



ERS FORUM

2025 IMPACT REPORT

GOVERNO DO
BRASIL
DO LADO DO NOVO BRASIL

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DERS FORUM



Coastal 500 members at the COP30 Local Leaders Summit

BY THE NUMBERS

420+ local government leaders engaged across **8** countries.

7M+ hectares of coastal waters conserved or managed.

100+ local policies catalyzed.

A GROWING MOVEMENT

Welcomed **64** new members across **3** countries.

AT A GLANCE

In 2025, Coastal 500 demonstrated the power of local action to protect oceans, replenish fisheries, and strengthen coastal resilience.

Members turned commitments into real change—expanding coastal protection, supporting effective management and sustainable fisheries, and elevating the leadership, needs and priorities of frontline coastal communities.

Throughout the year, the network also helped shift the global conversation, proving that the path to resilience and thriving coastal economies begins with empowered local leaders and communities driving solutions from the ground up.

From taking the stage at global forums like the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) and regional forums such as the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) Network of Local Governments Forum and the United Cities and Local Governments of Asia Pacific Summit, members ensured that coastal voices, priorities, and innovations shaped broader agendas and action. At the country level, this momentum translated into tangible progress—from expanded ocean protection in Honduras and unlocked funding for effective management and enforcement in Indonesia, to an elevated coastal agenda across Brazil and other member countries.

The highlights that follow reflect a year defined by bold leadership, strengthened collaboration, and meaningful gains for coastal communities worldwide.



COASTAL500

ON THE GLOBAL STAGE



In 2025, Coastal 500 reinforced that local governments are indispensable partners in achieving global ocean and climate goals. By participating in diverse global forums the network demonstrated how frontline leadership can transform high-level commitments into tangible progress. Highlights included:

United Nations Ocean Conference | Nice, France | June 2025

Through participation in dozens of events and strategic meetings, the Coastal 500 delegation elevated frontline voices and delivered a unified message: the achievement of global goals requires direct investment in and empowerment of local governments and coastal communities.

UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP30) | Belém, Brazil | November 2025

Coastal 500 was a key voice for local leadership in ocean-climate discussions, securing several speaking opportunities and participating in high-level convenings previously inaccessible to local leaders. The network earned formal recognition from the COP30 Presidency for its involvement in the [Global Climate Action Agenda](#), which demonstrates how to deliver and accelerate climate commitments.

COP30 Local Leaders Forum | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | November 2025

The Forum elevated the critical role of local action in global climate progress ahead of COP30. Coastal 500 mayors joined leaders from major world cities to position their municipalities as essential partners in advancing nature-based solutions, hosting the only ocean and nature focused event in the agenda.



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Coastal 500 strengthened its role as a global voice for locally-led climate and ocean solutions. Across platforms, the network emphasized this message through 3 publications on partner outlets, helping elevate it as a credible, organized constituency shaping global policy discourse on coastal resilience. [Read the op-eds](#) below.



LEARNING & COLLABORATION

Members came together in Nice to map network priorities for 2026 and exchange bright spots. Through two roundtables — one in-person and one virtual— they also connected with other community leaders and Indigenous Peoples to align on key needs, elevate examples of locally-led action, and shape unified messages to carry to UNOC and COP30— ensuring that local voices and coastal priorities are heard at the highest levels of global decision-making.

From top to bottom: Mayor Alfredo Coro, Del Carmen, Philippines speaking at LLF; Mayor Francisco Queiroz, Augusto Corrêa, Brazil speaking at LLF; Mayor Hamilton Brito, Curuçá, Brazil speaking at COP30



Mayor Noel Ruiz of Santa Fe, Honduras at a march in support of the 12 nautical mile declaration

Across the network, Coastal 500 members advanced collective advocacy to protect coastal waters and strengthen the rights of small-scale fishers. Momentum grew to uphold preferential fishing zones and prevent commercial encroachment in both Honduras and the Philippines. The Philippines also saw mayors continue to champion national investment in coastal law enforcement to support effective marine protection and management.

“As a member of Coastal 500, alongside my fellow mayors, we are coming together to support one another to safeguard our coastal environments and ensure the well-being and climate resilience of our communities.”

— Francisco Queiroz de Oliveira, Mayor, Augusto Corrêa, Brazil
Delivered during COP30 Oceans Ministerial



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

HONDURAS

The country’s mayor endorsed network of managed access + reserves continued to grow with new declarations in Santa Rosa de Aguán, Omoa, and Puerto Cortés.

PHILIPPINES

Continued partnership with Department of the Interior & Local Governments to help members improve coastal governance and management.

PALAU

Members advanced sustainable marine management by supporting community aquaculture projects, following the declaration of the Ngeschsiau Managed Access area in the state of Melekeok, the first of its kind in the nation.

BRAZIL

Members elevated the coastal agenda with other municipalities, championed mangrove protection and prepared to kick off climate adaptation planning.

INDONESIA

Members pioneered local financing for coastal protection, with village funds committed to the monitoring and enforcement of managed access areas.

MOZAMBIQUE

Celebrated the addition of new members and exchanging of knowledge among them, alongside a renewed commitment to sustainable & participatory coastal management.

GUATEMALA

Members supported the launch of a new campaign to unite fishing communities in protecting coastal ecosystems, strengthen regional governance & promote sustainable fisheries.



Bupati Buton Alvin Akawijaya Putra during an event where 54 village heads joined Coastal 500.



Mayor Hugo Sarceño during a campaign launch in his municipality of Puerto Barrios, Guatemala.



Ilha de Moçambique District Director Jubeta Mamudo who joined in 2025.