

COMPROMISSO
BRASILEIRO DA
FILANTROPIA SOBRE
MUDANÇAS CLIMÁTICAS

BRAZILIAN PHILANTHROPY
COMMITMENT ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

REPORT ON PROGRESS

2023 - 2025

Realization:



Support:

instituto
ITAÚSA

Partnership:



PHILANTHROPY
FOR CLIMATE

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PRESENTATION

The year 2025 is a special one for the climate change debate in Brazil. As the country prepares to host the Thirtieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 30) in Belém, several sectors of Brazilian society are preparing to participate and influence the climate agenda. One of the main themes – and urgent priorities – of COP 30 is securing financial guarantees for the implementation of national and international climate goals. This coordinated effort requires the involvement of multiple actors, including governments, public and multilateral development banks, the private sector, civil society, and philanthropy.

According to the ClimateWorks Foundation's Funding Trends 2024 report¹, global philanthropy funding for climate action represents less than 2% of all philanthropic investment worldwide. This is a very small share, considering the climate crisis we are facing, global warming, and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events that directly affect the most vulnerable populations. It is time for a philanthropy committed to reducing inequalities and advancing social development to increase its action on climate change.

It is time for philanthropy, committed to reducing inequalities and fostering social development, to strengthen its action in response to climate change.

¹Available at:
<<https://www.climateworks.org/report/funding-trends-2024/>>

Within this broader effort of awareness raising, engagement, and action, the **Brazilian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change** was launched in 2023 during COP 28. The Commitment is the Brazilian chapter of the Philanthropy For Climate initiative, created in 2021, which currently has 915 signatories and national commitments in eight countries, as well as two regional commitments. The Brazilian Commitment invites philanthropy to reflect on incorporating a climate agenda into its operations, worldview, and programs, recognizing climate action as a cross-cutting issue that should be embedded in the daily practices of institutes, foundations, funds, and companies, regardless of their main performance areas.

The Brazilian Commitment, the first of its kind in a Global South country, brings something new in relation to its international counterpart. Pillar 7, "Stance and Identity," is an innovation that acknowledges the unique characteristics and potential of Global South philanthropy, which emerges from a context marked by greater inequality and with more peculiarities compared to the Global North. The boundaries and strengths of the philanthropic sector's engagement with the climate agenda in Brazil are the main distinguishing feature of the document presented below.

This first monitoring report of the Brazilian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change provides an overview of the first two years of its implementation, highlighting key challenges and opportunities. Furthermore, it illustrates how different profiles of private social investment deal uniquely with each of the eight pillars of the Commitment, offering diverse perspectives on the role of Brazilian philanthropy within the climate agenda.

More than that, this document is an invitation to reflection and collective action by the sector in building a joint strategy to address climate change. After all, without the planet and the people who inhabit it, there is no philanthropy.

Enjoy your reading!

Pedro P. Bocca
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Commitment on Climate Change*

INTRODUCTION

The **Brazilian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change** was developed as a guiding framework to strengthen coherence and collaboration around climate action across the philanthropy sector. More than a destination, it represents an ongoing journey of collective learning and institutional transformation, where each organization moves forward based on its own reality and capacity to act.

At its core, the Commitment aims to deepen the connection between climate and development, recognizing that the impacts of the climate crisis cut across social, economic, and territorial dimensions. By endorsing this framework, signatory organizations take on the challenge of rethinking the way they operate – from internal management and investment decisions to funding, communication, and advocacy strategies.

This journey is guided by eight key pillars of action.

Pillar 1: Education and Learning emphasizes the importance of building awareness and capacity among teams, boards, partners, and donees around the causes and impacts of climate change.

Pillar 2: Commitment of Resources focuses on channeling investments into initiatives that support climate mitigation, adaptation, and climate justice.

Pillar 3: Integration invites organizations to integrate climate change into other agendas for action.

Pillar 4: Endowments and Assets encourages responsible resource management and alignment of financial strategies with a low environmental impact economy. **Pillar 5: Operations** proposes more sustainable organizational practices – from efficient use of resources and waste reduction to conscious choices in purchasing and travel. **Pillar 6: Influencing and Advocacy** highlights the power of networks, partnerships, and coalitions to amplify voices and strengthen public policy.

Pillar 7: Stance and Identity invites Brazilian philanthropy to acknowledge its uniqueness and act based on local realities, while valuing the diversity and perspectives of the Global South. Finally, **Pillar 8: Transparency and Lessons Learned** reaffirms the importance of sharing experiences, outcomes, and lessons learned – strengthening trust and enabling the collective construction of solutions.

Together, the pillars serve as a roadmap supporting organizations in the analysis of their progress and challenges, while creating space for exchange and shared responsibility. By strengthening this movement, the Commitment helps position Brazilian philanthropy to play a stronger role in addressing the climate crisis: acting in a coordinated, collaborative, and transformative way, and building responses that connect social justice with sustainability.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between July and September 2025, 26 of the 41 signatory organizations of the **Brazilian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change** took part in the first monitoring cycle, through interviews and survey forms. The process captured perceptions, lessons learned, and challenges related to the implementation of the Commitment's eight pillars – showing a field that is both diverse and in motion.

This report summarizes the first monitoring cycle (2023–2025), whose main objectives were:

- To understand how the eight pillars are being implemented by the signatories;
- To identify progress, challenges, and best practices in integrating the climate agenda;
- To strengthen collective learning and foster dialogue across different philanthropy profiles.

The analysis shows that signatories are beginning to translate their commitment to the climate into concrete practices. Education and Learning (Pillar 1) appears as the most well-established dimension, with more than 60% of respondents reporting significant progress. This finding reflects the continuous investment in internal and external capacity building, knowledge exchange, and the production of materials that connect climate justice, race, gender, and territory. Commitment of Resources

(Pillar 2) also shows significant results: nearly half of the organizations state that they have made great strides in incorporating climate criteria into funding decisions, which demonstrates a willingness to rethink investment strategies and strengthen initiatives in vulnerable territories.

Pillars 4 (Endowments and assets), 5 (Operations), and 7 (Stance and Identity) stand out for being in the early stages of development. The analysis shows that the challenges in these pillars are structural: they involve resource constraints, the need for new technical skills, and a review of internal processes that require time and institutional adaptation. In the case of Pillar 4, many organizations do not have their own endowment funds, which limits the adoption of climate investment policies. In Operations, a learning stage can be observed: institutions are beginning to map emissions, review procurement and events, and seek coherence between discourse and practice. Pillar 7, in turn, is where more qualitative debates emerge – about language, identity, and the role of philanthropy in the Global South – and was therefore analyzed primarily through testimonies, capturing nuances and diverse perspectives.



MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE MONITORING:

72% of organizations already perceive some institutional impact following their adherence

Pillars perceived as the most challenging: Endowments and Funds(4), Operations (5), and Commitment of Resources (2)

Pillars perceived as having the greatest potential for impact: Influencing and Advocacy (6) and Commitment of Resources (2)

The diversity in the pace of action reflects a consolidation process, a constant movement of respondents between recognizing the urgency and translating that urgency into lasting actions.

The analysis by institutional profiles reinforces that each group contributes uniquely to this construction:

- **Independent foundations** have stood out in translating the climate agenda into community realities and supporting local solutions, although they face challenges related to resource stability;
- **Corporate foundations** advance in taking a cross-cutting approach to the theme across programs and corporate governance, using their structure and influence to drive long-term change;
- **Family foundations** have consolidated themselves as spaces for experimentation and learning, focusing on education, communication, and partnerships with funds and community-based organizations.

The experiences gathered throughout the report – from organizations such as Tide Setubal Foundation, Foundation for Amazon Sustainability (FAS), Baobá Fund, **Sicoob Institute**, José Luiz Setúbal Foundation, Baixada Maranhense Community Institute, and Umame – illustrate how the Commitment has been inspiring practices that combine institutional coherence, deep connection with the territory, and innovation. The case studies presented in the section “Experiences that Inspire” show that Brazilian philanthropy already has a solid repertoire of initiatives capable of generating real impact, although it still faces the challenge of ensuring continuity and scale.



IN SHORT

The results indicate that signing up the Commitment is just the beginning of a journey that requires greater cooperation, coherence, and collective engagement. The field of climate philanthropy in Brazil is growing stronger – building bridges between social and environmental agendas and reaffirming its strategic role in the transition toward a just economy. By systematizing data, perceptions, and practices from signatory organizations, this report restates that addressing the climate crisis also depends on the ability of philanthropy to turn intentions into collective action, and to act with coherence, urgency, and hope.



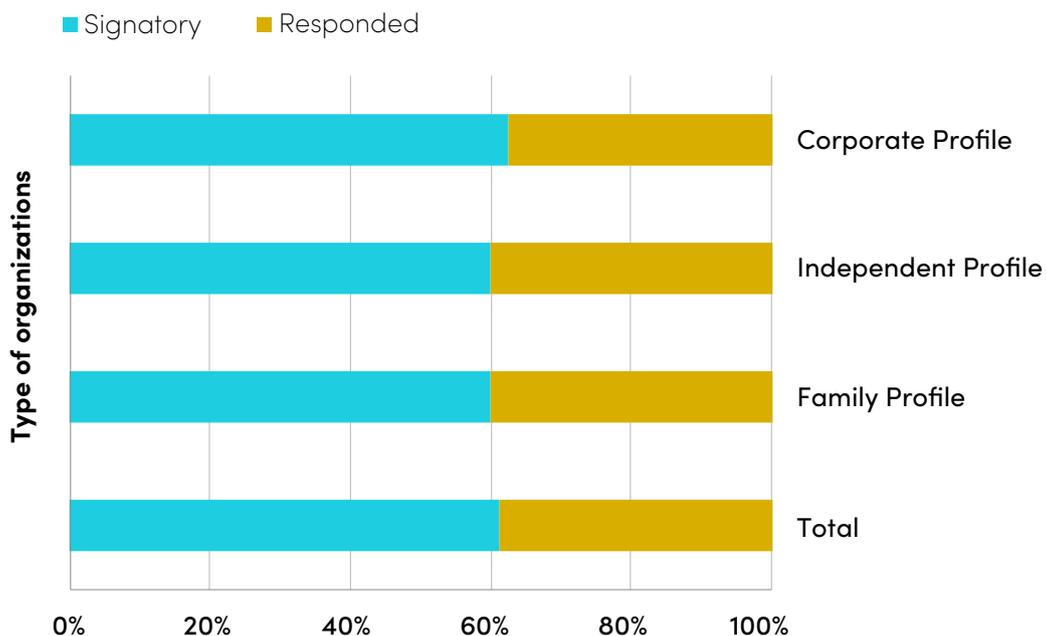
METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The data presented in this report were produced based on the responses of the signatory organizations of the Brazilian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change that participated in the monitoring process between July and September 2025, either through interviews or by completing the form.

This scope allows us to identify trends and make some generalizations about the current stage of engagement of the signatory organizations, acknowledging that the results directly reflect the contributions of the group of respondents.

At that time, the group of signatories was composed of 41 organizations, 26 of which participated actively in this first monitoring cycle. The sample proved to be representative of the group of signatories, as indicated in the charts below.

All signatory organizations



WHERE WE STAND: AN OVERVIEW OF THE PILLARS

How much progress has your organization made with the implementation of the Pillars

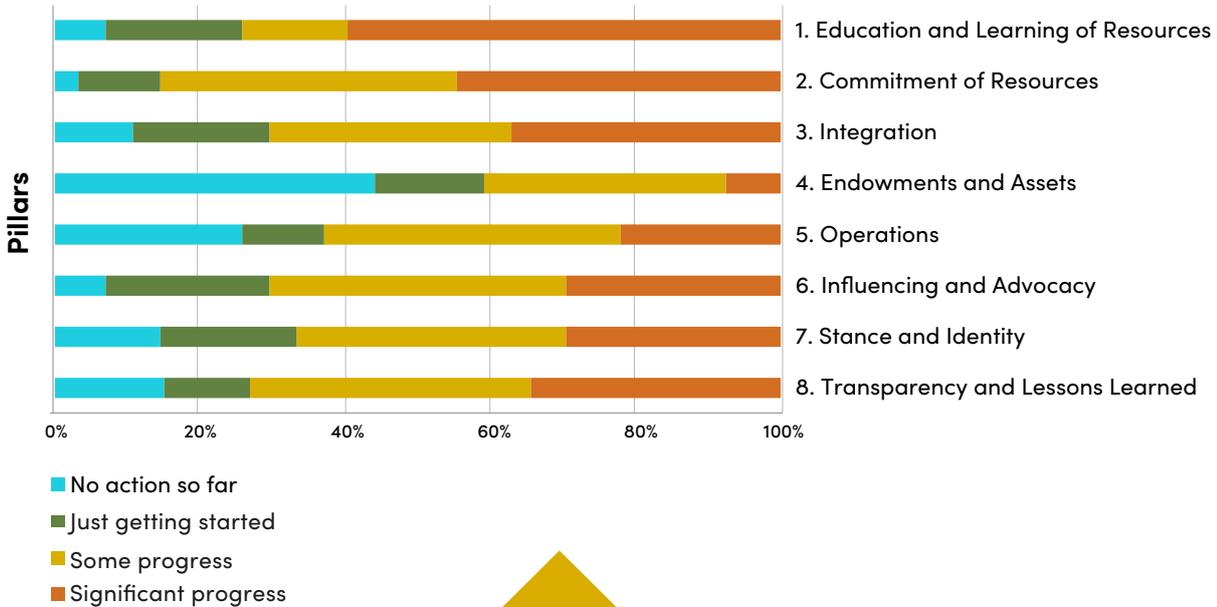


Photo: Marcelo Camargo/Agência Brasil

Before detailing the key issues addressed in this report, it is important to consider the overall picture that emerges from the responses of the signatory organizations that participated in the monitoring process. The following tables summarize the objectives of the pillars and how these organizations have been incorporating the climate agenda into their practices, showing different levels of progress.

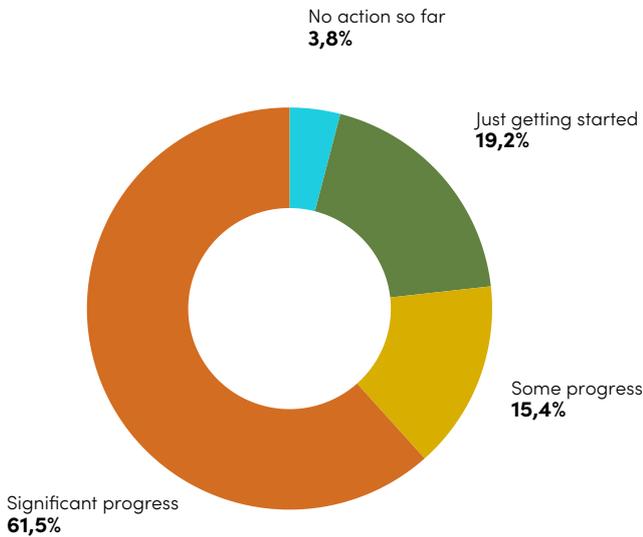
The results show diverse pathways: in some pillars, there are clear signs of consolidation; in others, the process remains in an early stage. This diversity reflects the plurality of the philanthropy sector in Brazil and points both to achievements reached and to opportunities for improvement.

More than a descriptive account, this overview offers a collective understanding of the current moment at the start of the Commitment's implementation: a space to acknowledge points of convergence, value lessons learned, and share paths that can support the joint advancement of the climate agenda in the philanthropy sector.

1. EDUCATION AND LEARNING

“We will ensure that our supporting entities, boards of directors, investment committees, teams, volunteers, donees and stakeholders be informed about causes, impacts and systemic solutions of climate change and their potential implications for our work.”

How much progress has your organization made in implementing Pillar 1: Education and Learning

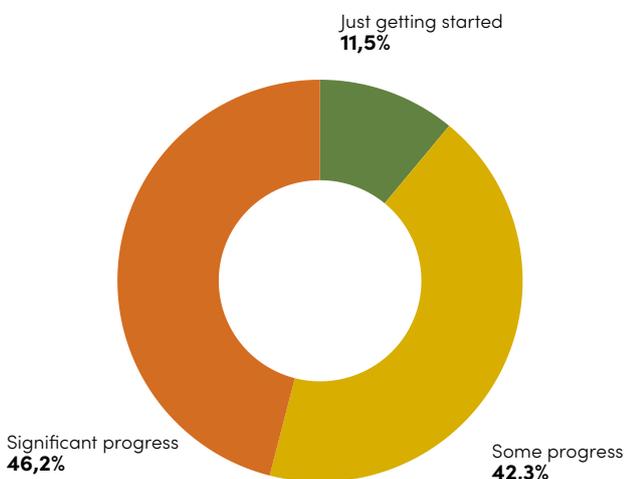


Most organizations (61.5%) report having made significant progress in implementing Pillar 1, which shows that education and learning is a well-established pillar among respondents. At the same time, there are groups that are just getting started (19%) or have made some progress (15%), in addition to a small portion that has not yet taken any action (3.8%), indicating a diverse field with room for exchange and development.

2. COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

“Understanding the urgency of the situation, we will concentrate our resources and efforts on accelerating mitigation of climate change, adaptation to its impacts and addressing of its related loss and damage. We will catalyze more resources ensuring that they reach the community-based organizations that are in the front line of this challenge. We will be ready for emergencies resulting from climate change-related extreme events.”

How much progress has your organization made in implementing Pillar 2: Commitment of Resources

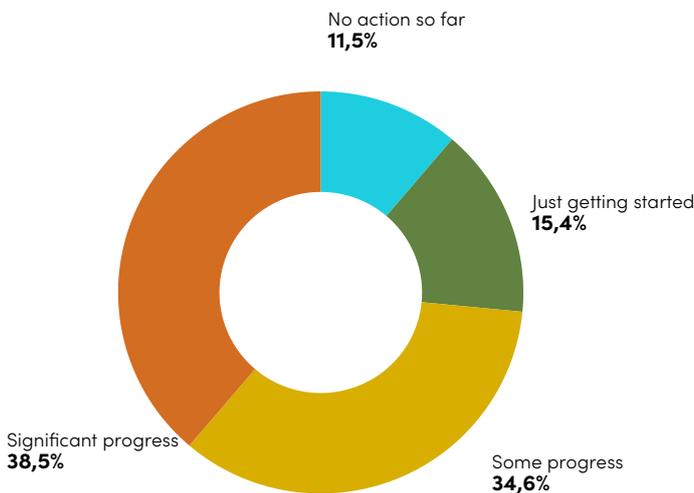


Almost half of the organizations (46%) say they have made significant progress in commitment of resources, while 42% report some progress and 11.5% are just getting started. The result is positive, with different implementation rates and the possibility of shared learning between those who have made more progress and those who are just beginning to engage with commitment of resources.

3. INTEGRATION

“Within the scope of our work, we will contribute to a fair and long-lasting transition, integrating actions aimed at a world with net-zero emissions, to the adaptation to climate change-related impacts, and to the compensation of loss and damage in affected communities.”

How much progress has your organization made in implementing Pillar 3: Integration

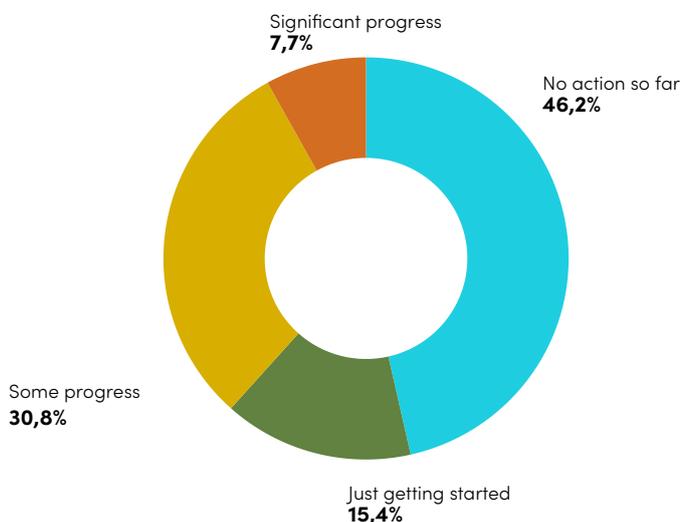


In Pillar 3, 38.5% of organizations report having made significant progress and 34% report some progress, while 15% are just getting started and 11.5% have not yet taken any action. The data show consistent progress, but also demonstrate that the incorporation of the integration perspective continues at varying rates, with room for further consolidation.

4. ENDOWMENTS AND ASSETS

“We will oversee the origin of our resources and will manage our operating funds and endowment funds aimed at reducing their impacts on climate change. We will strive to align our investment strategy and its implementation with a swift and fair transition to a net-zero economy.”

How much progress has your organization made in implementing Pillar 4: Endowments Assets

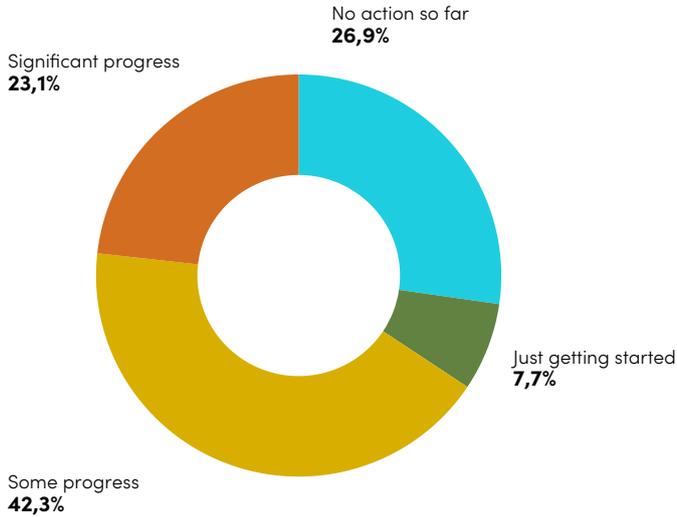


In Pillar 4, almost half of the organizations (46%) have not yet taken action, while 30% report some progress, 15.4% are just getting started, and only 7.7% have made significant progress. Integrating the climate agenda into endowments, funds, and financial assets remains a challenge, showing a key area of attention for signatories.

5. OPERATIONS

“We will take measures to minimize the climate-related impact of our own operations, including, for instance, travels, transportation, premises and procurement.”

How much progress has your organization made in implementing Pillar 5: Operations

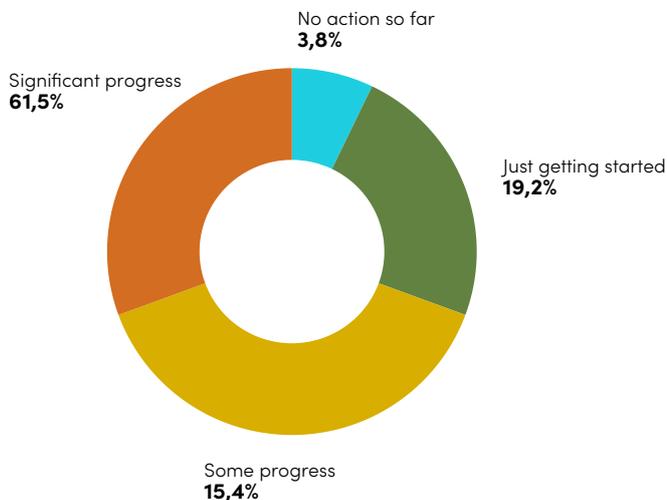


In Pillar 5, 42.3% of organizations report some progress and 23% have made significant progress, while 26.9% have not yet taken action and 7.7% are just getting started. The result suggests that there has already been significant progress in operations, but also that a significant portion of organizations are still taking their first steps.

6. INFLUENCING AND ADVOCACY

“We will use our networks and connections to work in an organized and cooperative manner. We will seek to fund, strengthen and enhance the voices of front line communities. We will uphold and support more daring and concrete actions along with our key stakeholders: businesses, supporting entities, local and national administrations, multilateral organizations, donors and funders, civil society individuals or movements.”

How much progress has your organization made in implementing Pillar 6: Influencing and Advocacy

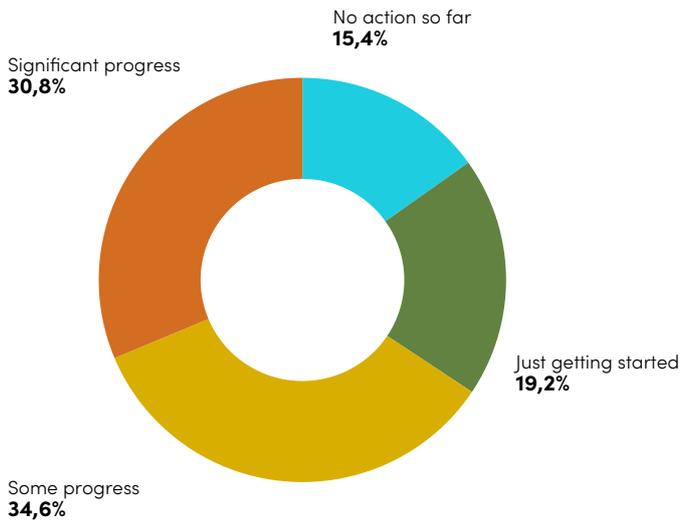


In Pillar 6, more than two-thirds of organizations already report progress – 38.5% with some progress and 30.8% with significant progress. Another 23.1% are just getting started, and 7.7% have not yet taken action. The chart shows that alliance building and advocacy are already present in a large portion of organizations, while there is still room for new initiatives to be developed.

7. STANCE AND IDENTITY

“We acknowledge the peculiarity of our reality and take our stances within the Brazilian and Global South context. We will value our unique characteristics to diversify and expand visions and approaches on the climate agenda, differentiating our actions from the roles of governments, multilateral organizations and private sector. We will seek to inspire and cooperate with the philanthropy sector of other Global South countries.”

How much progress has your organization made in implementing Pillar 7: Stance and Identity

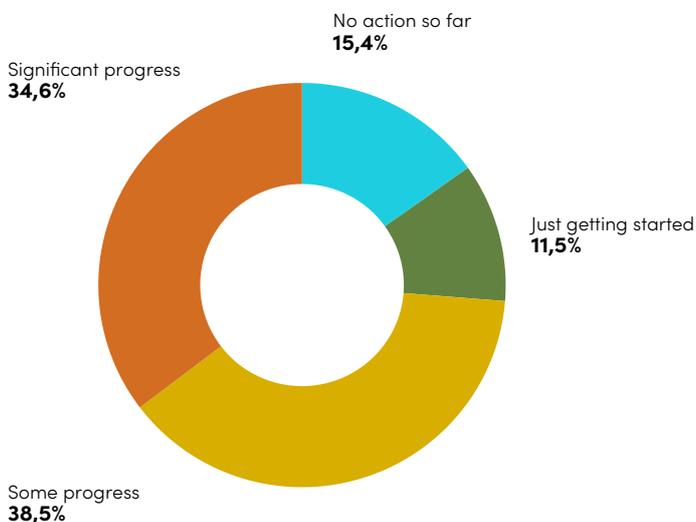


In Pillar 7, 34.6% of organizations report some progress and 30.8% have made significant progress, while 19.2% are just getting started and 15.4% have not yet taken any action regarding the Pillar. The results show that the climate agenda is already beginning to be incorporated into the stance and identity of a significant number of organizations, reinforcing the value of Brazilian and Global South perspectives. At the same time, they demonstrate that there is still work to be done to consolidate this uniqueness of our reality as a distinctive feature of signatories' actions.

8. TRANSPARENCY AND LESSONS LEARNED

“We will disclose annual information about our actions against the seven pillars listed above to share our progress and identify potential improvements. We will continue to develop our practice, cooperate and learn with everyone.”

How much progress has your organization made in implementing Pillar 8: Transparency and Lessons Learned

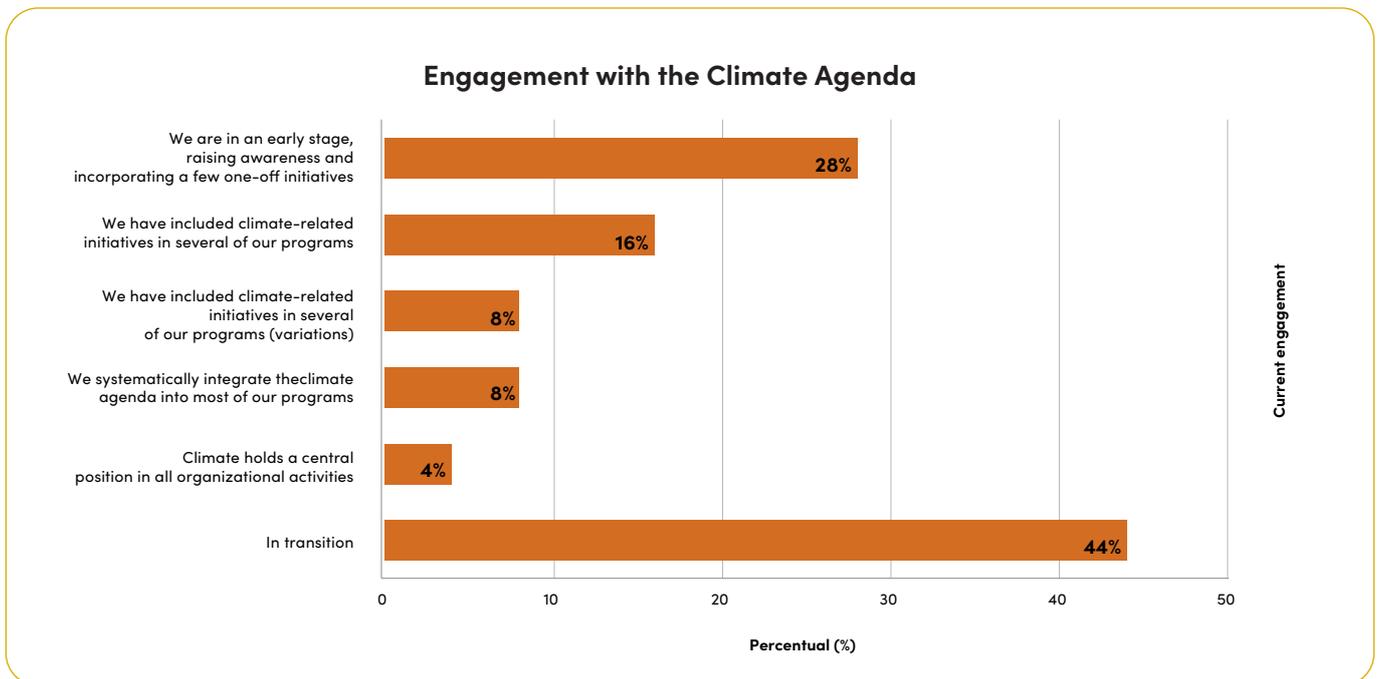


In Pillar 8, 38.5% of organizations report some progress and 34.6% say they have made significant progress, showing that transparency and lessons learned already hold an important place in institutional practices. Even so, 11.5% are just getting started and 15.4% have not yet taken any action, indicating that strengthening processes for recording, exchanging, and communicating information remains an area for collective improvement.

The overall picture indicates that, although a significant group of organizations already incorporate the climate agenda in a consistent way, others are still in early stages of integration and consolidation. This diversity of pathways reflects both the specificities of each institution and the challenges of translating intentions into practices and outcomes.

Next, three key points identified in the organizations' responses are highlighted: the **degree of engagement with the climate agenda, perceptions of the impact**

of signing the Brazilian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change, and the identification of both the **most challenging pillars** and those perceived as having the **greatest potential for impact**. Together, these elements deepen the understanding of the current stage of the respondents, allowing for observation not only of 'where we stand' in the implementation process, but also of the factors that drive or constrain the advancement of the climate agenda within the philanthropy sector.



Among the responding organizations, the level of engagement with the climate agenda varies across different stages, yet a common feature stands out: there is a movement toward greater integration of the theme. Most organizations (28%) stated being in an **early stage**, raising awareness and incorporating only a few one-off initiatives. Another 16% placed themselves at an **intermediate** stage, indicating that they already include climate-related initiatives in several of their programs. A smaller group (8%) stated that they are at a **systematized** stage, in which the climate agenda is structurally integrated into most of their programs. Only 4% identified themselves as being at an **advanced** stage, where the theme holds a central position in all organizational activities.

Besides these more defined categories, there is a significant contingent (44%) whose **responses combined elements** from different stages. This group forms what is referred to as the **'in transition'** category: organizations

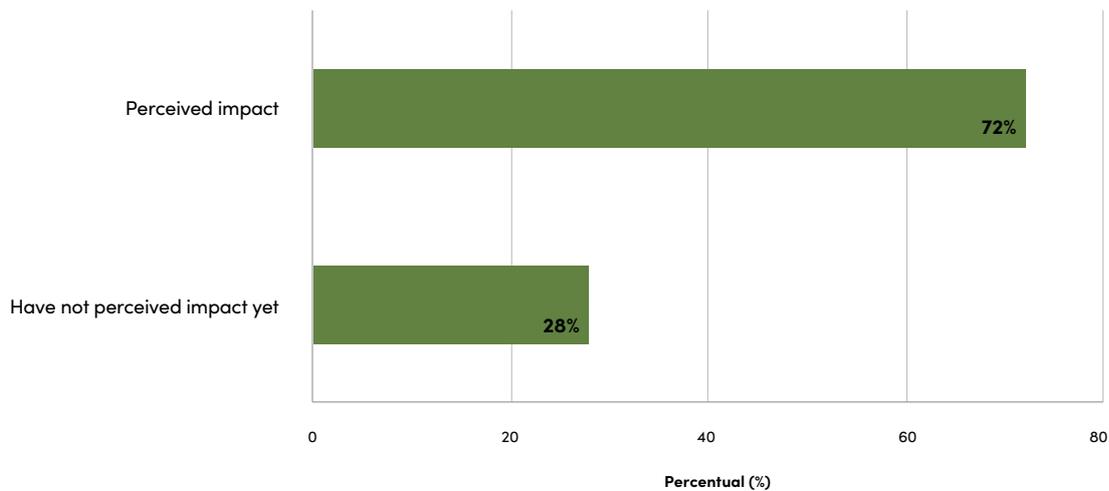
that, while still recognizing initial limitations, already demonstrate more mature practices, such as the adoption of specific climate goals or the partial integration of the agenda into institutional processes.

Almost half of organizations do not identify with a fixed stage, but are undergoing a process of maturation: some have already adopted carbon targets, for example, but are still unable to apply them to all performance areas.

"This initial knowledge can create synergy and leverage capacity, but there is still a lack of expertise to deal with the pillars in an integrated manner."

(Corporate institute)

Impact of Signing the Commitment



Most responding organizations (**72%**) **perceived some level of impact resulting from signing the Commitment**, although with varying intensity. Among them, **20% perceived a significant impact**. For some respondents, adherence to the Commitment has encouraged internal reflection, revision of practices, and greater engagement with the climate agenda. In other cases, the impact was more distinct, serving as a reference point for aligning institutional strategies and reflections.

Among organizations that **have not yet perceived direct effects (28%)**, the results suggest that this is an ongoing process. In many cases, incorporating the pillars of the Commitment depends on factors such as internal prioritization, and the availability of time and resources to translate adherence to the Commitment into structured actions.

It is noteworthy that even among signatories who reported some degree of impact, nearly half recognize that their engagement is driven more by the urgency of the climate change – such as the intensification of extreme weather events, social mobilization, and demands from communities and partners – than by direct motivation resulting from signing the Commitment. This context suggests that the Commitment currently functions as part of a broader movement, with the potential to connect and strengthen existing initiatives.

“Implementing the pillars related to commitment of resources and operations requires structural and methodological changes that are still under development.”

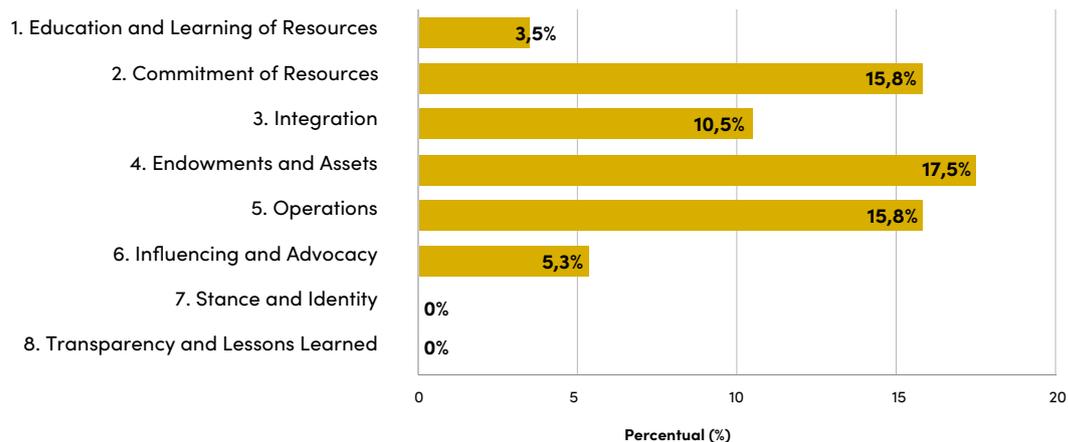
(Corporate Institute)





Photo: Eduardo Amorim / Pexels

Most Challenging Pillars



When asked to indicate the most challenging pillars to implement, organizations responded in different ways, but with a greater concentration on **Pillar 4 – Endowments and Assets**, mentioned by 17.5% of respondents. The difficulty lies not only in the lack of specific financial instruments, but above all in different scales among organizations and the limited autonomy over long-term resources. In some cases, asset structures do not allow for direct investment choices aligned with climate criteria, while in others, the small scale of assets restricts decision-making possibilities, making it more complex to integrate the climate agenda into financial management.

Next come **Pillar 5 – Operations** and **Pillar 2 – Commitment of Resources**, each mentioned by 15.8% of respondents. In the case of operations, the main challenge is adapting internal processes, which are often designed for projects that do not systematically incorporate environmental practices. Adapting processes, creating new routines, and developing climate change-oriented technical skills require time and institutional realignment. As for commitment of resources, responses indicate that it is still difficult to define priorities and establish climate impact metrics, particularly when it is necessary to balance different agendas in contexts of limited resources.

Pillar 3 – Integration was mentioned by 10.5% of organizations. Responses suggest that the main difficulty is not necessarily integrating existing agendas, but strengthening the understanding of what it means to adopt an integration approach and translating this concept into consistent practices. Some organizations mentioned recent strategic reviews and capacity-building initiatives, but also pointed out knowledge and methodological gaps that hinder the consolidation of this pillar.

Pillar 1 – Education and Learning, cited by 3.5%, came out less frequently, but responses indicate that challenges remain in translating climate concepts into accessible educational and communication practices. In some cases, the difficulty lies in systematizing experiences and disseminating lessons learned in a more structured way.

The pillar **Influencing and Advocacy (6)** was rarely mentioned (5%), while **Stance and Identity (7)** and **Transparency and Lessons Learned (8)** were not directly mentioned as the most challenging. This does not mean absence of difficulties, but suggests that, when choosing only two pillars, organizations prioritize those most closely linked to financial resources and internal structures, which emerge as critical points for advancing the climate agenda in the philanthropy sector.

“The Operations pillar is challenging because our institutional structure is oriented toward social projects rather than systematic environmental practices.”

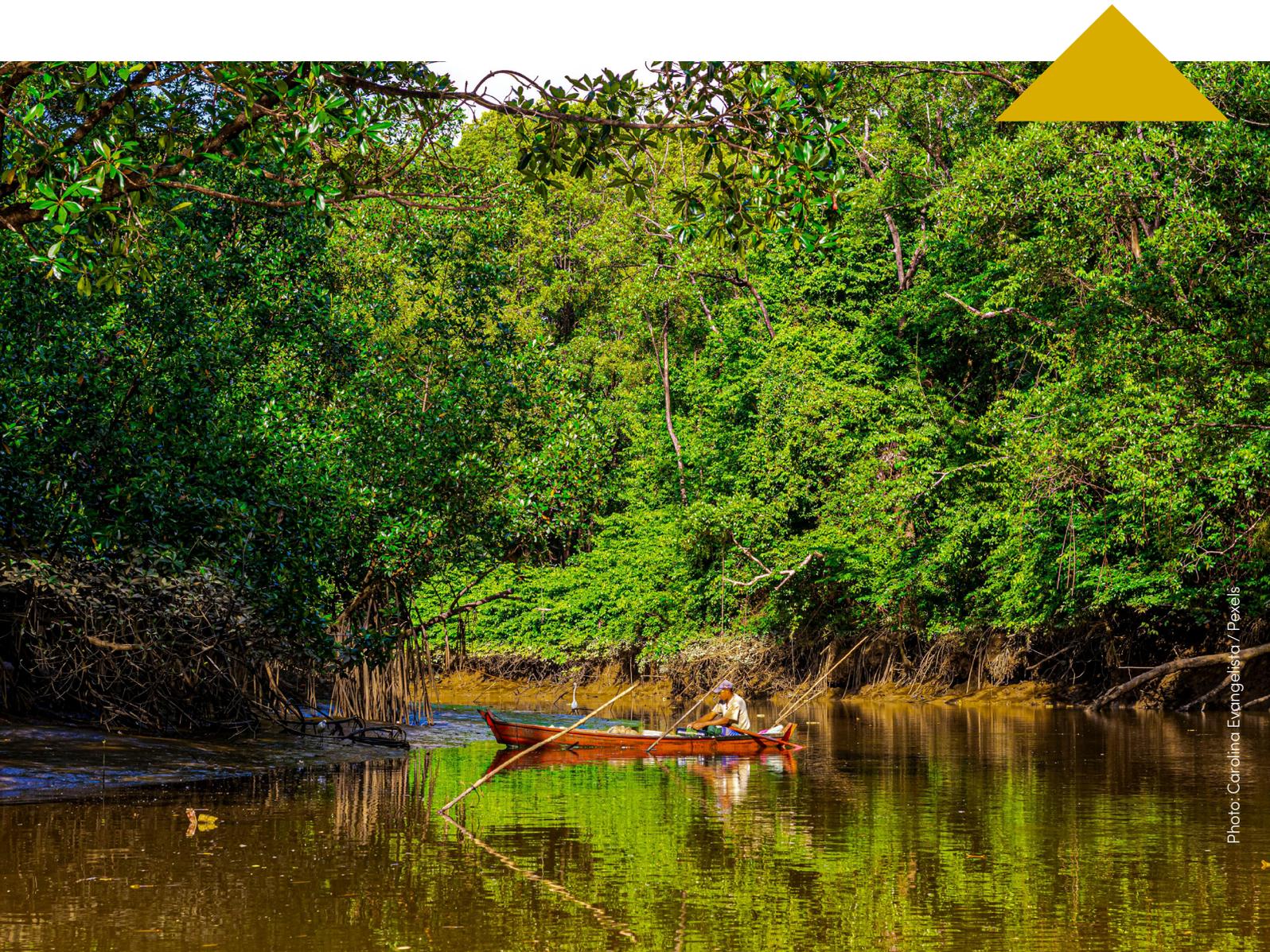
(Family foundation)

“The Endowments and assets pillar is challenging because the foundation does not have full autonomy over its long-term resources.”

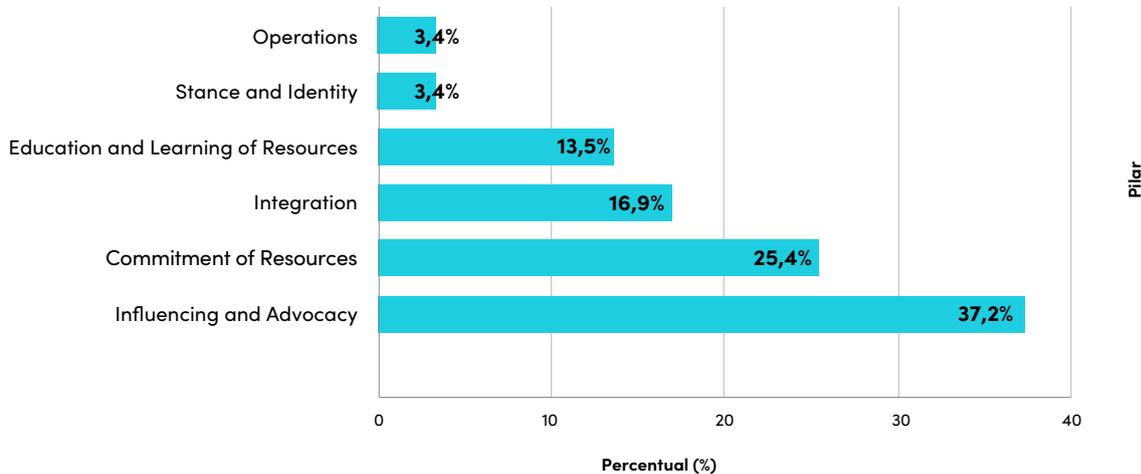
(Independent foundation)

“The Institute operates in a context of scarce resources and limited regional cooperation, which hinders the full implementation of the chosen pillars.”

(Independent institute)



Pillars with the Greatest Potential for Impact



When asked to identify the pillars where they have the greatest impact, most organizations highlighted **Pillar 6 – Influencing and Advocacy**, mentioned by **37.3%** of respondents. This result shows how many organizations view networking and the ability to influence policy as a means to expand the reach of their initiatives and contribute to more structural changes. Next comes **Pillar 2 – Commitment of Resources**, mentioned by **25.4%**. In this case, the potential for impact is related to how resources are applied: by directing investments toward climate-related initiatives, organizations not only strengthen their own actions, but also encourage new practices within the sector and open space for other institutions to follow the same path.

Pillar 3 – Integration, cited by **16.9%**, reinforces the importance of connecting climate to other social agendas, such as equity, education, and territorial development. This integrated approach is seen as essential to generating more consistent change, although many organizations are still developing ways to put this vision into practice in a structured manner.

Pillar 1 – Education and Learning, mentioned by **13.6%**, emerges as a front where it is possible to build knowledge, engage communities, and train leaders aligned with the climate agenda. It is an area of impact, especially when action takes place within territories and with vulnerable populations.

The pillars **Operations (5)** and **Stance and Identity (7)** were cited by only 3.4% of respondents. This suggests that, although these are important dimensions, they are usually perceived as internal management challenges, rather than as areas where organizations can generate immediate external impact.

Overall, data show that expectations of impact are mostly found in dimensions **related to alliance building, strategic use of resources, and an integrated vision of the climate agenda**, while aspects more internal to organizational structures come up less prominently.

“Due to the nature of our methodologies, our capillarity, and our territorial presence, we are able to maximize impact through education and alliance building.”

(Corporate institute)

PROFILES IN PERSPECTIVE

In this section, we analyze the climate agenda **from the standpoint of different philanthropy profiles** – independent, corporate, and family foundations and institutes – in order to understand how each category has incorporated the theme into its ways of operating, investing, and engaging with territories and networks. Based on the responses from the monitoring and concrete examples, we mapped convergences (such as the cross-cutting nature of climate change within social agendas) and specificities (from governance structures and funding mechanisms to languages and entry points into the theme).

The section is organized ‘by profile’, consistently investigating: (i) how climate change is addressed within strategies and narratives; (ii) how resources and partnerships are distributed; (iii) which internal and advocacy practices stand out; and (iv) **which challenges and points of attention still need to be tackled**. The objective is to provide an honest and useful overview that inspires practical adjustments and cooperation among actors in the sector.

ENGAGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT FOUNDATIONS

Each organization starts from its own context and track record, yet a common element can be observed among the independent foundations that are signatories of the Brazilian Commitment: the perception that **climate change is no longer treated as a side issue but has become a cross-cutting axis within social development agendas**. This recognition has guided adjustments in institutional narratives, the reorganization of programs, and the redefinition of funding priorities – signaling a more consistent integration of the climate issue into these organizations’ strategies.

In the field of education and learning, independent foundations have shown that capacity building and access to knowledge are essential starting points for strengthening the climate agenda. More than just conveying technical information, they seek to create spaces for dialogue, where concepts such as climate justice, adaptation, mitigation, and intersectionality gain meaning from the reality experienced by communities. This effort translates into workshops, internal and external courses, production of educational materials, and initiatives to spread the climate change debate, connecting science to local narratives. There is a concern to make the theme accessible, avoiding excessively technical language and promoting a practical understanding of how climate change affects daily life – whether in health, food security, or urban mobility. The independent signatory foundations see continuous learning as a strategy to prepare teams, partners, and territories to deal with the climate crisis in an informed and critical manner.

Commitment of resources is perhaps the dimension in which the tensions and innovations of independent foundations are most evident. On the one hand, there is recognition that climate funding is still insufficient, fragmented, and often driven by external logic; on the other hand, there is a growing conviction that it is possible to reorganize funding to respond to the real needs of communities. Independent foundations have sought to make grants more agile, flexible, and directed to those on the front lines of the crisis – women, Indigenous Peoples, quilombolas (maroons), riverine and peripheral communities. This approach comes with a criticism of overly bureaucratic grantmaking models, which can exclude smaller organizations or those with limited reporting capacity. There is also concern about longevity: it is not enough to fund one-off projects; it is necessary to ensure the continuity and sustainability of local solutions, especially those that have already proven effective in promoting adaptation and resilience.

Another hallmark of this engagement is the adoption of an integrated view – a distinguishing feature of the independent foundations that are signatories to the Commitment. For them, climate change cannot be treated as a side issue, restricted to the environment, but rather as a factor that exacerbates existing inequalities. In cities, this means acknowledging that floods and heat waves hit residents of peripheral areas and black populations the hardest; in rural areas, it means understanding that *quilombola* communities and traditional peoples suffer direct impacts on food production and territorial security. This view broadens the relevance of philanthropy, as it connects the climate change debate to health, education,

racial equity, and social justice agendas. By placing communities at the core, foundations reinforce that there can be no just transition without addressing the structural inequalities that make some groups more vulnerable than others.

The theme of endowments and assets remains incipient but shows early signs of progress among the responding independent foundations. Many have limited endowments, which makes this pillar less of a priority in the short term. Even so, there is growing interest in aligning resource management with responsible investment practices. Some foundations already integrate social and environmental criteria into their investment decisions, in line with regulatory trends. Others see asset management as an opportunity for coherence: if the institutional mission is to tackle climate change, investments should also reflect this commitment, avoiding support for sectors that worsen the crisis. The challenge lies in balancing financial prudence with innovation, especially in contexts where available capital is still limited.

In the field of operations, responding independent foundations are incorporating sustainability practices into their internal processes, though unevenly. Some have already developed explicit policies on sustainable procurement, waste management, and energy efficiency, while others are adopting one-off measures, such as digitizing documents, organizing low-waste events, or reusing materials. These actions reflect a growing concern with institutional coherence: it makes no sense

to advocate externally for a climate agenda without addressing one's own operational impacts. Although many organizations have yet to define clear goals and monitoring mechanisms, progress in this pillar indicates that the climate agenda is becoming part of daily life, not just of programs and projects.

As for influence and advocacy, engagement takes shape through active participation in networks, alliances, and coalitions – both national and international. The independent foundations that responded to the survey have held strategic positions to address climate change in connection with other agendas, whether by advocating for public policy or strengthening community-based organizations. Networking expands advocacy capacity and ensures that local voices are represented in broader decision-making arenas, including global forums. The signatories emphasize that the challenge lies in turning this presence into tangible results, ensuring that participation goes beyond visibility and that climate change takes a central place in discussions on development and social justice.

When it comes to stance and identity, however, there is an emerging consensus: philanthropy needs to democratize access to resources and break with top-down approaches that do little to interact with local realities. This perception is followed by direct criticism of historical inequalities between the Global North and South, which are reflected not only in the unequal distribution of resources, but also in the ways agendas and priorities are defined.





Photo: iStock

Independent foundations have pointed out that, often, the language and financing instruments imported from abroad do not fit the Brazilian context, which limits the effectiveness of solutions and perpetuates asymmetries. Another recurring point is the underfunding of gender and race agendas – areas viewed as essential for building a just transition, but which still receive a minimal share of the global climate funding. Added to this is the concern with greenwashing practices, in which investments are announced as sustainable without bringing about real change, undermining the credibility of the sector and tarnishing the work of those who genuinely engage with communities.

At the same time, there is a growing effort to build a collective identity for independent philanthropy in Brazil – one rooted in the diversity of formats, methodologies, and voices of the Global South. This identity is not based on uniformity, but on the recognition that plurality is a strength: community funds, independent institutes, territorial community-based organizations, and innovative financing arrangements coexist and complement each other, offering different responses to equally diverse challenges. What unites these experiences is the conviction that addressing the climate crisis must build on local realities, with the most affected communities taking the lead, and that philanthropy will only have legitimacy if

it acts in this process as a partner, rather than the sole protagonist.

Finally, transparency and lessons learned reflects the commitment of independent foundations to sharing practices, results, and also difficulties. The logic is not only to be accountable, but also to foster an environment of exchange, in which both successes and setbacks become collective lessons learned. This involves regular meetings with partners, public reports, communication campaigns, and joint capacity-building initiatives. Transparency, in this sense, serves not just as a tool for external credibility, but also as an opportunity to strengthen networks, build trust, and generate new solutions collaboratively. The challenge lies in consolidating consistent mechanisms that make these lessons accessible and useful to different audiences – from local communities to other funders – thereby expanding the impact and ambition of the climate agenda.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Despite the progress achieved, independent foundations' engagement with the climate agenda still faces significant barriers. The first and perhaps most recurring challenge relates to the availability and flexibility of resources. Many climate change-related problems require long-term responses – such as adapting territories to extreme events, strengthening sustainable production chains, or building resilient community infrastructures. However, much of the funding still arrives in a fragmented manner, with short deadlines and requirements that are not suited to local conditions. This incompatibility creates a mismatch between the urgency of the territories and the pace of philanthropic transfers, causing effective solutions to be weakened precisely due to lack of continuity.

Another critical issue is the distance between funders and grassroots communities. Although there is growing recognition that resources should go directly to Indigenous Peoples, quilombolas, riverine communities, peripheral organizations, and women's collectives, in practice bureaucratic barriers and reporting requirements still hinder this access. Independent foundations point out that accountability frameworks often prioritize formal indicators over qualitative outcomes and real change.

This discrepancy creates a sense of mutual distrust: funders doubt local management capacity, while communities question the inflexibility of formats that fail to respect their ways of organizing. Overcoming this divide requires rethinking traditional grantmaking and investing in processes grounded in trust, listening, and shared responsibility.

Another notable challenge is the language and translation of the climate agenda. Much of the international debate is marked by concepts and metrics that, although useful, often fail to connect with the Brazilian reality. Technical terms, complex reports, and criteria imported from other contexts can drive local actors away and create barriers to engagement. For many communities, the climate agenda only makes sense when it is connected to issues such as food security, health, housing, or income. Independent foundations have insisted on the need to 'translate' climate language, making it more accessible and closer to the daily lives of the most affected populations. This process is not only communicational, but political: it is about affirming that local knowledge and traditional wisdom are also valid and essential for building solutions.

Another relevant obstacle is the seasonality of attention and funding. Experience shows that in years when international conferences such as COPs are held, or in the wake of major environmental disasters, there is a sudden increase in interest and resources for climate action.



Once these moments are over, however, visibility fades, and organizations are left without the means to sustain their work in the medium and long term. This fluctuation weakens strategies, undermines team stability, and limits the ability to plan consistent programs. For independent foundations, this serves as a warning: without multi-year and stable commitments, it will be difficult to ensure structural impact.

Infrastructure, logistics, and security challenges in certain territories are also widely reported. In areas of the Northern region, for instance, high cost of river transportation, lack of electricity in many communities, poor digital connectivity, and the presence of illegal activities, such as drug trafficking and illegal mining, create tangible barriers to project implementation. These conditions demand creativity, strong partnerships, and,

above all, additional resources to cover higher operational costs, since inexpensive or superficial solutions tend to fail in the face of the territory's complexity.

In essence, the challenges range from scarcity and inflexibility of resources to the need to create accessible language, overcome territorial barriers, and consolidate institutional coherence. Each of these points, in different ways, leads to the same conclusion: **tackling the climate crisis requires philanthropy to be bolder, more flexible, and willing to rethink its own practices.**

IN SUMMARY

Independent foundations are in a full process of maturing their engagement with the climate agenda

- Climate change is no longer regarded as a side issue, but rather as a cross-cutting or intersectional element of their strategies.
- ○ The agenda is connected to key dimensions such as race, gender, health, and territorial development.

Areas requiring joint progress

- It is necessary to democratize access to resources in order to reduce historical inequalities.
- ○ It is essential to strengthen local solutions and increase the visibility of voices from the Global South.
- ○ It is important to align discourse and practice across all fronts, from asset management to day-to-day operations.

The role of independent foundations in the climate agenda is unique

- They bring the climate agenda closer to community realities.
- ○ They translate global concepts into local practices.
- ○ They offer flexibility in contexts where rigidity often prevails.

The main obstacles remain challenging

- Scarcity of stable and long-term resources.
- ○ The need to tackle historical inequalities.
- ○ Building trust between funders and communities.

Movements that strengthen the agenda

- There is willingness to engage in continuous learning.
- ○ Network-based collaboration, both national and international, is growing.
- ○ Community leadership is beginning to gain momentum.
- ○ If deepened, this path may transform not only climate action, but also philanthropy itself, making it more just, inclusive, and effective.

ENGAGEMENT OF FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

Signatory family foundations have been approaching the climate agenda in an increasingly consistent manner, with pathways that reflect both the values of their supporting entities and the innovative, experimental nature that often defines this type of institution. Their engagement has been shaped by the search for coherence between social causes already embraced – such as education, health, culture, racial and gender equality – and the growing recognition that the climate crisis cuts across all these dimensions. Climate, therefore, is not treated as a side issue, but as a cross-cutting axis that adds to the historical commitments of these organizations.

This movement is not uniform, for there are many different entry points to the climate issue. Some family foundations have focused on education and communication as key tools. By producing educational, audiovisual, and cultural content, they have helped bring the climate debate closer to daily life, showing how it directly impacts people's well-being, health, and opportunities. Others have integrated climate into areas like children's health, calling attention to how heatwaves, floods, and vector-borne diseases are directly linked to the climate emergency. There are also those that operate in peripheral and rural areas, promoting discussions on adaptation, climate justice, and community resilience.

These initiatives stem from the understanding that, beyond indicators and technical reports, it is essential to translate the topic into accessible messages that connect with diverse audiences. This translation takes multiple forms – from educational materials in schools to cultural productions that raise awareness through art and popular expression – and has helped democratize access to knowledge, bringing the climate debate closer to communities historically excluded from global discussions.

Family foundations have also been open to collaboration and co-financing initiatives. By joining forces with community funds and partnering with community-based organizations, they have been able to extend their reach and ensure that local solutions are strengthened. This collaborative approach is significant because it reflects a willingness to share responsibility, take collective risks, and support emerging organizations that might not otherwise access funding on their own. More than simply transferring resources, this model strengthens existing networks, builds trust, and empowers communities to take the lead in building climate solutions.

In addition to collaboration, these foundations are willing



to take greater risks than other institutional profiles usually accept. By supporting initiatives that are still in their early stages or have less consolidated structures, they play the role of an incubator in the philanthropic field. This openness to risk allows them to test innovative ideas, explore new financing formats, and learn from practice. Even when not all experiences are successful, the knowledge generated sets a benchmark for the field as a whole, allowing other organizations to expand or replicate previously tested approaches.

This role in producing knowledge and fostering innovation is a distinctive feature of family foundations. Many of them have funded research, supported data collection, and promoted public debates that inform the climate field. Others have invested in communication initiatives to counter disinformation and to give visibility to territorial and community perspectives. At the same time, some are testing methodologies for strengthening the institutional capacity of grassroots organizations, helping to establish stronger foundations for these initiatives to grow. This role of experimentation and learning makes family foundations a space for creativity and boldness within the Brazilian climate philanthropy.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The challenges presented below reflect the perceptions shared by the family foundations themselves based on their experiences in incorporating the climate agenda. They help pinpoint areas that still need attention in order to make this engagement more consistent and lasting.

One of the most common challenges is maintaining the climate agenda over time. There is still a tendency for this issue to gain more visibility at specific times – such as during international conferences or after major environmental disasters – and then lose ground to other institutional priorities. This ‘seasonality’ can weaken initiatives, which often require stability and a long-term vision to create consistent results. Keeping climate change as a permanent axis, integrated into the missions of family foundations, requires institutional discipline, and more importantly, a strong narrative that clearly shows how climate connects directly with core areas like health, culture, and education.



Another key point is translating the climate agenda into traditional areas of activity. Incorporating a climate dimension into existing health, culture, or education projects is not an easy task. Climate can often feel like an external issue, leading to resistance from teams or local partners. The challenge lies in clearly showing how climate change is already impacting daily life – from increased respiratory diseases in children, to the effects of pollution and extreme heat in cities, or the loss of cultural practices due to environmental changes in traditional territories.

This translation requires creativity, empathy, and tailored communication – but it also opens up doors for climate to be understood not as something distant, but rather as part of problems and solutions that are embedded in the work foundations are already doing.

Finally, there is a need to strengthen engagement within broader networks. While many signatory family foundations are already part of collaborative efforts, their presence in national and international alliances can still grow. This is not just about visibility – it is about helping set collective agendas, able to influence public policy and bring in new partners to the field. By joining broader networks, family foundations can also share valuable experiences that often start at a small scale but carry lessons that benefit the entire sector. This exchange of practices and visions is essential for advancing the climate agenda in a more integrated and aligned way across the country.

IN SUMMARY

The climate agenda is now being addressed in a cross-cutting manner, connecting with areas such as education, health, culture, youth, and racial equity

- There is a strong emphasis on education and communication, using educational materials, cultural productions, and campaigns to bring the climate issue closer to daily life.
- The practice of collaboration and co-funding is growing, with support for community funds and community-based organizations.
- There is a greater openness to take risks and test innovative financing models, strengthening initiatives that are still in their early stages.

Challenges and points of attention

- Maintain climate as a continuous axis, so that it will not be dealt with only at times of greater visibility.
- Translate the climate agenda to traditional areas of activity, such as health, education, and culture, in an organic and consistent manner.
- Broaden participation in national and international networks, giving greater visibility to practices and contributing to collective agendas.

Looking ahead

- Family foundations can consolidate themselves as spaces for experimentation and learning within climate philanthropy.
- Their flexibility and capacity for innovation place them as strategic actors in bringing the climate agenda closer to local realities.
- By strengthening consistency, alliance building, and communication, they will be able to expand their relevance and influence in the field of Brazilian philanthropy.



ENGAGEMENT OF CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS AND COMPANIES

Signatory respondents corporate foundations have made progress **in integrating the climate agenda into their institutional and programmatic strategies**. Climate change, which appeared only as a side issue a few years ago, has been gaining ground in the decisions and practices of these organizations, reflecting a gradual maturation of the business sector around sustainability. This movement is driven by different factors – from the evolution of ESG policies and stakeholder pressure for transparency to a growing understanding that the **climate crisis is directly linked to the country's social and economic development**.

The presence of consolidated management structures and more stable resources has enabled these organizations to plan medium- and long-term actions, set goals, and monitor results with greater consistency. This is evident in the monitoring data: pillars such as **Education and Learning** and **Influencing and Advocacy** are among the most developed, indicating an ability to operate in networks, create knowledge, and influence public and private agendas. The advances point to an important transition: from one-off projects to institutional strategies that incorporate the climate issue in a more continuous and structured manner.

Among the respondents, a group of foundations stands out for having their **work directly anchored in sustainable development axes**, showing greater maturity in integrating the climate agenda. In these institutions, climate is treated as part of the organizational mission, guiding investment policies, social innovation programs, environmental education, and just transition initiatives in territories. Governance tends to be more consolidated, with specific metrics to monitor impacts and alignment with the SDGs. Among those that do not yet have sustainable development as a central axis, the climate issue emerges in a more cross-cutting manner, incorporated into social programs, awareness campaigns, or specific partnerships. This diversity of stages demonstrates that, although starting points vary, there is a common movement of convergence between social and environmental agendas.

The relationship between **foundations and their supporting companies** has also proven to be an area of continuous learning. On the one hand, it offers concrete opportunities to expand the reach and coherence of the climate agenda; on the other, it requires efforts to align institutional paces, priorities, and languages. In some contexts, this integration still requires internal awareness and coordination between departments in order to turn environmental commitments into effective decisions.

Respondents emphasize that ongoing dialogue between the social and corporate spheres is essential to ensure coherent practices and lasting results.

Another relevant aspect is the strong presence of corporate foundations in **national and international networks and forums**, which enhances their capacity for alliance building and influence. This participation contributes to experience sharing, alignment with global goals, and dissemination of good practices, thus promoting the visibility of Brazilian philanthropy on the climate agenda. Even so, monitoring data shows room for deepening connections with territories by strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations, and incorporating local knowledge into strategy formulation. This movement tends **to increase impact** and generate more contextualized responses to local realities.

Finally, progress in governance and transparency stands out. Many of the signatory corporate foundations already have **specific policies** for climate and sustainability, public reports, and net-zero emissions targets. These instruments reinforce institutional credibility and coherence, while also creating positive benchmarks for the private sector as a whole. Consolidating methodologies that connect environmental, social, and economic outcomes will be an important step toward strengthening communication of impact and expanding collective learning.

In short, signatory corporate foundations have been establishing themselves as strategic actors in the field of climate philanthropy, combining alliance building, management, and influence capabilities. The challenge now is to deepen the integration between climate change, business, and social impact, ensuring coherence between discourse and practice, and expanding the contribution of companies and their foundations.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The main challenges and opportunities identified among corporate foundations are concentrated in three dimensions: **institutional coherence, cross-cutting integration of the climate agenda, and engagement with territories.**

Although progress has been significant, monitoring shows that there is still a gap between a strategic incorporation of the climate issue and its full presence on all institutional fronts. In many cases, the climate agenda is treated programmatically, but is not yet fully integrated into governance, financial decisions, and operational routines. The challenge is to **transform the commitment to the climate agenda into a structuring axis**, not only of external action, but also of internal practices and decision-making.

Engagement with territories emerges as a central and recurring issue. Corporate foundations acknowledge that bureaucracy and control procedures – especially those related to compliance, accountability, and corporate governance – have limited their **ability to work directly with community-based organizations.** This distance, although understandable from an institutional standpoint, has a high social cost: it reduces responsiveness, weakens ties with communities, and

limits the potential for mutual learning. Interviews show that this is a sensitive issue, also perceived by independent foundations, and one that needs to be addressed through adjustments and mechanisms of shared trust.

Another point of attention is **internal alignment** with supporting entities. Although synergy between social and corporate areas has brought gains in scale and visibility, the timing and priorities of these instances do not always run in synchrony. Creating mechanisms for dialogue that enable more integrated and coherent action between philanthropy and business is essential to reinforce the legitimacy and effectiveness of the climate commitment.

Finally, there is an important opportunity in **measuring and communicating impact.** Developing methodologies that combine quantitative and qualitative indicators – integrating climate, social, and economic outcomes – can increase visibility to the transformations already underway and strengthen the sector's credibility. This is an area where corporate foundations – due to their **accumulated experience in management and monitoring** – have a strategic role to play.



IN SUMMARY

Process of consolidating the climate agenda

- Signatory corporate foundations have been consolidating the climate agenda in their institutional and programmatic strategies, no longer treating it as a side issue.
- This maturation process is driven by factors such as the evolution of ESG policies, demand for transparency, and the understanding that the climate crisis directly affects social and economic development.
- The presence of stable management structures and own resources has enabled medium- and long-term planning, goal setting, and consistent monitoring of results.
- There is growing integration between private social investment and the corporate strategies of supporting entities, thus strengthening the coherence between discourse and practice.

What is being strengthened

- Consolidation of pillars such as Education and Learning and Influencing and Advocacy, reflecting the ability to operate in networks, create knowledge, and influence public and private agendas.
- Growing engagement in vulnerable territories, focusing on solutions that combine environmental conservation, income generation, and community empowerment.
- Active participation in national and international networks, expanding the visibility and collective learning of corporate philanthropy.
- Progress in governance and transparency, with specific policies for sustainability, net-zero emissions targets, and public reporting.

Challenges and opportunities

- Institutional coherence: transforming climate commitment into a structuring axis of financial and operational decisions, rather than just a programmatic agenda.
- Engagement with territories: overcoming bureaucratic and compliance barriers that limit direct relationships with community-based and grassroots organizations.
- Internal integration: creating mechanisms for dialogue between foundations and supporting entities, aligning paces, languages, and priorities.
- Impact measurement: developing methodologies that coordinate environmental, social, and economic indicators, combining quantitative data and qualitative narratives.

Looking ahead

- Corporate foundations are establishing themselves as strategic climate philanthropy actors in Brazil, with strong capacity for alliance building, management, and influence.
- Strengthening the connections between climate change, business, and social impact is the next step to ensure coherence between discourse and practice.
- Deepening the cross-cutting integration of the climate agenda into corporate and philanthropic strategies will be essential to achieve better outcomes.
- Expanding partnerships with territories and community-based organizations can make the impact more lasting and contextualized.
- Consolidating integrated measurement methodologies and impact narratives will strengthen credibility and the capacity for collective learning.



INSPIRING EXPERIENCES

Based on the monitoring process, it was possible to identify a **series of experiences** that translate into practice the **principles and challenges** of the Brazilian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change. Exchanges with the responding organizations brought to light initiatives that help to understand how **different institutions have incorporated the climate agenda into their institutional and programmatic agendas.**

In some pillars, more than one experience was highlighted, reflecting the cross-cutting and complementary nature of the topics addressed. In the case of Pillar 3 – Integration, the inclusion of two

case studies demonstrates the integrated action of the signatories, who present complementary institutional strategies to incorporate the climate issue into their development agendas. As for Pillar 7 – Stance and Identity, it was developed in a broader manner, bringing together contributions from various organizations. This choice reflects the plurality of perspectives that have been shaping the debate on the role of Brazilian philanthropy in the climate agenda among the signatories.

PILLAR 1 EDUCATION AND LEARNING

TIDE SETUBAL FOUNDATION

In recent years, the Tide Setubal Foundation has made consistent progress in integrating the climate agenda into its areas of action, approaching this process not as an isolated effort, but as part of the institutional coherence that connects climate, race, gender, and territory. Between 2022 and 2024, the organization embarked on a path of in-depth learning that began at the bottom: a capacity-building process involving its own team.

This journey included moments of theoretical study, during which teams revisited international frameworks such as Kyoto, Durban, and the Paris Agreement, as well as fundamental concepts such as climate justice, mitigation, adaptation, and environmental racism. These contents were discussed in internal workshops and group training sessions involving around 30 people, creating a space for reflection and learning that went beyond theory. Readings from popular literature, such as *Quarto de despejo* (Child of the Dark) by Carolina Maria de Jesus, helped connect these discussions to the reality of Brazilian peripheries.

This training process did not end there. It contributed to strengthening a movement already underway within the foundation, helping to refine institutional and programmatic narratives and to align discourses and practices that give greater prominence to the climate issue. As part of this process, the budget began to

incorporate more explicitly the dimensions of race and gender, reinforcing the social justice perspective that guides the institution. In the territories where it operates, this broader view was also reflected in community mobilization, which led to the creation of local groups aimed at practical actions to address the climate crisis – such as the Environmental Working Group, focused on capacity-building activities, and women’s collectives that implemented community composting and gardens in the district of Jardim Lapena, in São Paulo.

The impact of this movement is evident in different areas of the institution. In the Cities and Urban Development Program, the climate agenda has been integrated into discussions on urban infrastructure and disaster prevention. In New Economy initiatives, sustainability is now embedded in peripheral production chains. In educational practices, the focus has shifted toward community resilience and adaptation.

By embracing the climate agenda as a cross-cutting principle, the Tide Setubal Foundation strengthens its ability to inform public debates and coordinate narratives about national reconstruction, socio-spatial inequalities, and climate emergencies. More than incorporating a new theme, the foundation reaffirms its mission of drawing on the realities of peripheries to inspire paths of transformation.



PILLAR 2 COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

FOUNDATION FOR AMAZON SUSTAINABILITY (FAS)

The Foundation for Amazon Sustainability (FAS) has shown how the commitment of resources can be decisive in transforming realities within territories marked by logistical, social, and environmental challenges. Operating in a state of continental dimensions, with limited road access and long river routes, the organization faces high operational costs and access barriers that demand creative strategies to ensure the continuity of its projects.

Amid this complexity, FAS has prioritized listening to demands of communities and aligning investments with their needs, placing climate adaptation and resilience at the core of its actions. Among the most notable initiatives is the implementation of integrated systems for water, solar energy, and internet access, in association with community governance councils. This combination provides not only infrastructure, but also autonomy and strengthened local management capacity.

In 2024, FAS promoted environmental protection across Conservation Units (UCs), Indigenous Lands, and Quilombola Territories in the Amazon, totaling 14.7 million hectares conserved. It also benefited 21,359 families, became the implementing agency for socio-environmental programs in three states, and achieved 34 independent audits approved without reservations. The challenges are significant: territorial isolation, lack of electricity in some areas, and the risks posed by illegal occupations increase both the costs and complexity of projects. Even so, FAS demonstrates that when resources are designed based on local realities and applied strategically, it is possible to build effective and lasting solutions.

By channeling resources directly to Indigenous Peoples, riverine communities, quilombolas, and community-based organizations, the Foundation shows that the right investment in the right place strengthens not only communities, but also an entire model for a sustainable future in the Amazon.



PILLAR 3 INTEGRATION

BAOBÁ FUND

The Baobá Fund for Racial Equity is an independent philanthropic endowment fund whose mission is to support national initiatives to combat racism and promote racial equity. The Fund reiterates the need to incorporate a perspective of racial, gender, generational, and territorial equity into all climate-related actions.

In Brazil, the impacts of the climate crisis are not experienced uniformly. Climate change exacerbates social injustices, disproportionately affecting Black, Indigenous, quilombola, terreiro (Afro-Brazilian religious temples), and other racialized communities, whose rights are often unacknowledged, unprotected, and unenforced. Although these communities are among the most affected, they remain invisible in many institutional responses.

In cities, where 87 percent of Brazilians live, black people predominantly occupy vulnerable territories with limited access to sanitation and infrastructure. These are the places where floods, heat waves, and landslides have the most severe consequences. In rural

areas, the climate crisis intensifies land and territory-related violations of rights, and directly threatens food security in the face of droughts and floods.

Based on this understanding, the Baobá Fund advocates that any strategy forming part of the climate agenda – whether mitigation, adaptation, or energy transition – must acknowledge the structural inequalities that shape access to rights and opportunities. Investments should place people and communities at the center.

This integrated approach repositions affected communities at the center of solutions, recognizing their knowledge, technologies, wisdom, regenerative and sustainable practices, as well as their experiences of resilience, resistance, and adaptation. By framing the climate crisis as both a driver and a consequence of issues related to rights violations, racism, and other forms of social oppression, the Baobá Fund broadens the horizon of possible responses and inspires different sectors and stakeholders to rethink their priorities in a more inclusive and transformative way.



VOTORANTIM INSTITUTE

In recent years, the Votorantim Institute has been increasingly incorporating the climate agenda into its territorial development strategies. The starting point for this process has been the effort to understand how climate change affects Brazilian municipalities in different ways, especially those with reduced adaptive capacity.

In this context, the Climate Vulnerability Index of Municipalities (IVCM) has become a key instrument. Developed by iV in partnership with the Brazilian Aluminum Company (CBA) and the Itaúsa Institute, the index measures cities' exposure and capacity to respond to extreme climate events, combining environmental, social, and economic indicators. The tool provides a detailed picture of local conditions, identifying where risks are highest and where there is potential to strengthen institutional capacity in public management. The IVCM broadens the understanding of sustainable development by enabling climate aspects to be incorporated into the socioeconomic analyses of companies operating in the territory, as well as by municipal managers across Brazil.

The application of the index has been fundamental in guiding engagement with public management in Brazilian municipalities – as seen in the Public Management Support for Climate Action program, implemented in partnership with companies from the Votorantim portfolio, the Motiva Institute, and the Itaúsa Institute. The program aims to contribute to risk mitigation and climate resilience in collaboration with municipal departments, civil defense agencies, and local communities. The IVCM supports this agenda by providing evidence on territorial vulnerabilities and helping to prioritize regions and populations most exposed to climate impacts.

As a public-access tool, the IVCM has also been used by organizations across different sectors to inform and prioritize decision-making. The Social Progress Index – an internationally recognized methodology – has incorporated the IVCM into its Brazilian version, for instance.

This connection between diagnosis and action illustrates the Institute's progress under the Integration pillar, which seeks to integrate climate, equity, and long-term development. By combining data, policies, and productive practices, the Votorantim Institute has demonstrated that the climate agenda should not be treated as an isolated issue but as an integral part of the economic and social dynamics of each territory. The systemic vision is thus expressed in the ability to articulate multiple dimensions – environmental, social, and institutional – within a single local development strategy.

The IVCM symbolizes this approach: more than merely measuring risks, it functions as a tool that analyzes evidence and supports decision-making. By adopting an integrated understanding of vulnerabilities and linking this data to initiatives that promote inclusion and sustainability, the Institute strengthens municipalities' resilience and contributes to a just transition grounded in knowledge, cooperation, and territorial planning.



PILLAR 4 ENDOWMENTS AND FUNDS

SICOOB INSTITUTE

Sicoob structures its sustainability strategy around three pillars: people, which represents its commitment to promoting financial justice and prosperity, ensuring shared value for all stakeholders; business, which demonstrates its role in sustainable development through financial services, ensuring responsible allocation of resources to drive local socioeconomic growth and strengthen the sustainable finance ecosystem; and territories, which reflects its commitment to boosting the local economy, structuring products and services adapted to regional economic characteristics, consolidating ties with communities, and promoting sustainable development in the territories where it operates. By acting in this way, Sicoob acknowledges that the climate agenda is an essential part of its mission to promote sustainable development.

In this context, the Sicoob Institute – the System’s Private Social Investment agency – plays a fundamental role. It acts strategically along three axes: cooperativism and entrepreneurship, financial citizenship, and sustainable development, ensuring that the cooperative purpose directly addresses the needs of communities.

Sicoob took a significant step forward by creating its first ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) Fund, aimed at acquiring shares in companies that adopt best sustainability practices. Created and managed by Sicoob DTVM, this fund ensures alignment between risk-adjusted financial performance and corporate sustainability in Brazil. Its impact, however, extends beyond the capital market: to strengthen the cooperative’s social impact, a portion of the fund’s management fee is directed to the Sicoob Institute, creating a virtuous cycle that directly finances its actions. This movement is driven not only by regulations from the Central Bank, CVM (Brazilian Securities Commission), and ANBIMA (Brazilian Financial and Capital Markets Association) – which encourage the financial sector to embrace sustainability – but also by the very nature of Sicoob, which integrates social, environmental, and climate risk, along with ESG criteria, into all its strategies. Sicoob ensures that sustainability is addressed in a cross-cutting manner, reaffirming the cooperative’s role as an agent of transformation capable of aligning financial strength with a positive socio-environmental impact for a fairer and more resilient economy.



PILLAR 5 OPERATIONS

JOSÉ LUIZ SETUBAL FOUNDATION

The José Luiz Setubal Foundation has endeavored to align its operations with sustainable practices that go beyond rhetoric and turn them into concrete actions. A notable example is the reuse of materials from its own events and activities. The banners used in the annual forums of *Infinis – Instituto Futuro é Infância Saudável* (Future is Healthy Childhood Institute), the Foundation's philanthropy and advocacy arm, as well as those from *Pensi Institute* and *Sabará Children's Hospital*, are repurposed into meaningful new products such as pencil cases and eco-bags. Similarly, tons of hospital uniform fabric are transformed into new items through partnerships with social enterprises.

This creative practice not only reduces waste, but also strengthens community ties. More recently, the production of these eco-bags has been carried out by a sewing cooperative composed mainly of women from *Jardim Lapenna*, in São Paulo – an area where the Foundation works to improve child health. This strategy connects environmental impact and income generation, showing how seemingly simple operational choices can have significant impacts. The idea is to use these eco-

bags at the Foundation's own events, reinforcing the logic of the circular economy and showing employees, partners, and society that it is possible to adopt sustainable and creative approaches in daily work.

The commitment to sustainability is also evident in the group's structural initiatives, such as its pursuit of Gold certification under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standard, an international benchmark for sustainable construction, in the construction of the new *Sabará Children's Hospital* facility. This investment embodies some of the project's core principles: conscious use of resources, user well-being, and energy efficiency.

By adopting sustainable practices in its daily operations, the Foundation shows that institutional operations are a powerful space for innovation. Every choice – from reusing materials to investing in sustainable infrastructure – communicates values and inspires partners, employees, and society to rethink their own practices.



PILLAR 6 INFLUENCING AND ADVOCACY

BAIXADA MARANHENSE COMMUNITY INSTITUTE

The Baixada Maranhense Community Institute has established itself as an active voice in networks and alliance building that strengthen the climate agenda from a local perspective. Through its community consultation methodology and work across rural, traditional, and hybrid territories in Maranhão, the Institute helps build alliances between networks, programs, and funds that strengthen the foundations of sustainable development in the Baixada Maranhense region. As a member of the Comuá Network and Aliança Territorial (Territorial Alliance), the Institute engages in discussions on financing, community philanthropy, and local solutions, bringing to national and international debate the perspective of a territory that resists historical inequalities and proposes concrete pathways toward a just climate transition grounded in the protection of those most affected by the environmental crisis.

Among its main areas of action is the management of two own funding sources: the Solidárias Fund, which supports collectives, movements, and communities in the territory, and the Sementes Fund, which promotes local bioeconomies and agroecological practices as the basis for a just transition. Both funds are connected to the Amazônia Baixadeira program, which integrates community resilience, income generation, and environmental conservation into a territorial strategy

for sustainable development. This experience is linked to ALTUS – Latin American Alliance for Sustainable Tourism, expanding the reach of practices developed in the region and inserting the territory into broader networks focused on low-carbon solutions, social inclusion, and territorial just transition.

Participation in the Transformando Territórios (Transforming Territories) Program – an initiative of IDIS in partnership with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation – has also strengthened Baixada Institute's advocacy and alliance-building capacity. In this space, the Institute sets a benchmark in community social investment and in practices that connect territorial development with climate action, drawing on the reality, voices, and experience of communities shared in 17 years of collaboration.

By building networks and connecting local practices with global agendas, the Baixada Maranhense Community Institute shows how influence can emerge from local experiences and spread to inspire other regions. Its work reinforces that advocacy and alliance building are not merely institutional strategies, but also ways to democratize voices and solutions to the climate crisis.



PILLAR 7 STANCE AND IDENTITY

VOICES OF THE SIGNATORIES

In this pillar, the focus is on the perceptions and reflections shared by various signatories during the monitoring process. As this is a theme specific to the Brazilian Commitment, it is particularly relevant to record what was gathered from the organizations – their concerns and lessons learned that have been shaping the field. The debate on stance and identity highlights the plurality of voices that make up Brazilian philanthropy in the face of the climate agenda: there is not yet a single, consolidated identity, but rather a multiplicity of formats, motivations, and pathways. This diversity, far from being an obstacle, can be seen as a distinctive feature that strengthens the perspectives of the Global South by valuing different approaches and sustaining an ongoing dialogue within the sector.

On the one hand, there is a recurring criticism of the concentration of resources among a few actors and biomes, generally in a top-down model originating from the Global North. Organizations such as Brazil Foundation and Casa Socioambiental Fund emphasize the need to democratize access to these resources so they can reach communities on the front lines of the crisis more quickly, flexibly, and strategically. This perspective aligns with the call for a more politicized, innovative philanthropy connected to the Global South, as pointed out by Baobá Fund and ISPN (Society, Population and Nature Institute).

Another significant contribution comes from Elas+ and from initiatives that highlight the intersections between gender, race, and climate. By pointing out that less than 1% of global philanthropy reaches women, the organization draws attention to the urgent need to reposition priorities and acknowledge women's leadership in food production, territorial management, and adaptation solutions.

There are also voices pointing out the need to translate climate language into local realities and to address the 'seasonality' of resources, which increase during COP periods and decrease at other times. Such fluctuations undermine the sustainability of community-based organizations and limit the development of long-term strategies.

Despite the differences, one clear point of convergence emerges: climate philanthropy in Brazil and across the Global South must assert its uniqueness by valuing local knowledge and historically marginalized territories, while also holding the Global North accountable for its historical responsibilities. The collective stance that arises from these diverse voices is not uniform, but it is powerful, as it transforms diversity into strength and reaffirms the centrality of communities in building sustainable futures.



PILLAR 8 TRANSPARENCY AND LESSONS LEARNED

UMANE

At Umame, the climate agenda has gained prominence through dialogue with supported projects and within the institution's Partner Network. In monthly meetings with partners, the theme of health and climate change emerged as a common agenda and led to concrete initiatives. Motivated by this collective process, the Partner Network – which has a working group focused on communication – organized the annual activities to include both a campaign and a workshop specifically addressing the intersection of these themes in light of climate phenomena and COP30.

The purpose of these activities is to broaden the shared understanding of how the climate crisis impacts health while presenting the integrated practices of partners in the context of climate solutions and helping to develop

projects and disseminate actions on the theme. This approach shows that learning together – by connecting different forms of climate mitigation and their impacts on health – creates a richer body of knowledge and disseminates the ability of organizations to provide successful responses.

More than just a sectoral agenda, health and climate change have become a meeting point for collective learning. Along this path, Umame's Partner Network shows that experience sharing and communication of impact are essential steps to transform knowledge into practice and strengthen the field in a collaborative way.

CONCLUSIONS

This report marks the end of the first monitoring cycle of the **Brazilian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change**. The systematized information reflects how some of the signatories have been incorporating the climate agenda into their institutional and programmatic strategies. The results show **diverse pathways**: some organizations have made consistent progress, others are in the process of structuring their efforts, and some still face more initial barriers.

The relevance of this effort is undeniable in a context where the effects of climate change are already evident in the daily lives of Brazilian communities. By joining the Commitment, **organizations demonstrate their understanding that climate change is not a side issue**, but one that intersects with key areas such as health, education, culture, racial equity, and territorial development. This understanding expands philanthropy's responsibility and reinforces its potential to contribute to more integrated and equitable responses.

The next step is to transform the lessons learned from this cycle into more continuous and consistent actions. This requires increasing long-term resources, strengthening alliance building, and empowering communities that experience the impacts of the climate crisis in their daily lives. The results presented here show that inspiring practices already exist and that there is a clear willingness to move forward. In this sense, the Brazilian Commitment serves as both a reference and a catalyst, pointing the way for Brazilian philanthropy to act in an increasingly coherent, collaborative, and effective manner in the face of the climate change emergency.



THE BRAZILIAN PHILANTHROPY COMMITMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS

The list below includes all organizations that became signatories of the Brazilian Commitment until September 2025. It is worth noting that the **data collected** for this report covers only the organizations that had already joined the Commitment by June 2025 and participated in the monitoring process.

ACP Institute

Alana

Arapyaú Institute

Baixada Maranhense Community Institute

Banco do Brasil Foundation

Baobá Fund

Beja Institute

Bem Maior Movement

Boticário Group Foundation

Brazil Foundation

Brazil Human Rights Fund

C de Cultura

Cactus Institute

Casa Socioambiental Fund

Climate and Society Institute - ICS

Co-Impact

Desiderata Institute

Elas+ Doar para Transformar

Feira Preta Produções

Foundation for Amazon Sustainability - FAS

Galo da Manhã Institute

Identities of Brazil Institute (ID_BR)

IDIS - Institute for the Development of Social Investment

JBS Fund for the Amazon

José Luiz Setubal Foundation

Maria Cecília Souto Vidigal Foundation

Mattos Filho

Neoenergia Institute

Porticus

Positivo Fund

Rede Amazônica Foundation

Roberto Marinho Foundation - FRB

Sicoob Institute for Sustainable Development

Sitawi Finanças do Bem

SLC Institute (SLC Group)

Society, Population and Nature Institute – ISPN

Tide Setubal Foundation

Toyota do Brasil Foundation

Umane

Unibanco Institute

United Way Brasil

Vale Fund

Volkswagen Group Institute

Votorantim Institute

**Institutions in bold participated as respondents in interviews and/or in the monitoring form.*

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Published by:

GIFE – Group of Institutes, Foundations and Companies

Support:

Instituto Itaúsa

Partnership:

Philanthropy for Climate

Supervision:

Cassio França and Gustavo Bernardino

General Coordination/Climate Agenda:

Pedro P. Bocca

Technical Coordination:

Gabriela Moreira

Editorial editing and review:

Natália Passafaro

Design and layout:

Marina Castilho

Images:

Agência Brasil, Pexels e Istock Photo

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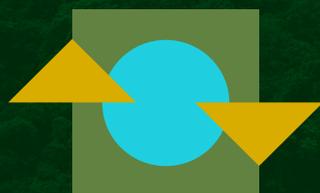
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