

2026

YEAR-IN-REVIEW

What It Takes

How Rare unlocks the power of community-led conservation

A Year of Community-Led Conservation

What local leaders made possible in 2026, and how Rare helped them do it.



Edgar C. Conjurado, a fisher in Bataraza, Palawan, Philippines. Photo Credit: Angelo Mendoza for Rare.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Conservation led by communities and built to last

A letter from Caleb McClennen

Community-led conservation starts with a simple idea: people who live closest to the lands and waters at stake are often best positioned to shape their future. Putting that idea into practice is more complex. Communities rarely work on a level playing field. They bring deep knowledge, commitment, solutions, and their own innovations. Yet, they face systemic barriers that fail to recognize their authority, finance their solutions, provide access to useful information, or include their voices in decisions that affect them.

That is where Rare comes in. We do not arrive with a blueprint that communities must carry out. We work alongside local leaders to understand the barriers they face, strengthen the institutions and relationships they already rely on, and help create the conditions for their leadership to succeed. That might mean supporting a mayor-led network. Or, it could mean helping women organize savings groups, equipping farmers to teach other farmers, securing fishing rights, redesigning finance for conservation, or connecting national policy to local experience.

For more than five decades, Rare has kept learning from local leaders and finding better ways to help communities lead. In the case of Indigenous Samburu leader Titus Letaapo, Rare provided training and behavioral tools that Titus could adapt to Samburu identity, knowledge, and priorities. In the early 2000s, he put them to work through a Pride Campaign in Kenya's Namunyak Community Conservancy. What followed became an enduring lesson in how locally led change spreads: leaders from neighboring communities visited Namunyak, saw the results firsthand, and adapted the approach to their own contexts. Titus has since helped establish more than 40 community conservancies across northern Kenya.

In 2026, those lessons shaped our work across fisheries, farms, mangroves, rangelands, wildlife corridors, and forests. This report is an account of that progress.



Caleb McClennen Ph.D.
Rare President



Félix Edgardo Padilla
Honduras



María Umaña
Colombia



Taciana Galvão
Brazil



Muaija Gonçalve
Mozambique



Gani Rudin
Indonesia



Lito Torres
Philippines

275+
Local leaders, government, universities, funders, and implementing partners helping Rare build new pathways to scale

~70%
Rare staff based in the countries and regions where we work

The year in people, places, and progress

Rare works in some of the world's most biodiverse and climate-vulnerable places. Our current footprint includes four of the world's megadiverse countries, five of the 15 countries with the greatest mangrove extent, and two countries within the Coral Triangle — a region home to roughly three-quarters of the world's coral species. In 2026, Rare partnered with WCS to map where biodiversity importance, ecosystem services people rely on, and the enabling conditions for community-led conservation overlap — helping guide our future geographic priorities.

Core countries
Priority regions

Our Global Impact



1st

Small-Scale Fisheries Impact Bond payment triggered



$43.7M

Capital mobilized for conservation in FY26

2,800+

Number of communities building increased resilience

98,000+ km²

Amount of land and sea under conservation

180,000+

Fishers, farmers, and other nature-dependent people on the path to sustainable fishing and farming



540+

Number of local government leaders now part of the growing global Coastal 500 network

OPENING STORY

Following the water

A window into community-led conservation of land and sea

Santa Fe and Trujillo, Colón Department, Honduras

Félix Edgardo Padilla's work follows the water. After diesel generators deteriorated, leaving his community and the neighboring communities of Plan Grande and Quinito in Santa Fe with only three hours of electricity, he and fellow residents took action. They secured funds and built the hydropower system Edgardo still leads today. It powers freezers for fishers, and its turbines depend on water from surrounding forests.

> **"Protecting the forest is protecting the water, and water is our life."**

Edgardo and his wife, Nolvia, fish and farm for their livelihoods. In 2026, Rare began working with communities in Santa Fe and Trujillo to unite sustainable coastal fishing with regenerative agriculture, helping communities build stronger connections between their work on land and at sea. Drawing on Rare's experience with farmers in Colombia, Edgardo and his wife are leaders in this effort, serving as farmer-mentors and helping neighbors adopt more regenerative practices to protect the ecosystems they depend on.

That work also connects community action with government leadership. Through Coastal 500, a global network of mayors and local leaders, Mayors from Santa Fe and Trujillo, Noel Ruiz and Héctor Mendoza, advocate alongside their peers for artisanal fishers' preferential access to coastal waters and stronger connections across land and sea. "**The same dream unites us. Our common denominator is the sea, and when leaders come together, there are no borders**," says Noel Ruiz, Mayor of Santa Fe.

For the Padillas, Mayors, and communities beyond, the land and sea have always been connected. Rare's work helps ensure the solutions are too.



Edgardo net fishing off the beach in Plan Grande, Iriona, Honduras.
Photo Credit: Lorena Velasco for Rare.



Muaija Gonçalve is the first woman to be elected President of the General Assembly of the Community Fishing Council (CCP) of Sanculo in Ilha de Moçambique, Mozambique.
Photo Credit: Esther Mbabazi for Rare

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WHAT IT TAKES

LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

Communities help decide how their resources are managed

Local knowledge guides conservation when communities have the authority and practical support to act.

In 2026, leaders across Rare's work shaped decisions about the resources their communities depend on. Across 8 countries, fishers on community councils helped decide where fishing would be managed and where reserves would give fish populations room to recover. In El Doncello, Colombia, rural women shared their priorities in consultations that informed the municipality's Women and Gender Public Policy. In the Philippines, volunteer Bantay Dagat patrols monitored municipal waters and helped curb illegal fishing.

These efforts reflect Rare's view that people closest to conservation challenges are experts in their own places and experiences. Rare begins by listening, working through local institutions, and helping strengthen people's authority to act — so their knowledge can shape the decisions that affect their livelihoods and natural resources.

Photo top: Muaija Gonçalves teaching and empowering other women in her community in Ilha de Moçambique, Mozambique. Photo Credit: Esther Mbabazi for Rare.

SPOTLIGHT

From excluded to elected: Women reshaping fisheries leadership



Muaija Gonçalves has fished the waters around Sanculo, Mozambique, since 1992. When she sought a leadership role in the community fisheries council in 2022, her candidacy was repeatedly rejected. She persisted. Today, she serves as President of its General Assembly, leading meetings and encouraging other women to participate. Beyond fisheries, she coordinates the Lumbo Beekeepers Association, helping women learn to read and write and build livelihoods connected to mangrove conservation.

Sofia Abdulremane Gulamo Daudo now serves as Vice President of the same council. She has watched women's participation grow and uses digital tools to collect information that supports fisheries management. In June 2026, Sofia took that local experience to the Our Ocean Conference in Kenya, addressing more than 500 delegates on the role communities play in protecting the ocean.



> **"Now we have a much larger number of women. And they do not come to sit alone. They come to create ideas."**
>
> **— Sofia Abdulremane Gulamo Daudo**
> Vice President, Sanculo Community Fisheries Council

HIGHLIGHTS



FISHERS

Small-scale fishers now lead **163 community management bodies across 7 countries**, overseeing **more than 100,000km² across 300+ Managed Access areas with 560+ Reserves**. In 2026, Rare celebrated a landmark agreement for community-led fisheries in Palau, two new RESEX in Brazil, newly legalized management bodies in Mozambique and Indonesia, the first-ever national artisanal fishers' day in Guatemala, and national registrations of fishers in the Philippines, among other community wins.

FARMERS

In Colombia, **230 farmer-leaders, or 'Profes'**, are helping regenerative agriculture travel from farm to farm. Trained by Rare and certified by UNAD, they **mentor more than 2,000 farmers managing 30,000 ha of land** across Colombia's Meta and Caquetá departments. Rare has worked with more than 6,000 farmers who have participated in a range of activities and initiatives to promote the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices.

ADVANCING GENDER EQUITY

Women shape local decisions across Rare's work. In Doncello, Colombia, they inform municipal gender policy. In Mozambique, many of the **1000+ women participating in literacy, leadership, and economic opportunities** (since 2023) now lead councils and collect fisheries data. In the Philippines, women leaders like Shirly Ronabio and Charity Casbadillo enforce coastal fishing laws and lead management efforts.

A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS

Across Rare's work, young people are taking new roles in community natural resource management. Inspired by leaders like **Juma Buanamana of Mozambique**, they are joining enforcement teams, starting environmental enterprises, collecting fisheries data, monitoring protected waters, and using digital tools to share information — with women now leading many of these efforts.



Photo left: Enith Sanabria is cacao farmer in Guamal, Meta, Colombia. Her cacao has been recognized nationally and internationally for its high quality. Photo Credit: Carlos Puentes for Rare. Photo right: Juma Buanamade is a proud fisher and one of the youngest elected Community Fishing Council (CCP) leaders in Ilha de Moçambique, Mozambique. Photo Credit: Esther Mbabazi for Rare.



Noel Ruiz, Mayor of Santa Fé and Coastal 500 champion, at a community event to celebrate the approval and declaration of Honduras's second community-managed fishing area. Photo Credit: Sesenta Segundos for Rare.

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WHAT IT TAKES

NETWORKS

NETWORKS

Change spreads through leaders

Peer networks turn isolated success into shared momentum.

Community-led conservation grows when people can see what is working elsewhere and hear about it from people they trust. A mayor confronting coastal decline, a pastoralist managing shared grazing land, or a farmer trying a new practice can often learn more from a peer facing similar choices than from an outside expert.

Rare has seen this principle work across decades and ecosystems. In 2026, we created opportunities for local leaders to exchange experiences, adapt ideas to their own communities, and build relationships that continue beyond a single project. Sometimes those connections grow into formal networks; sometimes change travels organically from one community to the next. Either way, local leadership has become a pathway for conservation to spread without requiring Rare to lead everywhere it goes.

Photo top: Mayor Noel Ruiz of Santa Fe, Honduras gifting a symbolic key to the city of Santa Fe to Brayhann Velazquez, Mayor of Cubarral, Colombia.

SPOTLIGHT

A network grows beyond its name



In 2026, Coastal 500 surpassed 500 mayors and local government leaders globally, reaching a milestone envisioned when Rare launched the network five years earlier. **Today, members span 8 countries and represent more than 2,000 communities.**

At a regional July summit in Honduras, Colombian Mayor Brayhann Velásquez joined leaders from Brazil and Honduras for the first exchange between Coastal 500 and Colombia's Sustainable Mayors' Network. Sessions ranged from sustainable agriculture in Colombia and Honduras to Brazil's ProManguezal mangrove policy. Leaders visited the Indigenous Pech community of Moradel to observe a savings group and met fishers involved in coastal management.

Beyond the summit, Honduran mayors continued to advocate for fishers' access within 12 nautical miles, while Philippine mayors are urging Congress to protect fishing rights within 15-kilometer municipal waters.



"This is my vision: that coastal and rural communities are viewed as a single entity, and their interconnectedness and interdependence can help farmers and fishers anywhere in the world."

— Brayhann Velásquez
Mayor, Cubarral, Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS



COASTAL MAYORS

Coastal 500 grew rapidly in the Philippines and Indonesia, with **100+ leaders joining in each country this year**. Rare is exploring opportunities to extend the network across the Western Indian Ocean, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America.

AGRICULTURAL MAYORS

Colombia's 18-member Sustainable Mayors' Network has made local government leadership a pathway to scaling regenerative agriculture. With regenerative agriculture commitments now embedded in municipal development plans, **mayors are helping to translate those commitments into action** by supporting farmer-to-farmer learning, strengthening local markets, and working with farmers to test parametric insurance in five municipalities.

MAYORS INFLUENCING MAYORS

In the Philippines, Quinapondan Mayor Leo Jasper Candido learned about fisherfolk insurance from Del Carmen Mayor Alfredo Coro, then championed funding for premiums. **His is one of many such stories.** Exchanges at Our Ocean and other global conferences, along with regional summits, have sparked interest among mayors and local leaders worldwide in joining the initiative.



> **People inspire us. Coastal 500 provides us with opportunities to learn and connect. Those connections show that, even though there is a geographical distance, we are dealing with very similar realities, histories, and needs."**
>
> **— Gelzi Nogueira**
> Vice Mayor, Augusto Corrêa, Brazil

Photo left: Deice Solerang, a Coastal 500 leader, head of Mahumu Satu Village in the Sangihe Islands in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Photo Credit: Fachrudin Jabrik for Rare.
Photo right: Gelzi Nogueira, Mayor of Augusto Correa, Brazil at the Coastal 500 regional summit in Honduras.



Darniawati counting the savings deposits made at a savings club meeting in Pasi Kolaga, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. Photo Credit: Jason Houston for Rare.

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WHAT IT TAKES

FINANCE

FINANCE

Communities need lasting investment

Economic resilience helps people protect nature, and better financial systems can reward communities for conservation results.

Every conservation decision happens alongside other pressures. Fishers, farmers, entrepreneurs, and other local stewards are also navigating food costs, debt, extreme weather, health needs, and uncertain income. When households carry all the risk, sustaining conservation becomes harder.

In 2026, Rare helped communities build the financial resilience to keep investing in stewardship while working to change how conservation itself is financed. Savings groups, fisher insurance, and enterprise support help people withstand shocks, strengthen livelihoods, and build more resilient businesses. Outcomes-based finance tackles a different challenge: connecting larger, longer-term pools of capital to independently verified conservation and community results.

Together, these approaches can help move conservation beyond short funding cycles toward financial systems that support communities and ecosystems for the long term.

SPOTLIGHT

Deep Blue: A $100 million platform for ocean recovery



At Climate Week NYC in September 2026, Rare, ORRAA, and Levoca launched Deep Blue, **an outcomes payment facility aiming for a roughly $50 million first close**, with the potential to grow toward $100 million for community-led ocean conservation.

Deep Blue will pool commitments from governments and philanthropies so investors can provide upfront capital to conservation projects. Outcome funders pay when ecological and community results are independently verified. Rare's Small-Scale Fisheries Impact Bond in Indonesia provided an early proof point; Deep Blue is designed to apply the model across a portfolio.

Possible future projects span fisheries in Indonesia, mangroves in Brazil, interconnected cacao, biodiversity, livelihoods, and mollusk fisheries in Colombia, and seagrass in Thailand. These efforts could ultimately become part of Deep Blue's portfolio.



> **"The financing mechanism is not novel; turning it blue is."**
>
> **— Karen Sack**
> ORRAA Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS



PROOF BECOMES PAYMENT

In 2026, independent verification of three community-established managed access areas triggered **the first payment under Rare's Small-Scale Fisheries Impact Bond**. The milestone demonstrated that investors can provide upfront conservation capital and be repaid when independently verified ecological and community results are achieved.

INSURANCE

More than **14,000 fishers in the Philippines** are covered by a parametric insurance system that provides protection when severe weather makes fishing unsafe. Rare is exploring a second phase to expand and strengthen coverage, adapting the product in Kenya and Colombia, and advancing coral reef insurance in the Philippines and Palau.

SAVINGS CLUBS

Since 2016, Rare has helped communities establish **1,255 savings clubs**, with **~30,000 members collectively saving $8 million**. In 2026, that work continues. In the Philippines, an Indigenous community in southern Palawan established its first club. In Honduras, 19 of 65 Rare-supported savings clubs transitioned into community micro-banks; six have received funding to finance green and blue businesses.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES

In the Philippines, **five enterprises selected from 79 applicants** joined Rare's investment readiness program, Blue Economy Investment Philippines. Other Rare-supported businesses connect enterprises directly to stewardship, from sustainable mangrove crab in Brazil to fisheries-supporting ice production in Indonesia.



Photo left: Recording collections from their fellow Canoe Ladies at their Savings Club meeting in Cocalito, Iriona, Honduras. Photo Credit: Lorena Velasco for Rare.
Photo right: Representatives from the selected enterprises participating in an intensive nature-based solutions integration workshop in Mactan, Cebu, Philippines.



Constancio Abril, a Bantay Dagat patrol member, uses the EarthRanger app on a mobile device while aboard a patrol boat, recording and monitoring information during a coastal patrol in Bais City, Negros Oriental, Philippines Photo Credit: Angelo Mendoza for Rare.

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WHAT IT TAKES

TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY

Communities deserve better information

Technology can strengthen community leadership by making useful information available when and where decisions are being made.

Community-led conservation depends on timely, usable information: when conditions are changing, where illegal activity is occurring, which farm practice fits a particular problem, and what risks are coming next. Yet, frontline leaders are often asked to work with fragmented data, inaccessible science, or expert support that cannot reach them when needed.

In 2026, Rare demonstrated how AI and digital technology can help close those gaps. We start with the information communities need to make decisions, applying technology to make relevant information more accessible, with built-in human oversight and community participation. EarthRanger helps coastal enforcement teams in the Philippines report incidents and coordinate patrols. Agent Tierra delivers tailored agronomy support to Colombian farmers through WhatsApp. In Brazil, ARCA and IASmin translate complex climate and coastal data into locally useful forecasts.

Photo top: Nelly Marín and her daughter, Sara Yulieth Ariza Marín, on their farm, Finca Nuevo Mundo in El Dorado, Meta, Colombia.

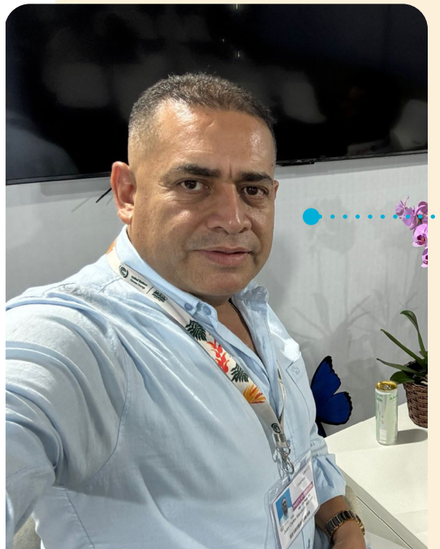
SPOTLIGHT

Agent Tierra: Built with farmers, not just for them



Agent Tierra — a digital agricultural adviser — begins with farmers' needs. Developed with Salesforce and delivered through WhatsApp, Rare's AI-powered agent builds on six years of Rare working alongside and listening to farmers like Nelly Marin and her daughter Sarah. Through testing and feedback, they and other farmers have shaped Agent Tierra's language, recommendations, response length, and user experience.

Nelly and fellow farmers can now send photos of crop pests and diseases and receive image-based crop diagnostics — expanding access to support when problems are difficult to describe in words. Behavioral prompts and social-norm cues help farmers turn information into action, while digital-literacy training builds confidence using AI. **Early results are promising:** 96% of surveyed farmers found Agent Tierra easy to use, all said they would use it again, and the tool autonomously resolved 97% of their questions. At the UN's global climate summit in November 2025, Agent Tierra was recognized as a leading solution for building green skills and jobs.



> **"Agent Tierra is helping transform the way smallholder farmers in our region make decisions."**
>
> **— Juan Carlos Mendoza**
> Mayor of Granada, Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS



FROM DATA ACCESS TO LEADERSHIP

In Mozambique, women trained in digital tools now collect fisheries data, analyze catches, and present results to communities and local government. For many, **the training was their first time using a computer**. Today, women use data to inform fisheries decisions and take new leadership roles in community management.

ARCA / IASMIN

In Brazil, through the Alliance for Amazon Climate Resilience (ARCA), Rare is piloting IASmin with oyster farmers in Pará. The tool turns local tide and weather data into WhatsApp forecasts and alerts, helping families decide when to harvest and prepare for flooding. Community feedback is shaping the tool to better support their daily decisions.

EARTHRANGER

In the Philippines, **Rare trained 220 park rangers and fish wardens to use EarthRange**r for coastal enforcement, digital reporting, and evidence documentation. Teams are also testing drones alongside sea patrols, adding aerial information that can help validate field observations, assess habitats, and strengthen situational awareness. This work is expanding to Indonesia, Honduras, and Mozambique.

MERMAID

Rare joined a WCS-led collaboration contributing coral reef data to MERMAID, a free global platform for reef monitoring and decision-making. In 2026, **Indonesia became the first national government to integrate MERMAID into its marine data infrastructure** — giving data collected by Rare and other partners a more direct route into national conservation decisions.



Photo left: Taciana Galvão, oyster farmer and President of the Aquavila Association, monitoring the water in Resex Mãe Grande de Curuçá in the Salgado region of Pará. Photo Credit: Enrico Marone for Rare. Photo right: Constancio Abril uses the EarthRanger app while on coastal patrol to document and report the sighting of a person using an illegal fishing gear in the waters of Bais City, Negros Oriental, Philippines Photo Credit: Angelo Mendoza for Rare.



Arledy Sánchez, a local community member, during a community tree planting event in El Dorado, Colombia. Photo Credit: Lorena Velasco for Rare.

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WHAT IT TAKES

LAND & SEA

LAND & SEA

Biodiversity thrives beyond protected areas

Conservation also happens on farms, in fisheries, on rangelands, in forests, and along coastlines where people live and work.

Much of the future of biodiversity will be determined in the working landscapes that surround and connect protected areas. Rare helps communities to reduce threats, protect biodiversity, restore habitat, and manage shared resources. In Botswana's rangelands, Rare applies behavioral science to collective challenges of grazing and restoration. In southern Costa Rica, we support farmers restoring habitat within an important wildlife corridor. Along the coasts, Rare-supported Managed Access fisheries areas encompass an estimated 1,137 km² of mapped coral habitat and 2,507 km² of mangroves, including 78 km² of coral habitat in no-take reserves and 10 km² of mangroves in reserves.

As Rare takes this approach into restoration, community fire management, grazing and livestock systems, and other landscapes, the starting point remains the same: understanding how people use and value natural resources and supporting locally appropriate ways to steward them.

Photo top: Yellow-tufted Woodpecker on María Umaña's farm enterprise Vuelo Carmesí Ranch in Cubarral, Meta, Colombia. Photo Credit: Carlos Puentes for Rare.

SPOTLIGHT

When a farm becomes a habitat



For María Umaña, growing cacao and restoring biodiversity are increasingly part of the same work on Finca La Fortuna, her family's farm in Colombia's Meta region. Since joining Rare's program in late 2020, the family has moved away from herbicides and insecticides. María says soil tests show more organic matter and lower acidity, while the trees they plant as part of an agroforestry system benefit birds and other wildlife.

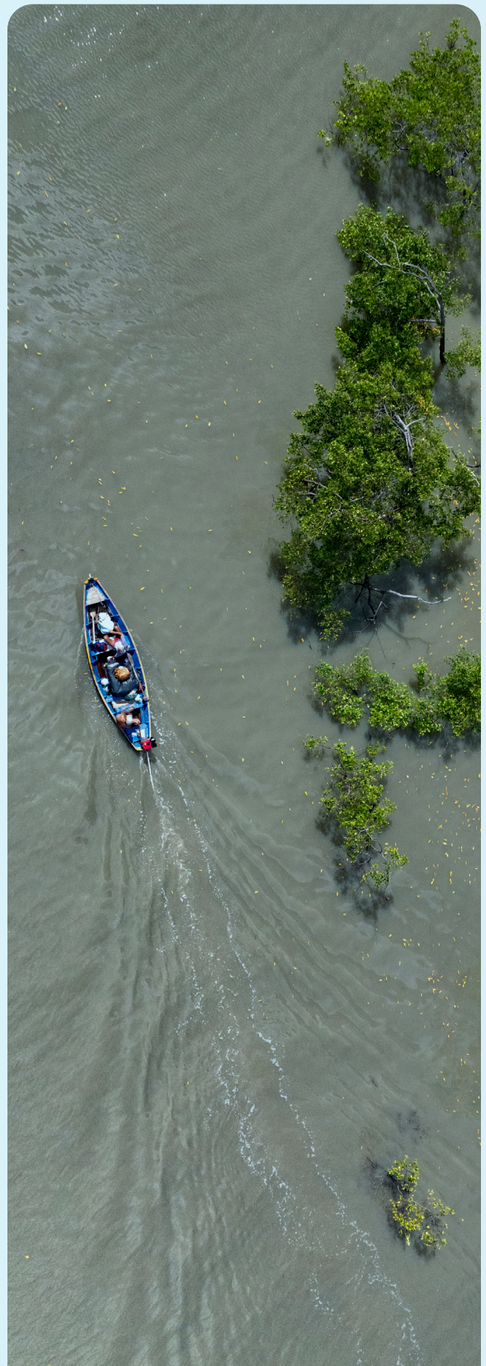
The results can be seen, and heard, across the farm. Their venture, Vuelo Carmesí, provides another source of income: birdwatching and cacao tours that bring visitors to the farm. The family has **recorded more than 180 bird species**, showing how a productive cacao farm can also provide habitat for wildlife. María's experience offers a glimpse of what is possible across Colombia's agricultural landscapes: farms can produce food and sustain livelihoods while helping reconnect habitat across forests, rivers, and protected areas.



"I used to think of this mainly as a cacao farm. Now, when I see and hear all the birds that have made a home here, I understand that producing food and protecting nature can be part of the same work."

— María Umaña
Farmer in Meta, Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS



CONNECTING LAND AND SEA

Rare launched **a new approach connecting regenerative agriculture with coastal fisheries** in communities where many households depend on both. The work, being piloted in Honduras, connects farms, forests, rivers, mangroves, reefs, and fisheries — work that Rare teams in Colombia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Mozambique are now adapting or exploring.

MANGROVES

Rare aims to advance conservation of **10,000 km² of mangroves by 2030**. In Mozambique, communities planted 1.13 million mangrove propagules across 225 hectares. In the Philippines, Rare and the Asian Development Bank supported an agreement to assess released public lands, including mangrove areas released for fishpond purposes, and consider mangrove rehabilitation.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

In Costa Rica, Rare is working with Osa Conservation to support farmers restoring habitat on their land as part of a wider wildlife corridor. The collaboration reflects **a growing focus on working landscapes**, where farms and other productive lands can help connect protected areas, protect biodiversity, and create more continuous habitat for wildlife.

COMMUNITY FIRE MANAGEMENT

In Belize's Maya Forest, Rare worked with the Belize Maya Forest Trust and agricultural producers to strengthen responsible fire practices and establish community fire brigades. **Fire incidence in the 960 km² pilot landscape fell to zero in 2025**. Lessons from that work inform Rare's growing focus on community-led fire management beyond Belize.



Photo left: Fishing boat in the mangroves of Pirabas Bay, Resex Viriandeua. Photo Credit: Enrico Marone for Rare. Photo right: A Pech farmer in Moradel, Honduras.



Glaucia Floresta, a member of the Mothers of the Mangroves in Brazil. Photo Credit: Bianca Neves for Rare.

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WHAT IT TAKES

POLICY

POLICY

Local stewardship needs recognition

Policy can give communities the rights, resources, and authority to manage nature, while local experience can show governments what works.

Communities make decisions every day that affect fisheries, forests, farms, coastlines, and other natural resources. But their ability to act depends partly on rules they do not control: who has rights to manage resources, which conservation areas governments recognize, how public resources are allocated, and whose knowledge counts in official decisions.

Throughout 2026, Rare worked with communities and governments to align those systems with local stewardship — securing recognition and rights, strengthening institutions, and helping governments translate conservation commitments into policies, plans, and budgets that work on the ground. That connection matters as countries pursue ambitious biodiversity and climate goals. Community experience can show governments what works, while national policy can give locally led solutions the authority, resources, and recognition to contribute to wider climate and biodiversity goals.

Photo top: Marlon and Rustam, PAAP (Fisheries Area Access Management) Group Administrators, conducting outreach to a local fisher in Sangihe Islands, North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Photo Credit: Fachrudin Jabrik for Rare.

SPOTLIGHT

Recognizing community-led conservation



Communities can successfully conserve an area for years without that work being formally recognized in national conservation systems. Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures, or OECMs, offer one pathway for changing that.

In Indonesia, Rare is working with communities, partners, and government to identify community-managed coastal areas that could qualify for OECM recognition, including three connected to the Small-Scale Fisheries Impact Bond. **Rare-supported Managed Access Areas with Reserves outside formally designated marine protected areas have high potential for OECM recognition.** Rare's experience on the ground has also contributed to national guidance for recognizing these areas.

That learning is now traveling. We also support OECM work with governments and conservation partners in the Philippines, Honduras, and Mozambique, adapting lessons from Indonesia to different legal, ecological, and community contexts.



“Recognition as an OECM should strengthen the communities that have protected these areas. … Our role is to support what is already working and help communities sustain it.”

— Dr. Firdaus Agung
Director of Ecosystem Conservation, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNITY FISHERIES GOVERNANCE

Mozambique approved its first community-led fisheries management plan outside a marine protected area, formally recognizing the work of fishing councils. This milestone is **the culmination of a 10-year effort led by local communities**. The plan covers 515 km², including seven no-take reserves, and benefits nearly 11,000 artisanal fishers and roughly 1,000 women gleaners.

CLIMATE PLANNING

In Brazil, Rare is helping three Coastal 500 municipalities incorporate marine and coastal management into local climate action plans aligned with the national climate framework. **This work translates national commitments into local decisions** affecting the ecosystems and communities these governments serve.

PREFERENTIAL ACCESS FOR SMALL-SCALE FISHERS

In the Philippines, Coastal 500 members urged Congress to **grant registered municipal fisherfolk exclusive fishing rights within 15-kilometer municipal waters** and strengthen local enforcement capacity. In Honduras, mayors advocated for preferential access within 12 nautical miles. In Guatemala, fishers worked with the national fisheries agency to establish fishing zones for joint enforcement.

INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE

In a first for the Philippines' Palawan Province, Indigenous Peoples' ancestral domains are being integrated into municipal coastal resource and fisheries management plans and recognized as traditional ancestral zones, with portions allocated as marine protected areas. This brings Indigenous governance and stewardship more formally into local conservation planning.



Photo left: Fisherman in Guatemala. Photo right: Community members placing buoys in the water in Namalungo Beach, Mozambique.



Muksin Madundang, a Coastal 500 leader, head of Bebalang Village in the Sangihe Islands in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Photo Credit: Fachrudin Jabrik for Rare.

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WHAT IT TAKES

PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships extend what's possible

Rare combines its strengths with organizations that bring complementary expertise, finance, authority, relationships, and reach.

No organization has everything required to support community-led conservation at scale. Local organizations bring knowledge and trusted relationships. Governments bring authority and public resources. Research institutions contribute science and evidence. Regional platforms coordinate and connect across borders. Funders and technical partners bring capital, technology, and specialized expertise.

Rare works through partnerships at every level. In 2026, those partnerships opened new possibilities across oceans, rangelands, forests, wildlife corridors, and fire-prone landscapes, allowing Rare to contribute to conservation far beyond the places where we directly implement programs. We combine our strengths — behavioral science, community-led conservation, program design, sustainable finance mechanisms, evidence, and decades of implementation experience — with those of partners already rooted in the places and systems where change can happen.

Photo top: A great egret (also called a white heron) in the Coroa Nova fishing community where Pirabas Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean in Resex Viriandeua, Brazil. Photo Credit: Enrico Marone for Rare.

SPOTLIGHT

Mapping where community-led conservation can make a difference



In 2026, Rare and the Wildlife Conservation Society set out to answer a consequential question: **Where could community-led conservation make the greatest contribution to people and nature?**

Together, Rare and WCS are completing the first global assessment of terrestrial and marine community-led conservation opportunities, identifying where biodiversity importance, ecosystem services people rely on, and the enablilng conditions for community-led conservation overlap. The analysis will help Rare refine priorities within our four priority regions and identify where we are best positioned to contribute.

That work complements opportunities Rare is already advancing or exploring in in the Maya Forest in Belize, Brazil's Pantanal, Bolivia's Chiquitania, Kenya's Amboseli, Cameroon's Dja Reserve, Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, Botswana's vast rangelands, and more. Many initiatives will move forward through partnerships with organizations already rooted in these landscapes — combining their local knowledge, expertise, and relationships with capabilities Rare can contribute.



"This map is not just a prioritization tool. It's a hypothesis about where and how we might strengthen the foundations for community stewardship in the future."

— **Rachel Neugarten**
Executive Director, Conservation Planning, Wildlife Conservation Society

HIGHLIGHTS



UNLOCKING BLUE PACIFIC PROSPERITY

Rare is supporting this Pacific-led initiative to sustainably manage 100% of the region's ocean (42 million km^2), protect 30% by 2030, strengthen food systems, and mobilize sustainable finance. We helped co-design the initiative's framework, bringing stakeholder and behavior-centered experience to one of the world's most ambitious ocean conservation efforts.

SOUTH AMERICAN FIRE FUND

Building on lessons from Belize, Rare has joined the South American Fire Fund, bringing behavioral science and community-led conservation expertise to work across the **Amazon, Pantanal, and Chiquitania**. The emerging initiative aims to reduce destructive fire while ultimately mobilizing approximately **$100 million for frontline organizations**.

CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

In 2026, **Rare's partnership with the six-country Coral Triangle Initiative moved from collaboration to implementation**. Rare has completed a regional feasibility assessment and roadmap for sustainable finance and is now working with member countries to build an outcomes-based finance portfolio that supports marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, and coastal resilience across the region.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT RANGELANDS

In Botswana, Rare has partnered with Conservation International and the Government of Botswana to bring behavioral science to Herding for Health, a community-driven approach to restoring communal rangelands. Rare is supporting local teams to strengthen collective grazing practices and community stewardship through a project to improve management across **nearly 50,000 km^2 of rangelands**.



Photo left: Brendan Keane spearfishing around the Rock Islands while his mother, Kaud, and family friends are in the boat above. Photo Credit: Jesse Alpert for Rare. Photo right: Wildfires in the Belize Maya Forest landscape. Photo credit: Belize Maya Forest Trust.



Jubeta Mamudo Namaneque, District Government Director of Ilha de Moçambique and Coastal 500 member. Photo Credit: Esther Mbabazi for Rare.

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WHAT IT TAKES

IDEAS & INFLUENCE

IDEAS & INFLUENCE

Local experience can change the wider conversation

Community-led conservation also means ensuring that local experience informs the decisions, ideas, and stories shaping conservation.

Some decisions shaping communities' futures are made far from the places they affect — at global summits, in national capitals and international institutions, and through mainstream media and stories that influence how millions of people see environmental problems and solutions. Rare works to bring local experience and insights from the field into those wider conversations.

In 2026, local leaders brought their experience to international forums, and Rare turned lessons from its work into research and practical tools. We helped integrate behavioral insights into global conservation standards and supported entertainment and campaigns that generated 150 million views of sustainable narratives. Rare also built a new research capability connecting insights from 26,000+ viewers and 250 television shows, with an AI-powered tool helping storytellers apply what we're learning.

Photo top: Sofia Abdulremane Gulamo Daudo, Vice President of the Sanculo Community Fisheries Council, Jubeta Mamudo Namaneque, a District Government leader in Ilha de Moçambique and Coastal 500 member, and João Bento Zampula, District Administrator of Mogincual and a Coastal 500 member at Our Ocean Conference in Kenya.

SPOTLIGHT

Bringing local experience into global decisions



At the 2026 Our Ocean Conference in Kenya, Rare brought an African delegation into global ocean discussions, including three leaders from Mozambique. **Sofia Abdulremane Gulamo Daudo**, Vice President of the Sanculo Community Fisheries Council, spoke about how community-managed areas support livelihoods and ecosystem recovery. **Jubeta Mamudo Namaneque**, a District Government leader in Ilha de Moçambique and Coastal 500 member, shared experience overcoming government barriers to establish local fisheries management. **João Bento Zampula**, District Administrator of Mogincual and a Coastal 500 member, called for investment that gives communities the resources not only to participate, but to act.

Rare also helped bring local leadership and experience into other international forums, including COP30 in Brazil, New York Climate Week, and beyond.



"This is not just the reality of Augusto Corrêa, or Pará, or even Brazil — it is the shared reality of coastal communities around the world. We are coming together to support one another."

— Francisco Queiroz de Oliveira
Mayor of Augusto Corrêa, Brazil

He called on global policymakers to transform their climate resilience commitments into action. He was the only local leader invited to speak at a COP30 ministerial event on ocean commitments.

HIGHLIGHTS



RETHINKING RESTORATION

Rare's new rangelands report, developed with the Global Mechanism of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, challenges a common assumption about restoration: technical knowledge alone does not lead to action. It examines how trusted institutions, coordination, identity, peer learning, and well-timed resources can help communities manage and restore shared lands.

HELPING OTHERS PUT BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE TO WORK

Rare expanded practical tools for conservation practitioners and communicators. With Foundations of Success and the Conservation Measures Partnership, **Rare integrated behavioral insights into the Conservation Standards 5.0 and documented 12 real-world applications.** Through Speak Sustainability, we translated similar insights into practical, country-specific guidance for climate communicators.

CHANGING THE STORIES WE TELL

Years of Climate Culture Index research revealed a persistent barrier to climate action: people underestimate others' support. In 2026, Rare took that insight to mainstream entertainment, partnering with Wicked for Good's Green for Good campaign, which used talent and storytelling to **reach 70 million+ people** and make pro-environmental support in film visible, tangible, and hopeful.



Photo left: Grant's gazelles (Nanger granti) in Amboseli National Park, Kenya. Photo Credit: María Isabel Dabrowski for Rare. Photo right: Wicked's Green for Good campaign.

Looking ahead: The Road to 2030

What it will take

Rare's goals for 2030 are ambitious. **By 2030**, we aim to support **6 million fishers, farmers, and other nature-dependent people** to adopt more sustainable behaviors across **10,000 communities**; mobilize **$1 billion** for community-led conservation; help advance **1,000 local, regional, and national policy wins**; and inspire **3.9 billion views of sustainability-related narratives**. These goals support our ambition to conserve and support stewardship across **1.25 million km² of land and sea by 2040**.

Behind this ambition is a future in which ecosystems flourish, livelihoods withstand a changing climate, and communities can sustain their ways of life for generations. Building that future takes strong community leadership, policies and institutions that support it, and sustained investment from our donors and partners.

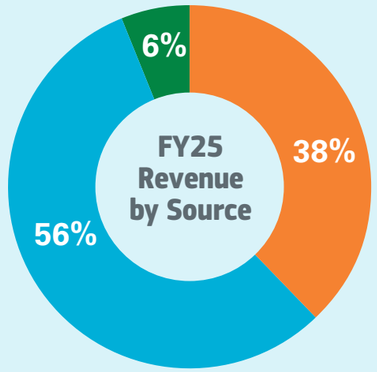
Halfway to $60 million

Philanthropic capital helps community-led conservation take root and grow. It supports early ideas, gives communities time to build strong institutions, and funds the evidence that can attract larger pools of public, private, and outcome-based finance.

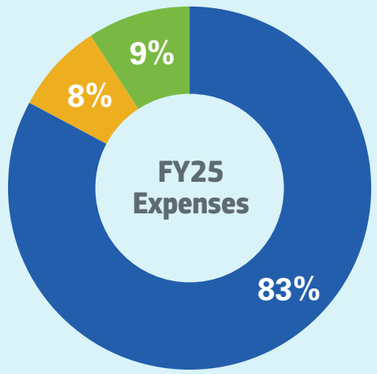
In FY26, Rare's community rose to a $15 million challenge from former Board Chair and current Trustee Dorothy Batten. Donors contributed $15 million in unrestricted commitments, unlocking Dorothee's full pledge and securing **$30 million** for Rare's mission. Together, these commitments bring us halfway to our **$60 million fundraising goal in support of Rare's 2030 strategy**. We are deeply grateful to Dorothy and every donor who made this milestone possible.

Financial stewardship

Summary of FY2025 financials. FY2026 audited financial statements will be available in spring 2027.



Individuals	16,164,109	38%
Foundations & Corporations	23,671,523	56%
Government & Multilaterals	2,462,787	6%
Other	72,959	0%
Total	**$42,371,378**	**100%**



Program Services	32,962,972	83%
Fundraising	3,168,566	8%
Administrative	3,694,604	9%
Total	**$39,826,142**	**100%**

CLOSING NOTE

Conservation, shaped by people and place

Across ecosystems and continents, community-led conservation takes shape through the people, relationships, and institutions of a place.

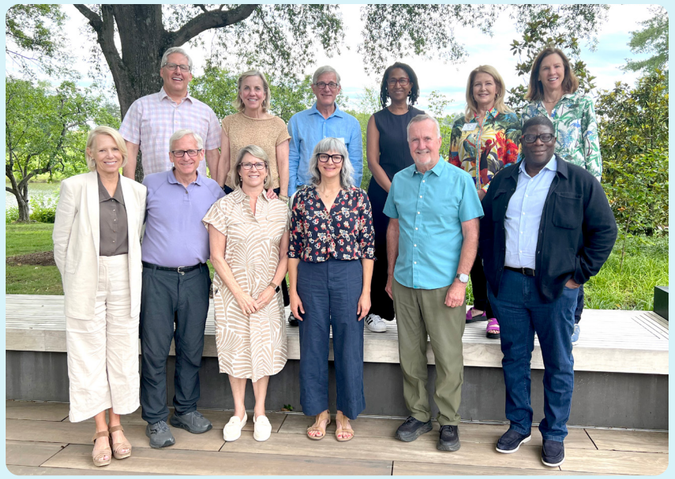
In Honduras, the Padillas manage their resources across land and sea. In Kenya, Titus has spent decades helping communities learn from one another and extend conservation across landscapes. In Colombia, María shows how a working cacao farm can produce food, support a family, and provide habitat for wildlife. In Indonesia, Gani Rudin turns a community-owned ice business into a way to protect fishers' livelihoods and finance local fisheries stewardship. The result looks different in every place because the people, ecosystems, institutions, and challenges are different.

Across Rare's work in 2026, these places reveal common ingredients: knowledge rooted in experience, leaders people trust, institutions with the authority and capacity to act, access to finance and useful information, and connections that allow communities to learn from one another and have a voice in larger decisions.

Our Board of Trustees, donors, and partners make that patient work possible — allowing ideas to be tested, relationships to deepen, local institutions to grow stronger, and successful approaches to travel.

Thank you for supporting Rare and the people leading this work.

> **"Behind every success this year is a person who decided to act for their community and for nature. We are in awe of their leadership, grateful to everyone who makes this work possible, and proud to help build a better future together."**
>
> **— Lizanne Galbreath and Bruce W. Boyd**
> Board Co-Chairs



Rare CEO, Brett Jenks, with members of Rare's Board of Trustees in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA in 2026.

Rare inspires change so people and nature thrive.

Rare is a global leader in community-led conservation. For more than 50 years, we have partnered with local communities worldwide to strengthen their stewardship of the lands and waters they depend on.

Today, Rare works in some of the world's most biodiverse places, where climate risks are high and community-led conservation can deliver the greatest impact. We combine community-driven solutions with behavioral science, partnerships, financing, and practical innovation to create the conditions for conservation to succeed. By helping make local leadership the foundation of conservation, we strengthen resilience for people and nature.

Learn more at rare.org and follow us at @Rare_org.

Cover photo background: Sangihe Island, North Sulawesi, Indonesia Photo Credit: Fachrudin Jabrik for Rare. Cover photo inset: Adam Granada, Vice President of Amlan's Bantay Dagat in Amlan, Negros Oriental, Philippines. Photo Credit: Angelo Mendoza for Rare.