



**fundo casa**  
SOCIOAMBIENTAL  
Casa Socio-Environmental Fund

# Annual Report 2021

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# INTRODUCTION

“ Support was not just relevant. Without this support, the Brigade would not have been able to act in 2021, as most of the brigadistas were without basic PPE and we were unable to find other sources of funding for this purpose, in addition to the project supported by the Casa Fund. In the second half of 2021, there were many fires in our region and our Brigade was very active until mid-October, when heavy rains began that continue to this day.”

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF THE  
GAVIÕES DA CHAPADA BRIGADE





TAMIRIS FERREIRA DE JESUS. PHOTO: THIAGO RODRIGUES/QUILOMBO DOS RUFINOS.

## A THE URGENCY TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

*By Cristina Orpheo – Executive Director of Casa Socio-Environmental Fund*

In recent years, we have been haunted by extreme events. Be them forest fires ravaging various regions of the world, sometimes torrential rains causing floods, not to mention intense drought, which affects cities and communities. Added to these factors, sanitation crises that affect the health of thousands of people, such as the indigenous people, affected by fires and toxic smoke, and the riverside populations, who consume fish contaminated by heavy metals. Often, these scenarios are so far away from us that we don't realize that thousands of people suffer the impacts of these transformations around the world, until the moment we find ourselves in a pandemic and we start to feel on our skin what many people have already suffered for so long. In addition to this



pandemic event experienced by all humanity, the economic crisis is advancing, which mainly harms those who have already been struggling daily to survive, leaving only the feeling of "scorched earth".

For decades, researchers have studied social inequality in Brazil, and, year after year, governments are unable to construct public policies able to reverse this situation. Social and environmental rights are still violated. The capitalist system seems to have no plans to change the current predatory economic development model. And the model that privileges low carbon still seems like a distant dream. Development plans still continue to envisage energy and transport megaprojects, in addition to

aggressive extractive projects that invade forests and biomes that are important for all life on the planet.

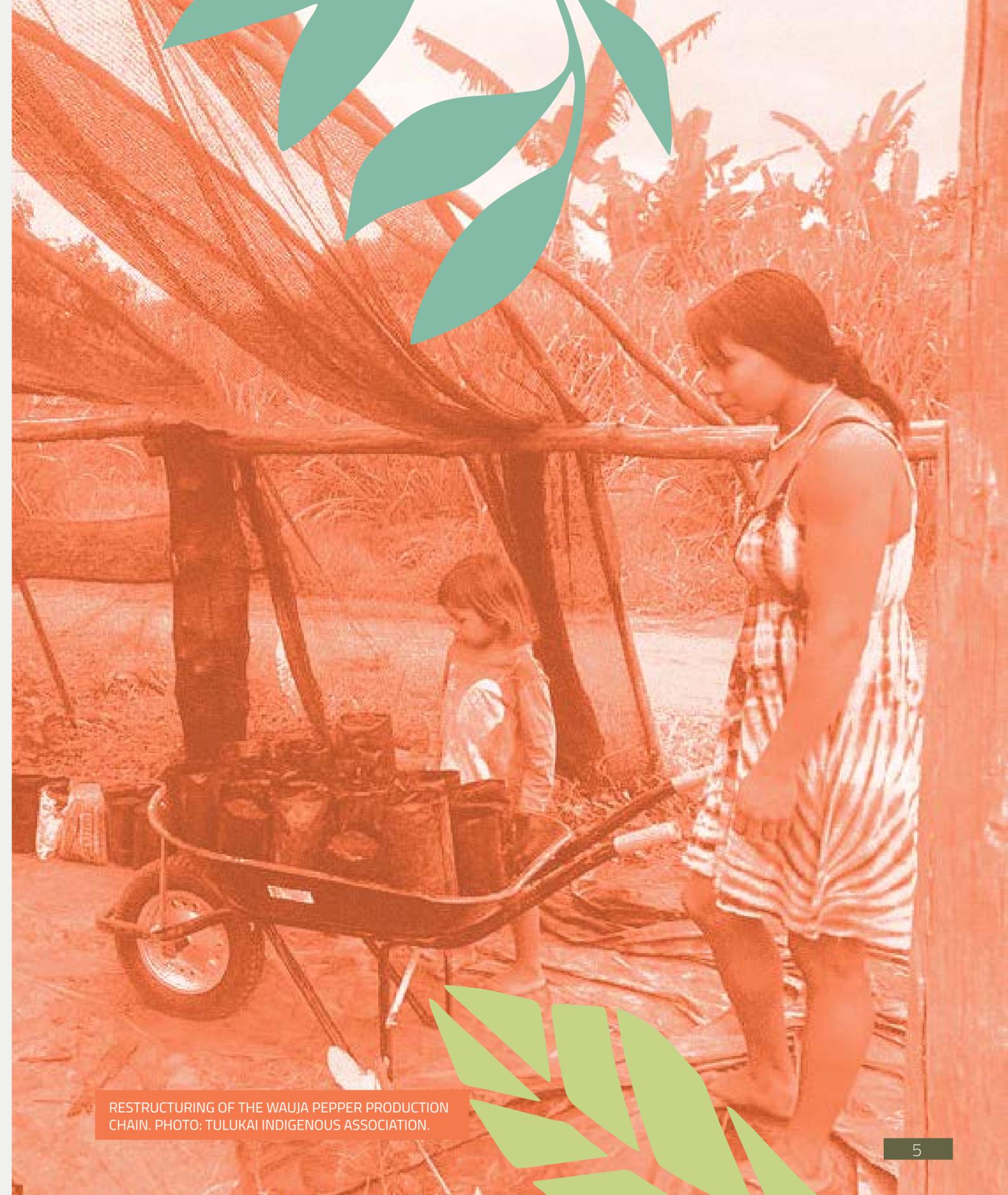
However, there is a quiet revolution under way, ignored by society and by governments. For hundreds of years, traditional and indigenous peoples have carried out silent work, capable of protecting ecosystems and, with that, protecting life on Earth. Today, these peoples are on the front lines of protecting forests and ecosystems. They are the grassroots leaders and activists who dedicate their lives to preventing the harm caused by exploitation, to inspiring their communities to build a new, equitable economy that benefits all people.

Defenders of their ancestral territories, the forest, rivers, biodiversity and way of life, these leaders understand the communities because they are part of them. Against all odds, they are dedicated to the idea that we can have communities resilient enough to withstand the growing effects of climate change. Silently and even invisibly, they use

traditional knowledge, practicing and building democratic, fair and sustainable businesses that will anchor a transition to a low carbon future.

Therefore, we must finance grassroots solutions developed by local communities, both in rural and urban environments, with direct financial support for indigenous peoples, riverine people, artisanal fishermen, among other peoples. Not just because communities are often the most affected by the extractive economy, but because we must honor their experiences and wisdom, crucial to creating a regenerative economy and healing our relationships with the planet and with our peers.

And most importantly: it is not enough to just support with financial resources. It is necessary, in this process, to recognize the decision-making power, the local protagonism. It is essential to promote democratization of access to philanthropic financial resources and create conditions for community control of these resources. Local



RESTRUCTURING OF THE WAUJA PEPPER PRODUCTION CHAIN. PHOTO: TULUKAI INDIGENOUS ASSOCIATION.

communities need to be empowered in decision-making that impacts their own lives, enabling them – both urban and rural, as well as riverside, forest and many others – to survive and thrive. With that, everyone on the planet wins.

Therefore, any funding dedicated to changing systems and dealing with acute or chronic crises – interconnected economic and climatic crises, or even pandemics, as was the case with covid-19 –, must not only distribute resources, but, fundamentally, transfer resources, power and recognize local leadership.

## We have to build secure processes for the resources to reach communities

In this sense and acting on this premise, there are the Local Funds for Social Justice, which work in a close relationship with grassroots social movements, within a set of values, shared practices and trust around local protagonism and the valorization of the collective work. Local Funds have created a technology to strengthen these community groups, promoting autonomy and independence.

The main lessons learned by the Casa Fund, which has been in operation for 17 years, on social technology in the areas where it operates are described below.

- **Protagonist communities** – Action must be based on the recognition of communities as political involved, protagonists of local transformation processes.

- **Innovation and listening** – The support to pioneers and the particular instinct to know the demands and needs of the communities are great assets of the Local Funds, as well as having a process of deep listening of the communities as a guide of the actions to be implemented, and that they be protagonists in the transformation process.

- **Networking** – The challenges are enormous and, therefore, networking is essential, whether strengthening existing networks or responding to the demands to create new networks. One element of this use is in the area of information and knowledge production. Civil society organizations manage large amounts of information and knowledge regarding the territories

in which they are located, in development projects on indigenous/traditional peoples, etc.

- **Assertive methodology** – The entire project selection, approval and monitoring process relies on a large collaborative network in the territories, which exponentially enhances our capillarity and reach in relation to the most distant groups – within processes and links in trust based relationships.

- **Focus on donations** – – The Casa Fund allocates more than 70% of the budget towards direct donations to community groups, according to a recent analysis carried out by an external audit.

- **Capacity strengthening** – Capacity strengthening actions developed with the groups are considered strategic and complementary to support, whilst creating conditions for the groups' autonomy and providing a set of tools and knowledge.





PHOTO: THIAGO RODRIGUES/QUILOMBO DOS RUFINOS

## THE SHEER SIZE OF INEQUALITY AND HOW PHILANTHROPY CAN DO MORE

*By Maria Amália Souza (Founder and Director of Strategic Development) and Cristina Orpheo (Executive Director)*

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The much talked about social inequality in Brazil has never been so wide open as in the period of the covid-19 pandemic. While a segment of the population continued working from home, saw profits increase through e-commerce and witnessed their children studying through virtual platforms and with online monitoring, another part saw the already scarce sources of income all but disappear. For many people unable to pay rent, the street was all that was left. For hundreds of children, school has become something distant. For a good part of Brazilians, hunger has begun to haunt once again.



And, to our sadness, the abyss of social inequality is many meters wider.

The pandemic seems to start to gain some semblance of control. On the other hand, the damage and pain it caused could take years to repair and heal, respectively. It would have been different if we lived in a more egalitarian society, where everyone had the same access and the same opportunities to have faced the crisis generated by Covid-19.

In the face of all this, we ask ourselves daily: what do we need to do so that this transformation takes



TRAINING OF THE COMMUNITY BRIGADE OF APA BAÍA NEGRA AND ALDEIA MÃE TERRA. PHOTO: VICTOR HUGO SANCHES

place and the specter of inequality does not continue to increase every day? What, in fact, is needed to turn this game around? Is philanthropy a solution or is it part of the problem?

**A PATH** – Philanthropy for social justice can help build this path, based on the recognition of who are the real protagonists in the transformation processes, recognizing that the decision-making power must belong to the communities themselves, those that, in fact, are on the front lines of racial, gender, health, environmental, climate, housing and other forms of violation of their rights and territories.

**A CHALLENGE** – Philanthropy is not a ready-made solution. It requires a trained look, a belonging to this

universe and a process designed in partnership with people who live the challenges. It is an art to ensure that resources arrive carefully, without stressing local relations, in order to elevate and consolidate the actions, and not belittle them even more.

However, this way of doing things does not even seem to be on the list of options for most high-level philanthropy, even coming from further afield, from the entire field of international cooperation. Within this vision, the private sources, as well as business and government sources, have always treated the most vulnerable groups as “clients” of their actions. The distance between these two realities is so immense that this conventional, structured, and, why not say, antiquated view has always treated the most

excluded and vulnerable communities in our society as if they had no ability to solve their own problems. The solutions, in this distant vision, must come, necessarily, from the books of some experts. People without formal education or who come from original cultural traditions are not seen as protagonists of their own lives by this distant universe. In general, they are perceived only as the beneficiaries of some kind of charity that may come their way; as passive recipients, not actors. Therefore, in this view, solutions always need to come from outside – an institution that plays the role of executor on behalf of these populations, to receive, generally, generous amounts of resources, and to implement solutions designed “for” and not “by” this population considered “incapable”.





Of course, this universe is not binary. There are many attempts within this spectrum of players, who come from this level of financial possibilities, to do things differently, to get closer to the groups with whom they intend to work, listen and understand. But even so, there is unintended, unexpected, and most often unnoticed distortions that occur, until it is too late to correct—it is very difficult for incumbent individuals, with all the best intentions, to obtain the clearest and most objective information of the groups with whom they intend to ally and support - especially when these groups have a history of decades or centuries of exclusion. Expectations on both sides are very high and, shall we say, uneven. They are very distant universes, where objectivity has almost no space to exist. Sometimes the best of intentions are not enough for the best results to be possible. Therefore, the fault does not always come from those positioned at the top of the pyramid, but from the very incompatibility of worldviews.

This is exactly where we need to look more closely at some blocks of this structure, of which we have become so used to and which have become apparently an unquestionable status quo. We will start from a few points.

**POWER** – We need to remove the filters that mask the structures of power from where we are (our organizations) to break all the paradigms that reproduce this system that causes the same inequality that we reject, but that ends up penetrating all the levels of our organizations. The antidote will always be to identify forms of “power over” and dismantle them block by block, to recreate horizontal relationships in their place. This ranges from decision-making processes, hierarchies, to care and exercise focused on respect for those whom we collaborate. Each dimension of power must be analyzed and dismantled, so that “power with” can be created, which is different from disfunctionality. There are relationships that can be the recognition of individual values, while still allowing a distribution of specific and assignable tasks and responsibilities.



TRAINING OF THE COMMUNITY BRIGADE OF APA BAÍA NEGRA AND ALDEIA MÃE TERRA. PHOTO: VICTOR HUGO SANCHES



**THE TIME** –Philanthropy also needs to deal with the time required for transformation and invest in the medium and long term. Realities where there have been and are constantly still, violated rights, pain and blood for decades, cannot be changed in 12/24 month timelines. When one starts from the premise that whoever has the money dictates the rules, and if rules are borrowed from corporate practice to act in the social, the universe of action is very limited – and, with that, the real social impact that a financial investment could produce in the world. This is when this impact does not become negative and makes the circumstances even worse. The key to making good investments in this great objective

is knowing that, to change the world, we must have persistence, dedication and a lot of patience.

**OUTSCALING** – This term, mentioned by Ashish Kothari of Global Tapestry of Alternatives, makes perfect sense to us in the field of philanthropy for social justice. We know that vulnerable populations within territories of great biodiversity are fundamental for the protection of the biome itself and that enabling a sustainable economy in these regions is one of the great answers to stimulate local conservation and regeneration. However, we have been concerned about the approaches generically called Social Impact Investments. And that when they use the same model of stimulating

the consumption of some specific products in production chains, they encourage communities to increase this production - as it is the one with the most demand in the market - to the detriment of the wide variety of species that they traditionally cultivate and with which count on, in the right measure, to produce a decent income. This action, added to the concept of “upscaling” production, which fluctuates with the demand (or not) of the market, instead of producing solutions, may increase, even more, the abyss of inequality and be overwhelming for a community. Therefore, we work with the idea of “outscaling”, which stimulates the possible production of each product by an infinity of communities, ensuring that each species is cultivated and managed according

to the conditions of each territory, and that, at the same time, the combination of collectively combined yields makes a real difference to the local economy, all the while demonstrating the economic viability of the standing forest.

**WHERE TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY AND WHERE TO PROTECT RIGHTS –**

Following this logic, the market is selective in its logic. It is looking for products that have a market and focuses on how to stimulate production. This is fine in places where conditions are already in place, where territories are guaranteed and the community is well organized, preferably in cooperatives (something common in several biomes). However, if the first logic is to produce demands for biodiversity products so as to guarantee protection and sustainability, first of all, it is necessary to see how this territory is threatened and in which instances (and there are many) the community is struggling to guarantee its traditional occupation and territory demarcation, which are not yet guaranteed by law (and, therefore, suffers all kinds of illegal invasions). Generally, in these regions, the violation of rights is so great that those

who try to protect them suffer constant threats and violence. The growth of these cases has been so acute and notable that we are concerned that it is being sidelined in the broader investment discussions. In most of these cases, the vulnerability is such that there is no other way of approaching social justice than philanthropy, albeit in a careful way, and all the while, not exposing these populations.

**THE COLLECTIVE –** There is a big problem in the field of philanthropy today of inventing individual leaders. While there are indeed some individuals within the large social collectives – indigenous peoples, quilombolas, communities of family producers, etc. – who propose to take the voices of their communities to greater levels, and therefore stand out from the others, the insistence of Western society on elevating them beyond their collective and making them visible as individual leaders is one of the biggest problems that we noticed in this field. Not only does this projection increase the risk to their own lives in a highly antagonistic and dangerous political context, but it also causes a series of internal problems in their communities, which interferes with the work as a whole that this collective needs to carry out.



PHOTO: GAMBÁ - ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUP OF BAHIA



PHOTO: THIAGO RODRIGUES/QUILOMBO DOS RUFINOS

We made the decision, as a local fund, not to contribute to this contexto and we feel compelled to always advise international funders on these risks. Even so, this approach reflects the culture of Western heroes and heroines that is deeply rooted in these cultures meaning that this discussion will still need some time to mature. We just hope that in the meantime, it won't be at the cost of more lives.

Understand that this is not just a matter of opinion. Making individuals visible, charging them to speak to governors, kings, presidents and international corporations really is an important strategy for influencing governments and policies, as well as bringing these important struggles to the forefront. However, after this happens, these people, without many conditions, return to their territories of origin to face even more adverse conditions for work and life itself and with minimal conditions of self-protection. As an example, there is the emblematic case of Chico Mendes. For this reason, Casa Fund has been looking for solutions that always focus on the collective, on

shared leadership as a measure to protect these populations that are so threatened.

**THE FUTURE** – We have a key actor for this transformation: the youth. The young black, indigenous, extractivist. This actor with the fighting power, who still dreams and has recycling energy and has access to more tools for this transformation so as to build a better future, based on and supported by the ancestral wisdom of their elders. The path is laid out. This is an approach that requires persistence, dedication and patience, since we are building a strong and resilient foundation. Betting on training and offering the necessary investments are the basic premises for this deep and lasting transformation to occur.

**THE HOPE IN COLLABORATION** – To get there, institutions of all kinds, from philanthropic to impact investing, we need to build links between our organizations, using our institutional differences and singularities to build a chain so strong that it will not break. Unfortunately, our society is heavily driven by competition. Even among

civil society, proving one's worth to others in order to gain more visibility and resources is common practice. Philanthropy itself is often designed to produce competition, as it uses the vision of scarcity to stimulate a race for the resource. Whoever is better in the arguments, more skilled in the narrative, wins the support award. This promotes the rampant growth of some groups, leaving most of the "less skilled" out of the race entirely. When we talk about the most excluded layers of society, they are not even on the radar of this universe. Considering all this, where are we now in this world? Do we really see progress? Or is this the feeling of constant backsliding and regression.

The Casa Fund has chosen another path: that of collaboration. We share knowledge, models and relationships, as well as invite other institutions to join our relationships of trust, all the while relying on networks of trust in the territories and constantly expand these

relationships. We maintain a focus on the horizontality of our internal relationship – team/council/support network – and between us and the groups we support. For us, what has real value is the protagonism of the most vulnerable communities, so that they find solutions. We are their allies. The resource we have to donate is a useful tool, but not what dictates the relationship. And so we constantly shape, with words and deeds, the world we are seeking to build. If, together, we, who are in a position to make resources available to the most abandoned sectors of our societies, manage to improve our dialogues, be willing to listen, to analyze our own methods of action, and to be willing to elevate the best of each one of us for this common purpose to be carried out, we will, in fact, be breaking the chains of competition, which pushes away, weakens and creates abysses. And then we will answer, with all certainty, that yes, philanthropy can do much more.





FOTO: THIAGO RODRIGUES/QUILOMBO DOS RUFINOS

## OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE FIELD OF PHILANTHROPY

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The Casa Fund is dedicated to the field of philanthropy for social justice and the democratization of resource access by grassroots communities. We believe in the importance of collaboration and participate in networks and alliances that expand our possibility of learning and also contribute with our experience to the broader discussions in this field.

Throughout 2021, Maria Amália Souza, founder and director of Strategic Development at the Casa Fund, participated as a speaker in 18 webinars and/or strategic meetings promoted by recognized institutions and networks in the field of national and global philanthropy. At these events, she represented Casa Fund and contributed with topics such as

the importance of local funds in the Global South and what they add to the consolidated field of philanthropy, the role of protecting community-based groups in maintaining the important biomes that control climate balance and the impacts of these changes on their lives. Other topics include protecting the rights of environmental defenders, gender justice, community philanthropy, building philanthropy in the countries of the Global South, among other themes. In addition to Maria Amália, the entire Fundo Casa team is actively present in dozens of gatherings and meetings on the most varied topics involving the field of socio-environmental philanthropy in Brazil and worldwide.

The Casa Fund participates in several networks that bring together financiers and strategic partners.

🌿 **Philanthropy Network for Social Justice.**

It brings together funds and community foundations, donor organizations or grant-makers, that mobilize resources from different sources to support groups, collectives, movements and civil society organizations that work in the fields of social justice, human rights, citizenship and community development. Fourteen members have come together to demonstrate that it is possible to directly support community-based groups related to all social justice issues, so that they can propose and develop their own solutions initiatives for communities.

🌿 **Human Rights Funders Network.**

It is the largest global network of foundations and funds that invest in human rights in the most different aspects and ways, such as racial equity, gender justice, traditional peoples, combating modern slavery and many other variations of these themes. The Casa Fund is part of the coordinating committee of this network and contributes to strengthening the perspective and differential of local funds in the Global South.

🌿 **Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur | Socio-Environmental Funds of the Global South.** A new initiative that brings together nine independent socio-environmental funds from Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia. The alliance's member funds are local, with national or regional operations, created in different countries of the Global South. In addition to making direct donations, each fund helps small organizations build capacity and strengthen institutions.

🌿 **Alliance Among Funds.** Formed by the Baobá Fund for Racial Equity, the Brazil Fund and the Casa Fund, this alliance emerged from the community mobilization for racial, social and environmental justice for facing covid-19. It proposes a new way of operation in the philanthropy ecosystem in Brazil: collaborative philanthropy for social justice.

🌿 **Edge Funders Alliance.** It is a network of foundations dedicated to strengthening social movements in the world. To this end, it encourages dialogues between funders and movements in an advanced and participatory manner. The Casa Fund, in addition to being a member of this network, has contributed in this space for many years in strengthening the participation of local funds from the South.

# HOW MUCH HAS THE CASA FUND DONATED AND TO WHOM?

“ We gained visibility and recognition from the public authorities and society in general, who congratulated us and this made it possible to expand our actions.”

QUILOMBOLA UNION ASSOCIATION  
OF ARAÇÁ CARIACÁ



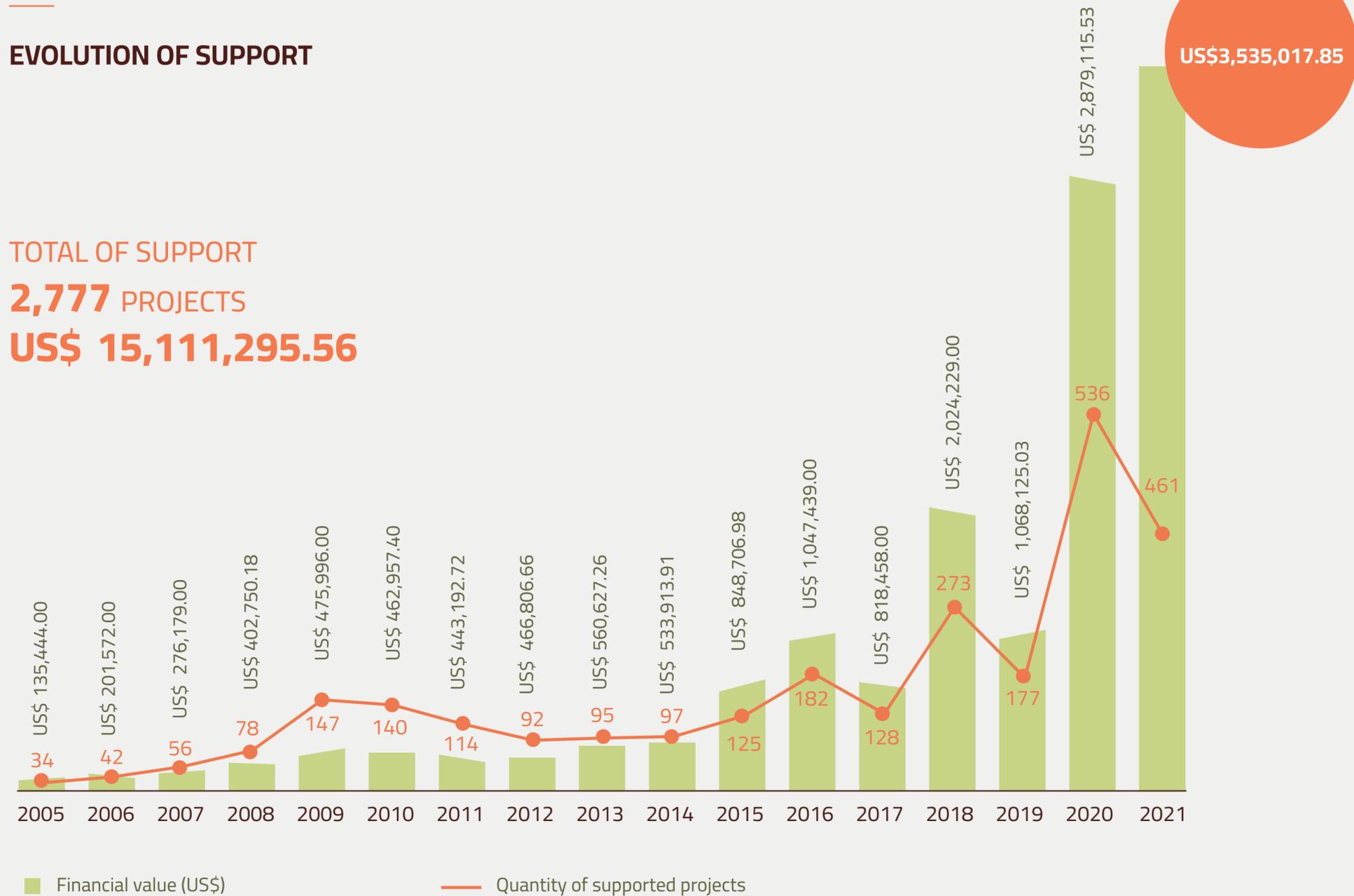
The main mission of The Casa Fund is to donate. And the numbers show that around 70% of our budget is donated directly. In absolute numbers, we have so far donated to 2,777 projects and over R\$62 million (over US\$15 million).

The Casa Fund donates to groups that have less access to resources, as well as to community-based groups. The focus of support is toward indigenous and quilombola communities, artisanal fishermen, forest dwellers and groups of residents who struggle to maintain the environmental integrity of their territories. Such communities, which live in harmony with the surrounding environment, are also the ones who work the most in protecting biomes.

Most of each support varies between R\$ 20 thousand and R\$ 60 thousand. However, since 2020, the Casa Fund has started to provide greater support, with amounts between BRL 150,000 and BRL 500,000, in a pilot experiment.

## EVOLUTION OF SUPPORT

TOTAL OF SUPPORT  
**2,777** PROJECTS  
**US\$ 15,111,295.56**



## WHO WE DONATED TO IN 2021

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In 2021, the Casa Fund made 4 Calls for Projects. And 46 community projects from **Brazil and Paraguay** were contemplated. In all, **BRL 18.275.612,79 (\$3,533,907.92)** were donated to them. A lot of support was directed towards facing the impacts of covid-19, especially in structuring actions, which contributed to the food security of communities, as well as small infrastructure projects, such as sanitation, access to water, agroecology, energy, equipment for communities, among others, all the while being connected with the human rights approach. This was only possible due to a huge network in which we are a part of, which connects us to national and international funders, strategic organizations in the territories, grassroots groups and so many leaders and defenders of the environment that are our eyes and ears in the territories .

### CALLS FROM THE CASA FUND IN 2021



Support to Community-based Groups in the fight against covid-19 – Strengthening Communities Programs

[CALL](#)



Support to Community-based Groups in dealing with climate emergencies caused by forest fires

[CALL](#)



Strengthening of Territorial Rights – South American Program

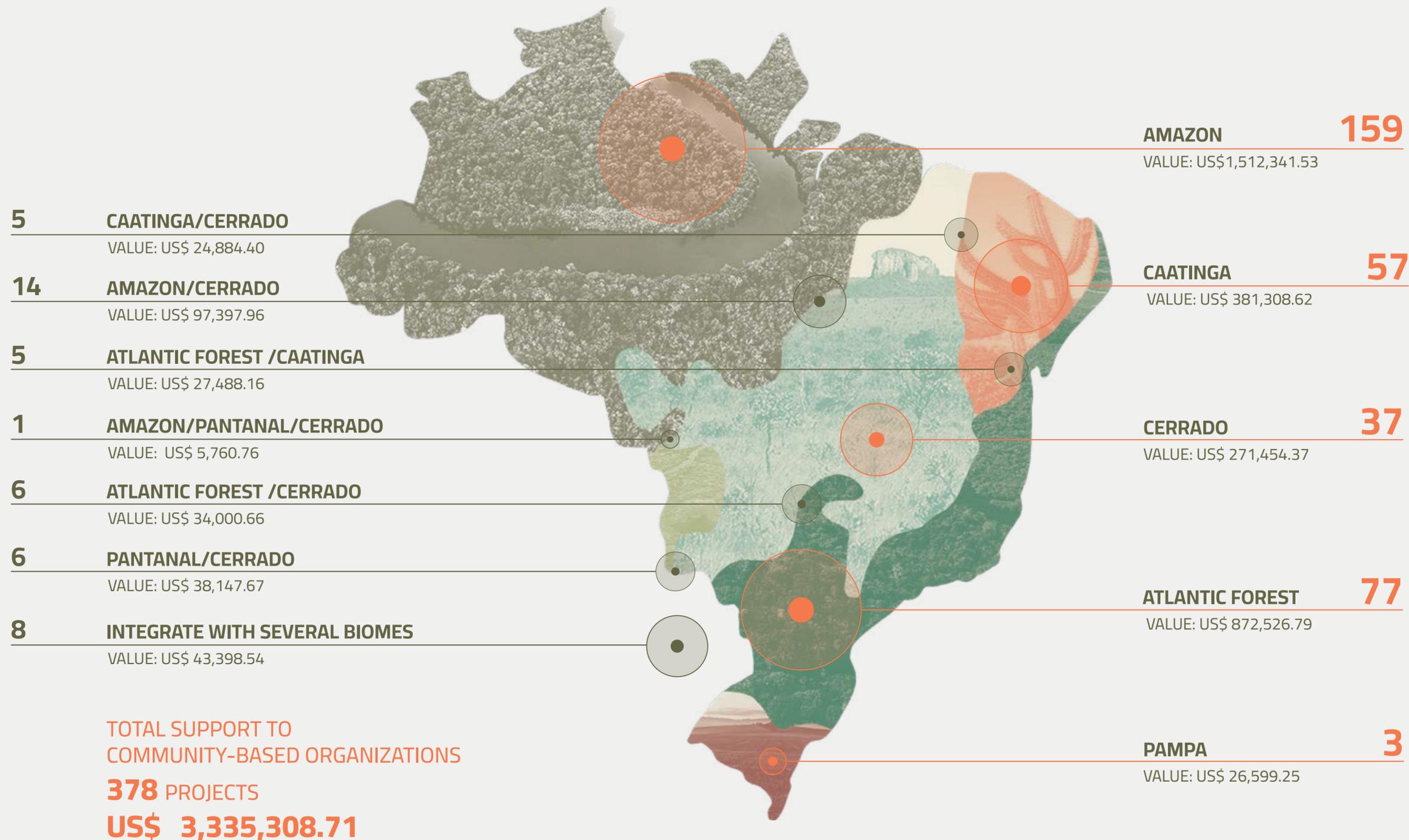
[CALL](#)



Call for projects to support quilombola communities in dealing with the impacts caused by covid

[CALL](#)

**SUPPORTED PROJECTS  
PER BIOME**



## WHO WE DONATED TO IN 2021

**876** VALUE: US\$ 6,286,171.52

43%

**378** VALUE: US\$ 3,335,308.71 **94%**

APPROVED PROJECTS:  
collectives and associations

**84** VALUE: US\$ 199,709.14 **6%**

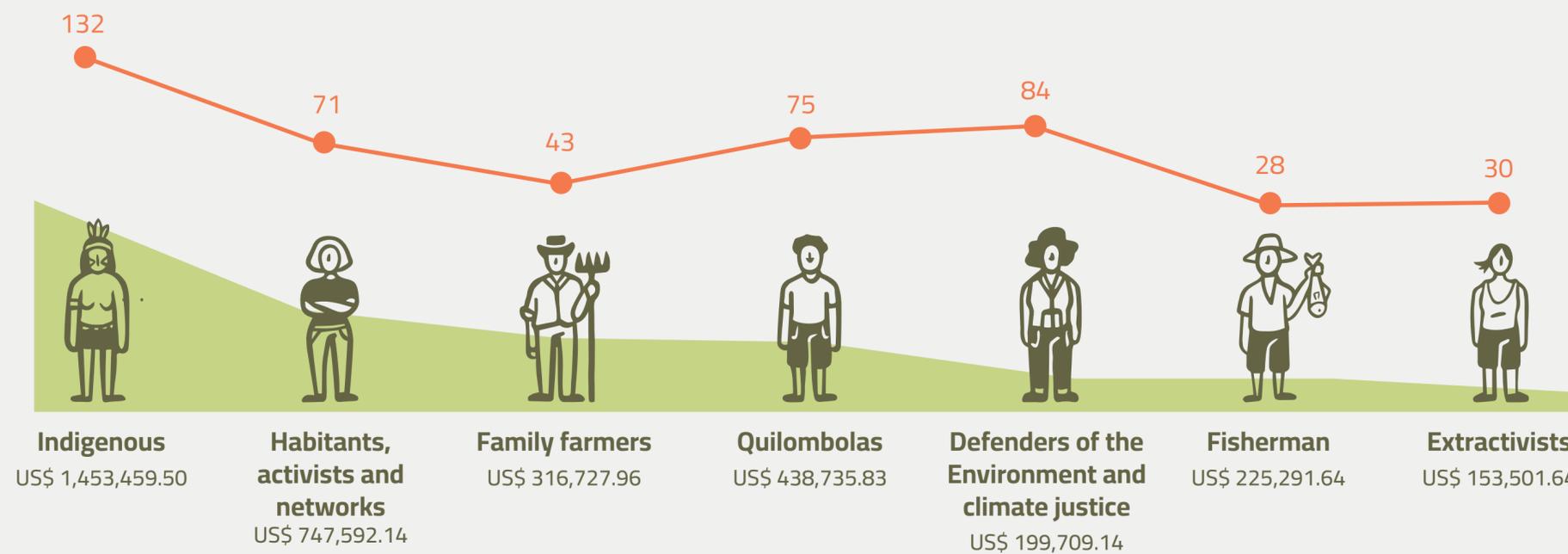
SUPPORTED PROPOSALS:  
environmental defenders and  
indigenous leaders

TOTAL OVERALL SUPPORT\*  
**462** PROJECTS  
**US\$ 3,535,017.85**

\*projects approved and contracted in 2021 the payments are in instalments that could occur until 2022

RECEIVED PROJECTS

In 2021, we expanded our donations to the priority groups, as shown in the table below.

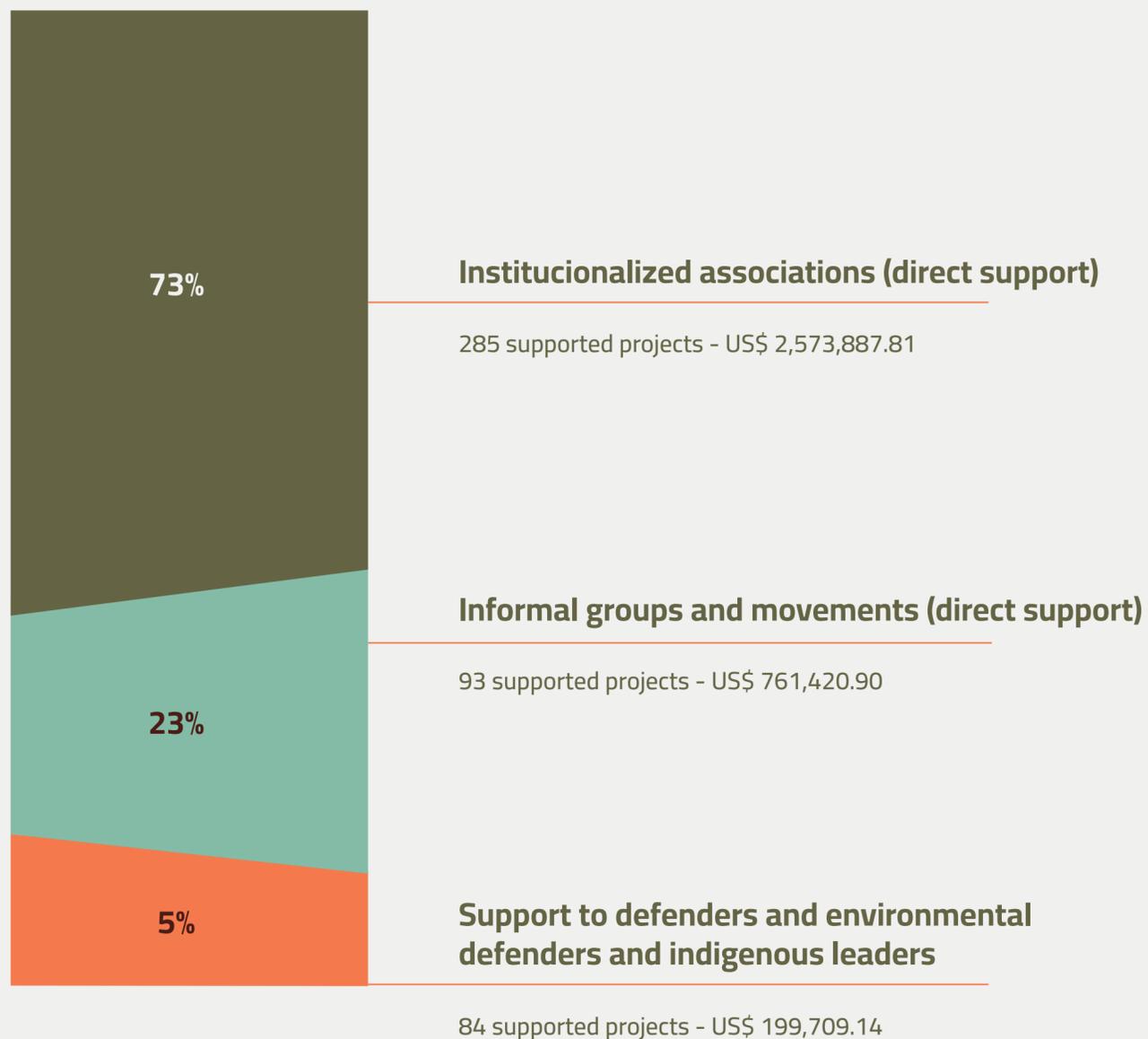


■ Distribution of the financial volume

— Quantity of supported projects

## TO WHAT ORGANIZATION FORMAT WE DONATE

In Brazil, most communities are organized into local associations institutionalized as non-profit organizations.



However, there are other organization formats that are not necessarily formalized, such as movements, collectives and work groups.

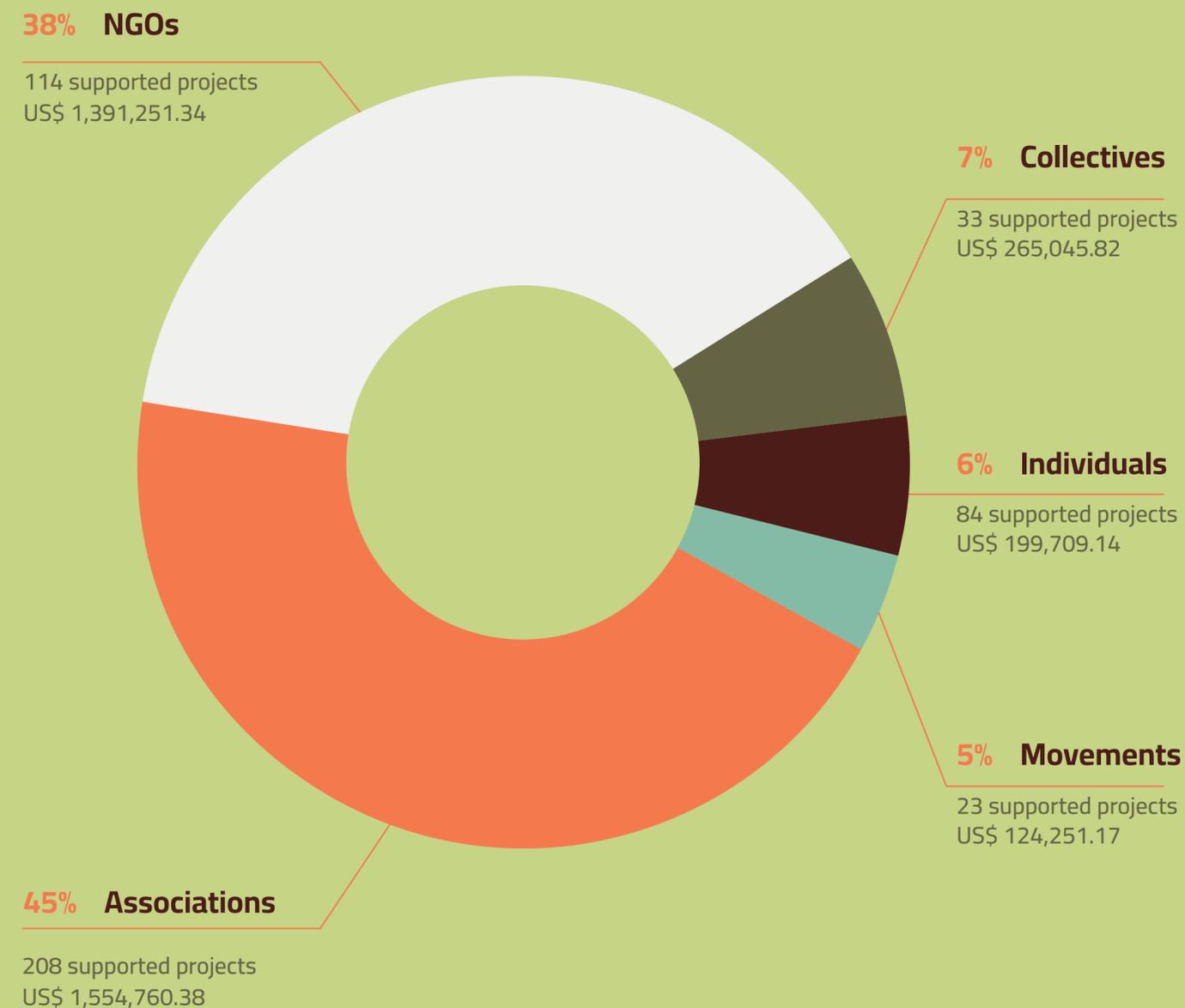




PHOTO: THIAGO RODRIGUES/QUILOMBO DOS RUFINOS

## WHERE ARE THE SUPPORTED PROJECTS?

Most of the projects supported are located in the rural environment (forests, Cerrado, Caatinga or other areas in the countryside), but the Casa Fund also supports urban groups, especially projects that promote the connection between countryside/city. We emphasize the importance of this approach for the creation of a collective conscience regarding the value of protecting ecosystems.

Communities are also organized into Networks and Movements, which can have national projection and action.

**Rural environment (forests, Cerrado, Caatinga ou other countryside areas)**  
308 supported projects - US\$ 2,238,739.02

**Urban environment**  
50 supported projects  
US\$ 669,251.39

**Projects with national projection**  
20 supported projects  
US\$ 427,318.29





# PERFORMANCE OF THE CASA FUND PROGRAMS IN 2021

“ Our results went beyond what we expected, as we formed several partnerships that will be fundamental for the continuation of our project.”

ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS OF THE  
CENTER OF ANTERO DO SANTEIRO VIANA





## CASA AMAZON

The focus of this program, which operates within the PanAmazon scope, is to strengthen Amazonian groups and communities that play a fundamental role in environmental conservation and in managing the biodiversity of the biome where they live.

In 2021, Fundo Casa expanded support to indigenous, extractive, riverside and small family farmer communities. There were 168 projects in the Amazon, which totalled more than 7 million reais donated, with the support based on the premise that these actors,

strengthened in their territories, with better living conditions, have greater chances of safeguarding this great biome for future generations, ensuring climate balance.

**The projects, with respect to voice and protagonism, come from the will and demand of the communities. The identification of the problem and the possible solution comes from those who live the reality.**



PHOTO: CULTURAL PRESENTATION AT ALDEIA WAR O APONPU – IPEREG

In 2021, many projects of this program were connected with the Strengthening Communities Program, responding to demands from the countryside, focusing on the resilience of communities in facing the consequences of the covid-19 pandemic. Production and income generation initiatives allied to the standing forest, defense of territorial rights, legal and political incidence, environmental and territorial management, institutional strengthening, creation of local funds and also a call focused on supporting projects of promoting, valuing, rescuing and transmitting indigenous cultures.



PHOTO: ECO ICARAIZINHO. THE SEA IS OURS TOO! PROTAGONISM OF TRADITIONAL ARTISANAL FISHING COMMUNITIES FACING OFFSHORE WIND FARMS



## CASA SOUTH AMERICA

It aims to support groups affected by megaprojects that cause imbalance, socio-environmental and cultural losses and that cross the borders of South American countries. With this, we seek to link local processes and actions to national and transnational movements in the 9 countries where we have been operating in the last 16 years.

In the period from 2006 to 2017, most of the projects received by the Casa Fund were linked to the impacts of hydrocarbon exploration and the installation of large hydroelectric plants. However, in recent years, we have seen the expansion of thermo-electric plants and wind farms that threaten the continuity of traditional ways of life, due to intervention in the territories.

In 2021, the South American Program supported community projects that seek territorial justice and contest the impacts of megaprojects that affect biomes and traditional ways of life. In all, 30 projects were supported within these themes.

The Casa South America Program also houses the projects supported through the **GAGGA Alliance (Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action)**, which seeks to reveal the natural potency of the creative, sensitive and fulfilling force of women in the search for historically denied rights and the struggle for environmental justice, such as the right to access to clean water, food sovereignty, and a healthy and balanced

environment. In the last 5 years, the partnership between the Casa Fund and GAGGA has supported more than 100 projects in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.

In the last two years, the Casa Fund has helped to consolidate 5 new local socio-environmental funds: 4 in South America – Bolivia, Peru, Colombia and Ecuador – and 1 in Mozambique.

**As the only fund of this nature for the South American region, the Casa Fund is now sharing its own experience and model of support for community-based groups with allies across the region.**

Gradually, this legacy has been consolidated and the Casa Fund can focus donations locally and do the strategic work of influencing the field of international philanthropy to understand the value of local funds in order to strengthen and protect democracies in the Global South. Now, each fund has its own direct financial sources and our Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur works to mobilize resources for all funds together, expanding our ability to respond to socio-environmental justice agendas in the regions where we operate.



## CASA RIVERS AND OCEANS

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It aims to strengthen local organizations and strategic organizations representing artisanal fishermen, recognizing them as the most important political actors in the processes of conservation of marine/coastal/river natural resources and in social transformation.

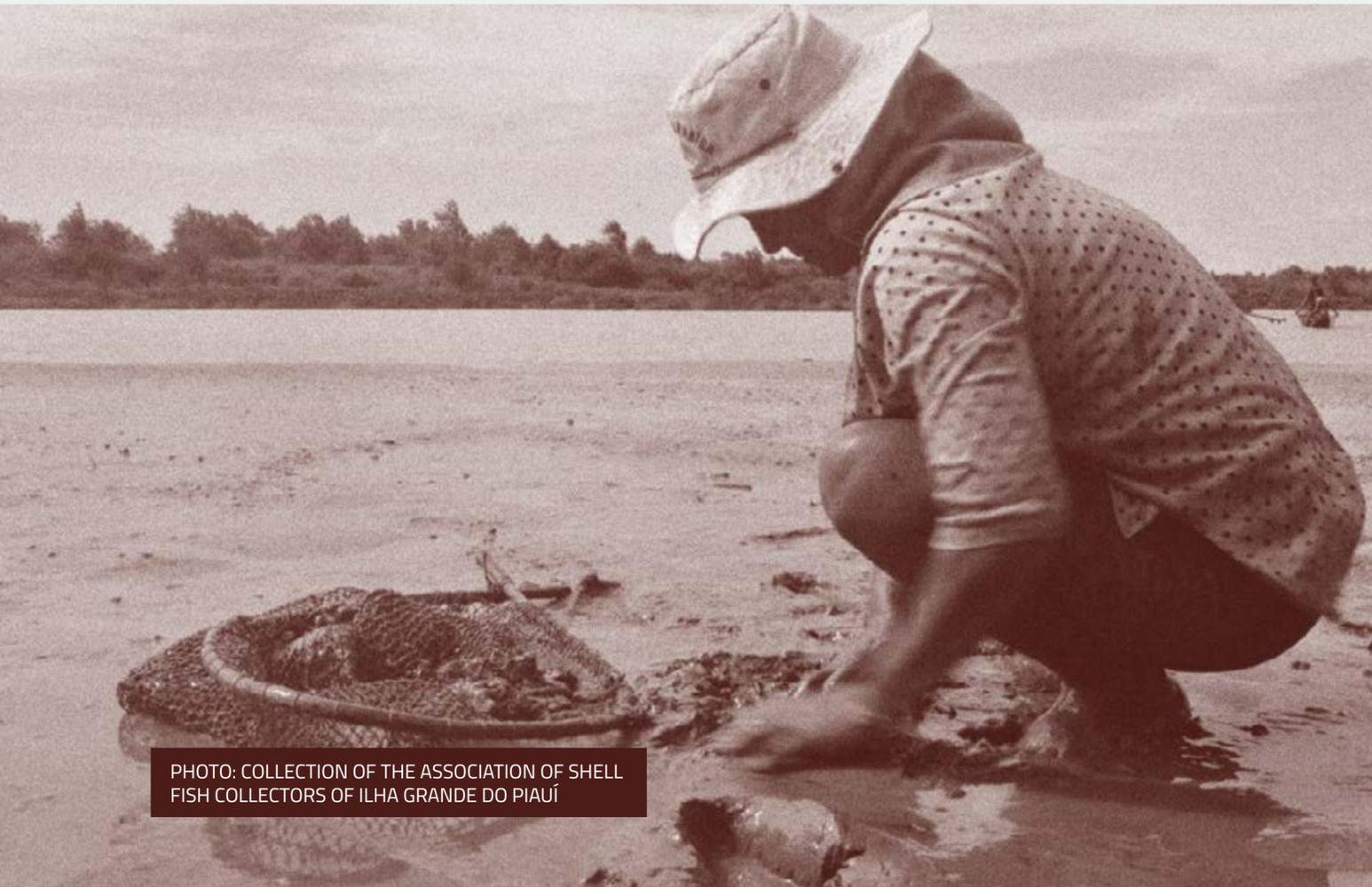


PHOTO: COLLECTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SHELL FISH COLLECTORS OF ILHA GRANDE DO PIAUÍ

In 2021, support was given in the field of institutional strengthening of artisanal fisheries organizations, support for popular artisanal fisheries movements for legal and political incidence actions, as well as support for the creation of the platforms of the Artisanal Fisheries Observatory, added to the creation of a fishing self-monitoring App. This demand, from more than 10 years in the sector, has become a reality and will give visibility to the production of artisanal fishing in the country. In all, the Casa Rivers and Oceans Program has donated, since 2020, R\$ 1.2 million. Of this, R\$ 129,000 was used to create platforms for the Artisanal Fisheries Observatory.



## CASA CITIES/TOWNS

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**It aims to support community groups that work on the rights to the city, sustainable cities/towns and the connection between the countryside and the cities.**

In 2021, Casa Cities supported groups in the Amazon and Northeastern cities. In Amazonian cities, the Call was aimed at promoting participation and incidence in public policies, aimed at mitigating and adapting communities in the face of the climate change consequences. In the northeastern cities, the Call supported projects that brought proposals to increase the incidence in the elaboration and implementation of public policies that seek to guarantee the rights to cities and projects that promote connections between countryside and city and networking.



PHOTO: CERBAMBU RAVENA ARCHIVE



PHOTO: THIAGO RODRIGUES/QUILOMBO DOS RUFINOS



## CASA STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

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The focus of this program is the strengthening of grassroots communities in the struggle for environmental justice, in the defense of territories and ways of life and in the application of local solutions for good living.

**This was the program that had the most support in 2021, due to the impacts of the pandemic.**

Within this program, appears **Support for Grassroots Groups in coping with climatic emergencies caused by forest fires**, aiming at preparing communities to face the drought period, which, every year, begins earlier. Often, local communities are the first to arrive at fire locations, especially in regions further away from large centers. If fires are fought

early on, the chances are greater that they will be controlled before they spread to larger proportions. The Call supported 49 projects from 12 states located in the Pantanal, Amazon and Cerrado biomes. The supported projects used the resources to carry out training and purchase equipment, such as blowers, drones and PPE (personal protective equipment).

Also within the **Casa Communities Program, a Call for projects was held to support quilombola communities in dealing with the impacts caused by covid-19**, with the aim of supporting organizations, groups and collectives of african descendent and quilombola people, so that they can implement initiatives that contribute to economic recovery and sustainability, the promotion of food sovereignty and security, strengthening community resilience and the defense of rights in communities.

This Call was part of the Alliance between Funds, which emerged from community mobilization for racial, social and environmental justice, as a way of supporting groups that continue to face the greatest challenges related to the pandemic, proposing a new way of acting in the philanthropy ecosystem in Brazil, which is called **collaborative philanthropy for social justice**.

Comprised of the [Baobá Fund for Racial Equity](#), the [Brazil Human Rights Fund](#) and the [Casa Socioambiental Fund](#), the Alliance between Funds aims to promote greater direct resources for indigenous peoples, quilombola communities and other traditional peoples that are more vulnerable in relation to the pandemic of Covid-19.



## EMERGENCY FUND TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS (NORTHERN REGION)

For 3 years, we have been working to support defenders, always discussing and articulating with a set of actors within and/or close to the most affected territories: the defenders themselves, popular lawyers, funders, local organizations for the defense of rights, among others.

### MAIN THEMES SUPPORTED\*



#### Sanitation

10 projects  
US\$ 142,117.74



#### Energy

24 projects  
US\$ 161,224.42



#### Forest protection

131 projects  
US\$ 1,120,862.46



#### Water resources

81 projects  
US\$ 527,144.46



#### Food security and sovereignty

147 projects  
US\$ 1,004,802.94



#### Community funds

22 projects  
US\$ 161,131.27



#### Covid-19

133 projects  
US\$ 797,241.12



#### Hydroelectricity

15 projects  
US\$ 125,921.55



#### Gender

95 projects  
US\$ 626,710.52



#### Reforestation

44 projects  
US\$ 290,122.70



#### Agroecology

153 projects  
US\$ 1,017,677.55



#### Climate change

137 projects  
US\$ 1,218,534.87



#### Income generation

136 projects  
US\$ 871,344.63



#### Emergency support

33 projects  
US\$ 165,180.19

\*A project can have more than one theme



TOGETHER, THE SUPPORT  
PROVIDED BY THE CASA FUND  
PROGRAMS REACHED:

**414,688**

Families attended by projects

**622,675**

People directly benefitted

**10,363,414**

People indirectly benefitted

## SUPPORT FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

The covid-19 pandemic has severely affected the most vulnerable populations, especially the least favored communities. Brazil is a continental country with great diversity and so the pandemic was a tragedy that affected different groups in different ways. The national infrastructure is unevenly distributed and services and public policies can take months to reach more distant places, with little or no access to the media.

Aware of this, the Casa Fund launched, in 2021, within the Strengthening Communities Program, the Call for Projects, aimed at community-based groups and traditional communities. In all, there

were two Calls, which included 158 projects and more than R\$ 5 million was donated to different regions of Brazil.

In these Calls, we emphasize the participation of organizations led by the indigenous community, populations that are suffering an increasing number of attacks on their territories and their culture. In the midst of the pandemic, invasions of territories and the weakening of inspection and regulations have become commonplace. With a view to preserving these peoples on their own lands, support for these projects has become even more essential.

## FACING COVID-19 IN 2021

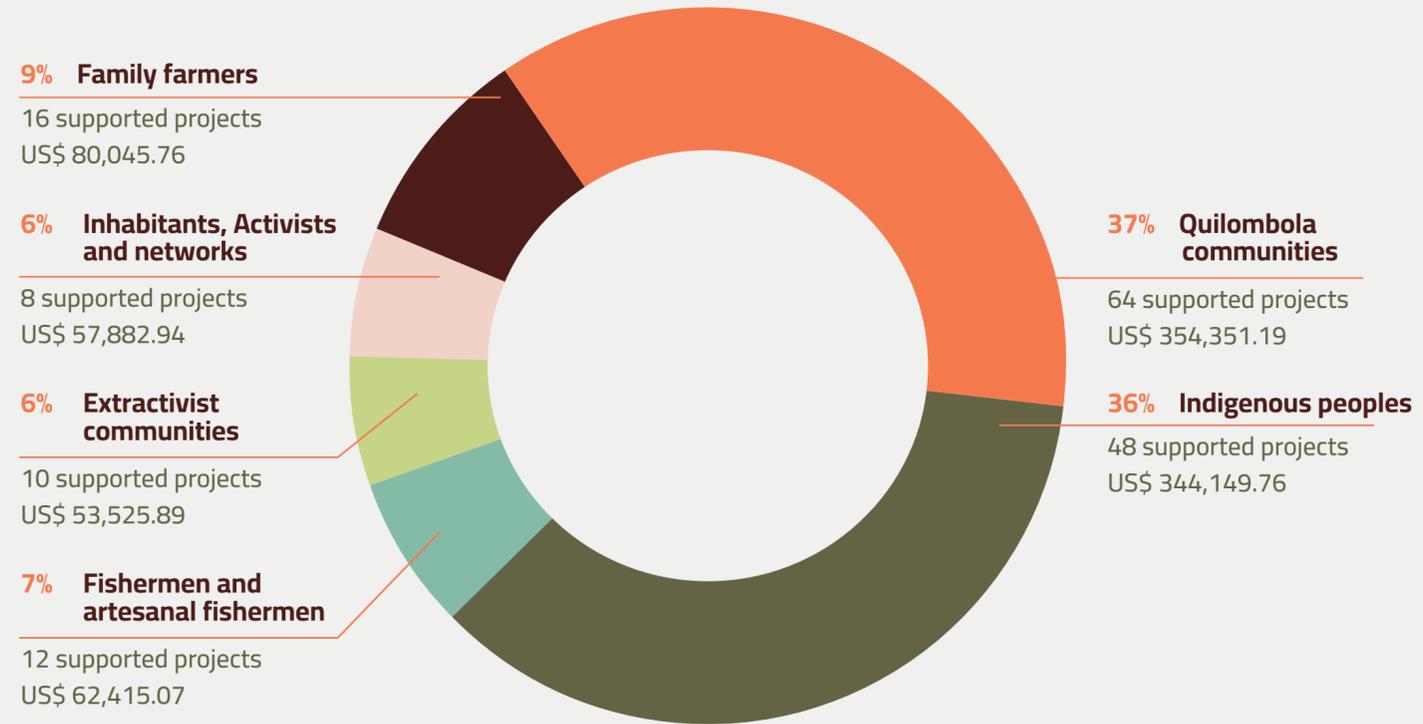


PHOTO: THIAGO RODRIGUES/QUILOMBO DOS RUFINOS



# CAPACITY BUILDING



“With solar energy, families who had an illegal electricity connection were able to withdraw it. Now there’s power at night, thanks to the batteries. During the day, families use solar energy (without depending on the battery) to bring water from the well to their homes.”

**ASSOCIATION OF RAINBOW  
RESIDENTS – AMAI**



It aims to promote learning, focusing on the autonomy and independence of groups, with the purpose that they are able to manage their own organizations and, thus, achieve organizational sustainability.

It is necessary to provide conditions so that more and more groups can receive direct financial support. Therefore it is necessary to create conditions for them to strengthen themselves in the management of their own projects, in financial management, in institutional communication and in the management of the association itself, always attentive to the current legislation and the constant search for good practices.

As a result of the pandemic, this program became 100% virtual. On the one hand, we had a limitation in face-to-face monitoring. On the other hand, it was possible to increase the number of participants in the groups.

The program includes the following modules:

**WORKSHOP 1** - Welcome to groups and networking.

**WORKSHOP 2** - Good practices in financial management and accountability.

**WORKSHOP 3** - Good practices in administrative management.

**WORKSHOP 4** - Tips for institutional strengthening and development.

**PROGRAM-SPECIFIC WORKSHOPS** - with thematic or territorial scope (depending on the need).

Since the restructuring of the Capacity Building Program, which took place in 2020, more than:

**70** WORKSHOPS HAVE BEEN HELD

**1000** PEOPLE WERE REACHED

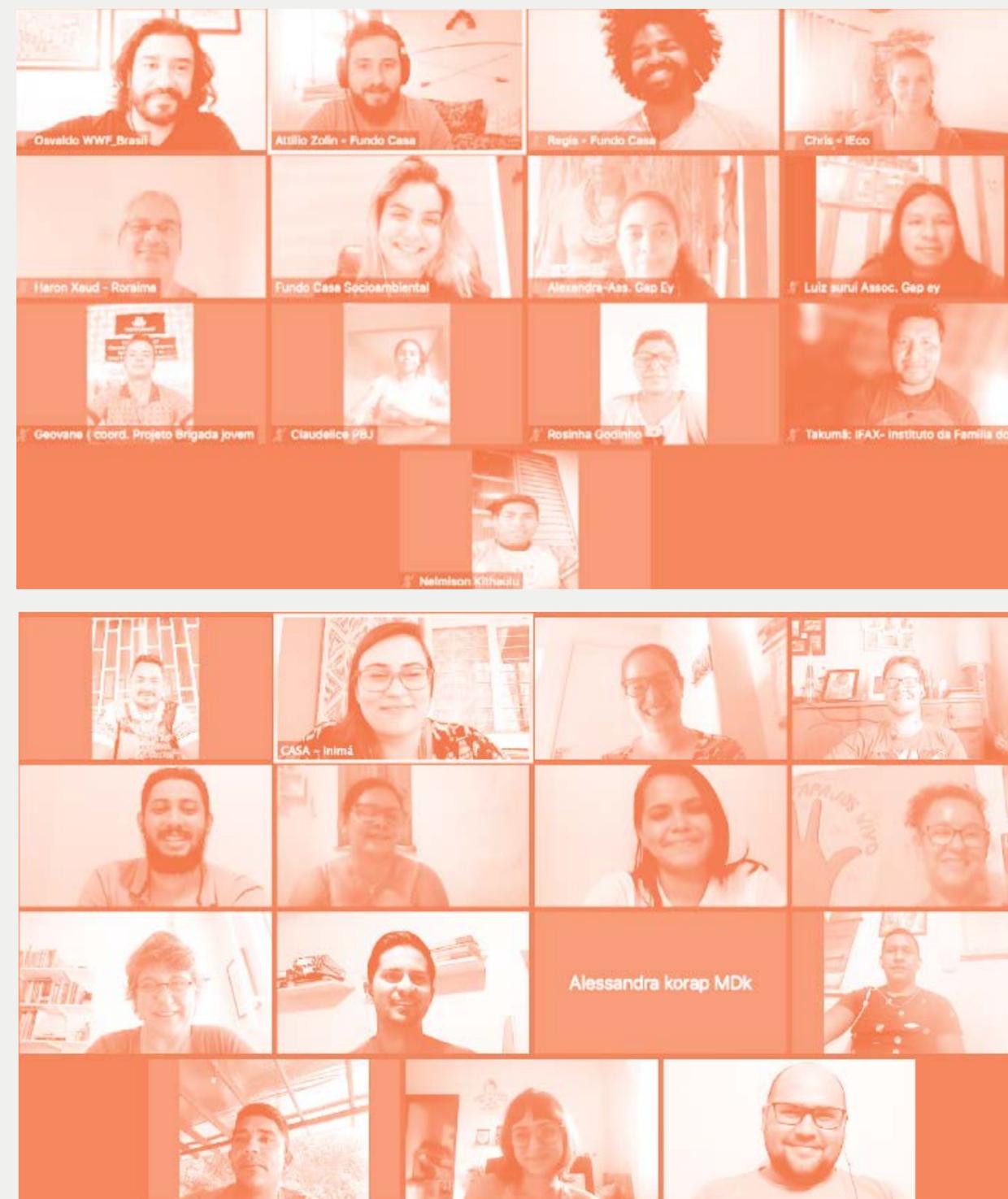
**400** ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Of this total, in 2021 alone:

**27** WORKSHOPS WERE HELD

**295** ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED

RECORDS OF WORKSHOPS HELD IN 2021



# PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING - COMMUNICATION

“ Social distancing revealed an important facet: the settled families were able to overcome the lack of systematic monitoring by valuing their knowledge. They managed to replicate the initial agroforestry plot and go beyond. Today the entire reserved area is planted and is the ‘postcard’ of the community, a source of pride. The Flour House was completed and turned into a collective kitchen. This was a very important result, insofar as the settled families stood on their own two feet. Today, the group is mobilizing for the elections for the association’s board of directors.”

INSTITUTE OF BODY THERAPY  
FOR HUMAN AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT



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Since 2020, we have been building narratives to illustrate the size of the mobilization generated by the communities, how they produce significant counter benefits in the protection of ecosystems and in the local solutions that are developed through the supported projects, promoting a more just society, through sustainable actions.

Casa Fund's communication is aimed at telling these stories, producing narratives based on data, testimonies and the knowledge generated by so much support.

In 2021, we worked on the following pieces, campaigns and publications:

- Production of 19 original articles, written by members of the Casa Fund team or in collaboration with supported organizations;
- Launch and dissemination of 4 Calls for Projects;
- Organization and realization of 3 webinars;
- Closing campaign of the first stage of the Casa Cities/towns Program, with the creation and publication of 3 long videos and 30 shorts for social media;
- Presence on various social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube, of which together have more than 19 thousand followers;
- Triggering of 38 email campaigns to more than 2,200 registered subscribers.



TRAINING OF THE COMMUNITY BRIGADE OF APA BAÍA NEGRA AND ALDEIA MÃE TERRA. PHOTO: VICTOR HUGO SANCHES

The publication Socio-environmental Philanthropy in Cities consists of 17 articles, organized into 4 chapters, written by 28 authors of the Casa Cities Program. It is the first book officially released by the Casa Fund. The work reports the challenges and experiences for building socially and environmentally just cities, from the perspective of projects supported by the Casa Cities Program.

[Clique aqui para baixar a publicação.](#)



PHOTO: THE PUBLICATION SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL PHILANTHROPY IN CITIES IS THE FIRST BOOK RELEASED BY CASA FUND



BRAL FIREFIGHTERS AMID SMOKE AND FOG AFTER AN INTENSE NIGHT OF FIGHTING THE FLAMES, IN CHAPADA DIAMANTINA. PHOTO: AÇONY SANTOS.

Photo that illustrates the special article “Strengthening networks against fire”, with interviews and testimonies about the importance of the 49 projects supported in a call that aimed to support community brigades, so that they could prepare and equip themselves before the forest fire season in 2021.

# SUMMARY OF 2019-2021

“ With the proposed and approved changes, the funds were invested in the purchase of furniture, equipment and cleaning kits, in addition to technical assistance for the definitive implementation of a Selective Collection System for solid waste, which made it possible to definitively remove 32 families from the rubbish dump, organizing them into cooperatives and giving them better working conditions and income.”

**NGO CULTIVAR**



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When we talk about supporting sustainable solutions for communities, challenges certainly appear. And one of them is scale: how to replicate models in such peculiar realities and populations and with such diversity of race and culture. Another challenge refers to recognizing the connection between the various dimensions existing in the territories where communities are involved and which are intrinsically connected to health, education, income and how much any event can interfere in this scenario.

To overcome these challenges, it is necessary to look at the territories as a whole. A biome that contains

several types of human occupation, at the same time that it needs to be protected, regenerated and offer decent living conditions to its populations, cannot have its integrity put at risk. For this to be possible, it is necessary to understand these realities from the point of view of systems thinking. Like any living organism, from the human body to the planet itself, biomes have an intelligent self-regulation system that maintains and protects life. In this process, each part has a role in maintaining the balance of the system, including all beings that live in it. When any one of the parts goes out of balance, it can impact the whole in a negative way. The greater the ability and speed with

which other parts of the system can identify the disturbance (ie, the ability to communicate and provide feedback), the faster they can correct it and bring it back into balance. Based on this approach, the Casa Fund makes its contributions, remains part of relationships, internal communications, networks, of the entire universe where it proposes to act. By identifying the points where interference in the system can be positive, a vicious circle can be transformed into a virtuous circle – this is what we seek to do with our contributions. And, in our case, there are many simultaneous contributions in various parts of the system, driving different factors to, together, produce many virtuous



RESTRUCTURING OF THE WAUJA PEPPER PRODUCTION CHAIN. PHOTO: TULUKAI INDIGENOUS ASSOCIATION, WAUJA PEOPLE.

circles that connect and feed each other. Together with multiple positive factors within the system itself (such as local knowledge, the determination and will of the communities, and many others), they give strength to this web of self-healing and regeneration of the whole. Within this vision, each community and group evaluates its own territory and proposes solutions involving a range of aspects, dealing with the entire context and the relationships that exist there. Small support is an entry or insertion point into the system to drive positive processes. This gear, when carefully and thoughtfully stimulated, is capable of generating results beyond the stimulus, exponentially, as well as fostering countless other connections.

The Casa Fund, through its programs, has been systematically supporting the processes of communities for good living, projects that strengthen the socio-environmental rights of communities and that are connected with the fight

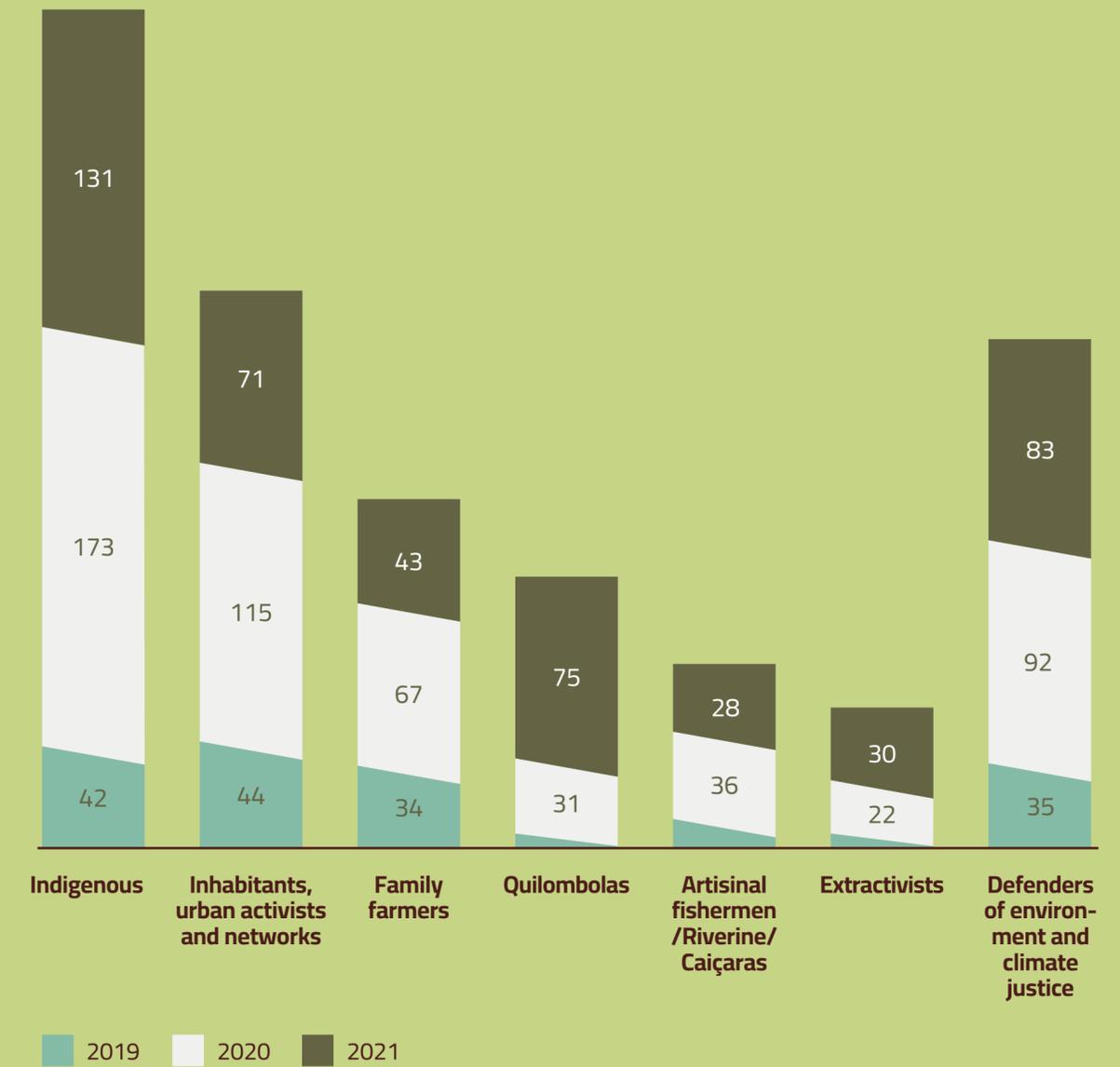
against climate change, a topic to which we draw attention in this summary of our performance between 2019 and 2021.

**In the case of tackling climate change, in the last 3 years alone, more than R\$36 million reais (+ US\$7 million) were donated to over 1,100 projects.**

Our priority audience for donations from 2019 to 2021 refers to the most vulnerable populations (Traditional and Specific Population Groups - TSPG, defined in the Cadastro Único - instrument that identifies and characterizes low-income families, which allows the government to understand the socio-economic reality of this population), defined by the National Adaptation Plan as those that will be most affected by climate change.

The direct support provided by the Casa Fund served this priority audience, as shown in the following table.

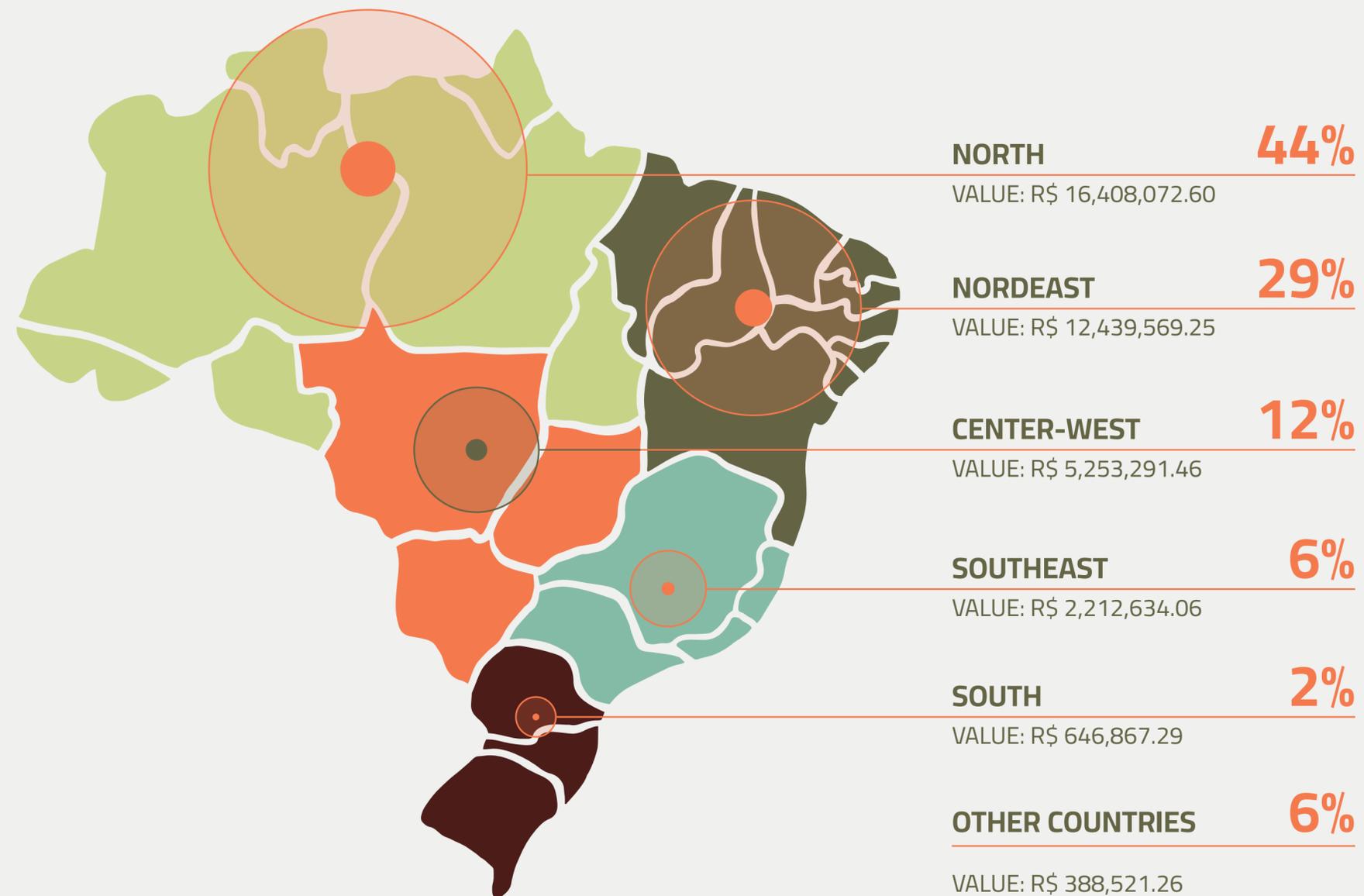
### SUPPORTED GROUPS



## ACTION IN PRIORITY TERRITORIES

According to the climate projections illustrated in the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change and the most vulnerable territories, the Casa Fund is working in vulnerable locations. In our performance from 2019 to 2021, 80% of the support was in the most vulnerable territories.

### TOTAL SUPPORT PER REGION FROM 2019 TO 2021





INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S MARCH IN BRASÍLIA. PHOTO: COLLECTION OF THE INDIGENOUS ASSOCIATION OF THE ARARA PEOPLE OF CACHOEIRA SECA (KOWIT)

## THEMES THAT CONNECT IN THE SUPPORT (PERIOD BETWEEN 2019 AND 2021)

The projects supported by Fundo Casa, in general, have themes that connect with each other and have **direct connections with climate mitigation and adaptation** (2019-2021), as shown below:



### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AXIS

**Defense of Human and Environmental Rights / Surveillance and monitoring of the territory**

132 projects  
US\$ 1,090,824.60

**Forest protection**

236 projects  
US\$ 2,302,436.37



### SOCIAL CONTROL AND PUBLIC POLICY AXIS

**Capacity Building, Incidences. Mobilizations, Rights of Traditional Populations**

117 projects  
US\$ 970,669.17



### URBAN COMMUNITIES AXIS

**Active mobility, country-city connection, collaborative territories**

132 projects  
US\$ 1,246,113.13



### DEFENDERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE JUSTICE AXIS

83 projects  
R\$ 890,884.48



### INCOME GENERATION AXIS

**Integrated management of supply chains/certification/marketing/stocks**

247 projects  
US\$ 1,654,516.00



### SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS AXIS

**Access to water/energy/sanitation/solid waste**

269 projects  
US\$ 1,620,045.27



### FOOD SOVEREIGNTY SECURITY AXIS

**Agroecology/ Family agriculture**

272 projects  
US\$ 1,771,660.72



### ENERGY AXIS

**Impacts by megaprojects – energy and energy transition**

52 projects  
US\$ 264,799.78

# FINANCIAL PARTNERS OF THE CASA FUND IN 2021



PHOTO: SALVE MARACÁIPE ARCHIVE

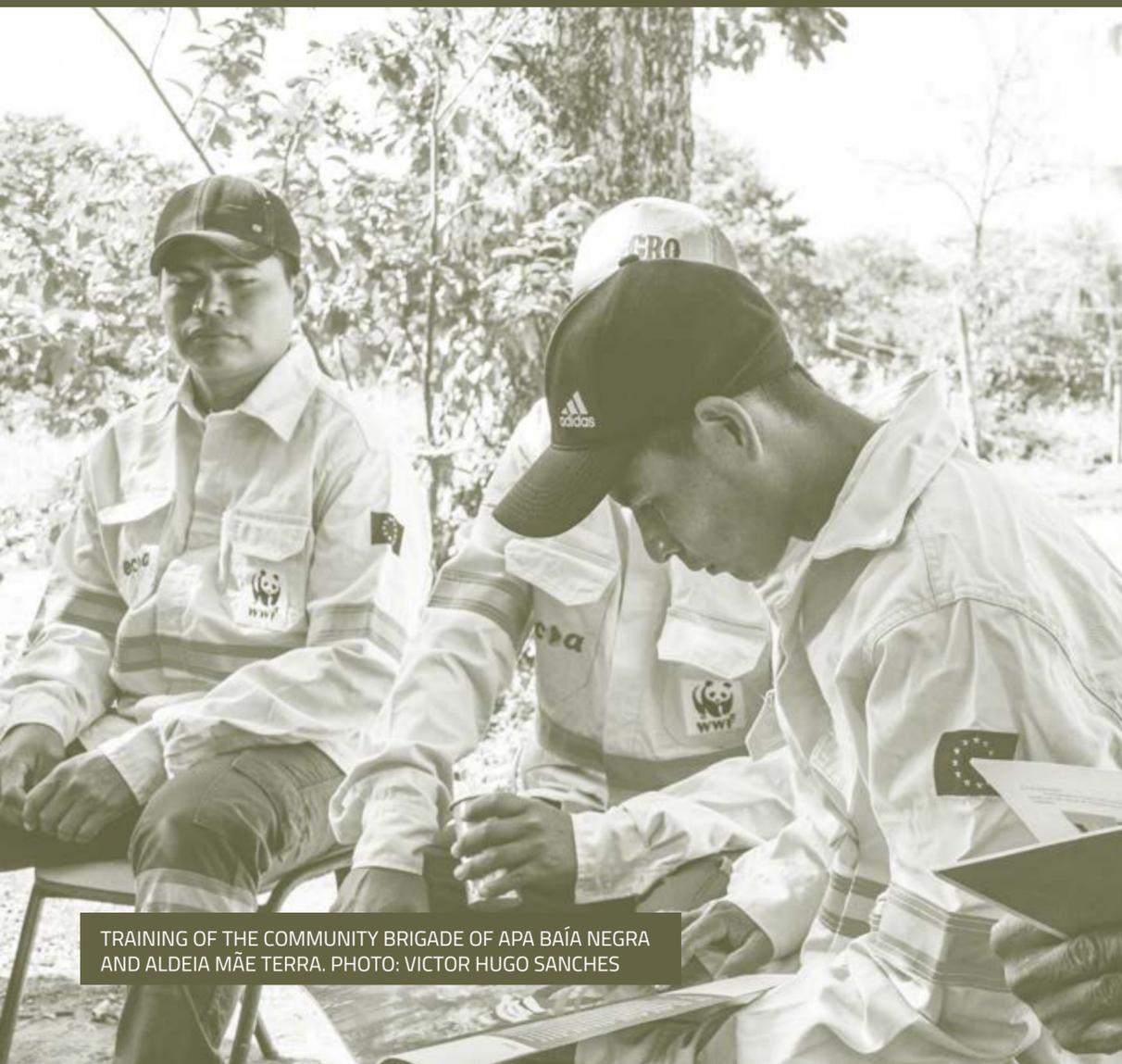
- Amazon Watch
- Be The Earth Foundation
- Both ENDS
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Embaixada da França no Brasil
- Embaixada Real da Noruega no Brasil
- Fondo De Acción Urgente – FAU
- Foundation de Luxembourg
- Frontline Defenders
- Full Circle Foundation

- Fundo Socioambiental Caixa
- Global Giving
- Global Greengrants Fund
- IAF – Inter-American Foundation
- Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza – ISPN
- Oak Foundation
- Open Society Policy Center
- Porticus
- Prism The Gift Fund

- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
- Synchronicity Foundation
- The Roddick Foundation
- The Savitri Waney Charitable Trust
- Thousand Currents
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
- WWF Brasil



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



TRAINING OF THE COMMUNITY BRIGADE OF APA BAÍA NEGRA AND ALDEIA MÃE TERRA. PHOTO: VICTOR HUGO SANCHES

EXPENSES WITH SUPPORTED GROUPS	VALUES IN R\$	VALUES IN US\$	%
Direct donations	R\$ 17,318,381.90	US\$ 3,463,676.38	76.78%
Capacity Building Supported – indirect support	R\$ 1,342,007.79	US\$ 268,401.55	5.95%
<b>Subtotal with supported</b>	<b>R\$ 18,660,389.69</b>	<b>US\$ 3,732,077.93</b>	<b>82.73%</b>
<b>Network strengthening</b>	<b>R\$ 411,509.18</b>	<b>US\$ 82,301.83</b>	<b>1.82%</b>

OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	VALUES IN R\$	VALUES IN US\$	%
Overall team	R\$ 2,256,228.41	US\$ 451,245.68	10.00%
Administrative and financial expenses	R\$ 351,378.13	US\$ 70,275.62	1.56%
Monitoring and evaluations	R\$ 686,933.78	US\$ 137,386.76	3.05%
<b>Subtotal with operation</b>	<b>R\$ 3,294,540.32</b>	<b>US\$ 658,908.06</b>	<b>14.61%</b>

INSTITUCIONAL STRENGTHENING EXPENSES	VALUES IN R\$	VALUES IN US\$	%
Institucional strengthening/ Communication/ studies and evaluations	R\$ 188,544.61	US\$ 37,708.92	0.84%
<b>Overall Total Executed in 2021</b>	<b>R\$ 22,554.983.80</b>	<b>US\$ 4,510,996.76</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# CONCLUSION



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**The year 2021 was important for the Casa Fund, as we put into practice the experience gained from the difficulties faced in previous years.**

The increase in the number of partners who arrived to join us and the increase in donations reflect this. We were able to welcome new challenges and, at the same time, expand support for solutions.

In addition to the impacts brought by the pandemic (which is still far from over), we also see other challenges, especially the negative

effects that are already being caused by climate change and should become even more intense in the near future. As a result of these changes, the number of fires, floods, droughts and other extreme events becomes more and more frequent and, every day, more people are hit hard by these disasters.

We did our best in 2021, steadfast in the mission of supporting communities, with our valuable team, which is dedicated to serving communities in the shortest possible time, with our financial partners, who understand our purpose, our premises and our values, and with our Board, which favors horizontal, inclusive governance based on trust and respect.

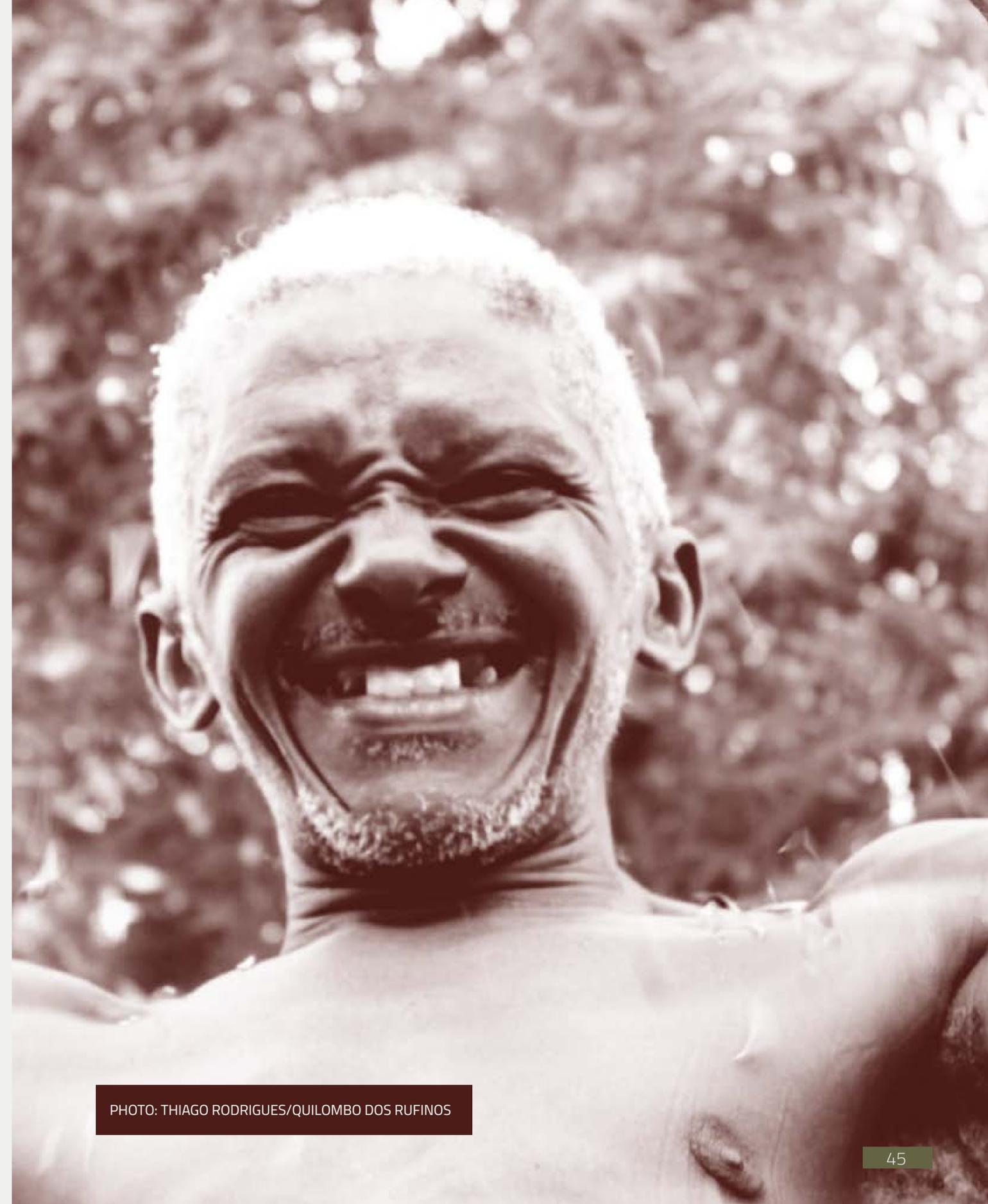


PHOTO: THIAGO RODRIGUES/QUILOMBO DOS RUFINOS

# ATTACHMENTS

STRATEGIC AXIS

CASA DOSSIER

AUDIT REPORT 2021

