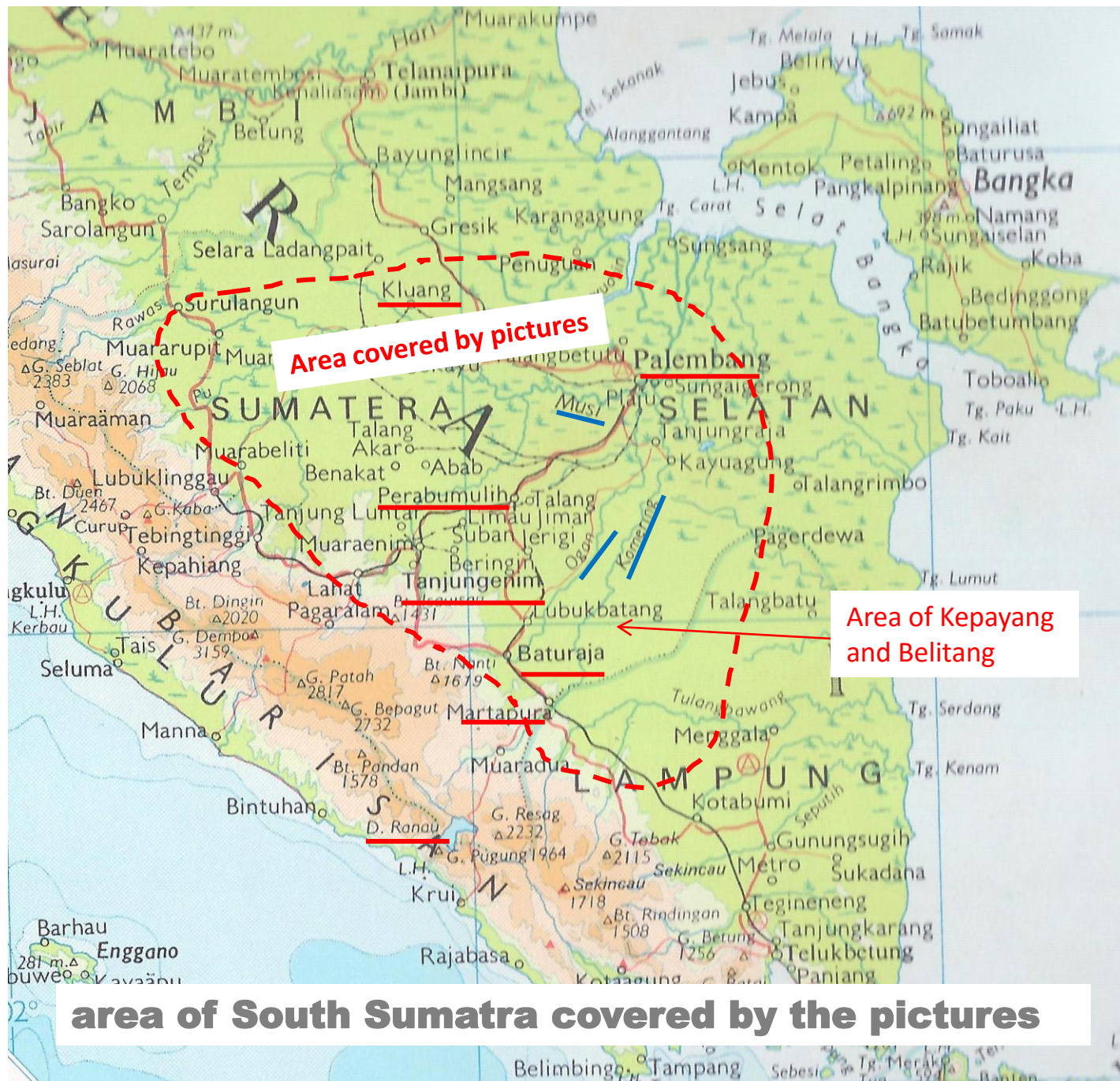
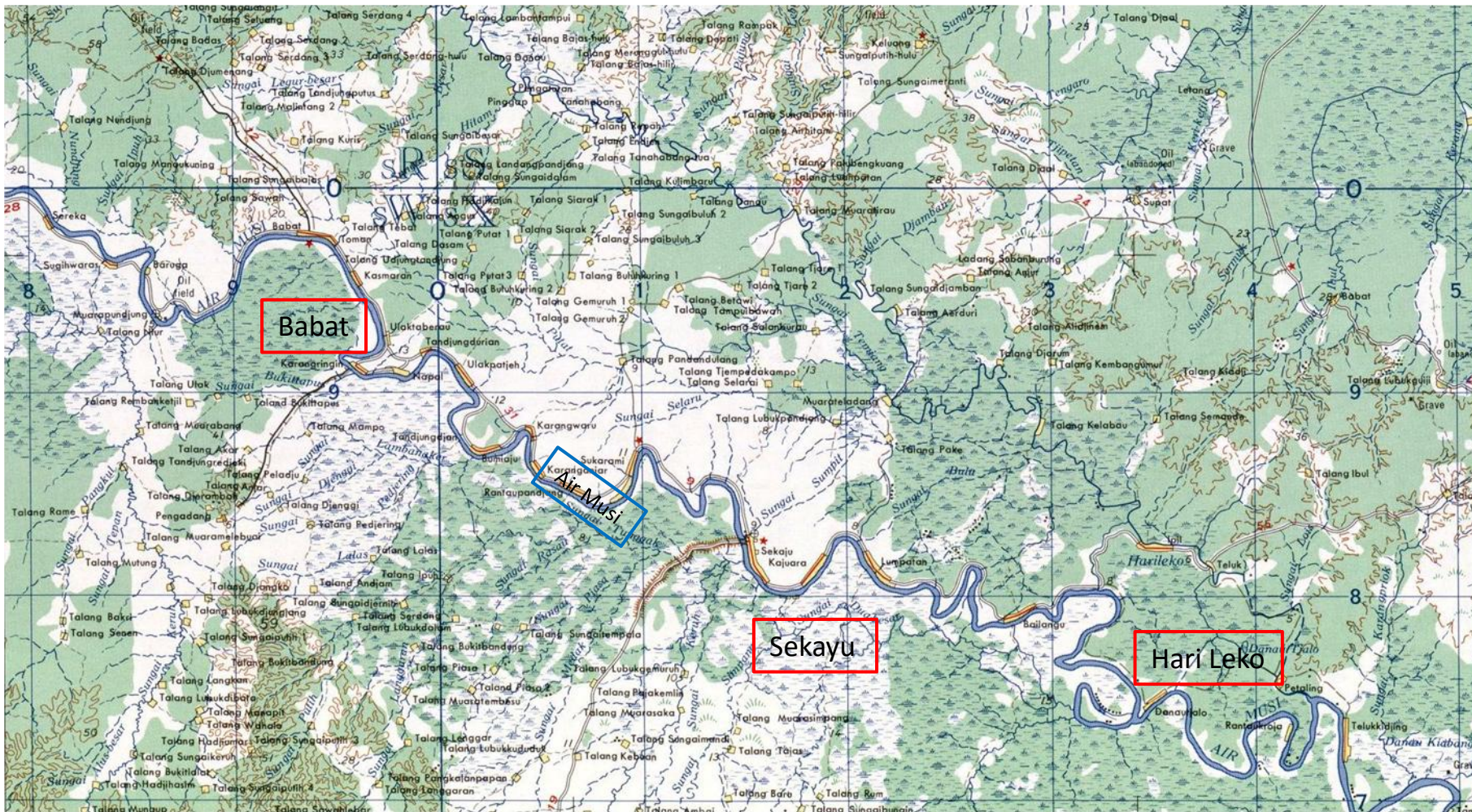


## South Sumatra 1974 - 1976

The pictures shown below were taken during a coal exploration campaign undertaken by Shell International following the first oil shock of 1973. The intention is to illustrate the life of the people living in South Sumatra in the mid-seventies. Living conditions there have drastically changed since then, hopefully for the better. This pictorial testimony is dedicated to the people of South Sumatra, who welcomed me with their smiles and hospitality, especially during the period of geological field-work. To all of them, a belated but wholehearted « Thank you ».



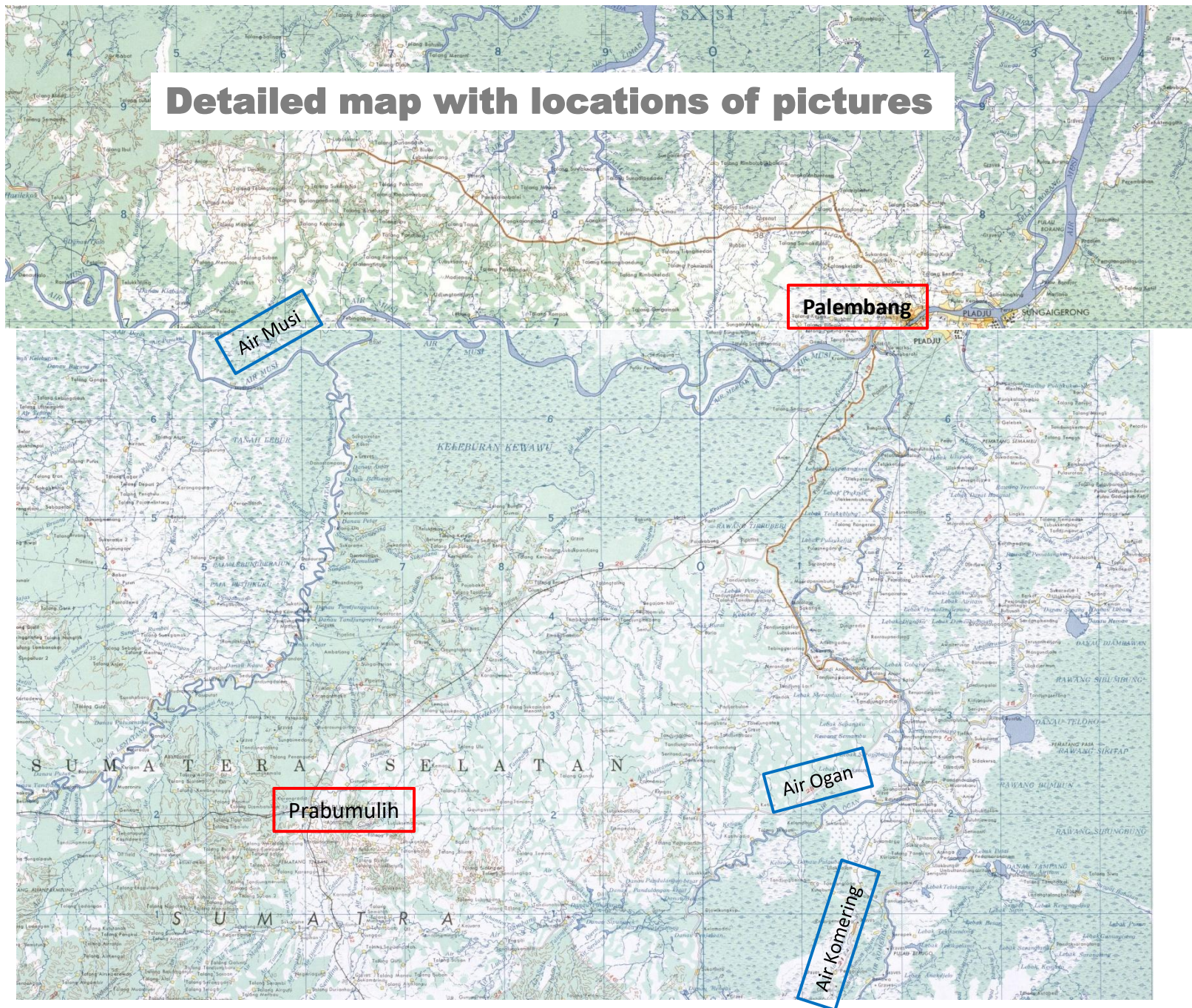




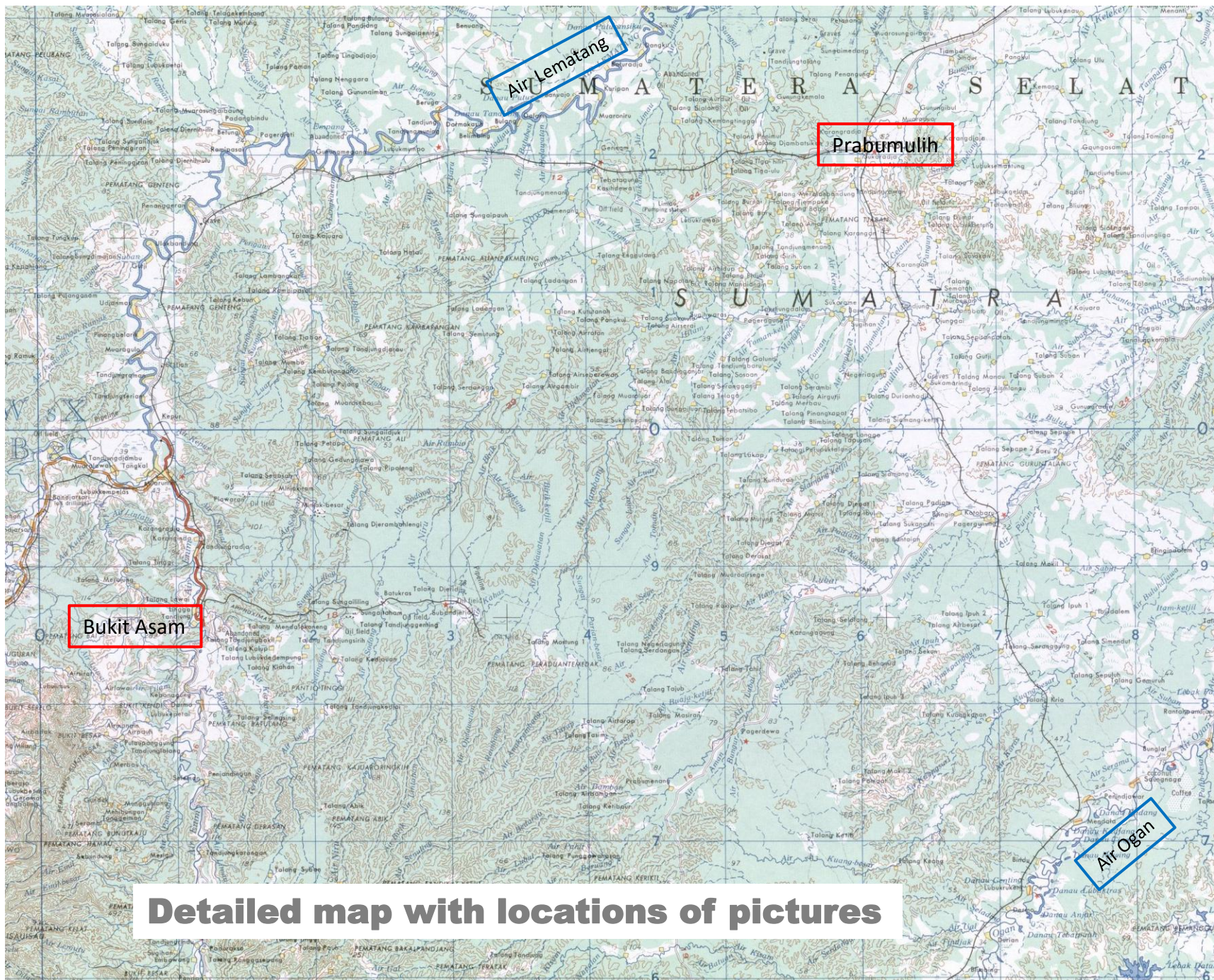
Detailed map with locations of pictures



## Detailed map with locations of pictures

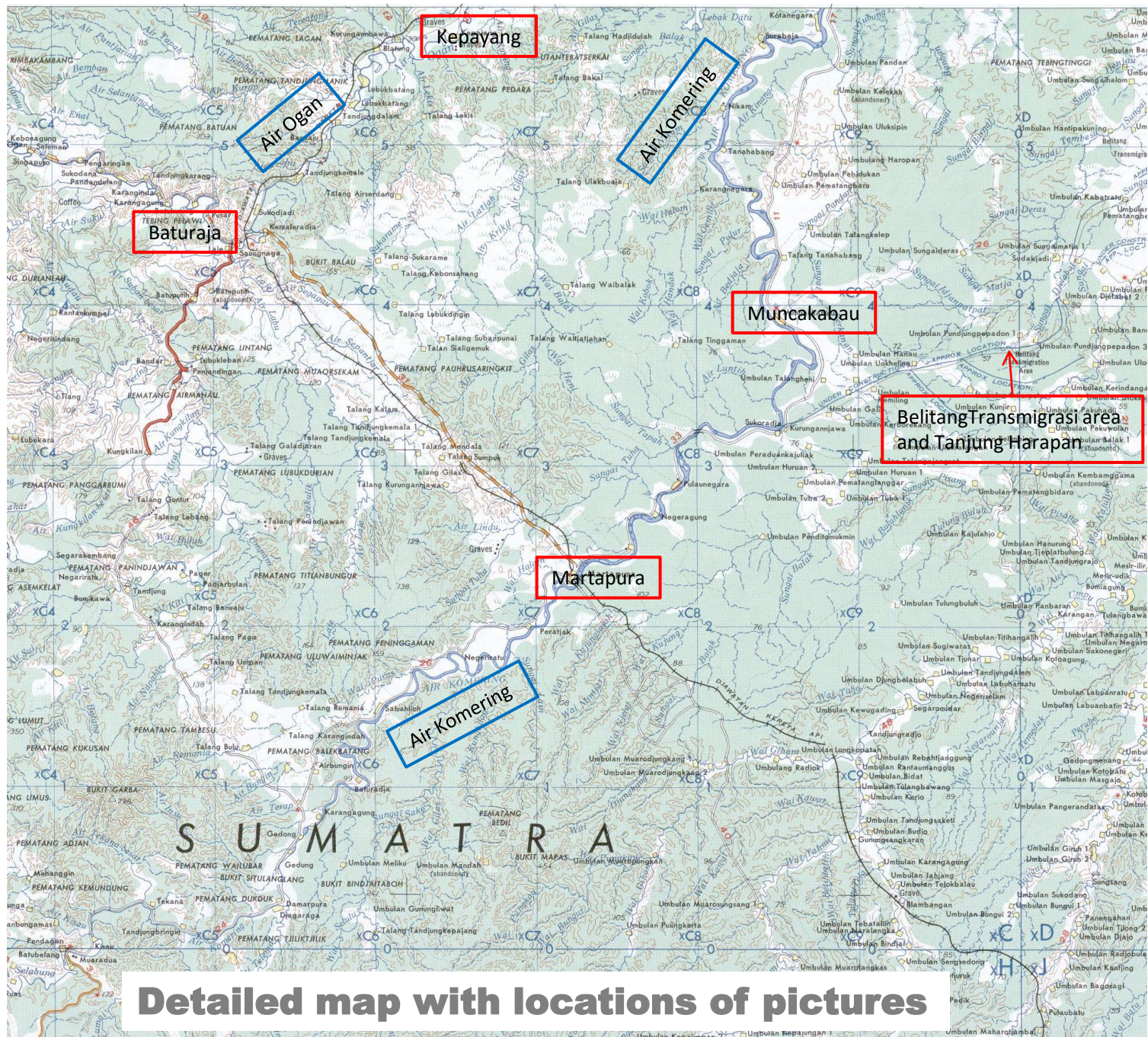






**Detailed map with locations of pictures**

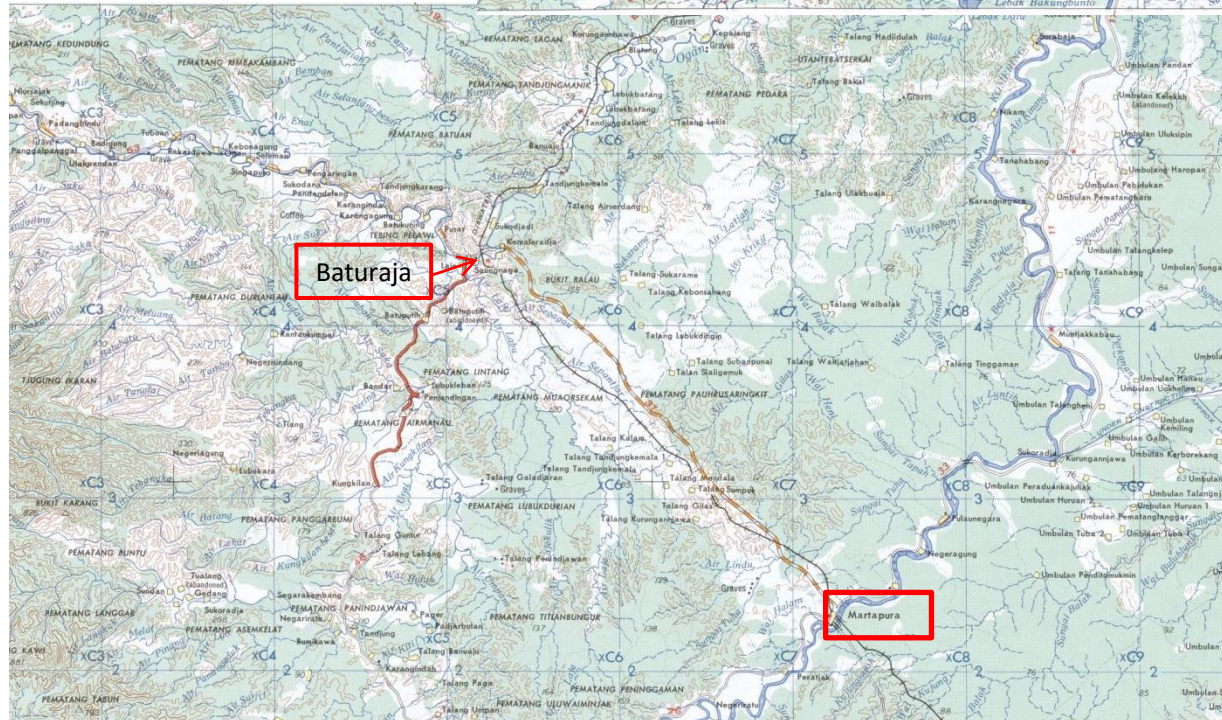
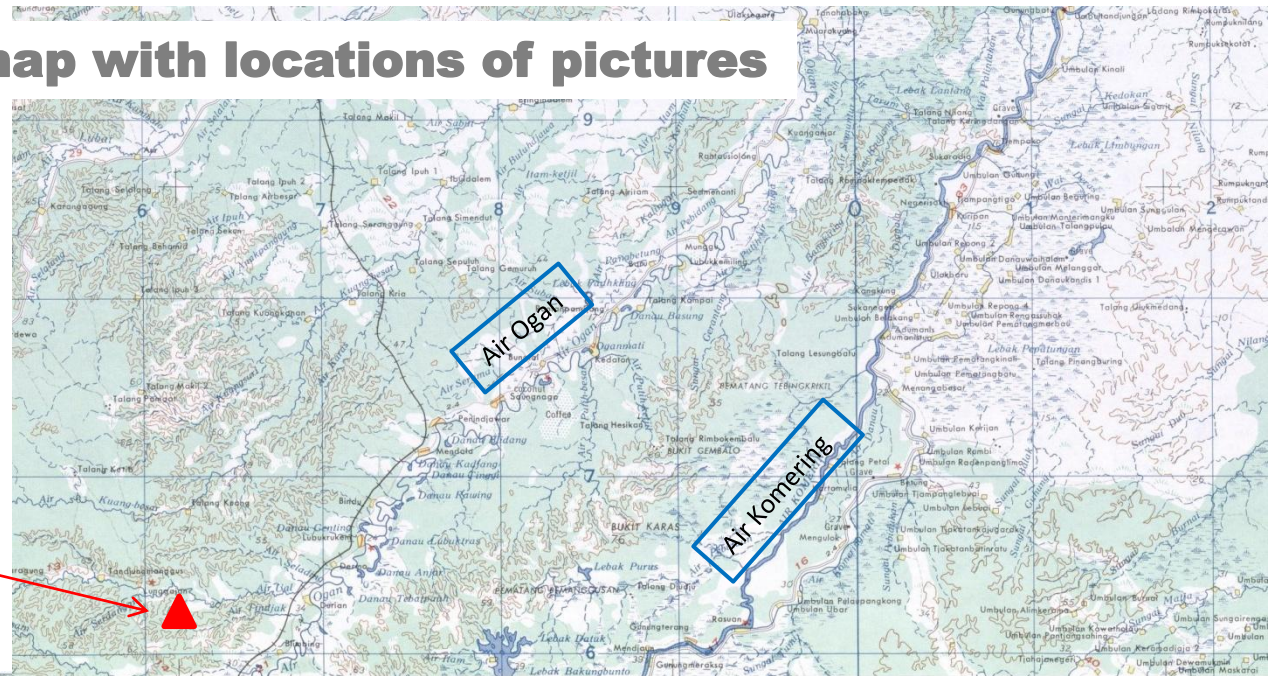






# Detailed map with locations of pictures

Gunung Meraksa 14  
oil well. Archeological site





**Palembang**





**Palembang street. Culture crosses boundaries!**





**Betjak station in Palembang**





**Market along the Air Musi, Palembang**









**Palembang Harbour on the Air Musi with « oplet » and « betjak » waiting for passengers**





**Harbour on the Air Musi, Palembang**





**Harbour along the Air Musi**





**Unloading of bamboo, side stream of  
the Air Musi, close to Palembang**





**Outskirts of Palembang**





**Shops in Palembang outskirts**





**Village along the Air Musi near Palembang**





**Village along the Air Musi near Palembang**



# **Landscapes and nature**





**Sunset mood on the Air Ogan**





**Bukit Asam « open pit » coal (anthracite) mines,  
Tanjung Enim area**



**Volcanic andesitic neck/plug near Bukit Asam**





**Volcanic andesitic neck/plug near Bukit Asam**



**Secondary jungle**





**Dawn storm approaching the Bukit Asam area**





**Water lilies in Belitang swamps**





**« Pohon Sedang »  
at Kluang**





**Channel dug in the Belitang « Transmigrasi Area »,  
for irrigation, transport and daily needs**





**« Alang-alang » grass (tigers!) in the Gunung Meraksa area**





**« Alang alang » grass has replaced the primary jungle**



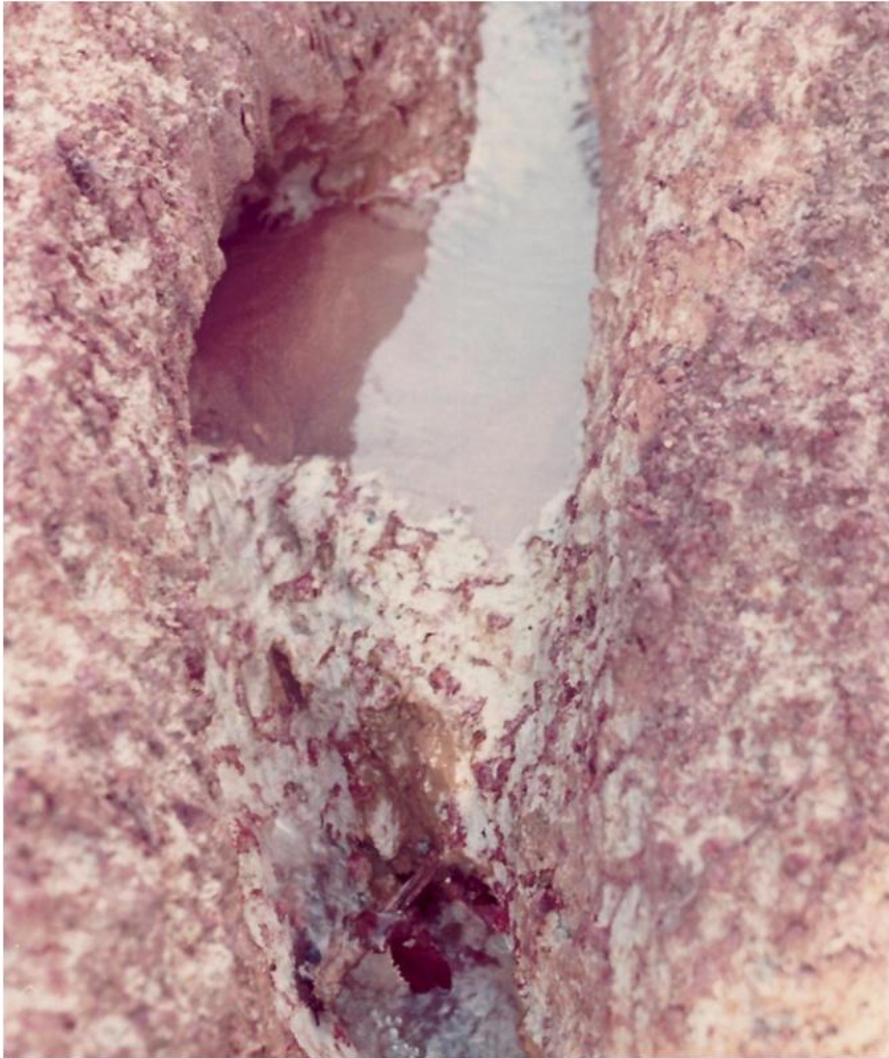


**Flooding along the Air Musi meanders**



**Meanders of the Air Musi**





**Ubiquitous laterite soil  
below the thin soil layer**



**Magnetite and ilmenite  
concentration in stream**



**Danau (Lake) Ranau and Bukit Pakiwan volcano (1531m)**





**Savannah after « slash and burn », Belitang.  
Sad view of calcinated tree trunks**



**Savannah of « alang alang » grass and rices fields after « slash and burn », Belitang**



# Communications



**A still working old-timer in Prabumulih station**





**It does indeed work, Prabumulih station**



**Prabumulih's pineapples (nenas), «the best of Sumatra» ,  
ready for shipping to Java**





**Fuel and passenger transport, Prabumulih station**



**Undulating, one man bridge**





**Remainders of a previous bridge, Muncakabau area...**





**Rainy season flooding in Belitang. A road hides under water, which children seem to enjoy**





**Rainy season in Belitang**



**Rainy season in Kepadang**





**The Air Musi near Mangunjaya, boat for heavy transport**



**Filling station near Mangunjaya on the Air Musi**



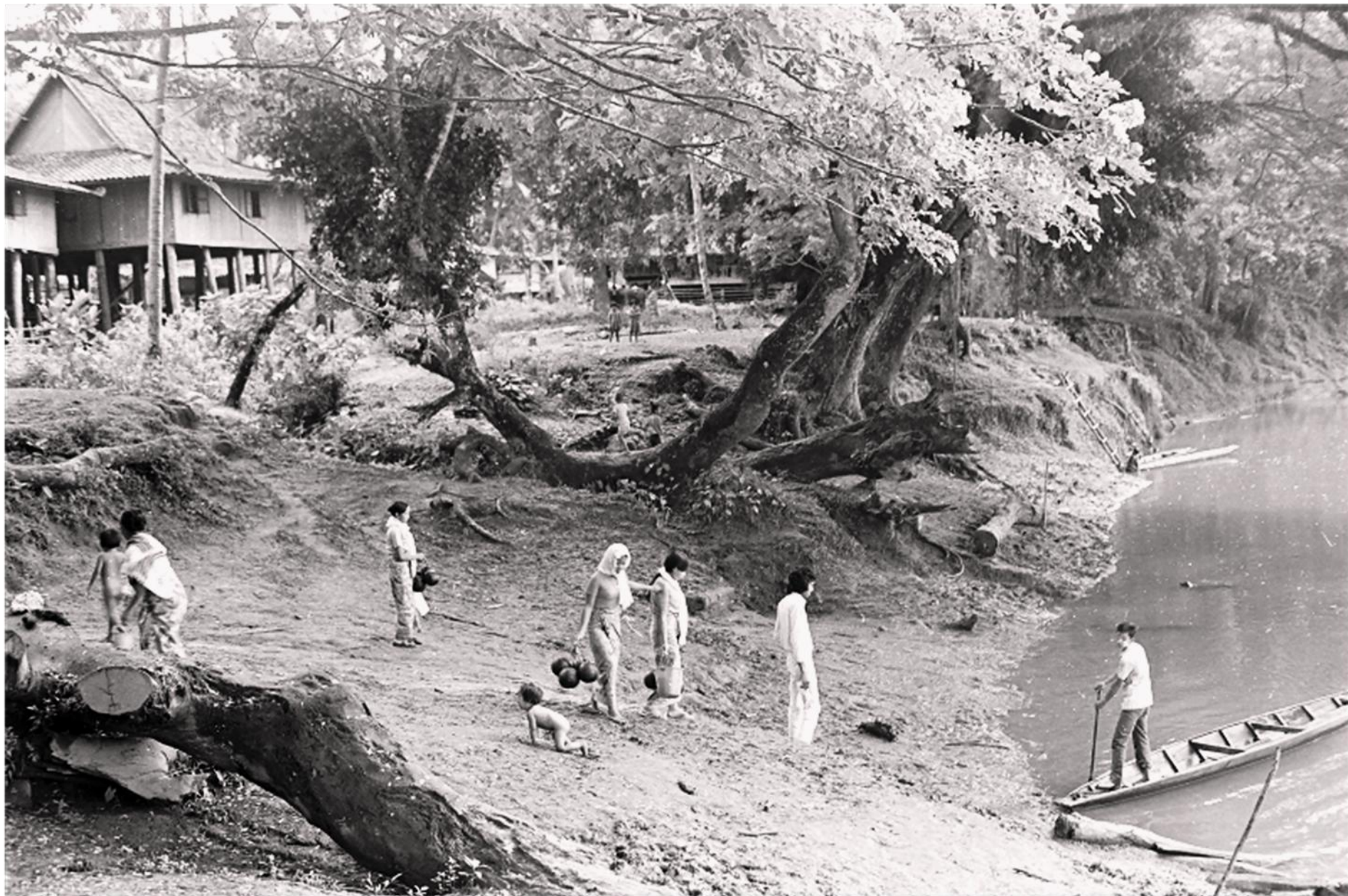


**Quite an effort to free  
the boat, Air Ogan near  
Baturaja**



**Steering during the  
crossing of the Air Ogan**





**A family about to cross the Air Ogan**



**Crossing of the Air Ogan**





**Fishing party on the Air Ogan**



**Young boys fishing on the Air Ogan**





**Rafting the old way, Air Ogan**

# **Resources, Agriculture, Commerce**





**Jungle clearing, Belitang**





**Typical clearing and farm. Riung Bandung  
close to the Air Komerling**





**Hevea (rubber tree) plantation**



**Farmer's house in Belitang**





**« Padi » (rice field) in Belitang**





**Padi at Tanjung Harapan, Belitang**





**« Padi » (rice field) in Belitang**





**« Padi » at Tanjung Harapan, Belitang**





**Rice harvest in Belitang**



**Back home after a heavy day of rice harvesting in Belitang**





**Back home after a heavy day of rice harvesting in Belitang**



**Rice drying in a village along the Air Komereng**





**Raft ready for rubber transport on the Air Komering**



**Bamboo raft on the Air Ogan**





**Transport of bananas on a small stream**



**« Kerbau » (buffalo) enjoying a bath and raft of rubber balls**





**Transport in the Kepadang area**



**Tree trunk transport on a small stream**





**Building of a tree trunk raft on the Air Komering**



**Transport of a tree trunk in Belitang**





**Sawing of wood boards in Kepayang**





**Bamboo raft on the Air Komering**





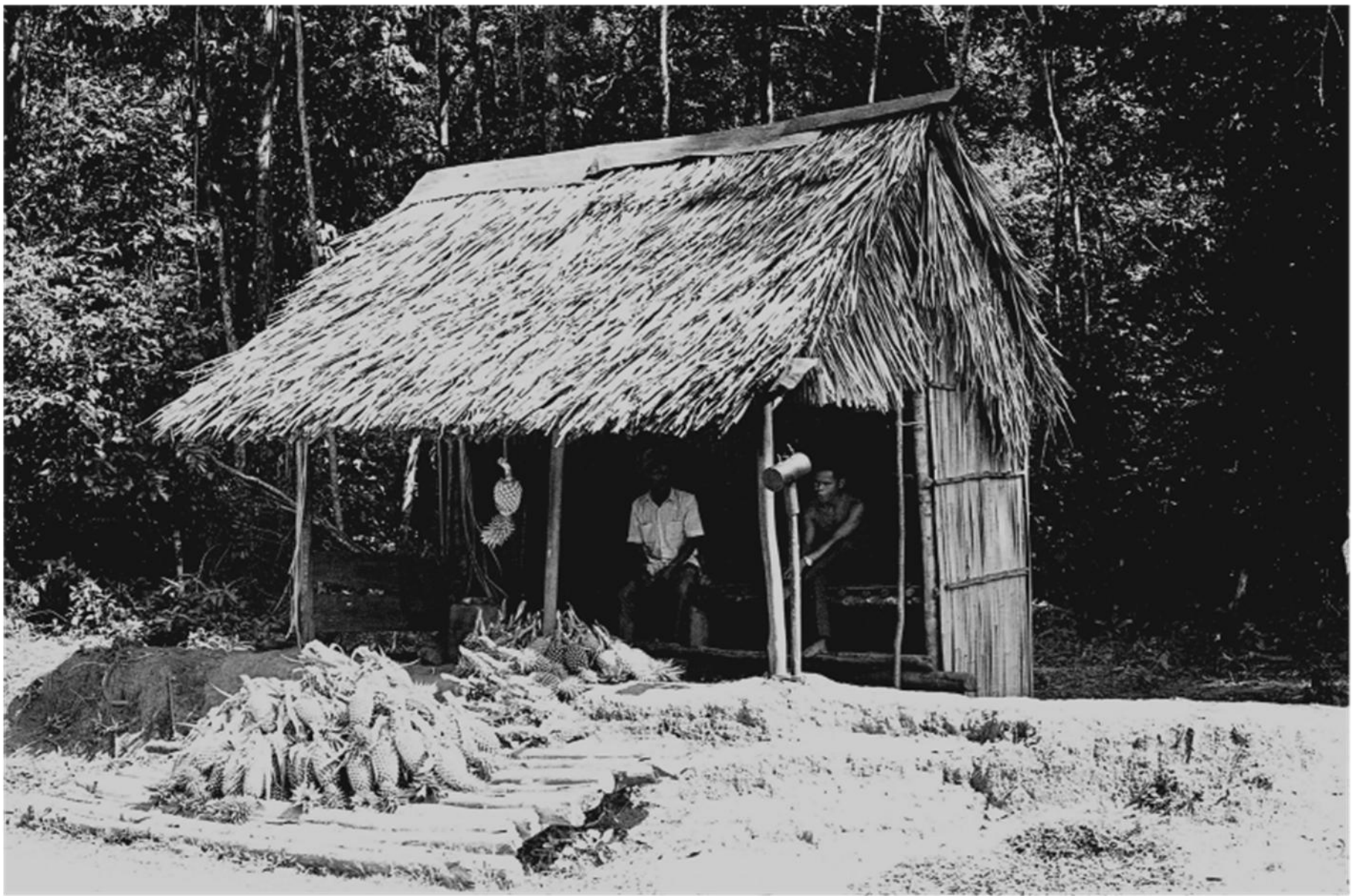
**Drying of coffee beans in Kepayang**



**« Nenas » (pineapples)  
ready for consumption.**

**Full loads of those were  
Travelling by air between  
Palembang and Jakarta  
on a daily basis**





**Pineapple shop between Prabumulih and Baturaja**



**Peaceful Air Ogan**





**Fishermen village along the Air Ogan**



## **Boat construction along the Air Ogan.**

**Children wonder about the  
« Orang Belanda » (Dutchman)  
taking the picture**





**Market in Martapura**



**Market in the Kepayang area**





**Durian without smell**





**Dawas on Sungai Lilin. Compulsory ferry place**





**Market at Dawas ferry place**





**Market at Dawas ferry place**





**Market at Dawas ferry place**





**Ready to embark on the ferry at Dawas. In the background preparation for the building of a new bridge.**





**Embarking on the « oplet » at Dawas ferry place**



**Peasant opening a coconut in Muara Teladang**





**Road building somewhere in South Sumatra.  
A very thin soil covers the laterite!**

# Housing





**Baturaja**





**Tanjung Harapan, Belitang area**





**Hamlet along a swampy stream**



**Family in Talang  
Rompok. A very  
simple house indeed**





**Pristine village**





**Simpler houses for less well-off families**





**Village along the Air Komeri**



**Muara Teladang on the Air Batang Hari Leko**





**Another village along the Air Komeri**



**Beautiful carvings ornating  
the houses of well-off families**





**Beautiful carvings ornating  
the houses of well-off families**



**Details of carvings**





**Beautiful carvings ornating the houses of well-off families**



**Village along the Air Ogan**





**Mosque under construction at the shore of the Air Ogan**

**Children**







**Welcome in Belitang**







**Welcome in Belitang**





**Welcome in Belitang**



**Wedding procession in Kepayang**





**Wedding procession in Lubukbatang (Air Ogan)**

## Archaeology

A prehistoric tools site was discovered during field-work in the Gunung Meraksa area. As no time was available for a detailed survey, only a few lithic flakes could be recovered. For those interested, the exact location of the finding is shown below. It is very probable that other sites are waiting to be uncovered on topographic highs! A brief description of the finding can be accessed via Internet ([www.pierre-stalder.ch](http://www.pierre-stalder.ch)).





**Bridge at Gunung Meraksa**



**Examples of lithic flakes and tools found at the Gunung Meraksa site.  
The material is silica and includes remains of plants, spores,...**