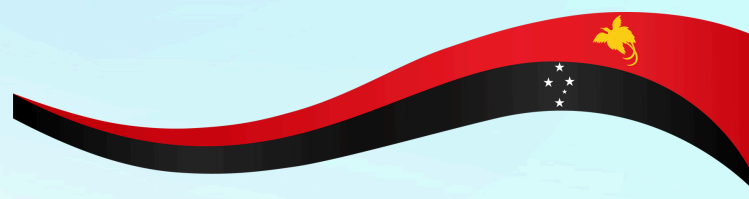


## Using It Wisely, Guarding It Always

For thousands of years, our people have lived with the land and sea—hunting, gardening, fishing, and gathering. At Peace and at War, conducting trade, upholding society and protecting our places.

Today, we are custodians of 7% of the world's life. This is our heritage, passed down from our ancestors. It is our job to care for it, use it wisely, and pass it on to our children, just like our elders did for us.



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

This Brochure was put together by the  
Piku Biodiversity Network

**For More Information contact**



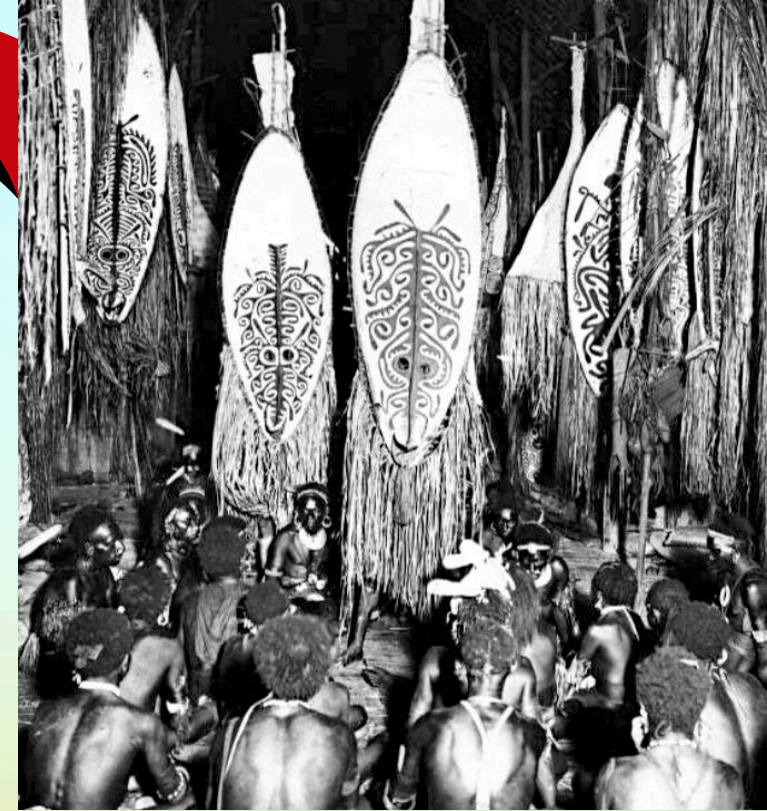
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**Celebrating 50 Years of  
Independence  
and 50,000 Years of  
Wisdom**





## We've Been Here for Over 50,000 Years!

Long before Papua New Guinea became a country, our ancestors lived here for more than 50,000 years!

PNG contains some of the oldest living cultures on Earth.

Our stories, customs, and knowledge have been passed down from grandparents to grandchildren for thousands of years.

That makes us strong and special!



## The Most Culturally Rich Country in the World!

Papua New Guinea is home to over 800 languages – more than any other country in the world!

Every language belongs to a group of people with their own special customs, songs, dances, and ways of caring for nature.

Every single Papua New Guinean is born into a clan and a place.

From the highlands to the islands, every clan has its own identity – and together, we make one strong nation.



## We Live in the Third Largest Rainforest in the World!

We share the island of New Guinea with Indonesia, and together we protect the third biggest rainforest in the world.

Our rainforest is full of rivers, mountains, and trees that are homes to animals found nowhere else on Earth.

Our ancestors knew how to look after these places – and we can too!

