

Papua New Guinea

**Officially the Independent State of
Papua New Guinea**

Flag





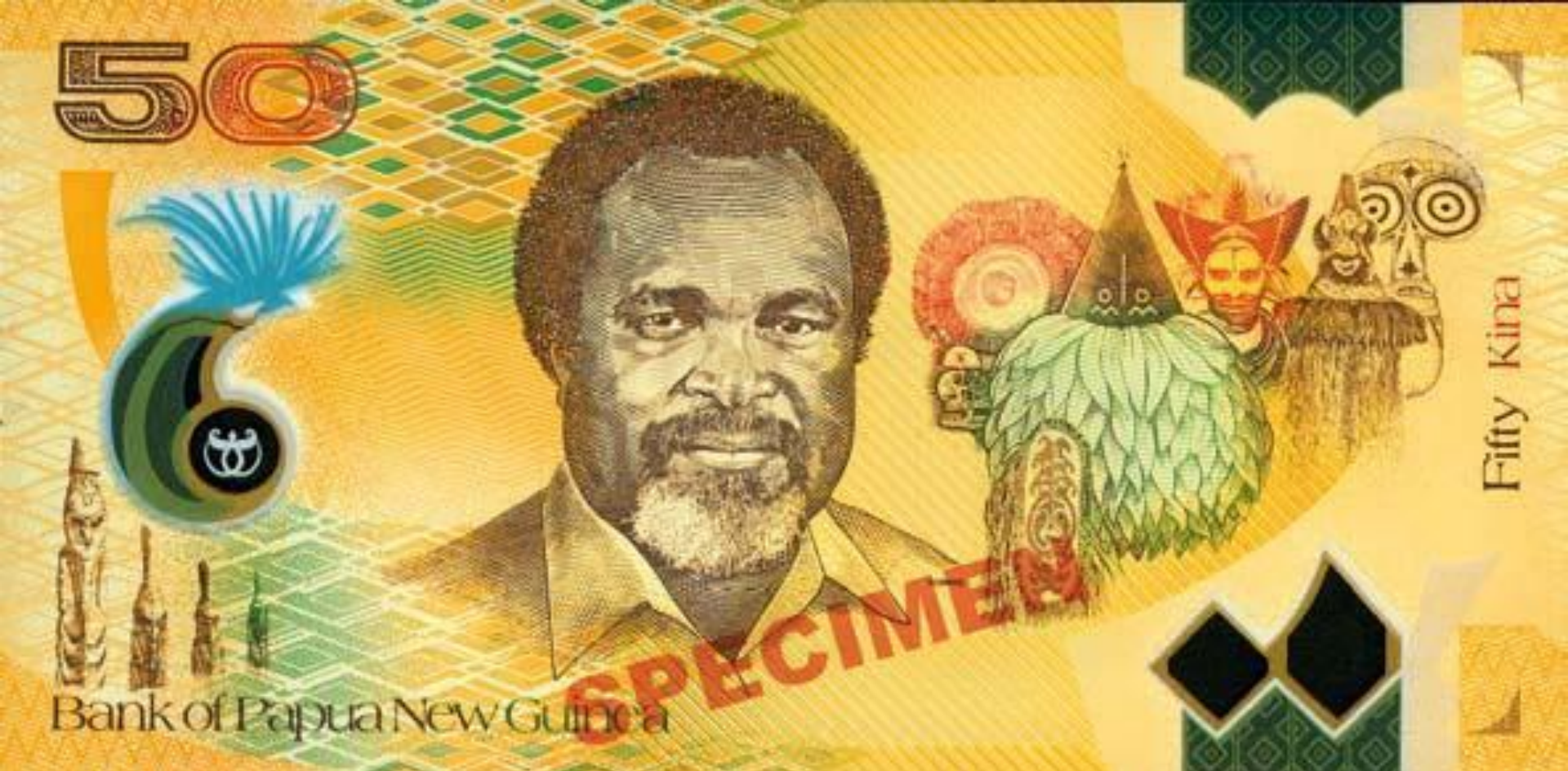


Pacific Ocean

Papua New Guinea is a country in Oceania, occupying the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and numerous offshore islands (the western portion of the island is a part of the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua). It is located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.

The capital
is Port
Moresby.





The **kina** is the currency of Papua New Guinea. It is divided in 100 *toea*. The kina was introduced on 19 April 1975, replacing the Australian dollar at par. The name *kina* is derived from Kuanua of the Tolai region, referring to a callable pearl shell used widely for trading in both the Coastal and Highlands areas of the country.

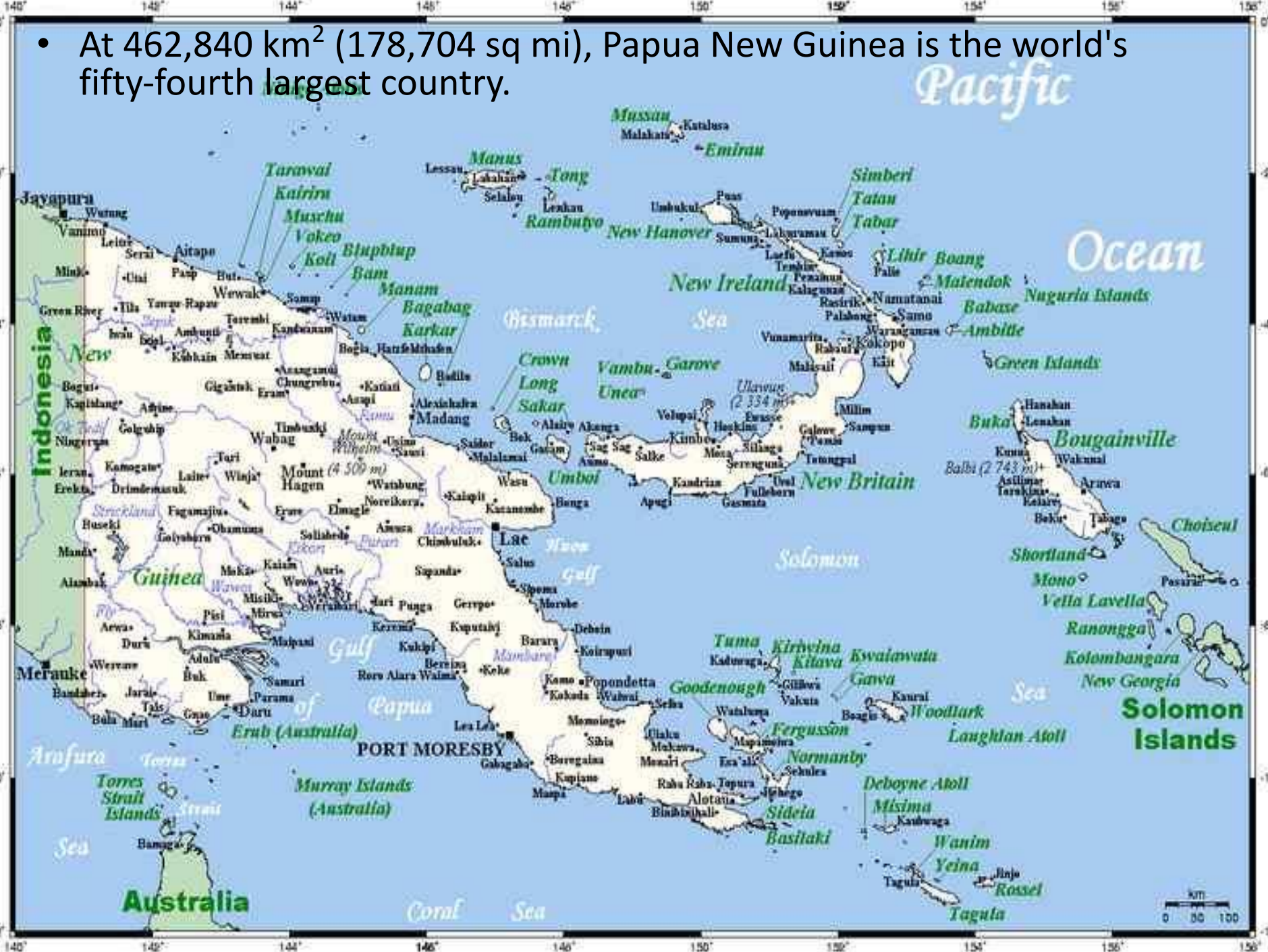
Currency: Papua New Guinean kina (PGK)

Population: 6,732,000



Papua New Guinea is one of the most heterogeneous nations in the world. There are hundreds of ethnic groups indigenous to Papua New Guinea, the majority being from the group known as Papuans, whose ancestors arrived in the New Guinea region tens of thousands of years ago. Many remote Papuan tribes still have only marginal contact with the outside world.

- At 462,840 km² (178,704 sq mi), Papua New Guinea is the world's fifty-fourth largest country.



The country is situated on the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, at the point of collision of several tectonic plates. There are a number of active **volcanoes**, and eruptions are frequent. **Earthquakes** are relatively common, sometimes accompanied by **tsunamis**.

Mount Tavurvur in Papua New Guinea





Culture of Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinean art has a rich and diverse tradition. In particular, it is world-famous for carved wooden sculpture: masks, canoes, story-boards. Many of the best collections of these are held in overseas museums.



Views of wood... and Nanqui Nokwi, Membor Apokiom and Naur Saunambui, from Bangwis village, Kwoma, sponsored by Bonnie Brae, Stafford University.

wooden Abelam ancestor figure (nggwalndu)





13. In some parts of the New Guinea highlands, people engage in colorful local rituals that are called "sing-sings". They paint themselves and dress up with feathers, pearls and animal skins to represent birds, trees or mountain spirits. Sometimes an important event, such as a legendary battle, would be enacted at such a musical festival.

Culture
of Papua
New
Guinea



Nature



The **green jungle** of Papua New Guinea bears a sharp contrast to the nearby **desert** of Australia.



welcome

