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INDIGENOUS TRAINING

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Photo: João Paulo Guimarães

BRAZILIAN INDIGENOUS AMAZON AT COP30

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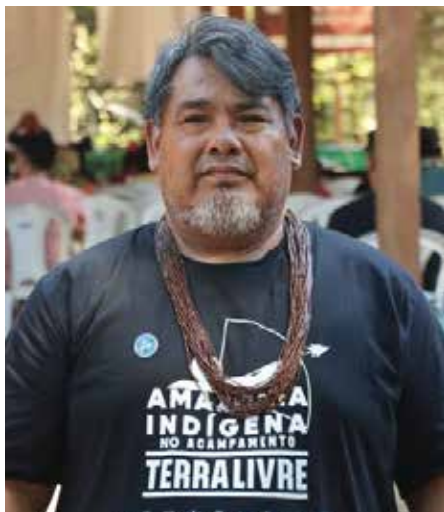


HOST OF
COP30

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATION



Photo: Acervo Coiab



Dear relatives, partners, and friends of the Indigenous movement,

We arrive at COP30 with hearts full of strength and a deep sense of accomplishment. Coiab and the Indigenous movement of the Brazilian Amazon have been preparing for this moment for quite some time – long before the official announcement that the Climate Conference would take place in Brazil.

Over the past two years, we have embarked on a meaningful journey that began during the People's Summit, when we first learned that the COP could be hosted in our country. Since then, we have been working to strengthen our

agenda and secure spaces for Indigenous leadership within the global climate debate.

Among our achievements, two initiatives stand out. The first is the creation of the Amazonian Indigenous Funding Mechanism, linked to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. This tool represents a concrete step forward in the quest for autonomy and empowerment of Indigenous communities across the region.

The second is the “The Answer is Us” campaign, born within Coiab during our communications planning process. It brought together Indigenous communicators from the Brazilian Amazon and other regions, such as the Northeast, as well as the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (Apib), to join forces. This campaign carries a crucial message: responsibility for protecting the environment and the planet belongs to everyone, not only to Indigenous peoples.

We are also working closely with the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples (MPI), especially in developing a policy that recognizes the demarcation and ownership of indigenous lands as a climate policy. This dialogue marks an important step toward Brazil and other countries recognizing the role of Indigenous Peoples in preserving life and combating climate change.

Throughout this journey, Coiab has grown stronger as an Indigenous organization of the Brazilian Amazon, expanding ties and building alliances with other organizations from the Amazon Basin, Australia, and the Pacific region. These partnerships boost our presence in international spaces and open up new ways to work together.

Our goal at COP30 is to share our work and reaffirm our proposals, especially the inclusion of Indigenous land tenure in global climate policies. We know that this recognition depends not only on the Brazilian government but also on all the countries that are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

If the breakthrough does not come now, we will continue steadfastly toward COP31, COP32, and beyond, confident that each step is part of a collective journey in defense of the Earth, of our peoples, and our future.

Toya Manchineri
Executive Director, Coiab

Photo: Rafael Melguciro



Dear readers, relatives, and allies of the Indigenous movement,

The journey of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon toward COP30 did not begin today. It is the result of many years of struggle, organization, education, and of Indigenous leaders' participation in decisions that shape the future of our lands and our planet. We have learned to understand the logic behind how COPs work, to occupy spaces that were once denied to us, and to make our voices heard in global climate discussions.

Brazil's hosting of COP30 is both a symbol of resistance and recognition. It represents the continuation of a path first walked by our ancestors, who, with courage, left their lands to learn from other realities and open new roads ahead. Today, we are the ones welcoming the world into our home, bringing with us our cultural, spiritual, and political strength.

Throughout this process, we have traveled across the Amazon, listening to every People, every region, every leader within the Coiab network. In doing so, we reaffirmed that our lands are not only



spaces that hold life, but also wisdom, economy, spirituality, and resistance. We have been facing the climate crisis for a long time, and we know that true solutions depend on respect for our ways of life and our ways of caring for the Earth.

We arrive at COP30 with two powerful feelings. The first is the pride of welcoming the Peoples of the world and showing that we have resisted colonization and remain firm in who we are and what we believe in. The second feeling is concern with the current political climate, marked by setbacks and attacks on our rights. While the world seeks to curb climate change, we watch a deeply anti-Indigenous National Congress act in the opposite direction, pushing forward bills that violate the Constitution and accelerate environmental destruction.

That is why I leave a message to every reader – Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike: each of us has a responsibility for what lies in our hands. Just as a parent cares for their home, we must care for our shared home, the Earth. Indigenous Peoples have fulfilled their role in protecting our lands. Now, it is up to society, governments, and every individual to also take up this responsibility. Only then will we be able to secure a dignified future for future generations.

Alcebias Sapará
Deputy Director, Coiab



Greetings, relatives!

I am proud to say that one of our greatest achievements throughout this journey of fighting climate change, since the pre-COP meetings, is having an Indigenous woman from the Amazon serving as the Special Representative at the COP30 Presidency: Sineia do Vale, from the Wapichana People of Roraima state. She is a woman who inspires us, carrying the voices of Indigenous Peoples into international climate decision-making spaces and showing the world the strength of our movement.

Coiab has been closely following the pre-COP meetings organized by the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples (MPI) across the nine states of the Brazilian Amazon, listening to the grassroots bases and sharing information about what COP30 in Belém will look like. This work ensures that information about the Conference reaches

Indigenous territories directly, keeping our communities informed about global developments and helping us stay organized to mobilize collectively and safely.

We remain aligned with our grassroots organizations, networks, and regional coalitions because the Amazon is our home. We cannot allow it to be treated as a commodity, because our very lives are at stake. Climate imbalance is already affecting us and threatening future generations. That is why our struggle is unique, collective, and urgent. Our goal is to make a difference in these global stages and to strengthen the voices of Indigenous leaders, ensuring a continuous presence in international, national, state, and regional forums.

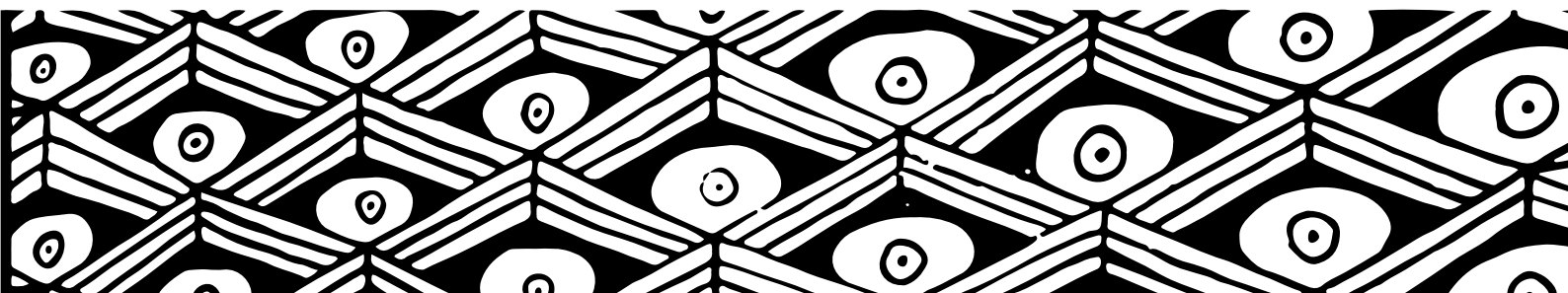
We also celebrate the work of the Amazonian Center for Indigenous Training (CAFI), which is training our leaders to be protagonists of their own stories and to engage confidently in debates on climate and land tenure. As



Photo: Rafael Melgueiro

we arrive at COP30, may our demands be heard. May our shouts of resistance for the climate and the Amazon continue to echo: the answer is us! Because there is no other word powerful enough to change the world.

Dineva Kayabi
Treasurer, Coiab



MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATION

Photo: Bruna Sirayp



To my relatives, my greetings!

We get here strengthened by the living energy that fuels the daily struggle of the Brazilian Amazon's Indigenous peoples. We are children, youth, women, and elders, and in our way of life and

ancestral culture lies the very answer the world seeks to preserve the environment.

For too long, we were denied access to the decision-making spaces that determine how the forest, our home, would be managed. In those arenas, our knowledge, passed down through generations of our ancestors who kept the forest standing, was ignored and undervalued.

Our presence across various arenas before, during, and after COP30 is the result of years of effort and commitment. These activities gave us the opportunity to make our voices echo throughout our own home, showing the world how essential our participation is to achieving meaningful progress in slowing down the natural imbalance of the planet caused by predatory practices over the years.

We are writing history through political dialogue, providing context for the realities Indigenous peoples face today in Brazil. This was only made possible through lived experience, gained by walking alongside communities as COIAB's representative, listening to their needs, understanding their realities, and strengthening each People's leadership and protagonism.

My hope is that this truly becomes Amazon's COP: one where we are heard, where our remarks are taken into account in final decisions, and where the Indigenous lands tenure is recognized as a climate policy. We are the continuation of those who came before us, and we will be the resistance that ensures a dignified future for those yet to come!

Marciely Ayap Tupari
Chief Operating Officer, Coiab

Greetings to our relatives, allies, and readers,

It is with great joy and also a deep sense of responsibility that I share this message with all of you at this historic moment, as we witness the COP30, an encounter taking place in the Amazon that brings together Peoples, governments, and partners from around the world to debate the future of our planet and its biodiversity.

Since 2024, we have intensified our actions and advocacy around climate change, a challenge that directly affects the lives of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon. The changes in the climate have brought severe consequences to our territories and our way of life. That is why it is essential that we are coordinated, strengthened, and united to make our voices heard at this COP.

The Indigenous Amazon arrives at COP30 with courage, wisdom, and hope, but also with a firm determination to resist and to offer solutions to slow down the climate crisis. Our leaders come from a journey of struggles and shared learning, grounded in the unity of our Peoples. Over these four years, Coiab has worked tirelessly alongside its grassroots units to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples, to strengthen land and environmental governance, and to ensure that the voice of the Amazon is heard in decision-making spaces.

To you, our readers, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike, who follow Coiab's work and believe in the importance of this fight, I offer my gratitude and an invitation: let us continue together in the defense of the Amazon, our territories, and the life that thrives within.

Sérgio Marworno
Deputy Operating Officer, Coiab



Photo: Acervo Coiab

Greetings relatives!

We are living in a historic moment, witnessing Coiab's significant progress in addressing, in a qualified way, issues previously inaccessible to Indigenous Peoples and their leaders. For a long time, taking part in climate conferences was often a mere formality, with little real empowerment or space for Indigenous voices in the discussions.

As a political organization of great relevance and constant presence, Coiab has rebuilt and strengthened Indigenous participation in national and international arenas, empowering leaders, women, and youth to assume their rightful roles as climate authorities.

On this basis, our organization builds a path of socialization, breaking down barriers and preparing grassroots communities and territories, overturning the narrative that these spaces are inaccessible or unviable for Indigenous Peoples.

The need for technical qualifications and preparation for COP30 has been essential to ensure that Indigenous leaders can make concrete, informed contributions to address the global climate crisis.

The achievements of these efforts include empowering leaders across the Amazon to own and lead the climate agenda, training Indigenous youth and women, and emphasizing the role and contributions of Indigenous peoples and territories as authorities in tackling the climate crisis. Moreover, these efforts have helped make the Amazon more visible as a populated, diverse biome, rather than an untouched, lifeless forest with no owners.

The Amazon remains standing because indigenous peoples have managed it efficiently for thousands of years.

We arrive at COP30 with a sense of unity, alliance, and strength. The mobilization and dialogue among Indigenous authorities, the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge systems, the protection of territories and indigenous land tenure fight, and the commitment to defending the lives of isolated Indigenous peoples – all central themes in strategic discussions – have shown us that Coiab's role, struggle, and agenda truly make a difference in reaffirming our rights as Indigenous Peoples.

We will leave this legacy: from now on, no climate conference will be able to move forward with its goals and commitments without recognizing Indigenous existence as a fundamental part of the solution to the climate crisis.

The answer is us
Esmahthoneme kitatxitxi!

Angela Kaxuyana
Coiab's Representative for the
Amazon Basin



Photo: Kati Gavião



Photo: Pepyaká Krikati

Hello relatives!

Our organization has been building a solid foundation of experience in international arenas, not only in the Climate and Biodiversity COPs, but also across other global forums addressing Indigenous rights.

We have been promoting the demands of the Indigenous movement

in the Brazilian Amazon to these spaces, working in coordination with organizations from the nine countries of the Amazon Basin, through alliances such as Coica and the G9 Group. This collective trajectory of advocacy and mobilization has led us to this important milestone: COP30.

Since 2023, we have worked strategically toward COP30, advancing the development of an Indigenous Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) proposal, specific to the Brazilian Amazon. This document aligns with the broader framework for the Amazon Basin and is connected to Apib's national Indigenous NDC. In addition, we have initiated international dialogues with Indigenous Peoples from other regions, strengthening the Indigenous Peoples' Troika and ensuring continuity in the global climate and biodiversity discussions.

I also highlight the strengthening of Indigenous funding mechanisms, with the Podáli Fund as a global

benchmark, ensuring autonomy and direct management of resources by the indigenous peoples of the Brazilian Amazon. These advances represent strategic achievements and further consolidate our political and technical engagement at the international level.

We arrive at COP30 with a sense of mission partially accomplished. The greatest challenge lies beyond COP30: ensuring that the commitments made by global leaders and the Brazilian government are effectively implemented. We will continue working in coordination with Apib, the Peoples of the Amazon Basin, and the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities to ensure that our participation yields concrete results in protecting territories, ways of life, and collective rights.

Kleber Karipuna
Coiab's Executive
Secretary at Apib

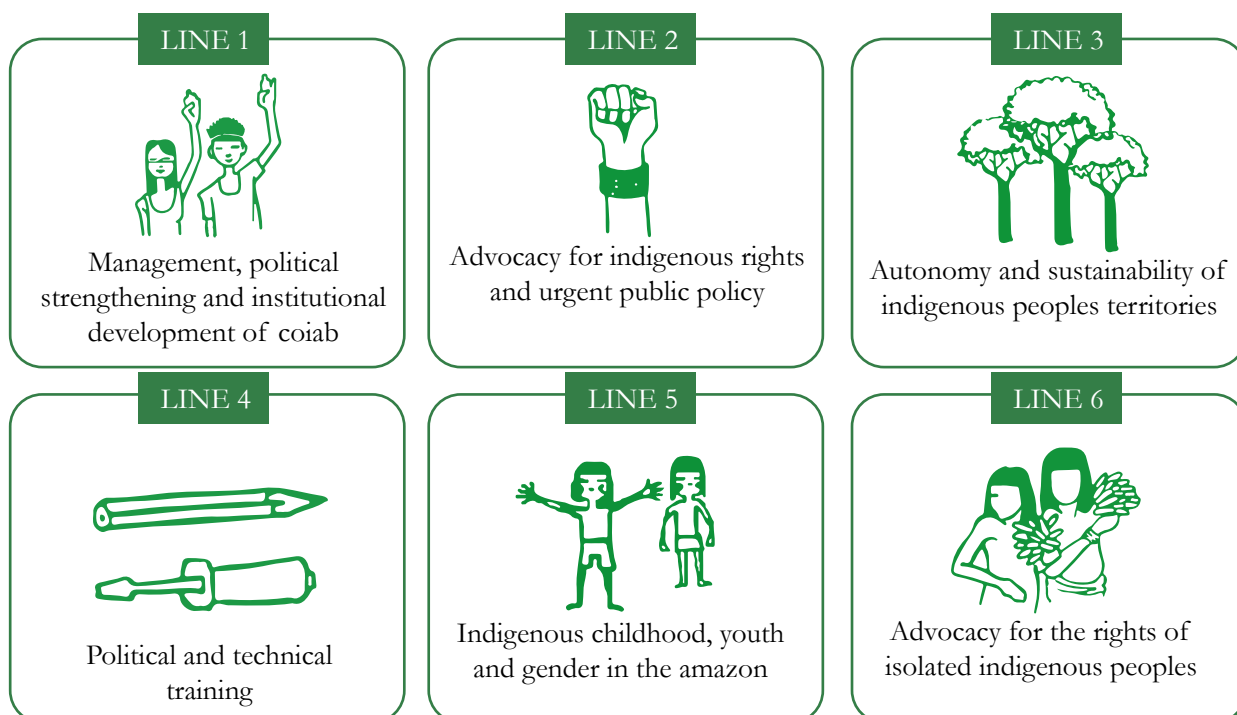
ABOUT COIAB

The Joint Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (Coiab) is Brazil's largest regional Indigenous coalition. It emerged from the political struggle of Indigenous Peoples for the recognition and exercise of their rights. Coiab's mission is to defend Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, health, education, culture, and sustainability, honoring the diversity among Indigenous Peoples and working toward their autonomy through political advocacy and the strengthening of Indigenous organizations.

Our organization operates across the nine states of the Brazilian Amazon – Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, and Tocantins – and is subdivided into 64 regions.



HOW WE WORK



OUR PROJECTS
2024 – as of October 21, 2025

26
PARTNERS

42
PROJECTS
UNDERWAY

02
COMPLETED

10
IN FUNDRAISING

10
NEWLY APPROVED
PROJECTS



HOST OF
COP30

THE ANSWER IS US



Angela Kaxuyana | Photo: Carolina Givoni; Luene Karipuna | Photo: Arquivo pessoal; Tailia Ha'hut | Photo: Arquivo pessoal; Marinete Tukano | Photo: Vicente Taveira; Mayla Karajá | Photo: Arquivo pessoal; Dineva Kayabi | Photo: Vicente Taveira; Hosana Poruborá | Photo: Arquivo pessoal; Rosimere Arapaço | Photo: Anderson Arapaço/Apiam; Sineia Wapichana | Photo: Vicente Taveira; Marinês Apurinã | Photo: Arquivo pessoal.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN LEADERS FROM THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON IN CLIMATE ADVOCACY

INDIGENOUS WOMEN ARE CLAIMING LEADING ROLES IN CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE IN THEIR TERRITORIES

By *Carolina Givoni*

On the front lines of the climate crisis, Indigenous women from the Brazilian Amazon are confronting the devastating effects of environmental destruction while fighting to protect their territories and ways of life. Guardians of the forest and keepers of ancestral knowledge, they have become key figures in climate advocacy, organizing through regional networks, taking part in international conferences, and proposing policies that bridge science and tradition.

Despite progress, their path remains full of challenges: exclusion from decision-making spaces, environmental racism, and the silencing of their voices. Through interviews with ten women from different Amazon regions, this article reveals how they have transformed pain into political strength, reaffirming the role of Indigenous women as climate authorities and defenders of life.

Mayla Karajá, a young leader from Tocantins, highlighted: “To defend our territory is to defend life, culture, and the future of generations to come. When we see the burnt fields, the game disappearing, and rivers drying up, we feel the urgency to act. The youth must get involved, learn from our elders, and take responsibility to ensure the preservation's continuity. We must prepare young leaders who understand the forest, who know every spring and every field, so that our resistance endures.”

Rosimere Arapaço is the Deputy Director of Makira-E'ta, the Network of Indigenous Women of the State of Amazonas. She shared that “When we visited communities along the Rio Negro – in Barcelos, Tefé, and Rio Cuieiras – we witnessed the impacts of prolonged drought on crops and

people's lives. Fields of banana, cupuaçu, açaí, pupunha, and Brazilian nuts were destroyed by fire. Children and elders are suffering from respiratory illnesses and lack of water. It is in these moments that we realize how women's ancestral knowledge, the way we care for the land and the water, is essential to confronting the climate crisis. Our work is to show that preservation begins within each community.”

Tailia Ha'hut, head of the Federal Brigade of the Governador Indigenous Land in Maranhão, recalled: “In 2016, 90% of our territory burned. Children got sick, springs dried up, game disappeared. It motivated me to fight to restore part of our land and ensure a safe future for the next generations. Nowadays, our brigade works to prevent fires, protect water sources, and strengthen the community's food autonomy. Every action is an act of resistance and protection.”

Angela Amanakwa Kaxuyana, co-founder of the Federation of Indigenous Peoples of the State of Pará (Fepipa) and COIAB representative in the Amazon Basin, remarked: “Indigenous women are guardians of the territory. Taking part in councils and decision-making spaces allows us to propose policies that truly reflect the needs of our communities. Our voices amplify the participation of other women and ensure that our knowledge about water, farming, and hunting is recognized. When we develop environmental protection projects, we show that it’s possible to unite tradition and science.”

Luene Karipuna, executive coordinator of the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of Amapá and Northern Pará (Apoiap), representing the Oiapoque region, said: “We are on the front lines against oil exploration in our lands, which threatens our rivers, forests, and our families’ way of life. Women’s resistance has been crucial: we organize our community, denounce illegal activities, and seek support from advocacy networks to push for public policies. The fight against oil is also a fight for life, for clean water, and for the preservation of our culture.”

Dineva Kayabi, Coiab’s treasurer and an Indigenous leader from Mato Grosso, shared her experience: “The challenges are immense. Long-lasting droughts are destroying crops and affecting families’ food supply. Many times, we don’t have enough resources to support all the communities, but we never give up. We need to combine knowledge and empower women and youth to preserve ancestral wisdom. Taking part in meetings and climate debates allows our experiences to influence broader political decisions.”

Marines Apurinã, a leader of the Apurinã People in Acre, added: “Climate change is directly affecting our way of life. The flood and drought cycles no longer follow their usual patterns, disrupting fishing, agriculture, and even our rituals. Women are the first to notice these changes because they are the ones caring for the fields, water, and food. We are working to strengthen our networks and train women and youth to participate in climate policy, ensuring that decisions are made with our involvement.”

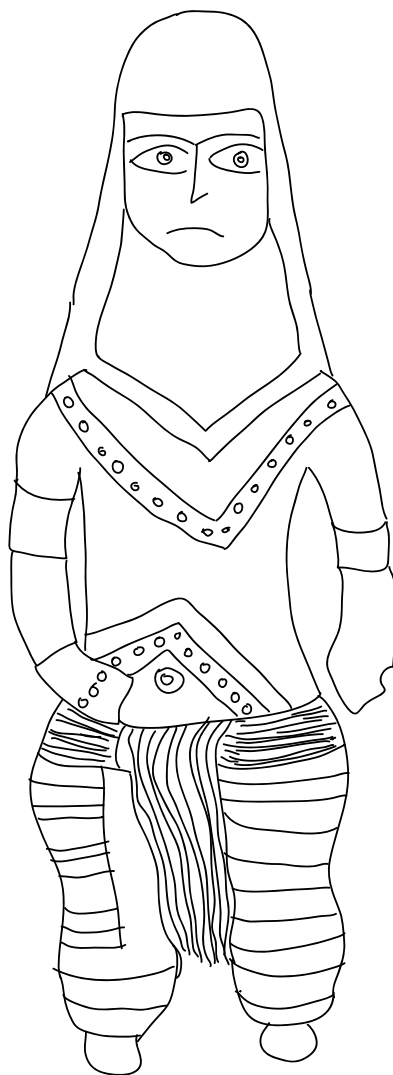
Hosana Poruborá, the first female chief in Rondônia, who lives in Seringueiras, said: “Creating a school in our territory was a huge step forward. Educating our children is an act of resistance, a way to ensure that traditional knowledge and forest protection are passed on to future generations. I’ve faced death threats, but that hasn’t stopped us. Women’s resistance is the resistance of the entire community.”

Sineia Wapichana, Head of the Department of Territorial, Environmental, and Climate Change Management of the Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR), Coordinator of the Indigenous Climate Change Committee (CIMC), and Special Representative at the COP30 Presidency, emphasized: “Women must occupy decision-making spaces. When that happens, we can propose policies that truly address our needs. Our climate knowledge is vital and must be respected. Through collective action, we can make progress, strengthen women, and ensure the protection of our crops, rivers, and forests.”

Marinete Tukano, Executive Director of the Union of Indigenous Women of the Brazilian Amazon (Umiab), noted: “Women are guardians of the fields, the game, and the water. Taking part in advocacy networks, exchanging experiences, and sharing solutions strengthens us to face the impacts of climate change. We must expand women’s participation at every level of decision-making and ensure our voices are heard.”

The women leaders of the Amazon show that female leadership is central to building fair climate policies. From Roraima to Maranhão, from Amazonas to Pará, from Amapá to Rondônia, from Mato Grosso to Acre and Tocantins, they contribute diverse yet converging perspectives: to protect territories, preserve ways of life, and strengthen women’s leadership in environmental policy.

Every protected field, every monitored spring, and every trained young woman represents progress in the fight against environmental destruction. The collective strength and ancestral knowledge of Indigenous women are shaping effective climate policies, protecting the Amazon, and inspiring the world to learn from the forest’s wisdom. As these leaders remind us, the Amazon is not just a territory to be preserved: it is home, culture, and life for millions who depend on its protection to thrive.



Clay Doll – Karajá, TO



REDD+ Course. Credits: Coiab Collection. Graduation of the Strategic Training Course for Indigenous Leaders – May 2025 – Manaus, AM. Credits: Antônio Marinho. Coiab Indigenous Communicators' Training. Credits: Coiab Collection. Cafí Parentiño. Credits: Thaigon Arapiun.

COIAB CONSOLIDATES INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AS A PATH TO AUTONOMY AND RESISTANCE IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

CREATED BY COIAB, THE AMAZONIAN CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS TRAINING (CAFI) GETS TO COP30 WITH ADVANCES IN THE POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING OF LEADERS, REAFFIRMING INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AS A KEY INSTRUMENT FOR DEFENDING TERRITORIES AND STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLES OF THE AMAZON

By Antônio Marinho Piratapuya

With a journey marked by innovation and a steadfast commitment to fortifying the political and technical capacity of Indigenous leadership, the Amazonian Center for Indigenous Training (Cafi) arrives at COP30 with a positive balance of achievements in Indigenous education. Created in 2006 by Coiab, Cafi has become one of the main hubs for strategic training of Indigenous leaders and youth across the Brazilian Amazon.

According to Gracinha Manchineri, Cafi's Training Manager and Pedagogical Director, the initiative represents "the culmination of the Amazonian peoples' collective effort to ensure that knowledge walks hand in

hand with autonomy and Indigenous protagonism." She explains that Cafi's training "is not only technical, but also political, identity-based, and territorial," because, as she puts it, "to train an Indigenous leader means training people who are capable of understanding the world without giving up their roots and their community."

More than 100 leaders were trained during Cafi's first phase, which remained active until 2011. In 2022, Coiab resumed the initiative to continue strengthening indigenous leaders in the fight for rights alongside grassroots organizations in the Indigenous movement. Since then, Cafi has been building alliances and

designing new methodologies that combine traditional and academic knowledge. A landmark moment was the unprecedented partnership with Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV), which led to the Public Management Training Course for Indigenous Leaders, aimed at regional coordinators from Funai, Special Indigenous Health Districts (DSEIs), and organizations within Coiab's network.

It was the first time FGV adapted its teaching methodology to the Indigenous reality, based on guidelines developed by Cafi itself. The initiative marked a new model of cooperation: organizations working as equals, with Indigenous pedagogy orienting the process.

Another milestone was the creation of Cafi's Political-Pedagogical Project, which defines the identity, history, and culture of Indigenous peoples as the foundation for all training. Inspired by Paulo Freire, the methodology begins with "territorial issues" and builds collective solutions from local realities. "Identity is essential because Cafi works in new territorial contexts, those under invasion, that are undergoing intrusion, and that are being impacted by large enterprises," explained Gracinha Manchineri.

Coiab has also taken important steps toward developing its training policy on climate change, carbon markets, and jurisdictional REDD+. According to Manchineri, this demand came directly from Indigenous communities due to the way these programs have been implemented in their territories, underscoring the need for greater transparency and education on the topic.



Indigenous Peoples and jurisdictional REDD+ course participants. / Photo: Coiab Archive

"Coiab currently has a very clear political stance on this issue. We believe governments must review their jurisdictional REDD+ policies and truly listen to Indigenous leadership on the matter. Communities must understand what these programs entail and their implications. That's why COIAB advocates for safeguards to be discussed more transparently, ensuring Indigenous rights are respected in any REDD+ project. We've also expanded our work internationally, especially at the UN, and established a partnership with ART, a certifier, to review certification processes and ensure the benefits of carbon projects reach Indigenous Peoples," said Manchineri.

Despite these advances, Cafi still faces structural challenges, such as consolidating its pedagogical team, expanding administrative capacity, and securing continuous funding to maintain and expand its activities across the Amazon. The goal for 2026 is to decentralize training, taking courses and methodologies to Coiab's ethno-regions.

More than offering courses, Cafi shapes consciousness. Its actions reflect the conviction that Indigenous education is a tool for autonomy, resistance, and transformation. As the Amazon hosts COP30, the Amazonian Center for Indigenous Training (Cafi) reaffirms its commitment to weaving knowledge and empowering leadership in defense of territory and the future of Indigenous peoples.

Education, Climate, and Rights: The Forces Moving the Amazon

In recent years, Cafi has expanded its reach, developing courses and projects that directly address the challenges faced in Amazonian territories and communities. Concrete results are already evident: leaders trained by Cafi now hold positions in Indigenous organizations, public institutions, and community initiatives across multiple states in the Brazilian Amazon. The impact is also reflected in the growing participation of women and youth in political and decision-making spaces. Among the main themes covered by Cafi's programs are:

Large-scale projects and socio-environmental policies

Indigenous economies and territorial monitoring

Health literacy and community well-being

Training on gender and violence prevention

Governance of Indigenous organizations

Training for territorial monitoring agents (MonitorGAT)

Climate change, carbon market, and REDD+

Indigenous communication and media training

"With every course, Cafi listens to the territories. The training programs arise from the communities' own demands, ensuring that knowledge is always at the service of life, the defense of territories, and the protection of rights," explains Gracinha Manchineri.



Inaugural lecture of the strategic training course | Photo: Pedro Tukano

Training New Leaders

Between March and May 2025, Coiab, through Cafi, organized the Strategic Leadership Training Course for Indigenous Leaders, a three-month program held in Manaus (AM). The initiative trained 34 representatives from over 20 Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon, combining theoretical knowledge with hands-on experiences in management, political articulation, and strengthening grassroots organizing.

Among the participants was Jucimery Garcia, a young woman from the Tariano People, coordinator of the Department of Indigenous Adolescents and Youth at the Federation of Indigenous Organizations of the Rio Negro (FOIRN). She describes the experience as transformative.

“The course was rich in knowledge, especially for those beginning their journey in the Indigenous movement. We learned about the realities of other states, of different organizations, and grassroots movements, which strengthen our work in the Rio Negro region,” she said.

The course included modules on research methodologies, project design and management, conflict mediation, climate change, and carbon markets. For Jucimery, the conflict mediation classes were particularly impactful, enabling participants to reflect on how to address sensitive issues within their communities. “We learned to put ourselves in others’ shoes, to organize and prioritize community needs, and to understand how listening and dialogue are essential to strengthening the Indigenous movement,” she reflected.

The activity also addressed reflections on the representation of youth and women in decision-making spaces. Jucimery noted that the training helps amplify their voices and prepares them to take on strategic roles in shaping public policy: “Today, youth are seen as the guardians and future elders of our communities. Participating in this training prepares us to take on responsibilities and actively contribute to community decisions,” she said.

Looking ahead, Jucimery underscored the importance of maintaining and expanding such programs: “It’s essential that Coiab continues to offer courses like this for youth, women, and new leaders. Each person trained brings learning to their community, strengthening the base and preparing new leaders.” Held in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and funded by the Amazon Fund, with participation from Coiab’s network organizations. A new edition is being planned for 2026.

**IN 2025, CAFI
ORGANIZED
12 COURSES
660 PARTICIPANTS
TRAINED**



Jucimeire Tariano, Student of the Strategic Training for Indigenous Leaders. Credits: Coiab Collection



Delivery of the letter to the government representative. Photo: Thaigon Arapiun

“Cafi Parentinho”: Children’s Voices in Training and in the Fight

One of Coiab’s most innovative initiatives is “Cafi Parentinho”, a project inspired by an observation from Toya Manchineri, Coiab’s Executive Director, who has long been attentive to gender issues and the inclusion of Indigenous families in training processes.

The space ensures that indigenous women can participate in training activities while their children experience their own educational space, with methodologies designed for indigenous children. Cafi Parentinho also aims to “bring children’s voices” into the political debate, recognizing them as rights-bearing subjects and future guardians of the territories.

According to Gracinha Manchineri, the initiative was created with four main goals: to ensure that mothers can take part in Indigenous movement discussions; to promote educational activities on climate change with children; to expand the project across Amazonian states; and to strengthen children’s voices as part of the Indigenous struggle and resistance.

On the final day of the 2025 Free Land Camp (Acampamento Terra Livre

- ATL), Indigenous and non-Indigenous children who participated in Cafi Parentinho’s activities presented a letter titled “Manifesto of Indigenous Children: The Answer Is Us” to Sônia Guajajara, Minister of Indigenous Peoples, and Marina Silva, Minister of Environment and Climate Change. In the document, the children called for concrete actions to protect the environment and slow down climate change.



“We, the Indigenous children of the Amazon and the world, are the voice of the Earth that never falls silent, and the roots that hold the future. We are here to care for our world, our forest, and above all, our right to exist. Every day, we see the things around us changing,” declare the children in the manifesto.

For Coiab, listening to children’s voices means recognizing them as part of the collective journey in defense of territory and life itself. “Indigenous children are not seen merely as small beings, but as individuals who, from an early age, learn from their parents the importance of the struggle and the preservation of territories,” explains Gracinha Manchineri.



Dito pelo ChatGPT: Visit of Minister Macé Evaristo at the Cafi Parentinho tent – ATL, 2025 – Brasília. Credits: Pedro Prisma



Manifesto Cafi Parentinho



Winners of the Indigenous Science Award. Photo: Podáali Archive

FROM TERRITORY TO TERRITORY

HOW THE PODÁALI FUND CHANNELS RESOURCES DIRECTLY TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE AMAZON

By Karina Pinheiro

Ensuring that resources reach indigenous communities without intermediaries and in a fair and transparent manner is one of Podáali – Indigenous Fund for the Brazilian Amazon's main missions. Created within Coiab, the Fund was established to strengthen the self-determination and leadership of indigenous peoples and to consolidate a financing model designed and implemented by indigenous leaders.

As the first Indigenous-led fund with an Amazon-wide scope created by Coiab, Podáali has built its own governance framework, internal regulations, and strategic planning, channeling resources primarily from international philanthropy.

From its inception, Podáali has been developing its own funding mechanisms. All decisions are made through Indigenous bodies, such as the Deliberative Council and Working Groups (GTs), which ensure that funds reach communities in the region's far corners.

“The Fund is a technical mechanism of the

Indigenous movement, managed by and for Indigenous Peoples, to support their initiatives, projects, and life goals. Podáali seeks to establish an ‘Indigenous philanthropy’ that recognizes and values Indigenous forms of social organization,” explains Rose Apurinã, Deputy Executive Director of Podáali.

The types of support offered by Podáali are diverse and adapted to the different realities of Indigenous communities. Among the main modalities are: open calls for proposals (Editais), which are broad public calls inviting Indigenous initiatives to apply; invitation Letters, directed to established Indigenous networks and organizations; and the spontaneous rapid response requests, designed for emergency situations or initiatives that require immediate action. Every stage of Podáali's work is guided by priorities defined by Indigenous Peoples themselves. The processes are collective, and decisions emerge within the organizations, respecting their own ways of thinking and acting. This structure ensures that each supported action reflects the real needs of the territories, while reinforcing the autonomy and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and communities.

Indigenous Criteria, Tangible Results

Podáali is unique in how it selects the initiatives to support. Beyond technical criteria, the Fund applies Indigenous socio-political parameters that aim to balance inequalities among peoples, regions, and historical contexts. This approach ensures a fairer allocation of resources while respecting the diversity of the Amazon's Indigenous populations.

The combination of technical rigor and political vision is already producing impressive results. So far, Podáali has supported 174 Indigenous initiatives across 52 regional bases of Coiab. Among them, 74 are led by Indigenous women and 78 by youth, demonstrating the growing leadership of women and younger generations in resource management. These initiatives span key areas such as food sovereignty, organizational and cultural empowerment, territorial protection, and Indigenous communication.

Trust as a Governance Method

OPodáali has developed an unusual approach to evaluate how funds are being used: self-monitoring. Instead of relying solely on external audits, the Fund encourages the supported organizations to conduct their own evaluations, producing narrative and financial reports that reflect the impact of their actions on the communities.

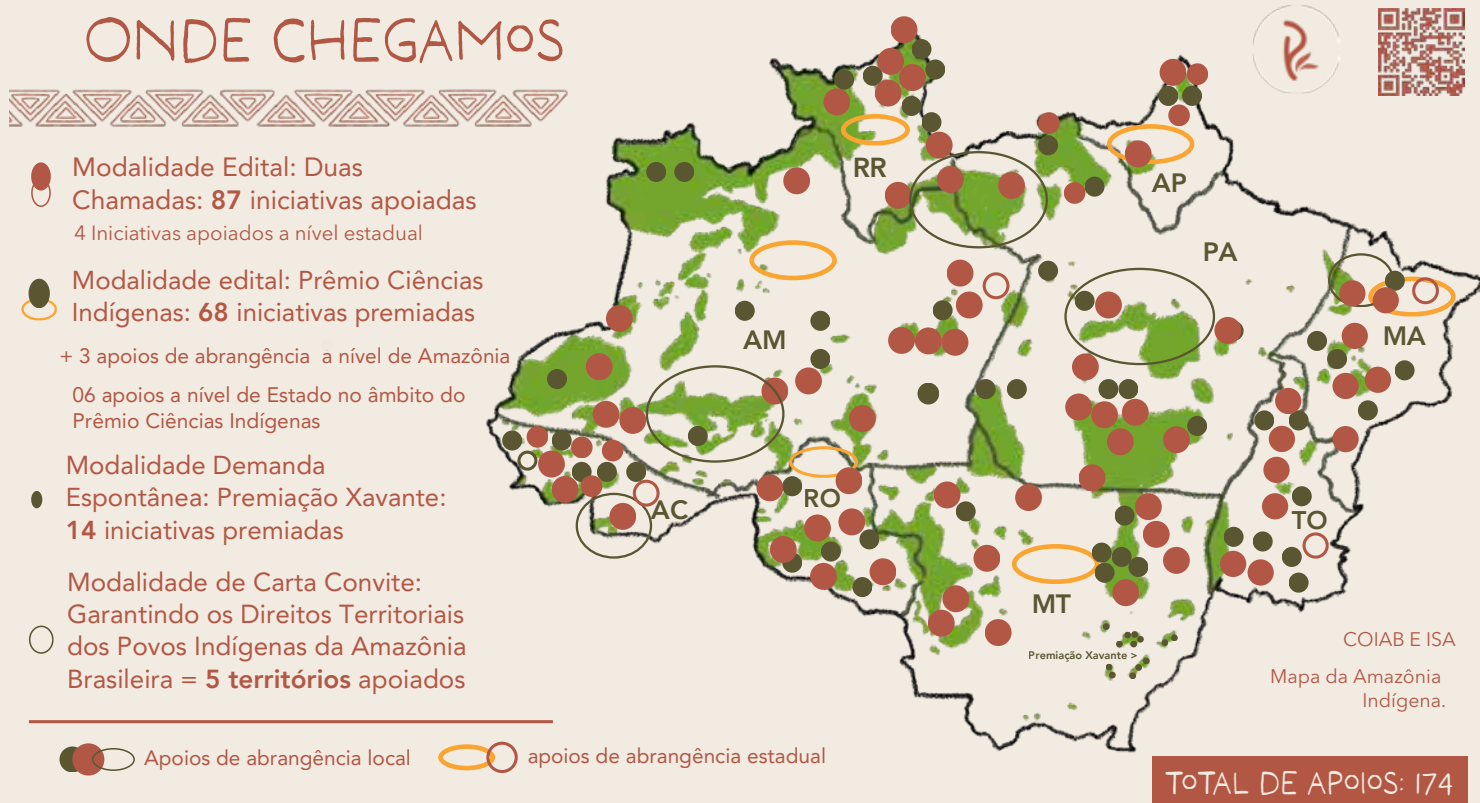
This methodology reinforces Podáali's identity as an action "by Indigenous Peoples, for Indigenous Peoples, with Indigenous governance," a principle that guides all its decisions and practices. By fostering self-management, the Fund promotes a transformation that goes beyond funding: it strengthens communities' capacity to plan, execute, and be accountable in their own ways of acting and thinking.

Transparency and Collective Governance

Transparency is another pillar of Podáali's operations. Each year, the Fund undergoes independent external audits in accordance with national governance standards. Strategic decisions are overseen by collegial bodies, such as the Fiscal Council and the Deliberative Council, which document their resolutions in public reports and meeting minutes.

Beyond financial oversight, communication plays a key role in accountability. The Fund regularly publishes information about its projects and outcomes on its website, social media, and public newsletter, ensuring that communities, partners, and donors can track how resources are used.

The Fund sees transparency not only as an institutional obligation, but also as a practice of mutual trust among all those involved. The goal is to ensure that communities know where each resource comes from, how it is applied, and what results are being achieved, thereby building credibility and a bond of trust with indigenous peoples.





Ordinary meeting of the Podáali Fund's Deliberative Council in Brasília. Photo: Podáali Archive

Challenges Along the Way

In a region defined by vast distances and logistical hardships, reaching all Indigenous territories in the Amazon remains a challenge. One major obstacle identified by the Fund is limited internet access. Since funding call applications are online, many communities face barriers to participation.

Recognizing this, the Fund is studying new, more inclusive formats for its calls that better reflect the realities of Indigenous lands. This reflects one of Podáali's guiding principles: a commitment to reaching all possible communities, leaving no People behind.

Looking Ahead: Expanding Reach and Partnerships

The path laid out by the Podáali Fund is long-term. In the coming years, the Fund aims to expand partnerships, strengthen strategic alliances, and broaden its territorial coverage to reach regions not yet included.

The goal is to increase resource availability and consolidate the Indigenous financing model as a benchmark for good governance and effectiveness in the Amazon. "What we're building is a lasting mechanism that ensures national and international resources reach communities directly, with transparency and Indigenous leadership," emphasizes Valéria Paye, Executive Director of Podáali.

More than just supporting initiatives, the Fund is helping to shape a future in which Indigenous Peoples define their own priorities, decide and lead their own strategies, and choose how support is channeled across their territories.



Valéria Paye | Photo: Podáali Archive

COIAB STRENGTHENS POLITICAL TRAINING AND ENCOURAGES INDIGENOUS CANDIDATES FOR THE 2026 ELECTIONS

THE INITIATIVES ARE PART OF ONE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S CORE PILLARS OF ACTION, WHICH REPRESENTS THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

By Lia dos Santos



Illustration generated by AI based on the OAS publicity photo

1,635,530 was the number of votes received by Indigenous candidates in Brazil's 2024 municipal elections, when the country chose its new local representatives. Data from the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) reveal a significant increase in Indigenous political participation, reflecting the growing pursuit of leadership and representation across different levels of public administration.

Across the country, 256 Indigenous candidates were elected

to positions as city councilors, vice-mayors, and mayors, reaffirming that Indigenous voices must be heard directly, not merely interpreted by allies, whether in parliament or in the implementation of public policies. Bringing Indigenous representation into city councils, state legislatures, and the National Congress is essential to expose threats and defend the civil and political rights of Indigenous Peoples in environments that have long been hostile or indifferent to our agendas.

Coiab has been responding to this demand by consolidating political training programs in Indigenous lands across the nine states of the Legal Amazon, where its member organizations are based. According to Coiab's Executive Director, Toya Manchineri, the current political landscape in Brazil requires careful attention to the election of representatives who truly advocate for Indigenous rights in regional parliaments and, especially, at the National Congress. Ensuring broader and more plural participation in these spaces is a central goal of the Coiab.

"We need to elect a Congress that looks out for minorities, environmental issues, and respects life. In the struggle to defend and reclaim our territories, for quality health care and education, and for the economic strengthening of our peoples, we must look to city councils, mayors' offices, and state legislatures, not just the federal government. We are at COP30, a window of opportunity, but if we want the recognition of our territories as part of climate policy, we must focus on where laws are made: Congress. That's why mobilizing and preparing qualified Indigenous candidates for these positions is essential," said Toya Manchineri.

Toya emphasizes that, to encourage and prepare Indigenous leaders for these positions, Coiab holds workshops and training sessions, thus fulfilling its fourth area of activity, which aims to provide political and technical training to Indigenous Peoples. The Amazonian Center for Indigenous Training (Cafi) has played a key role in sharing information, presenting the structure of the State and how it works, highlighting the weight of the indigenous vote, and

providing guidance on how to become a political voice within the territories. These initiatives help raise awareness about the importance of making informed choices when electing their representatives.

"Cafi is essential for aligning the territories' perspectives with the valorization of Indigenous candidacies and for helping our Peoples understand how the State works, and why representation is crucial to counter harmful agendas that threaten our ways of life, such as the Temporal Framework (Marco Temporal) and mining on Indigenous lands," highlights Coiab's Executive Director.

Aligned with this strategic vision, Coiab's Indigenous Legal Advisory Team monitors and challenges harmful legislative proposals that frequently emerge within Brazil's political system. The team works to strengthen local

bases through a legal lens on party politics. The Indigenous Amazon Lawyers Network plans to train entire communities so that those who wish to serve in political positions can enter office with the knowledge necessary to draft proposals that effectively protect the rights and benefit indigenous peoples. The training also provides guidance on avoiding legal challenges and on carrying out specific actions that directly address territorial demands.

This commitment was formalized in the final minute of the Network of Indigenous Lawyers of the Brazilian Amazon Encounter, held in August 2025 in Brasília (DF). Among the key resolutions was the priority of providing constitutional, legislative, and political training to enable Indigenous representatives to occupy seats in the National Congress and state legislative chambers.



Network of Lawyers of the Brazilian Amazon Encounter. Photo: Pedro Tukano

“We have witnessed many legislative setbacks in Congress. The current reality is that anti-Indigenous caucuses hold the majority, and we must act to increase our representation in these spaces. Taking Coiab across the territories, we listen to communities about their vulnerabilities and land tenure issues, and have noticed that many outsiders have been using state machinery to manipulate votes in these areas. Having an Indigenous legal advisory team expert in electoral law, one that brings political knowledge and understanding ‘from relative to relative,’ will be the first step,” explains Auzerina Macuxi, Manager of Coiab’s Indigenous Legal Advisory Team.

The goal is to continuously expand Coiab’s technical, political, and social engagement within Indigenous Lands, working in the medium and long term to secure more Indigenous representatives in various legislative bodies.

“Strengthening Coiab’s presence in the territories, as well as the Indigenous movement through elected Indigenous candidates serving as watchdogs in the National Congress, gives us greater security and ensures that our agendas advance in defense of Indigenous rights, in full alignment with Brazil’s Federal Constitution,” states the Indigenous lawyer.

Politics as a Territory of Resistance

“

“We are not wards; we are responsible. We are People, we are human beings. (...) Each of us has consciousness and abilities. No one is less capable. We all have skills and intelligence, and we all have the will to take on positions of power.” - Mário Juruna, chief and first Indigenous Federal deputy elected in Brazil



Mário Juruna | Illustration generated by AI

This excerpt is part of a historic speech delivered by Mário Juruna, a Xavante chief from the Namunkurá People (MT), who made history as the first Indigenous person ever elected to Brazil’s Federal Congress. The speech was given in the Chamber of Deputies on April 19, 1983, during the Day of Indigenous Peoples. Mário Juruna was a fearless leader who stood up in defense of Indigenous Peoples and their right to land, exposing corruption and advocating for workers’ rights during the Brazilian military dictatorship.

His words echoed through the chamber, voicing the cries of thousands of Peoples who, for generations, had been silenced and excluded from power. There, Juruna embodied the conquest of a long-desired “territory,” showing that by overcoming systemic barriers and taking on political roles, Indigenous peoples, with their wisdom and lived experience, could make vital contributions to social well-being through policies that met the population’s needs.

His incisive speeches found their audience, and Juruna’s journey was marked by huge clashes with the heads of state of the time, but his legacy endures, bringing results that still resonate today in the lives of thousands of Brazilians, such as the current Human Rights and Minorities Commission of the Federal Chamber of Deputies, originally established at his initiative and first named the Permanent Commission on Indigenous Affairs.

The struggles faced by Indigenous Peoples across Brazil and the fight for land tenure gained unprecedented visibility thanks to the Xavante chief’s work. Yet, his political career lasted only one term. After Juruna’s departure, there was a 31-year gap before another Indigenous representative would take a seat in Congress.

This time, a woman: Joenia Wapichana.

Elected in 2019 to represent Roraima, Joenia,

a lawyer who began her activism with the Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR), made history as Brazil’s first Indigenous woman elected to Congress. She faced huge challenges related to race and gender, but chose to lead through a collective, participatory mandate, ensuring Indigenous Peoples were heard, their voices amplified, and their demands presented directly to the nation in the parliament chamber.

Through her work, urgent issues were brought to light and met with immediate action, most notably during the Covid-19 pandemic, when she helped secure emergency support for Indigenous communities in the face of the neglectful government of the time.

“I chose to serve a mandate of proposals, opinion, and advocacy, to speak whenever possible, because silence was not an option. During the pandemic, I had to be strategic, using my skills as both an organizer and a politician to establish dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and other parties. There were many Indigenous deaths and no government response. Through mobilization of different organizations, we were able to engage key agencies like Funai [National Foundation of Indigenous Peoples], SESAI [Special Secretariat for Indigenous Health], and the Ministry of Health to address the crisis,” remembers Joenia Wapichana.

Today, as President of Funai, Joenia leads the institution’s reconstruction with a qualified and predominantly Indigenous expert team, championing collaborative governance. She identifies the following strategic priorities: consolidating grassroots bases through education policies, prioritizing land tenure, encouraging youth and women’s political participation, and strengthening Indigenous organizations to support professionals who will serve as enduring advocates for the Indigenous agenda.

“We need to strengthen Indigenous organizations so they can support their communities and ensure policies reach the communities, not just the urban centers. Indigenous Peoples must have the tools to analyze and critically assess local policies, and for that, political education is crucial. To expand our

presence in decision-making spaces, we must have Indigenous political representation across all sectors,” she emphasizes.

Threats Disguised as Proposals

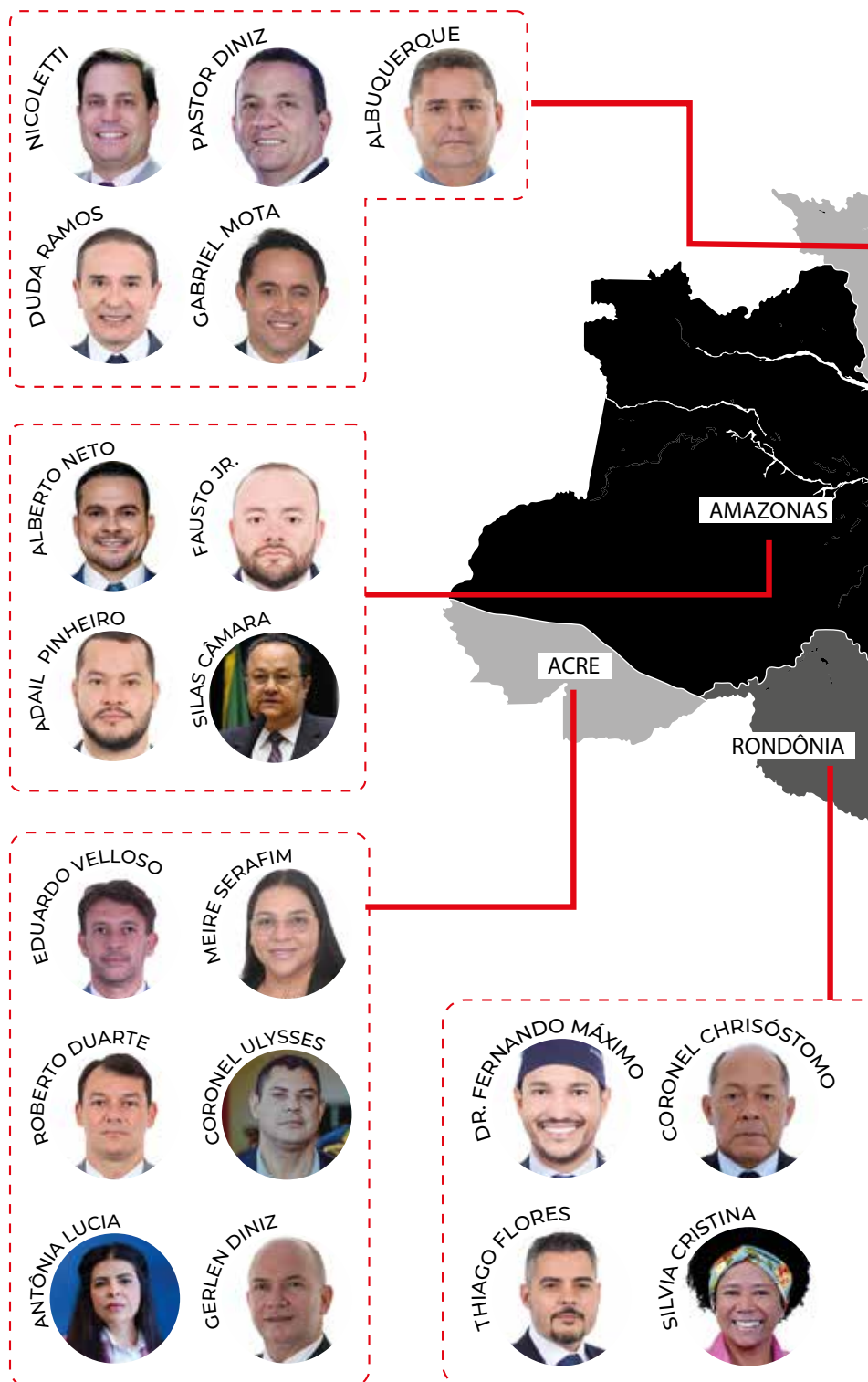
Despite these historic electoral milestones, Indigenous representation in Brazil’s National Congress remains critically low. Several factors help explain this context: lack of financial resources, enduring prejudice, minimal support and engagement from traditional political parties, which often include Indigenous candidates merely to meet diversity quotas, or even the choice of groups that, while committed to the Indigenous cause, have limited partisan reach.

Currently, there are only two indigenous federal deputies (both females) directly representing the movement, working to protect the rights of 0.83% of the national population, according to data from the 2022 Census conducted by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). A population that is diverse and faces complex and distinct problems in each region. As a result, unfavorable proposals have been systematically presented and approved by those who openly express their aversion to indigenous issues. One of the most consequential examples is Law No. 14.701/2023, known as the “Temporal Framework Law” (Lei do Marco Temporal), which restricts Indigenous land demarcation rights to territories that were physically occupied by Indigenous peoples on October 5, 1988, the day Brazil’s Federal Constitution was enacted.

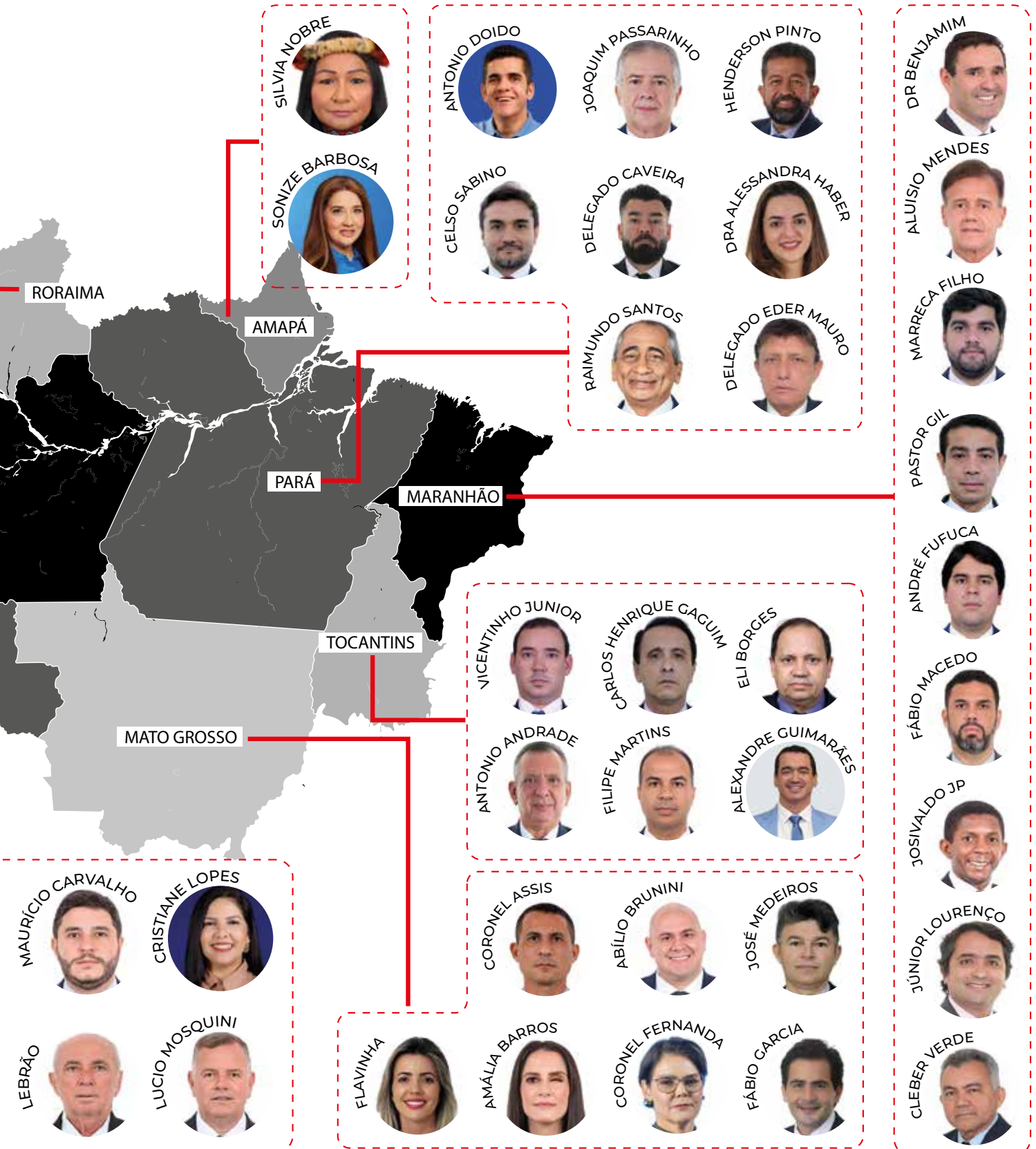
Even amid widespread protests, strong mobilization by Indigenous organizations, alliances with supportive members of Congress, and a 2023 Supreme Court ruling declaring the text unconstitutional, the bill was ultimately passed into law. The decision marked a serious setback in the protection of constitutional rights and a reminder of the persistent structural imbalance of power that continues to undermine Brazil’s Indigenous Peoples.

LET THOSE WHO DECIDE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

The vote on the bill took place on May 30, 2023



ARE THEY THEMSELVES AGAINST OUR RIGHT TO LAND BE REMEMBERED!



Campaigns that Inspire Participation

In this increasingly hostile political climate to Indigenous rights, including the protection of our lands, cultures, and ways of life, empowering leaders and encouraging political engagement has become an urgent necessity. One of the key initiatives driving this effort is the “Indigenous Campaign”, organized by the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (Apib) with Coiab’s support. The campaign guides both candidates and political parties through the electoral process and continues to provide support after the election.

For Kleber Karipuna, executive coordinator of Apib for Coiab, the campaign rescues the indigenous trajectory, builds collective strength, and expands the chances of regional candidates to gain a national outlook. “The Indigenous Campaign project – ‘Aldear a Política’ (Indigenizing Politics), seeks to expand our presence in decision-making spaces, especially within the Legislative and Executive branches. It’s an initiative that has been achieving its goals. We aim to trace the history of our participation in electoral processes, particularly at the municipal level, and amplify that visibility across state and national contexts,” he explains.

The results reflect this growing movement. APIB’s analysis of the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) data shows that the number of Indigenous politicians elected in 2024 rose by 8% compared to the 2020 elections. This upward trend has inspired a new generation of Indigenous leaders to pursue political office. Among them is Avanilson Karajá, current head of the Brazilian Agency for Unified Health System Management Support (AgSUS) and pre-candidate for federal deputy in the state of Tocantins. With an optimistic perspective, he believes that this is an opportune moment for indigenous candidates, especially those who already hold important positions as leaders in their territories and exert influence in various spheres of government.

“This is our political moment. Indigenous leaders have gained national prominence, increasing their visibility in their states and turning that into real electoral potential. It’s crucial that we



analyze the political and party landscape, understand how electoral coefficients, coalitions, and federations operate, so that we can elect as many of our own as possible. The current context is favorable, and the more Indigenous representatives we have committed to our causes, the stronger our presence will be in spaces of struggle and rights,” Karajá says.

The Answer is Us

The Indigenous movement in Brazil has already achieved several milestones in political representation, and the creation of the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples (MPI) in 2023 stands as the most powerful symbol of these victories. The ministry was born out of Indigenous mobilization and demands, establishing a permanent governmental body to broaden debate and decision-making on Executive Branch actions related to Indigenous peoples.

Sonia Guajajara, the first minister of the MPI, has built a remarkable political career while navigating the challenges of a Congress dominated by anti-Indigenous groups, whose agendas directly oppose our ancestral rights. She underscores the importance of “Indigenizing” political spaces:

“We believe this reality can change and that Indigenous presence there can strengthen our causes and advance projects that matter to the entire planet – defending life, the environment, biodiversity, human rights, and culture. All of this forms part of a future-oriented agenda, and that is what we want to strengthen in the National Congress,” she affirms.



Minister Sonia Guajajara and Coiab Executive Director, Toya Manchineri, during a public hearing at the Chamber of Deputies in Brasília. Photo: Nathalia Apurinã

In the minister's way to view it, as Indigenous leaders rise to positions across different levels of power, alignment among them will be essential to respond to demands and ensure the participation of indigenous peoples, both quantitatively and qualitatively, in national and international arenas. This coordination, she argues, is key to having Indigenous territories recognized as vital instruments of global governance and climate crisis mitigation.

“Having Indigenous representatives in these spaces makes a tremendous difference, as we are able to bring the indigenous agenda to the forefront, placing it at the heart of public debate and policymaking. When we reach strategic positions within the Executive Branch, we bring the Indigenous worldview, lived experiences, and realities into the formation of government actions that are both appropriate and effective for our peoples. We worked to make this

the COP with the largest indigenous representation, organizing spaces for our participation to be significant and, in this way, to make the United Nations recognize the role of indigenous peoples and territories in addressing the climate emergency,” Guajajara concludes.

On the road to COP30, Coiab launched the campaign “The Answer is Us” (“A Resposta Somos Nós”), calling for Indigenous land tenure as a climate policy and for the recognition of Indigenous leadership in building solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises plaguing the planet. Coiab

understands that the movement begins from within, in legislative houses, and for this, it is necessary to elect representatives who defend indigenous agendas – agendas that are, in fact, collective, as they guarantee the preservation of the forest and the planet's climate balance, as well as the well-being of thousands of Indigenous lives, guardians and defenders of the Amazon. Electing representatives committed to these agendas and training leaders prepared to occupy political spaces are Coiab's mission and challenge.

THE ANSWER IS US



INDIGENOUS STRUGGLE IN DEFENSE OF BIODIVERSITY

LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE AMAZON BASIN PREPARE FOR THE NEXT UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE (CBD COP17), SET TO TAKE PLACE IN 2026

By Valdeniza Vasques



AI-generated illustration

Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin are expanding their influence on the global biodiversity agenda beyond the climate conference. Following a historic participation in the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP), held in Cali, Colombia, in 2024, Indigenous leaders are now organizing to take a leading role in the discussions around conservation and nature protection ahead of the next edition of the conference, scheduled for October 2026 in Yerevan, Armenia.

An important step in this advocacy effort is their participation in the 27th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27), happening in

October in Panama City, Panama. This technical encounter precedes the negotiations that will unfold during CBD COP17. Following the event, the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) will be held, a mechanism established to promote the recognition, protection, and use of the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The creation of this Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) represented a historic breakthrough for Indigenous peoples during COP16 in Cali, as emphasized by Patricia Suárez, representative of the Organización

Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonía Colombiana (Opiac), the Colombian Indigenous organization that hosted the last biodiversity conference:

“For more than two decades, Article 8(j) was handled through an ad hoc working group that could only issue non-binding guidelines and recommendations. This limitation kept Indigenous knowledge systems in a consultative position, without real capacity to influence the CBD's institutional architecture. The decision adopted at COP16 transforms that working group into a permanent subsidiary body. This represents an explicit recognition that indigenous knowledge systems are fundamental to

biodiversity conservation,” explains her.

According to Suárez, the establishment of this body will allow Indigenous Peoples to put forward their own conservation strategies, safeguard Indigenous lands from predatory extractive pressures, and advance direct financing mechanisms that recognize the role of those who truly care for biodiversity.

However, to make this possible, Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin must have a coordinated advocacy strategy within CBD discussions. As noted by Alana Manchineri, international advisor to Coiab and member of the organization's delegation at the events in Panama, the goal of Indigenous participation in this pre-COP17 agenda is “effective participation, ensuring that the functioning of the new subsidiary body lays the groundwork for the inclusion of all Indigenous Peoples around the world, through their legitimately elected representatives. These decisions on participation will be fundamental for larger conferences, such as COP itself.”

“Our other priorities in the agenda are to establish voluntary but widely adopted guidelines, aimed primarily at governments and their institutions, to strengthen the legal framework recognizing Indigenous and traditional territories; to include not only conservation but also environmental restoration in these strategies; and to formally recognize the fundamental role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in biodiversity conservation,” adds Manchineri.

The Threats Surrounding Us

Os povos indígenas são os grandes
Indigenous peoples are the primary
guardians of biodiversity in the
Amazon, and also the ones
most exposed to constant
threats and challenges
within their territories.

Land invasions and
illegal occupation,
deforestation, poach-
ing, illegal fishing, and

large-scale projects with severe social and environmental impacts affect not only this vital biome, essential for life on Earth, but also thousands of Indigenous lives that depend on and defend these lands.

“These threats come hand in hand with political and economic pressures that try to divide our communities and weaken our autonomy. Another challenge is the absence of public policies that value and strengthen our traditional management practices, our crops, our agroforestry systems, our ways of caring for rivers and animals. The State needs to recognize that our lands are the last barriers against environmental destruction, and that investing in us means investing in the preservation of global biodiversity,” explains Danilo Guajajara, coordinator-secretary of the Coordination of Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations and Articulations of Maranhão.

Danilo was one of the leaders of the Brazilian Amazon delegation at the Biodiversity COP in Cali and continues to follow the ongoing discussions on the subject.

In the Colombian Amazon, Patricia Suárez warns that mercury contamination from mining, the expansion of livestock farming and agribusiness, and the advance of drug trafficking are damaging ecosystems and endangering both Indigenous lives and the forest itself.

“Although Colombia has a legal framework recognizing Indigenous Peoples as governments and environmental authorities within their territories – which in the Amazon cover more than 27 million hectares – the lack of coordination with the rest of the State remains a structural obstacle. The country’s national environmental policy does not always acknowledge the authority and governance exercised by Indigenous Peoples in caring for life within our lands,” says the leader.

For her, the main challenge is to build effective mechanisms of coordination between Indigenous governments and State institutions to ensure biodiversity protection from an integrated perspective. “This means recognizing and strengthening the Indigenous Peoples’ own solutions for the care of life, uniting land, culture, knowledge, and spirituality,” says Suárez.

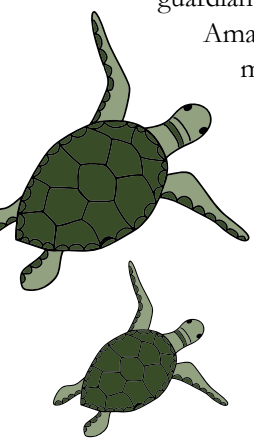
Indigenous Protagonism

Indigenous peoples are organizing themselves to have their voices and actions recognized in official discussions on biodiversity conservation. To strengthen Indigenous protagonism in this global agenda, leaders have outlined several key paths forward:

“Indigenous Peoples become true protagonists in the biodiversity agenda when we are no longer treated as merely consultative actors, when there is real coordination with our governments, and when our knowledge and territories become structural parts of the solution. In the Colombian Amazon, we have already demonstrated that indigenous territories are the main barrier against deforestation and the basis of the country's biodiversity. States, international organizations, and allies must recognize that it is not a matter of including us as complementary actors, but of strengthening our role as governors of territories that sustain life on the planet,” argues Patricia Suárez.

“The empowering of Indigenous protagonism can be achieved through the recognition of our ancestral practices, which are intrinsically tied to the conservation of lands, waters, and forests. For that, we must ensure full, effective, and influential participation and representation in all decision-making spaces. It’s also essential that this participation be equitable, including Indigenous women and youth, ensuring everyone in our communities is represented. All of this must be clearly communicated: Indigenous ways of life are inseparable from biodiversity conservation, and protecting Indigenous territories means protecting the environment itself,” states Alana Manchineri.

“We are already the protagonists of biodiversity protection; the world just needs to fully recognize it. To move forward, we must strengthen our organizations, the training of our leaders, the exchange among Peoples, and our presence in decision-making



spaces. It is also crucial for young indigenous people to get involved, bringing our traditional knowledge into dialogue with science and international politics. True transformation will come when Indigenous peoples are seen not as beneficiaries, but as global allies and leaders in defending the Earth. Biodiversity is not just a technical issue; it is a spiritual, cultural, and survival issue. And no one understands that better than those who live and feel the forest every day,” declares Danilo Guajajara.

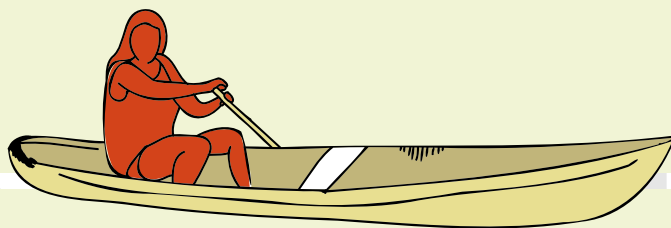
What is CBD?

During the Earth Summit (Eco-92), held in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders agreed on a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development, that is, meeting present needs while ensuring a healthy and viable planet for future generations. One of the key agreements adopted at Eco-92 was the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This international treaty, signed by most governments, established commitments to safeguard the planet’s ecological foundations while pursuing economic development. The CBD is built around three main objectives:

- 1) **The conservation of biological diversity;**
- 2) **The sustainable use of its components; and**
- 3) **The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.**

What is Article 8(j) of the CBD?

Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) states that each signatory Party shall, subject to national legislation, respect, preserve, and maintain the knowledge, innovations, and practices of Indigenous and local communities that embody traditional ways of life relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. It also calls for the wider application of such knowledge with the approval and participation of its holders, and for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of these traditional practices, innovations, and knowledge.

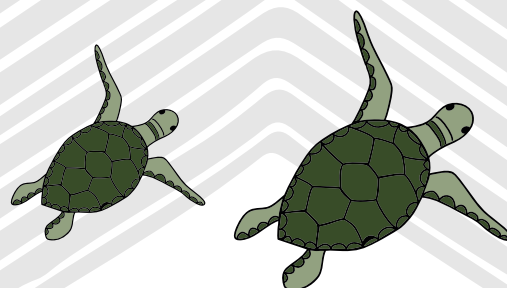
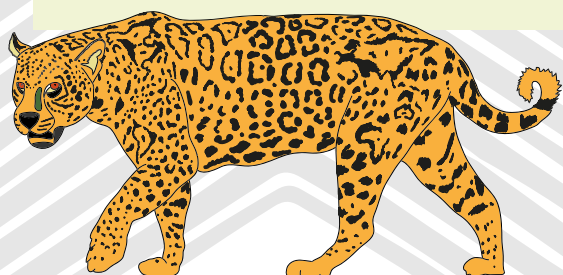
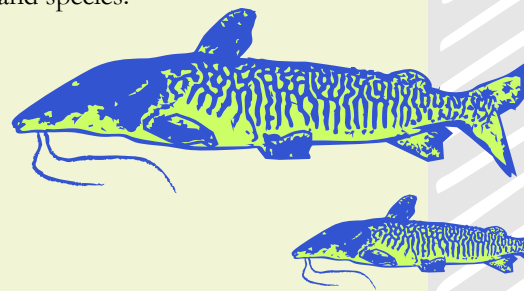


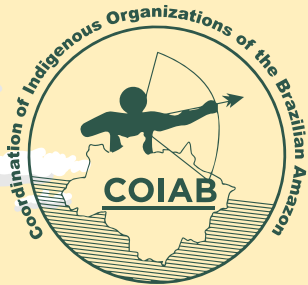
What is the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is a historic agreement adopted during the COP15 on Biodiversity, held in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada. It set out four overarching global goals aimed at halting and reversing nature loss by 2050, focusing on the health of ecosystems and species:

- **Halt human-induced species extinction;**
- **Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity;**
- **Ensure the equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits;**
- **Close the annual biodiversity financing gap of US\$700 billion.**

In addition, the framework includes 23 specific targets to be achieved by 2030, such as: Conserving 30% of land, ocean, and inland waters; restoring 30% of ecosystems degraded by human activity; halving the introduction of invasive alien species; reducing by US\$500 billion per year the subsidies harmful to nature, among others.





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COP30



Potãali
Associação dos Povos Indígenas do Acre



Movimento
Indígena
do Acre



OPIRONA



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARRIVE AT COP30 DEMANDING LAND TENURE

UNDER THE BANNER “THE ANSWER IS US,” INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM ACROSS THE AMAZON BASIN SET OUT THEIR PRIORITIES FOR THE UPCOMING CLIMATE CONFERENCE

By Valdeniza Vasques

The COP30 is here, and the indigenous peoples of the Amazon Basin are ready to present the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with their response to the climate emergency the planet is facing. The solution to this crisis can be summed up in the sentence naming the campaign launched by the Indigenous Peoples of the Brazilian Amazon and embraced by the Peoples of the forest, the waters, the countryside, and the cities, from the Amazon to the Pacific: “The Answer is Us.”

The mobilization, created by Coiab in July 2024 and joined by social movements and organizations from Brazil and around the world, is a global call for awareness and action in pursuit of climate justice. Under the campaign banner, the Coiab network, its sister organizations, and partners carried out various actions in the period leading up to COP30 to broaden the climate debate and highlight the contributions of indigenous peoples and traditional communities to addressing climate change worldwide.

One of the key outcomes of this journey is the document summarizing the priorities of Indigenous Peoples for the COP in Belém: the Political Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin and All Biomes of Brazil for COP30, also referred to as the Indigenous Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of the Amazon Basin. The declaration was developed and presented during the Indigenous Pre-COP, organized by Coiab, Apib, and the G9 of the Indigenous Amazon, in June 2025, in Brasília (DF).







THE ANSWER IS US





Social and indigenous movements protest in front of the COP30 Blue Zone. Photo: João Paulo Guimarães

The document outlines the main demands of Indigenous peoples to be adopted by States ahead of COP30:

 <p>Recognition and protection of all Indigenous territories, especially those inhabited by isolated and recently contacted Indigenous Peoples;</p>	 <p>Direct financing and financial autonomy;</p>	 <p>Effective representation and participation;</p>	 <p>Protection of Indigenous defenders;</p>	 <p>Inclusion of Indigenous knowledge systems;</p>	 <p>Exploitation-free zones within Indigenous territories.</p>
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“There will be no viable future without Indigenous Peoples at the center of global decision-making. States must respect our rights, incorporate our ancestral knowledge, and ensure the protection of Indigenous territories in order to design more effective mitigation and adaptation strategies,” states the document, signed by 28 Indigenous organizations from the Amazon Basin.



The Amazon Basin NDC is delivered to Minister Sonia Guajajara. Photo: Pepyaká Krikati

The Amazon Basin Indigenous NDC played a crucial role in preparing Indigenous movements, both nationally and across the nine Amazonian countries, for COP30. The declaration is one of the four pillars of the NDC of the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, launched by Apib in August 2025. It also integrates the basis of the political document “Voces territoriales de la selva” (Territorial Voices of the Forest), which was the result of the pre-COP meeting promoted by the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (Coica) in October this year in Brasília.

According to Toya Manchineri, Coiab’s Executive Director, the top priority for the Indigenous peoples of the Brazilian Amazon is the inclusion of Indigenous land protection and tenure as a climate policy within Brazil’s national NDC. The government had already presented its NDC at COP29 in Azerbaijan last year, but the Indigenous movement continues to advocate for the addition of their demands as an appendix to the document.

“Without land, there is no life, no climate, and no future. Indigenous territorial rights must be recognized as climate policy, because it is our protected and preserved lands, with the forest standing, that ensure biodiversity conservation and global climate balance,” the leader emphasizes.

Another crucial issue guiding Indigenous participation at COP30 is the demand for direct access to climate finance. Although Indigenous peoples are responsible for protecting 25% of the planet’s carbon sinks, climate funds rarely reach their territories.

“It’s time for financing to be proportional to our global climate action,” says Toya Manchineri. Direct access means that indigenous peoples’ own organizations and financial mechanisms have access to funds through flexible, culturally appropriate processes that respect the right to self-determination and governance of indigenous peoples.

Some proposals to ensure direct access to financing include creating a dedicated window for indigenous peoples in all climate funds and recognizing indigenous mechanisms as legitimate and effective. The differentiation between direct financing and public government investments is also a point of attention highlighted by leaders.

“We believe COP30 is a unique opportunity for countries to make serious and ambitious commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and developing concrete mitigation and adaptation strategies. But it’s important to stress that our advocacy does not end at COP30, it is an ongoing process that must continue into future conferences

and other global decision-making spaces, always listening to our voices, the voices of Indigenous peoples,” concludes Coiab’s Executive Director.

A Challenging Landscape

COP30 takes place amid growing alarm over the Amazon. Recently, the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama) authorized the drilling of an exploratory oil well at the mouth of the Amazon River. This predatory project is advancing without considering the voices or rights of the Indigenous Peoples of the Oiapoque region, whose territories will be directly affected by oil exploitation. The potential social and environmental impacts on Indigenous communities include food insecurity, territorial conflicts, rising violence, deforestation, land invasions, and other irreversible consequences for the lives and cultures of Indigenous communities.

In addition to violating the right to free, prior, and informed consent guaranteed by Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization, oil exploration at the mouth of the Amazon River exposes deep contradictions in Brazil’s environmental and climate policies, according to a statement issued by Coiab. “While calling for stronger climate commitments from other countries, the Brazilian government

simultaneously invests in fossil fuel exploration within its own territory, one of the main drivers of the global climate crisis,” the organization stated.

Another recent threat came with the approval of Bill 2.159/2021, known as the “Devastation Bill”, which dismantles Brazil’s environmental policy by loosening environmental licensing regulations. Some of the most concerning provisions of the bill, such as weakening technical agencies like Funai and the absence of mandatory consultation with Indigenous Peoples on projects that impact their territories, were vetoed by the President. However, these vetoes remain at risk of being overturned by Congress, where an anti-Indigenous majority prevails.


Additionally, there are still attempts to regularize mining activity in indigenous territories through bills 1.331/2022 and 6.050/2023. Meanwhile, the Temporal Framework Law (Marco Temporal), which was ruled unconstitutional by the Federal Supreme Court (STF), remains in effect, creating legal uncertainty for both territories with tenure and those still undergoing this process. In this challenging scenario, the Indigenous Peoples of the Brazilian Amazon are coming together more united than ever to defend their rights and lives against these escalating threats. COP30 thus becomes not only a forum for climate negotiations but also a platform to denounce these violations and to urge the world’s nations to respect and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the true guardians of the climate and biodiversity.

The Answer is Us. All of Us


Conceived by Coiab, the campaign “The Answer is Us” has gained the support of numerous social movements and organizations across the Amazon and around the world, united in the pursuit of climate justice. The movement asserts that achieving climate justice is only possible through territorial, social, and popular justice. The campaign outlines six central responses to the climate crisis:



TERRITORIAL RIGHTS = CLIMATE ACTION:
Securing Indigenous territorial rights is essential to protecting forests and ecosystems that are vital to preventing climate collapse.



ZERO DEFORESTATION:
Deforestation remains one of the world’s largest sources of carbon emissions; stopping it is an urgent step in the fight for climate justice.



NO TO FOSSIL FUELS AND MINING IN INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES:
Fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and coal are the main drivers of the global climate crisis. The campaign calls for an end to these extractive activities in Indigenous lands as part of a fair and people-centered energy transition.



PROTECTION FOR DEFENDERS AND THEIR WAYS OF LIFE: Those who protect the land, waters, forests, and climate must receive comprehensive and immediate protection.



DIRECT ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE:
Resources meant to tackle the climate crisis must go directly to those on the frontlines, without bureaucratic barriers or intermediaries disconnected from the realities of the territories.



MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION WITH REAL POWER:
The campaign demands dignified, permanent, and empowered participation in climate decision-making processes, both at COP30 and in all other official global forums.



Read here the Amazon Basin NDC:



Access the Campaign’s website, learn to take action!

A moment that vividly captured the strength of the “The Answer is Us” campaign took place in front of the COP30 Blue Zone in Belém, in July this year. Representatives of social movements, traditional communities, and Indigenous Peoples gathered for a public act where they presented the “Declaration of the Amazon Peoples’ Collective for COP30: The Answer is Us.” The document, signed by 15 organizations, was formally submitted to the COP30 presidency.

“[...] there is no Amazon without its peoples. The territories our communities protect are the last strongholds against devastation. Science now confirms what our ancestors have always known: climate justice will only be possible if it is also territorial, social, and popular justice,” the declaration highlights.

“The Amazon bleeds, and its voice cuts through the silence imposed by destruction. Its rivers carry memories that time cannot erase, and its roots cling firmly, refusing to die. We, its

Peoples, are the living resistance – the fortress that stands against the death of the forest. Our struggle is not only for land, but for life, for the future. And we will not retreat. The answer will not come from outside. Our alliance is for life,” says another excerpt from the statement.



Read the full document:

An Indigenous Alliance Toward COP31 – and Beyond

Building alliances with Indigenous Peoples across the Amazon Basin and other continents to strengthen our influence on the global climate agenda has long been one of Coiab's core strategies. This vision led to the creation of the G9 of the Indigenous Amazon, a coalition bringing together Indigenous organizations from the nine Amazonian countries, and the Indigenous Troika, which unites leaders from Brazil, Australia, and the Pacific Islands. Coiab has also partnered with initiatives such as the Pacific Climate Warriors.

The connection with Indigenous leaders from Australia and the Pacific is no coincidence. There is a strong possibility that COP31 will be hosted in Australia in 2026. Since COP29, Coiab has extended its hand to relatives in the region, aiming to continue amplifying Indigenous voices at the climate conference.

“The campaign strengthens not only the Amazon region but also other countries, like Australia and the Pacific Islands. The same problems we face in Brazil – the lack of recognition of territorial rights – are suffered by our relatives in other continents. It's important for Coiab to help strengthen the Indigenous movement globally. This alliance is born to reinforce Indigenous policy at the global level. Just as countries coordinate globally within the UNFCCC, we too will work together to advance shared issues, the right to life and to our territories,” explains Toya Manchineri.

The alliance, initiated during COP29 in Baku, grew stronger during this year's Free Land Camp (ATL) in Brazil, which brought together Indigenous leaders from the G9, the Indigenous Troika, and the Pacific Climate Warriors.

“The knowledge that exists between our Peoples, and the connection we share with our

forests and oceans, makes us the most qualified to guide their protection, and, by extension, the protection of our climate. When we speak with one voice and one message, the world will have no choice but to listen,” says Brianna Fruean, a Pacific Climate Warriors activist who traveled to Brazil to attend the ATL.

“The ocean is to the peoples of the Pacific what the Amazon rainforest is to the Indigenous peoples of this region. Collectively, our worldviews, cultures, traditions, and spirituality are essential to the fight for climate justice. Indigenous peoples offer inclusive, effective, and sustainable solutions to the crisis we are now facing,” she adds.

Polly Cutmore, an elder of the Gomeroi people of Australia, was another leader present at the ATL. “We were able to share our strength, camaraderie, and knowledge with one another. Knowing that other Indigenous peoples are fighting for their lands, waters, and seas brings hope, strength, and wisdom – vital elements for Earth to have a future. We must unite and make the world listen to what the Earth is saying,” she said.



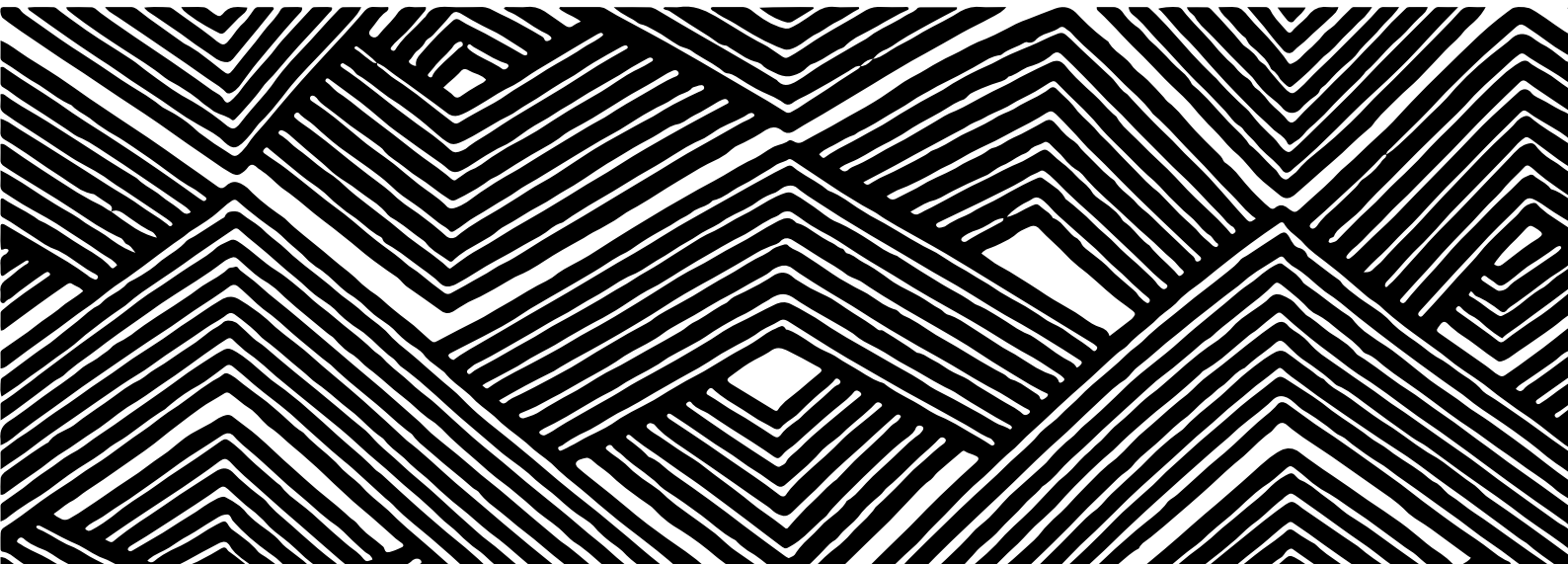


Polly noted that, much like in Brazil, Indigenous Peoples in Australia are also fighting against mining and gas corporations that destroy their lands, waters, and seas. “They are clearing our land and stealing our drinking water. We are tired of the lies told by mining and gas companies claiming to have Aboriginal support – whether in Australia, Brazil, or anywhere in the world. Aboriginal Peoples of Australia do not want the dirty money of these mining and gas corporations. We want our lands, waters, and seas to remain healthy for future generations,” she asserted.

For Polly, if COP31 is hosted in Australia, it will be an opportunity for Aboriginal peoples to finally be

heard in global climate discussions. “Having COP31 in Australia would mean that Aboriginal peoples will be present – inside the negotiations and out on the frontlines of protest. Our communities will have access to this global stage and will be able to show how vital our ancestral knowledge systems are in this climate crisis. Community social justice is central to our people. The situation of our communities and our country is devastating, and we rarely get the chance to see what happens globally. Together with the peoples of the Brazilian Amazon and other Indigenous nations of the world, we will continue to share one message: The answer is us!”

Indigenous Graphic Art: Assurini



YOU ARE PART OF THIS JOURNEY!

Photo: Nailson Wapichana



“

Paulo Ricardo Macuxi

General Deputy Tuxaua of the Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR)

The Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (Coiab) is a strategy of resistance created by our traditional leaders, establishing a platform on the scale of the Amazon's vastness to drive advocacy for land tenure and the guarantee of our rights. It is our space for articulation, endowed with the power to represent the Indigenous Peoples of the Brazilian Amazon both legally and politically.

Our trajectory and the organizational structure of a national Indigenous movement are underpinned by the work of Coiab, which plays a vital role in defending life, supporting the collective defense of our territories, and promoting their sustainable development.

I acknowledge the value of the organization's commitment across all spheres, both national and international, as well as its advocacy and fieldwork carried out within the territories themselves. We, as Coiab's grassroots base, stand firm and strong in the effort to bolster this organization, for it is our main tool of resistance and mobilization at the national level.

Najela Wajuru

Wayoro Territory (RO)

Coiab has undertaken a crucial mission to empower Indigenous peoples, particularly those actively campaigning for the recognition of their territories and currently undergoing the tenure process.

“

We do face many challenges ahead, but the organization has succeeded in strengthening our communities and territories. This support provides a sense of solidarity and encouragement to continue the struggle to preserve our forests.

The articulation of strategic partnerships has proven vital in this effort. A key example is the collaboration with the Indian Law, a legal defense organization that has reinvigorated our agenda by making its legal apparatus available to us. We have been able to raise awareness of the violence suffered by our people in their quest to secure their territorial rights.



Photo: Taíla Wajuru

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Inara Sateré-Mawé

Deputy Treasurer of the Union of Indigenous Women of the Brazilian Amazon (Umiab)

I had the opportunity to participate in financial and project management training promoted by Coiab through the Amazonian Center for Indigenous Training (Cafi), as a representative of Umiab. The course equipped us with the skills to develop strategies, ensure sound management, and effectively administer the financial aspects, ultimately enabling us to provide accountability to our organizations. It was a singular experience, marking my first direct involvement.

For us, it was highly gratifying to understand the mechanics of project development, the criteria, and what we can do within a project framework. The course also included opportunities for open dialogue, provided specific feedback on areas needing improvement, and involved a practical exercise in which we developed a plan for Umiab to have direct reach into the various territories.

We could learn and apply the knowledge gained through the Cafi training sessions. Today, we have greater clarity regarding our operations, challenges, and overall management. This achievement only strengthens our commitment as an organization. Coiab's initiative has given us a new perspective on how we will approach our work going forward!

Photo: Juvenilson Crixí



Photo: Pedro Tukano



Mydiwaru Karajá

- Santa Isabel do Morro Community (TO)

Coiab has significantly contributed to my personal development and my work within the community. It was through Coiab that I gained access to training and organizational projects, which subsequently opened doors for me to work with Monitorgati. Now, I can articulate the demands of my people more clearly and forcefully. Being part of Coiab means having the support, guidance, and opportunity to transform our reality.

Participating in the Indigenous Networks of the Amazon Project (Projeto Redes Indígenas da Amazônia) and implementing the Monitorgati tool will be of great importance to both me and my community. This project is not merely about data collection; it directly addresses fundamental issues concerning our territory, including health, education, culture, hunting, and other traditional practices that are integral to our lives and must be respected. Often, our demands remain confined within the community and fail to reach the representatives who should be hearing us. The Monitorgati tool will establish that vital pathway and help us clearly organize our data, realities, and needs, so we can advocate with force and accountability to decision-makers. For me, the partnership between Coiab and Monitorgati represents a major advancement in our struggle for rights. It is evidence that when we have robust network support on our side, we can transform our reality through unity, knowledge, and resistance.



Cleiton Jiahui

Treasurer of the Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Upper Madeira (OPIAM) – Jiahui Indigenous Territory (AM)

Coiab has been carrying out vital work throughout our region. Currently, Opiam is part of the Dabacury Project – a collaboration with the organization CESE – focused on developing and implementing Territorial and Environmental Management Plans (PGTAs) within Indigenous lands. But Coiab's efforts go far beyond that.

Prior to assuming the role of Treasurer, I was an active member of Coiab's Indigenous Communicators Network. This network emerged during the pandemic with the goal of ensuring information reached the territories in an accessible way, specifically by combating disinformation, particularly concerning vaccination. Many young people were discovered or emerged as significant leaders, subsequently taking on important roles within our regional and grassroots organizations. This development is a direct result of Coiab's committed work.

We have been actively participating in workshops, courses, and meetings as an ongoing exercise in empowerment, focusing on critical issues such as the climate emergency, the demarcation and protection of territories, and achieving gender equity within political spaces. Coiab, alongside its bases, works closely with our daily experiences, safeguarding our territories, our elders and children, and fundamentally protecting the future of new generations.



Photo: Isaka Humi Kuin

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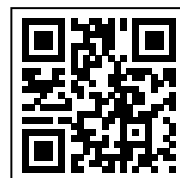
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THE ANSWER IS US

