

**Support for Publication and Delivery of Duna (Yuna) language booklets
to the Kopiago area (Papua New Guinea)**



Left: Students with the booklets at Hirane Elementary School, with teacher Epis Yerepi (Photo by Petros Kilapa); Right: students with booklets at Ayaguni Elementary School.

The 2010 GRIKPIC award was made to Lila San Roque, who had submitted an application for partial funding of a project to produce and deliver copies of illustrated booklets in the Duna (Yuna) language. The Duna community is in the Kopiago region of the Southern Highlands Province in Papua New Guinea, and although their language is spoken by approximately 25,000 people, there are very few published materials in Duna language and it is considered endangered. The booklets (seven titles in all) were designed at a teachers' writing workshop in Kopiago in April 2009, sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Mendi and The Australian National University; the books were created for use in elementary schools and adult literacy classes, as well as by other interested community groups such as women's organizations and aid posts.

With the support of funding from GRIKPIC and the Foundation for Endangered Languages, a total of 1,280 booklets were produced in New York and sent to Mendi in March 2010. A priest from St. Joseph's in Tari organized for road transport of the booklets from Mendi to Tari, where the shipment was held up for more than two months due to the temporary closure of the Kopiago airstrip. When the airstrip was reopened, the booklets were sent to Kopiago, where they were taken to the Ayaguni Catholic Mission and divided up on August 2 to be distributed, by foot, to five elementary schools, three health or aid posts, and a literacy center.