

# Melanesia Programme | Indigenous-led conservation and resilience

## SUMMARY

Melanesia, including Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and the Cook Islands, is one of the world's great centres of biological and cultural diversity, yet it remains underfunded and highly exposed to climate shocks and extractive pressures. Synchronicity Earth's Melanesia Programme responds by supporting Indigenous and local community stewardship of lands, waters and cultures across the region.

## OVERVIEW

The Melanesia programme was formally launched in 2025 after years of terrestrial and marine support in the region. Its mission is to ensure that Melanesia's diverse lands, waters and cultures are stewarded by Indigenous

Peoples and local communities in ways that promote resilient lifeways, wellbeing and biodiversity. It works through two goals: amplifying the Melanesian Way, meaning community-led stewardship shaped by collective knowledge, cultural traditions and long-standing relationships with land and sea; and strengthening the Melanesian environmental sector.

## OUTCOME

The programme has created a clearer regional platform for long-term support in a region that remains a philanthropic gap.

By bringing marine and terrestrial conservation together under one strategy, it is helping partners advance community-led conservation, environmental education and stronger sector coordination across an ecologically significant but under-served region.

## IMPACT

The Melanesia Programme has:

- In 2025 the programme supported nine partners across two countries and the Cook Islands.
- Supported Port Moresby Nature Park, through its International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Species Survival, to host its first networking event on species gaps, national pledges and priorities for 2026 in Papua New Guinea.
- Supported Ailan Awareness, a Papua New Guinea-based organisation, to secure a solar panel for its environmental education centre, Solwara Skul, meaning Saltwater School.
- Amplified Indigenous-led conservation voices from the region, including an article by John Aini of Ailan Awareness on biocultural diversity in Papua New Guinea.
- Established a regional strategy that brings together marine and terrestrial conservation under one framework.



## Sustainable development goals:



# Disclaimer

Synchronicity Earth is a UK-registered charity (registration number 1132786) supported by Aurum Fund Management Ltd. (“Aurum”) through voluntary donations, primarily via the Aurum Kaleidoscope Foundation (UK Charity Commission registration number 1187266).

Any such donations are made by Aurum at the corporate level and do not form part of the investment activities of any Aurum-managed or advised funds. Donations are made on a discretionary and non-binding basis, and there is no obligation on Aurum to make such contributions in the future.

Neither the Aurum Funds nor Aurum make donations directly to the charity referenced in this document. The Aurum Funds should not be considered environmental, social and governance (“ESG”), socially responsible investing (“SRI”), or other sustainability-focused investment products. The funds do not apply ESG criteria in their investment process, and these corporate charitable activities should not be interpreted as forming part of any investment strategy. The information presented has been sourced from the relevant charities. Aurum has not undertaken any independent verification of the facts or figures provided.

---