



# FROM TERRITORIES TO CLIMATE ACTION:

THE ROLE OF THE CASA  
FUND IN DIRECTLY  
FINANCING ADAPTATION,  
MITIGATION, AND JUST  
TRANSITION AGENDAS

PRESENTED BY





# IMPRINT

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"We are preparing for COP 30, and facing the climate crisis is the agenda of the moment. However, we, Indigenous peoples, have always protected and cared for the environment, with the awareness that planting, fishing, hunting, and the use of the riches of forests, rivers, and seas must be done responsibly.

The cosmovisions of Indigenous peoples are diverse, but respect for the environment is always present. We respect the land because it is sacred. We respect the rivers because they are a source of life. We respect the diversity of plants and animals so that life can continue. What is ancestral knowledge for us, Indigenous peoples, has now become an act of resistance. We must resist various activities and threats of illegal mining, logging, monoculture, cattle ranching, and other predatory forms of exploitation. And this sacred relationship with nature turns into action for preservation.

We, Indigenous peoples, act as guardians of forests and biomes. Indigenous lands occupy 14% of Brazil's territory and are present in every biome, with special attention to the 22% of the Amazon biome under Indigenous protection. In the last 30 years, our territories have lost only 1.2% of their native vegetation, while private lands have recorded losses of 19.9%, according to MapBiomias (2023).

So, our role is essential to mitigate climate change and preserve biodiversity. With a population of approximately 1.7 million people, according to the latest Census, we, Indigenous peoples, continue to resist, but many forests have been devastated, many animals killed, and many waters polluted.

The struggle now is to mitigate the damage, adapt to the new reality, and sustainably manage our needs. We have much to teach, and initiatives of direct funding for those who are caring for the land, forests, and waters — such as Casa Fund — are essential.

Funds concretely support initiatives in Indigenous territories and help amplify our ancestral wisdom. Investing in Indigenous initiatives is investing in the sustainability of the planet. Direct-access funds help Indigenous communities carry out their projects, supporting a just and democratic transition with solutions that grow from the territories. No one is better suited than those who live from the land — who have cared for it for generations — to show the way. In this struggle, we count on the support of partners such as the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund."

**Sônia Guajajara, Minister of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil**



# INTRODUCTION

# INTRODUCTION



The **Casa Socio-Environmental Fund** is a **philanthropic** institution that promotes environmental conservation and sustainability, democracy, respect for socio-environmental rights, and social justice through direct financial support and capacity building for civil society organizations. Over the years, it has established itself as an important mechanism for **supporting grassroots organizations and collectives**, strengthening community initiatives as well as territorial networks, local networks, and funds that work for socio-environmental justice. Its work ensures that strategic resources reach Indigenous Peoples, Quilombolas, Traditional Communities, and grassroots organizations living in the most vulnerable regions quickly and easily.

This work is characterized by decentralization of resources, community leadership, and an integrated approach to solutions that combine territorial protection, income generation, cultural strengthening, and tackling the climate crisis. More than just supporting specific projects, the Casa Fund positions itself as a catalyst for structural change, strengthening local organizations and amplifying their voice in national and international spaces.

The purpose of this publication is to present the direct climate financing that the Casa Fund provides to local communities, highlighting how its trajectory

connects with the three main pillars of the global agenda: **mitigation, adaptation, and just transition**. To this end, data were compiled from 1,267 initiatives supported between 2022 and 2024, totaling approximately R\$100 million (US\$20 million), selected from more than 4,700 projects that Casa Fund has supported over two decades of operation. The data from this sample reflects the relevance and uniqueness of Casa Fund's work in strengthening climate justice through the concrete practices of communities that care for the land, water, and forests.

In addition, this publication also seeks to **serve as inspiration for the field of climate and socio-environmental financing**, demonstrating that it is possible to effectively decentralize resources, strengthen the autonomy of community organizations, and expand the reach of philanthropy. By valuing local experiences and transforming them into strategic references, Casa Fund reaffirms that innovation in financing stems from its relevance and roots within the communities working in the territories. This approach helps guide fairer, more inclusive, and transformative practices at the national level in building climate resilience.

## WHAT THIS PUBLICATION REVEALS:

- **Adaptation as a central focus**

Most of the initiatives worked to build community resilience in the face of climate change. The Casa Fund shows that local communities, especially Indigenous Peoples, Quilombolas, and Traditional Communities, are already developing adaptation solutions that combine agroecology, water security, territorial protection, and cultural strengthening.

- **Mitigation integrated into territorial practices**

Although smaller in scale during this period, support for mitigation plays a strategic role, with efforts encompassing territorial monitoring and defense, ecological restoration, renewable energy, and community recycling. The report highlights that mitigation in these territories is inseparable from the struggle for rights and for the preservation of the forest. In other words, the conservation of nature's goods and services must be combined with the protection of rights for a healthy and intact environment for all people.

- **Fair transition as a cross-cutting dimension**

The Casa Fund contributes to economic, environmental, and social transformation - including an energy transition that is inclusive, generates income, values traditional knowledge, empowers women and young people, and defends territorial rights.

- **Intersectionality as a hallmark**

The data show that almost half of the funding provided is directed to projects that combine mitigation and adaptation in an integrated manner. This reinforces that local solutions dissolve rigid boundaries between categories and anticipate, in practice, the global debate on climate co-benefits. These data show that communities act in an integrated manner in caring for the territory where they live.

- **Territorial inequalities in financing**

Despite the strong presence in the Amazon (reflecting the priority of international financiers), the publication warns of the need to expand resources in less-funded biomes, such as Caatinga, Cerrado, Pampa, and Pantanal, which are equally critical for biodiversity and local populations.

- **Community strengthening as a structural strategy**

More than just financing specific projects, the Fund invests in governance, advocacy, and social participation, enabling grassroots communities to also be leading political actors in the climate agenda.

The analyses presented here, based on data from a significant sample of projects funded by the Casa Fund, reveal another characteristic of its work: its commitment to socio-environmental effectiveness through the monitoring and transparency of philanthropic and climate justice activities.





## 1. THE IMPORTANCE OF PORTFOLIO CATEGORIZATION ON CLIMATE ISSUES

Historically, the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund has organized its support based on institutional categories that reflect its strategic priorities, including topics such as:

- Rights Protection
- Community Institutional Strengthening
- Infrastructure Impact
- Climate Change
- Environmental Conservation
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Energy Solutions
- Public Policy
- Social Participation
- Sustainable Cities
- Implementation and Recovery of Community Green Areas
- Water Resources
- Environmental Sanitation
- Urban Agriculture
- Food Security

This model serves to monitor the thematic diversity of the portfolio and ensure that social, environmental, and political aspects are present in the funding provided to grassroots organizations.

However, given the growing relevance of the climate agenda on the global stage, it is strategic to understand how this funding aligns with the three major internationally recognized pillars of climate finance: **mitigation, adaptation, and just transition**. This interpretation does not replace institutional categorization, but complements the understanding of the impact of the Casa Fund, revealing how its initiatives already respond to challenges identified in multilateral forums, research, and reports on climate finance.

By aligning its portfolio with the most established climate categories, the Casa Fund demonstrates that, even with a focus on local grassroots communities, its activities contribute to agendas of global relevance. Projects focused on food security, for example, become even more visible when recognized as adaptation strategies. Restoration initiatives can be positioned as mitigation actions, while experiences of strengthening local economies led by women and young people stand out in the field of just transition.

This analytical effort reinforces the Fund's leading role in historically underfunded areas, such as community adaptation and climate justice, and broadens its legitimacy among donors and international partners.

**Ultimately, the Fund already responds to many of the challenges posed globally, albeit based on its own methodologies and priorities, developed in direct dialogue with the communities and associations that operate in different territories.**

In this regard, this document focuses on **mapping and categorizing projects implemented between January 2022 and December 2024**, with the following main objectives:

- **Analyzing the support provided by the Casa Fund to projects potentially related to mitigation, adaptation, and just transition**, highlighting approaches, impacts, trends, and gaps.
- **Evaluating the allocation of resources by thematic area**, allowing for greater precision in the analysis of investment priorities and identification of areas that require strategic adjustments.
- **Strengthening the fundraising strategy** by systematizing data that highlights the impacts of the Casa Fund and expands its capacity to mobilize resources from national and international donors.

In summary, this report seeks not only to organize information on the recent activities of the Casa Fund, but also to offer strategic support for its future activities, strengthening its relevance as a benchmark in community financing to address climate change issues in Brazil and the Global South.



Photo: Priscila Tapajowara



## 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: ADAPTATION, MITIGATION, AND JUST TRANSITION

Understanding the issues that drive the climate agenda is essential to interpreting the extent to which funds and financial mechanisms contribute to the implementation of climate action at different levels and the level of resources that reach the territories. Among the key concepts related to climate finance, the following stand out: mitigation, adaptation — including the idea of co-benefits between them — and just transition. Each has distinct origins and interpretations, yet complement one another in shaping policies and action strategies.

Below are the definitions that form the basis of this report<sup>1</sup>.

- **Mitigation** An activity should be classified as related to climate change mitigation if it prevents greenhouse gases (GHGs) from being released into the atmosphere or increases the absorption/removal of these gases from the air (carbon capture and sequestration through anthropogenic activities). The goal is **to slow the pace of global warming and its impacts**<sup>2</sup>.
- **Adaptation** An activity should be classified as related to climate change adaptation if it aims to reduce the vulnerability of human or natural systems to the impacts of climate change and climate risks, while maintaining or increasing the adaptive capacity and resilience of these systems<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of comparability with other international financing mechanisms, the definitions of mitigation and adaptation used in this report are those formally adopted by the IPCC. In Brazil, these definitions take on slightly different and more technical contours through the interpretation of these concepts adopted in Law 12187/2009, which establishes the National Policy on Climate Change. According to Brazilian law, mitigation consists of technological changes and substitutions that reduce resource use and emissions per unit of production, as well as the implementation of measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase sinks. Adaptation, in turn, corresponds to initiatives and measures to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems to the current and expected effects of climate change.

<sup>2</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (2023). What is climate change mitigation? FAQ 1.2 | Which greenhouse gases (GHGs) are relevant to which sectors? FAQ 1.3. **Available at:** <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/resources/spm-faqs/>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Adaptation and resilience: The big picture. **Available at:** <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/the-big-picture/introduction>.

## CO-BENEFITS BETWEEN MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

There is currently a **relevant and strategic debate** in the international climate arena that highlights how **mitigation and adaptation** categories **have intrinsic co-benefits**. Although traditionally treated as separate axes in the negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in many financing mechanisms, in practice the two agendas **overlap and reinforce each other**, showing that there is no long-term solution to the climate crisis without articulating emissions reduction and increased resilience.

This understanding, however, is not restricted to global forums. **Local communities, Indigenous Peoples, Quilombolas, and Traditional Communities** experience the climate crisis in an integrated way, realizing that **reducing emissions and strengthening resilience** are not separate goals, but parts of the same process of caring for the territory and ensuring good living. For these communities, forest protection, sustainable resource management, food security, and the defense of territorial rights function simultaneously as **mitigation and adaptation strategies**, dissolving in practice the conceptual boundary between these axes.

Thus, while international policies still tend to **classify actions into rigid categories**, those on the front lines of climate change already demonstrate that reality is **interdependent and intersectoral**. Recognizing this convergence is essential for financing models, public policies, and climate governance to **value integrated solutions**, respect traditional knowledge, and increase the effectiveness of responses to the climate crisis on a global and local scale.

**Just Transition.** A widely used concept that is interpreted in diverse ways. Different actors (governments, unions, social movements, multilateral organizations, etc.) place varying emphasis on its meaning, ranging from protecting the rights of workers in carbon-intensive sectors to defending territorial rights and socio-environmental justice.

This report adopts a definition inspired by **climate justice** approaches, understanding just transition as a **process of transformation towards a low-carbon economy that simultaneously guarantees rights, reduces economic and social vulnerabilities, values traditional knowledge, and strengthens community autonomy**<sup>4</sup>. This interpretation is in line with the practice of the Casa Fund, which supports initiatives to generate local income, strengthen community governance, and protect territories from mega-projects, connecting social justice and climate action.

<sup>4</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO) (2016). [Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all](#).

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The classification methodology used for the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund portfolio aims to guide the identification of the priority theme for each initiative, based on its contribution to tackling the climate crisis in terms of mitigation, adaptation, and just transition. Recognizing that many projects in the Fund's database have intersectional and integrated approaches, the methodology does not seek to impose rigid labels, but rather to provide an analytical support tool.

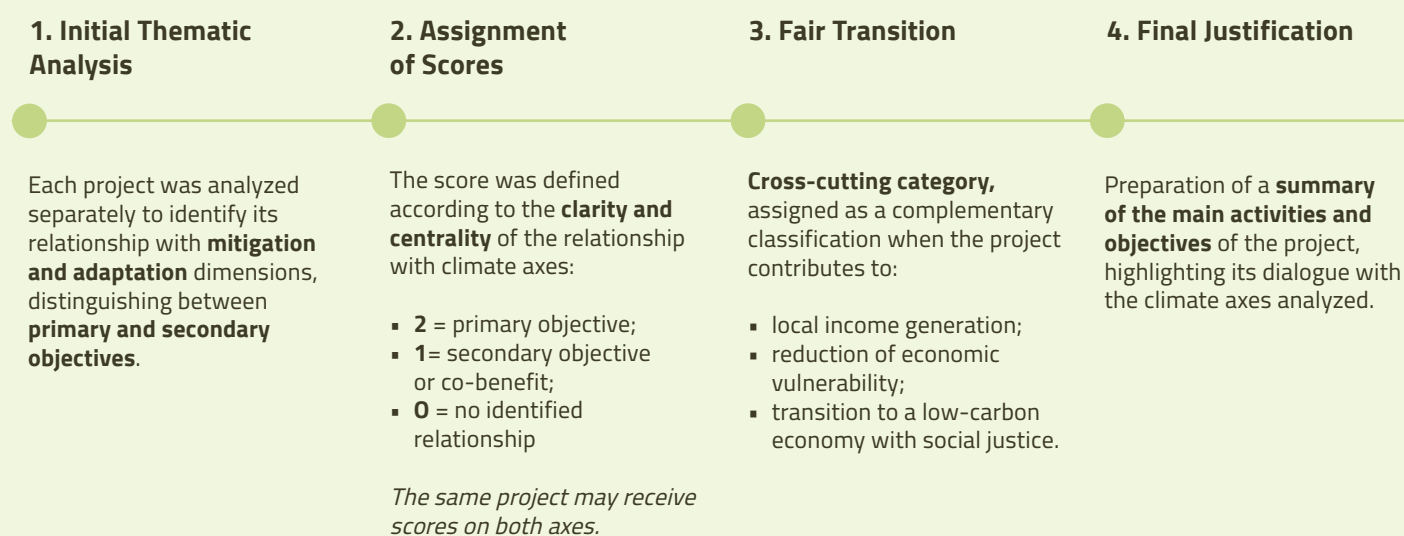
Thus, the methodology was defined with the support of scoring projects that help identify the predominant climate objective, contributing to the recognition of the sectors, thematic areas, and action strategies most directly involved.

In summary, each project was examined based on its title, summary, and objectives, identifying key elements related to the three climate categories. A scoring system was adopted that gave greater weight to the project's keywords and core objectives, ensuring consistency in the classification. In cases of overlap between two or more axes, the predominance of the main objective was considered, without disregarding the intersectional nature of many initiatives. Below is a step-by-step description of the methodology adopted.

1. **Initial thematic analysis:** Each project was analyzed separately in terms of mitigation and adaptation dimensions.
2. **Scoring:** Scores were assigned based on the clarity and centrality of the relationship to these objectives.
  - a. When the relationship with mitigation or adaptation was explicitly indicated, **a score of 2 (main objective identified) was assigned.**
  - b. When the project was related to the other climate axis, but in a secondary or complementary way, indicating a potential co-benefit, **a score of 1 (secondary objective) was assigned.**
  - c. When no relationship with either of the two climate objectives was identified, a score of 0 (not targeted) was assigned. A project could receive a score on both axes, provided it met the respective criteria.
3. **Analysis of the Just Transition component:** Based on the initial categorization, the analysis examined the extent to which the project had a component related to just transition. **Just transition** is considered a **cross-cutting dimension** and may be present in projects focused on mitigation, adaptation, or other socio-environmental strategies. It is assigned as a complementary tag when the project focuses on reducing economic vulnerability through **income generation** or promoting a **low-carbon economy**, mainly through renewable energy.
4. **Justification:** After analysis and categorization, it was suggested that a summary be written of the main objectives and activities implemented by the project that corresponded to the mapped climate axes. Figure 1 describes the summarized step-by-step methodology applied.



**FIGURE 1. STEP-BY-STEP METHODOLOGY**



**Source: prepared by the authors**

## METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The methodology proposed for classifying projects between mitigation, adaptation, and just transition was based on the framework developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), specifically in the **Handbook on the OECD-DAC Climate Markers**<sup>5</sup>. This handbook guides the use of so-called “climate markers,” created by the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC), which since 1998 has been monitoring the **flow of financial resources to developing countries**, with a focus on the objectives of the Rio Conventions.

The **mitigation marker** was developed in partnership with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and, in 2009, the **adaptation marker** was incorporated, expanding the capacity to monitor support for climate action. The markers indicate whether climate mitigation or adaptation is a **primary objective (without which the action would not have been conceived)** or a **significant objective (a co-benefit integrated into the action)**. Although the data generated by these markers do not represent an exact measurement of climate spending, they provide a useful and **comparable estimate across countries**.

The proposed methodology adapts this scoring and definition logic to the context of projects supported by the Casa Fund, valuing clarity of objectives, consistency between activities and expected results, and the centrality of climate action in the design of initiatives. The choice of criteria that are easily comparable in other contexts is strategic, considering the Casa Fund’s relevant role in establishing other funds in the Global South.

<sup>5</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2025). Handbook on the OECD-DAC Climate Markers. [Rio Markers Handbook](#). [OECD-DAC Climate Markers](#) | [Capacity4dev](#)

In the context of this report, the parameters of the Handbook have been adjusted to reflect the reality of community-based projects supported by the Casa Fund, preserving their territorial and social specificity. Table 1 below presents a summary of the eligibility criteria for mitigation and adaptation, as adapted to the context of the Casa Fund.

**TABLE 1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MITIGATION OR ADAPTATION BASED ON THE *HANDBOOK ON THE OECD-DAC CLIMATE MARKERS***

| AXIS              | CRITERIA <sup>6</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | KEYWORDS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MITIGATION</b> | <p>A project can be classified as mitigation-related if it contributes to one or more of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduce or limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including gases regulated by the Montreal Protocol.</li> <li>▪ Protect or expand carbon sinks (forests, soils, ecosystems).</li> <li>▪ Develop capacities, technologies, and policies to promote low-carbon practices.</li> <li>▪ Support the development of education and research on GHG reduction.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renewable energy, solar, wind.</li> <li>▪ Reforestation, sustainable management, restoration, recovery, regeneration of degraded areas and ecosystems.</li> <li>▪ Solid waste, garbage, pollution, composting, recycling, selective collection.</li> <li>▪ Energy efficiency, emissions, greenhouse gases (GHG).</li> <li>▪ Biofuel, sustainable transportation.</li> </ul>                                  |
| <b>ADAPTATION</b> | <p>A project can be classified as adaptation-related if it contributes to one or more of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reducing vulnerability to climate risks.</li> <li>▪ Increasing resilience/adaptive capacity.</li> <li>▪ Integrating adaptive measures into policies or practices.</li> <li>▪ Responding to extreme weather events and disasters.</li> <li>▪ Education/research on adaptation.</li> </ul>                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resilience, drought, flooding, vulnerability.</li> <li>▪ Water security, water management, irrigation, access to water.</li> <li>▪ Regenerative agriculture, agroforestry systems, integrated crop, livestock, and forestry (ICLF).</li> <li>▪ Early warning, extreme weather, climate events.</li> <li>▪ Firefighting, forest fires, community brigades, integrated fire management<sup>7</sup>.</li> </ul> |

<sup>6</sup> All axes, criteria, and keywords were included based on the OECD Handbook. Some of them were adapted to the context of the Casa Fund.

<sup>7</sup> Integrated Fire Management (IFM) is an approach that aims to manage fire adaptively, integrating traditional, scientific, and technical knowledge. The goal is to plan and make decisions considering the ecological, sociocultural, and economic aspects of a territory, seeking to prevent, control, or use fire strategically.

TABLE 2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR JUST TRANSITION ADAPTED FOR THE CASA FUND, BASED ON THE DEFINITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION<sup>8</sup>.

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JUST TRANSITION | <p>A project can be classified as related to just transition if it contributes to one or more of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Reducing socioeconomic vulnerabilities in communities affected by climate change or the decarbonization of the economy.</li><li>▪ Generating sustainable jobs and income, promoting productive inclusion in low-carbon chains.</li><li>▪ Promoting gender, racial, and generational equity in the transition to a low-carbon economy, including guaranteeing rights in relation to renewable energy projects.</li><li>▪ Guaranteeing access to basic services and well-being (energy, transportation, food) in models compatible with climate neutrality.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Climate justice, equity, territorial rights, good living.</li><li>▪ Income generation, productive inclusion, solidarity economy.</li><li>▪ Community autonomy, participatory governance, institutional strengthening.</li><li>▪ Renewable energy, energy transition, low carbon.</li><li>▪ Decent work, social protection, professional training.</li><li>▪ Cultural appreciation, traditional knowledge, youth, and gender.</li></ul> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Source: prepared by the authors.

<sup>8</sup> International Labor Organization (ILO) (2016). [Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all](#).



Photo: Priscila Tapajowara

## 3.1 Limitations of the Analysis

The categorization presented in this report is based on a detailed **analysis of the Casa Socio-environmental Fund database**, considering the summaries, objectives, and descriptions of the initiatives supported. Although it is not always possible to fully capture the complexity **of the actions carried out in the field**, which often transcend the conceptual boundaries of climate categories, the process adopted followed rigorous and internationally recognized methodological criteria.

The application of climate markers to a base originally structured into broader institutional categories required careful interpretation and successive validation, ensuring consistency between the classifications and the strategic objectives of each project. Thus, although there are limitations inherent to any categorization process, the analysis performed is sufficiently in-depth and highly consistent and reliable, clearly showing how the Fundo Casa portfolio contributes in a concrete and meaningful way to the adaptation, mitigation, and just transition agendas.

**More than a mere data systematization, this analytical exercise reveals patterns, trends, and strategic opportunities that strengthen Fundo Casa's operations and reaffirm its relevance as a benchmark in direct climate finance for local communities.**





"Direct funding is essential because community brigades are made up of trained representatives who hold the local knowledge (awareness of hazards and risks) necessary to protect the territory. By supporting these brigades, we invest in the community's preparedness and resilience, minimizing vulnerability to the impacts of the climate crisis.

Supporting the brigades is a direct investment in adaptation because it increases the community's capacity to prepare for and respond to extreme climate events. This preparedness has great potential to reduce the occurrence and severity of Loss and Damage (irrecoverable or avoidable disaster costs), such as the loss of lives, homes, and livelihoods.

In summary: local preparedness → greater resilience → fewer losses and damages."

**Rafael Gava, National Network of  
Volunteer Brigades**

## 4. GRANTEE PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

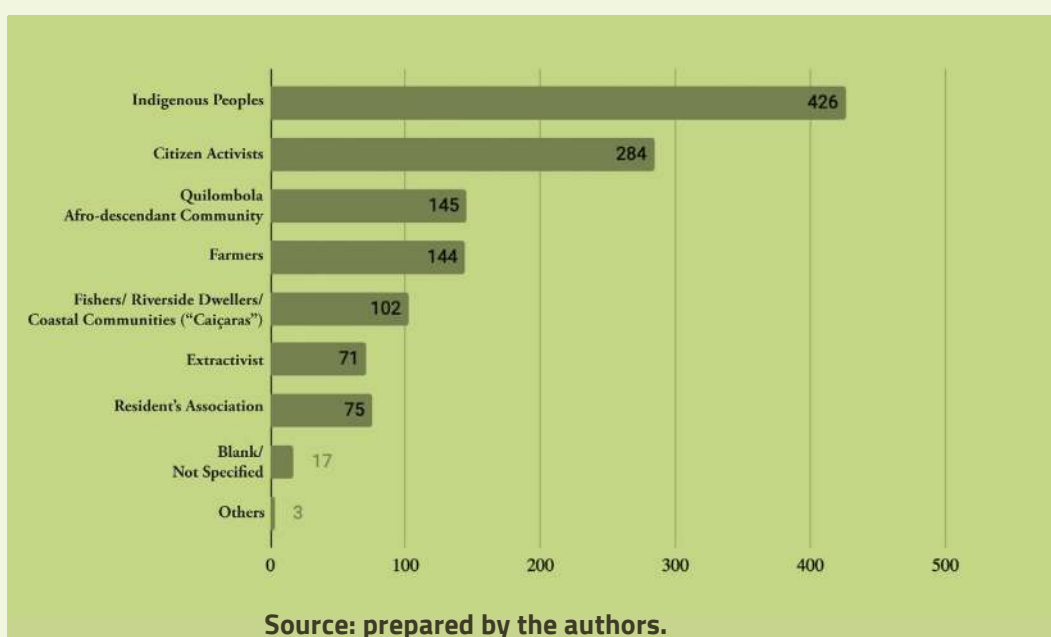
The analysis presented in this report was based on projects supported by the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund between **January 2022 and December 2024**. A total of **1,267** projects were examined, covering a wide range of territories, biomes, and themes. This database represents a robust snapshot of the Fund's recent activities, allowing us to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities for strategic improvement.

### 4.1 Profile of Supported Organizations

An analysis of the profile of the organizations supported shows that the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund concentrates much of its support on traditional communities, particularly **Indigenous Peoples (34% of projects), Quilombolas (11%), and Fishermen, Riverine Communities, and Caiçaras (8%)**. This reveals a clear priority to strengthen territories and ways of life that are among the most threatened by climate change, pressure on natural resources, and historical inequalities. Supporting these communities means investing in guardians of knowledge and practices that, in addition to ensuring cultural reproduction, are also fundamental to the conservation of Brazilian biomes.

In addition, the Casa Fund has guaranteed significant space for **family farmers (11%) and extractivists (6%)**, groups that share intrinsic relationships of dependence on land and natural resources for income generation and well-being. The category "others" includes Fund and Pasture Closure Community, Artisans and Gypsies. This strategic choice broadens the scope of grassroots actions, connecting the socio-environmental agenda to the strengthening of sustainable production systems, such as agroecology and low-impact extractivism. The chart below shows the details of the distribution.

**Chart 1. Target audience of supported organizations**



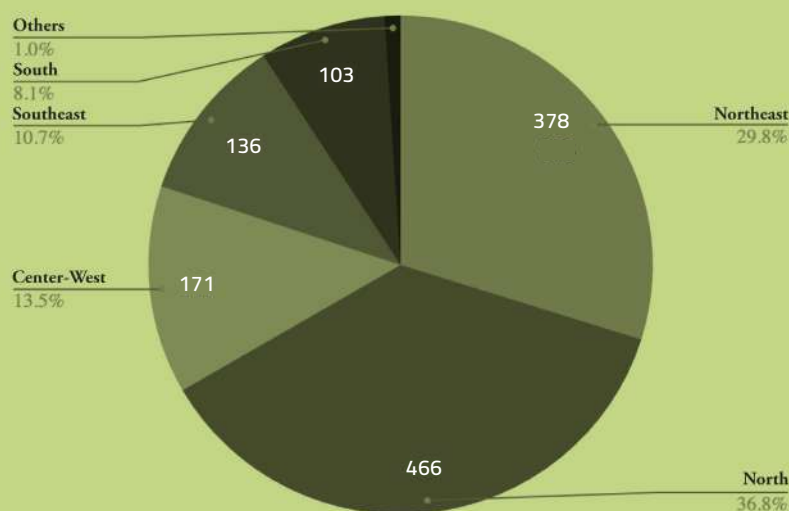


## 4.2 Distribution of Support by Region

The regional distribution of projects supported by the Casa Fund reinforces its widespread presence throughout the country, but also highlights strategic priorities. The North receives the largest share of support (37%), in line with the historical and global focus on protecting the Amazon. The Northeast ranks second (30%), reflecting the importance of supporting communities in contexts of drought, desertification, and socioeconomic vulnerability in both the Caatinga and Atlantic Forest. The Midwest (13%) shows the relevance for the Cerrado and transition areas with the Amazon, key territories for water and food security.

The Southeast (11%) and South (8%) regions have lower percentages, but are no less significant. These areas face intense urban and agricultural pressure, where grassroots organizations work to protect the Atlantic Forest and the Pampa — biomes that have historically received less funding support. This snapshot confirms that although the Casa Fund maintains a strong focus on the Amazon, it also addresses Brazil's broader climatic and socio-environmental vulnerabilities, ensuring national representation and reinforcing the diversity of territories and communities it supports.

**Chart 2. Distribution of support by region**



Source: prepared by the authors.

In addition to its broad presence in all Brazilian biomes and territories, the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund also supports initiatives outside Brazil, expanding its reach in the Global South. The “Others” category on the map of regions highlights cross-border projects and experiences that transcend national boundaries, reinforcing the Fund's commitment to strengthening grassroots communities and partner funds in different countries and territories. This movement expands the exchange of knowledge and connects socio-environmental struggles beyond national borders.



"We have been organizing, holding meetings and workshops, and discussing the model of inclusive energy transition that we want. The models that have emerged are exclusionary. In our communities, we do not have the right to free, prior, and informed consultation, but we have done what every social movement that values and respects itself does: we have mobilized the people as much as possible, with the conditions we have been able to secure.

In this sense, the support of Casa Fund has been very important for the fishers' movement. Every contribution helps empower our people, mobilize, raise awareness, and think more strategically about how we create an adaptation plan—an urgent mitigation plan—to face both climate change and this energy model. We want our communities to be included, not excluded, as has happened in many cases. We see transmission lines running over our houses, and many times we remain in the dark because the energy is designed for big companies, to serve mining corporations, and not to serve the population. We pay a very high price to receive very little."

**Josana Costa, coordination of the Movement of Small-Scale Fishers (MPP)**

"We, the traditional and Indigenous peoples, have been practicing adaptation and mitigation for a long time — though not necessarily using those words. We already embody these two concepts that are so central to the climate debate, which is why we've been asking funders to support us so that we can keep the forest standing, remain in our territories, adapt, and secure access to water — we never destroy them, like others do.

The support from Casa Fund is not only financial — it is political. It empowers and strengthens territories that survive without government assistance. In other words, Casa Fund reaches places where the Brazilian State often does not, enabling us to act on policies that the State should promote but fails to deliver. In doing so, these resources reach remote territories — often unknown even within Brazil — supporting projects that generate income, improve quality of life and autonomy, and, above all, inspire people to keep fighting."

**Selma dos Santos Dealdina, Vice President of the Casa Fund's Governance Board**

## 5. KEY FINDINGS

### 5.1. Mitigation and Adaptation Co-benefits: Intersectionality as a Mainstream

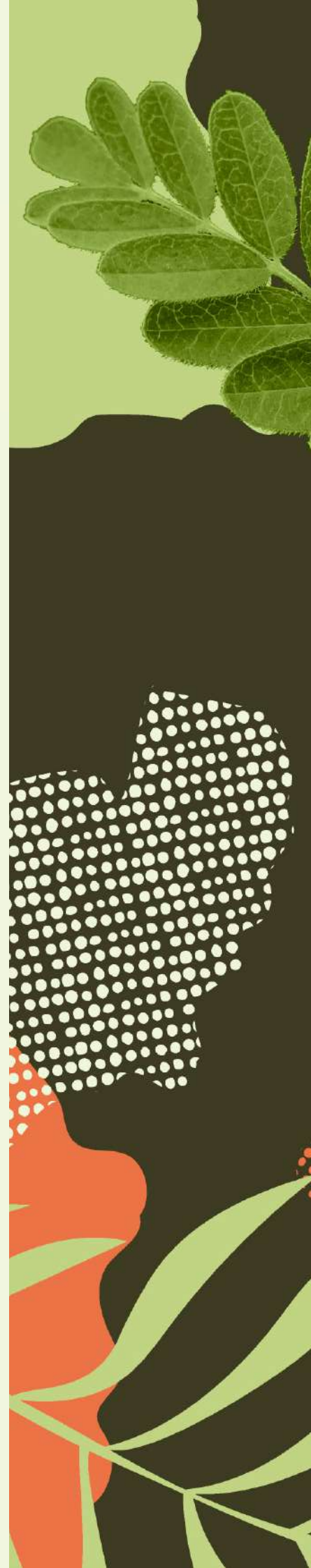
Based on an analysis of the database, a main distinguishing feature of the Casa Fund portfolio is **the intersectional nature of the initiatives supported**. Approximately 48% of the total funds donated by the Fund during this period were directed to 230 projects (18% of the portfolio) that integrate simultaneous mitigation and adaptation actions. This reflects the complexity of life in these territories and reinforces **an integrated vision capable of supporting the confrontation of different challenges, while strengthening the groups supported**.

**The Casa Fund allocated nearly R\$ 48M - US\$ 8.7M (48% of the total) to support 230 projects that contribute directly to climate change mitigation and adaptation<sup>9</sup>.**

**While global resource flows tend to rigidly separate mitigation, adaptation, and just transition, Casa Fund's practice demonstrates that community solutions are, in essence, integrated and interdependent.** This ability to support intersectional initiatives is not only a hallmark of the Casa Fund's work, but also an innovative contribution to the international debate, showing that climate justice is built on the convergence of different agendas.

The following table presents an initial summary of the distribution of projects according to climate categories, serving as an overview of the portfolio analyzed, allowing for an understanding of the predominance of certain axes and the presence of intersectional approaches.

<sup>9</sup> For conversion purposes, an exchange rate of R\$ 5.50 per US\$ 1.00 was used throughout this report. This rate is illustrative and does not necessarily reflect the current rate or the rate applicable to the periods analyzed.



**TABLE 3. PROJECT TYPE, VALUES, AND TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS MAPPED IN EACH CATEGORY**

| PROJECT TYPE / FOCUS                             | AMOUNT (R\$ MILLION) | AMOUNT (US\$ MILLION) | TOTAL PROJECTS |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION EQUALLY PREVALENT      | 47.6 M (48%)         | 8.7 M                 | 230 (18%)      |
| EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON ADAPTATION                    | 38.2 M (39%)         | 6.9 M                 | 791 (62%)      |
| MAJORITY ADAPTATION, WITH MITIGATION COMPONENT   | 3.8 M (4%)           | 0.7 M                 | 85 (7%)        |
| EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON MITIGATION                    | 7.9 M (8%)           | 1.4 M                 | 141 (11%)      |
| MITIGATION-FOCUSED, WITH AN ADAPTATION COMPONENT | 1 M (1%)             | 0.2 M                 | 20 (2%)        |
| TOTAL                                            | 98.6 M               | 17.9 M                | 1.267 (100%)   |

Source: prepared by the authors.

Although projects that combine adaptation and mitigation receive the largest share of total funding, **adaptation-focused initiatives make up the majority in terms of project count**. This data reinforces the fact that more complex and integrated initiatives tend to demand (and attract) greater financial contributions, highlighting the strategic relevance of this combined approach.





## 5.2. Adaptation

**Adaptation is the category with the largest number of supported projects and the second-largest share of total funding. 39% of the support provided during the period analyzed is directly focused on adaptation initiatives, highlighting the Fund's strategic relevance in strengthening community resilience.**

At the same time, 4% of the support involves the main theme of Adaptation, with a Mitigation component. The chart below shows the distribution of projects supported by the Casa Fund by focus of action.

This predominance of adaptation shows how resources have been directed toward supporting local communities and organizations in developing concrete responses to socio-environmental and climate challenges, contributing to reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change.

**The Casa Socio-Environmental Fund allocated a total of R\$ 38,2 M – US\$ 6,9 M (39% of the total) in 791 grants aimed at climate adaptation, strengthening the resilience of communities and territories in the face of the impacts of climate change.**

**Considering projects that combine adaptation or have both components mitigation and adaptation equally represented, the share of adaptation rises to almost 90%.**

The main adaptation actions supported by the Casa Fund reflect the diversity of community strategies to address the climate crisis, **ranging from territorial protection and food security strengthening actions to emergency responses and cultural and social enhancement initiatives.** These fronts demonstrate how the Fund contributes to increasing the resilience of communities and the adaptive capacity of territories in the face of the multiple risks of climate change.

Below are some of the main themes identified:

-  **Integrated fire management and indigenous fire brigades:** reducing the risk of uncontrolled fires, protects ecosystems, and strengthens communities' response capacity.
-  **Food security and community health:** adopting agroecology, agroforestry, vegetable gardens, and medicinal plants ensures access to quality food, improves health, and increases families' resilience to droughts and climate change.
-  **Defending rights in the face of mega-projects:** supporting communities impacted by hydroelectric dams, power plants, mining, and oil, strengthening the governance of the energy transition, and ensuring social and environmental safeguards.
-  **Response to climate disasters:** emergency actions, such as immediate support to communities affected by floods in Rio Grande do Sul, strengthening local infrastructure and resilience.
-  **Protection of fishing territories:** training and political advocacy to ensure the defense of fishermen's livelihoods in the face of droughts, changes in river regimes, and other climate impacts.
-  **Strengthening indigenous education:** education adapted to the cultural and territorial context increases community autonomy and trains new leaders to face climate challenges.
-  **Socioeconomic resilience and psychosocial support:** initiatives that guarantee income, food security, and psychosocial support help families to restructure themselves in contexts of displacement or vulnerability aggravated by climate change.
-  **Proposals against environmental racism and local inequalities:** strengthening communities' capacity to address historical socio-environmental vulnerabilities, laying the groundwork for fairer and more inclusive adaptation policies.
-  **Youth communication and engagement:** mobilizing young people in defense of territories, strengthening community ties, and contributing to the maintenance of traditional ways of life, which are fundamental to local climate resilience.



## ADAPTATION PROJECTS

- **Biome:** Cerrado
- **Location:** Cavalcante, Chapada dos Veadeiros, Goiás.

### **In Chapada dos Veadeiros, Brivac protects and spreads knowledge about firefighting**

Brivac was born out of urgency. The city's tour guides left their jobs when the fire reached Chapada dos Veadeiros. Without protection or training, they fought the fire as best they could. In 2017, when the fires took on new proportions, the guides received their first support from the Casa Fund. Brivac was able to invest in the purchase of appropriate materials to protect the firefighters and help extinguish the fire as quickly as possible.

With new support and training, the institution's members trained residents in rural areas so that they could safely begin fighting fires when they arrived. As a result, several new volunteer fire brigades were formed throughout the Chapada. With other support, the institution attended national and international brigade meetings, invested in environmental education, and founded Brazil's first Fire Museum. The initiative helped communities in the Cerrado learn how to manage flames safely and efficiently, renewing the biome's life cycle and guiding the relationship between people and fire.



Photo: Arthur Monteiro

- **Biome:** Pampas and Atlantic Forest
- **Location:** Rio Grande do Sul

### **In Rio Grande do Sul, women farmers regenerate medicinal agroforests to cope with climate extremes**

The Feminist Distillers Collective was born out of work with native and medicinal plants from the Pampa and Atlantic Forest. In 2023, after floods and droughts devastated crops and communities, the collective received support from the Casa Fund to restore degraded areas and create resilient agroforestry systems.

The women farmers began implementing medicinal and aromatic agroforestry systems adapted to local conditions, strengthening the production of herbal medicines and the regeneration of ecosystems. With the first results, they promoted exchanges on the use of native plants, courses on good processing practices, and experiences in distilling oils and extracts.

Today, the project has established itself as a benchmark for climate adaptation in southern Brazil: in addition to restoring soil and biodiversity, it generates income and expands access to natural medicines, demonstrating that the response to climate crises can arise from traditional wisdom and the collective work of rural women.



Photo: Clárisa Londeiro





## 5.3. Mitigation

**Mitigation also occupies a significant place in the Casa Fund portfolio, with 141 grants (11% of the total) directed toward projects aimed at reducing emissions and promoting low-carbon practices. These initiatives account for 8% of the resources and are aimed at strategic sectors such as territorial defense and monitoring, the recovery of degraded areas, and the strengthening of community renewable energy.**

**The Casa Fund allocated a total of R\$ 7.9 M – US\$ 1.4 M (8% of resources) to support climate mitigation.**

**Considering projects that combine adaptation or have both components mitigation and adaptation equally represented, the share of mitigation rises to almost 56%.**

At the same time, 2% of the support involves the majority theme of Mitigation, with an Adaptation component. The major themes of the mitigation initiatives implemented in the territories are mapped out below:

- **Indigenous/community defense and territorial monitoring:** prevents deforestation, invasions, and predatory activities, helping to keep the forest standing and preserve carbon stocks.
- **Waste management and circular economy:** reduces emissions associated with waste disposal and incineration, and replaces polluting inputs with circular solutions such as recycling and composting.
- **Biodiversity conservation and recovery:** reforestation, nurseries, and restoration efforts increase carbon capture and sequestration and protect ecosystems that are essential for climate balance.
- **Renewable energy (solar, clean, low carbon:** reduces dependence on polluting energy sources, directly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Participatory mapping and territorial management:** produces information and tools that strengthen sustainable land management, supporting low-carbon community practices.

## MITIGATION PROJECT

- **Biome:** Atlantic Forest
- **Location:** Morro da Babilônia, Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro

**In Rio de Janeiro, Revolusolar demonstrates how solar energy solutions in communities can directly contribute to climate mitigation.**

In 2016, residents of Morro da Babilônia installed solar panels on the roof of a hostel. The experiment gave rise to Revolusolar, an NGO that has established itself as a benchmark in distributed solar energy generation in urban areas. In 2018, with support from Casa Fund, a solar power plant was built at the Tia Percília Community School, marking the beginning of a continuous process of expanding clean energy generation in the community.

Revolusolar established the first solar energy cooperative in a Brazilian favela — **the Percília e Lúcio Solar Energy Cooperative**. Since then, photovoltaic systems have been installed on the roofs of schools, daycare centers, associations, and homes, with the aim of expanding installed capacity and serving more families.

The climate impact is significant: by 2023, approximately 75 kWp of solar energy had already been installed, directly benefiting more than 75 families in Babilônia and Chapéu Mangueira, as well as community institutions. Just one of the new plants, with a capacity of 10 kWp, can generate approximately 12,000 kWh per year, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with grid electricity generation and decreasing dependence on fossil fuels.

The goal for 2023 was to exceed 100 cooperative families, expand access to clean energy, and contribute to reducing emissions on a local scale. The model adopted combines economic gains (reduction in electricity costs) with concrete environmental benefits (replacement of higher carbon intensity electricity with renewable solar energy).



Photo: Bárbara Dias

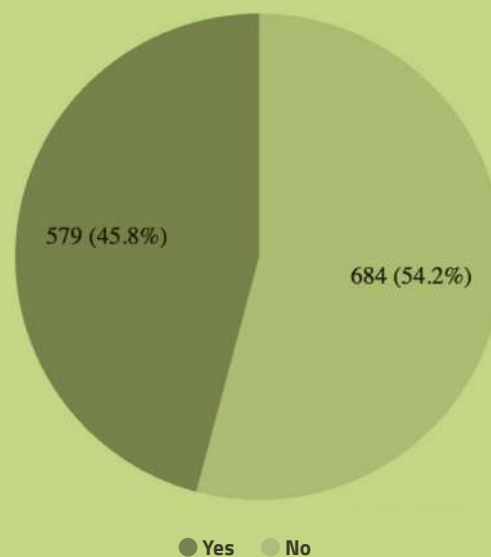
## 5.4. JUST TRANSITION

Just transition is a cross-cutting dimension that can be present in projects focused on mitigation, adaptation, or both.

It is assigned as a complementary category when the project aims to **reduce economic vulnerability through income generation or promote a low-carbon economy**.

The just transition component appears in **46% of the project support analyzed, highlighting the fundamental role that Casa Fund plays in promoting socioeconomic justice, strengthening local economies, and community autonomy**. This cross-cutting nature confirms that Casa Fund not only finances climate actions but also fosters structural changes that unite **climate, social justice, and resilience**.

**Chart 3: Distribution of support and its relationship to a just transition**



**Of the total projects supported by the Fund, 579 (46%) include just transition objectives. These projects total R\$ 61.5 M (US\$ 11.2 M), representing 62% of the total, and promote local income generation while driving the transition to a just and inclusive low-carbon economy.**

However, it should be noted that although the just transition category directly involves income generation or the debate on renewable energy, **all projects supported by the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund seek—to some extent—to reduce social, economic, and climate vulnerabilities, ensuring rights and promoting good living**. This is because, to a greater or lesser extent, each initiative contributes to **strengthening socio-environmental justice, expanding inclusion, and supporting communities in transformation processes aligned with a low-carbon economy**.

## PROJECT WITH A JUST TRANSITION COMPONENT

- **Biome:** Amazon
- **Location:** Surucucá, Tapajós River, Pará

### **In Tapajós, women transform the forest into income and hope by producing fruit pulp**

riverside communities to value the fruits of the forest and strengthen community life. In 2023, the women of the cooperative received support from the Casa Fund to set up a community fruit pulp agro-industry, where they work side by side with young people from the region.

With the new resources, COOPRASU was able to upgrade the agro-industry's solar energy system, hold workshops on food management and handling, and ensure the necessary conditions for production certification. At the same time, the cooperative members produced and planted fruit seedlings in their agroforestry systems, expanding the productive base.

Today, the initiative has become a symbol of just transition: while generating income and strengthening food security for families, it ensures that women have a voice, autonomy, and economic leadership in their communities. In the heart of Tapajós, the forest, in addition to being synonymous with resistance, has also become a path to a dignified and sustainable future.



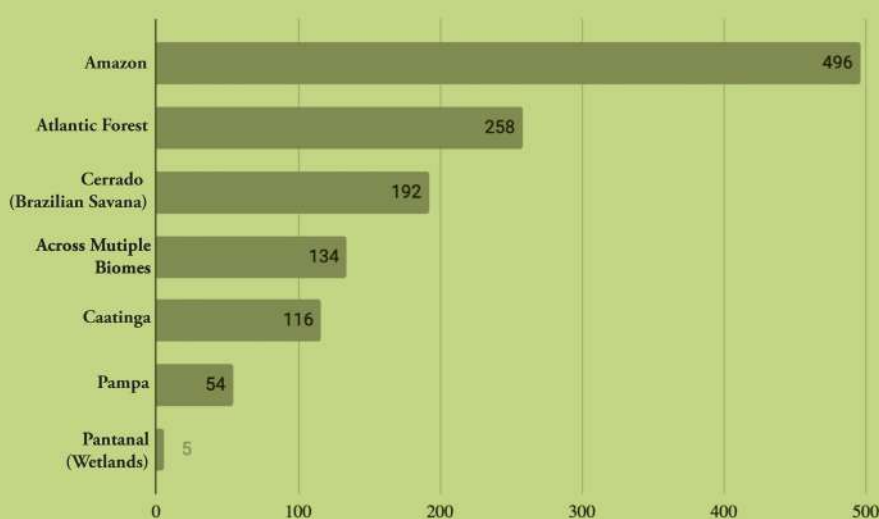
Photo: Priscila Tapajowara

## 5.5. DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS BY BIOME AND THEIR RELATION TO THE THEMES OF MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

The distribution of supported projects by biome highlights the national reach of the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund and its ability to engage with the diverse socio-environmental realities of Brazil.

**The Amazon received the largest share of support to projects (39%),** reflecting both the strategic importance of this biome in the global climate agenda and the priorities of funders focused on the world's largest tropical rainforest. Following the Amazon were the **Atlantic Forest (20%)** and the **Cerrado (15%)** — biomes under intense urban, agricultural, and deforestation pressure, yet also home to significant community-led initiatives focused on restoration, agroecology, and the defense of traditional territories.

**Chart 4. Distribution of supported projects by biome**



Source: prepared by the authors

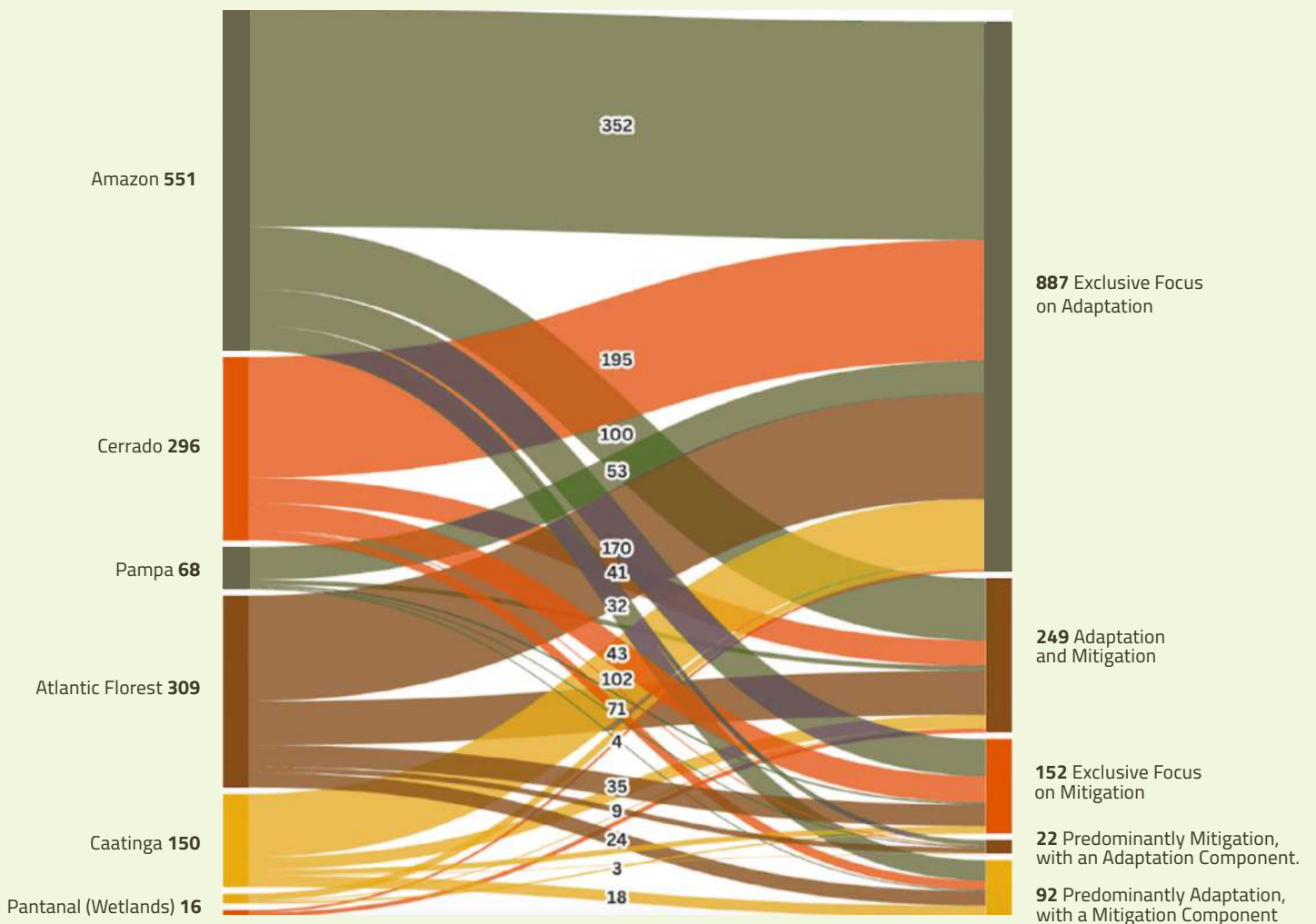
Although they received proportionally less support, the other biomes reflect the broad scope of Casa's work. Support for the Pampa (4%) and the Pantanal (0.4%) helps bring visibility to regions often overlooked by funding flows, yet equally vital for biodiversity and local communities. The Caatinga (9%) highlights the Fund's presence in semi-arid areas, where climate vulnerability is particularly acute. Additionally, around 9% of the projects target multiple biomes, connecting different territories and knowledge systems.

**Despite the national scope of Casa Fund's work, the distribution of support reveals significant disparities among biomes.** Amazon accounts for nearly half of the funded projects reflecting both its strategic importance and the strong interest of global funding in this territory. However, biomes such as the Pampa, Pantanal, and Caatinga receive comparatively less support, even though they face critical vulnerabilities. In the Pampa, the expansion of agribusiness is accelerating biodiversity loss; in the Pantanal, fire and water pressure threaten the survival of communities; and in the Caatinga, drought and desertification are undermining traditional ways of life.

This asymmetry reveals a central challenge: **while the Amazon attracts the majority of resources due to its global significance, it is urgent to recognize that Brazil encompasses multiple contexts of socio-environmental vulnerability.** Neglecting these other biomes threatens the integrity of the national territory as a whole and may undermine long-term resilience strategies. It is important to note, however, that the predominance of the Amazon is not solely the result of an institutional decision by Casa Fund. Rather, it largely reflects the priorities of national and international funders who focus on the Amazon due to its geopolitical and environmental relevance. In this sense, **the greater concentration of resources in the Amazon should be understood as a consequence of alignment with donor agendas, not as an isolated preference of the Fund.**

The graph below shows the distribution of Casa's support by biome, highlighting both the concentration in certain territories and the diversity of biomes across different climate zones.

**Chart 5: Distribution Flow Between Biomes and Climate Axes**



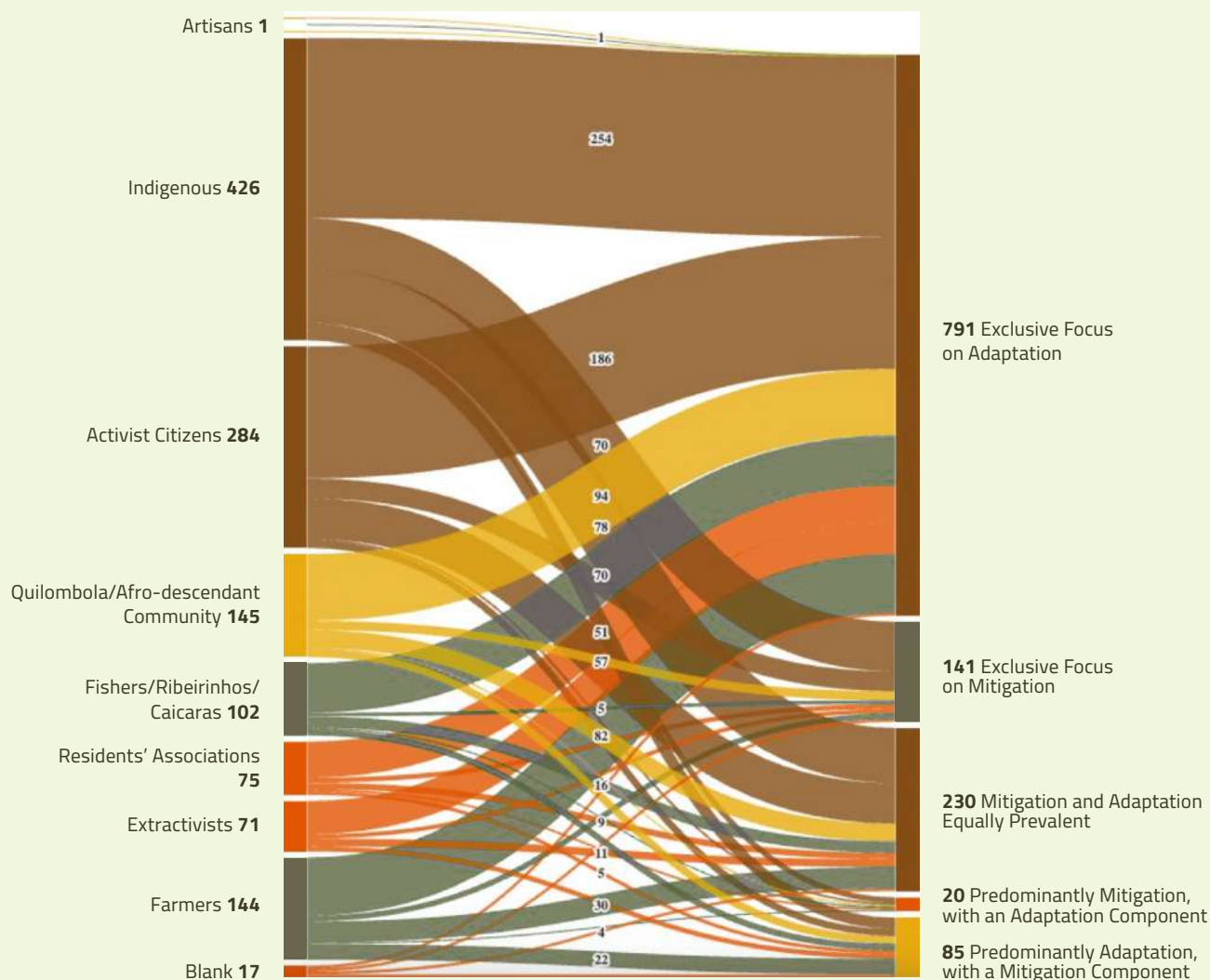
This distribution therefore highlights Casa’s Fund commitment to Brazil’s territorial diversity, but it also reveals the constraints imposed by funding priorities. On one hand, the concentration of support in the Amazon reinforces the Fund’s legitimacy as a strategic channel for international resources directed toward this biome, which holds significant geopolitical and environmental importance for the country. On the other hand, it presents the challenge of increasing visibility and resource mobilization for other biomes. Only through such efforts can a comprehensive, balanced climate action be ensured—one capable of addressing the complexity of Brazil’s socio-biodiversity.

## 5.6 DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS BY ORGANIZATION PROFILE AND THEIR RELATION TO THE THEMES OF MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

The cross-analysis of **target audience profiles and climate themes underscores the central role of adaptation in the agenda supported by Casa Fund**, while also revealing how certain social groups engage differently with mitigation and intersectional approaches.

**Indigenous Peoples** are primarily involved in projects focused on adaptation, reflecting their role in **community resilience and the protection of Indigenous culture, education, and ancestral ways of life**. Although fewer in number, they also participate in mitigation projects—particularly those related to reforestation and territorial monitoring—highlighting their importance both in carbon sequestration and in resisting external pressures.

**Chart 6. Distribution of Target Audience Profiles and Climate Themes**



**Quilombola communities also play a prominent role in adaptation efforts, particularly through initiatives that promote food security, agroecology, and the strengthening of community health.** They also implement hybrid projects that combine mitigation and adaptation through territorial practices that generate simultaneous co-benefits — reducing social and climate vulnerabilities while also contributing to the maintenance of carbon stocks.

**Fisherfolk, riverine communities, and caiçaras are among the groups most strongly linked to adaptation-focused initiatives.** This pattern reflects the **direct relationship between their livelihoods and water and coastal resources**, as their ways of life and income generation are closely tied to the management of mangroves, fishing, and water resilience. Among **farmers and Fundo and Fecho de Pasto communities**, adaptation also dominates, associated with regenerative **agriculture practices, agroforestry systems, and water management**. Their involvement in mitigation is more limited, typically when connected to productive practices that reduce emissions in the agricultural sector.

Finally, groups such as **gypsies, artisans, activist citizens, and neighborhood associations** appear more prominently in adaptation initiatives, especially in activities related to community **mobilization, political education, and advocacy in defense of rights**. Although they are less present in direct mitigation projects, they play a strategic role by expanding governance and advocacy networks, without which local climate agendas would hardly be consolidated.

**In summary, adaptation emerges as a cross-cutting theme across nearly all supported profiles, reflecting the urgent need to address the vulnerabilities experienced within the territories.** Mitigation, in turn, appears with greater relevance in Indigenous and Quilombola communities, particularly when associated with territorial defense, ecological restoration, and community monitoring. Projects that combine mitigation and adaptation demonstrate the leading role of these groups in formulating integrated solutions, showing that their local practices anticipate and embody the global debate on climate co-benefits.



## 5.7 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING, SOCIAL PARTICIPATION, AND ADVOCACY

The Casa Fund also supports activities related to institutional strengthening, advocacy, and policy influence directly connected to mitigation and adaptation efforts. Stronger, more empowered organizations that are present in strategic decision-making spaces can more effectively defend their agendas and territories, bringing the climate dimensions of their struggles to the forefront of the public agenda.

By participating in their own events, such as assemblies and community meetings, or in external spaces for dialogue and negotiation, these organizations increase the visibility of local solutions, reinforcing the importance of protecting territories, maintaining standing forests, ensuring water and food security, and promoting socio-environmental resilience. In this way, institutional strengthening not only ensures the sustainability of organizations but also enhances their capacity for dialogue and influence in the climate agenda, connecting territorial realities with national and international policies and commitments.

## INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING PROJECTS

- **Biome:** Caatinga and Cerrado
- **Location:** Teresina, Piauí

**In Piauí, popular communication becomes a tool for institutional strengthening and rights advocacy.**

Created in 2018 as a collaborative space for journalism and popular education, **Plataforma Ocorre Diário** was recently formalized in 2024 as a nonprofit association. Since then, the challenge has been to transform voluntary work into a consolidated and recognized structure.

With the support received, the association was able **to establish its headquarters, acquire basic equipment, and secure the conditions to expand its work defending Quilombola, Indigenous, and other traditional communities.** The strengthening of the institution also translated into concrete impact: the production of a series of reports on rights violations in MATOPIBA, released as text and podcast, increased the visibility of territorial struggles in the region.

The project demonstrated that popular communication is also a **pillar of institutional** strengthening: by having structure, tools, and a voice, Plataforma Ocorre Diário has established itself as a reference point in exposing injustices and in networking with social movements to defend human rights and sociobiodiversity.



Photo: Anielle Brandão

- **Biome:** Atlantic Forest
- **Location:** Salvador, Bahia

**In the Quilombo Alto do Tororó, women shellfish gatherers and Quilombola fishers strengthen their voice against the impacts of oil and the port of Aratu**

Faced with territorial pressures, pollution of the Bay of Aratu, and the expansion of the oil and gas industries over their livelihoods, the Associação de Mulheres Akomabu launched the project “Low Tide: Shellfish Gatherers and Quilombola Fishers in Struggle.” The initiative brought together residents of Quilombo Alto do Tororó to map socio-environmental impacts, train leaders, and develop their own tools to defend their rights.

With support from the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund, the group conducted workshops on environmental racism, community communication, and ILO Convention 169, resulting in the **social mapping of the territory and the training of 30 Quilombola leaders**. The women also created the podcast “**From the Quilombo to the World,**” which shares stories of resistance and exposes the effects of industrial pollution on fishing and mangroves.

Additionally, the project promoted the **Seminar on Environmental Racism and the Launch of the Social Mapping**, strengthening the dialogue between Quilombolas, shellfish gatherers, researchers, and public officials. These actions established Quilombo Alto do Tororó as a reference in the struggle for free, prior, and informed **consultation and for historical reparations** in response to the damages caused by the industrial and port complex.

The project left a legacy of community strengthening, visibility, and female leadership, uniting generations in the defense of the territory and traditional ways of life.



Photo: Collection of the Associação de Mulheres Akomabu



Additionally, by supporting both organizational strengthening and community mobilization as well as participation in advocacy spaces, the Casa Fund acts as a **catalyst for processes** that go beyond support for isolated projects. **This structural investment** helps Indigenous Peoples, Quilombolas, Traditional Communities, and grassroots organizations not only implement local actions but also become significant **political actors in building climate solutions at the local, national, and global levels.**

This strategic dimension shows that **institutional strengthening is, in itself, a strategy for mitigation, adaptation, and just transition**, as it ensures voice, legitimacy, and the capacity to influence for the communities most impacted by the climate crisis.

## PARTICIPATION AND ADVOCACY PROJECT

- **Biome:** All
- **Location:** Southeast Brazil

### **In the Southeast, Indigenous leaders organize against PEC 48 to defend their territories.**

The Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of the Southeast (ArpinSudeste) was founded 15 years ago as a representative body for the Indigenous Peoples of the region. In 2024, faced with the threat of PEC 48 — known as the “Death PEC,” which sought to impose a temporal framework on land demarcations — the organization mobilized leaders from São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro to actively participate in the political process.

With the support received, 46 representatives were able to travel to Brasília, participate in plenaries on Indigenous rights, and join public demonstrations in front of the Senate. Beyond their physical presence, the mobilization ensured media coverage and the production of audiovisual materials, expanding the reach of the resistance and raising national awareness about the impacts of the PEC.

The initiative reinforced ArpinSudeste’s role as a space for **political participation and advocacy**, ensuring that the Indigenous Peoples of the Southeast — characterized by urban coexistence and affected by large infrastructure projects — had an active voice in the national debate and could directly influence decisions regarding their territorial rights.



Photo: Laura Samily (APIB)



## 6. KEY MESSAGES

### Climate pillars:

1. **Casa Fund's work demonstrates a consolidated emphasis on climate adaptation and resilience.** Around 90% of supported projects contribute, directly or in combination, to strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities and territories. The Fund's initiatives stand out for promoting community-based strategies such as the creation of fire-fighting brigades, the promotion of water and food security in drought-affected regions, and the adoption of agroecological practices that reduce the vulnerability of traditional communities and family farmers to extreme climate events.
2. **Mitigation as a second key theme:** although adaptation remains the Fund's central axis, mitigation also plays a relevant role, **with approximately 56% of supported projects addressing this dimension**, directly or in combination. Highlights include forest restoration, territorial monitoring and management, and recycling initiatives led by waste pickers. These community-based solutions help reduce emissions associated with deforestation, urban waste, and the unsustainable use of natural resources, reinforcing biome protection.
3. **Just transition as a cross-cutting dimension:** The consistent presence of social and territorial justice across all pillars demonstrates that the Casa Fund connects climate, rights, and income generation. Projects involving collective farming, manioc flour houses, community tourism, and sociobiodiversity value chains combine mitigation and adaptation with income generation, productive inclusion, and the valorization of traditional knowledge, ensuring that the transition occurs in a just and inclusive manner.

### Beyond project support:

4. **Leadership of traditional and grassroots communities:** Indigenous Peoples (34% of projects), Quilombolas (11%), and Fishers, Riverside, and Caiçaras (8%) receive the majority of Casa Fund support to projects, alongside family farmers and extractivists who depend directly on the land for their livelihoods. The Fund ensures that the main guardians of sociobiodiversity are at the center of mitigation, adaptation, and just transition strategies.
5. **Communities focused on locally led adaptation:** Most of the supported social groups, especially Indigenous peoples, Quilombolas, and fishing communities, concentrate on adaptation projects, highlighting the urgency of community responses to climate vulnerabilities.
6. **Mitigation strategies in communities are primarily linked to territorial defense:** Although less numerous, mitigation appears strategically among Indigenous Peoples and Quilombolas, especially in reforestation, monitoring, and territorial management actions.
7. **The concentration of resources in the Amazon primarily reflects donor priorities:** although legitimate given the biome's global importance, this asymmetry underscores the urgency of expanding support to other equally vulnerable territories, ensuring a more balanced distribution of resources across biomes and strengthening national resilience in an integrated manner.

## Beyond project support:

8. **Catalyst for systemic change:** The supported projects rarely limit themselves to isolated solutions. Generally, they combine mitigation, adaptation, and just transition in an integrated way, sowing long-term transformative processes that strengthen communities, local organizations, and political advocacy networks.
9. **Institutional strengthening and social participation:** Beyond funding practical actions, the Casa Fund invests in community governance, leadership training, and participation in decision-making spaces. This support enhances the legitimacy and political networking capacity of grassroots organizations within the climate agenda.



## 7. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

**The analysis of the recent portfolio of the Casa Socio-Environmental Fund highlights its central role in the Brazilian climate agenda, with adaptation as the structural axis, mitigation as a strategic field, and just transition as a cross-cutting dimension connecting climate, rights, and income.**

The intersectional nature of the supported projects demonstrates that community solutions are not confined to rigid categories but rather articulate multiple responses to complex challenges. Moreover, the Fund has been active in institutional strengthening, supporting events, and expanding the political representation of Indigenous Peoples, Quilombolas, Traditional Communities, and socio-environmental movements, establishing itself as a catalyst for systemic change that goes beyond direct project funding.

However, external conditions continue to influence the territorial distribution of support, with the Amazon absorbing the majority of resources due to global attention and donor priorities. While this reinforces the Fund's legitimacy as a strategic channel for international resources to the region, it also highlights the challenge of increasing visibility, developing strategies, and raising funds for other equally critical biomes and ecosystems essential for maintaining environmental services, biodiversity protection, and climate regulation. This asymmetry calls for a more democratic and efficient global philanthropy, advancing co-constructed processes with communities and recognizing Brazil's multiple vulnerabilities.

**In this context, the Casa Fund will continue to strengthen its contribution to key climate agenda themes while seeking to enhance engagement strategies with philanthropic actors and climate finance, and to mobilize resources beyond the more traditional funding axes.**

The Fund commits to expanding impact in territories and agendas historically neglected by philanthropy, ensuring that mitigation, adaptation, and just transition are guided by the diversity of biomes, communities, and experiences that make up Brazil's and the Global South's socio-environmental reality.



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