

UNFCCC COP 29 Proposal - Side Event

"Sustainable Infrastructure in the Amazon: Pathways for the Energy and Ecological Transition"

Proponent:

Uma Gota no Oceano

Collaborators:

IEMA, Conexão Povos da Floresta, Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB), National Coordination of Articulation of Black Rural Quilombola Communities (CONAQ)

Synopsis

The Amazon, with its vast natural heritage and the ancestral knowledge of its indigenous and traditional peoples, faces a paradox between its wealth and its socioeconomic vulnerabilities. Historical development policies, focused on the extraction of natural resources, have neglected local development, resulting in low human development indices.

This panel at COP-29 will address the complex dynamics of development in the Amazon, where predatory exploitation of natural resources coexists with the conservation of the biome. The mission to consolidate zero deforestation, essential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, must be balanced with the need for a just energy transition and the sustainable development of the region.

We will discuss the main logistical and energy challenges, as well as the major infrastructure projects planned, analyzing their risks for sustainable development and national climate goals. The panel will also explore how sustainable energy and logistical infrastructures can be integrated into the Amazon, stimulating regional development and promoting diversity in decision-making and biodiversity conservation.

Data from CONAQ and ISA show that 98% of quilombola territories are threatened by infrastructure works, mining, and agribusiness. CONAQ, through its projects, values traditional environmental management practices and encourages the use of renewable energies, promoting sustainable technologies. The 2023 IBGE census indicates that 32.1% of the Brazilian quilombola community is concentrated in the Legal Amazon, reinforcing the need to include these populations in the energy transition.

Furthermore, the technical note and the Climate Emergency Bulletin from COIAB, to be launched, highlight the importance of protecting traditional territories, linking this protection to robust environmental policies, indigenous economic initiatives, a just energy transition, and climate justice.

Integrating the perspective of traditional communities is essential for sustainable and inclusive development in the Amazon, strengthening local resilience and aligning with national climate goals and global sustainability commitments.