



## **Building a *Mutirão*: Collective Pathways for Multilateral Forest-Based Governance**

Prepared as a collaborative contribution  
to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap Consultation Process  
on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030

### **Submitted by:**

#### **Dr. Ana Gretel Echazú Böschemeier**

Research Lead, Best Practices for Epistemic Justice - CNPq Research Group, Fiocruz Brasília, Brazil  
UNESCO Youth for Peace Fellow | Member, IUAES Human Rights Committee  
UNOSSC Global Communities of Practice | ITD Alliance Leadership Board  
[ana.gretel@fiocruz.br](mailto:ana.gretel@fiocruz.br)

### **In collaboration with:**

#### **Dr. Denise de Oliveira e Silva**

Vice-Director, Fiocruz Brasília, Brazil  
Research Lead, Food, Nutrition, Culture and Society – CNPq Research Group  
Coordinator, Brazilian Observatory of Food Habits, Interinstitutional Network on Food and Culture

#### **Dr. Luciana Sepúlveda Köptcke**

Director, Government School - Fiocruz Brasília, Brazil  
Member of Health Education and Humanities CNPq Research Group

#### **Dr. Peti Mama Gomes**

Associate Professor and Researcher  
Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro-Brasileira - UNILAB/CE, Brazil  
Research Member, Best Practices Collective – CNPq Research Group.

#### **Dr. Pingréwaoga Béma Abdoul Hadi Savadogo**

Anthropologist, Casa das Áfricas – Amanar  
Associate Researcher I, Institute of African Studies (IEAF-UFPE)  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Art History, UNIFESP, Brazil

#### **Dr. Raquel Assunção Oliveira**

Researcher, National Institute for the Brazilian Semi-Arid (INSA)  
Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), Campina Grande/PB, Brazil  
Research Member, Best Practices Collective – CNPq Research Group

#### **Dr. Sônia Regina da Cunha Barreto Gertner**

Researcher, Department of Human Rights and Health - Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Brazil

#### **Dr. Tatiana Oliveira Novais**

Public Health Technologist, Fiocruz Brasília, Brazil  
Researcher in traditional knowledge, territorial studies and collective health

#### **Dr. Sandra Sasseti Sarmiento Ferrnandes**

Professor at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte  
RangZen: Movimento Tibete Livre Brasil, Natal, RN, Brazil



**Dr. Jason Prior**

Professor at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney, Australia  
Lead, Healthy Populations and Environments Platform, Sydney Partnership for Health Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE), Australia | ITD Alliance Leadership Board

**Dr. Ana M. Corbacho**

Associate Professor  
Interdisciplinary Space  
University of the Republic, Uruguay

**Dr. Breno da Silva Carvalho**

Associate Professor  
Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil  
Research Lead, Best Practices Collective – CNPq Research Group

**Dr. Seema Purushothaman**

Ecological Economist and Professor (retired), Azim Premji University Bengaluru; President - Indian Society for Ecological Economics (2024-2026); Member Advisory Board - Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation and Center for Transdisciplinary Research and Education MIT-WPU Goa.

**Dr. Lucrecia Raquel Greco**

Anthropologist  
Researcher at CONICET - Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, Argentina

**Dr. Jeanne Féaux de la Croix**

Research Professor, Social Anthropologist, University of Bern, Switzerland  
Environmental Justice Network Member, International Transdisciplinary Alliance Member

**Dr. Andrew Russell**

Emeritus Professor of Medical Anthropology, Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy Durham University, United Kingdom

**Dr. Flávio Ferreira**

Social scientist and anthropologist (UFRN) | PhD in Social Sciences (UNICAMP)  
Tenured professor and General Director at IFRN - Canguaretama Campus, RN/Brazil

**Dr. Alexandra Lux**

Knowledge Processes and Transformations Hub at the Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE), Germany | ITD Alliance Leadership Board

**Dr. Carolina Fausto de Souza Coutinho**

Public Health Researcher  
Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Brazil

**Dr. Natália Helou Fazzioni**

Public Health Researcher  
Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Brazil

**Dr. Marianna Zattar**

Public Health Researcher  
Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Brazil - Professor at Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



**Dr. Maria Helena Guimarães**

Instituto Mediterrâneo para a Agricultura, Ambiente e Desenvolvimento (MED)  
Instituto Alterações Globais e Sustentabilidade (CHANGE)  
Instituto de Investigação e Formação Avançada (IFFA) - Universidade de Évora, Portugal

**Msc. Marília Almeida Soares**

Social Policy Analyst  
Coordination of Health Residencies, Ministry of Health, Brazil

**Msc. Ihsan Rahmanto**

PhD Researcher - Dept. of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Switzerland  
Researcher/lecturer at the Dept. of Social Anthropology, Cenderawasih University,  
West Papua

**Msc. Sandra Inés Rodríguez E.**

Museology and Social Policies  
Representative of Graduated Professionals and Adscribed Teachers  
School of Anthropology  
National University of Salta, Argentina

**Msc. Danielle Kamtié**

Co-Founder and Executive Lead of the African Youth Parliament for Water - AYPW  
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and Paris, France  
Masters in Humanitarian Action and International Development - Université Laval  
Contributing expertise on youth-led governance, water systems, and policy-to-practice linkages in climate action

**Jocyle Ferreira Marinheiro**

Social Scientist, researcher at ETAPA - Ethnology, Tradition, Environment, and Artisanal Fishing  
Research Group - CNPq  
Masters student at PPGAS/DAN/CCHLA/UFRN, RN, Brazil

**Marcelange Tomaz de Brito**

Member, Escola de Formação Quilombo dos Palmares (EQUIP)  
Casa do Cordel Cultural Association  
UNEGRO and Movimento Negro Unificado (MNU), RN, Brazil

**Denize Baracho**

Pitangui Association of Mariculturalists, RN, Brazil  
Community Researcher at "Female Guardians of the Coast" Project  
Initiative supported by Global Fishing Watch

**Juan Cristiani**

UNESCO Youth for Peace Fellow  
Composer, Director, Writer - Montevideo, Uruguay

**Wevyn Muganda**

UNESCO Youth for Peace Fellow  
Active Citizens and Youth Climate Collaborative Hub, Kenya

**Joanne Ascencion Valdez**

UNESCO Youth for Peace Fellow and Co-Convenor - Lakas Bayi Feminist Leadership Network, Philippines



### **Taízia dos Santos**

Social Scientist and Master's student in Social Anthropology - Performer and member of Afoxé Estrela da Manhã  
Researcher in visual and popular culture, music, performance, black Studies, and memory studies  
CCHLA, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN), RN, Brazil

### **Theres Paulsen**

td-net, Network for Transdisciplinary Research - Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences  
Interested in fostering dialogue and the exchange of knowledge between scientific communities and society for the common good, as well as transdisciplinary work towards a sustainable future.

### **Msc. Flávia dos Santos Paixão**

Advisor to the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Affirmative Action (CEDIPA)  
Member - LideraGOV Network for Leadership Development in the Federal Public Administration, ENAP, Brazil  
Member - Technical Chamber for International Cooperation, Fiocruz  
Senior Public Health Management Analyst, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation – Fiocruz, Brazil

### **Dr. Thiago Mota Cardoso**

Biologist and Anthropologist  
Professor at the Department of Anthropology of Universidade Federal do Amazonas (UFAM), Brazil  
Coordinator of the Laboratory of Anthropology of Live, Ecology and Politics (COLAR-UFAM)

### **Saptarshi Bairagi**

Anthropologist, Researcher, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, Delhi, India  
Co-Chair, Human Rights Commission, International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES)

### **Noelia Suarez**

Psychologist  
Director - Hospital J. B. Medeot, Córdoba, Argentina

### **Chandelle O'Neil**

Energy Engineer + Human Rights Advocate  
Youth Climate Justice Fund  
EcoSeas Caribbean - Trinidad and Tobago

### **LL.M. Naomi Christiani Takara**

Researcher at the Research Group on Law of Natural Resources and Sustainability (GERN), integrated into the Faculty of Law at the University of Brasília, Federal District, Brazil

### **Dr. Flavia do Amaral Vieira**

Legal researcher at the Observatória de Justiça Ecológica, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina - Brazil  
Fellow of the Washington Brazil Office.

### **Dr. Paula Balduino de Melo**

Professor and Researcher  
Department of Anthropology, University of Brasília, Brasília, Brasil

### **Dr. Maria Eugenia Flores**

Anthropologist. Professor at Salta's University. Researcher of CONICET (National Council for Scientific and Technical Research), Coordinator of the Multi-sited Ethnographic Studies Group at the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities Research (ICSOH-CONICET), Argentina.



### Executive Summary

This contribution responds to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on halting and reversing deforestation by 2030 by advancing *mutirão* as a collective governance approach rooted in territorial knowledge, Global South leadership, and inclusive multilateralism. Drawing on the experience of the Commission on Afro-descendant Peoples, Traditional Peoples, and Family Farmers, it argues that effective implementation requires recognizing these groups as structural actors in forest governance, strengthening direct access to financing and participation, and integrating scientific and territorial knowledge systems. In this context, the continuity and institutional strengthening of the Commission within the UNFCCC process are essential to sustain differentiated pathways, ensure epistemic justice, and translate global commitments into grounded, context-sensitive climate action capable of addressing the complex drivers of deforestation. The document was signed by 43 contributors, spanning the five continents — predominantly Latin America and the Caribbean, followed by Africa, Asia, Oceania and Europe — including researchers, activists, government officers, and community leaders.

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### Resumo Executivo

Esta contribuição responde ao Roadmap da Presidência da COP30 para deter e reverter o desmatamento até 2030, propondo o *mutirão* como uma abordagem de governança coletiva ancorada em saberes territoriais, liderança do Sul Global e multilateralismo inclusivo. A partir da experiência da Comissão de Povos Afrodescendentes, Povos Tradicionais e Agricultores/as Familiares, argumenta-se que a implementação efetiva requer o reconhecimento desses grupos como atores estruturais da governança florestal, o fortalecimento do acesso direto a financiamento e participação, e a integração entre sistemas de conhecimento científico e territorial. Nesse contexto, a continuidade e o fortalecimento institucional da Comissão no âmbito da UNFCCC são essenciais para sustentar caminhos diferenciados, promover justiça epistêmica e traduzir compromissos globais em ações climáticas situadas, capazes de enfrentar os determinantes complexos do desmatamento. O documento foi assinado por 43 pessoas, abrangendo os cinco continentes — predominantemente América Latina e o Caribe, seguida por África, Ásia, Oceania e Europa — incluindo pesquisadores/as, ativistas, gestores públicos/as e lideranças comunitárias.

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### Resumen Ejecutivo

Esta contribución responde a la Hoja de Ruta de la Presidencia de la COP30 para detener y revertir la deforestación hacia 2030, proponiendo el *mutirão* como un enfoque de gobernanza colectiva basado en conocimientos territoriales, liderazgo del Sur Global y multilateralismo inclusivo. A partir de la experiencia de la Comisión de Pueblos Afrodescendientes, Pueblos Tradicionales y Agricultores/as Familiares, se sostiene que una implementación efectiva requiere reconocer a estos grupos como actores estructurales de la gobernanza forestal, fortalecer el acceso directo a financiamiento y participación, e integrar los sistemas de conocimiento científico y territorial. En este contexto, la continuidad y el fortalecimiento institucional de la Comisión dentro del proceso de la CMNUCC son fundamentales para sostener trayectorias diferenciadas, garantizar justicia epistémica y traducir los compromisos globales en acciones climáticas situadas, capaces de abordar los complejos impulsores de la deforestación. El documento fue firmado por 43 personas, abarcando los cinco continentes — predominantemente América Latina y el Caribe, seguida de África, Asia, Oceanía y Europa — incluyendo investigadores/as, activistas, funcionarios/as públicos/as y líderes comunitarios.



## 1. Framing statement

This document responds to the risk that the mandate of the Commission on Afro-descendant Peoples, Traditional Peoples, and Family Farmers may conclude after COP30, and advances a position in favor of its continuity and strengthening within the UNFCCC process. The Commission process took place over eight months prior to COP30 and brought together 15 governmental organizations and 73 non-governmental organizations from all five continents, with participants concentrated in South America (88.6%), followed by Central and North America (4.2%), Africa (3.2%), Europe (3.2%), Asia (2.2%), and Oceania (0.9%), as documented in the Consolidated Report of the Peoples' Circle of the International Commission of Traditional Communities, Afro-descendants, and Family Farming (UNFCCC/UN, 2025)<sup>1</sup>.

## 2. A *Mutirão* for shared forest governance

This document has been developed through a *mutirão* - a Tupi term referring to a collective labor carried out by many hands, typically mobilized for tasks that exceed small-scale efforts (Navarro, 2005)<sup>2</sup>. Bringing together voices from the Americas, Africa, Oceania, Asia, and Europe, and reflecting the sustained engagement of Afro-descendant communities, Traditional Peoples, and Family Farmers, the present proposal consolidates the political and epistemic foundations of the process and affirms the Commission as a key mechanism for advancing territorial climate governance, epistemic justice, and more inclusive forms of multilateralism. We believe that halting deforestation by 2030 requires more than technical solutions: it demands coordinated collective action rooted in solidarity and shared responsibility, recognizing forest territories and their stewards as central political actors. Advancing this agenda requires coordinated forms of two-speed multilateralism capable of articulating scientific expertise, embodied territorial knowledge, and the emergence of new climate leadership grounded in the relational governance principles of *bem viver* and *florestania*, among others. The *mutirão*, understood as an Indigenous normativity, enables traditional peoples to develop governance over the forest territories they inhabit, grounded in collective and community-based work, and to organize themselves to address the environmental and social challenges that affect them.

### 2.1. Bem viver and florestania

Traditional peoples all over Earth have long perceived forests as living territories where human and more-than-human relations sustain health, cultures, knowledge systems and livelihoods. From a planetary health and One Health perspective, addressing deforestation requires recognizing that health emerges from the integrity of socio-ecological systems linking humans, animals, plants, soils and waters. In many forest regions, ecosystem destruction is associated with rising disease risks, food insecurity and social vulnerability.

Latin American and Caribbean communities frequently express their aspirations through the concepts of *bem viver*, a relational vision of collective well-being rooted in ecological balance and local-based autonomy, and of *florestania*, which refers to a form of citizenship rooted in the forest, recognizing that the rights, identities, and livelihoods of forest peoples are inseparable from the ecological integrity of the territories they inhabit. Within this relational horizon, *mutirão* refers to a tradition of collective mobilization based on solidarity, reciprocity, and shared responsibility, through which communities organize common work to care for territories and sustain collective life.

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<sup>1</sup> International Commission on Traditional Communities, Afro-descendants and Family Farming - UNFCCC/UN. (2025). Consolidated Report of the Commission on Traditional Communities, Afro-descendants and Family Farming.

<https://www.gov.br/mda/pt-br/central-de-conteudo/documentos/RelatorioComissaoConsolidadoCompletoDiagramado11111.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Navarro, E. A. (2005). Modern method of Old Tupi: The language of Brazil in the first centuries (3rd ed., p. 422). São Paulo: Global.



Protecting forests therefore requires strengthening the socio-ecological relationships that sustain life. Within those territories, women — particularly Black, quilombola, migrant and traditional community women — play central roles in sustaining these socio-ecological relationships through practices of care, food production, medicinal knowledge and environmental stewardship. Recognizing these contributions is essential for strengthening community resilience and forest protection. Public health systems operating in forest territories — such as Brazil's fluvial health units and indigenous health programs — offer concrete institutional expressions of the One Health approach in practice.

## **2.2. Multilateral Action focused on Global South Leadership**

Achieving the goal of halting deforestation requires strengthening climate action while preserving the legitimacy of multilateral negotiations. In this context, recent debates around COP30 point to the emergence of “two-speed multilateralism”— an approach in which implementation advances through coalitions and multi-actor initiatives while consensus-building continues within formal negotiations. Such dynamics create opportunities for Global South actors, including governments, research institutions, territorial communities and civil society networks, to play a stronger role in advancing climate solutions. It is worth noting that deforestation occurs not only in the Amazon rainforest, but also in other regions, such as Tibet (often referred to as the “Roof of the World”), the Kenyan savannas, and the rainforests of the Philippines.

The notion of two-speed multilateralism, which began appearing in broader diplomatic and international policy debates around 2022 (e.g., Atlantic Dialogues, Policy Center for the New South), reflects an emerging governance reality: climate action increasingly unfolds both within and alongside traditional UN processes. In the context of forest governance, this institutional flexibility can enable coalitions led by Global South countries and territorial actors to advance practical pathways for forest protection while maintaining the legitimacy of the multilateral system. A *mutirão* offers a social and political metaphor for two-speed multilateralism: diverse actors moving at different rhythms, yet collectively mobilized toward the shared task of safeguarding forests and climate.

Youth-led networks across the Global South are increasingly emerging as key actors in advancing climate and water governance. Platforms such as the African Youth Parliament for Water (AYPW) operate across local, national, and multilateral levels, facilitating knowledge exchange, policy engagement, and community-based action. These networks play a critical role in bridging grassroots realities with international policy processes, particularly by translating lived experiences into structured policy inputs. Integrating youth-led governance structures into two-speed multilateralism can strengthen both legitimacy and implementation capacity, ensuring that climate solutions are informed by intergenerational perspectives and grounded in local realities.

## **2.3. Territorial Climate Governance**

The Consolidated Report of the International Commission on Traditional Peoples, Afro-descendant Communities and Family Farming (June–November 2025) synthesizes dialogues held during the preparatory process for COP30 within the framework of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including provisions recognizing traditional knowledge (Article 7 and Decision 1/CP.21 establishing the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform – LCIPP). The report highlights that traditional peoples and communities, Afro-descendant groups and family farmers are structural actors of climate governance. Through ancestral and local knowledge systems and agroforestry-based bioeconomies, they contribute directly to forest conservation, food sovereignty and climate resilience. This recognition can also be extended to community-based cultural initiatives that articulate environmental awareness and collective action. Experiences such as *Pau & Lata*, an artistic-pedagogical collective from the states of Rio Grande do



Norte and Alagoas with nearly three decades of activity, demonstrate how cultural practices rooted in popular traditions can serve as complementary tools for climate education, territorial engagement and community mobilization. Such practices demonstrate scalable pathways that can inform both national policies and multilateral climate strategies.

Within these territorial governance systems, women frequently act as key custodians of knowledge related to seeds, agroforestry practices, food systems and biodiversity management. Ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making spaces strengthens inclusive governance and the effectiveness of forest conservation strategies. Health equity and territorial presence are mutually reinforcing: keeping communities in their territories through access to public health services is itself a deforestation prevention strategy. Brazil's National Climate Plan (Plano Clima), launched in March 2026 with the participation of 25 ministries and approximately 24,000 people, offers a replicable model of interministerial architecture that integrates health, traditional communities, food security and racial equity within a shared climate governance structure.

Food sovereignty and the fight against hunger and food insecurity are strategic dimensions of territorial climate governance. Climate change directly affects food production systems, particularly those based on family farming, which remain the primary source of food in many regions. While hunger and food insecurity predate the climate crisis, they are significantly intensified by its impacts on vulnerable territories. In many Afro-descendant and traditional territories, including Afro-Brazilian religious communities (*terreiros*), local food systems are sustained through community gardens, orchards and agroecological practices that contribute simultaneously to biodiversity conservation, cultural continuity and social protection. As territorially rooted institutions, these spaces often function as local support networks, reinforcing food sovereignty and community resilience. In this context, ensuring the production and equitable access to healthy food — especially for those most affected — becomes a key component of climate action. Protecting territories and their communities is therefore fundamental: securing land rights, advancing agrarian reform policies, and strengthening family farming systems are essential not only for safeguarding livelihoods, but also for preserving ecosystems and sustaining resilient food systems.

Water governance systems are central to territorial climate resilience. In many regions, deforestation and environmental degradation directly affect water availability, sanitation systems, and public health outcomes. Youth-led initiatives working at the intersection of water, climate, and governance demonstrate how local action can simultaneously address ecosystem protection, health risks, and social cohesion. Integrating water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) perspectives into territorial climate governance frameworks can strengthen adaptation strategies while reinforcing community resilience and equity in access to essential resources.

#### **2.4. Knowledge Dialogues Against Climate Denialism**

Climate governance today unfolds amid growing disputes over the legitimacy of knowledge. Climate denialism operates through the denial of scientific evidence, but also through the denial of territorial rights and the marginalization of knowledge systems rooted in lived experience. Across forest territories, quilombola communities and other traditional peoples generate territorial evidence of environmental change, grounded in ecological memory, land-use practices and long-term stewardship of landscapes, while universities often remain distant from these knowledge systems.

In Brazil, initiatives connecting universities and traditional knowledge holders show the potential of methodologies such as *Encontro de Saberes*, an initiative which opens academic spaces for dialogue among different knowledge traditions, including Western science. A national network of more than 300 Indigenous,



Afro-descendant and traditional community leaders who teach or have taught in universities has expanded academic debates and strengthened the inclusion of diverse epistemologies. Expanding and supporting such initiatives can help bridge research and territorial knowledge while strengthening responses to climate denialism.

The Soil Movements project supported by UNESCO-Youth for Peace Program in Brazil shows that contextualized education rooted in territorial realities can strengthen the intergenerational transmission of ecological knowledge while reinforcing community-based climate governance. Such spaces are particularly important for amplifying the voices and experiences of women knowledge holders, whose ecological knowledge, territorial memory, and community leadership often remain underrepresented in formal scientific and policy arenas. They also play a key role in engaging children, adolescents, and youth in awareness and collective mobilization efforts to counter climate denialism.

### **2.5. Green and Blue Forests Data for Communities**

Halting deforestation requires addressing structural drivers such as land concentration, illegal extraction activities and unsustainable commodity chains, while strengthening monitoring systems that combine scientific data with territorial knowledge. Community-led agroforestry, coastal stewardship and restoration practices can help regenerate degraded landscapes while sustaining local livelihoods.

Initiatives such as Guardians of the Coast, developed with partners including Global Fishing Watch and the Mareatórios network, demonstrate how community-based monitoring can connect local stewardship with global observation platforms. These experiences highlight the importance of scientific literacy, accessible data tools and ethical safeguards that protect small-scale territorial actors while strengthening governance of both green and blue forest ecosystems.

Another example is the Brazilian Panel for the Future of the Ocean (*PainelMar*), conceived in 2012 during the preparatory events for Rio+20 and the People's Summit. It is a multi-sectoral collaborative network, mobilizing individuals and organizations, whose objective is to integrate traditional knowledge and technical-scientific expertise to support public policies that guarantee the sustainable use and health of the Brazilian Coastal-Marine System.

### **2.6. Territorial Leaders as Climate Researchers**

Strengthening the participation of territorial knowledge holders in climate governance requires recognizing community leaders as researchers within scientific ecosystems. In Brazil, ADC-2 research fellowships from the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) have enabled traditional leaders to participate directly in research projects as paid collaborators. This approach aims to integrate territorial knowledge into scientific production and citizenship in contexts of *florestania*, strengthening the interface between science, public policy and community experience.

Such methodologies have already been implemented in national initiatives such as the Best Practices Collective, research agendas developed by FioCruz Brasília, and studies supporting training and public policy development, including work related to the National Policy for Roma (*Ciganos*) Peoples. Expanding those mechanisms can also help support the participation of women leaders from Black, quilombola, migrant and traditional communities as knowledge producers within research systems, strengthening gender equity in climate governance. Community preceptors (in Brazilian Portuguese, “*preceptores sociais*” or “*preceptores em saúde*”) — are local-based educators who articulate traditional knowledge with health needs and guide



health residents' skill development in territorial contexts — represent a replicable model of knowledge-bridge actors between science, public policy and territorial experience.

### **2.7. Direct Funding for Territorial Participation**

Meaningful participation of territorial leaders in international climate processes also requires direct funding mechanisms. Funding schemes could support the presence of traditional leaders at COP meetings accompanied by students or researchers from public institutions in the Global South, strengthening collaboration between academic and territorial knowledge systems.

Initiatives such as UNESCO Story Circles and participatory toolkits developed within transdisciplinary research networks such as the ITD Alliance can help translate traditional knowledge into negotiation spaces despite linguistic and cultural barriers. Expanding these channels would strengthen Global South leadership and ensure that climate governance reflects the experiences of those who directly steward forest territories. Ensuring that women's organizations, collectives and networks have direct access to climate finance, restoration programs, agroforestry initiatives and bioeconomy projects is essential for strengthening inclusive forest governance and supporting community-led conservation efforts.

Dedicated funding mechanisms should also support youth-led organizations and networks, particularly in the Global South, to participate meaningfully in climate governance processes. This includes financing for youth-led policy labs, community consultations, and structured engagement in multilateral platforms. Ensuring direct access to funding for youth actors enables them to move beyond symbolic and tokenistic participation and contribute actively to the design, implementation, and monitoring of climate solutions.

### **2.8 The rights of non-human beings in the living cosmos**

A further point for consideration is that of indigenous norms, which are those that grant status to beings with whom dialogue takes place in interspecies relationships. For instance, the coca plant can be used to illustrate how the wise indigenous *yatiris* of Bolivia relate directly to the spirit or guardian being of the plant itself, which guides the healing process and itinerary of the wise man's patients. Similarly, the notion of other beings and species comprising these living cosmoses is posited, with the argument that human beings establish relationships with these entities in order to create, heal and transform.

The acknowledgement of the rights of non-human beings necessitates a paradigm shift in our perception of the environment. The approach of treating plants as beings with spirit and other organisms as active participants in the ecosystem is conducive to the fostering of a relationship of respect and responsibility towards nature. This approach has the potential to promote practices such as sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation, which are vital for mitigating climate change. For instance, the sustainable utilisation of coca by *yatiris* (traditional healers) is predicated not solely on its medicinal properties, but also on an appreciation of its function within a more extensive ecosystem.

## **3. Recommendations**

We recommend that the COP30 Presidency Roadmap:

### **3.1. Strengthen Global South leadership through *mutirão* actions in two-speed multilateralism.**

Promote governance approaches that combine consensus-based negotiations within the UNFCCC with implementation-oriented coalitions led by Global South actors — including governments, research institutions, territorial communities and civil society — capable of advancing concrete forest protection



initiatives while multilateral negotiations evolve, in the spirit of a *mutirão* — collective action grounded in solidarity, reciprocity, and shared responsibility.

### **3.2. Recognize territorial communities as core actors of climate governance.**

Support policies that acknowledge traditional peoples, Afro-descendant communities and family farmers as structural stewards of forest territories. Strengthen territorial governance systems and bioeconomies rooted in agroforestry, community forest management and socio-biodiversity economies. Ensure the effective participation of women—particularly Black, quilombola, migrant and traditional community women—in decision-making processes related to forest conservation and territorial governance.

### **3.3. Integrate One Health, planetary health, food sovereignty and territorial perspectives into forest policies.**

Promote forest governance frameworks that recognize forests as socio-ecological systems linking human health, biodiversity and ecosystem integrity. Integrating planetary health, *florestania* and *bem viver* perspectives can strengthen climate resilience and community well-being. This also requires recognizing food sovereignty and the fight against hunger as central dimensions of climate governance, particularly in territories where family farming sustains local food systems.

Viewed through the lens of the “One Health” approach, ethnic-racial, gender, and disability equity are guiding principles for achieving food security, climate justice, and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as for building robust and resilient national health systems capable of responding to climate and health emergencies. These crises are often addressed through social and health services, access to which is shaped by women’s heavy participation in the care economy — an economy whose ethnic-racial and gender dimensions are generally invisible: Black or Indigenous women workers in the Global South, making this group one of the key actors in mitigating climate damage through their care services — essential for all segments of the population — as well as facilitators of access to medical care for family members, who are also vulnerable. From this perspective, it is recommended that the care work performed by this female population, as a complement to climate emergency and health response systems, be the target of financial investments from the early warning and damage mitigation systems established by national governments.

### **3.4. Expand knowledge dialogues to counter climate denialism.**

Promote institutional spaces where scientific research and territorial knowledge interact as complementary sources of evidence in climate governance. Initiatives such as intercultural academic programs and knowledge dialogues can help bridge universities and forest territories while strengthening responses to climate denialism, while also engaging youth in awareness-building and collective mobilization efforts.

### **3.5. Strengthen community access to green and blue forest data.**

Support monitoring systems that combine scientific data with territorial knowledge, enabling communities to use global observation platforms and accessible data tools. Initiatives such as Guardians of the Coast demonstrate how community-based monitoring can strengthen governance of green and blue forest ecosystems while ensuring scientific literacy, ethical safeguards and protection for small-scale territorial actors.

### **3.6. Enable territorial leaders to participate as researchers.**

Support research fellowship programs that recognize Indigenous, Afro-descendant and traditional leaders as knowledge producers within scientific ecosystems, building on models such as Brazil’s ADC-2 research fellowships that integrate territorial knowledge into research and public policy development. Promote the participation of women knowledge holders and community leaders within these research and training



initiatives. Formally recognizing local preceptors and community health educators as knowledge-bridge actors would strengthen the interface between health workforce formation, traditional knowledge systems and forest governance.

### **3.7. Establish direct funding for territorial participation in climate diplomacy.**

Create funding mechanisms that support the participation of traditional leaders in international climate processes, including COP meetings, alongside students and researchers from Global South public institutions. Tools such as Story Circles and participatory toolkits can facilitate the translation of territorial knowledge into climate negotiations.

### **3.8. Explore cooperation practices with non-human beings**

By acknowledging and appreciating the interactions and relationships between species, we can foster enhanced cooperation in the realm of habitat conservation and the mitigation of the repercussions of climate change. Indigenous traditional knowledge offers valuable lessons on how to live in harmony with nature, which can be fundamental to addressing contemporary environmental challenges.

## **4. Direct Response to COP30 Roadmap Guiding Questions**

### **4.1. Barriers**

Key barriers to halting and reversing deforestation include:

- 4.1.1. Structural inequalities in land tenure and limited recognition of territorial rights;
- 4.1.2. Insufficient direct access to climate finance for territorial communities;
- 4.1.3. Fragmented governance frameworks that disconnect health, environment, and food systems;
- 4.1.4. Marginalization of territorial and traditional knowledge in formal decision-making processes;
- 4.1.5. Expansion of illegal extraction activities linked to transnational economic dynamics.

### **4.2. Levers**

Potential levers for accelerating implementation include:

- 4.2.1. Strengthening territorial governance systems led by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and family farmers;
- 4.2.2. Establishing direct and flexible funding mechanisms accessible to community-based organizations;
- 4.2.3. Integrating scientific and territorial knowledge through intercultural research and policy platforms;
- 4.2.4. Expanding community-based monitoring systems combining local stewardship and global data infrastructures;
- 4.2.5. Supporting youth- and women-led governance initiatives across scales.

### **4.3. Best practices and experiences**

Relevant experiences include:

- 4.3.1. Community-based agroforestry and bioeconomy systems that sustain livelihoods while conserving forests;
- 4.3.2. Public health and territorial care systems that reinforce socio-ecological resilience;
- 4.3.3. Intercultural education initiatives that connect universities and traditional knowledge holders;
- 4.3.4. Participatory monitoring platforms integrating local knowledge with global environmental data systems.

### **4.4. Differentiated pathways**

Effective implementation requires pathways that:



- 4.4.1. Reflect diverse ecological, cultural, and economic contexts;
- 4.4.2. Recognize different degrees of dependence on forest resources;
- 4.4.3. Ensure meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups;
- 4.4.4. Combine national policies with subnational and territorial governance arrangements;
- 4.4.5. Enable flexible, multi-actor coalitions within and alongside formal multilateral processes.

#### **4.5. Priority Action Clusters**

To facilitate implementation, the recommendations below can be understood as three interconnected clusters:

- 4.5.1. Governance and participation: strengthening territorial governance systems, inclusive decision-making, and Global South leadership;
- 4.5.2. Financing and implementation mechanisms: expanding direct funding, supporting community-based initiatives, and enabling participation in climate diplomacy;
- 4.5.3. Knowledge and data systems: integrating scientific and territorial knowledge, strengthening monitoring systems, and expanding knowledge dialogues.

#### **5. Final remarks**

Forest territories are living socio-ecological systems sustained by communities whose knowledge and stewardship contribute directly to climate stability. In most of these territories, women — particularly Black, *Quilombola*, migrant and traditional community women — play fundamental roles in sustaining ecological knowledge, food systems and practices of care that support forest conservation across generations. Advancing this agenda calls for a *mutirão* towards stronger Global South leadership, recognition of territorial governance systems and institutional pathways that connect scientific expertise with place-based knowledge. Two-speed multilateralism offers a pathway to accelerate climate action by enabling coalitions of states, research institutions and territorial actors to advance practical solutions while formal negotiations continue. *Florestanias* describe governance practices rooted in forest territories, but whose relational principles — collective stewardship, ecological reciprocity and territorial responsibility — can inform climate governance across diverse ecosystems. In this perspective, the idea of *florestanias* emerges as governance pathways through which territorial stewardship generates knowledge, practices and institutions capable of informing climate best practices beyond local contexts.

We believe that what begins in forest territories — through community governance, ecological care and collective responsibility — can scale into models of climate implementation with relevance for global multilateral action. The COP30 Presidency Roadmap can support forest protection while advancing pathways toward *bem viver* and *florestanias* by integrating territorial governance, epistemic justice and inclusive research and policy participation. Strengthening the leadership and effective collaboration of women in these processes is fundamental for building more just, resilient and sustainable pathways for forest protection. Strengthening territorial climate governance also requires recognizing youth as co-architects of governance systems. Youth-led territorial governance approaches, which combine community-based action, policy engagement, and transnational collaboration, offer scalable models for integrating local knowledge into multilateral climate processes. These approaches reinforce intergenerational equity and ensure that emerging climate leadership reflects both lived experience and long-term sustainability priorities. As reflected in the diversity of contributors to this document, strengthening climate action requires broadening participation and recognising diverse territorial perspectives. The inclusion of voices from mountain regions, rainforests, drylands, coastal lines, and other ecologically sensitive areas improves our collective understanding of the climate crisis, revealing how environmental changes are related. Our regions are connected — and so must be our responses.