

November 2025 Newsletter

Dear supporters and friends,

We are pleased to bring you news as we approach the end of another successful year!

Project news briefs

In the **Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia**, our project with Fundación Atelopus carried out four field expeditions for population and epidemiological monitoring of *Atelopus* harlequin toads — the world’s most threatened genus of amphibians. Mammal species recorded through monitoring in the vicinity of reforested areas included the clouded tiger-cat *Leopardus pardinoides* (VU). The project also engages local communities with tree nurseries and restoration work.

Our **sea turtle project in Nicaragua** recorded 104 hatchlings released in the first half of 2025 and noted marked improvement in the awareness of the importance of not consuming turtle eggs. More community members are now alerting the team when a turtle is laying eggs in a certain area of the beach, aiding protection work.

The **Kayapo Project** did not receive hoped-for new funding that would have allowed us to create additional needed guard posts, so the new guard posts have been deferred. We hope new funding will enable that to proceed in 2026.

With our project along the **Jurua river in the western Amazon**, for the first time, a freshwater fishery was Fairtrade certified. This involves more than 600 fishers and has Instituto Juruá (Biome's field partner) as the implementing organization. Fishing for pirarucú (*Arapaima gigas*), the world’s largest scaled freshwater fish, must be carefully managed due to the species’ high value and vulnerability.

Our rangers in **Kenya’s Kijabe forest** are as needed as ever. During a recent visit, Biome's Andre Boraks joined a scouting patrol and witnessed firsthand the challenges they face. In a few short hours, the team removed eight poaching snares and uncovered an instance of illegal timber harvesting.

Our project in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, which has supported the establishment of over 600,000 hectares of community-managed forests, has completed a biodiversity study. In addition to finding the endangered Grauer’s Gorilla, researchers documented 24 other species on the IUCN Red List, including the elusive African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*), a keystone species vital for seed dispersal and forest regeneration, and the secretive grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), known for imitating a wide variety of sounds.

In the **Beni Savanna of Bolivia**, 2025 marked the second consecutive record-breaking breeding season for the Critically Endangered Blue-throated Macaw. At Laney Rickman Reserve (where Biome supported land acquisition in 2018), 19 chicks fledged from 12 breeding attempts. Biome supports Asociación Armonía’s Barba Azul reserve, which is vital non-breeding habitat for the macaw and many other savanna species.



Left: **Cool fact:** one pair of grey parrots have a repertoire of over 200 different calls, including nine imitations of other wild bird songs and one of a bat.

Right: Andre, Anne and Ana at Mukutan Conservancy



Above: plant nursery in San Pedro de la Sierra, Colombia

Right: Biome’s Carlos R. Garcia visited the Harlequin toad project in June of 2025.



Spring has sprung for shorebirds in the Global South: Breeding season of the **Magellanic Plover** has begun, although on the high plateaus of western Santa Cruz (Patagonia), spring still feels very much like winter. These plateaus hold a large but often underestimated portion of the global population of this Endangered shorebird. Our field team started nest protection efforts in early October. So far, three chicks have been banded, and four nests are being actively protected.



The Layers of Conservation: Reflections from Mukutan - Biome Executive Director Ana Mandri

I’ve been working in conservation for over twenty years, and whenever I say that, people tend to picture elephants, forests, and maybe the occasional camera-trap photo of a leopard. And yes, those are part of my world, but they only scratch the surface.

Conservation is not a single action. It’s a living network, like the mycelium in forest soil, invisible but holding everything together. Each thread connects to another: peace, livelihoods, knowledge, courage, and love; all weaving a web that sustains life.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of visiting Mukutan Conservancy in Kenya, a place that embodies this idea completely. At Mukutan, conservation begins with peacebuilding: that’s the first layer, the root system from which all others grow. They even call one of their initiatives Mshipi (Swahili for “belt”), a



program that binds together communities that once stood apart. It's trust that protects this land.

And from that trust, everything else blooms: Avocado plantations, beehives, and even a cattle “boarding” program that deserves a blog post of its own. Conservation that doesn’t push people out but brings them in, offering livelihoods that depend on the land’s health. Because when nature thrives, so do the people who live with it.

Then there’s the creativity that fuels the whole system. At Mukutan, imagination is a conservation tool. There are financial models as organic as the ecosystem itself, from philanthropic partnerships to sustainable ventures like producing oil from the leleshwa plant and ecotourism that is as authentic as it gets. And when I say authentic, I mean the kind of moment that disconnects you from the noise of the world and reconnects you to the rhythm of the wild.

One day, we hiked through leopard territory, descending the Gorge that cuts through Mukutan’s heart. As we walked, the landscape transformed completely; the dry cliffs gave way to a lush, tropical forest. We made our way through palms and tall trees, crossing the river again and again until we finally reached a small waterfall, a five-meter jump into dark brown water where you couldn’t really see what was waiting below.

I stood there thinking about all the possible ways to get bruised, when Sveva and Nigel’s nine-year-old daughter Nashi, without a hint of doubt, took the plunge. She jumped first, slicing through the air, and resurfaced laughing, pointing exactly where we should land to avoid the rocks. And so, we jumped, all of us, trusting her completely.

That moment felt symbolic. After witnessing the work of the Mukutan team, trusting them was easy. Their courage, their daily commitment, their willingness to leap into uncertainty for the sake of life itself, it was contagious. That jump, that trust, felt like a small reflection of the larger leap they take every day.

Because conservation here is about connection. It’s about people like Thomas, whose botanical knowledge might save your life; Mike, who manages the operations of this vast (365-sq-km) landscape with the precision of an orchestra conductor; and the many rangers and K9 (sniffer dog) handlers who risk their lives to protect wildlife from the illegal incursions.

It’s also about the resilience of Nigel and Sveva, who, like heroic characters in a novel, face impossible odds, fall, get back up, and keep going. They know that success in conservation doesn’t mean never failing; it means never stopping.

If you ever want to understand what conservation truly is, go to Mukutan. Walk its hills, feel its silence, listen to the wind. You’ll realize that conservation isn’t a wall to hold back extinction; it’s a living web, a system of roots and threads and hearts intertwined, holding up life, quietly, beautifully.

And when you leave, you’ll carry a piece of that web with you. You might not see it, but it’s there, like mycelium under the soil, connecting us all.



Saying goodbye to a legend:
Biome notes with sadness the passing of Jane Goodall, a tireless crusader for nature who has educated and inspired us and so many others around the world. Jane’s legacy lives on and she will continue to inspire us

Donor Spotlight

Natalie Vance, Founder of Faunaluss

Founder of jewelry brand, Faunaluss, 22-year-old Natalie Vance is proving how small businesses can have a global impact.



When Natalie Vance was a child, she was inspired by her mother, who balanced consulting and her own jewelry side hustle. The long hours of pouring creativity into the craft planted the seed for Natalie to one day follow suit. Encouraged to explore her own ideas, Natalie began selling handmade pieces at local craft fairs and markets. It wasn’t until the lockdown days of the global pandemic that Natalie doubled down and launched Faunaluss — an independently owned and operated small jewelry business based in Coquitlam, BC.

At just 17, her vision was for the natural world to shape and inspire the brand; rooted in a belief that businesses can—and should—do good. Now 22, Natalie continues to grow her business with a clear guiding principle: profitability doesn’t have to compromise values.

“Anyone can weave their values into their work. Even small businesses can make a difference.”

That principle extends beyond her business. Faunaluss donates 10% of all profits to environmental causes, including through Biome Conservation, whose mission to protect biodiversity through local and Indigenous partnerships resonates deeply with Natalie.

Connecting Creativity and Conservation

When it comes to giving back, Natalie was drawn to Biome Conservation because of its transparency and direct impact—with 100% of donations going to conservation projects—and its long-term, community-based approach.

Through her giving, Natalie connects the art of jewelry-making to something larger: the protection of ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

“The news can feel bleak, and hope won’t just happen on its own,” Natalie reflects. “If I want to feel hope, I have to create it through my actions.”

Ripple Effects

By embedding environmental giving into her business model, Natalie is part of a growing wave of young entrepreneurs redefining what success looks like.

Her message to others is simple: start where you are.

“Start small, act intentionally, and embed your values in what you do,” she says. “Even little actions can ripple outward.”

Natalie believes that customers can tell when a brand lives its values—and that authenticity builds deeper connections. Her story shows that values-driven entrepreneurship isn’t reserved for big brands or established businesses.

Every small action, made consistently, can add up to something far greater—a ripple that reaches biodiversity, communities, and the future of our planet.

COP30 in Brazil draws attention to the compelling case for preserving of tropical forests

Read [blog post](#) by Biome Founder Anne Lambert on our website.



Get ahead of the giving season



As we plan for 2026, we want to remind you that all our work would not be possible without the generous support of our donors. Whether you would like to make a one-time gift or take the next step and join our leadership circle, we have many options that allow you to support our work and help us turn the tide for biodiversity worldwide.

Thank you – from all of us!