



2017 - 2022

Football Association West Papua

Representing West Papua through football

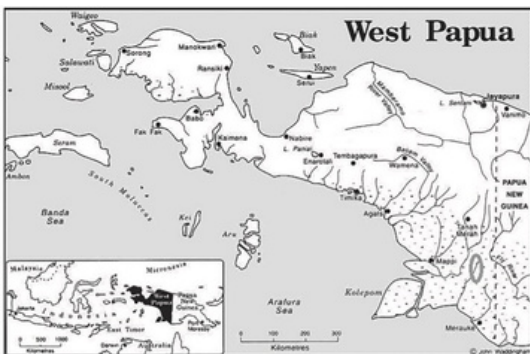
5 year anniversary

2017 - 2022

National Papua Association

The National West Papua Association (Nationaal Papoea Vereniging '95 West Nieuw Guinea) was officially established as a non-profit organization on 9 October 1996 in The Hague, the Netherlands, in order to promote the culture and identity of the Papuan people and to strengthen the interests of the West Papuan community living in West Papua and across the globe. In the past 26 years, the Association has implemented many projects to support the wellbeing of the West Papuan community. These projects range from organising and performing at cultural festivals, to supporting West Papua refugees in Papua New Guinea, to human rights advocacy at the United Nations. The members of the association work tirelessly to support those most in need. I am humbled and proud to be part of this successful community. As the president of the National West Papua Association, I closely work with all our members who volunteer to dedicate part of their time to a righteous cause. Over the years I have worked with many colourful people who each brought unique insights and inspiration with them. I have enjoyed every day of our long journey to promote the interests of my people, the West Papua people. One of the numerous projects that sprung up from the activities of the National Papua Association is the Football Association West Papua. Together with my secretary, Jeroen Zandberg, I established the Football Association West Papua in 2017. With the assistance of all the members of the National Papua Association we set up a football team to participate in international tournaments and play matches against other underrepresented nations and unrecognized states. Today, over five years later, I look back at a project that has become more successful than imagined. The national team of West Papua has played numerous international matches and has thereby instilled pride and hope in the hearts of all Papuans. I want to thank all the members of the National Papua Association, the team of the Football Association and the many partners who provided additional support and made a dream come true.

Simon Petrus Sapioper, president.



West Papua

West Papua forms the western part of the island of New Guinea and measures 415.170 km² with over 5 million inhabitants of whom half are indigenous Papuans. The territory is home to the Papuans who have lived on their ancestral lands for millennia and who strive for greater self-determination and recognition of their cultural and human rights. The area was a colony of the Netherlands until 1962, when Indonesia invaded the territory and took over its administration. The New York Agreement of 15 August 1962 granted Indonesia the authority to administer the region and organise a referendum among the Papuans on their desired future. In 1969 the Act of Free Choice was held in which a group of Papuans appointed by the Indonesian government decided to join Indonesia. This unfair and undemocratic decision led to great suffering and hardship, that many try to overcome and remedy until this day. On 1 July 1971 a rebel Papua group proclaimed independence and established a government which tries to get historical justice and international recognition for the selfdetermination of the Papuan people.



Football Association West Papua

Simon Sapioper - President
 Jeroen Zandberg - Secretary
 Delon Tatem - Manager
 Garry Llina - Trainer
 Pat McGuinness
 Sophia Bunga-Sapioper



QUICK



KELME 🐾

FREE KICK
 SPORT
 DEN HAAG

CONTENTS

- 4 WORLD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR UNREPRESENTED NATIONS
- 9 WEST PAPUA - EAST TURKESTAN
- 12 WEST PAPUA - TAMIL EELAM
- 14 FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WEST PAPUA ADMITTED TO CONIFA
- 16 WEST PAPUA - KATANGA
- 20 WEST PAPUA ATTENDS FOOTBALL STRATEGY DAYS IN SABBIONETA
- 24 GENERAL SECRETARY OF CONIFA
- 26 WEST PAPUA - TIKTOK UNITED
- 30 WEST PAPUA - RAETIA
- 35 OVERVIEW



FOOTBALL

PLAYING THE MOST INTERNATIONAL GAME

Football is a democratic sport in which everyone can participate and find fun, excitement and cooperation



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

BUILDING A GLOBAL SUPPORT NETWORK

Together we make the world a better place for all



TOURNAMENT

COMBINING SPORTS AND CULTURE

Football, food, dance and song create a joyous atmosphere



IDENTITY

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF CULTURAL SURVIVAL

The football matches are an ideal opportunity to raise the flag and play the national anthem



CONIFA

MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

West Papua joins the global community of national football associations

[HTTPS://WWW.FOOTBALLASSOCIATIONWESTPAPUA.ORG/](https://www.footballassociationwestpapua.org/)

5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

2017 - 2022



World Football Championship for Unrepresented Nations

The article is a translation of a news item which appeared in the local newspaper 'The Hague Media'.

On Saturday 17 June 2017, the world championship football took place in the Netherlands. The participants might surprise you. Not Brazil versus Germany or Argentina versus Spain but Chameria versus Kurdistan and the Southern Cameroons versus West Papua.

It is therefore not a world championship organized by FIFA, but a tournament for unrepresented countries organized by UNPO. The organizer Jeroen Zandberg explains: 'The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) was established in The Hague, the Netherlands by a number of unrecognized countries back in 1991 to fight for more recognition. At the time, the Soviet Union still existed and countries like Estonia, Latvia, Armenia and Georgia wanted to become independent. Now, 25 years later, the UNPO represents countries such as Kosovo, Somaliland and Kurdistan, and we try to help them get more recognition and support for human and cultural rights. A lot of politics. But also by organizing sports events like the UNPO Cup'

On this hot and sunny Saturday, it is busy on the fields of Wanica Stars, a sporting complex in The Hague, the Netherlands. Eight participating teams from all parts of the world have joined to compete for the UNPO World Cup.





The Southern Cameroon supporters are dressed in their traditional clothes and have drums and other musical instruments. Ready to support their team. The Southern Cameroonian coach, Ndeh Tangic David, says his team hopes to exceed their ranking of last year when they lost the final. They participate in the championship for the third time. The team has come to win.

The West Papuan players are also driven and eager for success in the tournament. Originally part of the Dutch East Indies, West Papua has a historical connection with the Netherlands. This proved useful when forming the football team. There are few Papuans in Europe and the trip from Asia is too expensive for them. The West Papua team therefore consists largely of young The Hague football players who have been training very hard for a couple of months to play for the main prize. The coach Simon Sapioper: "West Papua also consists of different cultures and that's what I really like about my team. They all support West Papua and they would like to contribute." West Papua plays well in the tournament and ultimately seizes third place. Other teams included Kurdistan and FC Umubano.





The Kurdistan team consisted of team members from the Komala Party and was supported by the Liberal Democratic Party, a Dutch political party that has internationalism and diversity high in its political program.

The big surprise of the tournament, however, was Chameria. Chameria is an area in northwestern Greece that is historically inhabited by the Cham population. They were expelled during World War II and now live mostly in southern Albania. The coach of the Chameria team, Festim Lato, is very proud that Chameria can join the world cup for unrepresented nations. It's their first time. Their team usually plays in Albania and they have come to win. They therefore excel in sportsmanship behavior and great ambition. A significant number of traditionally dressed supporters followed the team from Albania and cheer at every goal the Chamerian team make.

The final is played between Chameria and Umubano. Shaqir Haruni, a Chameria player: "Our opponent was physically very strong, yet we won. I'm exhausted, but also very happy that we have won the cup!" Immediately after the victory, Chameria is sure to join the UNPO Cup next year and proclaims that their team will be even stronger.





SOUTHERN CAMEROONS

Geography: 42.710 km2

Population: 4 million

Language and culture: English and many indigenous African languages. The region is Protestant Christian and culturally very diverse with many distinct communities who are mainly descendants of the Tikar people. Local traditional communities have a chief, called the Fon, who is considered to be a representative of the community's ancestors. Music plays an important role in social life, with drums and xylophones being the instruments of choice.

History: The Southern Cameroons was inhabited by the Tikar people before the advent of colonial rule. In 1884 the region became part of the German colonial empire. In 1916 the territory and its people came under French and British administration. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles divided the German territory of Kamerun between the British and the French. From 1919 until 1961 the Southern Cameroons was administered by Britain, which governed the territory according to the principle of indirect rule. This provided the local, indigenous authorities the opportunity to organise their communities according to their traditions. The Southern Cameroons became part of Cameroun on 1 October 1961 after a referendum. Since Cameroun is a largely French speaking country, with only the Southern Cameroons having a legacy of British administration, many people in the Southern Cameroons currently feel neglected and oppressed.

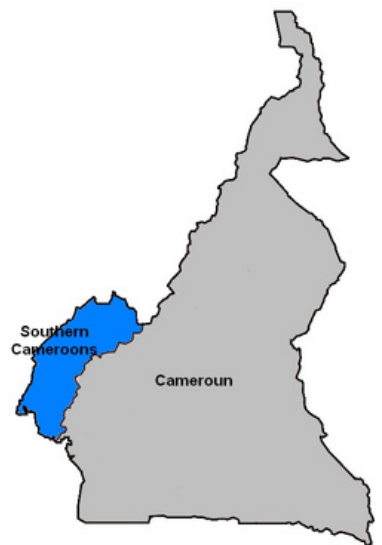
The event was widely covered in the media. Some links and screenshots are below:

<http://liberlandpress.com/2017/06/micronations-indigenous-people-battle-unpo-football-world-cup/>

<http://www.haagmedia.nl/wereldkampioenschap-voetbal-escamp/>

<http://www.asoyroj.com/new/detail.aspx?hewal&jmara=15282&Jor=1>

<http://ekurd.net/micronations-football-world-cup-2017-06-19>







West Papua – East Turkestan

On Saturday 19 October 2019, the national football team of West Papua played a football match against the official team of East Turkestan on the main field of Quick in The Hague, the Netherlands. It was a festive event that provided an opportunity to promote the identity of West Papua and East Turkestan, both to the people in their home country as well as to the world.

Both Peoples suffer from extensive political, social and economic oppression, by Indonesia and China, respectively. The Papuans in Indonesia have faced decades of oppression and marginalisation of their culture. The Uyghurs suffer a similar fate with their culture being heavily suppressed by the Chinese government while many Uyghur refugee communities across the world struggle to keep in touch with their family members at home. Despite these hardships, the event was a celebration and not a commemoration.

The West Papua team, consisting mainly of players from the Papuan diaspora in the Netherlands, proudly stood behind their flag, sang the national anthem and played with spirit and determination.

The Uyghur players from East Turkestan were at least as motivated as the Papuan players and showed their professionalism on the field.

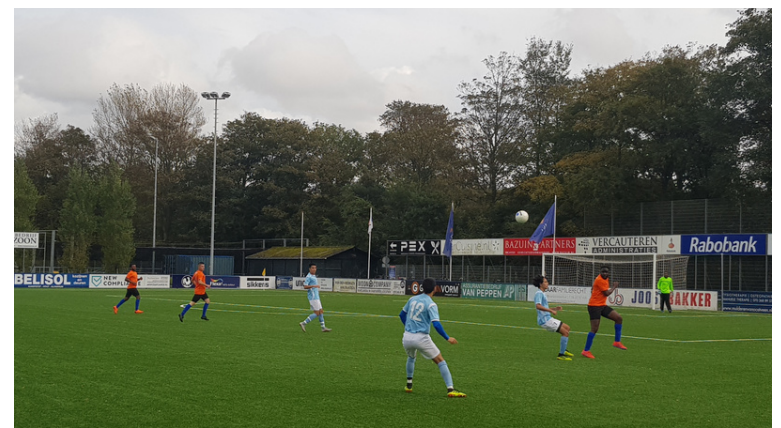


The selected players from the East Turkestan national team arrived by plane from a great number of countries and were greeted by several hundred fellow countrymen who cheered them on before, during and after the match.

The ability to play an international football match against a fellow nation proves that the will to survive as a People is strong and that the voices of the Papuan and Uyghur People are not silenced, but are alive and kicking.

It was the first international football match for the West Papua team since the UNPO World Cup in 2017. The East Turkestan national football team, however made its international debut. Even though it was a friendly match it also served as a qualifying match for the 2020 CONIFA World Cup, which provided an additional incentive to the players from both teams to take their effort to the limit and show the world the spirit and determination of the Papuas and Uyghurs.

Although the West Papua team had the home advantage, the final score was favourable for the East Turkestan football team; West Papua 2 - East Turkestan 8.





EAST TURKESTAN

Geography: 1.828.418 km²

Population: 25 million

Language and culture: Uyghur and Chinese. The religion is Islam.

History: East Turkestan is a region in Central Asia with an over two-thousand year long history. East Turkestan lays at the crossroads between the Chinese and Islamic regions with strong influences from both. The indigenous inhabitants of East Turkestan are called Uyghurs who have a Turkic and Islamic cultural and ethnic identity, which is more similar to that of neighboring Turkic people in the independent Central Asian states than to China. However, the region was dominated by successive Chinese empires for many centuries. The Chinese term for the region is 'Xinjiang', which means 'New frontier'. The use of the name 'Turkestan' for the region dates back to at least the seventh century. There were two periods of independent statehood of East Turkestan in the twentieth century; from November 1933 until April 1934 and from November 1944 until December 1949, after which Chinese military forces took control over the territory. The Uyghurs currently continue to hold on to their cultural identity and strongly advocate for their human rights.

SEARCH THE DIPLOMAT READ THE DIPLOMAT KNOW THE ASIA-PACIFIC SIGN IN SUBSCRIBE

FEATURES | DIPLOMACY | SOCIETY

East Turkistan, West Papua and an Extraordinary Game of Football

"For us, our passion for the game shows the world the skills and aspirations of our people."

By Henryk Szadziewski
October 16, 2019

On Saturday, October 19, 2019, fans across Europe will watch their favorite team play a game of football. Whether at the stadium or in a bar, they might wear a jersey or display a banner to distinguish them from supporters of other teams. It's a ritual for many people around the world, a normal part of any weekend.

However, on the same day, an extraordinary contest will take place in The Hague. Against a backdrop of intensifying human rights abuses in their regions, players and fans of the East Turkistan and West Papua "national" sides will have an opportunity to put on the shirts and fly the flags of their homelands at a football match. The game is the first for both the [East Turkistan](#) and [West Papua](#) Football Associations under the auspices of the [Confederation of Independent Football Associations \(CONIFA\)](#), an organization for teams representing "nations, de-facto nations, regions, minority peoples and sports isolated territories."

East Turkistan (also known as Xinjiang) and West Papua are in the headlines. For years, the unrest and repression in these regions has inhabited the fringes of

Credit: Edoardo Busti / Unsplash



The match was widely publicized on various media platforms and screened live on the Mycujoo/Elevensports channel, which has an exclusive partnership with CONIFA to broadcast official matches. The match can be seen from their archive.

Furthermore, an extensive article, including several interviews, about the match was written by Henryk Szadziewski from The Diplomat. The article can be read from their website:

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/10/east-turkistan-west-papua-and-an-extraordinary-game-of-football/>



West Papua - Tamil Eelam



The Tamil Eelam national football association was established in April 2012 and subsequently took part in the June 2012 VIVA World Cup in Iraqi Kurdistan where it finished seventh (out of nine participants).



The VIVA World Cup had been organized by the NF-Board (Nouvelle Fédération-Board), which had previously organized four World Cups between 2006 and 2012. The NF-Board was an organization established in 2003 to create a platform for underrepresented peoples, nations and states to play international football matches. In 2013 the NF-Board was dissolved and most of its members continued their international aspirations under the CONIFA banner. Tamil Eelam FA participated in many subsequent matches and tournaments, including the 2014 and 2018 CONIFA World Cups. The match of 21 December 2019 was a qualifying match for the 2020 CONIFA World Cup. The final match score was certainly favorable for the Tamil Eelam team; West Papua 2 – Tamil Eelam 8.





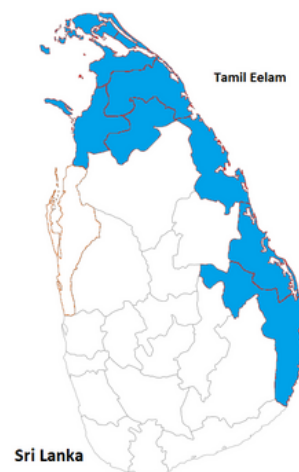
TAMIL EELAM

Geography: 21.952 km²

Population: 3.3 million

Language and culture: Tamil and the religion is Hindu.

History: Tamil Eelam is a region in northeastern Sri Lanka that is mostly inhabited by the Tamil people and operated as a defacto independent, but unrecognized, state during the 1990's and until 2009. The historical name of Sri Lanka in the Tamil language is Eelam. The history of the Tamils on the island of Sri Lanka goes back at least two-thousand years and many royal dynasties came and went during these times. The Tamils on Sri Lanka have a distinct history from the Tamil people of India and trace their roots back to the Jaffna kingdom and the Vannimai chiefdoms. The island is culturally diverse and the two main population groups are the Sinhalese (75%) and the Tamils (15%). In the 1500's the Portuguese established colonial settlements along the coast and eventually took control over much of the island until the Dutch arrived who signed a treaty with a Sinhalese king in 1638 and drove out the Portuguese. Dutch rule was in turn replaced by that of the British in 1796, which governed the island until it became independent in 1948. In 1956 the official language of the island was changed from English to Sinhalese, thereby marginalizing the Tamil speaking population. In subsequent years, numerous Tamil organizations addressed the perceived discrimination of the Tamils by the Sri Lankan government. Due to lack of hope for improvement, political and social advocacy was eventually superseded by military attacks, which led to a civil war starting in the 1980's. During much of the 1990's and until 2009 many of the Tamil inhabited areas were administered by rebel groups as part of Tamil Eelam. In 2009 the Sri Lankan military conquered these territories and integrated them into those of the island nation.





Football Association West Papua Admitted to CONIFA

On 25-26 January 2020, the Confederation of Independent Football Associations (CONIFA) held its Annual General Meeting to reflect on the activities of the previous year and to discuss the World Cup to be held on 30 May – 7 June 2020 in North Macedonia.

Member delegations from national football associations travelled from all over the globe to the island of Jersey for the two-day Annual General Meeting of CONIFA, which was hosted by the Parishes of Jersey. The AGM reflected back on the successful European Championship of June 2019, which were held in Artsakh and gave rightful praise to the main organiser of the event, CONIFA Europe President Alberto Rischio. The president and general secretary of CONIFA were re-elected and the budget was approved.

CONIFA is a membership organisation that provides nations, regions and unrecognised states a platform to play international football matches. It was established in June 2013 and has organised numerous large events, including World- and European Championships.

Six applicants to CONIFA were officially admitted as new members. One of the newly admitted football associations was the Football Association West Papua, which was unanimously approved as a new member. The Football Association West Papua had been provisionally admitted by the Executive Committee six months before and the national team played a match in October 2019 against East Turkestan and one in December 2019 against Tamil Eelam. The FAWP was represented by its secretary, Jeroen Zandberg, who made a presentation to the AGM about the Football Association and the struggle and history of West Papua. Furthermore, the two-day event offered the possibility to meet representatives from many other nations who try to use football to support their people and promote a unique identity.

Above: Football Association West Papua (FAWP) Secretary Jeroen Zandberg presents the West Papua flag to the CONIFA President Per-Anders Blind.

Below: FAWP Secretary presents the West Papua Football shirt to CONIFA Asia President Jens Jockel.





Left: FAWP Secretary Jeroen Zandberg with Alberto Rischio, CONIFA Europe President.

Middle: CONIFA Members Sapmi and Kernow.

Right: CONIFA Member Kabylie.

West Papua - Katanga

The 23rd of October 2021, was a landmark day for West Papua football since it marked the first time in almost two years that the national team was able to play an official match. The success of this day has re-invigorated the players and organisation of the Football Association of West Papua to enthusiastically plan and prepare for the coming matches and tournaments in the next months.

The day started with a press conference where the representatives of the Football Association West Papua, President Simon Sapioper and Secretary Jeroen Zandberg, and the representatives of the Katanga association, Minister for diplomatic relations Yves Uriël Nawej-Daems, Press and communication for the EU Mrs. Gaby Mutaka, and Culture and economy for the EU Mr. Ghyslain Kishiba explained the history and struggle of their nation and the activities of the football associations. West Papua has been a member of CONIFA for almost two years while Katanga is a new applicant. A lively question & answer session with the audience followed this presentation.

West Papua and Katanga have many things in common. They both suffered from colonial rule and both territories briefly glimpsed genuine self-determination in the early 1960's, just to be denied their freedom due to geopolitical machinations beyond their control. However, the press conference did not look back in anger or despair, but instead focused on the rejuvenation of their peoples and the role that sport and culture plays in this campaign. The football associations of West Papua and Katanga were both set up to gather people around a positive identity and show the world that their nation has the same rights as all others to exist and prosper. The players carry the ideals and aspirations of the West Papua and Katanga peoples in their hearts and onto the football field. The day is therefore a celebration of pride and courage. The live registration and broadcast of the match brings this excitement into everyone's homes.





The match

The covid-19 pandemic, which started in the early months of 2020, has had an enormous impact on the ability to play and organise matches and although covid-19 has not yet disappeared there is again the opportunity for organising public sporting events.

On Saturday 23 October 2021, the West Papua football team walked onto the main field of Quick The Hague to play a match against the visiting team of Katanga. The West Papua football team was composed of a new selection of players compared to previous matches, since those players had taken up various other commitments. The new selection was supplemented with additional players who support the Papuan cause.

The match, which was scheduled to start at 14.00, kicked off 45 minutes late due to logistical problems. Six players of the Katanga team, who had to come from Germany, were delayed, whereas several other players who had planned to come from Africa did not receive their visa in time. This caused some reshuffling of positions in the Katanga line-up with new players who had to step in to be able to start the match until the late arrival of the other players.

Supporters could view the match in the stadium of Quick The Hague and via a live-stream that was broadcast through Mycujoo/Elvensports, which was watched by a great number of interested viewers who could for the first time hear the Katanga national hymn be played alongside the West Papua national anthem at an international football match.

WEST PAPUA VS KATANGA

CONIFA
23-10-2021
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN CONIFA MEMBERS WEST- PAPUA AND KATANGA

CONFERENCE: THOMAS SCHWENCKESTRAAT 28, 2563 BZ THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

MATCH: QUICK FOOTBALL FIELDS: DE SAVORNIN LOHMANLAAN 215, 2566 BZ THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

FOR INQUIRIES ABOUT THE MATCH AND CONFERENCE CONTACT JEROEN ZANDBERG AT: FOOTBALLWESTPAPUA@GMAIL.COM





Due to the late arrival of many of the official Katanga players, the scoreboard could literally not keep up with the balls that landed in the net of the Katangese goal. Despite the heroic efforts of the energetic goalkeeper the double digit figures on the scoreboard kept rising. Due to some players arriving in time for the second half of the game the odds were slightly tilted to a more balanced equilibrium.

In the final quarter of the match, the Katangese team was actually able to put pressure on the West Papuan defence and had several close calls with the keeper and the goal posts. Their final efforts were to no avail and the Katangese team was unable to land a ball in the net of the opponent. This means that the first goal by the Katangese team has yet to be made. However, this will surely happen soon in an upcoming match against another CONIFA team or when the West Papua team will play them for a re-match next year to balance out the score of this match's '22 - 0' result. The re-match will undoubtedly see a different outcome when the teams of West Papua and Katanga are again in their original line-up after having overcome the difficulties of restarting activities after the extended covid-19 lockdowns.



KATANGA

Geography: 496.871 km²

Population: 6 million

Language: French and Swahili

History: Katanga is a territory in Central-Africa with a rich cultural history going back many centuries. It was conquered by the Belgians and later incorporated as a province in the Belgian Congo in 1914. The area had been a source of minerals for centuries and mining of uranium, gold, copper, cobalt and other natural resources played an important role in Western industrial development in the twentieth century. Congo became independent from Belgium in 1960. Katanga subsequently proclaimed its independence on 11 July 1960 and was a fully functioning independent state until its military defeat by the forces of the United Nations Operations in the Congo on 21 January 1963. The area of Katanga currently plays a vital role in the global economy due to the extensive mining of cobalt, copper and rare-earth metals which are used for electronics. Many activists from the region point out that the people in Katanga do not reap the benefits from this mining, but are only faced with the destruction of the natural environment it causes and the social upheavals it brings with it.





West Papua attends Football Strategy Days in Sabbioneta



The Football Association West Papua (FAWP) attended the Football Strategy Days in Sabbioneta, Italy, on 22 to 24 April 2022. The event brought together the CONIFA members for the first time since January 2020 when the covid-19 pandemic started. The event was co-organised by the municipality of Sabbioneta, which is a town in Northern Italy that was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008. Mr. Marco Pasquali, Mayor of Sabbioneta, Mr. Per-Anders Blind, CONIFA Global President, and Mr. Alberto Rischio, CONIFA European President, opened the Football Strategy Days. Mr. Jeroen Zandberg represented the Football Association West Papua.



The three-day event at the Olympic Theatre in the city of Sabbioneta, served as a platform to discuss the strategy of CONIFA and explore future opportunities. The discussions focussed on how to expand the many football opportunities for underrepresented groups and the potential of the upcoming tournaments. In May, June and July 2022 the African, American, European and Women's football cups, which were postponed from 2020 and 2021, will be held in South Africa, Argentina, France and Northern India, respectively. These events will provide a great boost in morale, visibility and opportunity for the participating CONIFA members.

Several presentations by Dr. Fabio Puntillo, CONIFA General Manager Global Business, as well as Mr. Henrik Schiermacher from Schiermacher Global Outfitters, highlighted the opportunities for the members of CONIFA to create greater awareness of their cultural identity and to take advantage of business opportunities and sponsorship deals in order to enable the growth of sports activities in their communities. Schiermacher Outfitters is a sponsor of CONIFA and it has also been a sponsor of the Football Association West Papua for some time providing sports gear and team outfits. The representative of the West Papuan team, Mr. Zandberg, complimented Mr. Schiermacher on his support for CONIFA and the West Papuan team. The professional equipment enables the players to reach their maximum potential on the field and provides motivation and pride for the players, as well as the supporters.



Asia Cup

During the three-day event the Asia Committee also held a meeting. The CONIFA members who represent an underrepresented nation in Asia discussed the activities and events for the next two years. Several proposals were discussed, among which regional football tournaments and individual matches for Asian members in 2022 and 2023, as well as the organisation of the Asia Cup, similar to the African, American and European cups, which will be held later this year. The discussion subsequently focussed on the organisation and possible venue for the Asia cup. The representative of the West Papuan team, Mr. Zandberg, also made several proposals for the organisation of the Asia Cup and possible regional matches and tournaments for Asian members.

The Asian CONIFA members are widely dispersed, reflecting the large geographic extent of Asia. The large physical distances between the Asian CONIFA members make it difficult to play matches against other members, which is much easier for the European members of CONIFA. The Asia Committee and its members will look at the possibilities to organise regional tournaments for Asian CONIFA members in the near future, which will give the teams the opportunity to test their skills against others in the run up to the Asian cup. The various possible locations for the tournaments and the Asia Cup were discussed and the feasibility of each location will be evaluated in the upcoming weeks.



Arben Arkaxhiu (Chameria Football Association), Ruby-Ann Kagaoan (CONIFA Asia Committee Director), Ben McFadyean (CONIFA Global Media Committee Member), Fabio Puntillo (CONIFA General Manager Global Business), Jeroen Zandberg (Football Association West Papua)





World Cup

CONIFA organises a World Cup every two years. The last CONIFA World Cup was held in London 2018. The tournament in Northern Macedonia in 2020 was cancelled due to covid-19. The upcoming world cup could be next year. An option for the location of the World cup could be New Clark City in the Philippines. The director of the Asia Committee, Ms Ruby Ann Kagaoan, made an elaborate presentation on the state-of-the-art facilities of New Clark City that could perfectly host the Asia cup. It has the infrastructure, the sports facilities and even an extensive athlete’s village which can host all the participating teams. The facilities are well suited for the organisation of the CONIFA World cup or any other large CONIFA event, be they the Women’s World Cup, the Futsal World Cup or a No limits tournament.

The newly designed trophies for the European and World Cup were presented for the first time at the conference. They will be awarded to the winners of the European Cup in June and the World Cup next year.

The West Papua football team intends to play numerous matches in the coming months in order to qualify for the World Cup. The participation in this tournament will be a major milestone for West Papua. The joy will be even greater when the West Papua team brings home the World Cup.

Above: Ruby-Ann Kagaoan (Asia Committee Director) presents New Clark City as possible venue for the World Cup.

Right: Calum Ferguson (Gaelic Football)

Below: CONIFA Global President Per-Anders Blind with the World Football Cup (left) and the European Football Cup (right)

Below right: Alberto Rischio (CONIFA European President), Per-Anders Blind (CONIFA Global President), Jeroen Zandberg (Football Association West Papua)





Women's World Football Cup

The Global Women Football Director Ms D'Alary Dalton presented the state of women's football within CONIFA. The organisation wants to be a driver for change towards a more equal and sustainable society and an inclusive world. Football is the most global of all sports and CONIFA is strongly in favour of including women into the mainstream of football. The participation of women football teams in CONIFA has risen sharply over the past few years and it has led to the organisation of the first CONIFA Women's cup, which will take place in northern India on 1 to 6 July 2022. The event is hosted by the Tibetan community and will feature teams from Africa, Europe and Asia. The Football Association West Papua is also active in women's football. During the General Meeting of CONIFA in Jersey, England, in January 2020, Mr. Zandberg participated in the Women's Committee meeting where the various representatives discussed the expansion and integration of Women's football. Several CONIFA members already had well organised and established women's teams while others were working on setting up their teams. These aspiring nations, like West Papua, have the added challenge to establish teams without being able to access a pool of players from a national or regional competition, since women's football is less established in many regions of the world.

The Football Association West Papua was in the process of setting up a women's football team in the beginning of 2020, which was unfortunately put on hold due to the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic made physical events very difficult. However, the light of progress has again provided opportunities and at this moment the women's team of the Football Association West Papua is being set up. The West Papua women's football team will play their first match in the near future and become part of the global movement for greater respect and more equality.



Above: Jeroen Zandberg (Football Association West Papua) Kristof Wenczel (CONIFA Vice-president / Szekely land), Arben Arkaxhiu (Chameria Football Association, Dimitri Pagava (Abkhazia)
 Right: Jeroen Zandberg (Football Association West Papua) and D'Alary Dalton (CONIFA Global Women Football Director)



General Secretary of CONIFA

The secretary of the Football Association West Papua, Jeroen Zandberg, was elected as CONIFA's new General Secretary on 7 August 2022. Sophia Bunga-Sapioper interviews him about his new position.

You were elected General Secretary of CONIFA on August 7th. What does that mean?

CONIFA, the Confederation of Independent Football Associations, is an international membership organization of football associations of underrepresented countries and Peoples. Since 2013, CONIFA has hosted many major international football tournaments, including biannual European and World Championships. I hope that in my new position as General Secretary I can contribute to the further development of CONIFA and the success of its affiliated members.

You have been working as the secretary for the Football Association West Papua for a long time. Is that why you were elected General Secretary of CONIFA?

I hope the reason I was chosen as General Secretary is that they expect me to be able to strengthen CONIFA in that position. But you should really ask them. I do know that I was excited when I got the opportunity to become General Secretary. I think I have a lot to offer CONIFA and the members and that I can make a good contribution to the further development of the organization. In previous years I have organized several football matches and tournaments for underrepresented countries and peoples. I was also one of the founders of the Football Federation of Chameria and, as its secretary, I took part in the 2019 European Football Championship in Artsakh. This was a fantastic event with the whole country taking part in the very successful festivities. It is an example for every international event. I am also one of the co-founders of the Football Association of West Papua, which from 2017 has played some well-watched matches against East Turkestan, Tamil Eelam and Katanga, among others. The Football Association West Papua has been an official member of CONIFA since January 2020 and we are very satisfied with the possibilities that membership offers. Unfortunately, the corona lockdown meant that we were unable to perform many of the planned activities between 2020 and 2022. Of course everyone suffered from this and now that society has reopened, we want to seize all opportunities that come our way.

How do you want to seize those opportunities?

Next year CONIFA will celebrate its tenth anniversary and I have the feeling that we are only at the beginning of what we can achieve. As General Secretary I want to help the organization make that potential a reality. I have been working with minorities for twenty years in their struggle not to be a minority anymore, but to become a full member of the international community. I am currently the executive director of the Global Diplomatic Council and my work is largely focused on the United Nations and the European and other international institutions. I will use my knowledge, skills and network that I have there to get the best for CONIFA and its members.

And what will be your practical activities?

I am not so much a man of words, but of political practice. For example, as part of my daily work I very regularly submit reports to the various United Nations committees, give speeches at conferences in Geneva and other important locations and often speak with parliamentarians to draw attention to the interests of underrepresented peoples, countries and minorities. I will try to establish partnerships with international organizations so that CONIFA and its members have more opportunities to become part of international sports programmes.

In addition, I will focus on obtaining long-term institutional funding to financially support CONIFA and the members with building up the organization and, among other things, training young people and organizing events. Next year CONIFA will be ten years old and I will do my best to help make this a great year for football.

Those are grand ambitions.

CONIFA is an organization born out of grand ideals and ambitions to change the world. Although it is an organization that brings football associations together, the ideals that underpin it make CONIFA unique and a leader of social change.

Football is different from politics.

I see football as an example for society. Sport is a game; it is not about competition, but about cooperation and inclusiveness. I see the CONIFA football competition as an example for society, because the real victory lays in full and equal participation. After all, there is no competition when only a few teams or individuals take everything for themselves at the expense of others. Then you would find yourself on the field playing soccer against yourself and everyone turns their back on you and all others. CONIFA is an organization that promotes inclusiveness. Wonderful examples of this are also women's football and the no-limit tournaments. In July of this year, a successful World Women's Cup was held in India. The No-limit tournaments, in which people with disabilities play against each other, also show CONIFA's ambitions to offer all people the opportunity to participate. Inclusiveness is necessary to have a fair competition that people like to watch and identify with. Of course you don't want to look at mean fighters who undermine others. You want to look at honest, fit and open-minded players who get the most out of themselves and believe in winning together with the team and want to play in a fair competition. I want to help shape that good and honest competition, on the field and in society. I will work together with the president and the other CONIFA board members to take football to an even higher level for underrepresented peoples and countries. I see CONIFA as an organization that has an important task in the field of football diplomacy and human rights, sport and development and the emancipation and inclusiveness of women, minorities and everyone else.

Will you continue to work for the Football Association West Papua?

Besides my commitment to CONIFA I will also continue to commit myself to the Football Association West Papua, because I believe in the great value it has for the Papuans. I have seen the pride, hope and inspiration of the Papuans when the players of the national team in their shiny Birds-of-paradise shirts walk onto the field with the Morning Star flag in their hands and the national anthem starts playing. You can hardly overestimate the impact of such an event on people who are marginalized and whose identity is suppressed. That work must always continue. The work that the board members Simon, Delon, Garry and others do for the association is voluntary, but at the same time very valuable for the players and the Papuan people. Furthermore, we do our best to convince society of its great value. I also see that as one of my main duties as General Secretary of CONIFA; to convince the world of the value of our work, our teams and our ideals. I have great hopes, as well as dreams, for the future and will be working with great enthusiasm for the football teams of West Papua and all other underrepresented nations that are members of CONIFA to change all our fates and make it a better more inclusive world for all.



West Papua - TikTok United



On the warmest 30th of October in Dutch recorded history, the West Papua football team walked onto the field of Quick in The Hague for a new football match. Since 2017, the team has played a series of matches against international opponents from all parts of the globe. However, the current opponent might be the most global yet; TikToc United FC. This football team consists of famous TikToc influencers who have come together to play charity and friendly matches. Together they have millions of online followers who undoubtedly enjoy their exploits on the field as much as those in ordinary life.

The match started at six in the evening with the players running up the field under the applause of the spectators. The players passed by the flag of CONIFA, the confederation of independent football associations, which was proudly held up by a small boy and girl. This setup proved appropriate since the charity match was dedicated to the West Papua refugee children. The money collected from the charity match is used to buy books, backpacks and other necessities for the children in West Papua in order to increase their life's chances of a better future.

The national anthem of West Papua was played through the speakers whereby the sounds carried across the field where the players proudly held the Morningstar flag. After an introduction by the speaker of the event, Ms. Apilena Sapioper, of the teams and the purpose of the charity match, the game kicked off. It became quickly apparent that the teams were evenly matched and that the final result would be uncertain until the very end.



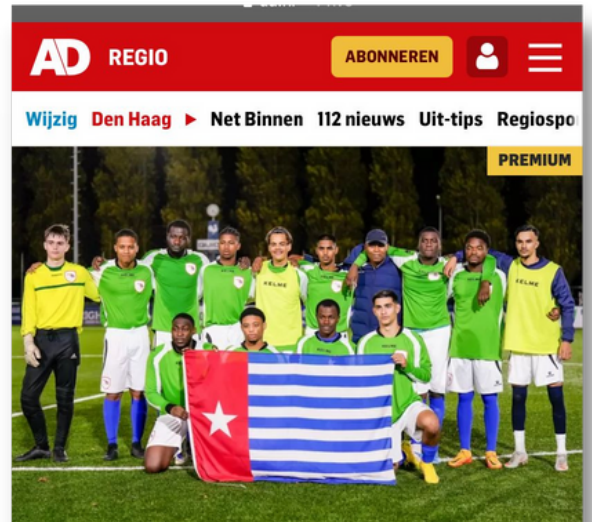
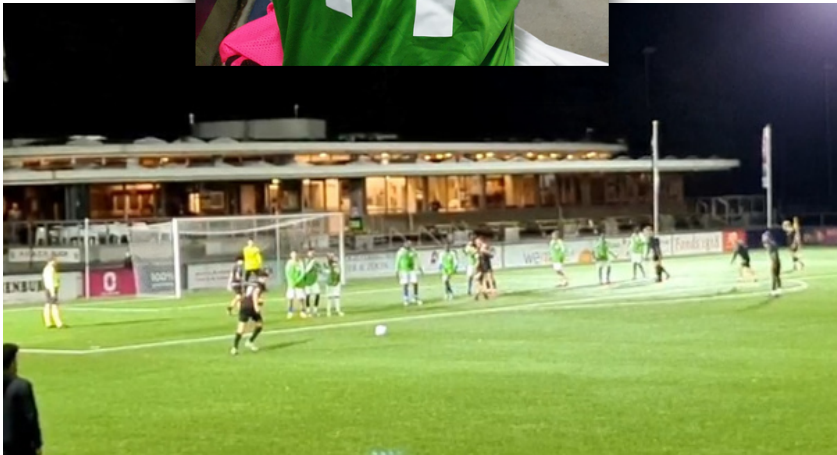
The team's fortunes changed several times during the match, with one team having the upper hand for a while, followed by a moment when the opponent had more chances. The lively match reflected the love of the game and the dedication to the support of the West Papua refugee children. The end result matched the enthusiasm of the players as well as the expectations of the spectators and many online viewers. The final score was five to five. The match was broadcast live via Elevensports and numerous journalists were present to report on the event. An elaborate article (in Dutch) on the match was published a few days later in a Dutch national newspaper (Algemeen Dagblad).

Ms. Ruby Ann Kagaoan, the CONIFA Asia-Oceania president, also attended the event. Ms. Kagaoan visited the West Papua community in the Netherlands for several days where she had numerous meetings and attended social gatherings of the West Papua community. She is from the Philippines and brings with her a great deal of experience in sports management, which is rivalled by her dedication to the cause of a better, more inclusive world where people focus on what they have in common instead of how they differ. At an official meeting with the management of the Football Association West Papua, Mr. Simon Sapioper, Mr. Delon Tatem, Mr. Gary Llina and Mr. Jeroen Zandberg, she discussed the upcoming activities for 2023, including the CONIFA Asia Cup. This football tournament is scheduled for the summer of 2023 and will take place in the Netherlands. The Football Association West Papua will play a key role in helping organizing this event.



FAWP football manager Delon Tatem interviewed president Simon Petrus Sapioper on the occasion of the charity match:

"Our charity match against TikTok United is dedicated to the West Papua refugees and the West Papuans that are still oppressed in their homeland. Football means to us more than just a fun sport. Through football we try to provide humanitarian aid to the young people of West Papua and the diaspora. Being a refugee in your own country is worse than being a refugee in Europe. In Europe, at least, their well-being is high on the political agenda. In our own country our people have fled into the woods in fear for their lives. Life is hard in the forests due to a shortage of quality crops to survive on. The United Nations does not adequately protect our people, because this is not politically possible and this leads to situations where children have to abandon their language and change their surname to get opportunities in their own country. We also see that children have to survive on the street. This is the fate we don't wish for any child. We wish for a prosperous future for all and have high hopes that a charity match like this can support the West Papuan refugees in lifting their spirits and providing them with opportunities."



▲ Sportpark Nieuw Hanenbrug, benefietwedstrijd, Tik Tok United - West Papoea. Teamfoto West Papoea met: Aanvoerder Shadiro Rink zittend linksonder © Frank van Leeuwen Sportsnap



LorenzoDinatelle en andere Tiktoksterren voetballen voor West-Papoea: 'Superstoer'

Bekende TikTokers hebben, onder leiding van social media influencer LorenzoDinatelle (774 duizend volgers), een eigen voetbalteam opgericht om geld op te halen voor goede doelen. Zondag speelden ze op het Haagse hoofdveld van Quick voor schoolspullen voor kinderen in West-Papoea. Kinderen langs de lijn kwamen niet zozeer voor de wedstrijd als wel voor het scoren van een selfie met hun Tiktok-helden.




PUMA

BENEFIET WEDSTRIJD



TIKTOK UNITED VS HET NATIONALE ELFTAL VAN WEST-PAPOEA

ZONDAG | **30 OKTOBER 2022** | **ENTREE: € 6.50**
AANVANG: 18.00

 **HV & CV QUICK DEN HAAG**
DE SAVORIN LOHMANLAAN 215 2566BZ
DEN HAAG



West Papua - Raetia



The long-awaited friendly between West Papua and Raetia, which was postponed twice because of the Corona virus crisis, finally took place at Quick Den Haag's Sportpark de Hanenberg in The Hague on 13 November last. It was the visitors' first game for some time, but West Papua came into this match on the back of a 5:5 draw against TikTok United, a team of social media influencers who they played almost two weeks earlier in a benefit match for West Papuan children who are living in refugee camps along the border with Papua New Guinea.

The West Papuans had the better of the first twenty minutes of their duel with the Swiss team, meanwhile, but missed two or three good chances to go ahead through, amongst others, Ballassai. Although the Tjernderawasih controlled matters, the Raetians kept countering but they always just seemed to misdirect the final pass.

The hosts kept creating chances, and Hato sent a shot from distance wide just after the half-hour before Santos latched on to a clever back-heel from a teammate and shot from six yards out, but Raetia 'keeper Bjorn Hasselmann got down to save at his near post.





West Papua kept up the pressure as the half drew to a close, and Rink found himself in a good position at the edge of the six-yard box to trap and connect with a ball sent over from the left, but he snatched at the ball and half-volleyed it wide. Not long after, Ballassai worked himself into a good position on the edge of the box before feinting and sending in a low shot which Bjorn did well to save.

It was a good first half for West Papua against a determined Raetia side, but there was a certain amount of frustration at the break due to their missing a number of good chances, and it was to continue into the second half. as Tatem was superbly put through by Ballassai, only for him to shoot straight at the 'keeper.

That rarity of thing, a shot in anger from Raetia, came from Christian Perren after 52 minutes as his team went on the counter; instead of seeking out a team-mate, he decided to let fly from nearly 30 yards out. His dipping shot beat Tycho van der Woning, but rattled the top of the crossbar and flew over for a goal-kick.

West Papua kept up their search for a goal, and it almost came just after the hour mark when Tatem went a-marauding and found Ballassai, who ran on and tried to round Bjorn and shot, but the Raetian keeper got back, down and saved well.

The goal West Papua had been looking for came after 65 minutes, and no-one could say that it was undeserved. Ballassai ran through the Raetia defence and his shot from 15 yards swerved viciously and sent Hasselmann the wrong way as it flew into the back of the net. It spurred them on further, and a free-kick with twenty minutes left flew low and just wide of Bjorn's right-hand post. Not much later, Maliba ran into a packed penalty-area to get on the end of a corner, but was only able to prod the ball a yard wide of the post.

Raetia came more into the game as it entered its final stages, and Wüthrich had an effort saved by van der Woning with twelve minutes left. Seconds later, Bakiu ran through a gap in the home defence as wide as the North Sea to score, only to be wrongly adjudged to have been in an offside position by a linesman who was at least a yard ahead of the last man in defence. Down the other end, Ballassai missed another good chance to make the game safe before the action swung back up to in front of the West Papua goal, when an inviting cross just missed a clutch of Raetian players on the attack.



In their last game against TikTok United, West Papua were denied a victory when their opponents equalised in the dying seconds, and it happened again this time, too; with the sun slowly sinking into the trees behind the ground, a corner from the left-hand side landed in the West Papua six-yard box. A scramble ensued before Wüthrich prodded the ball forward from a couple of yards out and it squirmed agonisingly under van der Woning and just over the line.

The West Papua players were left wondering just how victory had evaded them for the second time in less than a fortnight. After the match, manager Garry Ilina bemoaned the lack of team-play from his charges, whilst Raetian manager Simone Fontana praised his team for not letting their heads drop. Despite Ilina's disappointment, there was much for West Papua's manager to be positive about. West Papua played well, especially in defence, they looked potent in attack and created plenty of chances. There were positives for Raetia, too; Hasselmann was inspired in goal, the defence held firm for most of the match and, as Fontana said, the team as a whole kept going right until the end. Plans are being made for a return fixture between the sides in Switzerland later this year, most probably in August. It could be a game to look forward to, as West Papua will feel aggrieved that they didn't get the win they felt they deserved, and Raetia, buoyed by their performance in this game, will look for a rare win on home soil.

WEST PAPUA: 1 T. VAN DER WONING; 2 T. CECILIA,
3 S. QUIAVUAZOA, 4 S. RINK, 5 J. VREDE, 6 S. HATO,
7 F. YAMA, 8 M. GAJADHAR, 9 C. MALIBA, 10 C. BALLASSAI,
11 E. KWALAKITA

SUBSTITUTES: 12 D. TATEM, 13 J. SANTOS

NOTE: West Papua used rolling substitutions.

RAETIA: 1 Björn HASSELMANN; 2 Paolo BOTTONI
(15 Ardian BAKIU), 3 Lukas SCHMIDT, 4 Franco CONZETT,
5 Corsin SCHUMACHER, 6 Sebastian DODEN,
7 Christian PERREN (2 BOTTONI; 18 Jakob ENGELBERGER),
9 David BAJIC (16 Dario WÜTHRICH), 10 Luca GOOD,
11 Raphael URBEN, 14 Phillip BRASSER
SUBSTITUTES: All four substitutes were used.





RAETIA

Geography: 7.015 km²

Population: 200-thousand

Language: Romansh, German and Italian.

History: Raetia was a province in the Roman Empire between 15 BCE and 476 AD. The area of the province was centered around what is currently central and eastern Switzerland and northern Italy. It was home to the Alpine tribe of the Raetians. In order to protect and defend the mountainous and sparsely populated area against invaders during the Middle Ages, numerous leagues, like the League of God's House, the League of the Ten Jurisdictions and the Grey League, were established. In 1471 these leagues, from different parts of the area of Raetia, formed an alliance that in subsequent centuries cooperated ever closer with the Swiss Confederacy. In 1798 the area, which was now called Graubünden (Grisons), became part of the Helvetic Republic and later, in 1848, a state within the country of Switzerland. The area is trilingual; Swiss-German, Italian and Romansh. The latter language, Romansh, has been recognized as a national language since 1938. Romansh is a Gallo-Romance language and is a descendant language of Latin as it was spoken in the Roman Empire.





FOOTBALL MATCH WEST-PAPUA VS RAETIA

 WEST PAPUA
VS
RAETIA 

13-11-2022 THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

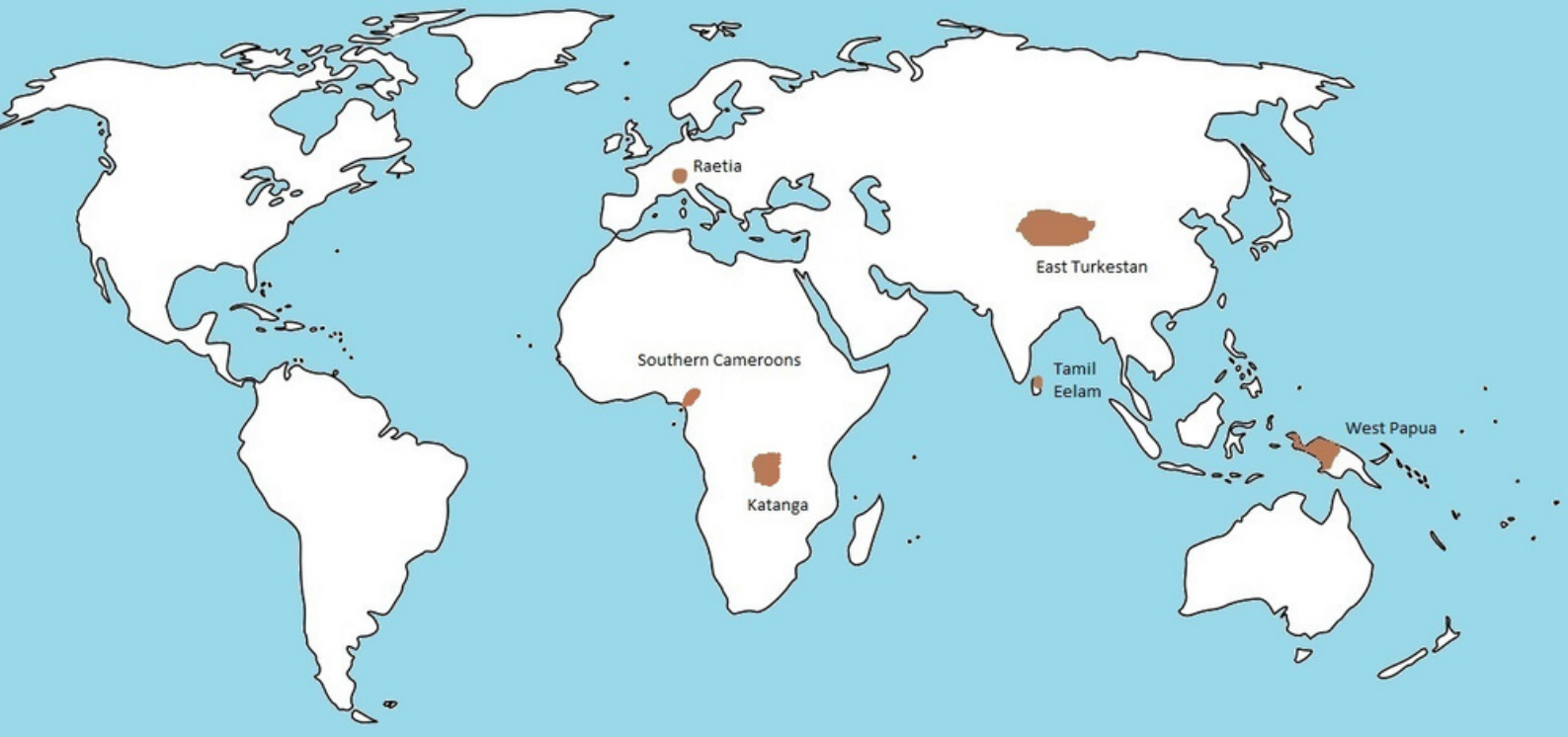
 CONIFA

The Hague Football and Cricket Association Quick
De Savornin Lohmanlaan 215, 2566 BZ The Hague, Netherlands

FOR INQUIRIES ABOUT THE MATCH AND CONFERENCE CONTACT JEROEN ZANDBERG AT FOOTBALL.WESTPAPUA@GMAIL.COM



Nations and team





2017 - 2022

WEST PAPUA

5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WEST PAPUA