

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



## Who we are

*Cover photos: Gabriel Uchida, Leandro Henrique do Ó Ponzi and Tashka Peshaho Yawanawa.*

### CASA SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL FUND TEAM –2023

**Executive Director:** Cristina Orpheo  
**Founder ▪ Strategic Alliances and Partnerships:** Maria Amália Souza  
**Finance Coordinator:** Taila Wengrzynek  
**Administration and Finance Team:** Bianca Paes Mello Landim; Janice Mello; Ketlyn Santos; Leandra Pereira; Melissa Fernandes  
**Program Team:** Ana Carolina Vitorio Arantes; Angelo Ricardo Sousa Chaves; Antônio José de Paula Barroso Neto; Beatriz Roseiro; Claudia Gibeli; Helen Maria Oliveira Silva; Inimá Krenak; Maíra Krenak; Regilon Matos; Rodrigo Montaldi; Thiarles do Santos; Vanessa Ourique Purper  
**Communications Team:** Attilio Zolin; Denise Farias

### DELIBERATIVE COUNCIL – 2023

**President:** Renato Cunha  
**Vice-President:** Selma dos Santos Dealdina  
**Board Members:** Severiã Maria Idioriê Xavante; Iremar Antonio Ferreira; Mércia Silva; Elionice Conceição Sacramento; Laura Yawanawa

### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editorial coordination:** Attilio Zolin  
**Graphic design:** Matora Design  
**Proofreading and translation:** Marcella de Melo Silva, Ricardo Köhler and Nataly de Queiroz Lima  
**Texts:** Cristina Orpheo, Maria Amália Souza e Attilio Zolin

Realization:





# SUMMARY

## 04 Introduction

## 06 The long-awaited international recognition — and the deserved tributes

## 10 Our numbers

- 11 GRANTS PROVIDED BY CASA FUND IN 2023
  - 11 Amounts donated in 2023
  - 12 Grants to local and territorial funds
  - 13 Who we donate to
  - 13 Profile of the supported groups
  - 14 Grants Program for Environment and Climate Justice Defenders
  - 15 Projects in the countryside and the city
- 23 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

## 24 2023 Highlights

- 25 CALLS FOR PROJECTS
- 28 CASA FUND, A CLIMATE DONOR
- 30 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES — PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS AND ARTICULATIONS
- 32 COP 28 – CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

## 36 Communication

- 37 2023 LAUNCHES
- 39 ROUNDTABLE: COMMUNICATION, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND CLIMATE JUSTICE
- 40 CASA FUND IN THE MEDIA

## 42 Knowledge production

- 43 MIGHTY WOMEN: THE WORK OF GROUPS IN THE SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA
- 44 CAPACITY BUILDING

## 45 Our team

- 46 PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS
- 47 THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

# INTRODUCTION

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The year 2023 was an important and anticipated one and created great expectations of renewing our hopes by redirecting the course of our country. With the Covid-19 crisis now under control, new perspectives inspired this year.



**CRISTINA ORPHEO**

Executive Director  
of the Casa Socio-  
Environmental Fund

Brazil was marked by historic events, especially for indigenous peoples, who were finally given political recognition with the establishment of the unprecedented Ministry of Indigenous Peoples. Led by a woman, the Ministry was a great achievement, resulting from the long, arduous struggle of the peoples who, for millennia, have protected this country's forests and biodiversity.

However, while Brazil was preparing to restore its democracy, it also faced the increasingly frequent impacts of climate change through extreme weather events. From the Amazon to the Brazilian coast, we experienced floods, historic droughts, forest fires, and intense heat waves, showing that there are clear race and gender disparities among the most affected populations, highlighting the urgent need to combat inequalities.

In response to these challenges, the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund has concentrated its efforts on three major strategies: **grantmaking**, by channeling financial resources directly to local



communities to build resilience; grants to **local funds**, by strengthening local financing mechanisms in Brazil and the Global South; and the development of **strategic philanthropy**. It also focused on producing knowledge through various publications prepared to impact the philanthropic field so that the Global South gains the visibility it aspires to and deserves, showcasing the entire architecture of funds already in operation.

We would like to thank the local communities, associations, groups, and collectives that make up the Casa Fund's extensive network, as well as our financial partners and our devoted team. As you will see in this report, we have accomplished great things together and made it to the end of 2023 with a great balance of achievements, new perspectives, and renewed energy to face 2024.

With a vision of building a more resilient and just future, we will continue to work tirelessly to support local communities, promote equality, and combat the impacts of climate change. May we move forward with determination and hope towards a more sustainable and equitable world.

Photo: Raissa Dourado Lima





# THE LONG-AWAITED INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

**— AND THE DESERVED TRIBUTES**



In 2025, it will be 40 years since the first seeds emerged in my mind about a mechanism to enable access to resources for the peoples who protect the great biomes of our region. It was back then that I realized the importance of the Amazon as one of the most significant places for the balance of life on Earth. At the age of 22, in a biology class at my new college in Northern California, I heard a talk by the mobilizer of the newly founded Rainforest Action Network. At the end of the class, all that I wanted was to become RAN's first volunteer.

This involvement opened up a huge universe for me. Seeing the growing destruction of the Amazon, many had mobilized in several international coalitions to draw attention to this fact and create campaigns to raise awareness and denounce those responsible for the destruction. There I also met filmmakers producing documentaries about this impact and the SAIIC (South and Mesoamerican Indian Information Center), led by Nilo Cayuqueo, a Mapuche exiled in the USA, with whom I also worked for several years to understand how indigenous organizations in the Americas organize and coordinate their efforts.

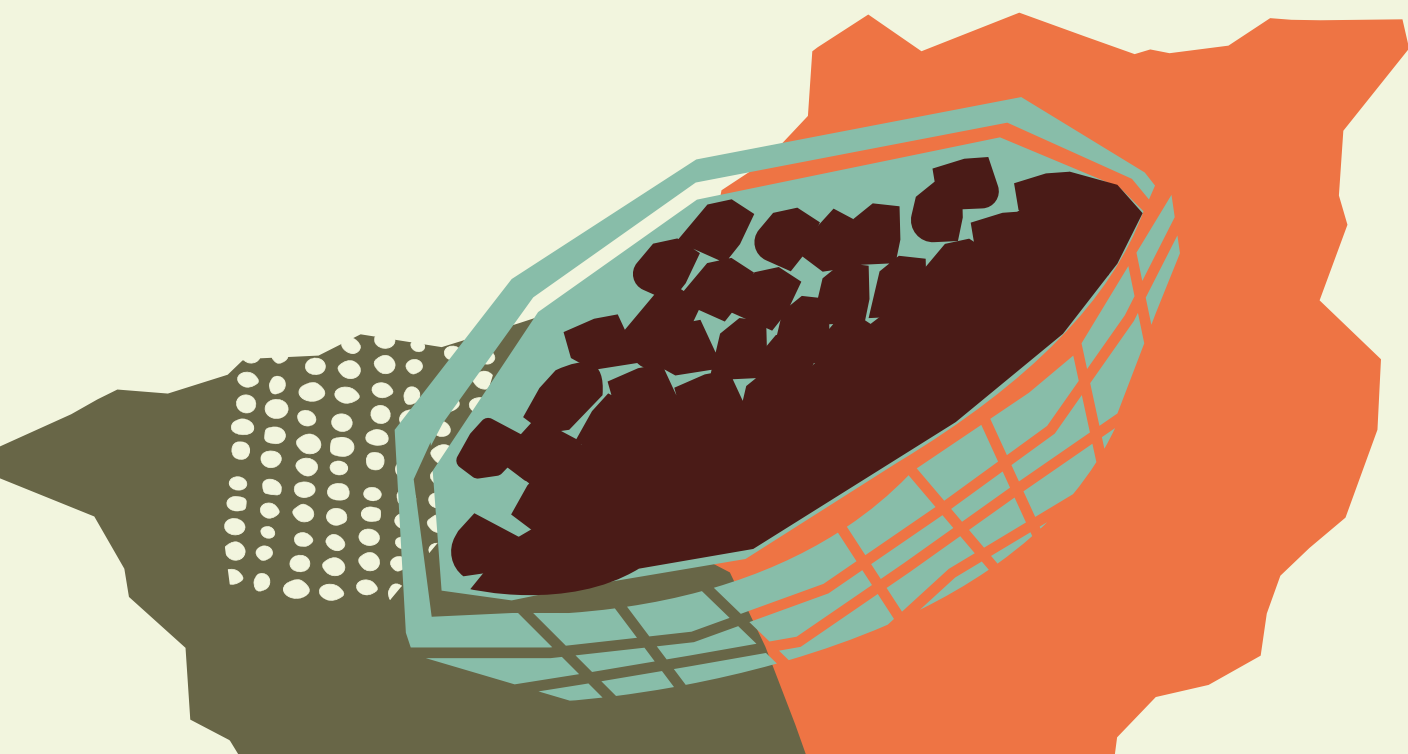


Photo: Ahmad Jarrah

I soon found out about the indigenous movement in Brazil and its battle for full autonomy, through processes that influenced the texts of the new Brazilian Constitution of 1988. I closely followed this struggle that led to the liberation of indigenous peoples from the tutelage of the Brazilian state, allowing them to organize themselves as they wished and pursue their own paths autonomously. There, I also understood the movement they had created to coordinate actions with other forest peoples, and I sought to support the Forest Peoples Alliance in its international articulations. These actions even involved organizing a political tour across the USA in 1991, accompanying Milton Nascimento's first international tour with his album "Txai", created in collaboration with the Forest Peoples with the intention of making them visible.





Photo: Alexandre Cruz-Noronha

What really awakened me to philanthropy's role and to create new mechanisms was that, between 1985 and 1989, I observed how easy it was for North American NGOs to access philanthropic resources. In four years, RAN went from a single desk in a borrowed office to occupying the entire ground floor of a building in the business district of San Francisco, California, one of the most expensive places in the world at the time, with staff and equipment. While I managed to bring in a few dollars for the indigenous movement in Brazil, the true guardians of our forests, millions of dollars were flowing to American NGOs. I couldn't accept that, and I constantly questioned that situation. And the worst thing is that, to a huge extent, this still hasn't changed.

Convinced that the guardians of South America's biomes would never have access to resources if we didn't create a completely different mechanism, a group of Brazilian environmentalists and I decided to roll up our sleeves. We then set out to design our structure of capacities and financial support that could serve this public in a welcoming and horizontal way, with the potential for scale needed to increasingly serve these communities in situations of exclusion, abandonment, and vulnerability, who are also the ones who have the most knowledge about how to protect these places that are so important to the planet.

We built the Casa Fund in 2005; 20 years after that start, and with 20 years of previous



accumulated experience, we have a much better understanding of the processes that could change this scenario. We were literally blazing a trail because explaining something so innovative wasn't easy, and it took us about ten years for international philanthropy to begin to understand our differentiated approach: our systemic, far-reaching vision.

Now, almost 20 years later, 2023 has brought us two international accolades, focused on myself as a representative of this innovative idea of philanthropy. We were honored as one of the "16 Women Restoring the Earth" by the Global Landscapes Forum and we received the J. Blanton Belk Award for Outstanding Service to Humanity from the Up With People organization. In fact, these awards are more about recognizing the dedicated, persistent, almost obstinate work that the Casa Fund has been



able to carry out in the world to date. We have already provided nearly 3,600 grants in 10 countries and mentoring for five new similar funds in other countries of the Global South. There has been a lot of mobilization and dedication towards creating an alliance of funds from the Global South that today has 15 member funds, and more than 30 million dollars have been donated throughout our history. For indigenous peoples, in the last six years alone we have managed to support 645 indigenous projects in 177 ethnic groups — more than half of the 305 peoples recognized in Brazil.

These two milestones are extremely valuable for us, as they put us on a new level — one in which the world recognizes us as an important model for making access to resources more viable and democratic to the most important populations for the protection of life on Planet Earth.

2023 also made us one of ten case studies for a global consultancy seeking effective models that can enable access to philanthropic resources for forest protectors.

**Forging Resilient Pathways** was created for the group of international foundations that pledged at the COP in Glasgow in 2021 to get their resources into the hands of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the world's great rainforests.

We have also been the subject and authors of several articles for the field



*Mariri Yawanawa Festival 2023, Yawanawa people - Acre*

of philanthropy, and active participants in various international spaces regarding the necessary advances that global philanthropy must pursue to deal with the polycrisis that the planet is currently experiencing.

2023 was a milestone for us in many ways and, as we turn 20, we hope to be able to increasingly demonstrate that innovation in philanthropy is crucial and urgent if we want to protect our planet and keep it habitable for future generations.



**MARIA AMÁLIA SOUZA**

Founder  
Strategic Alliances  
and Partnerships

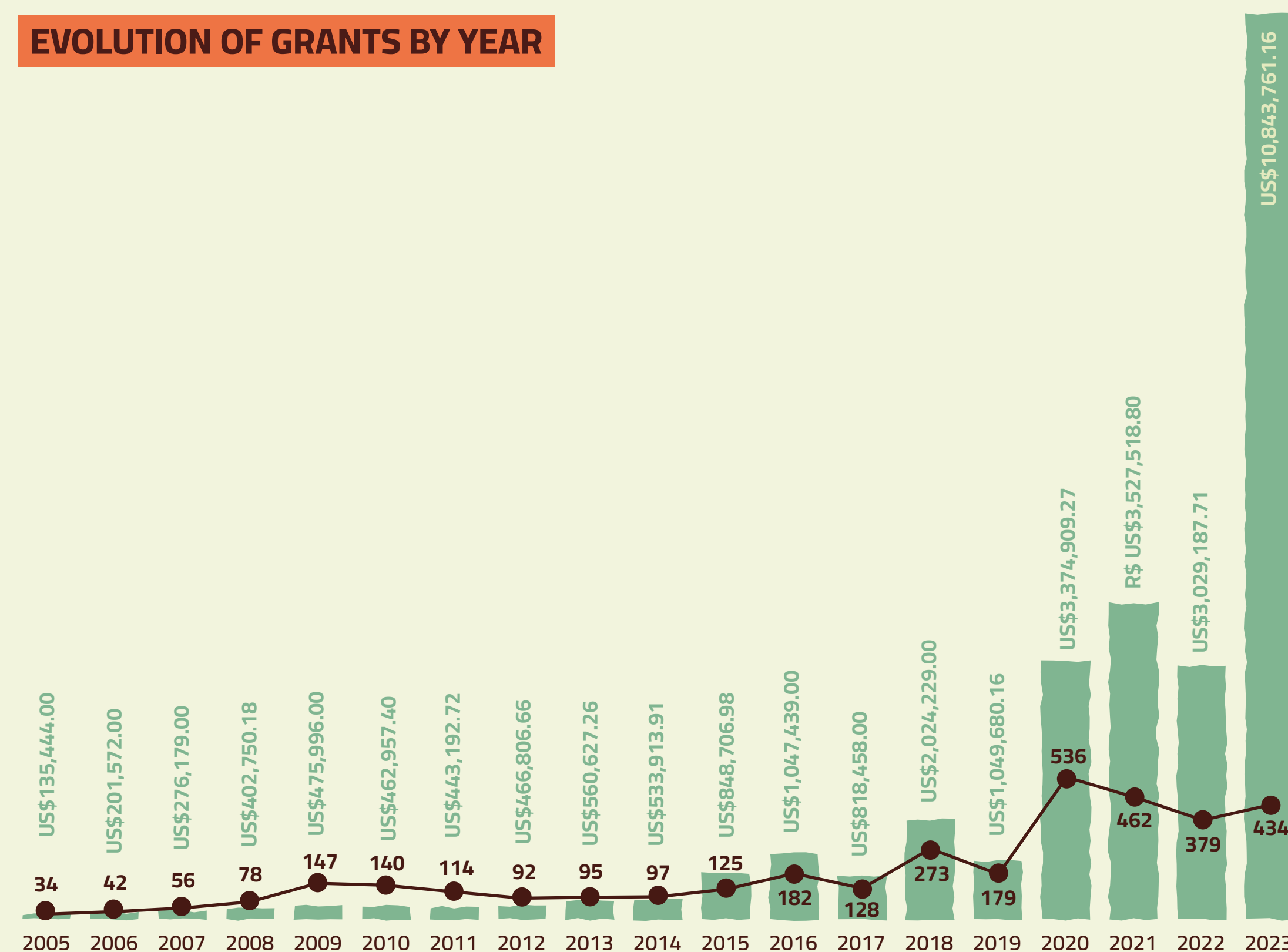


# OUR NUMBERS

Casa Fund had made 3,593 grants to local organizations that develop solutions to humanity's socio-environmental challenges.

The grants total BRL 131,482,940.03 million or US\$30.5 million.

## EVOLUTION OF GRANTS BY YEAR





Amounts donated in 2023

US\$ 10,8 MILLION

434 PROJECTS

The Casa Fund donated US\$10.8 million to 434 projects in 2023, consolidating a new maximum number of projects supported in a single year. Of this amount, approximately US\$4.4 million were allocated to support communities in Brazil.

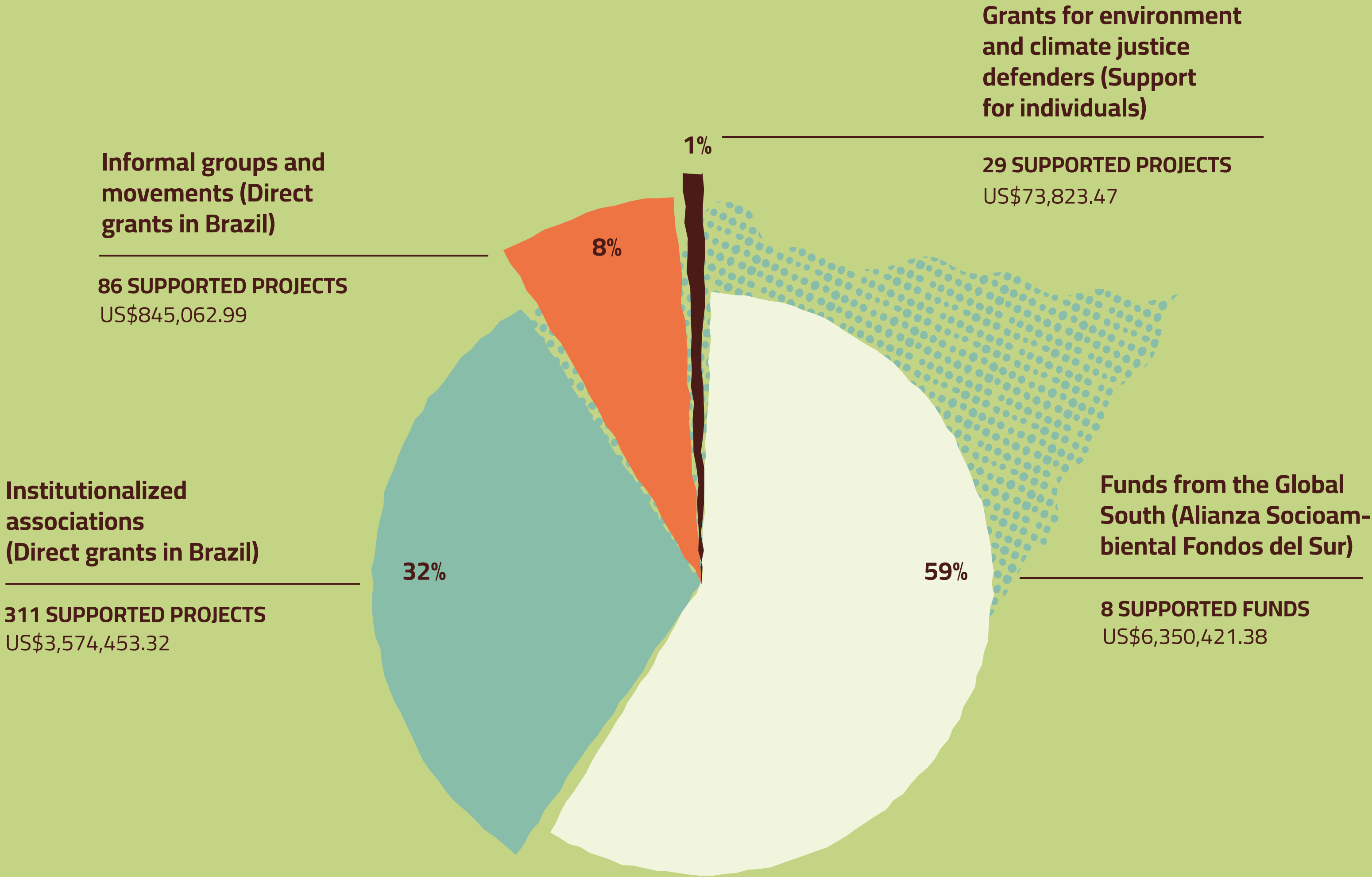
There were 311 direct grants to formalized organizations and 86 to projects by informal and emerging groups and movements.

Within the context of The Socio-environmental Funds of the Global South Alliance, 8 funds from the Global South received grants through Casa Fund, with resources allocated to 265 local community projects in Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Mozambique, and the Philippines.

In addition, 29 human rights and environmental defenders were supported directly through the Casa Fund’s rapid response fund.

Grants provided by Casa Fund in 2023

WHAT TYPE OF ORGANIZATIONS WE DONATE TO





## Grants to local and territorial funds

Since 2016, the Casa Fund has carried out actions to strengthen new local and territorial funds by sharing our experiences. The main reason is to enhance the philanthropy infrastructure in the Global South, creating and demonstrating that local actors have the capacity to manage resources for their causes in a more efficient and scalable way than resources that come from outside. This joint initiative has given the funds visibility as important players in the field of local financing and as an option for funders looking for efficiency and scale in their investments.

In this sense, we have already shared experiences with funds from Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, and Mozambique. We have also developed liaisons within the Global South and nationally.

In 2023, the Casa Fund provided grant to 11 activist-led funds and territorial funds, 8 international and 3 Brazilian funds.

## Donations to the funds of Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur (Socio-environmental Funds of the Global South) and local and territorial activist-led funds (Brazil) totalling more than BRL 33 million, or the equivalent to US\$6.4 million.

### Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur • Socio-environmental Funds of the Global South

In 2023, we received a significant contribution for the structuring of the Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur, as well as for the nine founding funds of the Alianza, which carried out their calls for projects in their respective countries. This contribution has extended grants to other local and activist-led funds, contributing to the strengthening of more recently created funds. In addition to transferring resources, we reinforced ties, discussed monitoring and evaluation strategies, and also the construction of indicators.

**Find out more about Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur at: [www.alianzafondosdelsur.org](http://www.alianzafondosdelsur.org)**

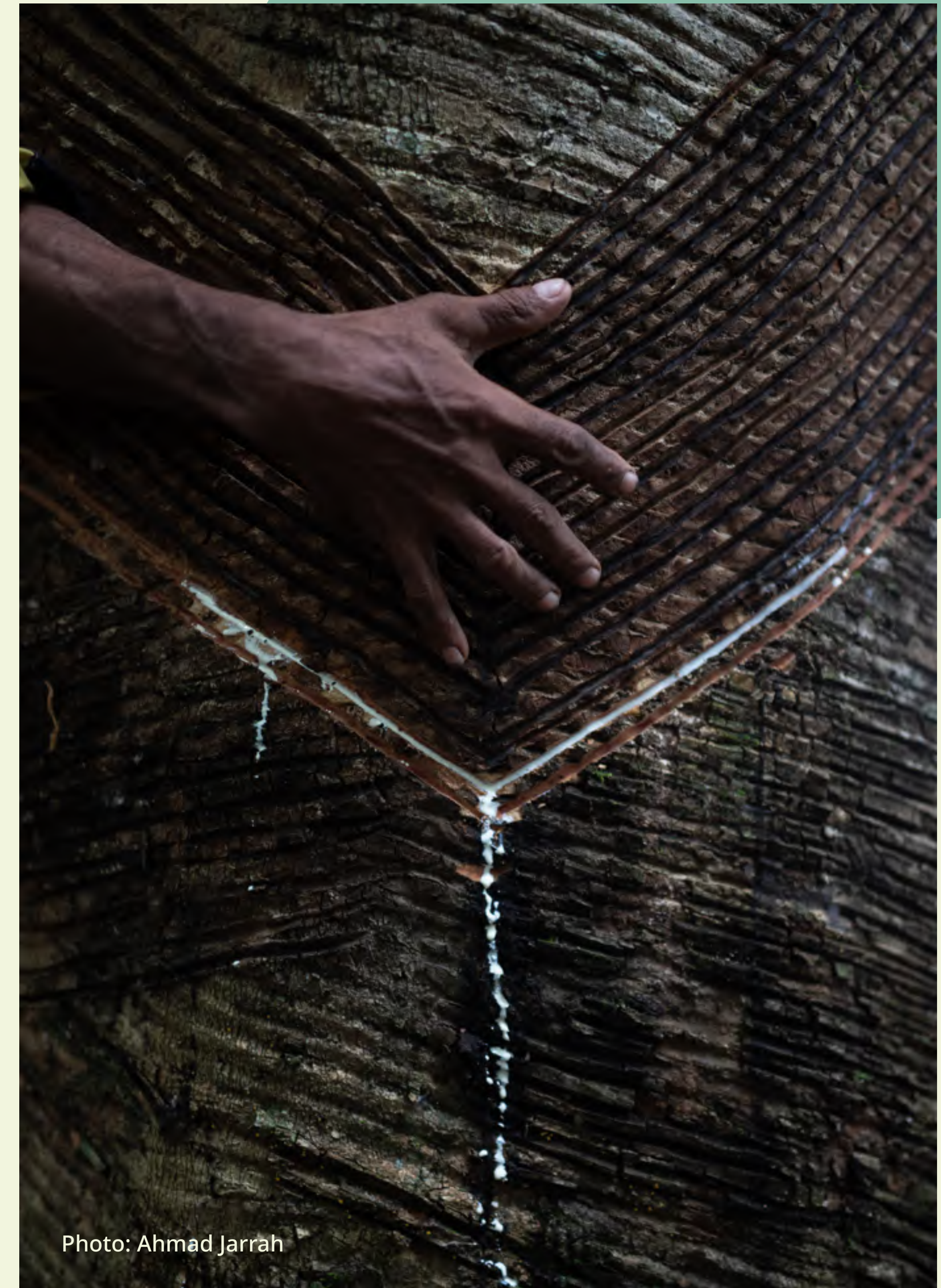


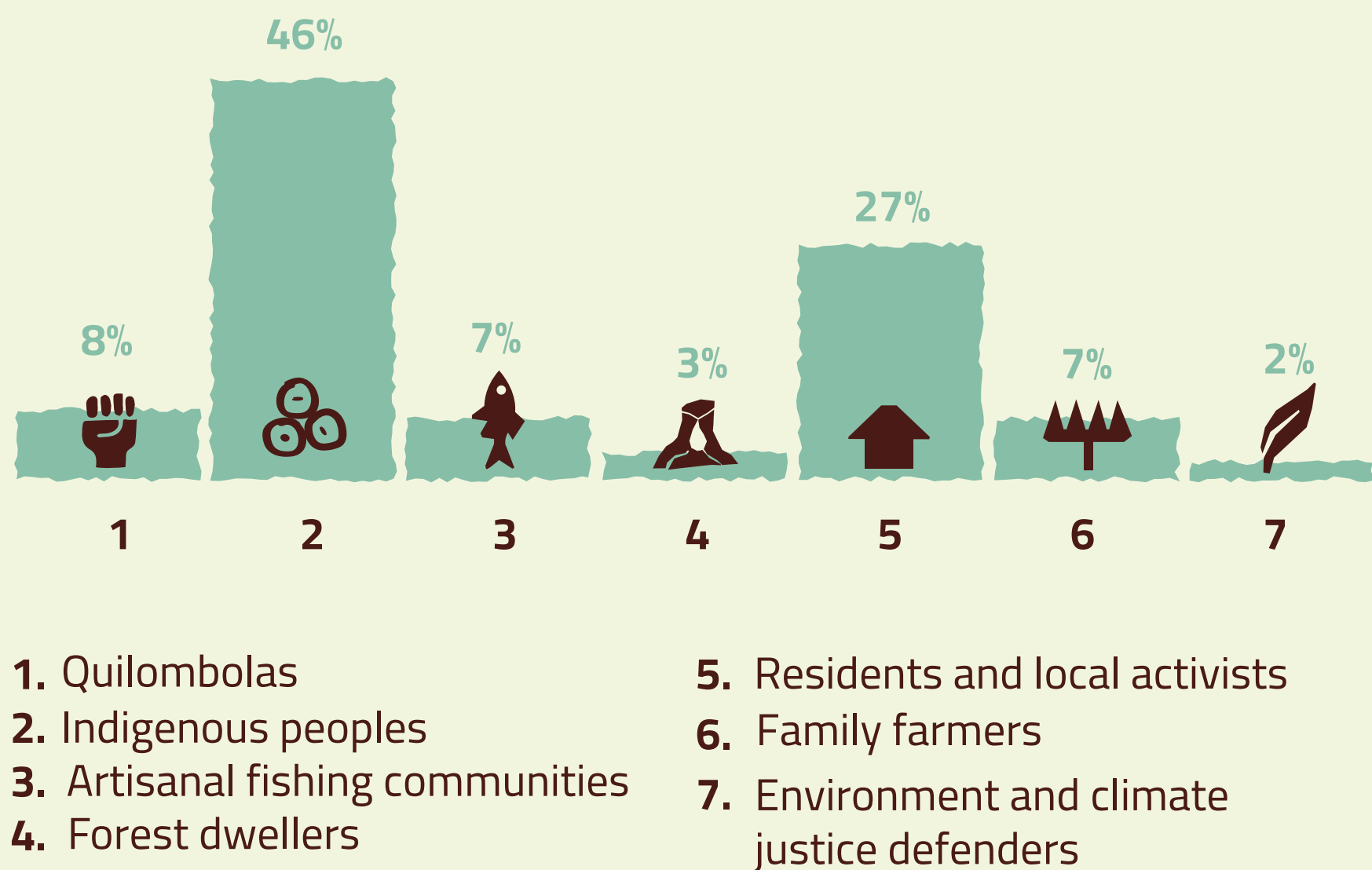
Photo: Ahmad Jarrah



## Who we donate to

If we consider only the direct grants for local groups, we notice that around 60% of the resources donated by the Casa Fund have gone to traditional communities: quilombolas, indigenous people, artisanal fishing communities, and forest dwellers. This is equivalent to more than US\$2,8 million donated directly; however, this amount is still far below the demands we receive, which means that our challenge of mobilizing additional resources is a major goal for the coming years.

### GRANTS TO LOCAL AND TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES



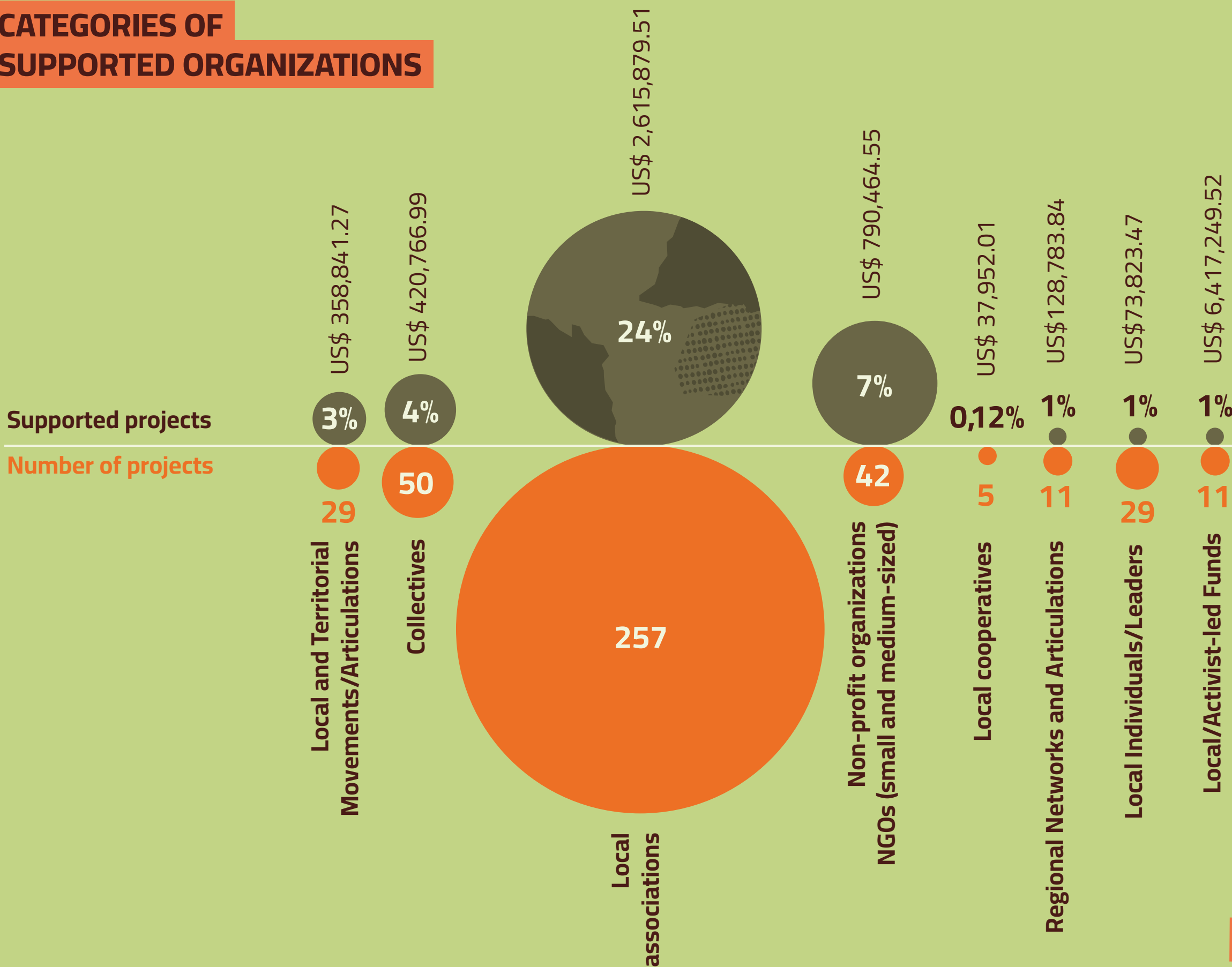
# US\$4.4

MILLION IN DIRECT GRANT IN BRAZIL

## Profile of the Supported Groups

The Casa Fund respects how local organizations self-identify in terms of their constitution. See below the profile of the groups we supported in 2023.

### CATEGORIES OF SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS





## Grants Program for Environment and Climate Justice Defenders

We cannot defend biomes and forests if we do not defend the people who dedicate their lives to protecting these territories, who face challenges and threats for defending what belongs to all of humanity. These environmental and human rights defenders often find themselves in vulnerable situations, subject to constant intimidation, pressure, and threats for carrying out their activities to protect biomes and collective rights. This is the reality of hundreds of defenders, who did not always choose to play this role, but found themselves forced to fight daily to defend their rights and the environment.

The Casa Fund's Grants Program for Environment and Climate Justice Defenders, created in 2019, is a rapid response fund that enables direct grants to these individuals to improve their safety and even their health in extremely critical contexts. From August 2019 to date, the Program has provided 286 grants, amounting to approximately US\$760,000 donated directly to defenders. In 2023, 29 defenders received US\$73,283.47.

Find out more about the Casa Fund's Grants Program for Environment and Climate Justice Defenders in the publication **Rapid Response Funds: Lessons learned from supporting Human Rights and Environmental Defenders in Brazil — a story of collaboration, learning, and collective resilience.**



Photo: Sigríde Ferreira de Souza





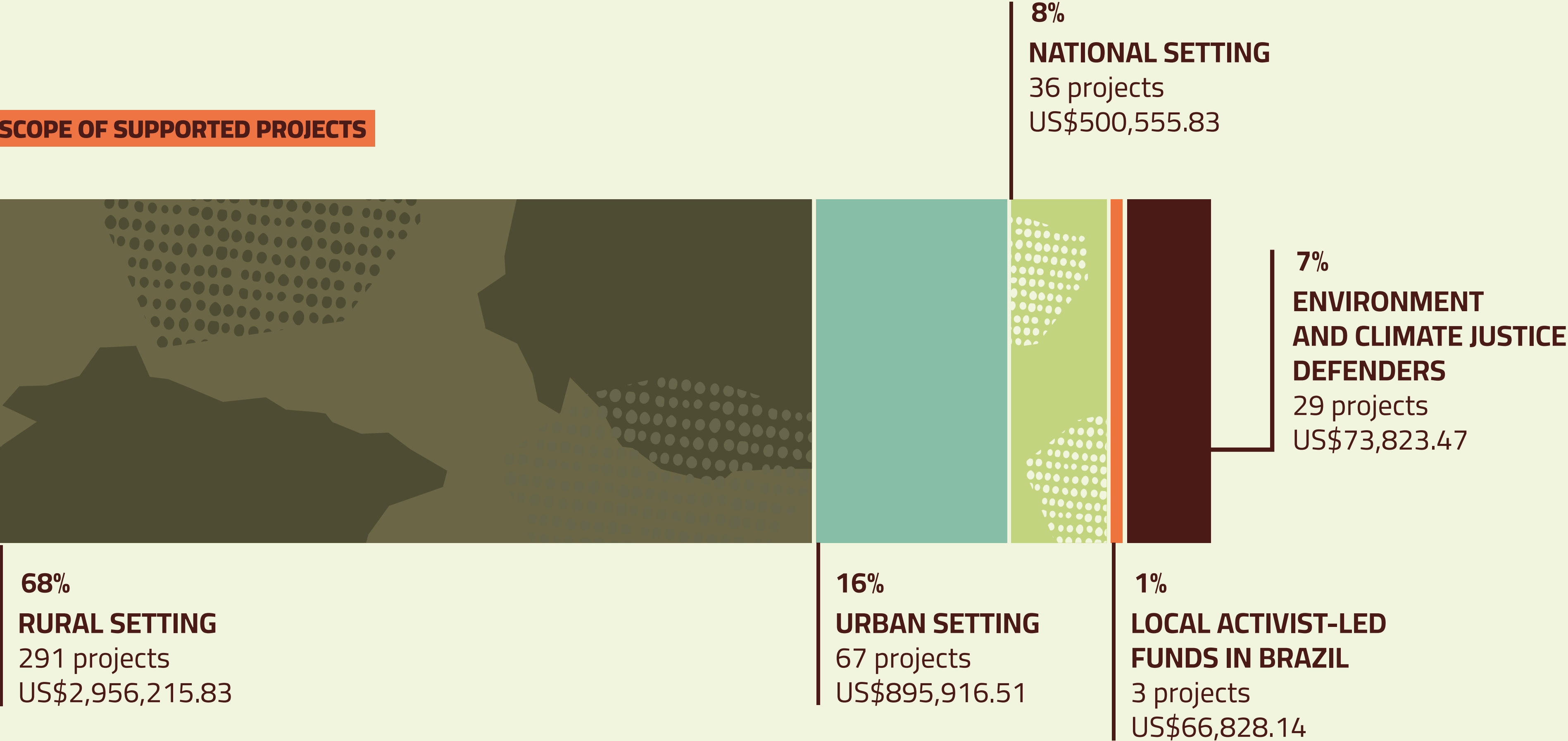


# Projects in the countryside and the city

When we categorize the supported projects by type of environment, we realize that the vast majority are in rural areas, i.e. outside the cities. Unfortunately, philanthropy has done little to support urban groups fighting for the right to the city, and it is difficult to convince funders of some of the needs of the field mapped by the Casa Fund. However, in

addition to supporting individual projects in a coordinated manner, the Casa Fund expands access to resources for more groups when it also supports new actors in community philanthropy. In this way, the Casa Fund has also helped other funds to become stronger and be able to respond to the demands of more regions and key publics.

## TERRITORY AND SCOPE OF SUPPORTED PROJECTS



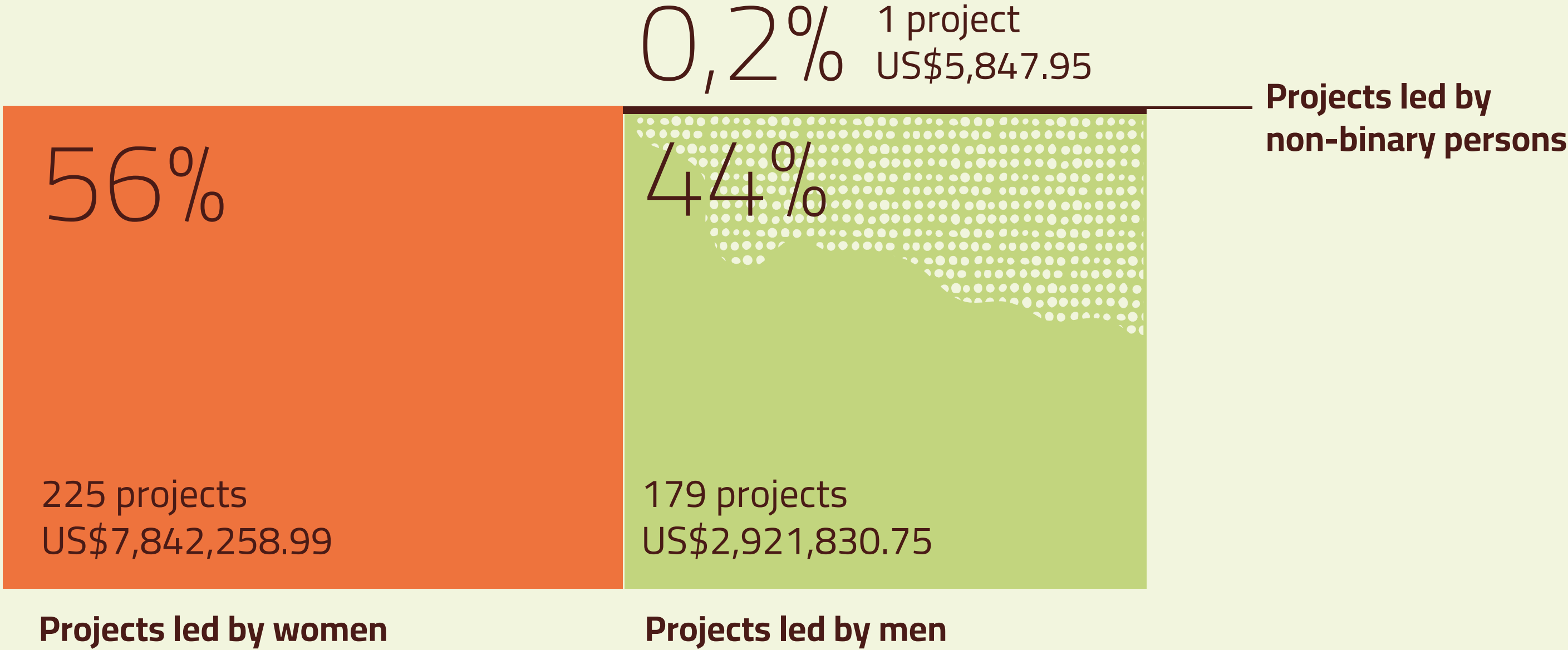


Affirmative action for gender equality

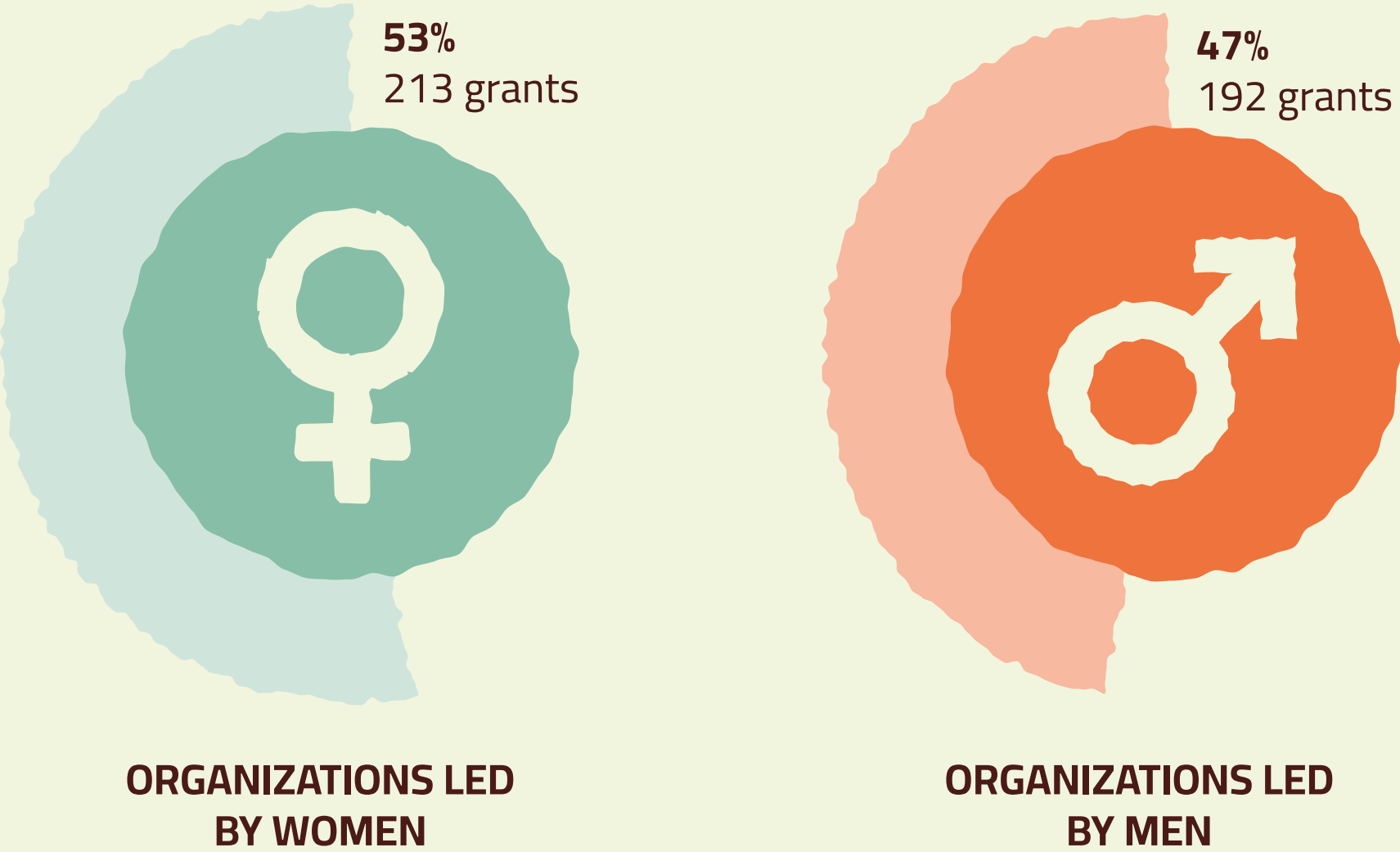
Since the Casa Fund joined the GAGGA Alliance, grants for organizations and projects led by women has become an analysis criterion.

As a result, we have improved our gender indicators, but we are still short of our target, despite the significant growth in this field, as you can see in the charts below.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY GENDER OF PROJECT LEADER



DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY GENDER OF THE ORGANIZATION'S LEADER





FORMALIZATION OF SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS

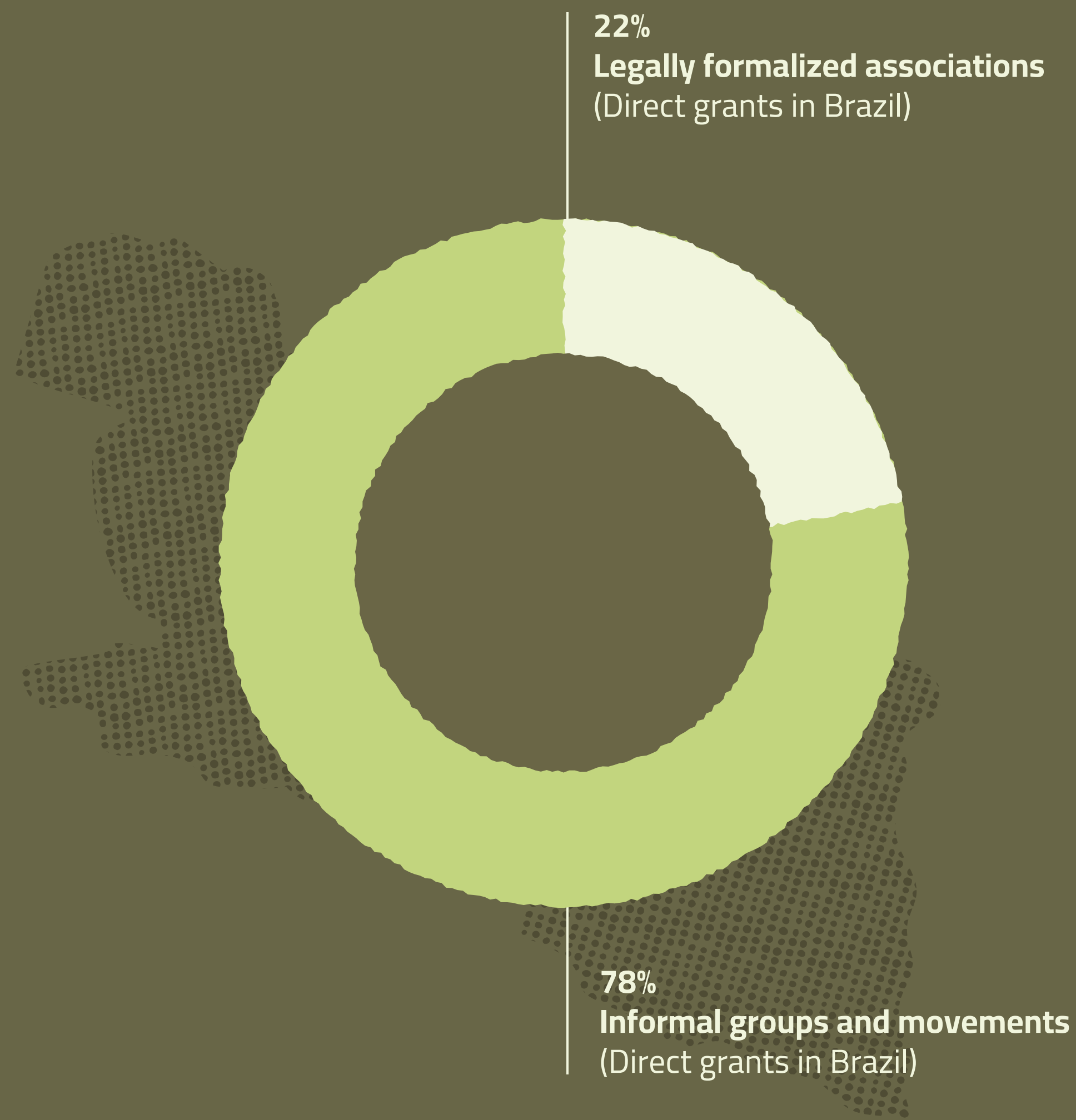


Photo: Raissa Azeredo

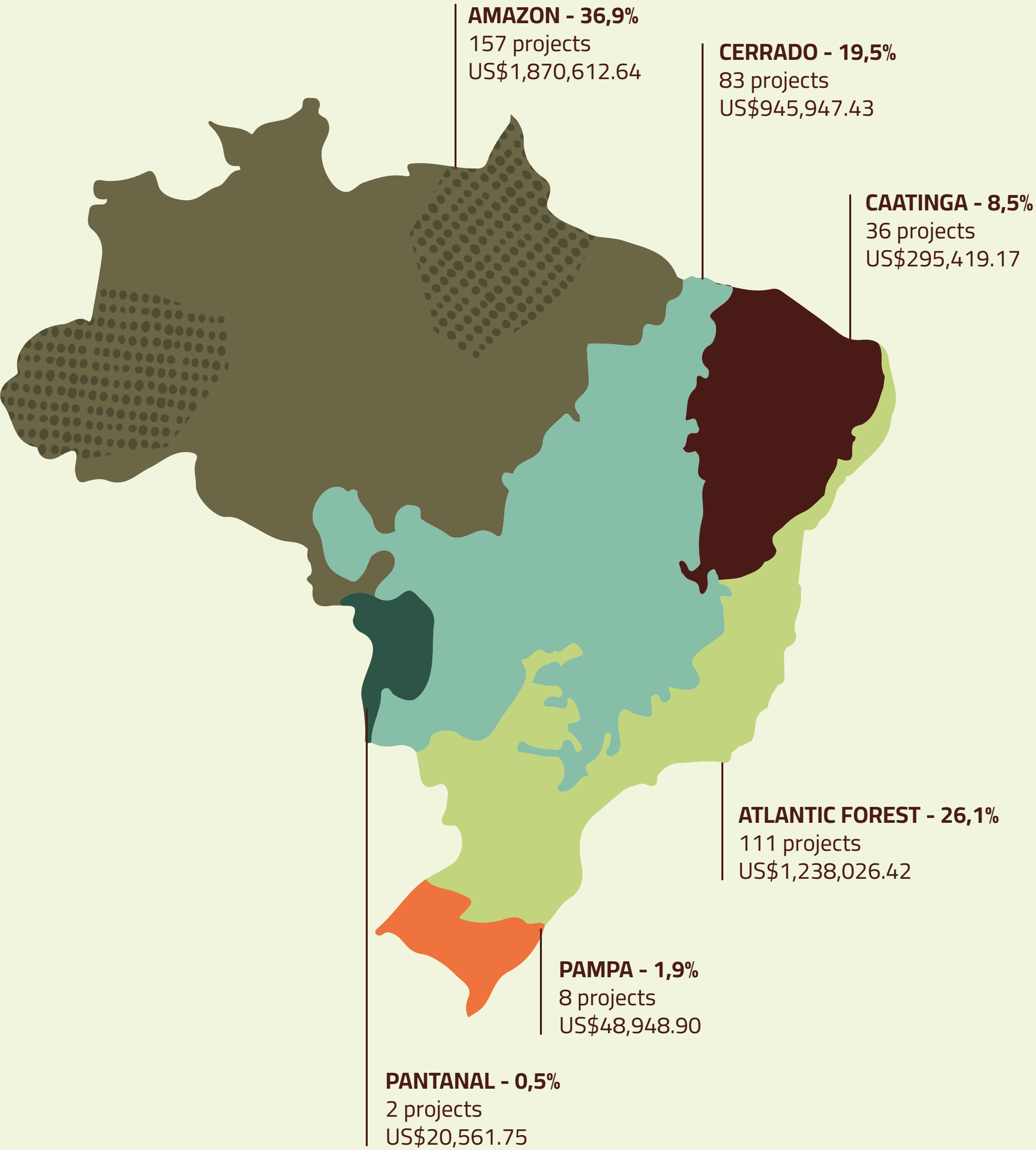
General assembly of the Iakiô Association, 2023, Panará people - Mato Grosso



Photo: Ahmad Jarrah

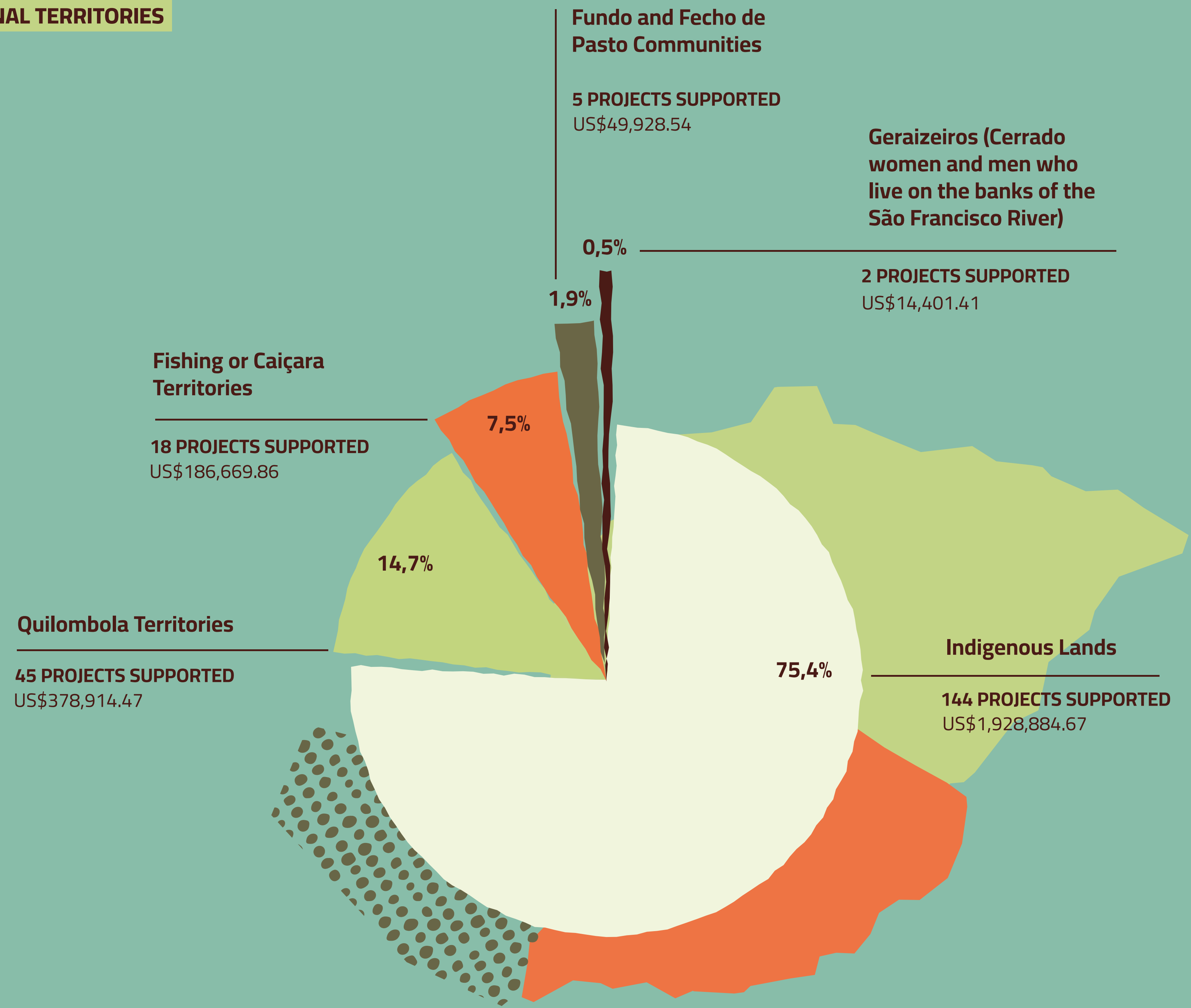


GRANTS PER BIOME





**GRANTS IN TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES**





GRANTS PER STRATEGIC AXIS

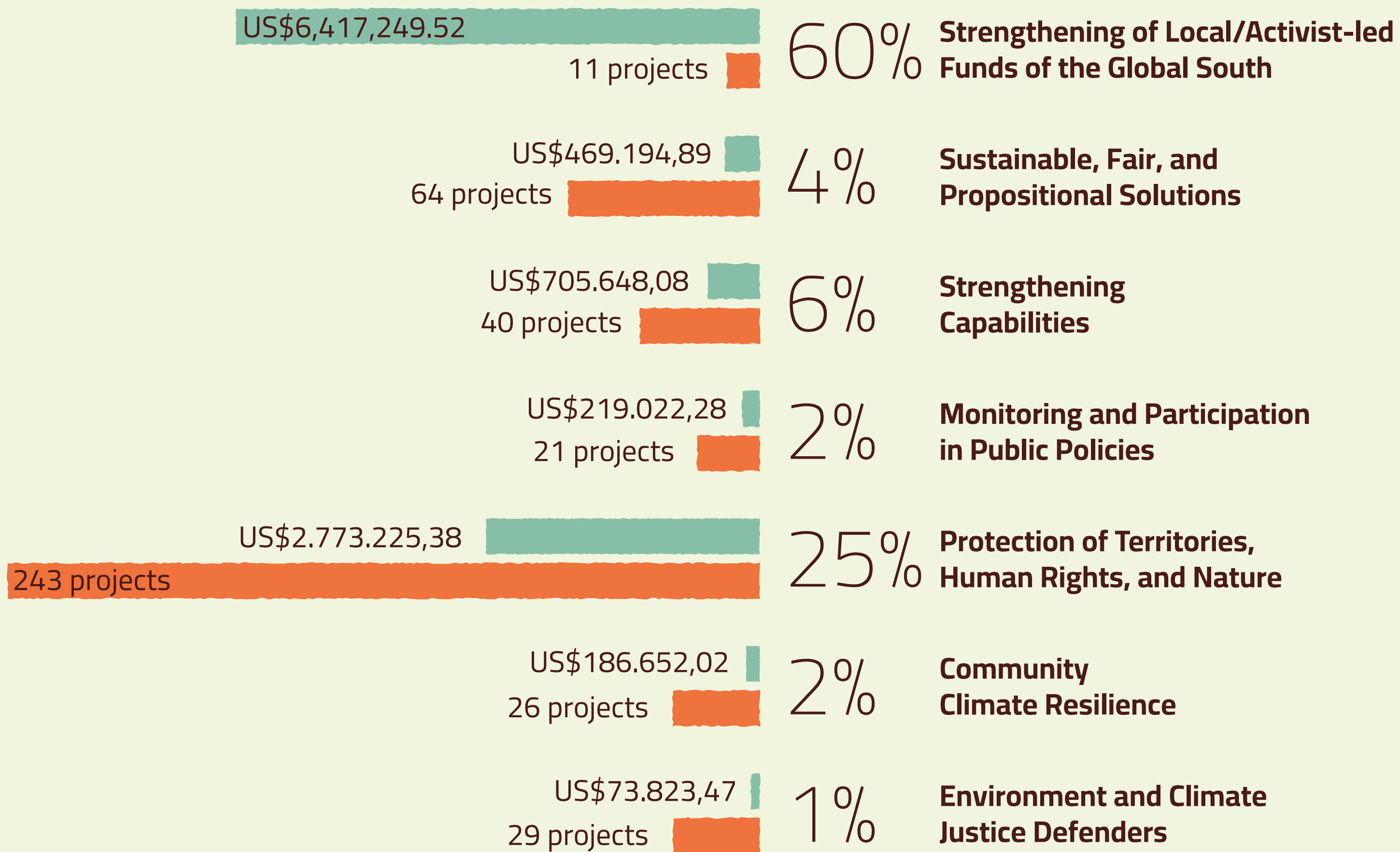


Photo: Ahmad Jarrah







Photo: Pankararu Aroeira Indigenous Association Archive

Project: Aroeira Sertaneja Women - Ancestry and protagonism of Pankararu indigenous women

MAIN THEMES SUPPORTED







Yawanawa Sociocultural Association  
- ASCY, Yawanawa people - Acre.

Photo: Tashka Peshaho Yawanawa

**PUBLIC SERVED**

FAMILIES  
POSITIVELY  
IMPACTED



INDIVIDUALS  
POSITIVELY  
IMPACTED

Number of families and people involved in the projects or the positive impacts produced by the initiatives developed with Casa Fund's support, according to the data provided by the beneficiaries themselves in their reports.



# 2023 Financial Report Summary

EXPENSES WITH GRANTMAKING	R\$	US\$
DIRECT GRANTS TO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS DEFENDING THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE JUSTICE	R\$ 21.432.870,77	US\$ 4.286.574,15
GRANTS FOR FUNDS FROM THE ALIANZA FUNDS OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH (8 FUNDS)	R\$ 32.663.991,75	US\$ 6.532.798,35
TRAINING WORKSHOPS – INDIRECT GRANTS	R\$ 1.119.752,29	US\$ 223.950,46
NETWORK STRENGTHENING AND OTHERS	R\$ 1.056.340,76	US\$ 211.268,15
PROGRAM TEAM AND CONSULTANTS	R\$ 1.867.505,73	US\$ 373.501,15
SUBTOTAL	R\$ 58.140.461,30	US\$ 11.628.092,26

93,3%  
of budget

OPERATING COSTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	R\$	US\$
ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	R\$ 1.654.180,48	US\$ 330.836,10
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL TEAMS AND TAXES	R\$ 1.178.743,13	US\$ 235.748,63
COMMUNICATION TEAM AND CONSULTANTS	R\$ 337.867,00	US\$ 67.573,40
MONITORING	R\$ 170.296,25	US\$ 34.059,25
SUBTOTAL	R\$ 3.341.086,86	US\$ 668.217,37

5,4%  
of budget

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	R\$	US\$
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING/COMMUNICATION/STUDIES AND ASSESSMENTS	R\$ 804.224,09	US\$ 160.844,82
SUBTOTAL	R\$ 804.224,09	US\$ 160.844,82

1,3%  
of budget





# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS





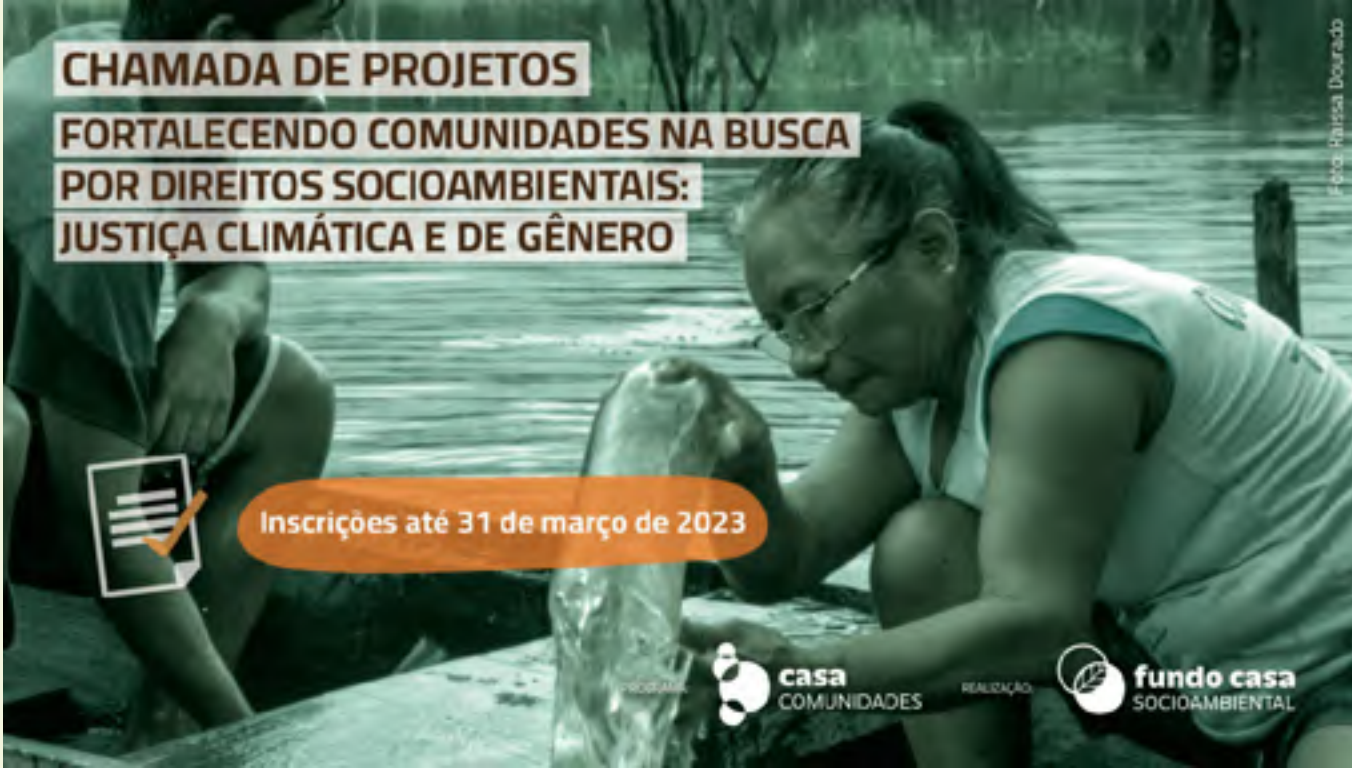
# Calls for Projects

The Casa Fund supports a variety of strategic themes that connect and complement each other with the goal of promoting socio-environmental and climate justice.

The 2023 calls for projects supported initiatives within the following themes:

- JUST ENERGY TRANSITION
- FOREST RESTORATION
- AGROECOLOGY
- TERRITORIAL SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE
- INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING
- STRENGTHENING OF INSTRUMENTS FOR TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE

## 2023 Calls



### STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES IN THE PURSUIT OF SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS: CLIMATE AND GENDER JUSTICE

Goal: to promote projects that increase the autonomy of community organizations, enabling the community to be a protagonist in its socio-environmental initiatives.

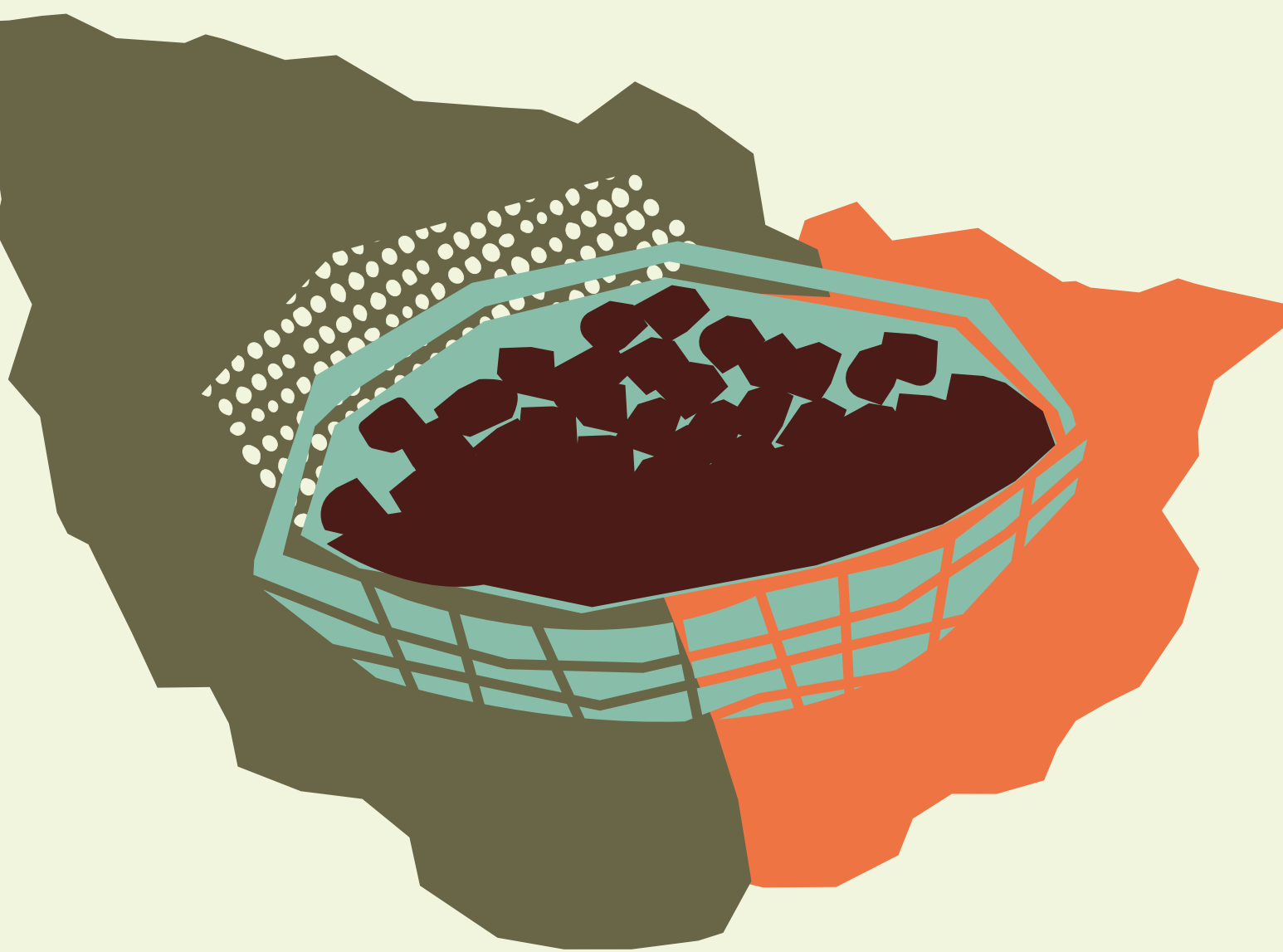


### STRENGTHENING TERRITORIAL RIGHTS IN THE FACE OF ENERGY MEGAPROJECTS

Goal: to support projects by communities that have been impacted by energy projects in Brazil so that they have a voice in the development of investment policies and practices of financial institutions; to strengthen regional strategies that tackle major impacts; and to strengthen local groups so that they can promote environmental protection and the defense of rights.







## WOMEN LEADING CLIMATE ACTION 2023

Goal: to develop and strengthen the capacities of grassroots groups and movements led by women, trans, intersex and non-binary people to influence key decision-making spaces that defend critical ecosystems; to take urgent action to divest from fossil fuel industries; and to support inclusive, sustainable and gender-just climate solutions.



## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND CONSERVATION AND REVITALIZATION OF THE ATLANTIC FOREST

Goal: to promote projects that increase the autonomy of community organizations, enabling the community to be the protagonist in its socio-environmental initiatives with a focus on restoring/recovering the Atlantic Forest and building protocols for tackling climate change.



## EDUCATION FOR GOOD LIVING — SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES FOR EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Goal: to help foster actions by indigenous community organizations by supporting projects aimed at increasing the resilience of indigenous peoples, provoking community responses that combine the fight against inequality and racism in education.



## STRENGTHENING THE AUTONOMY AND RESILIENCE OF FOREST PEOPLES

Goal: to support projects by organizations from traditional and local communities in the Legal Amazon, communities that protect the forests, either through their sustainable way of life or through their efforts to protect and combat deforestation through monitoring and territorial occupation, creating security protocols, through communication strategies and advocacy on public policies.





## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING AND DEFENSE OF TERRITORIAL RIGHTS IN THE MATOPIBA REGION

Goal: to support projects that boost the autonomy of community organizations, enabling them to be protagonists in their territories through their socio-environmental initiatives.



## STRENGTHENING THE AUTONOMY AND RESILIENCE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES — GRANTS FOR FIGHTING FOREST FIRES AND FOR TERRITORIAL MONITORING IN THE AMAZON

Goal: to support projects by local indigenous organizations in the Legal Amazon, communities that protect the forests, either through their ancestral way of life or through their efforts to protect and combat deforestation and forest fires through monitoring and territorial occupation, creating security protocols and actions to combat forest fires, among other measures.



## GRANTS FOR GRASSROOTS GROUPS IN TACKLING CLIMATE EMERGENCIES CAUSED BY FOREST FIRES

Goal: to grant volunteer and community brigades, associations, and grassroots communities that intend to act to prevent and combat forest fires.





# Casa Fund, a climate donor

## Supporting resilience- building in the face of the climate emergency

Faced with humanity's greatest challenges, especially the effects of the climate crisis, local funds are becoming increasingly essential. Philanthropy funds for social justice formed within the countries of the Global South are consolidated as an important piece in the global puzzle of combating climate change, where protagonism of local communities is already widely recognized.

The Funds' role goes far beyond the conventional financing of socio-environmental projects. By directing their resources to initiatives led by local communities and indigenous peoples, the Funds act on the front line of climate justice, empowering the most vulnerable and ensuring that their voices are heard in the debate on the future of the planet. Furthermore, by supporting innovative projects, the Funds not only drive practical, scalable solutions but also foster an environment of learning and collaboration, which is essential for tackling the complex challenges of climate change.



Thus, concerning the climate agenda, the Casa Fund has considerably expanded its support, whether for projects that contribute to increasing resilience to climate change or for tackling climate emergencies. As an example, in the field of climate emergencies, we have supported 145 projects to combat forest fires, in addition to supporting 115 Volunteer Brigades since 2020.

Moreover, the Casa Fund has been involved in the discussion of Climate Agreements, whether at the Conference of the Parties or Voluntary ones. To this end, it carried out three activities in 2023: Training Sessions for COP, participation in the COP 28 in Dubai, and advocacy in the philanthropic field through political positioning in articles in the media.

Photo: Collective Archive of Family Organic  
Agriculture of Quilombo Ausente Feliz



Project: Community that supports agriculture



## Articles: Advocacy and positioning on climate and climate finance

**Quilombolas go to COP28 to demand climate justice** — Selma Dealdina, Vice-President of Casa Fund's Deliberative Council and one of CONAQ's (National Coordination for the Articulation of Quilombos) national leaders — By Tayguara Ribeiro for Folha de São Paulo.

**Who will bear the costs for climate change**— By Cristina Orpheo, Casa Fund's Executive Director, and Rubens Born, Casa Fund Board Member and climate expert.

**Climate finance, civil society and the rights agenda: Reflections on community philanthropy** — By Cristina Orpheo (Casa Fund) and Graciela Hopstein (Comuá Network).

**Youth with money, incredible transformation** — By Amanda Costa (Perifa Sustentável) and Regilon Matos (Casa Fund).

**Brazilian leaders bring their experience with climate crisis to COP (Interview with Selma Dealdina, Vice-President of Casa Fund's Deliberative Council)** — By Nádia Pontes for DW Brasil.

**COP28: Will the real protagonists remain invisible?** — By Maria Amália Souza for Projet Colabora.

**Climate justice is still a long way off (Interview with Selma Dealdina, Vice-President of Casa Fund's Governance Board)** — Valor Econômico

**How climate crisis connects to violence against environmentalists** — By Ana Valéria Araújo (Brazil Fund) and Cristina Orpheo (Casa Fund) for Nexo Jornal





# International activities — Participation in events and networking

The work of Casa Fund is only possible because of a wide network of people and organizations with whom we have joined forces at different times, always with common goals. Networking, meetings, and participation in strategic events are fundamental actions for us to be in tune with our partners, funders, and grantees.

HOURS THAT THE CASA FUND TEAM DEDICATED TO MEETINGS IN 2023





# Participation in events and strategic meetings in 2023

## NEW YORK CLIMATE WEEK

Launch of the study **Forging Resilient Pathways** — *Scaling up Funding in Support of Indigenous Peoples’ and Local Communities’ Tenure and Forest Guardianship in the Global South* — New York.

## GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY FORUM 2023

Commonwealth Club of California, San Francisco.

## J. BLANTON BELK AWARD

Up With People International Alumni Association (**UWPIAA**) — Scottsdale, Arizona.

## GAGGA-LAC ALLIANCE

Boosting capacity and engagement of Latin American GAGGA partners on climate finance and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – Rio de Janeiro.

## ROUNDTABLE

Communication, Human Rights and Climate Justice – Casa Socio-Environmental Fund in partnership with Comuá Network, Brazil Fund, Pastoral Land Commission, and Tapajós de Fato – Brasília, Federal District.

## GOOD PRACTICES IN VOLUNTEERING

2nd Meeting of Good Practices in Volunteering for Integrated Fire Management – IPE Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas – Alter do Chão, Pará.

## PHILANTHROPY THAT TRANSFORMS

Launch of the “Philanthropy that Transforms” survey – Comuá Network – Online.

## SEMINAR

Seminar on Monitoring and Territorial Protection of Indigenous Lands – Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (Coiab) and the International Education Institute of Brazil (IEB) – Brasília, Federal District.



Photo: Ahmad Jarrah



# COP 28 – Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Photo: Bruna Obadowski



## Training Sessions for COP 28

The Casa Fund’s Training Session for the COP 28 was held in 7 preparatory workshops attended by 55 people, representatives of partner and strategic organizations.

The workshops were conducted by lawyer and engineer Dr. Rubens Harry Born — one of Casa Fund’s founders and an expert on climate issues — and other invited experts.

### WORKSHOP 1

Overview of the COPs + Main Results of COPs 26 and 27 and how we got to COP 28 – main expectations

### WORKSHOP 2

Quo vadis Brasil? How did COP 27 go and what to expect from COP28?

### WORKSHOP 3

Climate emergency and the urgency of mitigation and adaptation measures

### WORKSHOP 4

Climate emergency, land use and ecosystem restoration in Brazil

### WORKSHOP 5

Carbon market and other ways of “inducing” climate action

### WORKSHOP 6

Climate finance — Pledges and signed agreements

### WORKSHOP 7

Logistics, planning, and the Agenda for COP 28: Casa Fund Delegation





*Training Session for the COP 28 in 2023.*

## Participation in the COP 28

For the second year in a row, the Casa Fund participated actively in the COP. We sent a delegation of 17 people, which included team members, youth and leaders of the supported community groups, representing a variety of communities: riverine communities, indigenous peoples, forest dwellers, and quilombolas.

**We defend the right of local leaders to participate in these spaces actively. Economic and linguistic barriers cannot be a justification for leaving the main actors out of this process.**

In 2023, the Casa Fund became an accredited observer at the COP, being able to participate officially in the conferences. However, we relied on the support of partners such as GTA (Amazon Working Group) and Clima Info to obtain more credentials. We also counted on valuable financial partners who supported us in this mission of promoting the inclusion and diversity of participants at the COP.



*Casa Socio-Environmental Fund delegation at the airport on the way to Dubai — Representatives from the Amazon, Cerrado, and Atlantic Forest.*



# Participation in side events



*Juliana Tinoco, Executive Coordinator of Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur, and Amanda Costa, one of Casa Fund's grantees, at the panel "Gender-Fair Climate Policy and Financing: from barriers to viable solutions".*

The participation of representatives of traditional communities at the COP is crucial to ensure diverse, inclusive representation in the global climate debate. These representatives contribute valuable practical knowledge and local experience to the conversations, offering innovative solutions and insights into how climate policies directly affect local communities. In addition, their presence helps to ensure that these communities' specific concerns and needs are adequately considered in the COP negotiations, thereby promoting a more inclusive and comprehensive dialogue on important climate issues.



*Listening activity with youth in the Brazil pavilion, inputs for the first call for projects led by young people.*

The Casa Fund delegation was actively engaged in several discussions, including issues on climate financing, climate equity based on human rights, gender equality, protection of environmental defenders, leadership of traditional peoples, policies for peripheral communities and youth, and other relevant topics, such as:

## **GENDER-JUST CLIMATE POLICY AND FINANCE: FROM BARRIERS TO ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS**

Event – Organized by: NTFP-EP, Casa Socio-Environmental Fund, and GAGGA Alliance.

## **HOW TO CREATE A VIABLE PATH FOR CLIMATE FINANCE THAT BENEFITS YOUTH FROM TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES?**

Event – Organized by: WWF-Brazil and Casa Socio-Environmental Fund.





**YOUNG AND FEARLESS:  
THE POWERFUL VOICES  
OF YOUNG WOMEN ENVI-  
RONMENTAL RIGHTS  
DEFENDERS**

Event – Organized by: Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action — GAGGA.

**BRAZIL TOWARDS COP 30:  
INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL  
COMMUNITY PROTAGONISM IN  
FACING THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

Event – Organized by: APIB, IPAM, Casa Socio-Environmental Fund, TNC, WWF, OPI, and CIMC.

**PERIPHERIES, FINANCING, AND  
PUBLIC POLICIES: YOUTH FIGHTING  
FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE IN THE BATTLE  
AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM**

Event – Organized by: COP das Baixadas, Perifa Connection, COJOVEM, Casa Socio-Environmental Fund, and Engajamundo.



*Representatives of the Brazil Human Rights Fund, Casa Socio-Environmental Fund, and Elas+ Fund at the Launch of the Brazilian Philanthropy Pledge on Climate Change.*



# COMMUNICATION

**Telling inspiring stories, sharing successful experiences, translating data, and showing the transformative potential of systemic support: these are some of the Casa Fund's communication goals. To this end, we are active on the main digital platforms, producing physical and digital publications, holding webinars, covering events, producing videos, and press relations campaigns.**





## 2023 Launches

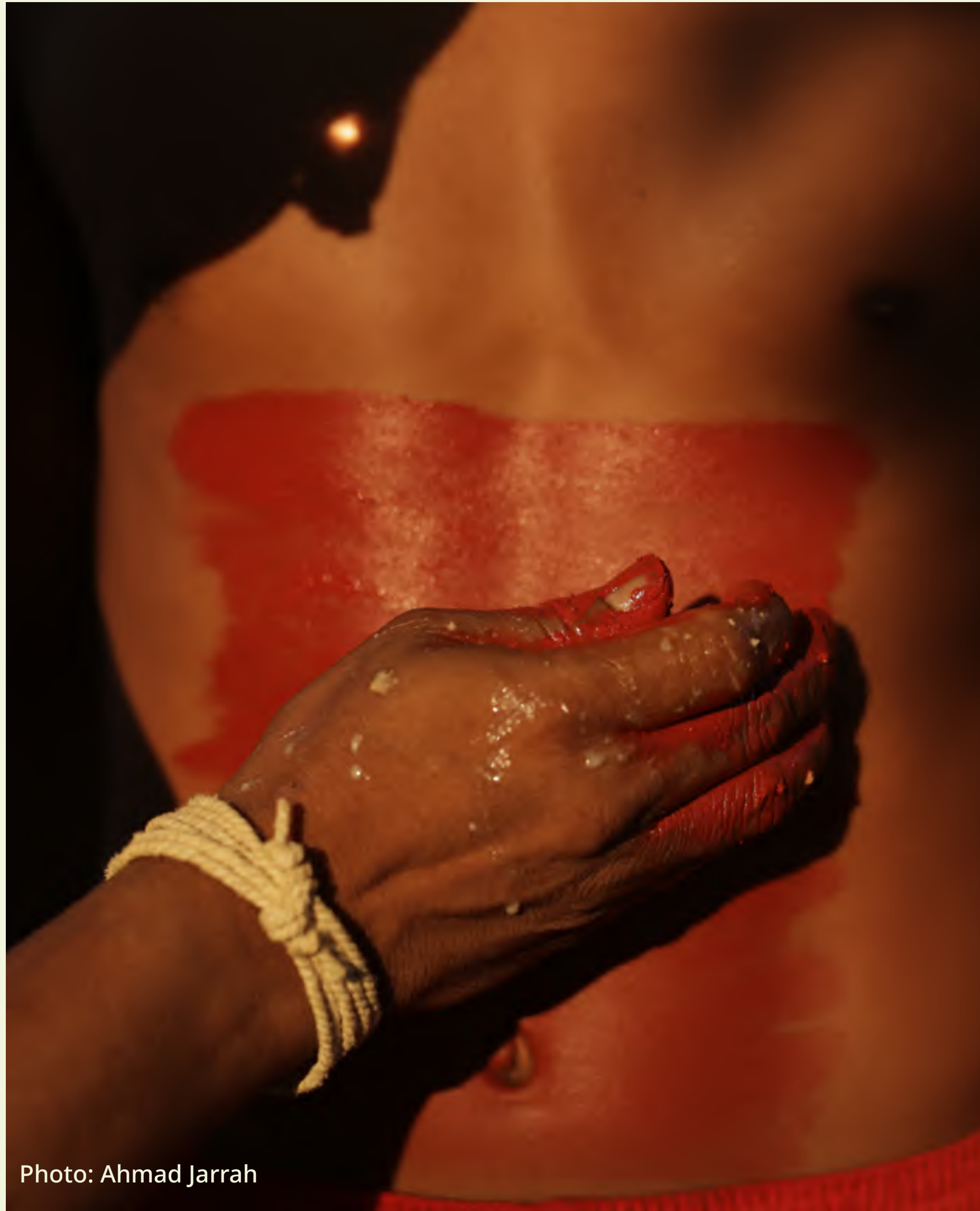


Photo: Ahmad Jarrah



### STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS TERRITORIAL RIGHTS IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

– Casa Socio-Environmental Fund

“Strengthening Indigenous Territorial Rights in the Brazilian Amazon” is a Casa Fund initiative carried out between 2020 and 2022, with support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. It aimed to contribute to expanding the territorial integrity of Indigenous Lands in the Brazilian Amazon by providing financial resources to projects by indigenous organizations, strengthening their capacity to act to protect their territories.

BRL 4.9 million were donated directly to 57 indigenous organizations in 46 Indigenous Lands in the Brazilian Amazon. The projects sought to overcome the absence of inspection bodies by creating or reinforcing their own protection mechanisms. Among the main achievements of the supported groups are the increase in the capacity to protect their territories using their own technology and means of transportation, the carrying out of monitoring and reporting operations, and the holding of training courses, which also engaged women and young people. The impacts of major construction projects affecting the territories have also been documented, as well as the development of consultation protocols.





## HOW COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY SUPPORTS THE PROTECTION OF THE CERRADO

– Casa Fund and ISPN

Considered the birthplace of waters, the Cerrado is home to the headwaters of some of the country's most important rivers, such as the São Francisco, the Tocantins, and the Araguaia, as well as the rivers forming the Amazon and Paraná basins. This biome occupies 24% of the national territory but has already lost around 50% of its original vegetation and only 8.3% of its territory is protected.

The Cerrado is also culturally rich and is home to more than 80 different indigenous peoples, as well as traditional quilombola communities, forest dwellers, geraizeiros, coconut breakers, riverside communities, sertanejos,

among others. These communities are guardians of great wisdom, and also the keepers of this biome. Protecting the Cerrado is urgent and community philanthropy, done in partnership with these local, traditional communities, proves to be an effective tool for this.

The peoples of the Cerrado show us that it is possible to combine the protection of the biome with social development, by valuing traditional knowledge and local culture. In September 2023, the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund and ISPN, with the support of the Comuá Network, held a panel entitled "Dialogues on the importance of community philanthropy in the conservation of the Cerrado and the culture of its peoples", to debate how we can do more to strengthen the work of the peoples who protect the Cerrado.



Photo: Ahmad Jarrah



## Roundtable: Communication, Human Rights, and Climate Justice

**Understanding that communication is increasingly a strategic tool in defending rights and producing and disseminating information that ensures visibility for causes and voices, in August 2023 the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund promoted, in partnership with the Comuá Network, the Brazil Fund, the Pastoral Land Commission, and Tapajós de Fato, the meeting “Roundtable: Communication, Human Rights, and Climate Justice”.**



*From left to right: Rodrigo Montaldi (Casa Fund), Marcos Wesley (Tapajós de Fato), Raione Lima (CPT – Pará Regional), Graciela Hopstein (Comuá network), Mônica Nóbrega (Brazil Fund) and Cristina Orpheo (Casa Fund). Photo: Denise Farias/Casa Socio-Environmental Fund.*

Communicators who work with socio-environmental rights in the Legal Amazon and Matopiba region (an area made up mainly of Cerrado covering the states of Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí, and Bahia) were invited to take part in the two-day event, which included four thematic sessions. Representatives of 98 communication movements and collectives gathered in Brasília, debating the right to communication around topics such as strengthening democracy, combating disinformation, strategies for defense and collective safety of human rights defenders, strengthening the grassroots communication agenda in the Legal Amazon and Matopiba, and funding for communication collectives and organizations.

Members of the following organizations participated in the debate sessions: Coletivo Tapajós de Fato, Coletivo Intervenções, Amazônia Real, Coletivo Proteja, Pastoral Land Commission, Agência Tambor, Network of Young Indigenous Communicators of COIAB, Casa Ninja Amazônica, Rede de Notícias da Amazônia, Agência Pública, Escazú Brazil Movement, Article 19, Escola de Ativismo, Reporters Without Borders, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship — Nilmário de Miranda (Special Advisor for the Defense of Democracy, Memory and Truth) and Luciana Pivatto (Coordination of the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators, and Environmentalists) —, Sandra Carvalho, from the Brazilian Committee of Human Rights Defenders, funders from the Oak Foundation, Porticus Foundation, Ford Foundation, Brazilian Human Rights Fund and members of Comuá Network.



# Casa Fund in the media

## Highlights in Brazil

### JORNAL HOJE, TV GLOBO

UN: WORLD MUST INVEST US\$ 484 BILLION A YEAR BY 2030 TO PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS

Interview with Maria Amália Souza highlighting the importance of supporting local and traditional communities

### TV VANGUARDA, A TV GLOBO AFFILIATED

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO SAVE THE PLANET

By Rogério Corrêa

### G1 VALE DO PARAÍBA E REGIÃO

CASA SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL FUND IS OPEN FOR PROJECTS TO REVITALIZE AND CONSERVE THE ATLANTIC FOREST

### G1 VALE DO PARAÍBA E REGIÃO

WHO IS THE BRAZILIAN WOMAN AWARDED FOR HER WORK PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PRESERVING THE EARTH

By Léo Nicolini

### ISTOÉ MAGAZINE

FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE ATLANTIC FOREST PROGRAM IS OPEN UNTIL THE 2ND

### NEO MONDO ESTADÃO

INDIGENOUS WOMEN HELP FIGHT ILLEGAL MINING IN THEIR TERRITORIES WHILE GENERATING INCOME



# Casa Fund in the media

## International highlights

### ALLIANCE MAGAZINE

CASA FUND FOUNDER MARIA AMALIA SOUZA HAS BEEN RECOGNISED FOR HER “CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY” WITH THE UP WITH PEOPLE J. BLANTON BELK OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS/ALUMNA AWARD

By Shafi Musaddique

### INSIDE PHILANTHROPY

BILLIONAIRES ARE BACKING BRAZIL AND THE AMAZON: WHAT DO LOCALS AND LONGTIME FUNDERS THINK

By Michael Kavate

### ALLIANCE MAGAZINE

CASA FUND: A MODEL OF INSPIRATION

By Maria Amália Souza



# KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

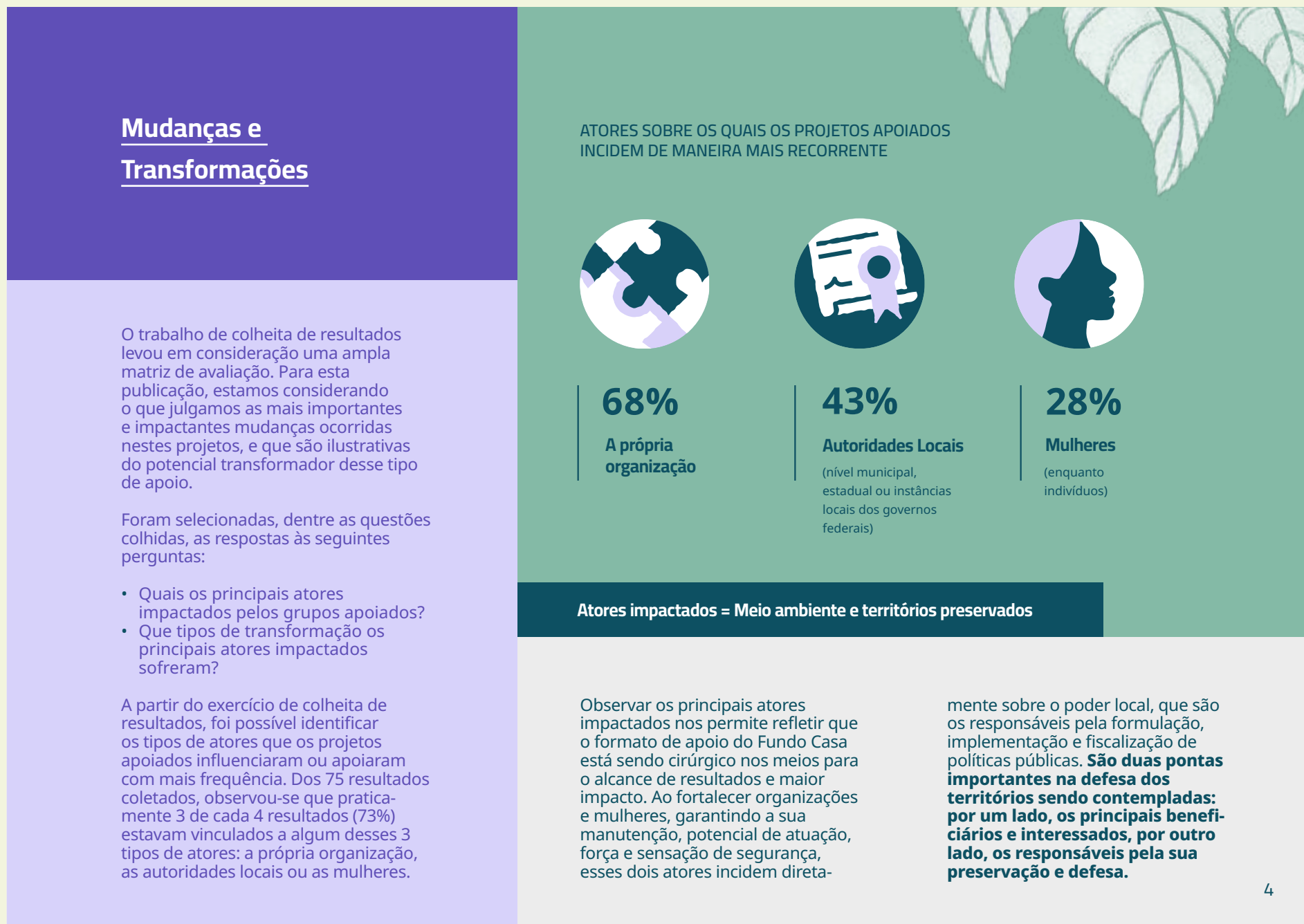
The Casa Fund produces publications that compile the knowledge generated in our grants programs, intending to generate relevant data and information for the field of philanthropy in Brazil and around the world. It also provides training for the supported groups with the aim of strengthening the organizations' project management capacities.





# Mighty Women: The Work of Groups in the Socio-Environmental Agenda

The publication “Mighty Women: The Work of Groups in the Socio-Environmental Agenda” is the second of a series and is available in three languages: Portuguese, Spanish, and English. The **first publication**, launched in 2021, detailed the history of the Casa Fund’s work in South America and the first five years of partnership between the Casa Fund and the **GAGGA Alliance**, a global alliance that supports projects that have an intersection between environmental topics and gender justice. The new publication focuses on transformations and impacts, through the analysis of data obtained from the 117 projects supported by the Casa Fund in four countries — Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay — between 2016 and 2020.





# Capacity Building

The Casa Fund, in partnership with **SER**, offers all its grantees the opportunity to take part in capacity-building workshops, to increase the autonomy of the groups and provide the best possible management of resources. Workshops are held online and live, and participants can interact with other beneficiaries and solve any doubts they may have.

In 2023, there were 31 workshops covering the following topics:

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT

ACCOUNTING CONSULTANCY

In total, 609 participants attended the workshops, representing 478 organizations.

The “**Capacity Building**” video series, produced by the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund to also serve people who, for some reason, were unable to attend the online workshops for free, is available on our YouTube channel and achieved 7,500 views in 2023.







1		<b>[Episódio 1] Como elaborar um projeto</b> Fundo Casa Socioambiental • 7,7 mil visualizações • há 1 ano
2		<b>[Episódio 2] Orçamentos, Contrapartidas e Contrato</b> Fundo Casa Socioambiental • 1,4 mil visualizações • há 1 ano
3		<b>[Episódio 3] Prestação de Contas e Comprovações Fiscais</b> Fundo Casa Socioambiental • 1,3 mil visualizações • há 1 ano
4		<b>[Episódio 4] Conceitos, Formas Jurídicas e Imunidade Tributária</b> Fundo Casa Socioambiental • 455 visualizações • há 1 ano
5		<b>[Episódio 5] Estatuto Social, Assembleia e Registro de Atas</b> Fundo Casa Socioambiental • 910 visualizações • há 1 ano
6		<b>[Episódio 6] Regularidade Fiscal e Auditoria Externa</b> Fundo Casa Socioambiental • 395 visualizações • há 1 ano



Photo: Marcinildo Saw Munduruku



# OUR TEAM

The Casa Fund has a diverse team in terms of race and origin, with a majority of women. Our team is distributed throughout Brazil and is present in the Federal District and the following states: São Paulo, Maranhão, Pará, Rio Grande do Sul, Amazonas, and Roraima.

---

72% OF THE TEAM IS MADE UP OF WOMEN

---

RACIAL DIVERSITY

---

DIVERSITY OF ORIGIN

*Casa Socio-Environmental Fund team, board, and partners.*





# Partnerships and Networks

The Casa Fund is dedicated to the field of philanthropy for social justice and to democratizing access to resources for grassroots communities. We believe in the importance of collaboration and thus participate in networks and alliances that expand our possibility of learning and contributing our experience to the discussions in this field.

Find out more about the main networks we are part of:



Photo: Opá Tenondé/AMAY - Akilombamento Morada Abya Yala de Mãe Preta

## ALLIANCE BETWEEN FUNDS

Made up of 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 to confront Covid-19 and presents a new way of acting in the philanthropy ecosystem in Brazil: collaborative philanthropy for social justice.

<https://aliancaentrefundos.org.br>

## ALIANZA SOCIOAMBIENTAL FONDOS DEL SUR | SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDS OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

An initiative that brings together fifteen independent socio-environmental funds from Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. The alliance's member funds are local funds 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 up capacity and institutional strengthening.

[www.alianzafondosdelsur.org](http://www.alianzafondosdelsur.org)

## EDGE FUNDERS ALLIANCE

A network of foundations dedicated to empowering social movements around the world. To this end, they encourage dialogue between funders and movements in an advanced, participatory way. The Casa Fund, besides being a member of this network, has for many years contributed to strengthening the participation of local funds from the South within this space.

[www.edgefunders.org](http://www.edgefunders.org)

## HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS NETWORK

The largest global network of foundations and funds that invest in human rights in their most different aspects and forms, from racial equity to gender justice, traditional peoples, combating modern slavery, and many other variations of these themes. The Casa Fund was a part of the coordinating committee of this network for six years, helping to strengthen the perspective of local funds from the Global South and their differences.

[www.hrfn.org](http://www.hrfn.org)

## COMUÁ NETWORK

A space that brings together community funds and foundations, grantmaking organizations that mobilize resources from a variety of sources to support groups, collectives, movements, and civil society organizations working in the fields of social justice, human rights, citizenship, and community development. Seventeen members have come together to show that it is possible to directly support grassroots groups in all areas of social justice so that they can propose and develop their own solutions for their communities.

[www.redecomua.org.br](http://www.redecomua.org.br)

## NORDESTE POTÊNCIA

The Nordeste Potência Plan (Northeast Potency) was created by four Brazilian civil organizations: Centro Brasil no Clima, Casa Socio-Environmental Fund, Grupo Ambientalista da Bahia and Instituto ClimaInfo, with support from the Instituto Clima e Sociedade. The aim is to promote public debate on post-pandemic economic recovery in the Northeast on a green, fair and inclusive basis, in a system that benefits all segments of society.

[www.nordestepotencia.org.br](http://www.nordestepotencia.org.br)



# Thanks to our funders

Photo: Ahmad Jarrah



**The Casa Fund carries out an independent audit every year.**

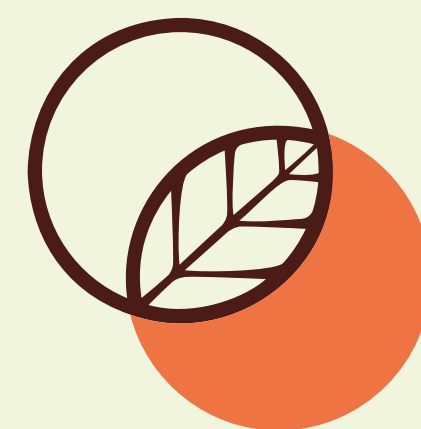
[Click here to access the audit report for 2023.](#)

**Our heartfelt thanks to the partners and funders who have been with the Casa Fund in 2023. Thank you for embracing challenges and supporting solutions with us!**

## 2023 Funders

- Amazon Watch  
Be The Earth Foundation  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
Climate and Land Use Alliance  
Comuá Network  
Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland  
Embassy of France in Brazil  
Royal Norwegian Embassy  
Emerger Fondo Socioambiental Colombia  
Fondation de Luxembourg  
Fondation Tara  
Fondo Centroamericano De Mujeres – FCAM  
Full Circle Foundation Limited  
Fondation L'Oréal  
Fondo de Acción Urgente – FAU  
Global Dialogue  
GlobalGiving Foundation  
Global Greengrants Fund  
Global Witness
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
IAF – Inter-American Foundation  
ICS – Instituto Clima e Sociedade  
Imaginable Futures  
Instituto Meraki  
Marigold Fund, via Marin Community Foundation  
Oak Foundation  
One Small Planet  
Porticus  
Re:wild  
Stichting Both ENDS  
Swiss Philanthropy Foundation  
Synchronicity Foundation  
The Roddick Foundation  
The Savitri Trust  
The Waterloo Foundation  
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund  
World Wide Fund – WWF





**fundo casa**

SOCIOAMBIENTAL

Casa Socio-Environmental Fund