



# MATILDA PILACAPIO

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE,  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Matilda Pilacapio is a human rights advocate from Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea, where she works as a grassroots organizer focusing on environmental issues. She has held numerous positions in provincial government, including a term as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry. She has founded or served as president for a number of education, environment, and women's groups, including the Milne Bay AIDS Council and the Alatau Women's Association.

Ms. Pilacapio is currently working with the organization Milne Bay Women in Agriculture to strengthen traditional agricultural systems in response to Cargill's expanding oil palm plantation in the region. Cargill, U.S. agribusiness giant based in Minneapolis, is one of Papua New Guinea's largest producers of palm oil and has increasingly come under scrutiny for the negative social and ecological impacts of their oil palm plantations. The island nation also contains some of the world's remaining intact rainforests and almost 7 percent of global biodiversity.



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