



5 LOCAL MESSAGES FOR A GLOBAL AGENDA: OCEAN, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE AT COP30



The Seminar "On the road to COP30: the ocean, biodiversity and the role of local knowledge in the climate agenda" brought together social movements, community leaders, municipal, state and federal managers, legal experts and academics to collectively elaborate proposals for tackling the climate crisis. We take as our horizon the futures we imagine and dream of, so that, in the context of COP30, we can make visible and defend our principles for how to get there. In other words, what paths we want to take and can take, with whom and for whom/for what we are engaging.



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Historically, coastal management in Brazil has had a militarized, federalized, technocratic approach based largely on command and control mechanisms. Over time, this logic has resulted in more social losses than environmental gains, making local communities especially vulnerable. From the outset, our event demonstrated the need to break with this logic and bet on an alternative – an innovative and transdisciplinary construction, guided by a decolonial perspective.



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Climate emergencies and the intensification of extreme events attest to the fact that there is no time to insist on paths that have already proven to be inefficient and especially harmful to vulnerable groups. This challenge requires us not only objectivity, but also space to dream and resist. As our exchanges reinforced, dreaming is a fundamental part of resistance, collaboration and building collective responses from the local and regional levels to national and global challenges. We need to connect knowledge and practices in a decolonial and counter-colonial perspective of collaboration between communities, academia and decision-makers. We need to present concrete alternatives based on social-environmental and climate justice. We need to be creative and attentive, aware of and committed to building transdisciplinary, inclusive and collaborative spaces.

Our Seminar was organized by the Maretórios Amazônicos Project in partnership with the Procomum Institute. The event had 160 participants and was enhanced by different perspectives, in particular, the active participation from local leaders from the Marajó Archipelago (Pará), Ilhabela and Ilha Diana (São Paulo) and Canavieiras (Bahia). Together, we reflected, elaborated and multiplied the radical possibilities of integrating themes, policies and knowledge through spaces of co-participation.

In the face of global challenges and climate urgency, here are 5 local messages that should resonate with the COP30 global agenda.



5 LOCAL MESSAGES THAT SHOULD RESONATE WITH THE COP30 GLOBAL AGENDA.



1 INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS CANNOT BE DETACHED FROM EXPERIENCES AT THE TERRITORIAL LEVEL.

Those who live and resist in coastal, marine and Amazonian territories feel the impacts of the multiple social-environmental crises first and more strongly. Their experiences and local knowledge need to be recognized as fundamental in defining priorities, building strategies and formulating global responses.



2 WE NEED TO BUILD SPACES FOR DIALOG AND DECISION-MAKING THAT ARE INCLUSIVE, EQUAL AND MUTUALLY RESPECTFUL.

Nothing can be decided about the territories without the consent and protagonism of the communities. Policies must be built in spaces that welcome a diversity of knowledge, cultures and visions of the future.



3 TRANSDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE IN THE SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD MUST BE DONE *WITH* AND *FOR* COMMUNITIES, NOT *ABOUT* THEM.

We need to overcome extractive research practices. There is an urgent need to deepen, value and protect the dialogue between traditional knowledge and other knowledge that operates in the social-environmental decision-making arena, in order to promote research that is committed to the territories. To this end, it is necessary that communities located in the territories have effective participation from the definition of the research agenda to decisions on how to use its results.





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4 THE CLIMATE-BIODIVERSITY-OCEAN NEXUS IS COMPLEX AND REQUIRES MULTIPLE VOICES AND MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS.

Climate change, biodiversity loss and transformations in marine ecosystems are interconnected by ecological, social and economic dynamics that transcend geographical and institutional boundaries. However, decisions on how to tackle these crises are still largely centralized and far removed from the realities experienced by the most vulnerable populations, who are precisely those most affected by their effects.

Reducing this distance between those who decide and those who suffer the consequences is an essential step towards building fairer, more effective and socially legitimized public policies. This means recognizing that environmental impacts are not distributed equally – coastal communities, indigenous peoples, traditional populations and women often face the greatest risks with the least access to resources for adaptation.

In addition, we need to confront the power asymmetries that structure institutional responses to the climate crisis. These responses often ignore local and traditional knowledge, reinforce historical inequalities and favor economic interests over environmental justice. Promoting a truly inclusive approach requires creating spaces for effective participation, where different forms of knowledge and experience can influence decisions and shape solutions.

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5 BUILDING BRIDGES IS A COLLECTIVE TASK.

NGOs, governments, communities, scientists and social movements need to act in a complementary way. The government, in particular, must open up more spaces for listening, negotiation and decision-making and fewer technical-bureaucratic processes that silence the voices of the territories.

Only through participatory, interdisciplinary processes that are sensitive to structural inequalities will it be possible to make progress in building integrated and transformative responses to the challenges posed by the climate-biodiversity-ocean nexus.

If we fail, the Climate COP risks becoming just another "WORLD CUP" – a spectacle disconnected from the territories, the people and the real challenges we face. The time has come to build an ocean, biodiversity and climate agenda that puts people and territories at the center, with justice, inclusion and the courage to dream of new futures.

