



## We Are the Keepers of World Heritage

This Independence Day, we celebrate not just a free nation, but a wise and ancient people.

We hold 7% of the world's biodiversity on less than 1% of its land.

The world looks to us – because our land holds life found nowhere else on Earth.

We are the Guardians of Papua New Guinea. We protect life, memory, and identity – not just for us, but for the world.



**Celebrating 50 years of an Independent Papua New Guinea**

This Brochure was put together by the Piku Biodiversity Network

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**Celebrating Papua New Guineans  
As Guardians of Land, Sea  
and Story**





## Guardianship Is in Our Blood

Being a Guardian means knowing that land is not just something we own – it's something we care for.

Our ancestors taught us **reciprocity** (giving, sharing and taking part for the common good), **relationships** (knowing we are connected), and **responsibility** (doing what is right for our place and people).

This means we can use our land – to garden, hunt, fish, build homes – but we must also protect it.

We are here to make sure our home stays strong for the next generation.



## Every Papua New Guinean Is Born into a Story

In Papua New Guinea, you are not just born – you are born into land and clan. You come from a place, a people, and a long, proud story.

Your land knows your name. Your ancestors walked it before you. You carry their strength, their survival, their wisdom.

You are not alone – you are part of something ancient and powerful.

You are your ancestors' evidence of survival.

## We Are an Ancient People

Papua New Guineans have lived on this land for over 50,000 years – some of the oldest living cultures on Earth!

Each clan has protected rivers, mountains, animals, forests, and gardens for many generations.

We hunted, fished, planted food, and told stories by firelight.

Our ways of life were shaped by the land – and in return, we took care of it.

Our deep roots give us strength – they also give us responsibility.