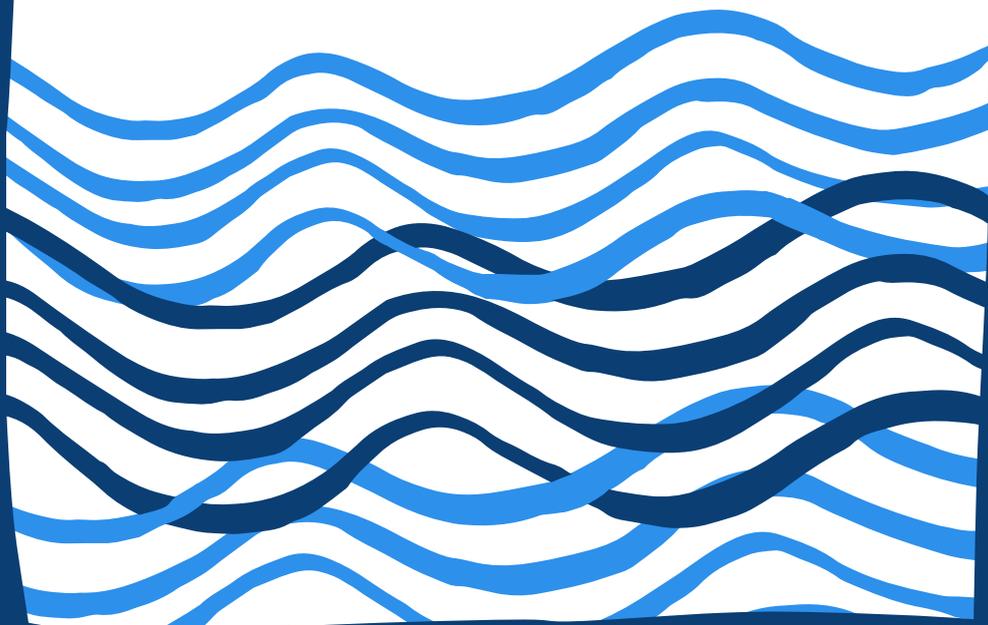


ALDEIA MÃE TERRA

Climate Rights Charter



CLIMATE RIGHTS CHARTER

ALDEIA MÃE TERRA

Aldeia Mãe Terra (Mother Earth) is part of the Cachoeirinha Indigenous Territory of the Terena people located in the municipality of Miranda in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. Situated in the Pantanal biome, the community survives the struggle of its residents, who, despite historical actions to care for the territory, still await the indigenous land demarcation. The name "Mãe Terra" was chosen by women during the recovery movement in 2005, when Terena warriors mobilized to recover their ancestral territory invaded by farmers. The community has more than 80 families and is a reference for the recovery of territory and strong organization among the Terena people of the state.

In 2007, two years after the retaking of the indigenous land, the Terena invited the KiniKinau people to come to the territory and fight together for the land. Finding strength in the union between two indigenous peoples, the Terena and Kinikinau people created strategies and tools to maintain the land and their standing.

The 1988 Brazilian Federal Constitution, in its article 231, recognizes indigenous people's original rights over the lands they historically occupy. The law also determines that the Union is responsible for the demarcation process and protecting these lands. The struggle of the elders for land demarcation has been going on since then, and the importance of this movement was passed on to younger people because the five-year period defined by the constitution for demarcation was never respected. The delay in this compliance has lasted more than 30 years.

An anthropological study on the indigenous land confirmed the territory's belonging to the Terena people, and it was published in the *Diário Oficial da União* (Official Gazette of the Union). There has been a promise to demarcate the Cachoeirinha Indigenous Land since 2007.



The right to land, water, and health were the urgent issues chosen by Aldeia Mãe Terra. It is already known that the loss of one of these rights automatically causes damage to the others. The “Terena and Kinikinau warriors” want to recover nature and live in harmony

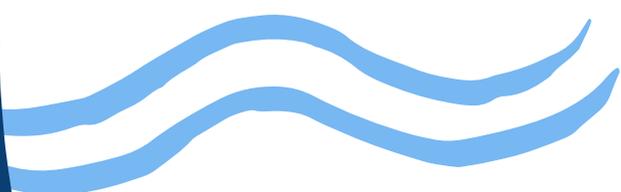
with it. Still, they suffer from climate injustice caused by the delay in demarcating their territory and the lack of access to fundamental rights.

In a logic of loss and damage, residents witness the deforestation of their forests and the drying up of their rivers, which has the direct consequence of the disappearance of fish, the arrival of diseases, and the lack of food. The elders remember when they lived in a forest without borders, a living forest. Reports indicate that farmers burned the forest to create pasture and did not control its spread, resulting in large fires worsened by the climate crisis. These actions resulted in the death of animals and trees, increased heat, and harm to the entire community.

To combat these cycles of consecutive absences, the community mobilizes in collective efforts to revitalize its territory with reforestation and recovery of springs. In a process that began with colonization, indigenous peoples are still trying to survive a process of decimation. The community residents recognize themselves as combatants of climate injustice and are unpaid climate workers.

““PEOPLE WILL REGRET WHAT THEY ARE DOING TO THE PLANET. BUT WHEN?”

– Maria Belizario, professora da aldeia



URGENT ISSUES CHOSEN BY THE RESIDENTS OF ALDEIA MÃE TERRA

1. RIGHT TO LAND DEMARCATION
2. RIGHT TO WATER
3. RIGHT TO HEALTH



***"THE AIR WE BREATHE COMES FROM
THE FOREST AND THE WATERS."***

LAND DEMARCATION

01. Land Demarcation

Demarcation now! The Cachoeirinha Indigenous Land was declared an indigenous territory in 2007 by Ordinance 791 following the FUNAI (Brazilian Justice's National Foundation for Indigenous Affairs) demarcation process. The process that began in 1984 has been at a standstill for 16 years. The Terena and Kinikinau peoples demanded the physical landmark of this measure, which has already been published in the Official Gazette of the Union. Furthermore, they require the approval and registration of 36,288 hectares of land to recover forests, springs, and indigenous people's way of life. This action is seen as a crucial measure to preserve the cultural diversity present in the territory and guarantee the recognition of Aldeia Mãe Terra as an integral part of the Cachoeirinha Indigenous Land.

In November 2023, after a lot of pressure, FUNAI technicians went to the territory to place the physical landmark. This is a fundamental step for the demarcation process to move forward, it will include the expropriation of areas of indigenous land that are currently private. During this process, on the other side, farmers are working with the Mato Grosso do Sul Environmental Institute (IMASU) to prevent FUNAI professionals from entering to recognize the physical landmarks of the Cachoeirinha Indigenous Land. Aldeia Mãe Terra has been denouncing the Mato Grosso do Sul Environmental Institute and the behavior of the state government. There are reports of the presence of civil police threatening residents and FUNAI technicians. Furthermore, reports emerged of farmers setting fires with authorization from IMASU itself to renew pastures in areas close to indigenous land, another measure to try to intimidate them. Public authorities must guarantee the safety of residents of the Cachoeirinha Indigenous Land and FUNAI professionals during the demarcation process. Residents also took a stand against the minority of farmers who own land in indigenous territory. For them, these investments must be made in public policies guaranteeing a dignified life for the local indigenous population.

LAND DEMARCATION

02. Self-management and Differentiated Education

The indigenous population needs to be heard and feel covered by the most basic public policies to guarantee their well-being, having difficulty accessing public services, such as schools and hospitals. Terena and Kinikinau are citizens who keep their original culture and language alive. To value these individuals, thinking about a differentiated education that embraces their way of life is necessary. The community believes their fundamental rights will be granted through the territory's cultural, social, and political self-management. This approach aims not only to meet basic needs but also to value and preserve the rich cultural diversity present in Aldeia Mãe Terra.



LAND DEMARCATION

03. Remuneration

With volunteer fire brigades organized by the indigenous people themselves, a population historically responsible for protecting the forest, residents seek to mitigate the effects of fires in the territory. All this work takes time and risks, which is why one of the measures required is compensation for the climate mitigation work carried out by them to recover the forest, both in the brigades and in the restoration of local vegetation and recovery of springs.

Another initiative to value this work is the guarantee of microcredit for indigenous rural production, carried out with environmental awareness. This includes the construction of greenhouses to protect plants from extreme heat, as well as a strategy to hire indigenous forestry agents to work in the territory.

"The land demarcation covers everything: the right to health, education, the right to land, the right to live and remain in the territory. Without land demarcation, there is nothing."



RIGHT TO WATER

01. Water Well Drilling

Although the Pantanal is known for its abundant water, the Aldeia Mãe Terra population constantly suffers from its lack. Therefore, it is essential to drill wells to guarantee access to quality water for all families in the community.

02. Water reservoirs for each family and a central one for the community

It is necessary to install piped water reservoirs for each family, along with an integrated water distribution network, and construct a central reservoir for the community. In short, the population is asking for access to essential sanitation tools.

03. Revitalization of rivers and dams

The climate crisis has caused a drought residents have never seen before, resulting in illness and difficulties in food production. The first step to mitigating the impacts of climate injustice on the community is cleaning rivers and dams and restoring springs. In addition to reducing droughts, recovery will help the population access quality drinking water.

"Water is everyone's right. Indigenous dignity now!"



“A Mãe Terra is being persecuted, and our right to health is being denied. Our People are getting sick, and we are not being helped. Indigenous health center now!”

An immediate and lethal effect of environmental racism and climate injustice in the community is on the health of the indigenous population. Among the problems reported are stomach pains, breathing problems, heart problems, and heat rash. The extreme heat linked to the lack of access to water is recommended for an insecure environment. Another factor that is directly related to the health problems of this population is the lack of access to public health units; the indigenous people of Mãe Terra report that the care does not take into account their culture.

01. Access to affordable, quality medical care that respects local culture

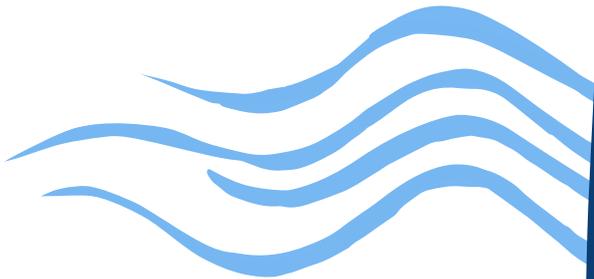
For families in Aldeia Mãe Terra to have access to quality healthcare, doctors and dentists must be present in the territory twice a week, with substitutes in case of absence, a car to serve patients who need a lot of time for medical treatment with the right to companions for the elderly and children, as well as, specific public competition for indigenous people and hiring in the health area close to the community. It is also necessary to value the original inhabitants who have their own healing culture. Therefore, the territory not only needs its own healthcare space for its population but also for UBS to use traditional medicines. This health space needs to encourage the use of traditional practices, for example, by bringing beds with medicinal plants to the health unit.

02. Food Safety

Access to other basic rights is fundamental to maintaining life, such as access to quality food in schools, monitoring agronomists in the fields, and providing basic food baskets.

03. Decent housing

Ensuring the health of this population involves enacting several core public policies. It is also necessary to understand health in the prevention of diseases, and it is essential to promote decent housing for families with sanitation, treated water, and the placement of garbage bins at strategic points in the community.



CHARTER CREDITS

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Methodology: The Climate Reality Project Brasil

Mobilization: Associação Mãos Unidas

Support: Instituto SOS Pantanal

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ABOUT THE CLIMATE RIGHTS CHARTER PROJECT

Climate Rights Charters are tools that allow the mobilization and engagement of territories, in the encounter of traditional knowledge with climate science, to present to society the priority demands of their communities for climate adaptation and mitigation measures. The residents determine these measures through the exchange of experiences and identification of the impacts already felt and in search of the defense of their rights and climate justice. The charter becomes an instrument for residents to become protagonists in leveraging solutions, occupying strategic spaces for speech and decision-making.

HOW YOU CAN COLLABORATE

Join us on this journey toward climate justice.

Whether you are an expert on the subject or someone who has just begun to be interested in climate, your contribution is valuable. Together, we can make a real impact and champion a greener, healthier world.

If you can collaborate with any of the measures requested by the territory, visit bit.ly/3MTe3FQ, and we will contact you.

The future is in our hands.

CLIMATE RIGHTS CHARTER



read the other charters



REALIZATION:



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