



Who we are

Coastal 500 is the largest global network of mayors and local government leaders driving action for prosperous and resilient coastal communities and thriving seas.

What we do

Coastal 500 serves as a platform for local governments and their leaders to collaborate, learn from, and inspire one another to drive action and amplify the needs of their communities on national, regional, and global forums.

Members are united by a shared commitment to champion policy reforms and drive tangible solutions that improve the health of coastal and ocean ecosystems, strengthen coastal livelihoods, and build resilience.

Why it matters

Coastal communities are on the frontlines of the climate crisis—but they also hold the power to turn the tide. When local governments and their leaders have the support and tools to act in partnership with local communities, they can transform vulnerability into solutions and local action into global impact. Investing in them means investing in the future of coastal communities and ecosystems.

Our vision

Coastal 500 aims to connect and activate local governments and their leaders to advance bold local action that strengthens ocean health, builds resilience, and improves the lives of at least 10 million people worldwide.

Our progress

540+ local government leaders engaged across 8 countries: Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Micronesia, Mozambique, Palau and the Philippines.

100,000+ km² of coastal waters conserved or managed.

80+ local policies catalyzed.

2023 FINALIST

THE
EARTHSHOT
PRIZE

In 2023, Coastal 500 was named a finalist for the prestigious Earthshot Prize, started by Prince William.

Our approach

Through the Coastal 500 network, members are supported in:

Peer learning & collaboration to share knowledge, best practices, and solutions that catalyze impact and facilitate decision-making.

Community engagement to mobilize constituents to manage and restore fisheries and coastal habitats for people and nature.

Policy leadership to champion policies and initiatives that support thriving oceans and resilient coastal communities.

Capacity building to strengthen local capacity to implement effective coastal management and nature-based adaptation initiatives.

Advocacy to amplify the needs and priorities of coastal communities in national, regional and global dialogues and platforms.

Unlocking financing & resources to support the protection and sustainable management of coastal waters, while enhancing resilience.

Coastal 500 brings local leaders together to learn from and inspire one another. What we've learned from leaders in the Philippines triggered a movement for coastal protection in Honduras. This network has demonstrated the impact of collective action in safeguarding our future."

— Juan Ramón Manaiza, Former Mayor, Limón, Honduras



Our members on the global stage

Since 2021, our members have been on the global stage elevating the priorities and solutions of coastal communities worldwide.



(From left to right) Rare and Coastal 500 members attending COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Brazil (2025), Our Ocean Conference in Panama (2023), and the United Nations Ocean Conference in France (2025).

Join us

FOR LOCAL LEADERS

Join a growing global movement of peers taking action for our coasts and oceans. Join the Coastal 500 network to connect, learn, and lead.

FOR FUNDERS

Invest in proven, community-driven solutions for coastal resilience. Your support helps scale local leadership, effective protection, and sustained impact.

FOR PARTNERS

Partner with us to align policy, science, and finance with local priorities and knowledge to accelerate progress through local action.

Supported by:



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