

**Papua's rural lowlands are being transformed by an encroaching global economy, but what happens to the people - there is an open question**

**Bobby Anderson in Inside Indonesia 112: Apr-Jun 2013**

The political space of Papua and the space where Papuans live is not the same. This is especially evident in the rural and coastal lowlands, which hardly even rate a mention in the political debates about Papua that so often simplify the territory's development issues. In many areas of the lowlands, Papuans are having their first interactions with the state. In the meantime, Indonesian NGOs and others are bridging the services gap left by the weakness of the state.

[Land of ghosts \(pdf\)](#)