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Gerência de Monitoramento  
Territorial Indígena da Coiab

*Practical guidance for the period  
of extreme drought — 2026–2027*

# EXTREME DROUGHT AND EL NIÑO

The droughts of 2023, 2024 and 2025 showed that extreme climate events can affect water, food, health, mobility and the protection of Indigenous territories.

This booklet presents practical guidance to support Indigenous communities, associations and organizations in preparing for the period of extreme drought and the possible impacts of El Niño between 2026 and 2027.





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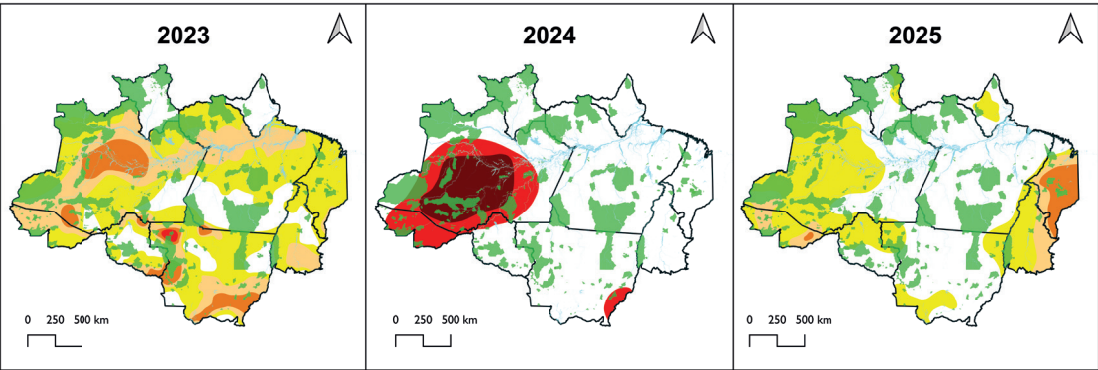
# EXTREME DROUGHT AND EL NIÑO



# WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE 2023–2025 DROUGHTS

Between 2023 and 2025, Indigenous territories in the Amazon experienced one of the largest climate crises ever recorded. Reduced rainfall, falling river levels, forest fires, and the isolation of communities affected thousands of families. This situation was aggravated by the strengthening of El Niño, a climate phenomenon that reduces rainfall in the Amazon, and by climate change driven by environmental degradation, which makes droughts and other extreme events more frequent and intense. The experience of this period shows that advance preparation is the best way to reduce impacts.

Evolution of Extreme Drought in the Brazilian Amazon  
September Comparison (2023–2025)



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Coordinate Reference  
System: SIRGAS 2000  
Data sources: National Water and  
Basic Sanitation Agency, COIAB,  
INPE, BGE, FUNAI.

LEGEND

|                                                   |                     |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Indigenous Lands<br>of the Brazilian Amazon (ILs) | No Relative Drought | Severe Drought   |
| Federative Units (States)                         | Exceptional Drought | Moderate Drought |
| Hydrographic - Major Rivers                       | Extreme Drought     | Mild Drought     |

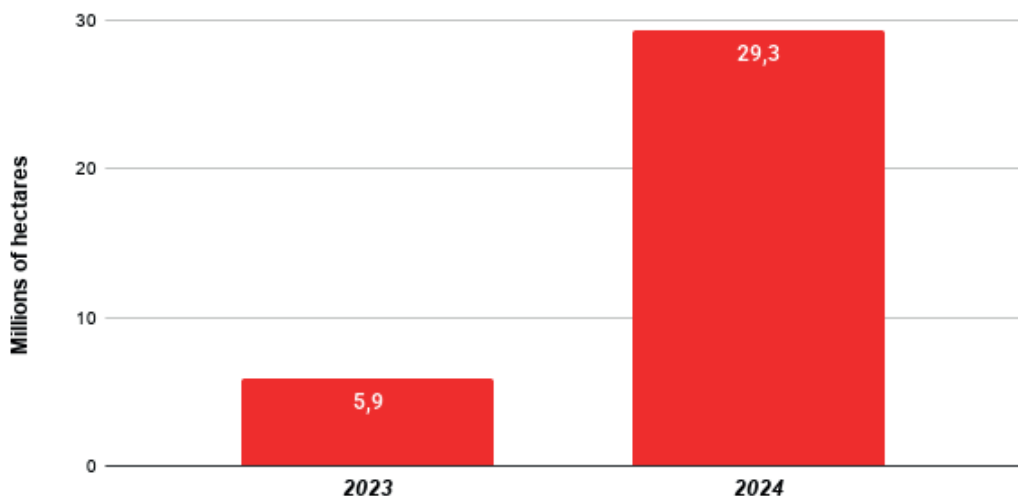
**+200** INDIGENOUS LANDS IN THE AREAS MOST  
AFFECTED BY EXTREME DROUGHT IN 2024.

**+400** SCHOOLS  
AFFECTED.

**+120.000** INDIGENOUS PEOPLE  
DIRECTLY AFFECTED.

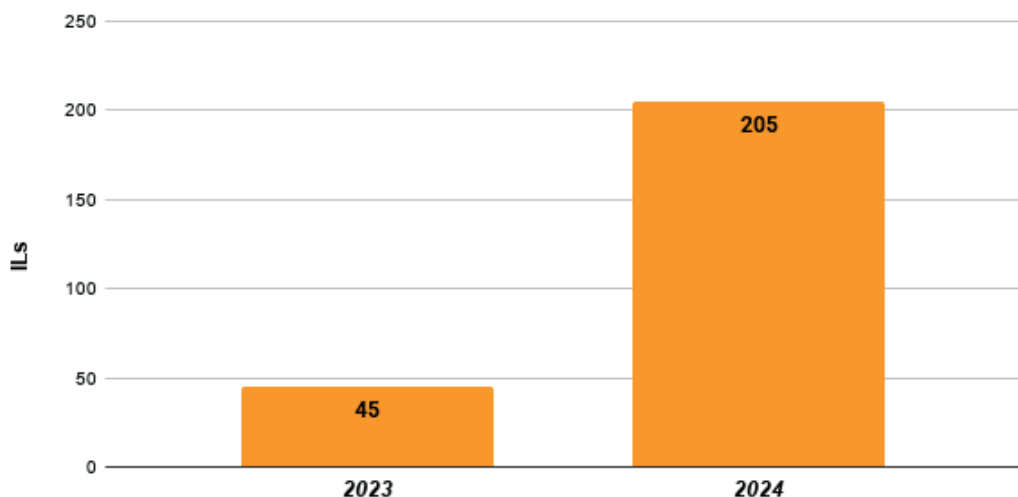
**+100** INDIGENOUS HEALTH  
UNITS AFFECTED.

Affected Area (millions of ha)



Increase of 397%

Affected Indigenous Lands



Increase of 355%

## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR TERRITORY

*Each territory has a different reality, but some actions can be planned before the drought and help reduce its impacts.*

Here are five practical actions to face extreme drought and strengthen community organization, starting with organizing the community and defining priorities.

### 1. Organize the community

- Hold a first community meeting.
- Define responsibilities.
- Identify the main risks.
- Prepare a simple plan.

### 2. Protect water sources

- Identify and map springs and igarapés (small forest streams).
- Preserve springs and riparian areas.
- Store water safely.
- Monitor water quality.

### 3. Ensure food and medicines

- Organize supplies.
- Store seeds.
- Plan agricultural plots. Plan the community's crops.
- Check long-term supplies of medicines for continuous use.

### 4. Prepare the territory

- Organize fire brigades and monitoring groups.
- Review if there are firebreaks and/or its current conditions (cleared strips of land that prevent the spread of fire).
- Prepare equipment.
- Identify priority and most vulnerable areas.

### 5. Plan logistics

- Inspect boats and other means of transportation.
- Organize and store fuel.
- Update contact information.
- Define communication methods.

Hold periodic meetings before, during and after the drought period. The participation of leaders, brigades, communicators, health agents, youth, women and elders strengthens the territory's response capacity.

## TURNING ACTIONS INTO A COMMUNITY PLAN

*Bring the community together, identify priorities, and prepare the territory to face the most severe drought period.*

[illegible]

## ✓ DURING THE MEETING, DISCUSS:

- ☐ **Water:** Do we have enough water? How will we store and conserve it?
- ☐ **Food:** Do we have enough food and seeds for the drought period?
- ☐ **Health:** Who needs more attention? Children, older adults, pregnant women and people who are ill?
- ☐ **Territory:** Which areas require more care and protection?
- ☐ **Organization:** Who will be responsible for each task?
- ☐ **Communication:** How do we request help and quickly report risk situations?
- ☐ **Priorities:** What needs to be done first?

## ✓ AT THE END OF THE MEETING

- ☐ Define the community's three main priorities.
- ☐ Choose those responsible for each action.
- ☐ Agree on when each action will be carried out.
- ☐ Schedule the next meeting to follow up on the plan.
- ☐ Share the plan with the entire community.

## WHO DOES WHAT?

*Preparing for drought is a shared responsibility. Some actions depend on the community, while others require support from public institutions and government agencies.*

### What the community can do

- Bring the community together and organize an action plan.
- Protect springs, igarapés (streams) and other water sources.
- Store water, food, seeds and medicines.

### When to request support

- When drinking water or water supply is insufficient.
- When health care or medicines are unavailable.
- When there are large fires that the community cannot control.

- Organize fire brigades and monitoring groups.
- Monitor river levels and hotspots.
- Quickly report risk situations.

- When the community becomes isolated.
- When fuel for emergency actions is unavailable.
- When food or other essential items are lacking.
- When the territory is threatened by invasions, deforestation, or illegal mining.

### WHEN SUPPORT IS NEEDED, WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT?

Not all situations can be resolved by the community alone. In some cases, it is important to contact partner institutions and public agencies as soon as possible.

| In case of...                                                              | Contact...                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lack of drinking water or difficulty obtaining supplies                    | Indigenous association, DSEI/ Office of Indigenous Health (SESAI), Municipal Government and Civil Defense.                                            |
| Lack of food or food insecurity                                            | Municipal Government, Civil Defense, FUNAI, Indigenous association and partner organizations.                                                         |
| Fires the community cannot control                                         | Community fire brigade, Fire Department, Prevfogo/ Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), and Civil Defense. |
| Lack of health care or medicines                                           | DSEI/SESAI and Health Unit.                                                                                                                           |
| Community isolation or difficulty with transportation                      | Municipal Government, Civil Defense, DSEI/SESAI and FUNAI.                                                                                            |
| Invasions, illegal mining, deforestation or other threats to the territory | FUNAI, regional Indigenous organization, COIAB, Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF) and Federal Police.                                          |
| Need for support with planning, monitoring and preparedness                | Indigenous association, regional Indigenous organization, COIAB and technical partners.                                                               |

After identifying the risks, organizing the community and learning about the support network, record this information in the Community Emergency Plan.

## IMPORTANT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Write down the telephone numbers and contact details of the people and institutions that can help during the drought period.

| Contact                      | Name                                                                              | Email / Phone |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Local Indigenous Association |                                                                                   |               |
| Base Center<br>(Polo Base)   | <b>DSEI Coordinator</b><br>Teams, supplies, and coordination.                     |               |
|                              | <b>Base Center:</b> Transportation, medicine, and health care.                    |               |
|                              | <b>Indigenous Health Agent – AIS:</b> Community health and referrals.             |               |
|                              | <b>Indigenous Sanitation Agent – AISAN:</b> Water, sanitation, and water quality. |               |
| State Civil Defense          | <b>Municipal Civil Defense:</b><br>Local response and immediate support.          |               |
|                              | <b>State Civil Defense:</b><br>Coordination and support.                          |               |
| Fire Department              |                                                                                   |               |
| Municipal Government         |                                                                                   |               |

|                                                                       |                                                                    |                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FUNAI                                                                 | <b>Local Technical Coordination (LTC)</b><br>Local public support. |                                                                                                       |
|                                                                       | <b>Regional Coordination (CR):</b><br>Institutional support        |                                                                                                       |
| Health Unit                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                       |
| Regional Indigenous Organization                                      |                                                                    |                                                                                                       |
| Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira - COIAB | <b>COIAB Executive Secretariat</b>                                 | secretaria@coiab.org.br<br>(92) 8607-4418                                                             |
|                                                                       | <b>COIAB Executive Coordination</b>                                | coordenacao@coiab.org.br                                                                              |
|                                                                       | <b>COIAB Indigenous Territorial Monitoring Management</b>          | monitoramento@coiab.org.br<br>e tecnicosgemti@coiab.org.br<br>(92) 98607-7983 Gerente<br>Rosibel Baré |

State and municipal contacts should be completed according to the territory. In an emergency, the following numbers may be called: Civil Defense – 199; SAMU – 192; Fire Department – 193. Availability of services may vary according to the municipality and local coverage.

COIAB contacts: [secretaria@coiab.org.br](mailto:secretaria@coiab.org.br) | (92) 8607-4418;  
[coordenacao@coiab.org.br](mailto:coordenacao@coiab.org.br); [monitoramento@coiab.org.br](mailto:monitoramento@coiab.org.br);  
[tecnicosgemti@coiab.org.br](mailto:tecnicosgemti@coiab.org.br) | (92) 98607-7983. Manager: Rosibel Baré.

## **EXTREME HEAT, INTENSE DROUGHT AND SMOKE**



On very hot, dry or smoky days, pay closer attention to children, adolescents and pregnant women. They are more susceptible/vulnerable to climate-related effects.

Seek medical assistance if there is difficulty breathing, fever, weakness, excessive sleepiness, intense thirst, a very dry mouth or any rapid worsening of health.

If there is diarrhea, pay attention to signs of dehydration. Seek the health team if two or more signs appear: irritability, sunken eyes, persistent thirst, absence of tears, dry mouth, weakness or little urine. Children can become dehydrated quickly. Observing signs, offering fluids when possible and seeking help promptly can prevent the situation from worsening.

### **IF THERE IS SMOKE OR EXTREME HEAT**

When there is extreme heat or heavy smoke, try to keep children in the coolest place with the least smoke, such as shaded, better ventilated or enclosed spaces, reducing exposure to smoke whenever possible.

Offer water frequently, even if the child does not ask for it. Avoid outdoor play and walks whenever possible.



### **SAFE WATER PROTECTS YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH**

During drought, water may become scarce or poor in quality. Whenever possible, use water from a safe source and treat it before drinking, cooking or preparing food, following guidance from the health or sanitation team.

Store water in clean, tightly closed containers protected from dirt and animals. Give priority to drinking, food preparation, and personal hygiene. Taking care of clean water helps maintain community health.



## PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

During emergencies, children and adolescents may become more vulnerable. Recognizing risks and seeking support early can help prevent violence.

During these periods, families may become more isolated, spend more time at home, or have difficulty accessing services such as health care, social assistance and civil defense. It is therefore important to strengthen attention and care among family members, neighbors, leaders, and trusted people.

Whenever possible, children and adolescents should be accompanied by parents or guardians. Observe their behavior, listen attentively, and help ensure a safe, welcoming environment free from any form of violence.

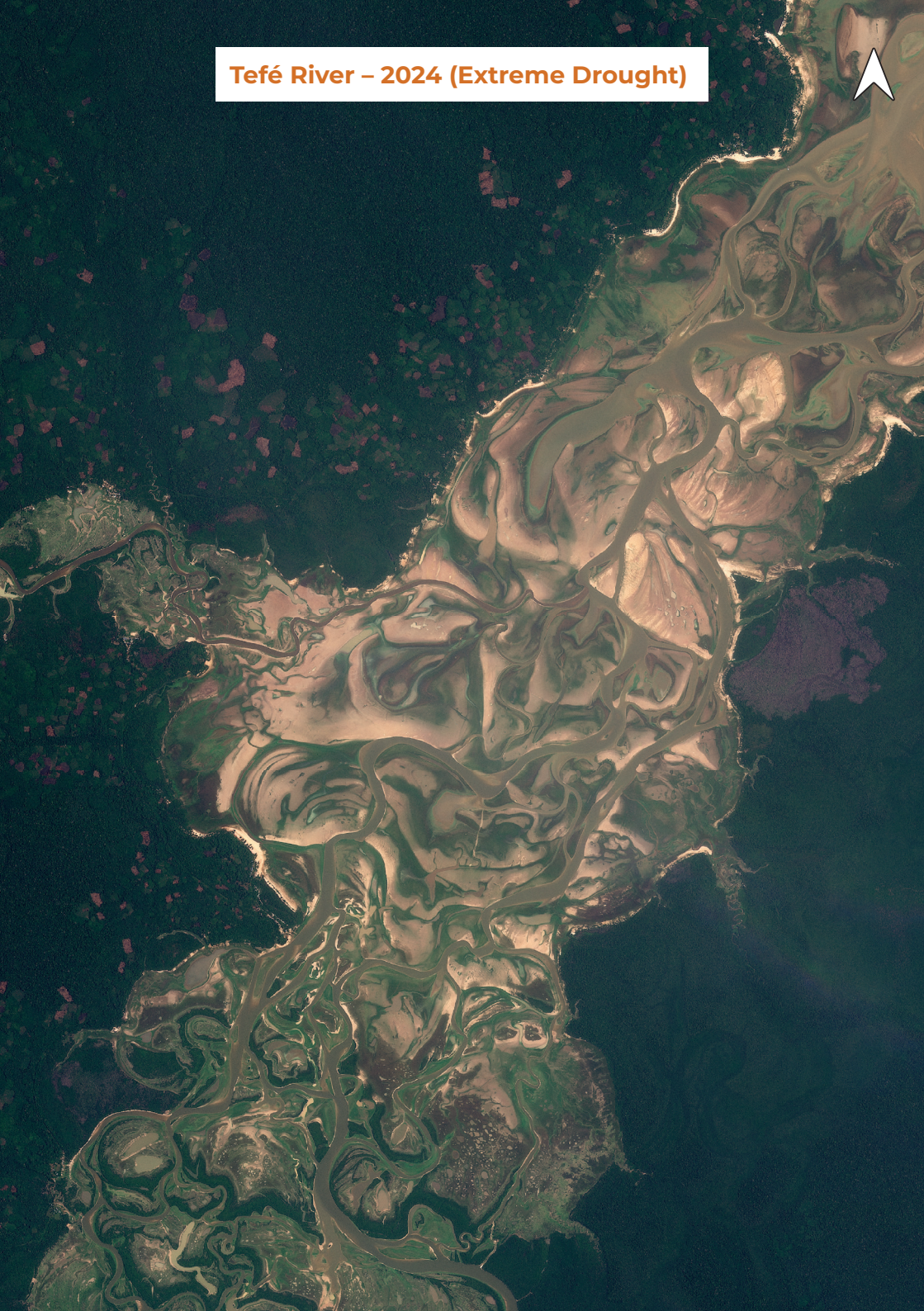
Pay attention to behavioral changes that cause concern; children and adolescents can be very expressive about their emotions. Seek support from leaders, health professionals, school staff, or social services. In an immediate risk situation, call 190. For guidance or reporting, contact Disque 100, the local Guardianship Council (Conselho Tutelar) and the municipality's Protection Network.

Protecting children and adolescents from all forms of violence is everyone's responsibility.

## Tefé River – 2025 (Water Recovery)



Tefé River – 2024 (Extreme Drought)



| Regional                                                                                                  | Email                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Coalition of Indigenous Organizations and Peoples of Amazonas (APIAM)                                     | secretaria@apiamoficial.org                        |
| Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR)                                                                       | cir_2012@yahoo.com.br                              |
| Coordination of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and Networks in Maranhão (COAPIMA)                      | contato@coapima.org.br                             |
| Coalition of Indigenous Peoples of Tocantins (ARPIT)                                                      | arpittocantins@gmail.com                           |
| Indigenous Movement of Acre (MIA)                                                                         | diretoria@matpha.org                               |
| Federation of Indigenous Peoples of the State of Pará (FEPIPA)                                            | contato.fepipa@gmail.com                           |
| Organization of Indigenous Peoples of Rondônia, Northwestern Mato Grosso, and Southern Amazonas (OPIROMA) | contato.opiroma@gmail.com                          |
| Coalition of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Organizations of Amapá and Northern Pará (APOIANP)         | apoianp.amapa@gmail.com                            |
| Federation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of Mato Grosso (FEPOINTM)                              | assessoria@fepointm.org<br>secretaria@fepointm.org |
| Union of Indigenous Women of the Brazilian Amazon (UMIAB)                                                 | umiab2009@gmail.com<br>secretariaumiab@gmail.com   |



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