



CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE 2024-2030

Brazil Initiative



GOAL

We support efforts to conserve the Amazon and the Cerrado biomes; to ensure Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', local communities' and family farmers' land rights are secure and freely exercised; and to advance climate-resilience, forest economies, equity, and well-being through sustainable land use.

Why Brazil?

Brazil contains two unique biomes critical to people and the planet – the Amazon and the Cerrado, the world's largest rainforest and the most biodiverse savanna. The region is home to thousands of Indigenous and traditional peoples – including "quilombolas", communities founded by African descendants who resisted slavery in Brazil and whose legal rights are recognized under Brazilian law. And globally, the Amazon is critically important to the Earth's climate—both removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, while regulating rainfall patterns nearby and far away.

More than half of the Amazon biome is within Brazil's borders. 20% of the Brazilian Amazon has been deforested, with another 20% considered 'degraded', putting the forest too close to a tipping point where it will lose its capacity to regulate rainfalls and remove carbon emissions from the atmosphere. The rate of deforestation in the Cerrado increased in the beginning of this decade, with some 46% of its native vegetation already gone.

Indigenous Peoples, and Afro-Descendant Peoples and local communities protecting these forests are confronted with systemic barriers undermining their decision-making

power and rights to manage their lands, including a lack of title to the lands, lack of adequate policies and participation, and unequal access to resources. On top of this, organized crime networks contribute to deforestation by exploiting the Amazon and Cerrado for illegal logging, mining, and land grabbing.

In spite of the serious challenges, long-standing efforts continue to keep Brazil's forests standing and new opportunities are on the horizon – creating real potential for lasting change. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, local communities, family farmers, civil society organizations, elected representatives, progressive corporates – and their allies in Brazil and around the world – are working to expand rights and equity, halt deforestation, advance good governance and sustainable land use, create new protected areas and demarcated territories, and build forest economies that value social, ecological, and cultural diversity. These efforts hold significant promise for Brazil's diverse Amazon and Cerrado biomes being conserved and restored for the benefit of all humanity and to support a successful just transition for the country's economy.

The Brazil Initiative

The Brazil Initiative focuses on advancing climate-resilience and the conservation of the Amazon and Cerrado biomes by supporting efforts to expand and guarantee Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities', including family farmers', land rights, security, and sustainable forest economies. We also focus on shifting financial systems and production, consumption, and trade to address the drivers of deforestation.

In addition, we support efforts to improve governance, policy, and accountability around land use; and to strengthen movements, narratives, and collective action in favor of forest, people, and climate. Gender equity, racial justice, and well-being are fundamental to our focus.

What We Support

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports efforts to:



Secure Forest Communities' Rights and Livelihoods



Advance Governance, Policy & Accountability



Strengthen Movements, Narratives & Collective Action



Shift Financial Systems



Improve Production, Consumption & Trade



Secure Forest Communities' Rights & Livelihoods

Supporting Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities' efforts to secure and exercise their land rights and tenure, manage their forests, and support their livelihoods.

Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities are long-term guardians of forests and biodiversity. By law, they hold the right to demand land titles for the lands they have historically occupied. Five hundred years of unsustainable natural resource extraction and land use, together with a lack of effective land titling led to violent conflicts over land between farmers, companies and the State - as Brazil still has millions of hectares of undesignated public lands and a long way to advance on Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples' and local communities' land titling.

In addition to historical marginalization and unequal access to resources, Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples' and local communities' decision-making power is also undermined by a lack of adequate policies and participation, including free, prior, and informed consent for activities affecting their territories. Different criminal networks operating in the region directly impact forest protection and Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples' and local communities' territories.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports a range of organizations and movements to advance Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities' rights and livelihoods. This includes support for land titling, the development of sustainable forest economies and forest conservation, and increased access to finance.

WE SUPPORT

Territorial Rights Recognition

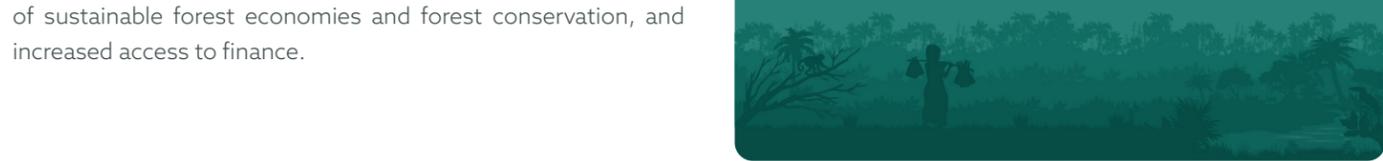
Mapping and supporting Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities' territorial demands and using data and strategic communication tools to advance land titling.

Sustainable Forest Economies

Providing technical assistance and expanding access to credit, markets, and needed services for diversified and sustainable forest economies that value biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities' rights and people's wellbeing.

Strengthening Community Funds

Supporting territorial and community funds created by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities to increase their access to funding.



Advance Governance, Policy & Accountability

Supporting effective environmental and social governance and policies while strengthening accountability to ensure equitable and sustainable management of forest resources and a just energy transition.

Sustainable management of public forests and of collective territories must be supported by policies that enhance forest economies, conservation, and communities' governance and well-being. Policies against structural racism, rights violations, and gender discrimination, particularly for access to land and finance, must be implemented. Land use for mining and agriculture must follow strong accountability processes.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports efforts to advance effective policies to prevent and address environmental crime, rights violations, deforestation and unsustainable land use. We also support work to secure good governance and greater transparency, safeguards, local participation, and oversight to ensure institutions are accountable to the commitments made at national and global levels to stop the drivers of deforestation. Impeding the social and environmental impacts of development models that threaten climate mitigation efforts are also a focus of our work.

WE SUPPORT

Greater Forest Protection

Increasing the designation of new protected areas and collective territories while promoting rights and effective management.

Sustainable Land Use and Climate Policies

Increasing effective policies for sustainable land use and climate resilience.

Ending Environmental Crime and Rights Violations

Supporting effective policies and systems that increase local resilience against environmental crimes and rights violations.

Increased Accountability

Promoting increased transparency, robust safeguards, local participation, and oversight to keep institutions accountable to commitments and strong standards.





Strengthen Movements, Narratives & Collective Action

Supporting resilient, inclusive movements, narratives, and collective action on justice and rights, forest protection and regeneration, and climate resilience.

The opportunity for transformational change for Brazil's forests is high—and the stakes are even higher as the Amazon nears critical tipping climate points and land grabbing, rights violations, and violence continue.

Collective action in favour of securing land and other collective rights, the protection of biomes and climate resilience is crucial. Protagonism and advocacy by strong, resilient, and inclusive movements can strengthen narratives and build the public support and political will needed for change.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports the advocacy of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local community organizations, shifting narratives in favour of justice, forests, and climate resilience; and broader movements in building collective action.

WE SUPPORT

The Protagonism of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and Local Communities

Supporting the efforts of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local community organizations to strengthen and exercise a leading role in socio-environmental agendas.

Strengthening and Shifting Narratives

Increasing audience-centered and data-driven efforts to shift narratives in support of land rights; racial, gender, and environmental justice; conservation of biomes for climate resilience, water security, livelihoods and well-being, and sustainable forest economies.

Increased Collective Action

Engaging and mobilizing public, private, and political actors as well as other key segments of the population through effective collective action by civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendants, and Local Community organizations, and broader movements.



Shift Financial Systems

Supporting economic transitions that strengthen equity and transparency, revitalize forest economies, and reverse forest loss, while mobilizing more accessible and effective finance for forests and communities.

Meeting the need for financing and advancing technologies for the world's energy and food system transitions must be achieved without increasing deforestation, degradation, or socio-environmental conflicts.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports organizations demanding increased transparency around public and private finance, along with fiscal frameworks and policies supportive of sustainable forest economies, and greater access to finance to protect and restore forests and ensure they are effectively managed, while supporting low-carbon agriculture.

WE SUPPORT

Finance for Forest Economies

Increasing access to national and international finance for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, local communities, small farmers, and entrepreneurs to advance sustainable, equitable forest economies.

Low-emission, Climate-resilient Agriculture

Advancing fiscal and financial policy frameworks that move economies away from deforestation and degradation-driving activities and toward low-emission agriculture and sustainable forest economies.

Increased Financial Transparency and Oversight

Promoting greater transparency and oversight of investments to avoid links to environmental crime and mitigate negative environmental and social impacts.

Support for Just Transitions

Promoting that the world's energy and digital transitions are achieved without increasing deforestation or socio-environmental conflicts.



Improve Production, Consumption & Trade

Supporting shifts in agricultural production, consumption, and trade toward lower-emissions, climate-resilient alternatives that benefit people and the environment, and increasing the sustainability of infrastructure and extractive industries in ways that protect communities and nature.

Both the Amazon and Cerrado are essential to stabilizing local and the global climates, storing carbon, securing freshwater, and regulating rainfall both nearby and far away. Agricultural production, as well as consumption and trade, must shift to ensure both biomes are conserved.

Deforestation, land conversion, and rights violations are also driven by poorly planned infrastructure and extractive industries, including the production of transition minerals, due to a lack of transparency and social oversight.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports efforts to remove deforestation and rights violations from supply chains, to enhance sustainable forest economies, and improve local food systems supporting livelihoods and well-being.

WE SUPPORT

Increased Investment and Support for Sustainable Forest Economies

Promoting greater access to investment and technical support, guaranteeing business ecosystems that boost and consolidate sustainable forest economies that value biodiversity, rights, and human well-being.

Improved Food Systems

Supporting local and sustainable food systems grounded in thriving forest economies and low-emission agriculture, helping to fight illegal economies, gender inequality, and structural racism.

High Integrity in Forest Carbon Markets

Ensuring forest carbon markets operate with high social and environmental integrity, particularly within Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendants', local communities' territories.

Deforestation- and Conflict-Free Supply Chains

Advancing efforts to ensure the private sector adopts practices that are consistent with low-emission agriculture, biome conservation, thriving forest economies, and zero-tolerance of rights violations.



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