

LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES FROM ACROSS THE WORLD

WINNERS OF THE EQUATOR PRIZE 2025

September 2025

The United Nations Development Programme UNDP and its partners have announced the winners of the 16th Equator Prize, recognizing ten Indigenous Peoples and local communities from nine countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. These winning organizations showcase how innovative, nature-based solutions can help communities achieve their local development goals while strengthening community resilience amidst economic, environmental, and political challenges. [This awardees join a network of 296 communities that have been recognized since 2002.](#)



The 2025 Equator Prize winners were revealed on the 2025 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Seven of the winning initiatives are Indigenous-led, each contributing to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and cultural heritage preservation. It is vital to recognize and support Indigenous Peoples and local communities as stewards of Earth's ecosystems, holding the knowledge, governance systems, and lived experiences to drive transformative climate action and shape a just, nature-positive future.

[The ten winners of the Equator Prize 2025 are the following organizations:](#)

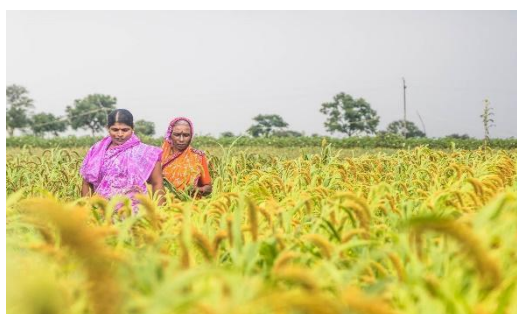
[Associação Uasei dos Povos Indígenas de Oiapoque. Brazil.](#)

Founded in 2022, Uasei brings together four Indigenous Peoples in Amapá to build a sustainable, Indigenous-led bioeconomy around native açai. By creating their own value chain and agroindustry, the first on Indigenous land in the state, they boost income, protect biodiversity, and reduce reliance on exploitative middlemen. Their Empório Uasei store showcases açai products and crafts, while women and youth play central roles in this model of economic autonomy, cultural preservation, and ecological stewardship. [Contact Information](#)



[Bibifathima Swa Sahaya Sangha \(Bibifathima Self Help Group\). India.](#)

Founded in Karnataka, this women-led initiative supports over 5,000 farmers across 30 villages through millet-based multi-cropping, seed banks, and solar-powered processing. Combining traditional knowledge with regenerative agriculture and renewable energy, it restores biodiversity, boosts food security, and empowers marginalized women and youth as agripreneurs, advancing climate resilience and equity. [Contact Information.](#)



Cooperativa de Mujeres Artesanas del Gran Chaco (COMAR). Argentina. The Cooperativa de Mujeres Artesanas del Gran Chaco (COMAR) is a women-led cooperative that empowers over 2,600 Indigenous women from the Gran Chaco ecoregion in northern Argentina. Through its brand Matriarca, they transform traditional handicrafts into sustainable, high-value products for national and global markets. Founded in 2011, it organizes and commercializes the craft value chain using nature-based solutions that protect biodiversity, promote climate resilience, and foster inclusive, community-driven governance. [Contact Information.](#)



Fundación Hakhu Amazonía – Ecuador. Led by Indigenous youth and women, the Hakhu Amazon Foundation defends the Ecuadorian Amazon and Indigenous rights through advocacy, decolonial education, and grassroots media. Its women's territorial guard, Yuturi Warmi, protects land and life, while the Hakhu Amazon Design social enterprise supports sustainable, culturally rooted livelihoods for Kichwa women. With a focus on gender equity and climate justice, Hakhu champions Indigenous self-determination and environmental protection. [Contact Information](#)



The First Agrobiodiversity Zone in Peru: Cuyocuyo Terraces, Puno. Peru. Led by six Quechua communities, this is Peru's first officially recognized agrobiodiversity zone. Spanning over 6,500 hectares in the southern Andes, it protects 1,281 native crop varieties and the region's largest system of ancient terraces. Through collective stewardship, the communities preserve biodiversity, practice sustainable agriculture, and pass down ancestral knowledge across generations. [Contact Information.](#)



Mitra BUMMA. Indonesia. This initiative in Tanah Papua supports community enterprises that protect 100,000 hectares of rainforest while strengthening local economies and tribal governance. By combining traditional knowledge with modern tools, Mitra BUMMA empowers over 3,000 people, especially women, in sustainable livelihoods, climate finance, and ecosystem stewardship. [Contact Information.](#)



Nature and People As One (NaPO). Kenya. This women- and youth-led Indigenous organization empowers pastoralist communities in northern Kenya to restore drylands using traditional knowledge and affordable restoration methods. NaPO has restored over 550 hectares and manages 10,000+ hectares under community bylaws. Through training local leaders and engaging youth, NaPO strengthens climate resilience and community-driven ecosystem stewardship. [Contact Information.](#)



Ranu Welum Foundation. Indonesia. Founded in Central Kalimantan, this women- and youth-led Indigenous organization empowers Dayak communities through forest conservation, cultural preservation, and media. Its programmes have mobilized over 1,000 youth, protected 3,000 hectares of forest, restored peatlands, and trained women firefighters. Through storytelling, education, and inclusive governance, Ranu Welum is driving Indigenous-led sustainable development and climate action in Indonesia. [Contact Information.](#)



[Sea Women of Melanesia Inc. \(SWoM\). Papua Nueva Guinea.](#)

This Indigenous women-led organization empowers women to lead marine conservation by combining traditional knowledge with modern science. Since 2018, SWoM has trained over 50 women to manage marine areas across 1,500 hectares of coral reef, restoring ecosystems and advancing sustainable fisheries in over 15 villages. Their work strengthens climate resilience, challenges gender norms, and inspires global models for inclusive ocean protection. [Contact Information](#).

[Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania \(SOA TANZANIA\).](#)

Founded in 2020, this youth-led nonprofit restores Tanzania's marine ecosystems and empowers coastal communities. SOA TANZANIA has restored over 100 hectares of seagrass, planted 20,000 mangroves, and trained 130+ young leaders through its Ocean Bootcamp. Its Bahari Venture promotes sustainable seaweed farming, advancing gender equality, climate resilience, and ocean health. [Contact Information](#)

[The Equator Prize is awarded to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities.](#) As local and Indigenous groups across the world chart a path towards sustainable development, the Equator Prize shines a spotlight on their efforts by honouring them on an international stage. The prize celebrates Indigenous and locally-led nature-based solutions, including protecting ecosystems, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting inclusive green economies for climate resilience.

The ten winners of the 2025 edition were selected from a pool of over 700 nominations from 103 countries, representing Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Peru, and Tanzania. Each will receive US\$10,000 and the opportunity to take part in a series of special virtual events associated with the UN General Assembly, the UNDP [Nature for Life Hub](#), and the Climate COP 30 in Brazil.

To know more

[Winners of the 2025 Equator Prize Edition](#)

[News Equator Prize 2025 winners](#)

[Equator Initiative Partners](#)

[Equator Prize case study Database](#)

[Equator Initiative website](#)

[Joint Statement by the UN Mechanisms of Indigenous Peoples | DISD](#)

[Indigenous Peoples | Division for Inclusive Social Development \(DISD\) \(un.org\)](#)

[Nature-based solutions database in equatorinitiative.org website](#)

[Equator Initiative Publications](#)

