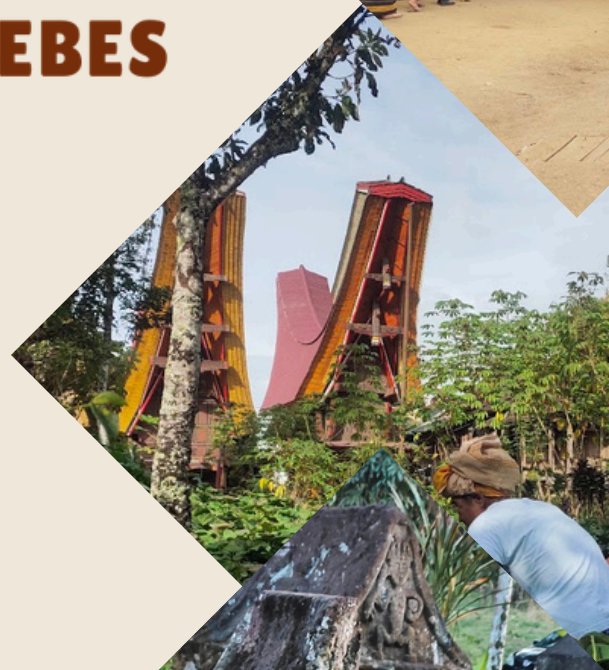




Perkumpulan Manusia Sulawesi

ANTHROPOCELEBES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2026 - 2029





INTRODUCTION

Sulawesi is home to hundreds of Indigenous communities, unique biodiversity, and a rich diversity of languages, cultures, and knowledge systems that have evolved over centuries. Yet Indigenous Peoples across the island face increasingly complex challenges, including the expansion of extractive industries, climate change, the loss of languages and cultural heritage, and limited access to the resources needed to support self-determination. In response to these challenges, Anthropocelebes works alongside Indigenous communities to strengthen sovereignty, safeguard cultural heritage, and build a more just and sustainable future.

This 2026–2029 Executive Summary outlines Anthropocelebes' strategic direction toward realizing that vision. Guided by a Holistic Wrap-around Support approach, we integrate participatory research, collaborative documentation, funding support, and economic empowerment as the organization's four core pillars. These pillars are translated into five programmatic priorities focusing on biodiversity and environmental protection, arts and culture, Indigenous journalism, Indigenous creative economies, and the leadership of Indigenous youth and women.

This document provides an overview of how we work, the values that guide us, and the impact we aspire to achieve together with Indigenous communities, partners, and supporters. More than an organizational roadmap, this Executive Summary is an invitation to collaborate in ensuring that the Indigenous Peoples of Sulawesi have the space, resources, and opportunities to determine their own future.



Four-Pillar Strategy

PILLAR 1: PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

Intellectual Sovereignty and Collective Knowledge

Anthropocelebes firmly believes that Indigenous Peoples are the foremost experts on their own lands, histories, and ecosystems. Yet, research has too often been conducted through extractive practices, where outside researchers collect knowledge from Indigenous communities without providing meaningful benefits, recognition, or ownership in return. Our Participatory Research pillar seeks to transform this paradigm by placing intellectual sovereignty back into the hands of Indigenous Peoples.

Under this pillar, research is understood as a collaborative and dialogic process. Rather than positioning ourselves as external experts, Anthropocelebes serves as a technical facilitator, supporting Indigenous individuals and communities in designing, conducting, and interpreting their own research. Our work focuses on three interconnected areas: local history, to revitalize Indigenous origins and historical narratives; social systems, to strengthen understanding of customary governance and leadership; and ecology, to document Indigenous ecological knowledge and practices for environmental stewardship.

For example, when a community seeks to document traditional agricultural practices that have sustained livelihoods and strengthened climate resilience for generations, Anthropocelebes provides methodological guidance, research tools, and technical support while ensuring that the research process remains community-led. The resulting knowledge belongs entirely to the community and can serve as evidence in defending customary territories, informing policy advocacy, or transmitting Indigenous knowledge to younger generations.

Through this approach, research becomes a tool for empowerment rather than extraction. By combining scientific methods with Indigenous ways of knowing, we help ensure that traditional knowledge is not lost with the passing of generations, but is preserved, strengthened, and mobilized to address contemporary social, cultural, and environmental challenges.

PILLAR 2: COLLABORATIVE DOCUMENTATION

Reclaiming the Narrative

The Collaborative Documentation pillar stands at the forefront of Anthropocelebes' efforts to challenge the historical invisibility of Indigenous Peoples across Sulawesi. For decades, narratives about the island have largely been shaped by external actors or concentrated on areas with high commercial or tourism value, leaving hundreds of Indigenous communities without the opportunity to tell their own stories, document their realities, or celebrate their cultural heritage. Through this pillar, we are committed to reclaiming the narrative by ensuring that Sulawesi's history, present realities, and future aspirations are documented by the people who know them best—its own communities.

We create inclusive spaces where Indigenous youth, women, elders, and community leaders become authors of knowledge rather than merely subjects of documentation. Our multimedia approach embraces diverse forms of storytelling, including investigative and feature writing, photography, short documentary films, audio recordings of oral histories, and other community-led media. By supporting Indigenous communities to document their own experiences, we strengthen cultural continuity while amplifying voices that have long been marginalized.

These collective contributions are brought together through two flagship platforms.

The first is the Anthropocelebes Website, envisioned as a Living Database of Indigenous knowledge in Sulawesi. More than a digital archive, it is a dynamic and continuously expanding knowledge repository that documents land conflicts, traditional healing practices, customary governance, biodiversity, local languages, ecological change, and other community-led knowledge from across the island. The platform serves both as a public resource and as a strategic tool for advocacy, education, and future research.

The second is the Anthropocelebes Digital Magazine, published quarterly around carefully curated themes that reflect urgent issues facing Indigenous Peoples. Each edition provides space for in-depth reporting, essays, visual storytelling, and community perspectives that connect local realities with broader national and global conversations. Through compelling narratives and high-quality multimedia content, the magazine serves as a powerful advocacy platform to engage the public, policymakers, academics, and the international community.

The third flagship platform is Documentary Film, a form of collaborative journalism produced through close partnership between Indigenous communities and the Anthropocelebes team. We recognize that not everyone engages with written publications, and that visual storytelling has the power to reach broader and more diverse audiences. Through documentary filmmaking, local histories, living traditions, environmental knowledge, cultural practices, and the everyday experiences of Indigenous communities are preserved and shared in compelling and accessible ways.

In practice, the Collaborative Documentation pillar is built upon a community-led model that actively involves Indigenous youth, women, elders, and knowledge holders throughout the documentation process. Rather than documenting communities from the outside, Anthropocelebes works alongside them as a collaborative partner. We provide access to equipment, technical expertise, editorial mentorship, and journalism training whenever needed, enabling communities to produce high-quality stories while maintaining ownership over their narratives. Through this approach, documentation becomes not only a means of preserving culture and history, but also a process of strengthening local capacity, amplifying Indigenous voices, and ensuring that communities remain the primary storytellers of their own experiences.

PILLAR 3: FUNDING

Financial Support for Grassroots Initiatives

One of the greatest barriers facing Indigenous movements is the limited availability of independent, flexible, and community-centered financial resources. Anthropocelebes recognizes that transformative ideas emerging from Indigenous communities require sustained financial support to grow into lasting change. Our Funding (Grantmaking) pillar is designed as a community-driven support mechanism that strengthens Indigenous initiatives through strategic financial assistance while respecting community autonomy and self-determination.

The grantmaking program is structured around three complementary funding categories.

Category 1: Indigenous Youth Fellowship

We believe that the future of Sulawesi lies in the hands of its Indigenous youth. Each year, Anthropocelebes provides fellowships to ten outstanding Indigenous young leaders from across Sulawesi to design and implement initiatives that respond to the needs of their own communities. Rather than prescribing solutions, the fellowship empowers young people to transform their own ideas into action.

Supported initiatives may include establishing Indigenous schools, documenting endangered Indigenous languages, preserving traditional knowledge, promoting cultural revitalization, or leading digital campaigns for environmental protection and Indigenous rights. More than a grant, the fellowship is a long-term investment in nurturing a new generation of Indigenous leaders who remain deeply rooted in their identities while creating meaningful social change within their communities.

Category 2: Community Empowerment Grants

This funding stream is dedicated to ten Indigenous organizations, community initiatives, or grassroots collectives rooted within Indigenous communities across Sulawesi. We recognize that many of the island's most impactful change-makers operate outside formal institutional structures. They may be Indigenous women's groups, youth collectives, customary institutions, cultural initiatives, or community-led movements working to protect their territories, revitalize ancestral traditions, or strengthen local governance.

Funding priorities under this category remain intentionally flexible and will be aligned with Anthropocelebes' strategic priorities during each grant cycle. This adaptive approach enables us to respond to the most pressing issues facing Indigenous communities, whether strengthening customary governance, supporting participatory territorial mapping, advancing environmental justice, revitalizing Indigenous cultures and languages, or expanding community-based education. By providing accessible and responsive funding, Anthropocelebes seeks to strengthen grassroots leadership and ensure that Indigenous communities have the resources necessary to pursue solutions on their own terms.

Category 3: Emergency Response Fund

As an island highly vulnerable to natural disasters and the growing impacts of the climate crisis, Sulawesi requires rapid and flexible mechanisms to support Indigenous communities during times of emergency. Anthropocelebes therefore maintains an Emergency Response Fund dedicated to providing timely assistance when crises occur.

This fund is designed to respond to a wide range of urgent situations, including disaster relief and recovery, humanitarian assistance, emergency livelihood support, and urgent legal assistance for Indigenous human rights defenders facing criminalization or other forms of repression. By ensuring that resources can be mobilized quickly, the fund enables communities to respond effectively while protecting their rights, safety, and dignity.

Guided by the principles of trust-based philanthropy, Anthropocelebes is committed to making funding accessible, transparent, and community-centered. Rather than imposing burdensome procedures, we prioritize relationships built on trust, accountability, and mutual respect. In doing so, Anthropocelebes serves as a bridge that connects global solidarity with Indigenous communities on the frontlines, ensuring that resources reach those who need them most—when they need them most.



PILLAR 4: INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Kesejahteraan Yang Berakar

In this pillar, Anthropocelebes builds two complementary pathways that reinforce one another. The first pathway is a direct meeting space through the Sulawesi Indigenous MSME Exhibition. This forum also serves as a three-day festival of Indigenous economic sovereignty, held every six months and rotating from one region to another across Sulawesi. This rotating model provides more equitable access for Indigenous communities to introduce their woven textiles, handicrafts, local foods, herbal medicines, and other products to the wider public. In addition, the forum provides opportunities to build business networks and expand marketing opportunities.

The second pathway is a sustainable promotional space through the Anthropocelebes website. We provide a digital showcase for Indigenous MSMEs to display their products throughout the year, not only during exhibitions. Through this platform, each product is presented not merely as a commodity, but as a form of knowledge, a story, and a living relationship between people, nature, and their ancestors. In this way, the public can better understand the cultural values and ethics behind the production process. This approach expands market reach, ensures more consistent promotion, and creates opportunities for collaboration with buyers, partners, and collectors across regions and even across countries.



PROGRAM PRIORITY

1. Biodiversity and Environment

The Indigenous Peoples of Sulawesi are the last guardians of the island's biodiversity, yet they are also among the communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. For us, the climate crisis is not merely an environmental phenomenon—it is a disruption of the balanced relationship between people and nature that has been maintained for thousands of years.

This programmatic area focuses on recognizing Indigenous Peoples as holders of real solutions, rather than merely subjects of global climate policies. We prioritize the revitalization of Indigenous methods for managing forests, water sources, and agricultural lands that have proven resilient in adapting to extreme weather conditions. This includes documenting traditional knowledge on farming practices, nature-based disaster risk reduction systems, and the conservation of local crop varieties with high genetic diversity. We believe that restoring the earth begins with listening once again to Indigenous traditions that regard nature as a living entity to be respected, rather than a commodity to be exploited.

2. Arts and Culture

Language is the vessel that carries the history, philosophy, and identity of a people. When an Indigenous language in Sulawesi disappears, a unique way of understanding and interpreting the world disappears with it. The same is true of traditional arts, including ritual dances, traditional music, and architecture, which embody the collective memory of Indigenous ancestors.

Our focus in this programmatic area is to bridge the growing gap between generations. We work to revitalize Indigenous languages that are increasingly being abandoned by younger generations through innovative and contextually relevant approaches. At the same time, we view traditional arts as powerful expressions of Indigenous identity, resilience, and resistance that must continue to thrive. We are committed to documenting, revitalizing, and celebrating Sulawesi's diverse cultural expressions—including oral traditions, customary ceremonies, and folk arts—so that they remain living and relevant expressions of Indigenous identity, rather than becoming mere museum artifacts or tourist attractions.



3. Indigenous Journalism

Invisibility is one of the greatest threats to Indigenous sovereignty. For too long, stories about Sulawesi have been shaped by external narratives that are often biased or driven by commercial interests. Indigenous Journalism is our tool for reclaiming the power to tell our own stories and ensuring that voices from the grassroots are heard at the highest levels of decision-making.

This programmatic area emphasizes the right of Indigenous Peoples to own their own media and tell their stories on their own terms. We are committed to building a journalism ecosystem rooted in integrity, ethical practice, and local perspectives. Our focus is to provide a platform for stories about land struggles, cultural knowledge, and social issues that are often overlooked by mainstream media. Through Indigenous journalism, communities are no longer merely the subjects of news reporting—they become the primary storytellers, capable of shaping public awareness and advocating for their rights independently.



4. Indigenous Creative Economy

Cultural sovereignty can never be fully realized without economic self-determination. Yet Indigenous communities across Sulawesi are often forced to choose between preserving their traditions and participating in extractive economic systems that degrade the environment in order to survive. Anthropocelebes rejects this false choice by promoting the Indigenous Creative Economy as a dignified alternative.

Our focus is to build an economic system that generates not only financial value, but also strengthens cultural integrity and environmental sustainability. We support the development of products rooted in Indigenous knowledge—such as naturally dyed woven textiles, traditional handicrafts, and locally produced organic foods—as part of a just and sustainable creative economy. We believe that prosperity must be rooted in Indigenous lands, where every Indigenous community can achieve economic self-reliance while taking pride in its cultural identity.

5. Indigenous Youth and Women

Indigenous Youth and Women serve as the organization's cross-cutting theme, embedded across every pillar, program, and initiative. Their leadership is intentionally integrated into all aspects of our strategy, from participatory research and collaborative documentation to grantmaking and Indigenous economic empowerment. We believe that meaningful and lasting change can only be achieved when Indigenous youth and women are recognized not merely as beneficiaries, but as leaders, knowledge holders, innovators, and decision-makers.

Indigenous youth and women have long safeguarded languages, traditional knowledge, cultural practices, food systems, and the intergenerational transmission of Indigenous values. At the same time, Indigenous youth in general, bring new energy, creativity, technological innovation, and fresh perspectives to address the challenges facing their communities. Together, it forms the foundation of resilient Indigenous societies capable of navigating both cultural continuity and social transformation.

For this reason, the active participation and empowerment of Indigenous youth and women constitute the driving force behind Anthropocelebes' entire strategic agenda. Every program we implement is designed to create meaningful opportunities for their leadership, strengthen their capacities, and ensure that they play a central role in shaping the future of their communities. By investing across generations and promoting inclusive leadership, we seek to build Indigenous communities that are culturally vibrant, socially equitable, and resilient for generations to come.