



Ambala

PROJECT SUMMARY:

In recent years, the Ayta people's traditional lifestyle has come into conflict with mainstream Filipino culture. New highways have made it easy for land-hungry outsiders to acquire Ayta homelands. Officials plan to change the resettled Aytas' livelihood from their semi-nomadic forest lifestyle to a sedentary existence of raising fish in ponds. Although Ayta families express opposition and fear about their future, they feel helpless as they watch the modern world encroach on their way of life.

When missionaries arrive with gifts, medical services or entertainment, a large crowd gathers, creating the illusion that many Ayta are Christians. But most still call on spirit mediums when family members are ill. They also appease forest spirits before planting gardens or building homes. Local churches don't have the tools they need to reach Ayta hearts.

THE PEOPLE

Anthropologists believe the Ayta once lived in the coastal areas of the northern Philippines. But more aggressive newcomers pushed the docile, peace-loving Ayta inland to the hill country around Mt. Pinatubo, where Ayta families make their homes of bamboo and thatch.

They cut garden areas out of the jungles to cultivate root crops and other vegetables as staple foods. They also plant wild rice on the hillsides, moving their crops and their families to new locations periodically. Charcoal, made from local trees, fuels their cooking fires and offers warmth on chilly nights. They feel the shared forest belongs to everyone; no one owns land.

BACKGROUND

The Ayta sense discrimination from the wider Filipino culture today; their skin is darker than that of most Malay peoples and their hair is curly. Education has not generally been highly valued; thus, literacy levels are extremely low.

Protestant groups began consistent outreach to these Ayta communities in the aftermath of Mt. Pinatubo's eruption in 1991. Although most people affected by the eruption have re-established a semblance of routine, not many have come to the Savior. Among the Ayta Ambala, only a handful of women have believed in Jesus. For the Ayta Ambala, no translation has yet even been attempted.

>>>

PHILIPPINES



- **Location:** Philippines
- **Number of Speakers:** 3,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 2009
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2014





Ambala

THE NEED

Christian ministries here don't have the tools they need to reach Ayta hearts. Church services are generally conducted in Tagalog, Kapampangan or in English. While evil spirits speak Ayta; the church does not.

Mother-tongue Scripture translation can offer them real hope – the One who never changes – in the midst of fear and uncertainty. The Ayta people need to understand God's love for them in the face of ridicule and discrimination.

THE TEAM

The Ambala group will choose up to four translators to receive training. The Translators Association of the Philippines and SIL Philippines will provide training, administrative support and consultant help for the project.

THE PLAN

Because Ambala is closely related to Botolan Sambal, they have already created a rough draft from the Sambal New Testament using computer adaptation tools. The Ambala group will work in concert with them, due to the similarities in their languages.

Bible storying is also a very important component of Scripture use among these predominantly oral groups. Radio programming may also offer another outlet for Scripture use through a local station.

JOINING THE TEAM

The Ayta Ambala translators cannot complete their goals without your financial investment and prayer. Your financial investment makes translation possible, providing training, adequate computer equipment, translation supplies and living expenses for the translators' families.

Your prayer helps translators and their families face problems like sickness, conflict and spiritual opposition that can threaten their work.

Call The Seed Company toll-free at 1-877-593-7333 or visit www.theseedcompany.org/projects to commit to invest and pray for the Ayta Ambala team.

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104
Arlington, Texas 76015
Toll Free: (877) 593-7333
www.theseedcompany.org
A Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliate

