed a teknonym. Muntei people have a Mentawaian name until they get married. The current generation prefers to use Christian names. Yet, when people marry and have children, neither Mentawaian, nor Christian name are used. Adult men and women are eventually called after their first child. The men are called *aman* (father of) while the women are called by *bai* (mother of) after the child. This use of real placenames and teknonyms may raise ethical questions. However, during my last visit, I discussed my analysis and interpretation of ethnographic materials with the residents of Muntei and asked their opinion about how best to use names. The majority of discussants suggested that I should use their teknonym and real placenames. Teknonymy is considered safer to employ as it is not used in any formal or legal documents in the village or in any other administration, but is a recognised practice in the settlement. Specifically, I have adopted the above approach to naming sago gardens, rivers, and the forest shown in the maps. It should be noted, however, that all names in the maps are just a general reference to specific areas. They do not refer to an individual plot of gardens or forest or identify a specific claimant. Some of the gardens, rivers, and forest featured have been, and may still be, the subject of dispute due to many centuries of complicated and overlapping claims, local migration, and occupations. Therefore, all places and names indicated as claimed forest and gardens in the maps are simply a general attestation.

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Abbreviations

Depsos	Departemen Sosial (Ministry of Social Affairs)
DKP	Dewan Ketahanan Pangan (National Food Security Board)
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
ICDS	The Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OPKM	Otorita Pengembangan Kepulauan Mentawai (Mentawai Archipelago Development Authority)
PKMT	Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Masyarakat Terasing (Isolated People's Prosperity Development Project)
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
YCMM	Yayasan Citra Mandiri Mentawai (Citra Mandiri Mentawai Foundation)
RASKIN	Beras untuk Orang Miskin (Rice for Poor People)

Glossary

<i>aggau</i>	a species of crab, it also refers to the season when the crab emerges
<i>alak toga</i>	literally taking the child, a term for the bride price
<i>alei</i>	friend
<i>aman</i>	father of
<i>arat</i>	the Mentawai pronunciation of the word adat, custom
<i>bai</i>	mother of
<i>bajou</i>	the dangerous force or substance emanating from a spirit
<i>bakkat katsaila</i>	the ancestral altar in the longhouse
<i>bakkat seksek</i>	uncleared space, the opposite of barasi
<i>barasi</i>	the cleared space, referring to the government-built village
<i>bat-oinan</i>	rivers
<i>bat-sopak</i>	stream
<i>bat-n-uma</i>	the back room of the longhouse
<i>batra</i>	sago grubs
<i>bebe-t-sapou</i>	literally beside the house, a term for home gardens
<i>bilou</i>	Mentawaian's endemic gibbons
<i>bua</i>	fruits
<i>bulagat</i>	money
<i>camat (BI)</i>	the head of the kecamatan (sub-district)
<i>desa</i>	village
<i>doriat</i>	durian
<i>dusun</i>	hamlet
<i>eneget</i>	an initiation ritual for children
<i>gaud</i>	magical charms, most often plants, mediators between humans and spirits, offered to the spirits mainly in communal ceremonies
<i>gettek</i>	taro
<i>gineta</i>	small lakes
<i>goukgouk</i>	chicken
<i>iba</i>	meat, food from animals
<i>iba-t-koat</i>	meat from the sea
<i>iba-t-leleu</i>	meat from the forest
<i>iba-t-laut</i>	meat from the sea, especially fish
<i>iba-t-oinan</i>	meat from freshwater
<i>iba-t-punen</i>	meat for ritual ceremonies
<i>iba-t-sinanelep</i>	meat collected by women
<i>gobbik</i>	cassava
<i>jarik</i>	gill net; fish net
<i>jikjik</i>	female infant

<i>joja</i>	mentawaian langur
<i>kailabba</i>	pied hornbill
<i>kampung</i>	village, settlement
<i>kapurut</i>	bread-stick sago
<i>kecamatan</i>	sub-district
<i>kepala desa</i>	the head of a village
<i>kepala dusun</i>	the head of a hamlet
<i>kepala kampung</i>	the head of a kampung
<i>kasilak</i>	the opposite of the settlement; across the river
<i>kerei</i>	shaman
<i>ketsat</i>	a respectful term for the soul, especially the soul of dead things
<i>koat</i>	the sea
<i>kolik</i>	male infant
<i>laibok</i>	the front room of the longhouse; a veranda of a house
<i>lalep</i>	nuclear family; the residents of a sapou
<i>leuk-leuk</i>	wild ferns
<i>leituak</i>	flying fox
<i>leleu</i>	forest
<i>lia</i>	puliaiijat, a part of ritual ceremonies (<i>punen</i>) when people are ready to make offerings
<i>lojo</i>	river eels
<i>lulag</i>	wooden platter
<i>maalak</i>	to take something
<i>mabeili</i>	lazy
<i>malagak</i>	sour
<i>malaje</i>	to be hungry
<i>maektek</i>	satisfy, satiate
<i>makelak</i>	hard, tough, strong
<i>malainge</i>	beautiful
<i>magok</i>	banana
<i>majolottubu</i>	creative, independent person
<i>makotkot</i>	dark, black
<i>mamekmek</i>	soft
<i>manai</i>	flower, ornament wear during punen
<i>mananam</i>	sweet, delicious
<i>manau</i>	calamus rattan
<i>mangamang</i>	diligent
<i>marot</i>	healthy
<i>masyarakat terasing</i>	the most isolated and underdeveloped people
<i>masusurak</i>	turtles
<i>mata</i>	literally an eye, a growing area
<i>mone</i>	mature garden, the latest phase of forest cultivation
<i>mone sagu</i>	sago garden
<i>mujarik</i>	sinking gill net
<i>mugalai</i>	making/creating something
<i>mulia</i>	to perform the puliaiijat ceremony; to be in a state of lia

<i>mulok</i>	drinking
<i>mukom</i>	eating
<i>mumone</i>	gardening
<i>murorou</i>	hunting
<i>mutobbou</i>	sitting
<i>mutubba</i>	poisoning
<i>nusa</i>	small islets, including beaches and mangrove forest
<i>nemnem kabei</i>	a ritual for new baby born
<i>nilam</i>	patchouli
<i>oiluk</i>	a respiratory disease that attacks chicken and pigs
<i>onaja</i>	swampy areas
<i>orang hulu</i>	upriver people, referring to people who settle around the Rereiket River
<i>otcai</i>	a fair share
<i>paabad</i>	institutionalised peace ritual between previously rival clans
<i>pabetei</i>	curing ritual
<i>pako</i>	institutionalised rivalry between clans
<i>palignaggra</i>	gathering, especially fish and shrimps
<i>panaki</i>	an offering ritual, done, in particular, before people enter or take something from undomesticated spaces (forest, river)
<i>pananduk</i>	harvesting fruits, especially durian
<i>paneuk</i>	cooking
<i>pangabli</i>	fishing
<i>pangurei</i>	marriage ritual
<i>panu</i>	a large fish net
<i>panunggru</i>	mortuary ritual
<i>paroman</i>	fair and equitable exchange
<i>pasiripokat</i>	institutionalised friendship
<i>patuat</i>	thoughts/feelings
<i>posa</i>	solid land, usually in the hilly area
<i>pugettekat</i>	taro gardens
<i>pukebbukanan</i>	marriage institution
<i>pulaggajat</i>	old settlement
<i>puliaijat</i>	part of a communal ceremony when animals are sacrificed and offerings are made
<i>pumonean</i>	a cultivated site, a garden
<i>punen</i>	communal ceremonies
<i>pugogoupat</i>	chicken huts
<i>pusaguat</i>	sago hut for processing sago
<i>pusainakat</i>	pig huts
<i>pusinoso</i>	spiky durian; wild durian
<i>rakrak</i>	a group of clans related by descent
<i>rimata</i>	head of rituals
<i>rura</i>	fruit season
<i>sagu</i>	sago

<i>sainak</i>	pig
<i>sairappit</i>	sago pith
<i>sakokok-koat</i>	dugong
<i>sapo</i>	a single family dwelling, in contrast to the longhouse
<i>sasareu</i>	a non-Mentawaian person, especially Minangkabau
<i>sarereiket</i>	people from Rereiket River
<i>sasabirut</i>	people from the Sabirut Valley
<i>saukkui</i>	ancestral spirits
<i>sautek</i>	leader, elite, the head of a project
<i>sikalabbai</i>	older women
<i>sikaleleu</i>	the spirits of the forest
<i>sikaoinan</i>	the spirit of the water
<i>sikameinan</i>	the spirit of the water who, in particular, punishes people who eat alone or other anti-social behaviour
<i>sikebbukat</i>	older men
<i>sikom</i>	eater
<i>silakkara</i>	smoked meat
<i>simagege</i>	swagger person
<i>simagre</i>	soul or spirit
<i>simakobuk</i>	a kind of primate
<i>simoitek</i>	agarwood
<i>siokbuk</i>	bamboo-roasted sago
<i>siokkok</i>	girls
<i>sipumone</i>	gardeners
<i>sitakiba</i>	those who have no meat
<i>sirimanua</i>	humans being
<i>subba</i>	hand net
<i>subbet</i>	mashed taro balls, rolled in grated coconut and served mainly at ritual meals
<i>suruket</i>	those who must be protected, foetus
<i>telemen</i>	resettlement village, referring to the OPKM project
<i>tenga-n-uma</i>	the middle room of the longhouse
<i>tetekket</i>	yams
<i>tinungglu</i>	the new/fresh garden, the opening cycle of forest cultivation
<i>toitet</i>	coconut
<i>toktuk</i>	red durian
<i>tubbu</i>	body
<i>tudukat</i>	large slit drums
<i>tulo</i>	recompense; compensation
<i>tuik</i>	cat fish
<i>tutuk</i>	shrimps
<i>uma</i>	the exogamous, patrilineal, patrilocal clan; the longhouse, in contrast to the sapou
<i>urep/pangurep</i>	cultivating
<i>uroro</i>	to hunt

Figure 1. Indonesia and Mentawai Archipelago

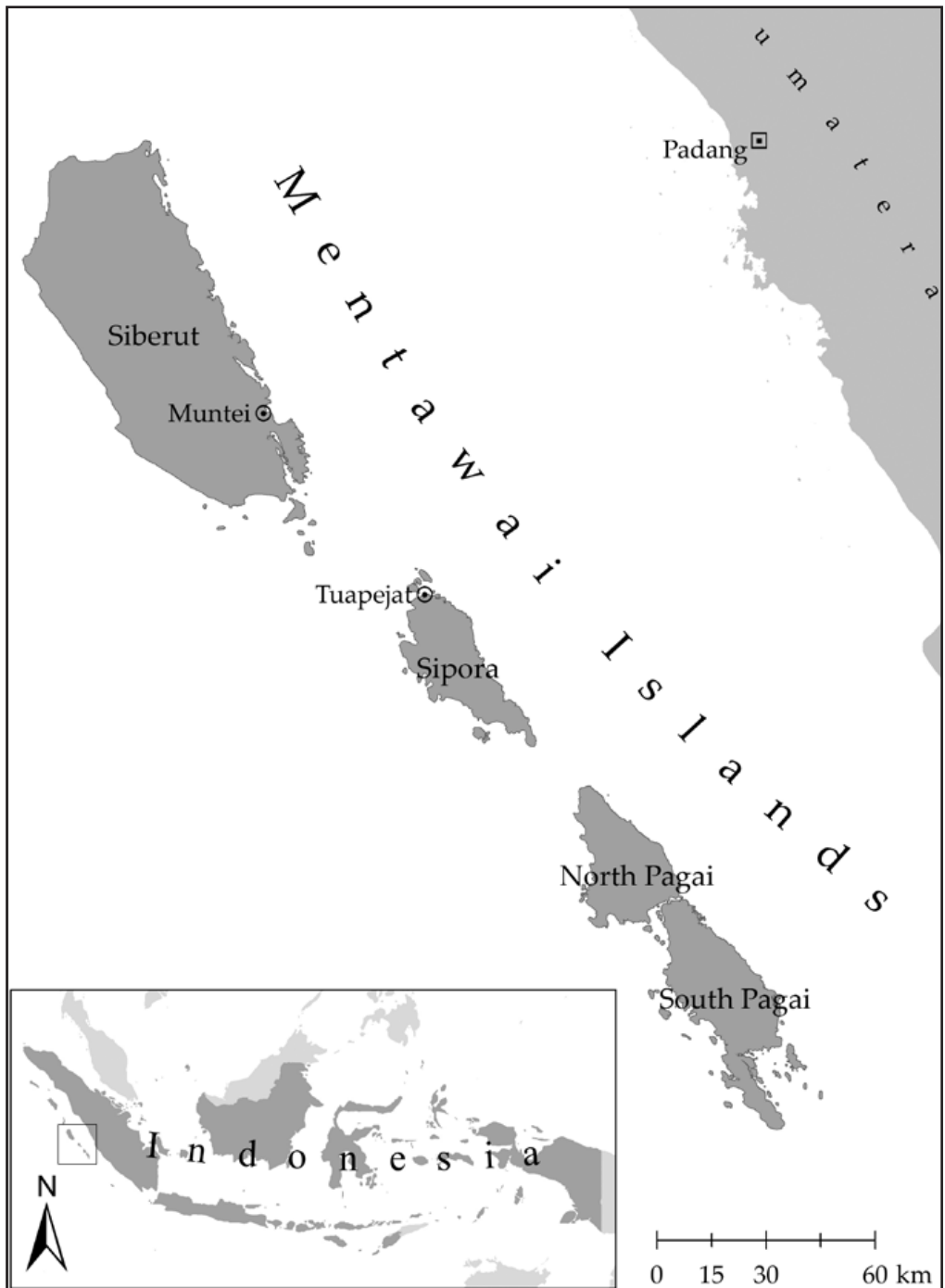


Figure 2. Siberut Island

