



Perkumpulan Manusia Sulawesi

ANTHROPOCELEBES

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2026 - 2029





FOREWORD

Building a Collective Vision for the People of Sulawesi

At the beginning of 2025, a group of Indigenous youth from Minahasa conducted a journey across Sulawesi Island. The journey began from a concern over the increasingly limited space for Indigenous communities in various development narratives, experiencing a decline in visibility or the absence of recognition for many Indigenous communities in Sulawesi. As organizations accompanying Indigenous communities, we believe that change must begin from the grassroots. Through discussions held in May 2025 with colleagues from Indigenous communities in Mamasa and Kaili, we agreed to establish an Indigenous forum capable of strengthening the voices of Indigenous communities that have long been overlooked.

The birth of Anthropocelebes (AC), which means "People of Sulawesi," is the embodiment of this collective dream. We began the planning strategically as a movement inspired by Indigenous communities and dedicated to them. To lay a strong foundation, we established three initial objectives. First is **formulating a shared vision that reflects local realities**, Second is **developing an inclusive local knowledge documentation system**, and third is **assessing priority needs based on the aspirations of Indigenous communities throughout Sulawesi**.

This process began by getting to know again the local history and identity that are diverse. We conducted an in-depth analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) faced by Indigenous communities in Sulawesi amid modernization and globalization. Initially, Anthropocelebes was designed as a media journalism platform. However, through discussions and listening to various aspirations, this initiative evolved into a more holistic non-profit institution.

We have established a holistic rights-based approach that is integrated into four main pillars of work.

Participatory Research

Conducting in-depth research together with Indigenous communities to safeguard traditional systems so that they remain relevant in the future.

Collaborative Research

Opening space for everyone to participate in documenting local knowledge through writing, photographs, and videos that will be published through websites and digital magazines every three months.

Capacity Strengthening Funding

Distributing direct support through Fellowship programs for Indigenous youth, community empowerment grants, and disaster response funds for affected areas.

Indigenous Economic Empowerment

Organizing regular exhibitions of Indigenous community MSMEs to ensure the independence of Indigenous community economies.

Our team is becoming increasingly decentralized while remaining connected to a common vision. Every member of our team was selected not only because of their abilities, but because every point of view, understanding, and local experience is crucial to our collective success. We invest in local capacity because we believe that local knowledge and inter-network connections are the key to the victory of the global Indigenous Peoples' movement.

We believe this Strategic Framework is not merely a living document. It is a reflection of our values, a guide for our actions, and a promise to Indigenous communities throughout Sulawesi. We are ready to learn and respond to every challenge in the future for the sake of ensuring that no voice goes unheard, and that every Person of Sulawesi possesses full sovereignty over their identity and their future.



ABOUT ANTHROPOCELEBES

VISION

Strengthening the identity, culture, knowledge, and ecological sustainability of Sulawesi by making Indigenous Peoples, particularly youth and women, the primary drivers in addressing the challenges of the times and climate change.

MISSION

To document and publish local knowledge, languages, arts, historical sites, and the traditions of the people of Sulawesi through research, media, and cultural mapping, while preserving traditional ecological heritage and community-based marine systems; strengthening the role of Indigenous youth and women as leaders in cultural preservation and environmental advocacy; promoting public dialogue on Indigenous Peoples, culture, and climate change so that local perspectives contribute to sustainable development policies; and building collaborative networks with communities, academics, journalists, civil society organizations, and policymakers at the local, national, and global levels.

OUR WORK

Anthropocelebes is a non-profit institution and non-governmental organization (NGO) led by Indigenous youth, legally registered as an association in Indonesia. Established from the grassroots in 2025, Anthropocelebes is dedicated to partnering with Indigenous communities throughout the island of Sulawesi to advance the rights and cultures of Indigenous Peoples that have long been neglected in mainstream narratives. The core of our efforts is to support, amplify the voices of, and raise public awareness of the rights of the Indigenous Peoples of Sulawesi to self-determination.



VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

At Anthropocelebes, we came together through a series of dialogues that began in early 2025 to formulate what we believe to be the values of this organization. This process is a reflection of how we act, both internally within the organization and externally with Indigenous communities, partner organizations, donors, and stakeholders in Sulawesi.

CORE VALUES

What we believe in and uphold

Sovereignty and Self-Determination

We ensure that the rights of the Indigenous Peoples of Sulawesi to freely determine their political conditions and pursue economic, social, and cultural development are respected in accordance with their own way of life and territorial integrity.

Sulawesi Cosmvision

We honor the diverse ways of thinking, living, and relating to nature held by every ethnic group in Sulawesi. We view the world through ancestral wisdom that defines a harmonious relationship with Mother Earth.

Collectivity and Trust

We regard community and collaboration as a fundamental way of life. Trust is a prerequisite for every action we take, enabling us to operate through strong reciprocal relationships with community partners.

Humility

We recognize that there is a greater strength beyond our organization. We allow ourselves to be guided by the wisdom of the ancestors and those who have laid the foundation of the struggle before us, while continuing to acknowledge our limitations and always remaining willing to learn.

OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES

How we put these values into action

Decolonizing Knowledge

We are committed to challenging dominant perspectives that often overlook or oversimplify the identities of the Indigenous Peoples of Sulawesi. We prioritize local narratives, knowledge, and perspectives as the primary sources of truth. This principle ensures that our history and traditions are told by ourselves, not by outsiders.

Participatory Approach

All Anthropocelebes' work is community-based. We ensure that Indigenous Peoples, youth, and women are involved as the primary actors and decision-makers, rather than merely as research subjects or aid recipients. We work together with communities, not only for communities.

Equality and Justice

We acknowledge that present-day realities are not yet fair for everyone especially for Indigenous Peoples. We uphold the principles of equality in culture, gender, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Anthropocelebes firmly rejects all forms of racism, discrimination, and marginalization, and strives to restore the balance of social relationships that have been disrupted by external forces.

Opportunity and Empowerment

We create space, access, and real opportunities for Indigenous youth and women to grow. We believe in empowering local economic potential and local leadership as pathways to sustainably preserve the culture, history, and environment of Sulawesi.



PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

To fulfill the mission of supporting the sovereignty, cultural resilience, and visibility of the Indigenous Peoples of Sulawesi, Anthropocelebes (AC) implements a four-pillar strategy: **Documentation, Research, Funding, and Economic Empowerment.**

This strategy is not merely a list of activities, but an integrated whole that works in parallel. We believe in Comprehensive Holistic Support, where knowledge that is documented and researched becomes the foundation for targeted funding, which ultimately strengthens the economic independence of Indigenous communities. This is the heart of our theory of change: integrating narrative with concrete action.

Four-Pillar Strategy

Documentation

Building an inclusive media platform to amplify the voices of communities that have been "overlooked."

Research

Knowledge collaboration to explore traditional systems and local wisdom.

Funding

Providing direct resources to youth, communities, and emergency situations.

Economic Empowerment

Opening market access and strengthening economic sovereignty through local products.

What is Comprehensive Holistic Support?

Within partner communities, Anthropocelebes (AC) works across programs. For example, AC collaborates with an Indigenous community to conduct research on their traditional weaving patterns. At the same time, the Documentation pillar features the story of the weavers in AC's Digital Magazine to build visibility. Through the Funding pillar, a young person in the village receives a Fellowship (Category 1) to become a master weaver, while the community receives support for facilities (Category 2). Finally, through the Economic Empowerment pillar, the products they create are brought to AC's six-month exhibition to introduce them to a broader market.

Strategic Pillar Details

Documentation

This pillar serves as the public face of Anthropocelebes, focusing on efforts to shape narratives about the Indigenous Peoples of Sulawesi. We provide an inclusive platform for youth, women, and Indigenous communities to become the main subjects in telling their own stories through writing, photographs, videos, or other media. All works collected and published through various interconnected channels, including the Anthropocelebes website, thematic digital magazines, film productions, or documentary videos, are carried out collaboratively with Indigenous communities.

Research

We believe that Indigenous Peoples are the foremost experts on their own lands, histories, and ecosystems. This pillar ensures that their knowledge is not merely heard, but properly documented in accordance with their cultural values. The research approach we use is participatory collaboration, in which the research process is not conducted on Indigenous Peoples as research subjects, but together with Indigenous Peoples as the primary subjects.

Within this framework, the Anthropocelebes team serves as technical facilitators who accompany individuals or communities in researching and documenting local history, social systems, and their own ecological knowledge, so that the research results can be owned and utilized by the communities for intergenerational purposes and the defense of Indigenous territorial rights.

Funding

Anthropocelebes recognizes that major ideas and grassroots initiatives require continuous support to become sustainable. Through this funding pillar, we manage funds in three strategic categories designed to address different needs within communities.

Category 1: Indigenous Youth Fellowship

Providing financial support to 10 Indigenous youth across Sulawesi each year to lead initiatives for change in their communities.

Category 2: Community Empowerment

Providing grants for 12 organizations or Indigenous communities to strengthen local institutions.

Category 3: Disaster Response

Emergency funds to assist Indigenous communities across Sulawesi affected by natural disasters or urgent crises.

Economic Empowerment

The Economic Empowerment pillar aims to ensure that the Indigenous Peoples of Sulawesi can live prosperously on their ancestral lands without having to damage the environment or abandon their cultural identity. Anthropocelebes promotes the strengthening of local wisdom-based economies by promoting Indigenous MSME products through its website and social media as a means of connecting producers with consumers and investors. In addition, we organize the Sulawesi Indigenous MSME Exhibition as a three-day annual event held in rotating locations, serving as a promotional platform, networking opportunity, and direct sales venue for community flagship products to the public. Through this approach, economic empowerment not only improves prosperity, but also strengthens cultural sovereignty and the environmental sustainability of Indigenous communities.



PROGRAM PRIORITIES

1. Biodiversity and Environment

The Indigenous Peoples of Sulawesi are the guardians of the last strongholds of biodiversity, yet they are also the group most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. For us, the climate crisis is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a disruption to the balance of the relationship between humans and nature that has been maintained for thousands of years.

This thematic area focuses on recognizing that Indigenous Peoples are holders of real solutions, not merely objects of global climate policies. We prioritize the revitalization of ancestral methods of managing forests, water, air, and agricultural lands that have proven capable of adapting to extreme weather changes. This includes documenting traditional knowledge on planting patterns, disaster mitigation systems based on natural signs, and the protection of local crop varieties with high resilience. We believe that to heal the Earth, we must return to listening to traditional ways that place nature as a subject to be respected, not a commodity to be exploited.

2. Arts and Culture

Language is the vessel that carries the entire history, philosophy, and identity of a people. When a regional language in Sulawesi disappears, one unique way of seeing and understanding the world also disappears. The same applies to traditional arts, whether ritual dances, traditional music, or architecture, which are the physical manifestations of the collective memory of the ancestors.

Our focus in this area is to break the chain of generational discontinuity. We work to revive mother languages that are beginning to be abandoned by younger generations through methods that are fresh and contextual. In addition, we regard traditional arts as symbols of the resilience and existence of Indigenous Peoples that must continue to thrive. We are committed to documenting, revitalizing, and celebrating the diverse cultural expressions of Sulawesi, such as oral traditions, customary ceremonies, and folk arts, so that they remain living and relevant identities, not merely museum displays or tourist attractions.

3. Indigenous Peoples Journalism

Invisibility is one of the greatest threats to the sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples. For a long time, stories about Sulawesi have often been told by outside narratives that usually focus only on commercial interests. Indigenous Peoples Journalism is our tool of struggle to reclaim information authority and ensure that voices from the grassroots are heard all the way to the centers of power.

This thematic area emphasizes the right of Indigenous Peoples to own their own media and tell their own realities in their own ways. We strive to build a journalism ecosystem rooted in honesty, ethics, and local perspectives. Our focus is to provide space for narratives about land struggles, culture, and social criticism that are often overlooked by mainstream media. Through this journalism, Indigenous Peoples are no longer merely "spectators" in their own stories, but become the primary narrators who are able to raise public awareness and carry out advocacy independently.

4. Indigenous Creative Economy

Cultural sovereignty will never be complete without economic independence. However, Indigenous Peoples in Sulawesi are often faced with the choice between preserving their traditions or following the flow of an extractive economic system that damages the environment in order to survive. Anthropocelebes rejects this dichotomy by offering the thematic area of Indigenous Creative Economy as a dignified middle path.

Our focus is to build an economic system that not only generates financial value, but also strengthens cultural integrity and environmental sustainability. We encourage the development of products based on local wisdom, as part of a just creative economy. We believe that prosperity must be rooted in ancestral lands, where every Indigenous community can become economically independent while remaining proud to uphold its cultural identity.

5. Indigenous Youth and Women

Indigenous Youth and Women constitute a cross-cutting theme that is integrated into the entire organizational strategy. The leadership, participation, and empowerment of Indigenous youth and women are perspectives embedded in every pillar, every activity, and every decision-making process. From participatory research, collaborative documentation, and funding, to the economic empowerment of Indigenous communities, we ensure that Indigenous youth and women have equal opportunities to lead, participate, and determine the direction of change.

We believe that the sustainability of Indigenous Peoples cannot be separated from the role of youth and women as guardians of knowledge, language, culture, and life systems inherited across generations. At the same time, Indigenous youth, in general, are drivers of innovation who are able to bridge ancestral knowledge with contemporary challenges and opportunities, including through technology, creativity, and new forms of leadership. Together, they become an essential foundation for the birth of Indigenous communities that are resilient, adaptive, and firmly rooted in their cultural identities.

Therefore, the entire strategic agenda of Anthropocelebes is designed to create a safe, inclusive, and meaningful space for the leadership of Indigenous youth and women. We do not view them as mere beneficiaries, but as primary actors who possess the rights, capacities, and authority to shape the future of their own communities. By placing Indigenous youth and women as a cross-cutting theme, Anthropocelebes seeks to ensure that every intervention carried out not only produces short-term impacts, but also strengthens leadership regeneration, gender justice, and the sustainability of the Indigenous Peoples of Sulawesi.