



GLOBAL ALLIANCE
FOR GREEN AND
GENDER ACTION



SMALL INVESTMENTS WITH GREAT IMPACTS

Territorial gender-just
climate solutions

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**Territorial gender-just
climate solutions**

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PRESENTATION

Since 2016, the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), together with other actors, has promoted a series of initiatives to strengthen the inclusion of a gender perspective in climate finance, particularly within the projects and financial flows of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The GCF is the first international climate finance fund to incorporate a gender perspective as a central pillar of its operations, becoming a key framework for advancing equity in the access, use, and allocation of climate resources globally.

However, international climate finance that reaches countries is often disconnected from the actual needs of the local communities it is meant to benefit—especially women. This poses a critical issue that demands urgent attention—communities have the right to participate in decisions that directly affect them. At the same time, it misses the opportunity to incorporate local knowledge into solutions—knowledge that could make them more relevant and effective in addressing the climate crisis. In its special report on climate change and land, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2022) highlights that incorporating women’s knowledge of land management helps mitigate degradation and supports the adoption of integrated adaptation and mitigation measures.

Gender-responsive climate finance goes beyond allocating resources to women and promoting gender equality—it requires rethinking how financial and climate solutions are designed and implemented. This means acknowledging the diversity of women, removing barriers to resource access, defunding so-called ‘false solutions’, and supporting initiatives that tackle the structural causes of climate change.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, many local climate solutions remain unknown to decision-makers. As a result, they struggle to receive support, be replicated, or serve as inspiration for other initiatives benefiting the same communities. This publication presents five case studies of successful, locally developed climate solutions with a focus on gender and climate justice. The goal is to strengthen collaboration between those responsible for providing and implementing GCF resources and civil society organizations.

The case studies show the efficiency that can be achieved when resources are channeled directly to civil society organizations and communities. All the projects were carried out with budgets under USD 50,000 and made significant contributions to transforming the structural conditions that heighten the vulnerability of territories, women, and other marginalized groups in the face of the climate crisis.

Each case study is presented using the following structure:

Identification:

Project name

Summary

Implementing organization

Financing

Partnerships and collaborations

Implementation period and location

Alignment with the objectives of the GCF and the 2030 Agenda:

Type of climate action

Level of risk

GCF result areas to which the project contributes.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets to which the project contributes.

Context:

Climate, gender, and climate justice challenges faced.

Project strategy and methodology:

Development and implementation process.

Results:

Contributions to climate change adaptation and/or mitigation.

The classification of risk levels was based on parameters defined by the GCF. The presentation of the results was structured based on the results and indicators established in the GCF guidelines: Integrated Results Management Framework: Results Manual (Green Climate Fund, 2021) and Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects: A Practical Manual to Support the Integration of Gender Equality in Climate Change Interventions and Climate Finance (Green Climate Fund, 2017).

Additionally, at the end of each case study, the organizations' key contributions are highlighted—understood as their capacities and expertise that can support the achievement of the fund's objectives. In this context, and in alignment with the GCF's approach, the initiatives presented:

- Integrate a comprehensive gender perspective and climate justice across all components.
- Promote equitable participation of women and vulnerable groups.
- Address gender inequalities related to decision-making, access to goods and resources, information, knowledge, and control over them.
- Are part of integrated strategies in planning and policymaking to maximize synergies between mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development.
- Propose methodologies, standards, and practices that foster new values and structural transformations.
- Present business models and practices that serve as proof of concept to catalyze climate innovation.
- Contribute to a knowledge base that supports gender-related learning outcomes.

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PARTICIPATORY CLIMATE MONITORING

Citizen Science as a Strategy for
Climate Justice in Estuarine and
Coastal Communities



Summary

This project is a pioneering initiative that addresses climate justice in traditional communities along the Brazilian Amazon coast, bringing together traditional and scientific knowledge. Through a training process, women and youth collected quantitative and qualitative georeferenced data on climate vulnerability and risk areas, produced and disseminated content tailored to the local context, and developed solutions to community problems, which they shared with public authorities to inform the design of national and subnational policies. The initiative demonstrates the efficiency of citizen science in strengthening the adaptive capacity of traditional populations, promoting socio-environmental conservation, and supporting participatory environmental governance.

Implementing Organization

Associação Sarambuí

Implementing Organizations

- Casa Socio-Environmental Fund (Fundo Casa Socioambiental).
- National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico, CNPq).

Partnerships and Collaborations

Mangrove Ecology Laboratory (Laboratorio de Ecología de Manglares, LAMA); Universidad Federal de Pará (UFPA), ¡Politizar!; and Silo (Laboratory for Experimentation and Innovation in Governance):

Methodological development.

RESEX Mar Caeté-Taperaçu Community Associations (Asociaciones comunitarias de la RESEX Mar Caeté-Taperaçu)

Mobilization of participants.

Amazonian Mangroves Project (Proyecto Manglares Amazónicos):

Technical advice.

Implementation Period and Location

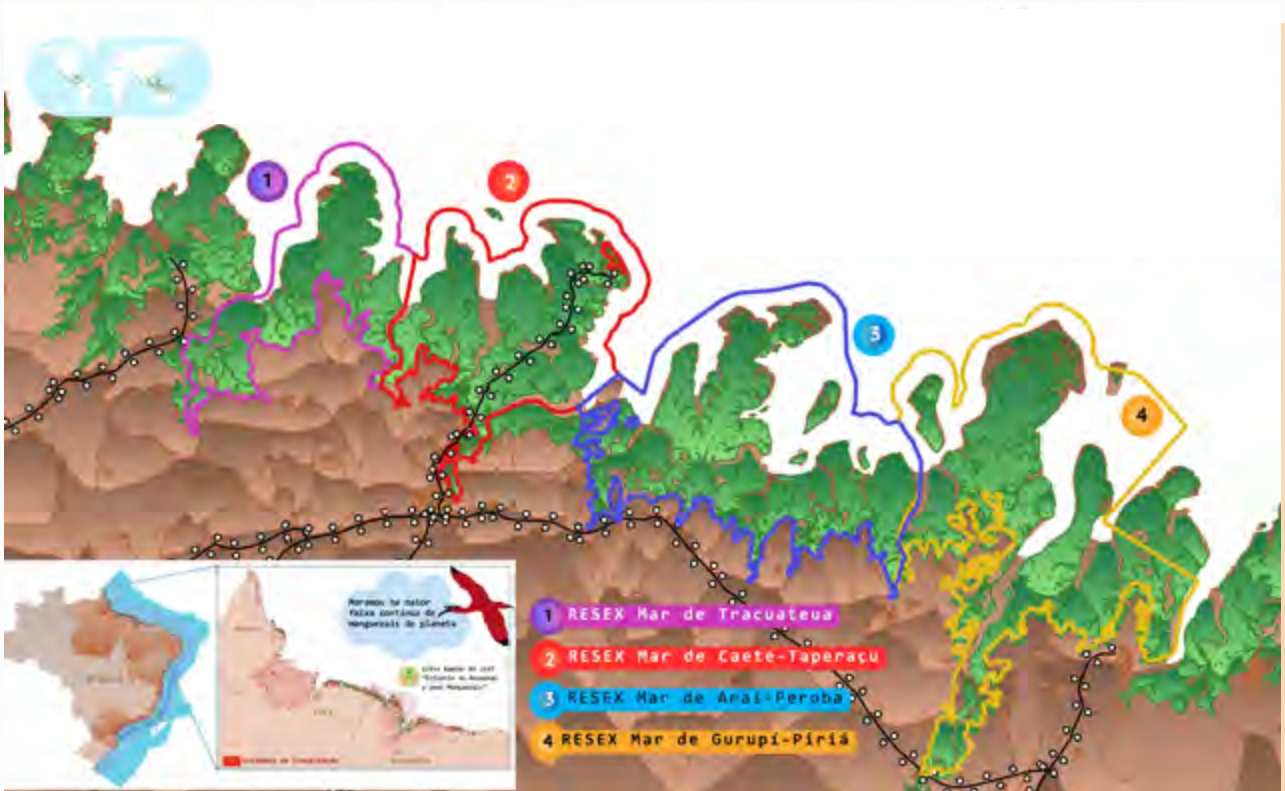


2023-2023



Caeté-Taperaçu Marine Extractive Reserve - Bragança, Pará, Brazil.

Map of the Caeté-Taperaçu Marine Extractive Reserve



Source: Instituto Sarambuí

Type of Climate Action:

Adaptation with co-benefits of mitigation and prevention of natural disasters

Risk Level:

Low

The Project Contributes to the Following Green Climate Fund (GCF) Outcome Areas:

Livelihoods of people and communities

Ecosystems and ecosystem services

Amazon

The Project Contributes to the Following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Targets:

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SDG 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES

10.2 | By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

SDG 13 - CLIMATE ACTION

13.3 | Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

SDG 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER

14.5 | By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

CONTEXT:

Challenges Related to Climate, Gender, and Climate Justice

1. PROTECTED AREA OF GREAT ECOSYSTEMIC IMPORTANCE

The Vila do Bonifácio and Vila dos Pescadores communities are located in the marine-coastal biome of the Brazilian Amazon, in a rural transition zone between the river and the sea (estuary). This area is part of the Marine Extractive Reserve (RESEX Mar) of Caeté-Taperaçu and the Ramsar Site Conservation Unit Number 2337 - "Amazon Estuary and its Mangroves". This region is home to the world's largest continuous strip of mangroves under legal protection.



Source: Ramsar Sites Information Service (2018)

2. ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF MANGROVES

Mangroves, recognized as one of the most effective ecosystems for capturing carbon, play a crucial role in protecting coastal areas from climate impacts such as erosion and increased wave intensity. Additionally, mangroves are a vital source of traditional knowledge, culture, livelihoods, and income for thousands of families who depend directly on this ecosystem.



3. THE MARETÓRIO AS A TERRITORY AND WAY OF LIFE

The coastal population of Brazil refers to this type of territory as maretório (Sousa-Lima, 2024), a term that combines the Portuguese words for 'tide' and 'territory' to describe both their living space and way of life. Based on a deep connection with the sea, tides, and mangroves, this lifestyle forms an inherently sustainable socio-ecological system¹ where the management of coastal natural resources and their ecosystem services is intertwined with income generation and the well-being of communities.

4. GAPS IN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

More than 50 traditional communities reside in the RESEX Mar de Caeté-Taperaçu (IBAMA, 2012). In Vila do Bonifácio and Vila dos Pescadores, approximately 300 families rely directly on artisanal fishing and family farming—activities that are closely tied to the climate. The local population possesses vast traditional ecological knowledge—both ethnobiological, regarding fauna and flora, and ethnoastronomical, related to the observation of the stars—which is crucial for understanding the environmental and climatic dynamics of the region. However, there is still limited access to scientific and policy information on climate change and mangrove conservation, as well as few opportunities for participation in decision-making. This disconnect is largely due to the lack of integration between scientific and traditional knowledge, as well as the weak coordination between the state's climate solutions and the proposals coming from the communities.

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5. SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND GENDER-BASED VULNERABILITIES

The climate crisis amplifies the vulnerability of the Amazonian Maretório, a territory and way of life facing increasing threats such as erosion, fires, and the depletion of fishing resources, further exacerbated by deforestation and weak environmental regulation. This situation is further compounded by the lack of basic infrastructure—such as sanitation services—and an education system that fails to address local realities, particularly concerning women and youth. As a result, many people are forced to migrate to other states within the country in search of better living conditions.

6. RESEARCH DEFICIT ON AMAZONIAN MANGROVES

Additionally, there is a lack of information and research on the impacts of climate change on Amazonian mangroves, which receive far less attention than those in the northeast and southeast regions of Brazil (El Eco, 2024).



¹ Human systems that are interdependent with, and inseparable from, ecosystems

PROJECT STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

The project was developed by integrating the experiences and results of two previous projects. These initiatives identified that monitoring climate change in traditional communities through citizen science is an effective way to address the lack of scientific and political information on the Amazon coast. In this way, traditional knowledge could be integrated with scientific knowledge, while local youth could be actively engaged.

Based on this diagnosis, the proposal was co-created with a community leader, representative of social movements and local women shellfish gatherers, who later joined the project team.

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Citizen Science

"Citizen Science is characterized by the ability to engage citizens (patient, caregiver, ordinary citizen) in scientific processes, which is reflected in the strong cooperation between these citizens and the scientific community. From this perspective, it contributes to the democratization of science by including citizens, regardless of their background, health status, or experience in co-design, co-creation, and co-validation of knowledge. Therefore, it also incorporates the ability to communicate science in a simple and accessible format, with the goal of improving citizen literacy."

(Rosa Carla Gomes da Silva, 2023)

This definition, adopted as the foundation of the project, views citizen science not only as a technical approach, but also as a political and pedagogical process that promotes inclusion, access to knowledge, and active community participation in the development of solutions.

The implementation of the project was carried out through four actions:

1. Implementation of the Participatory Monitoring System Based on Citizen Science (Sistema de Monitoreo Participativo Basado en Ciencia Ciudadana, SMBCC) with women shellfish gatherers and young people

Participatory diagnosis of climate vulnerability, identification of the carbon footprint of artisanal fisheries, and mapping of climate risk areas through social mapping, focus groups, interviews, and the development of protocols based on the indicators of targets 13.2 and 13.3 of SDG 13 from the 2030 Agenda.

The SMBCC is a methodology for technological and social innovation created by the Sarambuí Association. It uses an integrated database with a mobile app to apply research protocols developed collectively by researchers (scientific knowledge) and citizen scientists (traditional knowledge).

2. Training of young people through the "LabMangue – Laboratory of Innovation and Citizen Experimentation of the Mangrove"

Workshops based on the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and cartographic literacy, utilizing active learning methodologies and gamification.

Topics covered:

Climate change, the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda.

Citizen Science

Socio-environmental monitoring and conservation efforts

Communication, activism, and social engagement

Project design and formulation

3. Production and distribution of content by young "Climate Reporters"

Educommunication and geojournalism workshops, where textual, photographic, and audiovisual content was created on traditional knowledge, community technologies, and scientific insights related to socio-environmental conservation and climate change action.

4. Co-creation and promotion of affordable climate solutions

Collaborative development and implementation of local actions with replication potential. Promotion of solutions through intersectoral collaboration between civil society, academia, and public authorities, and the dissemination of georeferenced data and project proposals to strengthen local public policies.

RESULTS:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADAPTATION

Contributions to the implementation, dissemination, development, and transfer of technologies; the effective generation of knowledge and learning processes; and the use of sound methods, practices, and standards for socio-environmental conservation in traditional communities.

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Strengthening awareness of climate threats and promoting risk reduction.

PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS



2 participatory assessments conducted by 15 women shellfish gatherers and 10 youth, **identifying the carbon footprint** of fishing activity and 37 community demands



1 mapping of priority risk areas, including 8 observations and photographic records of **degraded areas**, and the georeferenced identification of 70 points with risk and impact elements, prepared by the same group.

DIAGNOSIS AND COMMUNITY TRAINING



10 LabMangue workshops with the participation of 18 youth.



4 low-cost community **climate solutions** focusing on **education**, **erosion** control, **waste** management, and **reforestation**.

TYPE OF CLIMATE ACTION



1 community solution implemented, “Plante Vida, Plante Mangue!” (Living Plant, Mangrove Plant!), with the participation of 12 children and youth in reforesting 180 seedlings and creating posters with **socio-environmental awareness** messages.

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REVIVAL OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



10 stories about the climate (Associação Acarajé, n.d.) compiled by 4 young climate reporters, documenting the accounts of 50 elder fishers on changes in the mangrove ecosystem and artisanal fisheries.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



2 community campaigns with:

- Distribution of printed and audiovisual educommunication materials in homes and public spaces, using accessible language and integrating traditional and scientific knowledge.
- Distribution of 'Sou defensor(a) do mangue' (I am a defender of the mangrove) stamps to 50 fishermen and women.

SYSTEMATIZATION AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE



1 virtual toolbox for participatory monitoring, with open data and free public access (Observatorio do Mangue, n.d.).



1 academic article (Silva et al., 2023), published in a journal of the Federal University of Pará (UFPA)

RESULTS DERIVED FROM THE INTERVENTION:

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- Selection of the project as a finalist for the Millennium Ocean Prize, recognizing its methodological contribution to achieving SDG 14 of the 2030 Agenda (Millennium Oceans, n.d.)
- Expansion of the LabMangue program to the community of Vila do Acarajó, also situated in the RESEX Mar Caeté-Taperaçu, at the direct request of community leaders.
- Inclusion of the SMBCC and LabMangue in the methodological repertoire of the UFPA Mangrove Observatory and its Maretórios. This observatory operates in the states of Pará, Alagoas, Paraíba, and São Paulo. In partnership with the 'Rede Marangatu – Citizen Science Network for Territorial Governance and the Promotion of Policies for the Preservation and Valuation of Coastal Marine Sociobiodiversity' project, the team will monitor the mangroves alongside leaders from four RESEX Mar, covering approximately 80% of the mangroves in the northern region of Brazil.
- Adoption and application of the LabMangue and SMBCCCI methodologies in the IntegraClima project – a cooperation between Brazil, Peru, and Mozambique – to train Community Health Agents and map the health status of fishermen and fisherwomen from four traditional communities, analyzing their link with the impacts of climate change.
- Presentation of LabMangue during the 21st National Science and Technology Week, organized by the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation.
- Preparation of four projects for undergraduate and graduate courses in Natural Sciences, Biology, History, and Social Work at UFPA, based on the project's results and methodologies.
- Influence on the choice of undergraduate courses by young participants in the project, who reported choosing environmental careers as a result of their involvement.

“ *Participating in the project was a great experience; it provided me with new learning and knowledge. I had never participated in an activity like this, and for that reason, I liked it a lot: I really felt like I was in the professional role of a researcher. The activity was very interesting and encouraged the interviewee to use their critical thinking to identify the most important qualities of their work as a fisherman or shellfish gatherer. This is an interesting point that deserves attention I thank the teachers who were always by my side, helping to clarify any doubts.”*

Project participant

“ *I can say it was a wonderful experience because we were able to put into practice everything we had learned in theory. We went out into the community, made reports, talked to people, and gained a better understanding of what community life is like—and, above all, how they lived before. [...] In addition, we had direct contact with the mangrove swamp, sought to understand it better, and even contributed something. [...] I just want to thank the project for the opportunity it gave me. Today, I plan to study biology or biomedicine because of this experience, as it made me realize the importance of learning more about nature and, above all, the biodiversity of our territory. [...] You will carry this experience with you for a lifetime, just like I will.”*

Project participant

MAPPING OF RISK AREAS



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PROBLEM AND SOLUTION TREE WORKSHOP



COVER OF ONE OF THE LABMANGUE EDUCATIONAL GUIDES

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RAP CREATED BY THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE “RAP EN EL MANGAL” WORKSHOP



PLANTING SEEDLINGS



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SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

RECORDING CLIMATE STORIES



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"I AM A DEFENDER OF THE MANGROVE" CAMPAIGN

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LOW CARBON FOOTPRINT OF LOCAL ARTISANAL FISHERIES:

- **Low-impact transportation:**
Most people use bicycles to transport their fish production, and only resort to the use of fuel in cases of long journeys.
- **Use of reusable materials:**
Traditional fishing practices rely on the use and reuse of materials with low environmental impact, such as gloves, wooden hooks, boots made from discarded tires, and repurposed clothing.



Crab fisherman

MAIN CLIMATE PROBLEMS AND RISKS IDENTIFIED:

- Lack of incentives to support and strengthen artisanal fishing.
- Devaluation of the fishing work done by women.
- Decline in both the quantity and quality of available fish.
- Limited access to essential sanitation services.
- Deforestation and illegal timber trade without oversight.
- Inadequate disposal of solid waste in mangrove areas.
- Limited existence and low effectiveness of local climate change adaptation plans.
- Erosion, flooding, and inundation caused by extreme weather events.
- Acceleration of coastal erosion due to infrastructure projects related to tourism.
- Disruption of access to school due to flooding.
- Limited access to quality climate education for young people
- Spread of disinformation through fake news

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“*Sururu only dies when it rains because the water is fresh. Otherwise, it doesn't die, as it's protected by the mud here and thrives in saltwater, since it is a saltwater species. But after a heavy rain, when a lot of water falls, they die.*

— *Marisqueira, Vila do Bonifácio*



EXAMPLE OF A FLOOD POINT



EXAMPLE OF A DEGRADED AREA



Source: Sarambuí Association

Contributions to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for the development of climate-resilient and low-emission solutions.

- **1 policy brief** sent to the institutions responsible for the co-management of the RESEX Mar de Caeté-Taperaçu, accompanied by the data, maps and audiovisual materials generated by the project.

MEETING WITH ICMBIO



KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF)

- **Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation for the Amazon coast with a focus on climate justice:**

proven experience in implementing projects in mangrove areas with a focus on conserving biological and sociocultural diversity as a strategy for mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as preventing natural disasters. The model has the potential for replication and scaling in other regions of Brazil and across multi-country projects.
- **Participatory climate diagnosis and mapping, integrating traditional and scientific knowledge with a gender perspective:**

a distinguished track record in citizen science and the generation of quantitative and qualitative climate data for the formulation and monitoring of public and private socio-environmental policies and projects. Use of participatory methodologies, georeferencing tools and data disaggregation to make territorial inequalities visible.
- **Strengthening traditional communities and the blue economy, with leadership from women and youth:**

theoretical, technical and practical capacities to design and implement, in a participatory manner, research, education and income generation activities sensitive to gender, age and cultural diversity, aligned with objectives of mitigation, adaptation and reparation in the face of climate loss and damage.
- **Community engagement and social innovation with a gender and intergenerational approach:**

technical and relational capacity (including community outreach, trust-building, and cultural adaptation) to promote participation with a gender perspective and an intergenerational approach in social innovation processes.
- **Climate education and training for young community leaders:**

extensive experience in using age-appropriate methodologies and activities aimed at fostering intergenerational relationships and learning.



ABOUT ASOCIACIÓN SARAMBUÍ

Asociación Sarambuí is a civil society organization based in Bragança, Pará state, Brazil. Founded in 2015, its mission is to generate and disseminate knowledge in a participatory manner, using innovative methodologies focused on the conservation and sustainability of the Amazonian coastal region.

Its actions primarily focus on mangroves and estuarine-coastal communities, with the goal of promoting healthy, resilient coastal ecosystems and ensuring the well-being and quality of life of the traditional communities that inhabit them.

<https://www.instagram.com/institutosarambui/>

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LA ESCUELITA POR LA JUSTICIA CLIMÁTICA FEMINISTA



Summary

La Escuelita por la Justicia Climática Feminista (The Little School for Feminist Climate Justice) is a project designed to strengthen the work and protection of women land and environmental defenders across the region through training and gender-focused political advocacy. It exemplifies how training and safeguarding processes can be scaled for local organizations while promoting mitigation and adaptation strategies rooted in socio-environmental preservation, equity, and climate justice.

Implementing Organization

Latin American Network of Women Defenders of Social and Environmental Rights (Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales)

Funding Organization

- Central American Women's Fund (Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres, FCAM.)

Alliances and Collaborations

Local community and Indigenous organizations:

Providing spaces for activities, mobilizing participants, and sharing information.

Network member organizations:

Methodology development and facilitation.

Fundación Plurales and Tierra Viva (local environmental organizations):

Sharing experiences

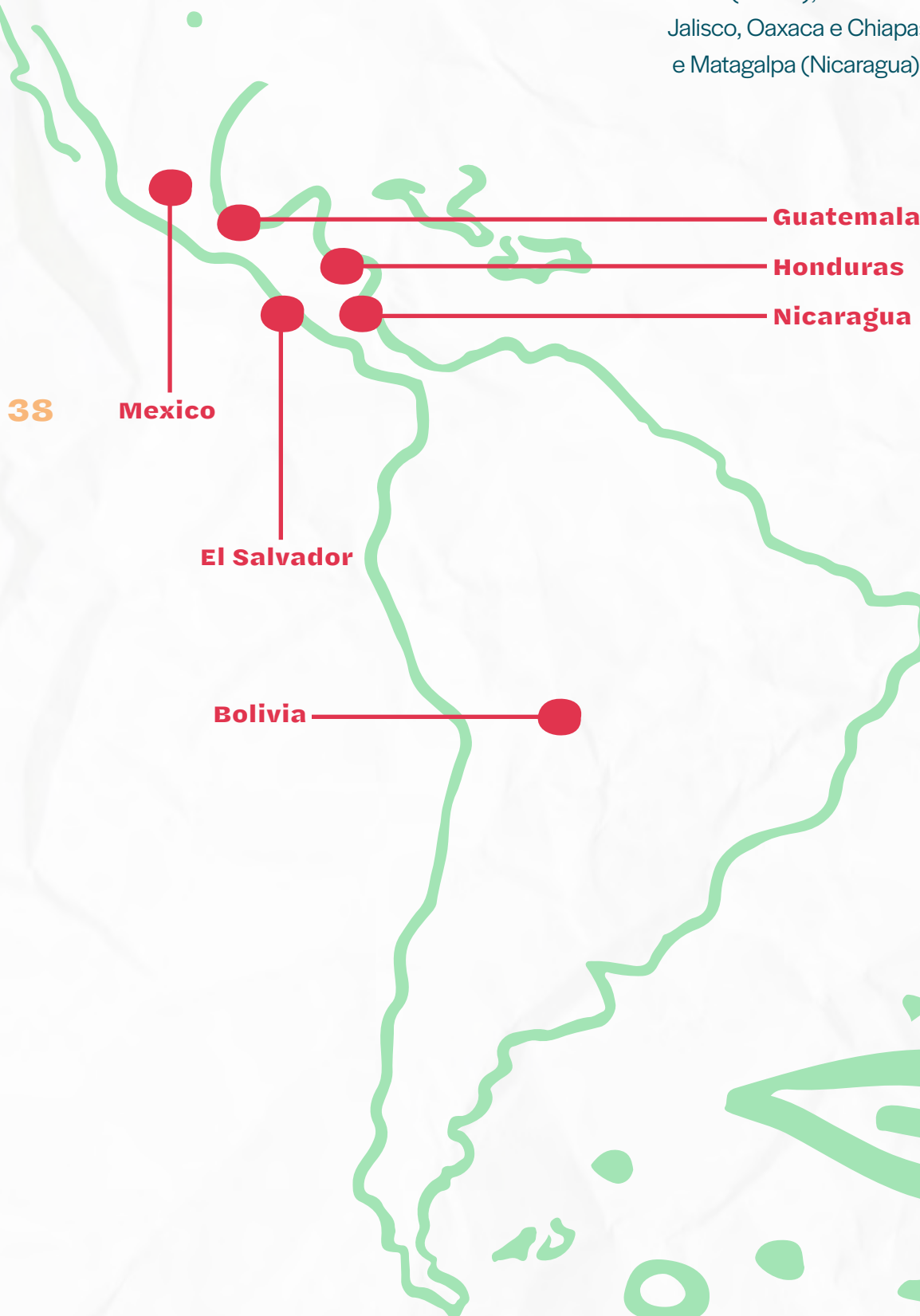
Implementation Period and Location



2021 to present



Cerro Blanco (El Salvador);
Santa Bárbara (Honduras);
Jalapa, Chiquimula e Escuintla (Guatemala);
Oruro (Bolivia);
Jalisco, Oaxaca e Chiapas (Mexico);
e Matagalpa (Nicaragua).



Type of Climate Action:

Adaptation with mitigation co-benefits

Risk Level:

Low

**The Project Contributes
to the Following Green
Climate Fund (GCF)
Outcome Areas:**

Livelihoods of people and communities

Health, food, and water security

The Project Contributes to the Following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Targets:

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SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

5.5 | Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

SDG 10 - REDUCTION OF INEQUALITIES

10.2 | By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all people, regardless of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status.

SDG 13. CLIMATE ACTION

13.3 | Improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.

Source: United Nations (n.d.)

CONTEXT:

Challenges Related to Climate, Gender, and Climate Justice

1. EXPANSION OF EXTRACTIVISM AND VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS

Latin America has undergone decades of accelerated expansion of the extractive frontier, leading to serious rights violations affecting thousands of communities across the region. This expansion is rooted in an extractive and plundering model that not only overexploits natural resources but also intensifies structural inequalities and violence.

On the one hand, numerous projects have turned territories into “sacrifice zones,” where pollution levels cause health problems and life-threatening illnesses. On the other hand, while men are offered work in exploitative and precarious conditions, women are relegated to domestic labor and subjected to multiple forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence and femicide.

Furthermore, many of these projects violate international standards on free, prior, and informed consent and are linked to organized crime networks and state corruption. To make matters worse, the expansion of extractivism has been legitimized by strategies of “greenwashing” and green colonialism, which, under the guise of false solutions to the climate crisis, seek to consolidate its position.



2. DEFENSE OF THE TERRITORY AS A DEFENSE OF LIFE

In this context, resistance to extractive and dispossession-based projects has become a struggle to defend human rights, territories, and the ways of life of rural, Indigenous, and urban periphery communities.

However, those who defend the land and the environment in the region face constant threats and insecurity. Despite playing a leading role in this defense, women face specific challenges rooted in gender injustice—challenges that are embodied in their bodies and lives. Their struggle also involves resisting the silencing of their voices and the restriction of their participation in decision-making processes—even, in some cases, within the very organizations to which they belong.

The murders of Berta Cáceres (Honduras), María Eugenia Mosquera Riascos (Colombia), Juana Raymundo (Guatemala), and Diana Isabel Hernández Juárez (El Salvador) are emblematic of the delegitimization, persecution, and violence that have made Latin America the deadliest region in the world for land and environmental defenders (Global Witness, 2024).

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3. URGENCY OF SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS WITH A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

The seriousness of this situation was recognized in 2018 by the countries that signed the Escazú Agreement, a legally binding treaty created to guarantee access to information, public participation, and environmental justice, and the protection of environmental defenders. While this agreement represents a crucial step forward, its effective implementation remains an unresolved commitment.

In this context, there is an urgent need to build sustainable alternatives that protect both the environment and human life, strengthen territorial efforts, and ensure that women's voices, knowledge, and rights are at the center of climate solutions.



PROJECT STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

1. Support for Local Struggles and Regional Coordination

The Latin American Network of Women Defenders of Social and Environmental Rights focuses on supporting and linking local struggles against rights violations caused by extractive projects, with the aim of integrating and strengthening resistance at the regional level.

Following a three-month caravan through Central America—dedicated to understanding the demands of the network's members and allied organizations—the need to train women defenders on the connection between the climate crisis, mining, and violence against women was identified..

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2. Recognition of Common Experiences and Needs

The participating organizations shared a wide range of struggles to resist mining extraction across different territories, along with shared experiences of impacts on their quality of life and safety, and the transformation of land and climate conditions. The lack of information about the climate crisis was also highlighted as a key concern that hinders their survival and advocacy efforts.

3. Unequal Access to Education and the Response from the Little School

Women face specific educational needs, as schools and universities have historically disregarded their lived realities and perpetuated discrimination.

In response to this situation, the Little School for Feminist Climate Justice was created as a permanent training space to challenge the gender inequalities present in formal education. All activities are adapted to women's work schedules to facilitate participation, considering the cumulative burden and rhythms of domestic work, caregiving, and motherhood.

4. An Ecofeminist Space for Collective Learning

The project is conceived as a space for reflection, learning, and mutual support among women from different countries, grounded in an ecofeminist perspective. Ecofeminism proposes that all aspects of sustaining life be valued equally, recognizing that the defense of land and climate justice must go hand in hand with the fight for gender equality and the eradication of violence against women.



Ongoing Implementation and Key Areas of Work

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In response to the continuous need for updates, the Little School operates year-round through annual cycles structured around two main areas of focus::

1. Training

Monthly thematic workshops that use the original “Semilleros” (seedbeds) methodology—designed by and for women—based on a comprehensive approach to education, knowledge exchange, and interculturality.

Working groups are formed to exchange information and carry out activities using various educational tools, including questionnaires, photos, videos, drawings, and body-based exercises.

Topics covered:

- **Impacts** of mining and climate change on women—at personal, territorial, and organizational levels.
- **Security** of women defenders and safeguarding protocols.
- Identifying **false solutions**.
- Technological **capabilities** and community-led solutions grounded in climate justice, such as environmental monitoring, land access and stewardship, food sovereignty, the protection of native and creole seeds, agroecology, reforestation, water management, and low-emission energy production.
- Strategic **communication**.
- **Advocacy** pathways and international mechanisms for climate action and human rights defense.
- **Self-care, psychosocial support, and healing:** access to basic healthcare, shared responsibility in care work, recognition of women's contributions, and the creation of meaningful and safe spaces for environmental engagement.

2. Policy Advocacy

Support for local organizations' policy advocacy efforts through:

- **Media** outreach.
- **Spaces** for regional dialogue and coordination
- Experience **sharing**
- Proposal and support of **complaints** in international courts.
- **Engagement** with embassies.
- Monitoring the implementation of the **Paris Agreement** and the **Escazú Agreement**.
- Development of **policy positions and recommendations**.
- Other strategic actions for **visibility and impact**.

RESULTS:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADAPTATION

Contributions to the implementation, dissemination, development, and transfer of technologies; to the effective generation of knowledge and learning processes; and to the use of sound methods, practices, and standards for promoting and safeguarding territorial work in defense of land and the environment.

Strengthening awareness of climate threats and promoting risk reduction.

TRAINING AND REGIONAL EXCHANGE



27 virtual seedbeds were held, with the participation of 40 women between the ages of 23 and 60, 7 of whom came from rural and indigenous communities.

Peoples represented:

Lenca (Honduras), Xinca, Chortí, Maya Quiché (Guatemala), Quechua and Aymara (Bolivia), Zapotec (Mexico)

Total number of participating organizations:

16 6 territorial organizations.

Organizaciones por país:

El Salvador:

Artisan Women of San Marcos (*Mujeres Artesanas de San Marcos*), Ecofeminist Movement of El Salvador (*Movimiento Ecofeminista de El Salvador*), Environmental Women's Association (*Asociación Mujeres Ambientalistas*).

Honduras:

Local and Municipal Committee of Tocoa (*Comité Local y Municipal de Tocoa*), Environmental Committee of Guapinol (*Comité Ambientalista de Guapinol*), Environmental Movement of Santa Bárbara (*Movimiento Ambientalista Santabarbareense, MAS*).

Guatemala:

Kaji' Ajpop, Amismaxaj, Utz Che' Association – ECA La – El Asintal (*Asociación Utz Che' – ECA La – El Asintal*), ASERJUS, Xinca Women's Association of Santa María Xalapan Amismaxaj (*Asociación de Mujeres Xincas de Santa María Xalapan Amismaxaj*), Network of Women of Petén (*Red de Mujeres de Petén*), Women of COMUNDICH (*Mujeres del COMUNDICH*)

Nicaragua:

Northern Women's Network (*Red de Mujeres del Norte*);

Mexico:

Articulation for Life and Women's Defense in Epazoyucan (*Articulación por la Vida y Mujeres en Defensa en Epazoyucan*).

Bolivia:

National Network of Women in Defense of Mother Earth (*Red Nacional de Mujeres en Defensa de la Madre Tierra*) (RENAMAT).

IN-PERSON GATHERINGS AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION



2 in-person seedbed workshops with the participation of 45 women from the organizations involved in the virtual seedbeds, along with four partner organizations.

El Salvador: Feminist Collective.

Brazil: Instituto Cordillera.

Colombia: Censat Agua Viva and Youth in Defense of the Territory (*Censat Agua Viva y Jóvenes en Defensa del Territorio, JODETE*).

Peru: GRUFIDES.

DIAGNOSTICS AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION



Multi-country assessments on the impacts of climate change, false solutions, and violence against women and territories.



Identifying women's **capacities** and **knowledge** to implement coordinated and far-reaching solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as protection mechanisms for land and environmental defenders.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY MONITORING WITH EQUIPMENT

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Procurement of **equipment** for community water monitoring in rural farming communities of El Salvador, as part of strengthening territorial environmental surveillance practices.

“ *In my case, my colleagues and I hadn't heard of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs), and it was in this space (Escuelita) where we learned and recognized the importance of these issues... I hope this process continues!”*

Participant from Guatemala

“

“Not all women have access to these tools; it can even be said that sometimes women defenders have no boundaries because socio-environmental struggles are exhausting. Everything is urgent, and nothing can be left for later. We keep saying: yes, I’ll do it; yes, I’ll go; yes, I’ll speak... in an endless list of actions considered even more important than ourselves. While this speaks to the highest level of commitment, it also speaks to the need to strengthen and care for our bodies.”

Project experience systematization consultant

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← ↑

IN-PERSON SEEDBED
WORKSHOP

EXAMPLES OF THE IMPACTS OF MINING EXTRACTIVISM IDENTIFIED

- The local economy's **overreliance** on the global market increases trade inequalities: goods are sold cheap and bought expensive.
- **Devaluation** of other forms of economy, especially those that are community-based or care-oriented.
- **Work overload** for women and difficulties in performing domestic and caregiving tasks.
- **Increase in violence** against women and the emergence of serious health problems such as harassment, stalking, intimidation, stress, anxiety, hopelessness, malnutrition, cancer, and sterilization.
- **Environmental pollution** has negative impacts on community health, disproportionately affecting women and girls due to gender roles.

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EXAMPLES OF FALSE SOLUTIONS IDENTIFIED:

- **Tree monocultures:** A practice that goes against the logic of nature and communities, leading to socio-environmental degradation.
- **Carbon credit payments** and **climate offsets:** These commodify nature and contribute to capital accumulation without fairly distributing the benefits. Compensation measures are often implemented in areas other than the territory that was degraded.
- **Smart agriculture:** Intensifies the use of pesticides and toxic substances, now monitored by drones.
- **Lithium extraction:** Prioritizes individual solutions and promotes excessive electrification (e.g., more electric cars instead of active or public transport; more air conditioning instead of sustainable buildings that require less cooling), reproducing the logic of overexploiting natural resources and violating community rights.
- **Dams:** Often inadequate, leading to floods and large-scale displacement.

Collective Definition of **Extractivism** Based on the Identified Impacts and False Solutions:

“Mineral exploitation, irreparable impacts, extraction of natural resources as raw materials at speeds nature cannot match, and damage to agriculture and livestock. They strip culture from the people; they crush our desire to fight and resist. The difference between transnational and traditional mining lies in the amount of material extracted using machinery—nature simply cannot keep up with that pace. The pace of extractivism is incompatible with the replenishment of Mother Earth.”

EXAMPLE OF LOCAL SOLUTIONS IDENTIFIED:

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- **Agroecology and polyculture**—such as milpa, chacra, and crop associations—that promote food sovereignty and soil regeneration.
- **Community energy:** solar panels and community management of energy production and use.
- **Indigenous community management of natural resources:** practices such as water harvesting to ensure supply in drought-stricken areas.
- **Community economies:** exchanging seeds and food to strengthen local supply networks.
- **Restoration and protection of territories:** creation and care of biosphere protection areas, such as native forests and glaciers.

“

At Lake Güija, we are going through a tragedy in El Salvador and Guatemala. The women have been terribly affected. Hundreds of fish were lost—handled by fisherwomen, women whose future and hope were tied to those floating cages, which overflowed when the rains came. The mine took the opportunity to release its leachate. My fellow fisherwomen are affected financially and mentally.”

Participant from El Salvador

“

The extractive model was previously a more artisanal, small-scale practice that supported the economies of European countries during colonization; today, it is part of the model. Once again, the colonialist system is reestablished: it takes not only mineral and natural resources, but also our knowledge, ancestral heritage, culture, spirituality, and worldview—imposing a more modernized, dehumanized, less collective, and more individual model on us. They operate within this logic. In all its dimensions, life and the wisdom of women are under attack.”

Participant from Honduras.

“

I drew myself as part of my community; in my drawing, I put what has been damaged to us. I drew a river that symbolizes life—it had a strong current.”

Participant from Honduras.

“

This makes us reflect, but also reminds us to take care of ourselves—because sometimes, when you're running around, you skip lunch, you skip breakfast, you don't eat on time, let alone exercise. In this pandemic context, I'm joining you as we begin. Here in our territory, we just lost a comrade in the struggle to Covid. We don't just have to be there for the land-territory; we also must be there for ourselves.”

Participant from Guatemala

Contributions to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for the development of climate-resilient and low-emission pathways.

1. Regional and International Advocacy for Climate Justice

- **First Latin American Meeting of Women Environmental Defenders for Climate Action**, held in Argentina with the participation of 40 women from 7 countries.
- 13 annual **political advocacy action plans** for participating organizations.
- Submission of a **contribution to the Special Rapporteur on Climate Change** of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the “promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change mitigation, loss and damage and participation.”
- International campaign **"COP 27 Without False Solutions"** denouncing ineffective solutions and positioning alternatives based on the struggle of women and territories.
- **Aquatic March** for the elimination of the “Cerro Blanco Mine” project in El Salvador.
- **Global Climate Strike** over the Climate Crisis in Bolivia, raising awareness of the differentiated impacts of climate change on women.

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2. Collective Activations for Key Dates

- 4 cycles of **simultaneous regional activities** on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25N)
 - **Marches**
 - **Podcasts**
 - **Reforestation actions**
 - **Self-care workshops**

3. Production of Communication Materials

- 1 **podcast** and 1 **infographic** on feminist climate justice



**MARCHES FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AND THE ELIMINATION OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**





↓ ←
**REFORESTATION
ACTIONS**



↓
**COVER PAGE OF THE
FEMINIST CLIMATE
JUSTICE INFOGRAPHIC**



OUTCOMES DERIVED FROM THE INTERVENTION:

- Creation of a women's council within the Utz Che' Association (Guatemala) to increase women's participation in the organization.
- Participants from the Little School were invited to present at international events on the exploitation of nature, environmental defense, and the rights of Indigenous peoples.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GCF

- **Multi-country training for women and for rural and Indigenous territorial organizations in climate adaptation and climate justice:**
qualified experience in training processes with regional scope and intercultural methodologies that combine ancestral and scientific knowledge.
- **Action plan for the inclusion of rural and Indigenous women in the formulation and implementation of public policies:**
technical and relational capacity (community engagement, trust-building, and cultural adaptation) for defining mechanisms and participation activities in decision-making related to socio-environmental protection, climate, and biocultural heritage.
- **Multi-level political advocacy for the implementation of international agreements:**
extensive knowledge of commitments, participation mechanisms, and reporting processes related to climate justice and the elimination of violence against women. Experience in the 'glocal' approach, integrating local, national, regional, and international processes.
- **Organization and coordination of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) processes:**
expertise in mobilizing and supporting rural, Indigenous, and urban periphery territorial organizations to guarantee rights, with a focus on preventing violations of women's rights.
- **Gender analysis for identifying climate impacts and solutions with a gender perspective:**
extensive knowledge base, coordination with territorial actors, and access to traditional technologies related to environmental monitoring, food production, reforestation, and seed conservation.
- **Safeguard protocols for human rights defenders with a gender perspective:**
recognized experience in training and practice development focused on community security, collective care, and self-care.



ABOUT THE LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK OF WOMEN DEFENDERS OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

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The Latin American Network of Women Defenders of Social and Environmental Rights is a women's organization that advocates for policies, projects, and practices aimed at defending the rights of people and nature.

Its purpose is to denounce the socio-environmental violence faced by women affected by mining extractivist projects in their territories, and to promote actions that safeguard their physical, emotional, and community integrity. These women face a high level of risk, both due to their role as human rights defenders and their involvement in resistance processes against extractive projects that threaten their territories.

<https://www.redlatinoamericanademujeres.org/>

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ENERGÍAS VIVAS

Experiences of Rural
Women from Traslasierra
for a Just, Participatory,
and Gender-Sensitive
Energy Transition



Summary

Energías Vivas is a project that identifies, systematizes, develops, and disseminates knowledge, technologies, and energy efficiency strategies tailored to rural areas, with a focus on gender equity and climate justice. The results highlight the effectiveness of organized community action, fair and equitable access to resources and infrastructure for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the importance of collaboration between civil society, academia, and the public sector.

Implementing Organization

Energías Vivas Collective:

Our United Farms (Nuestras Granjas Unidas),
Affordable Housing Association (Asociación de Vivienda Económica),
Laboratorio Cúbica,
El Telar

and researchers from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba and the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, CONICET) of Córdoba.

Funding Organizations

- Secretariat of University Policies of the Ministry of Education of the Nation (Secretaría de Políticas Universitarias del Ministerio de Educación de la Nación)
- Secretariat of Science and Technology of the National University of Córdoba (Secretaría de Ciencia y Tecnología de la Universidad Nacional de Córdoba)
- Ministry of Science and Technology of the Government of the Province of Córdoba (Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología del Gobierno de la Provincia de Córdoba)
- National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development, and Innovation (Agencia Nacional de Promoción de la Investigación, el Desarrollo Tecnológico y la Innovación) - Fund for Scientific and Technological Research (Fondo para la Investigación Científica y Tecnológica, FONCyT)
- Rumbo Colectivo Foundation, Environmental Prosecutor's Office (Fiscalía de Medio Ambiente, FIMA), CEUS Chile NGO, and Socio-Environmental Analysis Center (Centro de Análisis Socioambiental, CASA)

Alliances and Collaborations

Women's Collective of the American Chaco (Colectivo de Mujeres del Chaco Americano):

Community and organizational coordination; exchange of experiences; transportation support.

Experimental Center for Economic Housing of the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (Centro Experimental de la Vivienda Económica del Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, CEVE-CONICET):

Technical, legal, and financial consulting; loans of space and technological tools; transportation support.

Institute of Communication, Expression, and Technologies (CONICET) and National University of Córdoba (Instituto de Estudios en Comunicación, Expresión y Tecnologías, CONICET y Universidad Nacional de Córdoba):

Lending space and technological tools; outreach.

Faculties of Social Sciences, Faculty of Communication Sciences, and the School of Nutrition - National University of Córdoba:

Methodological development, regional and national coordination; loans of space and technological tools; transportation support; outreach.

National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) - Cruz del Eje Rural Extension Agency (Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, INTA - Agencia de Extensión Rural Cruz del Eje):

Technical advice; certification of good rural practices; outreach.

Radio Ferroviaria and Radio El Grito:

Lending technological tools for activities, event development, and outreach.

Secretary of Energy Development - Government of the Province of Córdoba (Secretaría de Desarrollo Energético - Gobierno de la Provincia de Córdoba):

Technical advice.

Secondary Education Centers in the towns of Ambul, Mina Clavero, and Cura Brochero (Centros Educativos de nivel medio en las localidades de Ambul, Mina Clavero y Cura Brochero):

Developing joint projects.

Poéticas de Barro (Art Workshop):

Design of communication materials.

Implementation Period and Location



2022 to
present



Pampa de Pocho, Traslasierra Valley,
Córdoba, Argentina.

• Mapa da Pampa de Pocho •



Source: Energías Vivas. Illustration by Inés Cademartori

Type of Climate Action:

Mitigation and
adaptation

Risk Level:

Low

The Project Contributes to the Following Green Climate Fund (GCF) Outcome Areas:

Livelihoods of people and
communities

Energy generation and
access

The Project Contributes to the Following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Targets:

SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

5.4 | Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

SDG 7 - AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

7.1 | By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

7.2 | By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

SDG 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES

10.2 | By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

SDG 12 - RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

12.c | Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.

SDG 13 - CLIMATE ACTION

13.3 | Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

13.1 | Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.



CONTEXT:

Challenges Related to Climate, Gender, and Climate Justice

1. TERRITORIAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The Pampa de Pocho is part of the northern region of the Traslasierra Valley and includes the departmental regions of Pocho and San Alberto. This, in turn, is located within the northwest arc of the province of Córdoba (made up of the departments of Cruz del Eje, Minas, Río Seco, San Javier, Sobremonte, and Tulumba). According to data from the General Directorate of Statistics and Census of the Ministry of Economy and Public Management of Córdoba (2023), the Pampa de Pocho is among the areas of the province with the highest percentage of households with Unsatisfied Basic Needs (UBN), and faces severe deforestation, poverty, and rural depopulation.

According to official data from the Province of Córdoba, the Pocho department had the highest percentage of households with at least one NBI (24.8%) in 2010. All departments in the northwest arc have more than 9% of households with at least one NBI, while in the south of the province the percentages are around 4% and 5%.

2. TERRITORIAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND AGRIBUSINESS

The region's rural communities are largely composed of extended farming families who live in isolated clusters of self-built homes, using traditional techniques and mostly local natural resources. These families, who own land or have title deeds, depend on a subsistence economy based on diversified agricultural activities. However, with the advance of the modern agricultural frontier and the expansion of agribusiness since the 1990s, a process of agricultural intensification has unfolded, driving territorial transformations that have had a direct impact on the living conditions of rural farming families. (Maggi, 2015; Ordóñez, 2023a; Ordóñez and Huerta, 2023; Abatedaga and Ordóñez, 2024b).

3. ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND DIFFERENTIAL EFFECTS ON OMEN

These communities have faced serious limitations in their access to basic resources and services—such as electricity, firewood, gas, and transportation (Huerta, Geremía & Ordóñez, 2024)—which have worsened with the rollout of solar energy and biofuel projects. Furthermore, women, in particular, have suffered land loss. This has occurred as a result of both urban migration and marital separation. In the region, women's economic assets and knowledge are systematically overlooked.

4. FALSE SOLUTIONS: ENERGY TRANSITION WITHOUT JUSTICE

In Córdoba, solar and biofuel energy projects have failed to deliver on their promise of a just energy transition. The installation of large solar parks in rural areas has led to large-scale deforestation and the loss of native forest in a province where less than 3% of the original forest cover remains (Montenegro, as cited in Perfil, 2020).

This has not only severely affected biodiversity and the soil's ability to retain water, but has also triggered conflicts with local communities, exacerbating problems such as floods and droughts (La Tinta, 2021).

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On the other hand, biofuel production, along with the incentives for agribusiness, has led to the intensive use of agrochemicals, directly affecting human health and the environment. The expansion of monocultures has led to the closure of rural roads, hampering rural mobility and social relations. Likewise, soil disturbance and the loss of native vegetation have contributed to recurring flooding, exacerbating health problems and generating losses in agricultural and livestock production, as well as in animal and plant life. Even proposed solutions—such as creating tree barriers to protect against agrochemicals—often fail, as native trees cannot withstand the effects and must be replaced by exotic species that cause desertification of the soil and further disrupt the local ecosystem.

5. CRIMINALIZATION OF SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' PRACTICES

To make matters worse, rural communities are facing the criminalization of their traditional productive practices. Current legislation prohibits on-site slaughter as carried out by rural farming families. This is part of a broader set of policies initiated in the 1990s, which have concentrated livestock production by shutting down municipal slaughterhouses and leaving very few spaces available for slaughter. As a result, these families must travel nearly 80 kilometers to the nearest meatpacking plant and back—an unsustainable burden in terms of both cost and time. Furthermore, the criminalization of traditional slaughter undermines local cultural heritage, as it is not only a productive activity but also a social and community event.

6. EXCLUSION IN DECISION-MAKING

Another issue is the lack of citizen participation in decision-making. In Argentina, public energy and climate policies—both national and subnational—have provided very limited spaces for participation and have not adequately considered local ways of life, practices, and needs. Instead, they have focused on transferring uniform and inflexible technological packages, perpetuating energy inequalities. These inequalities are primarily reflected in two key areas:

1. **Unequal access to energy in rural areas:**

There is a significant disparity in the distribution, quality, safety, and cost of energy access between urban and rural areas, which disproportionately affects rural farming communities. The electrical grid is designed primarily to meet the needs of cities. As a result, in rural areas or regions with dispersed populations and long distances, building power lines and new infrastructure is extremely expensive—or even considered "unviable"—in economic terms (Gonza, González, Durán, 2022).

2. **Lack of gender perspective:**

Public policies often overlook energy needs related to domestic and caregiving tasks—such as cooking, cleaning, food refrigeration, access to hot water, education, and healthcare—most of which are responsibilities that fall largely on women.

In this context, it is urgent to forge pathways toward a truly just, inclusive, participatory, and gender-sensitive energy transition—one that upholds the global commitment to "leave no one behind."

PROJECT STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

The project aims to coordinate and strengthen various academic and social initiatives that, in collaboration with communities in the Pampa de Pocho, promote access to the natural and energy resources needed to ensure quality of life and support rural farming production.

Its implementation is carried out through six stages:

1 TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY TRANSITION FOR WOMEN AND GENDER-DIVERSE GROUPS

Dialogue on different forms of energy generation, access, and use, and their relationship to families' social, economic, domestic, and caregiving activities. Reflections on the impacts of climate change on the territory and its consequences for women and marginalized populations.

2 PARTICIPATORY DIAGNOSIS AND MAPPING OF ENERGY GENERATION, ACCESS AND USE

Home visits to gather data on how families access and use energy for water collection, cooking, heating, and agricultural activities; differences in energy access and use between men and women; and the strengths and challenges of implementing public climate and energy policies in rural areas.

3 WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY WORK SESSIONS ON BUILDING EFFICIENT ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE WITH A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Training in bioclimatic construction techniques, sustainable agricultural practices, agroecology, and the creation of short marketing channels. Design and construction of energy, water, and productive infrastructure adapted to the characteristics of the territories and the needs of women.

“Bioclimatic construction techniques are design and construction strategies that harness local climate conditions and natural resources to improve energy efficiency, thermal comfort, and the sustainability of living spaces. These techniques not only reduce reliance on conventional energy sources and minimize the environmental impact of buildings, but also lower risks and improve adaptability to extreme weather events. These practices may include the use of sustainable, locally sourced materials with high thermal capacity—such as adobe; implementation of adapted technologies for efficient water access and use; orientation and design of buildings to optimize solar gain and prevailing wind use; proper management of waste and wastewater; and the construction of efficient, locally adapted technologies for cooking and heating.

Energías Vivas (2025).

4 COLLABORATIVE CREATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNICATION MATERIALS TO FACILITATE DIALOGUES ON ENERGY TRANSITION

Development and dissemination of content in various formats, produced from the perspective of public communication of science, focusing on:

- Comparing the economic, social, and environmental costs of different energy sources.
- Examining how unequal energy access affects time use in domestic and productive activities.
- Highlighting local energy efficiency practices that reduce inequalities and recognizing the key role of rural women in maintaining them.
- Incorporating community knowledge and technologies into public policies to increase inclusiveness and effectiveness.

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5 NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SESSIONS

Dissemination and discussion on the recognition and application of traditional and scientific knowledge in strategies for socio-environmental conservation, climate change adaptation, and energy transition. Organizing and participating in events and meetings aimed at rural and Indigenous women and the academic community.

6 POLITICAL ADVOCACY WITH LOCAL AND NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR A JUST, PARTICIPATORY, AND GENDER-SENSITIVE TRANSITION

Holding meetings, talks, and workshops with government representatives, educational institutions, media, and social organizations to strengthen public debate and improve energy and climate policies

RESULTS:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Contributions to the implementation, dissemination, development, and transfer of technologies; to the effective generation of knowledge and learning processes; and to the use of sound methods, practices, and standards for a just, participatory, and gender-sensitive energy transition.

Strengthening awareness of climate threats and promoting risk reduction.

DIAGNOSIS AND COMMUNITY TRAINING



Development of participatory **diagnostics** and **mapping** on community knowledge, strategies, and technologies for **energy generation**, access, and use, carried out with **13** households, **3** educational centers, and **75** people (including women, men, youth, and LGBTI+ individuals).



9 training workshops on **climate change and energy transition**, along with 22 constructive community workshops and events, attended by 60 people (women, men, youth, and LGBTI+ people).

ENERGY AND PRODUCTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE



10 energy-efficient infrastructures, adapted to local contexts, designed and built with the needs of men and women in mind.

- 1 efficient **kitchen**.
- 1 rocket **stove** and 2 Russian stoves.
- 6 **greenhouses** with natural and cross ventilation.



29 water access and **storage** systems for productive and domestic use.

- 8 **solar pumps** and 1 rope pump for water extraction.
- 20 **cisterns** and **rainwater harvesting systems** for families, social organizations, and schools.



12 productive infrastructures designed, built, and delivered to improve **labor quality**.

- 2 **galleries** adapted for production with sun protection and shading.
- 1 **mobile chicken coop** with rotational grazing and improved production efficiency.
- 8 **solar fence** energizers obtained through the Renewable Energy Project in Rural Markets (Proyecto de Energías Renovables en Mercados Rurales, PERMER) public policy, with management and technical support.
- 1 **participatory production room** designed for processing livestock-derived foods, using local materials, traditional construction techniques, and criteria for water and lighting efficiency and wastewater treatment.

ECONOMIC IMPACT AND LOCAL CAPACITIES



- **USD 75,275.00** (seventy-five thousand two hundred seventy-five US dollars) in equivalent value of the **physical assets** designed, constructed and delivered.
- **10 people trained** to replicate the construction of the implemented infrastructure.

SYSTEMATIZATION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE



Systematization and **informative, educational, and scientific** dissemination of the knowledge generated from the design and use of the infrastructure, with a focus on:

- increasing energy **efficiency**,
- **reducing productive and domestic workloads** for both men and women,
- and **increasing the capacity to adapt** to climate change in rural areas.

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This systematization and dissemination work was **carried out through**:



- **5 outreach** events
- **1 booklet** (Geremía et al., 2023)
- **2 podcasts** (CET CONICET, 2024)
- **25 articles** in local, provincial and national press
- **10 scientific articles** (e.g., Ordóñez and Huerta, 2022)

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



Participation in 30 national, regional, and international meetings focused on social movements, civil society organizations, and the academic community.

O

“ *I liked that we got together to talk about this, because even though the cost of firewood, gasoline, or the electricity bill is a constant concern, we had never talked about it together. There is also no place where one can learn about or participate in these issues, and they are central. Besides, absolutely everything we do depends on some kind of energy”*

Project participant

“ *Women are the ones who suffer the most from the need for energy and things in the home because here in the countryside, it's the woman who stays at home —men get up and go to work. The ones who stay are the ones who herd the animals, and if anything else is lacking, it's the woman who takes care of it.”*

Project participant

O

CISTERN





**ECONOMICAL
KITCHEN**



ROCKET STOVE



GROUP OF WORKSHOP LEADERS



Group of workshop leaders

Photo by Daniela López

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VISIT TO RESIDENCES

Photo by Daniela López





SOCIAL CARTOGRAPHY



**WORK ABOUT WOMEN'S
DAILY ACTIVITIES
IN THE ENERGY
EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP**

EXAMPLES OF LOCAL DIFFICULTIES IDENTIFIED:

- Available energy affects the domestic and **caregiving workload** of women.
- Few homes have access to the **electricity grid**, with high monthly costs, and a limited number are able to use solar and wind energy.
- No homes have access to **natural gas**; bottled gas is used instead.
- Firewood—used for heating, cooking, and hot water—is **difficult to access** due to the presence of fences, its cost, and its low quality.
- **Raising animals** and **planting vegetables** can require up to six hours of work per day, depending on energy availability.
- Poor road conditions and high **transport** costs force many families to rent homes near schools or send children to boarding schools.

EXAMPLES OF LOCAL STRATEGIES IDENTIFIED:

- **Mobile stoves and cookers**, which allow cooking and heating with little firewood, are adapted to the climate and reduce the risk of fires caused by strong winds.
- **Pasture rotation, use of organic waste, and local product** sales help reduce costs and strengthen the circular economy.
- **Technologies** such as cisterns, greenhouses, solar-powered fences, efficient stoves, economical cookers, and windmills help optimize resource use.
- Everyday **strategies** also help optimize resources: using sunlight to plan activities, sharing rides, or combining multiple tasks (such as selling, buying, and running errands) into a single trip.



Desigualdades y gestión comunitaria
de la energía en la Pampa de Pocho.
Córdoba, Argentina.



**COVER OF THE
BOOKLET**

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**PODCAST
OUTREACH
MATERIAL**



**MEETING OF RURAL AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN OF
THE GRAN CHACO AMERICANO IN YACUIBA, BOLIVIA**



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PLURINATIONAL MEETING IN SAN LUIS, ARGENTINA

SEMINAR: “TRANSICIONES ENERGÉTICAS: DEBATES, NARRATIVAS Y ALTERNATIVAS COMUNITARIAS” (ENERGY TRANSITIONS: DEBATES, NARRATIVES, AND COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES) UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE CÓRDOBA, ARGENTINA



Energía solar a cambio de desmonte, mal negocio cordobés



28 junio, 2024 por [Reflexión La Tinta](#)

Habitantes de Traslasierra demandan al gobierno provincial y a empresas de Argentina y China por afectar el monte cordobés. Señalan que la transición energética no puede ir en contra de los ecosistemas nativos.

Por Daniela López*



REPORT ON THE IMPACTS OF SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS IN TRASLASIERRA



OPEN RADIO IN PUBLIC SPACES: “CUIDAR LA CASA: HABITAR LOS DESAFÍOS GLOBALES DESDE LOS TERRITORIOS” (CARING FOR THE HOME: FACING GLOBAL CHALLENGES FROM THE TERRITORIES)

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Sources: Energías Vivas, María Fernanda Espejo, IECET - FCC - CONICET and La Tinta (2024)



Reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, as well as household labor and spending on domestic and productive activities.

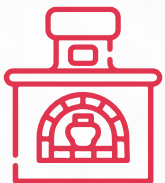
Changes resulting from the design, construction, and delivery of the infrastructures:



Agro-livestock product processing room:

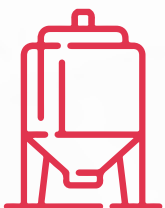
- Built using local materials, with efficient use of water and solar energy, wastewater treatment, and improved sanitary and working conditions—leading to lower costs, reduced reliance on motorized transport, and less time spent on tasks.
- Preservation of cultural practices and local knowledge, supporting community learning and optimizing collective labor.

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Efficient cookstoves, rocket stoves and Russian stoves:

- Reduced firewood use¹ (Battista, Ocampo, and Passamai, 2016), resulting in lower spending on fuel.
- Fire prevention.
- An average of 1 hour and 30 minutes saved in firewood collection and water heating.



Cisterns, rope pumps and water pumps:

- Increased availability of water for productive and domestic activities.
- Reduction in human and animal labor for hauling and manual pumping tasks.



Solar-powered electric fences:

- Reduced workload, increased efficiency in livestock handling², implementation of rotational grazing, and streamlining of farm tasks.



Adapted production sheds with sun protection and shading:

- Reduced electricity consumption through the use of solar energy and natural ventilation.
- Improved working conditions under high temperatures.



Mobile chicken coop with rotational grazing and enhancements:

- Better use of forage resources and more efficient task execution.

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Firewood is very scarce in the Pampas; you have to go far to get it, or buy it—though this winter, it was quite expensive. The difference between the stove we built and the traditional open fire is that ours uses much less firewood and makes it go further. The traditional stove requires large quantities of thick firewood, whereas this one heats efficiently with just a small amount of fine wood and can power three burners using the same fire source. So before, I used to spend my days looking for firewood—now I don't. Before, I had to wait for the embers to be ready before putting them in the brazier to boil water for the kettle. Now, with this stove that has three burners, I can cook several things at once using just a small flame."

Project participant

1 Unlike a traditional open-fire stove, the efficient stove uses significantly less firewood and is highly economical. Traditional open-fire stoves require large-diameter firewood, whereas this improved stove can operate three burners using only a small quantity of fine or small-diameter wood.

2 These fences allow for more efficient management of livestock and pastures during periods of cold or drought. This system also facilitates pasture and crop rotation, minimizing soil degradation.

Change in expected economic asset losses due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters.

Improved sustainable management practices in areas of natural resource use and agricultural-livestock production.

- A total of 251 hectares, belonging to farming families within the organization, adopted low-emission, **climate-resilient management practices**—significantly reducing the risk of livestock loss and escape, pasture and crop failure, and simultaneously promoting natural soil regeneration and biodiversity conservation.
- **Diversification of livestock production**, with a total of 461 animals (10 horses, 220 poultry, 70 cattle, 89 sheep, 10 goats, and 62 pigs), improving animal welfare and balancing pressure on ecosystems through sustainable management strategies that optimize grazing, improve nutritional quality, and reduce soil degradation.
- **Strengthening small-scale production** of vegetables and ornamental plants in greenhouses and gardens through production models that are more resilient to climate change. This strategy seeks to guarantee food security and economic autonomy for families without access to large tracts of land—especially women.

Contributions to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for the development of climate-resilient and low-emission pathways.

- **10 meetings and workshops held with representatives from local and national government**, community leaders, the Energy Transition Secretariat of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Services, the Family Farming Secretariat of the Ministry of Bioagroindustry, and INTA.
- **Commitment by local governments** to certify food processing and community slaughter facilities in order to legalize and give value to traditional agricultural and livestock production.
- **Proposal for improving public policy for the Renewable Energy Project in Rural Markets** (PERMER) (Ministry of Economy, n.d.) to strengthen the gender perspective. Proposal to improve public policy for the Renewable Energy Project in Rural Markets (PERMER) (Ministerio de Economía, s.f.) by incorporating a stronger gender perspective.

Government secretaries were informed that project-led diagnostics and mapping show that the current energy kit's power does not reduce women's working hours.

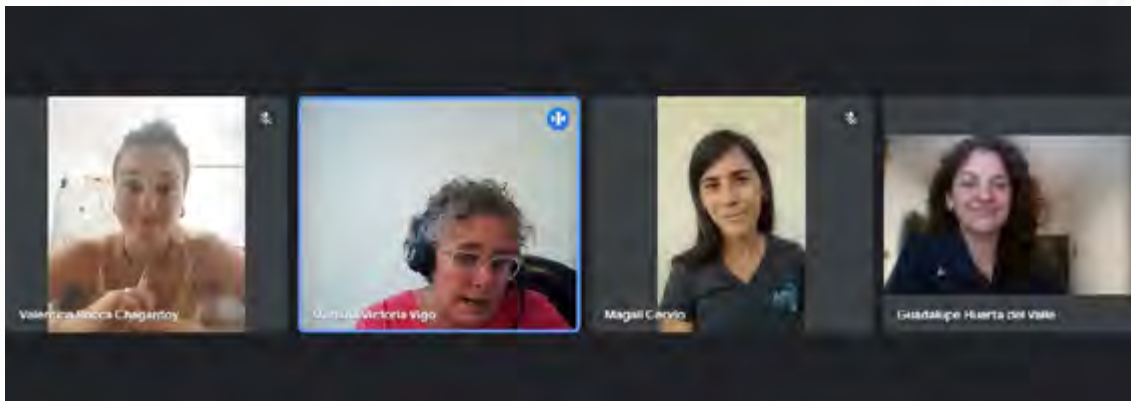
The PERMER program currently offers power ranging from 200 to 600 watts, sufficient to power phone chargers, lamps, and televisions. However, to be useful for domestic tasks—by enabling the use of appliances that reduce workload—an output of at least 800 to 1200 watts would be necessary (Gonza, González, & Durán, 2022).



“ Your work reveals something we had already been sensing within the program. On the one hand, there's the issue of power—of being able to generate cold, add value through equipment like vacuum sealers, or even power a washing machine, as you mentioned. This is fundamental. We've been working to increase system capacity and enable refrigeration, but it's still a challenge. On the other hand, from a technological standpoint, we must address the storage system—batteries—because deep discharges damage them or reduce their lifespan. That's why battery life is so short. Finally, there's the issue of management—how this technology is handled and operated, especially regarding repair and replacement services. We need to continue thinking about these problems together.”

PERMER public official

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VIRTUAL MEETING WITH THE MINISTRY OF BIOAGRIBUSINESS

RESULTS DERIVED FROM THE INTERVENTION:

Strengthening social participation in provincial policy and institutional recognition of Energías Vivas:

Provincial government authorities have recognized the work of Energías Vivas as a leading initiative in integrating a gender perspective into energy policy, inviting the collective to share their experience and participate in various meetings and events to explore future collaborations.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GCF:

- **Gender-sensitive territorial articulation and participatory governance:**
expertise in the creation and maintenance of multi-stakeholder and multi-level networks that facilitate access to public policies, information, and resources. Consolidation of alliances among key stakeholders to promote collaborative action, social and institutional support, and the sustainability and replicability of initiatives in the future.
- **Local diagnostics and prevention of negative externalities (trade-offs):**
technical and methodological capacity for data collection, supported by a robust database of social, economic, environmental, and cultural indicators, which inform the planning and implementation of integrated, gender-equitable interventions.
- **Training for women and gender-diverse groups in energy transition, sustainable agriculture, and green economy:**
proven methodologies combining knowledge exchange, educational and communication material development, and hands-on community infrastructure-building workshops to meet local needs in productive, domestic, and caregiving work.
- **Localized solutions with a gender and climate justice lens**
extensive experience in building efficient energy, water, and production infrastructure in rural areas to reduce climate vulnerability. Use of technologies adapted to local geographic, socioeconomic, and cultural contexts, designed to meet the needs and potential of populations, with special attention to women, increasing the viability and sustainability of solutions.



ABOUT THE ENERGÍAS VIVAS COLLECTIVE

A group of rural women producers from Pampa de Pocho, along with researchers, activists, and artists from the province of Córdoba. We are those who carry out caregiving tasks, inhabit, study, and understand rural farming habitats, and we come together motivated by the desire to build more equitable territories and contribute to a dignified life in the countryside. Faced with the imminent energy transition at both global and local levels, we ask critical questions and express our concerns about access to, use of, and control over energy in rural and farming communities. These concerns have led us to launch a collective project to raise awareness and share knowledge about energy issues.

We aim to foster reflection on the energy inequalities that rural communities face every day. We also seek to revalue the strategies, knowledge, and technologies we practice—recognizing the power and the deep connection we share with energy from the wind, the sun, animals, the forest, the community, and our own bodies.

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STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S RURAL GARDENS AND MARKETS IN PETÉN

Healthy Eating, Economic Autonomy,
and Climate Change Resilience



Summary

This project strengthens the production and commercialization of food and medicinal plants by rural and Indigenous women through training, communication, network-building, and political advocacy. Based on ancestral Mayan agricultural practices, the initiative demonstrates how strengthening local communities can generate systemic solutions that simultaneously promote income generation, reduce inequality, ensure food and nutrition security, preserve biocultural heritage, and support climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Implementing Organization

Integral Agricultural Cooperative "Organization of Workers for Resistance and Autonomy" (Cooperativa Integral Agrícola "Organización de Trabajadores por la Resistencia y la Autonomía", OTRA).

Funding Organization

- Central American Women's Fund (Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres, FCAM)

Alliances and Collaborations

National Network for the Defense of Food Sovereignty in Guatemala (Red Nacional por la Defensa de la Soberanía Alimentaria en Guatemala, REDSAG):

Loan of space for activities, support for food and transportation.

Departmental Network of Women's Organizations of Petén, Women's Council for Mother Earth, and Mother Earth (Red Departamental de Organizaciones de Mujeres de Petén, Consejo de Mujeres por la Madre Tierra [CMIB] y Madre Tierra):

Support for food and transportation.

Association of Community Health Services, Petén Region (Asociación de Servicios Comunitarios de Salud, ASECSA, región de Petén):

Methodological development, support for food and transportation.

Movement of Social and Rural Organizations of Petén (Movimiento de Organizaciones Sociales y Campesinas de Petén, MOSCP):

Political advocacy.

Implementation Period and Location



2022-2024



Department of Petén,
Guatemala.

Location of the Department of Petén



Fonte: Google Maps (2025)

Type of Climate Action:



Adaptation with mitigation co-benefit.

Risk Level:



Low

The Project Contributes to the Following Green Climate Fund (GCF) Outcome Areas:



Livelihoods of people and
communities



Health, food and water
security

The Project Contributes to the Following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Targets:

SDG 2 - ZERO HUNGER

2.3 | By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, including women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equitable access to land, other production resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value-added generation and off-farm employment.

2.4 | By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding, and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

2.5 | By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

SDG 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES

10.2 | By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

11 | Sustainable Cities and Communities

11.4 | Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

SDG 13. CLIMATE ACTION

13.3 | Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

13.1 | Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related risks and natural disasters in all countries. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

CONTEXT:

Challenges Related to Climate, Gender, and Climate Justice

1. ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND STRATEGIC LOCATION OF PETÉN

Petén is Guatemala's largest department, located in the north of the country, bordering Mexico, and Belize. The Maya Biosphere Reserve and several protected areas with significant natural and cultural wealth—recognized by UNESCO—are located there.

2. EXPANSION OF MONOCULTURES AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS

However, the region faces a growing expansion of agro-industrial monocultures, especially oil palm. Sayaxché is one of the most affected municipalities, concentrating 87% of the palm cultivated in the department.

Despite narratives promoting sustainable production, Guatemala's National Council of Protected Areas recognizes that this type of crop “poses a serious threat to biodiversity and an imminent environmental risk to protected areas” (Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de Guatemala, 2013, p. 8, own translation). Together with cattle ranching and oil extraction, these activities have caused widespread deforestation of native forests. In 2019, Petén was identified as one of the world's most critical areas of forest degradation, according to satellite mapping by NASA (Plaza Pública, 2023).

SATELLITE IMAGES OF PETÉN, 1985 AND 2022 – LANDSCAPE TRANSITION FROM FORESTS TO OIL PALM MONOCULTURES



Source: Google Earth (2025)



3. SOCIAL IMPACTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

In addition, land has been sold through deception at very low prices, accompanied by forced and violent evictions, environmental pollution, diversion of rivers used for water supply, and the criminalization and persecution of community leaders. Women are among the most affected populations, facing severe consequences due to lack of water and sanitation, along with rising levels of gender-based violence. According to the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons of Guatemala (2022), the municipalities located in the northern and central part of the country are the ones with the highest rates of rape against women and girls. One of the causes of the increase in violence has been the strategic installation of canteens for the sale of alcoholic beverages by high-ranking workers and partners of agribusiness companies, which has contributed to the growth of alcoholism and drug addiction among young people and adults.

4. INEQUALITY IN ACCESS TO LAND

Women also have limited access to land and receive little support from local governments to strengthen small-scale farming and trade (Prensa Comunitaria Kilómetro 169, 2023, own translation). With outdated data, the Land Fund reported that, between 1998 and 2014, only 2,225 women (10.7%) received state incentives for the purchase of farms, compared to 18,438 men (89.3%) (Entremundos, n.d.).

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5. COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND RESISTANCE STRATEGIES

Faced with this context, groups of indigenous and mestizo women from communities in Laguna del Tigre and the Sierra del Lacandón—protected areas of the municipalities of Las Cruces, Santa Ana, Sayaxché, La Libertad and San Andrés—have organized to strengthen their ancestral productive practices and environmental preservation, ensure food and nutritional security, and to promote their economic autonomy.

These women plant and harvest organic food and medicinal plants for their own consumption and sale. To overcome the difficulties of access to resources, they produce in their own spaces and on rented land, turning to the recovery and exchange of native and creole seeds. Financing is guaranteed through community savings and credit practices, and marketing is carried out through the structuring of farmers' markets. In addition, their knowledge, seeds and productive practices constitute an important contribution to climate change adaptation, both from the perspective of reforestation—with more resistant crops that do not degrade the environment—and from the promotion of a diversified and healthy diet, essential aspects to face the increase in droughts and extreme rainfall.



PROJECT STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

The OTRA Cooperative carried out an assessment and identified the main demands of organized women's groups in Petén to strengthen their work and expand results, with a focus on financial autonomy, food and nutritional security, and environmental conservation based on ancestral Mayan agriculture.

Based on this diagnosis, four lines of action were defined and developed:

1. TRAINING ON GENDER, HUMAN RIGHTS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGROECOLOGICAL MARKET FOR RURAL WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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Workshops based on popular education with the use of cooperative games, demonstration farms and work groups. The theoretical-methodological approaches are based on the concept and philosophy of *Buen Vivir*.

Topics covered include:

- Identification of **rights**, regulations, and public policies.
- Gender-based **violence** and community demands.
- **Assessment** of existing spaces for participation.
- **Challenges** and **opportunities** to strengthen strategies for organizing and adapting to climate change.
- Rescue, conservation, and multiplication of native and creole **seeds**.
- Strengthening of the production chain of **traditional agriculture**.
- **Healing** and self-care.
- Rescue and use of **traditional medicinal plants** (REDSAG, 2022).

2. SUPPORT FOR THE MARKETING OF ORGANIC FOOD AND MEDICINAL PLANTS PRODUCED BY RURAL WOMEN

Mapping of actors, establishment of alliances, and facilitation of seed bartering and exchanges among rural women's organizations. Training and monitoring of community savings and credit methodologies.

3. LOCAL AND NATIONAL DISSEMINATION OF THE WORK OF THE WOMEN OF PETÉN AND ITS CONNECTION TO BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE JUSTICE, AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

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Production of content in varied formats and accessible language, distributed through community channels, with the aim of promoting:

- the production, purchase, and sale of healthy products
- the valorization of ancestral knowledge,
- and the preservation of native and creole seeds.

4. COORDINATION OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLITICAL ADVOCACY ACTIONS

Systematization of problems and solutions identified, construction of mechanisms for collective demands and facilitation of dialogue with government representatives.

RESULTS:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADAPTATION

Contributions to the implementation, dissemination, development, and transfer of technologies; to the effective generation of knowledge and learning processes; and to the use of sound methods, practices, and standards for enhancing women's climate, food, and economic resilience.

Strengthening awareness of climate threats and promoting risk reduction.

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DIAGNOSIS AND COMMUNITY TRAINING



Development of **collective local diagnoses** on impacts, knowledge, and climate solutions with a gender perspective



28 workshops held for 132 Indigenous and mestizo women from rural and urban areas of Petén, representing six organizations.

Leaving Footprints Women's Committee, Las Cruces (Comité de Mujeres Dejando Huella, Las Cruces)

Committee of Organized Women of Río Salinas, Sayaxché (Comité de Mujeres Organizadas de Río Salinas, Sayaxché)

Women's Committee Fighting for a Future, Santa Ana (Comité de Mujeres Luchando por Un Futuro, Santa Ana)

Women's Committee, Purushilá Village, Santa Ana (Comité de Mujeres l'x, Aldea Purushilá, Santa Ana)

Women's Committee, Nuevo Horizonte Cooperative, Santa Ana (Comité de Mujeres K'at, Cooperativa Nuevo Horizonte, Santa Ana)

CNH Women's Committee, Santa Ana (Comité de Mujeres CNH, Santa Ana)

EXAMPLES OF PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED:

- **Changes in rainfall** (flooding) and drought patterns.
- **Crop loss** due to flooding or lack of water.
- **Mechanization** of agriculture, excessive use of **agrochemicals** and increase in **pests**.
- Expansion and massive use of **transgenic seeds**.
- **Decrease in the nutritional quality** of food produced with agrochemicals.
- **Loss of spontaneously growing local food species**, such as black nightshade (hierba mora), pumpkin seeds powder (pepitoria), and squash.
- **Loss and abandonment of traditional knowledge** and practices of climate monitoring and agricultural production.
- **Dependence on commercial seeds**, high production costs and indebtedness of farmers.
- **Lack of access to land for women.**
- **Labor exploitation, gender violence and racism.**





“With climate change, those of us without sufficient economic resources have suffered because production is no longer what it used to be. But people with a lot of money have installed irrigation systems with mechanical wells. They have advantages because, even if it doesn't rain, they have water (...) It used to rain a lot, but now we don't even know when it will rain or not — the weather isn't normal anymore, for example: This year 2025, in January, the cabañuelas have passed¹. I know them; I learned about them from my grandparents. The cabañuelas didn't indicate rain, and nowadays they're no longer understood —it's very hard to know if what the cabañuelas show is actually real. Back then, we planted the milpa —we just cleaned it twice and harvested the corn. We didn't need fertilizer or poison to kill the forest, there was no plague, that is, it was a very good thing, and the crops were good. But now people complain because they say that all the poisons they sell at the veterinarian are very expensive and that planting corn is no longer profitable, but they say that now they are in debt because there is no corn harvest anymore, and the price they pay per quintal of corn is not enough to pay for everything they have spent in the veterinarians with all the supplies. And we didn't use to buy seeds to plant corn —or beans.”

Community leader from Las Cruces

¹ Cabañuelas¹ is an ancestral method of weather prediction based on the observation of natural patterns, such as animal behavior, wind direction, cloudiness, or humidity during the first days of the year or a specific month.

“ I took part in a study carried out by REDSAG on GMOs here in Petén. We visited a community in Sayaxché, and during that visit, the farmers told us they were very sure they were planting native corn. But right next to their fields, separated only by a stake, was a large area of transgenic corn. We observed that when people said they were sure they were planting native corn, if there was transgenic corn nearby at the same time —and we’re not making this up— a sample was taken, sent to a laboratory, and it tested positive for GM traits, (...) If I plant corn on my own plot, and nearby there’s a farm planting large quantity of transgenic yellow corn, then the corn is going to cross-pollinate, right? So, if I’m nearby, the corn I grow will no longer be 100% native —it will be contaminated. That’s why we’re fighting to protect native corn (...). Doctors recommend eating fruits and vegetable, but if they put a lot of chemicals on them, it is not healthy, sometimes the doctor tells you, you have to eat fruits, but the fruit you are eating is not healthy, no matter how much fruit you’re eating.

Community leader from Las Cruces

“ As we went through the training, some of us women began making decisions by identifying different forms of violence. (...) I see a lot of labor exploitation. Many women work in banana plantations, palm groves or melon fields. It’s very hard, exhausting work for women. We’re constantly subjected to labor exploitation and racism—they make us work more, lift heavy loads, do intense physical labor.”

(Translation from Spanish by the editor).

Community leader from Las Cruces

EXAMPLES OF EXISTING KNOWLEDGE, PRACTICES, AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS TO ADDRESS THE IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES:

- International agreements related to human rights, gender, and climate, such as the International Human Rights System, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Paris Agreement.
- National Bill "Biodiversity and Ancestral Knowledge" (Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, 2022).
- Reviving ancestral knowledge, including the preservation, and planting of native and creole seeds, the use of organic fertilizers, the implementation of the Milpa cultivation system (El País, 2025), land stewardship through agroforestry, and the production and use of medicinal plants.
- The resistance and nutritional quality of native and creole seeds.
- The use of organic food and medicinal plants to treat diseases aggravated by climate change.
- The artisanal processing of agricultural production to add value.



The knowledge of medicinal plants is a living pharmacy that we inherited from our ancestors, mothers and grandmothers."

Community leader from Las Cruces

“

Our goal is to share both knowledge and our seeds. We know full well that this system is threatening our native seeds, but through this activity we are making it known that our seed is vital for our lives and our health. Many years ago, these seeds were left to us, but companies now want to steal this knowledge and commercialize it.”

Member of the Ixmucané Association

“

We received several trainings on climate change to analyze how we are going to face this situation. For example: The garbage that people say is garbage, for example, the leaves of the trees, the waste, if I cut a banana leaf to make tamales and part of the leaves are left over, what do I do? Many people burn it. In my case, I accumulate it in one place because I know that it is fertilizer. Through agroecology, we feel that this is one of the practices that will help us confront the climate crisis. It's like returning to the practices of our ancestors, which worked and sustained them before. For example, I still remember the mortars—trees that people hollowed out to make pounding tools. We'd put the rice in to remove the husk, and we already had rice ready to eat. Or we'd use the hand mill, which we no longer use. It's like the things our grandparents taught us but that we've stopped doing because of technology.”

(Translation from Spanish by the editor).

Community leader from Las Cruces



↑
**TRAINING FOR
WOMEN OF
SANTA ELENA RÍO
SALINAS**

→
**TRAINING FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE
FROM LAGUNA
DEL TIGRE AND
SIERRA DEL
LACANDÓN ON
THE DEFENSE OF
THE TERRITORY**



FOOD PROCESSING WORKSHOP

Strengthening and Transforming Local Markets



12 workshops on **economic autonomy** were held with the participation of 132 indigenous and mestizo women, from rural and urban areas of Petén, and members of 6 organizations.



Participation in **15 native and creole seed fairs**, food fairs, festivals of economic entrepreneurship for Good Living and rural markets.



Support and monitoring of the **community savings and credit methodology** of 3 groups of rural women (I'x Women's Committee, K'at Women's Committee, CNH Women's Committee).



Collective purchase of a piece of land with the funds obtained through the community savings and credit methodology (Leaving Footprints Women's Committee).

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PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN ORGANIZED IN NATIVE AND CREOLE SEED FAIRS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE DEFENSE OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN GUATEMALA (REDSAG)

“ As a member of the I’x savings and credit group from Purushilá village, I’m very happy to be able to share how this methodology has changed the way we save, the way we see how we can earn extra income, and how we can support other women. It has sparked new ideas for generating income and motivated each of us to be more independent economically. It’s not just about not depending on our partners or parents; it’s about continuing the fight for our rights and values to live autonomously.”

Integrante do Comitê de Mulheres I’x da Aldeia Purushilá

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COMMUNITY SAVINGS PRACTICE OF THE I’X COMMITTEE, PURUSHILÁ, SANTA ANA, PETÉN

“ To me, the community savings and credit methodology is a good work strategy to help organize the women in my community and encourage us to participate—whether in the workshops that the OTRA Cooperative has implemented with us as a group, or in spaces for sharing experiences and forming alliances. It also allows us to feel empowered as women—both in defending our rights and in gaining economic autonomy.”

Member of the K’at Women’s Committee of Nuevo Horizonte Cooperative

Contributions to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for the development of climate-resilient and low-emission pathways.



197 radio programs, videos, and reports published to deepen public debate around the following topics (Nuevo Sol Rebelde, 2023).

The role of women in the defense of the environment.

The ancestral wisdom of grandmother midwives.

The rights of indigenous and rural women guaranteed by international agreements.

Forms of women's community leadership.

Programming of fairs and farmers' markets in Petén.

Use and function of medicinal plants.



6 advocacy meetings with local authorities to request appropriate spaces for organizing **farmers' markets**.

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Source: Radio Comunitarias (Community Radio) (2022)

**REPORT ON WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP FOR THE
STRENGTHENING OF
FARMERS' MARKETS**



**ADVOCACY
AND PLANNING
MEETINGS
BETWEEN THE
ACTIVE WOMEN
AND WOMEN
LEAVING
FOOTPRINTS
ORGANIZATIONS,
AND ALLIED
ORGANIZATIONS
AND NETWORKS.**

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GCF:

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- **Organization and coordination of free and informed consent processes:**
expertise in mobilizing and supporting communities in protected areas with indigenous and traditional populations.
- **Training women in climate action, sustainable agriculture, and productive autonomy:**
experience in training processes that, through a gender-sensitive and intergenerational approach—articulated with traditional and scientific knowledge—simultaneously strengthen income generation, quality of life, and the preservation of biocultural heritage.
- **Systematization of knowledge and development of gender-sensitive methodologies for reforestation and preservation of biocultural heritage projects:**
ability to recover, document and articulate the knowledge of women and local communities, ensuring both socially and culturally appropriate implementation and equitable distribution of benefits between men and women.
- **Participatory gender diagnoses in rural and indigenous communities:**
technical and relational capacity (community linkage, trust, and cultural adaptation) for the collective identification of experiences, priorities and differentiated gender needs in traditional and sustainable agricultural production.
- **Creation of popular communication strategies:**
consolidated experience in technical-methodological support to produce culturally relevant informational content, with a focus on effective outreach to women, youth, and local communities..



ABOUT THE INTEGRAL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE "ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS FOR RESISTANCE AND AUTONOMY" (OTRA)

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The OTRA is a cooperative made up of women and men with diverse organizational, labor, and political experiences, committed to strengthening popular struggles that transform the structures of discrimination, oppression and exclusion, through education, research and alternative communication.

The organization operates in the northern region of Guatemala, in alliance and coordination with communities and social organizations, seeking to build from individual and collective autonomy, organized alternatives for Good Living.

<https://nuevosolrebelde.blogspot.com/>

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WALKING TOGETHER



Summary

Walking Together (Caminhando Juntas) is a project dedicated to training, diagnosis, and the co-creation of urban mobility solutions with a gender perspective, led by women and girls from communities facing high socioeconomic and environmental vulnerability. The initiative seeks to promote democratic and safe access to a linear park in an area marked by a scarcity of green spaces and the intensification of issues like rising temperatures and heat islands. The project shows how active participation can drive fairer, more effective, and sustainable urban transformations, helping to collectively tackle urban inequalities and the climate crisis.

Implementing Organization

***Instituto Caminhabilidade
(Walkability Institute)***

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Funding Organizations

- Casa Socio-Environmental Fund (Fundo Casa Socioambiental).
- Tembici.
- Rio Pinheiros Laboratory –Farah Service and the Bruno Covas Park Consortium New Rio Pinheiros (Laboratório Rio Pinheiros –Farah Service e Consórcio do Parque Bruno Covas Novo Rio Pinheiros).

Partnerships and Collaborations

Metrópole 1:1 and Produtora do Corre:

Community articulation.

Centers for Children and Adolescents (Centros para Crianças e Adolescentes, CCA) in Peinha, Real Parque, and Jardim Panorama; Monte Azul Community Association (Associação Comunitária Monte Azul) and Project Casulo:

Mobilization of participants, loan of space for activities.

SOS Pankararu Indigenous Association and Fiandeiras Collective (Associação Indígena SOS Pankararu e Coletiva Fiandeiras:

Community outreach and dissemination.

Implementation Period and Location

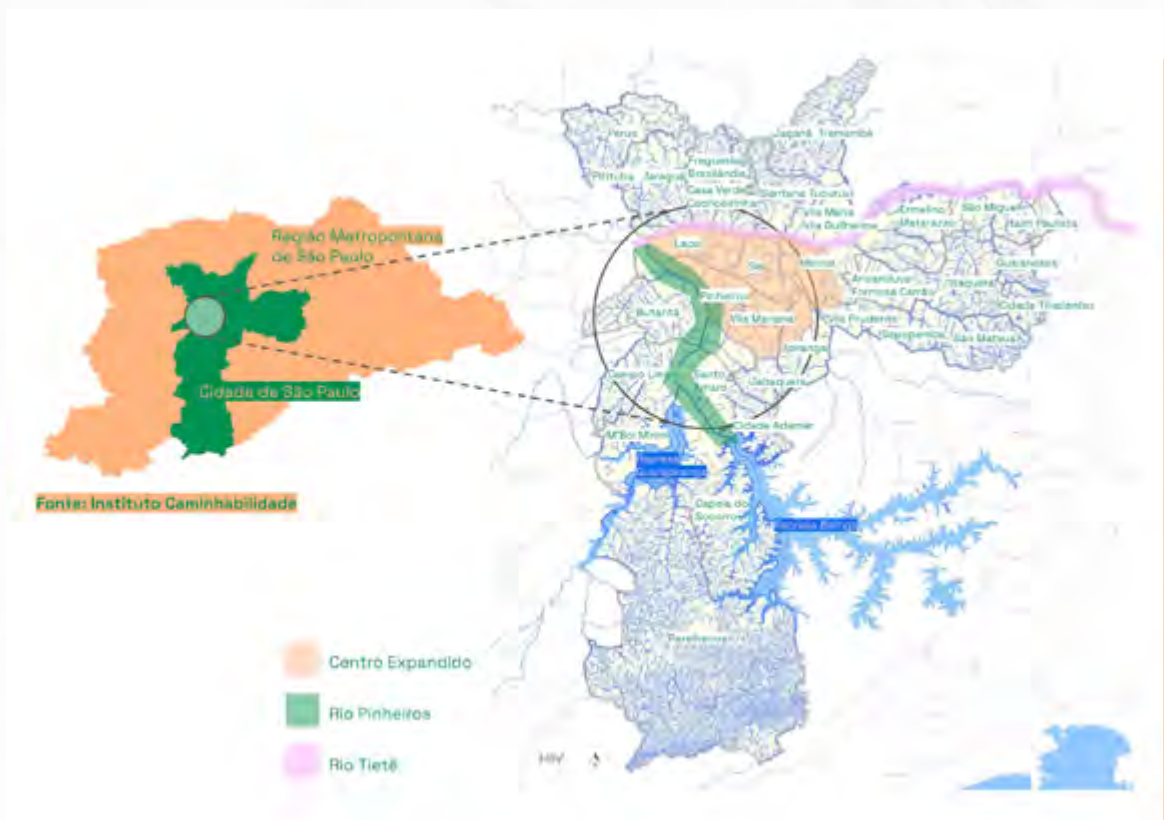


2022 and 2023



Peinha, Real Parque and Panorama
Garden, São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.

Map of the city of São Paulo



Source: Instituto Caminhabilidade (Walkability Institute)

Type of Climate Action:



Adaptation with mitigation
co-benefit

Risk Level:



Low

The Project Contributes to the Following Green Climate Fund (GCF) Outcome Areas:



Infrastructure and built
environment

The Project Contributes to the Following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Targets:

SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY

5.5. | Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decisionmaking in political, economic and public life.

SDG 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES

10.2 | By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

SDG 11 - SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

11.3 | By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.7 | By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

SDG 13 - CLIMATE ACTION

13.3 | Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

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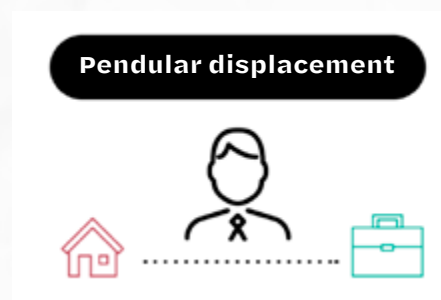
CONTEXT:

Challenges Related to Climate, Gender, and Climate Justice

1. EXCLUSIONARY URBAN MODEL AND STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES

In Brazil, urban planning is predominantly led by men and primarily focuses on economic activities and commuting by individual motor vehicles. This model not only contributes to high greenhouse gas emissions but also overlooks the needs of a large portion of the population, as 39% of journeys in Brazilian cities are made on foot (ANTP, 2018), particularly by women, who bear the majority of domestic and caregiving tasks. The result of this model is the exacerbation of social inequalities and the intensification of the climate crisis.

MOVEMENT PATTERNS OF WOMEN AND MEN



Source: Instituto Caminhabilidade

2. IMPACTS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON RIVERS AND MARGINALIZED NEIGHBORHOODS

In the city of São Paulo, the channeling and straightening of rivers for the construction of expressways caused significant environmental degradation and increased road insecurity. As part of the requalification process of the Pinheiros River, one of the main tributaries flowing through São Paulo, the Bruno Covas Linear Park was created.

The Bruno Covas Linear Park is an example of how green spaces along riverbanks can promote urban equity and help adapt to extreme heat by providing thermal comfort and recreational areas. However, for the entire population to access these benefits, it is necessary to overcome infrastructural, communication, and attitudinal barriers that limit the use of public spaces.

3. UNEQUAL ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES: THREE DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Three neighboring communities facing high socioeconomic and environmental vulnerability—Peinha, Real Parque, and Jardim Panorama(D'Andrea, 2012)—face significant barriers to accessing the park, despite being just 200 meters away. Unsafe routes, lack of signage, and inadequate infrastructure make access slow and hazardous, especially for women and girls.

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Peinha:

approximately 450 homes are concentrated in just 2 hectares, housing around 4,000 people (GeoSampa and Asociación Comunitaria Monte Azul, 2022). The houses, ranging from one to three floors, are built on sloping land and can only be accessed on foot, via alleys and stairs, with just one square within the perimeter. The community is surrounded by avenues, and the nearest safe access to the park requires a 3.5 km walk, which takes about 45 minutes

ROUTE BETWEEN PEINHA AND BRUNO COVAS LINEAR PARK



Source: Instituto Caminhabilidade

Real Parque:

it has over 1,800 housing units built through government programs, housing approximately 5,300 people. Its streets are paved, and there is a significant presence of businesses on the ground floors of the buildings, although there is a lack of community leisure spaces. The cultural and ethnic diversity of the area is notable, including the presence of the indigenous Pankararu culture. The nearest safe access to the park requires a 3.9 km walk, which takes about 53 minutes.

Jardim Panorama:

it covers 2.5 hectares and is home to approximately 576 houses (GeoSampa, 2022). The first settlement was registered in 1957, and between 1975 and 1985, the population grew, accompanied by the arrival of basic services. Since the 1990s, the region has faced threats of displacement due to rising land values, which were accelerated in 2005 with the construction of the real estate project “Parque Cidade Jardim”. The community is surrounded by high-end condominiums, resulting in a walled-off area with limited public facilities. Its main recreational area is limited to a square and a football field. The nearest safe access to the park involves a 2.9 km walk, taking approximately 37 minutes.

**ROUTE BETWEEN
REAL PARQUE,
JARDIM PANORAMA,
AND BRUNO COVAS
LINEAR PARK**



Source: Instituto Caminhabilidade

PROJECT STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

The project emerged as an extension of the Rio Pinheiros Laboratory's activities, which conducts studies, experiments, and initiatives alongside the creation of the Bruno Covas Linear Park. In their research, they identified the urgent need to improve and facilitate access to the park via the Morumbi and João Dias bridges.

MAP OF ACCESS POINTS AND BRIDGES OF THE BRUNO COVAS LINEAR PARK



Source: Pinheiros River Laboratory (2023)

Based on this diagnosis, a process of training, assessment, and co-creation of urban mobility solutions was designed and implemented alongside women from the communities, aiming to make the region more walkable, participatory, equitable, and sustainable.

WALKABILITY

"Walkability is not the same as walking. While walking is the act of moving the body through steps, walkability refers to the conditions that favor this activity in cities, considering the interaction between different factors of the environment, such as: the built space, the natural environment, individual sensations, and people's behavior" (Sabino & Uchôa, 2020, own translation)."

((Sabino & Uchôa, 2020, own translation)

The project was carried out in five stages:

1. Mapping of Stakeholders and Local Coordination

Conducting a preliminary assessment of infrastructure and community organization, establishing alliances, and hiring women from the communities to serve as local coordinators of the project.

2. Training Workshops on the Connection Between Mobility and Climate Change

Presentation and discussion on the uniqueness of women's movements in the city, and the interrelationship between the concepts of walkability, urban mobility, climate change, feminist urbanism, the right to the city, and political advocacy.

Use of pedagogical resources in various formats (texts, illustrations, and audiovisual materials) to support the participation of individuals with reading and writing difficulties.

3. Participatory Diagnostic Workshops

Application of the Walkability Index with a gender and race perspective to analyze the routes between the communities and the Bruno Covas Linear Park. Evaluation based on the analysis of 23 aspects of public spaces.

ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES AND ASPECTS

 PODER CAMINHAR	 PODER CHEGAR E SAIR	 PODER VER E SER VISTA	 PODER ESTAR	 PODER PERTENCER	 PODER SENTIR E INTERAGIR
<i>avalia as condições básicas de caminhar em segurança e a priorização do caminhar</i>	<i>avalia os acessos, orientações e conexões com outros modos de transporte</i>	<i>avalia a visibilidade nas ruas e a oportunidade de ver e ser vista e percebida</i>	<i>avalia o conforto e segurança da rua e oportunidades de permanecer ou parar</i>	<i>avalia a informação e os símbolos e representações principalmente de mulheres negras</i>	<i>avalia a relação com os sentidos, espaço e diversidade de pessoas, assim como a vitalidade do espaço</i>
Espaço para caminhar	Orientação do caminhar	Transparência fachadas	Proteção de chuva e sol	Representatividade	Cuidado com as construções e rua
Condições do piso/ acessibilidade	Convite a pedalar	Visão de toda rua	Oportunidade sentar	Violência Simbólica de Gênero	Sons e ruídos
Atravessar	Acesso a transporte público	Refúgio	Iluminação	Violência Simbólica de Cor/Raça	Diversidade de pessoas
Velocidade máxima	Passagens e caminhos a pé	Atividades		Prioridade pedestres/a pé	

Source: Instituto Caminhabilidade

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4. Co-creation workshops for solutions

Analysis of the results from the routes, presentation of best practices in urban planning and walkability, and co-creation of proposals to address identified issues, with clear responsibility assignments. Refinement of the solutions prioritized by specialists in urban planning and walkability, with a view to presenting them in instances of political advocacy.

5. Political Advocacy

Meetings with key decision-makers to implement solutions, including the presentation of identified problems and co-created proposals, as well as agreements on next steps. Press advisory targeting influential media to amplify the impact of the project.

RESULTS:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

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Contributions to the effective generation of knowledge and learning processes, as well as the use of appropriate methods, practices, and standards in infrastructure and urban mobility.

Strengthening awareness of climate threats and promoting risk reduction.

DIAGNOSIS AND COMMUNITY TRAINING



4 participatory training and diagnostic workshops involving 20 Black, White, and Indigenous women and girls from different age groups, including illiterate and disabled participants.



3 assessments with a gender and race perspective on the **routes between communities** facing high socioeconomic and environmental vulnerability and the Bruno Covas Linear Park.

DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS



50 solutions developed for four localities in Peinha and five localities in Real Parque and Jardim Panorama, resulting in **nine prototypes** for **improving public spaces**, ready for implementation

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SYSTEMATIZATION AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE



1 digital magazine and **one podcast** on **walkability, female mobility, the right to the city, and the climate crisis**, available free of charge (Caminhabilidade, n.d-a, n.d-b)



Presentation of the project at three national and international events:

- Walk 21
- Placemaking América Latina
- UrbanSus - Culture, Care and Regeneration of Urban Rivers (UrbanSus, 2024).

RESULT DERIVED FROM THE INTERVENTION:

- Implementation of one of the solutions developed through the pilot project 'Pedaling Together' in Peinha, which is still under community management and includes 10 shared community bicycles.

Prototype Solutions for Peinha



- Pedestrian access to the park via the João Dias Bridge and the widening of the bridge's sidewalk.
- Sidewalk enhancement and maintenance.
- Speed reduction and signage improvements.
- Installation of a bicycle lane.
- Installation of directional signage, including maps, posters, and ground markings, with information on how to reach the park.
- Front-facing lighting.
- Increase in the number of garbage cans.
- Covering structures on sections of the bridge, supported by the railing and wall.



- Visual campaigns against harassment and racism, accompanied by artistic interventions that depict women in areas identified as particularly hostile and unsafe.



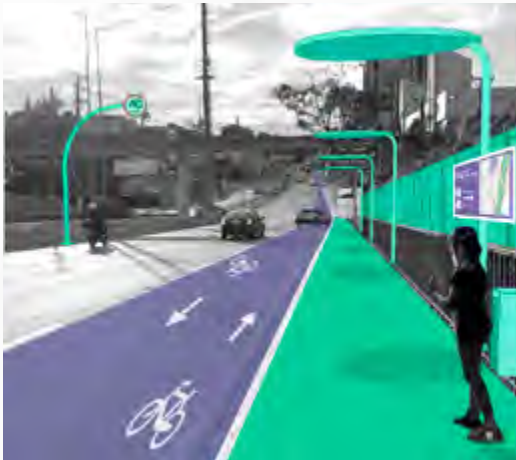
- Installation of pedestrian-priority signage at crossings and removal of guardrails that obstruct access.
- Installation of street furniture, such as benches, to encourage rest along the route.

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- Shared street design, including speed limit reduction, sidewalk leveling with plaza level, rest areas, and priority signage.

Prototype solutions for Real Parque and Jardim Panorama communities



- Creation of a new access to the park via the Morumbi bridge.
- Widening of the sidewalk of the bridge.
- Speed reduction measures.
- Installation of directional signage, including maps, plaques, and wall paintings, with information on how to reach the park.
- Anti-harassment and anti-racism messages.
- Front-facing lighting.
- Increase in the number of garbage cans.
- Installation of a bicycle lane.



- Flat crosswalk.
- Crosswalk and priority signage.
- Instalation of directional signage, including maps, plaques, and wall paintings, with information on how to reach the park.
- Sidewalk widening.
- Bicycle lanes.
- Lighting features.
- Wall and facade treatment.
- Promotion of street vending on inactive facades



- Implementation of a crossing over the desired path to continue the route (removal of guardrails).
- Installation of street furniture, such as benches, to promote rest along the route.



- Renaming streets after women to increase representation.



- Speed reduction measures.
- Evaluation of bus stops.

KEY CAUSES AND IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTING COMMUNITIES:

- Air pollution
- Pollution of rivers
- Frequent flooding
- Respiratory diseases

“ *My son has cerebral palsy and uses an inhaler and a pump due to breathing problems. I think if he could go to more areas with nature and vegetation, his health would be better.”*

Peinha resident

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KEY CONCERNS OF WOMEN'S URBAN MOBILITY IDENTIFIED:

- Exposure to gender-based violence during daily commutes.
- Insecurity due to accidents.
- Lack of signage suitable for all ages.

“ *Anyone about to cross the bridge feels they need to do so quickly, and if possible, they'll cross as fast as they can. Just before there is a catwalk, and there's a history of people being robbed or nearly suffering abuse there.”*

Resident of Jardim Panorama

“ *My biggest fear is getting lost”*

Child of a resident of Jardim Panorama

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED ALONG THE ROUTES TO THE BRUNO COVAS LINEAR PARK:

- **Deteriorated physical environment:**
Dirty or rundown streets and buildings.
- **Lack of adequate signage:**
insufficient information for pedestrians, buses, the metro, and cyclists.
- **Poor infrastructure:**
narrow, unpaved sidewalks and lack of adequate bicycle facilities.
- **Unsafe crossings:**
lack of safe and clearly marked pedestrian crossings.
- **Lack of route information:**
absence of maps or directions to the park and other destinations.
- **Absence of street furniture:**
lack of benches or resting areas, even at bus stops.
- **Insecurity in public space:**
few transparent facades, reducing visibility and opportunities for shelter in case of violence.
- **Lack of climate protection:**
absence of structures to shield from the sun and rain.
- **Inadequate lighting and noise pollution:**
absence of pedestrian-scale lighting and high levels of noise.
- **Lack of representation of women:**
limited presence of women in artistic interventions and signage, as well as insufficient information on channels for reporting gender and racial violence.

Records of negative aspects along the analyzed routes



Evaluation results for Peinha



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Evaluation results for Real Parque and Jardim Panorama

Source: Instituto Caminhabilidade

Contributions to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for the development of climate-resilient and low-emission solutions.

- **Publication of 6 reports** in local and national media, featuring interviews with project participants, to strengthen the public discourse on the issue.
- **Holding 2 advocacy meetings**, where the results were presented to **12 local government representatives** and **3 representatives** from the managing institutions of the Bruno Covas Linear Park. Subprefeitura de Butantã; Subprefeitura de Campo Limpo; SP Urbanismo; Traffic Engineering Company (Compañía de Ingeniería de Tráfico, CET) and Servicio Farah.
- **Commitment made by the park's managing institutions** to conduct feasibility studies for the implementation of the proposed actions.

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ADVOCACY MEETINGS

Source: Instituto Caminhabilidade



TELEVISION AND ONLINE REPORTS

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GCF:

- **Technical studies on access to green and urban blue spaces with a gender and diversity perspective:**

the ability to identify and analyze issues and opportunities aimed at expanding safe, democratic, and high-quality access to public spaces that serve both as leisure areas and climate shelters to mitigate heat islands caused by climate change.
- **Participatory walkability diagnosis with a gender and diversity perspective in urban environments:**

expertise in both quantitative and qualitative assessments of variables related to infrastructure, public space usage, and perceptions, with a focus on the particularities of women's mobility.
- **Participatory development of low-carbon urban mobility solutions with a gender and diversity approach:**

theoretical and methodological expertise in co-creating, prototyping, and implementing actions and interventions that contribute to sustainable urban development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and gender equality.
- **Multi-stakeholder and multi-level advocacy for the development and implementation of sustainable urban development policies:**

experience in designing projects and advocating on the public agenda within complex governance contexts that engage different levels of government, businesses, and civil society, with women as key protagonists.



ABOUT THE CAMINHABILIDADE INSTITUTE

The Caminhabilidade Institute is a non-profit organization, founded and led by women since 2012. Driven by the urgency of achieving gender equality and addressing the climate crisis, it promotes the development of walkable cities with citizen involvement. To this end, it implements projects and actions collaboratively, prioritizing vulnerable populations, particularly in marginalized areas, and fostering connections between civil society, public authorities, and other stakeholders. Its work is centered around two key areas: promoting the culture of walking and humanizing cities.

<https://caminhabilidade.org/>

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FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The five case studies featured in this publication highlight valuable experiences of territory-led projects advancing climate solutions with a gender perspective. Despite limited financial resources, these initiatives are implementing concrete and effective actions in response to the climate crisis. These experiences reveal a deeply inspiring reality: in the territories, and under the local leadership of women and other historically marginalized groups, integrated and sustainable responses are being developed, placing gender justice at the core of climate action.

The initiative to systematize and disseminate these experiences through case studies was made possible with the support of the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) and aims to contribute to the recognition of the work being carried out in the territories —work that is often ignored or undervalued by official climate finance mechanisms.

This publication specifically emphasizes a persistent gap: resources from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) -the main multilateral fund for climate finance- are not reaching these types of local projects, despite the Fund's progressive policies on direct access, inclusion, and gender. While we acknowledge the complexity that direct access represents for communities and local organizations -since these large financial mechanisms are not structurally designed for it- we believe the valuable experience of these organizations is being overlooked, experience that could enrich decision-making in climate finance.

In this context, we see an opportunity to foster a closer and more interactive relationship between the governance of climate funds —particularly the GCF— and the organizations leading climate solutions at the local level. To make the most of this opportunity, it is crucial to promote mechanisms that enable the effective participation and direct access of grassroots organizations to climate funds. One concrete approach is the creation of small grants windows within the GCF and similar funds, to finance local initiatives with high impact potential. Another option is to support accreditation processes for organizations that can act as intermediaries, facilitating access to funding for these types of projects.

With the support of GAGGA and the organizations behind this project, we hope this collection of case studies helps build bridges between those who design climate policies and make funding decisions; and those who, from their territories, are already generating real and transformative solutions. The active participation of local organizations —especially those with a strong feminist and intersectional approach— is essential for achieving climate finance that is truly just, accessible, and transformative.

