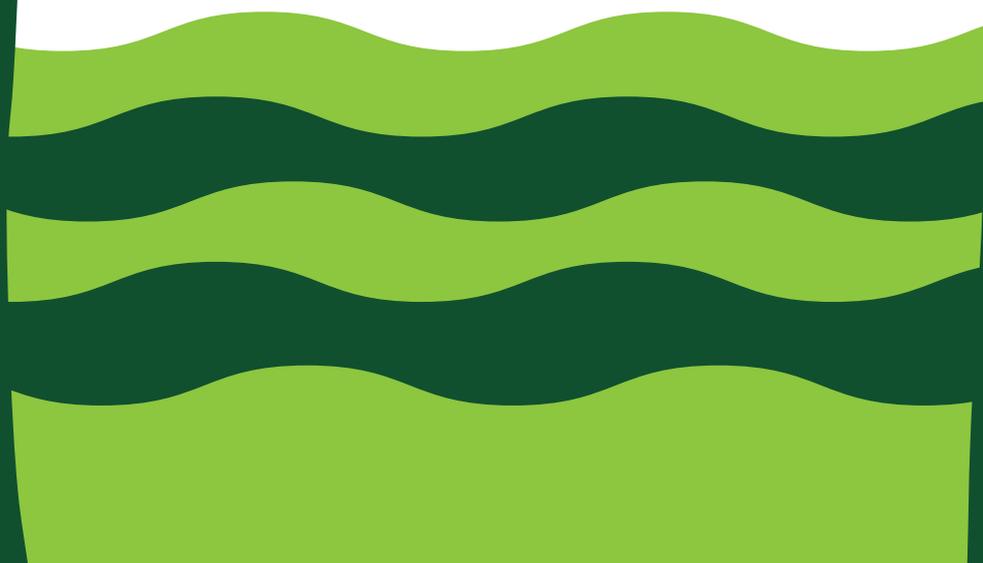


CARATATEUA

I S L A N D

Climate Rights Charter



CLIMATE RIGHTS CHARTER CARATATEUA ISLAND

“PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT COP-30 IN THE AMAZON, BUT WE ARE LIVING IN THE AMAZON EVERY DAY.”

Caratateua Island, or São João de Outeiro, popularly known as Ilha de Outeiro, is located approximately 35 km from the center of Belém, is the only beach island that serves the neediest communities in Belém via land and the closest to the capital. It is connected to the mainland by the Governador Enéas Martins Pinheiro Bridge. It has just over 63,353 inhabitants and 14,266 households, according to the 2009 management report from the Outeiro regional administration. People who, for the most part, live there, however, work in Belém or in the neighboring district called Icoaraci (BITENCOURT, 2016). According to Law: 7806 of July 30, 1996, the Island has four neighborhoods, which are: Itaiteua, São João do Outeiro, Brasília and Água Boa. The other regions, Fama, Fidelis, and Tucumaeira, are rural, although the population considers them neighborhoods. The Regional Administration of Outeiro/AROUT, which represents the Municipal Executive Power about Public Administration of a local nature and, thus, administers the 26 islands located in the insular area of the Municipality of Belém, considers the existence of another neighborhood: Água Crystal clear (BITENCOURT, 2016).

Despite being known by many by the name of Outeiro, the residents are making a movement to return to the original name of the Island, “Caratateua,” a name given by the indigenous people who lived there because of the yam, a tuber that was very present in the territory but which today, due to deforestation and the climate crisis, is almost no longer found there.

Caratateua Island has a higher population rate than other island areas in the municipality of Belém due to the installation of the road bridge that integrated the mainland into the island in 1986. However, public policies and urban infrastructure have not kept up with population growth. from the 1990s onwards. The lack of environmental and urban management led to the expansion of the urban area, the disorderly use of natural resources, and increased human activities.



Despite the bridge having reduced the degree of isolation, the island still depends on the services of the municipality of Belém. For this to materialize, it is necessary to construct short-, medium-, and long-term public policies aimed at increasing the island's autonomy

district so that local customs, preservation of the territory, and the well-being of residents are not lost.

Caratateua Island faces a series of severe impacts resulting from climate change and environmental racism, which significantly alter its landscape and quality of life. The loss of vegetation and fruit trees compromises the soil's behavior. At the same time, the degradation of native and riparian forests intensifies problems, affecting biodiversity and contributing to the increase in diseases caused by climate change, such as skin problems, respiratory illnesses, influence on menopause, and climate anxiety. Furthermore, the prolonged drought and excessive increase in temperature on the island negatively impact plantations, reduce rivers, and affect aquatic fauna, resulting in severe problems for local food security. In 2023, residents identified the delay in the arrival of the Amazon winter. Widespread deforestation, the reduction of green space, the disappearance of springs, and the silting of rivers and streams exacerbate the island's vulnerability. The population faces direct consequences, such as flooding in religious spaces, while they observe that the streets with neo-Pentecostal churches are almost all paved.

"I've lived on the island since I was little; I've seen many things change. People from outside come and change without paying attention to nature."

- Sheila Cristina



“Environmental racism on the Island is blatant. Hey, public authorities! This is leading peripheral communities to lose their homes.”

- Mam’etu Muagilè

Predatory tourism and the impact of the port contribute to environmental degradation, generating pollution, deforestation, and real estate speculation. The lack of infrastructure, especially in peripheral areas, aggravates problems, such as increased energy tariffs, many homes without access to essential services, unhealthy water for human consumption and costly property taxes, transportation problems, and water overflow of sewage to people's homes. These combined challenges result in socioeconomic impacts, affecting the local population's health, well-being, and food security.

Caratateua Island mobilizes comprehensively to face the challenges of climate change and environmental racism, encompassing social, environmental, and cultural initiatives. Initiatives such as the Eco Troca program, which exchanges recyclable materials for vegetables, and the Ecological Streets Project, which installs appropriate trash bins on public roads, stand out as efforts to promote recycling and environmental awareness and are recognized as initiatives that should be strengthened and expanded. The island also values its cultural traditions, encouraging the planting of sacred trees and carimbó cultural groups and the manifestation of the Pásaro Junino resisting in the territory.

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“I used to collect seasonal fruit on walks around the island between neighborhoods, just picking fruit from the trees. I can’t do that anymore; I can’t find the fruits anymore.”

- Ila Falcão

These community actions demonstrate Caratateua Island's commitment to building a more sustainable and resilient future, where environmental preservation is intertwined with cultural strengthening. However, these actions are still punctual and happen through many struggles from residents who need to be recognized and strengthened by the State through public policies to continue initiatives to conserve the territory's environment and way of life, ensuring residents' permanence on the island.



CORE ISSUES

01. BASIC SANITATION

02. SUSTAINABILITY

03. RIGHT TO CULTURE



“WITH ALL THESE IMPACTS, OUR BELOVED ISLAND OF OUTEIRO IS GETTING HOTTER AND HOTTER, REGRETTABLY ENDING THE PEACE THAT EXISTED HERE.”

“Seed! Don’t “cement”!

- Mam’etu Muagilè

The lack of basic sanitation on Caratateua Island uniquely manifests itself, highlighting significant disparities compared to the mainland of Belém. The absence of adequate assistance to local populations is exacerbated during the Amazon winter, resulting in recurrent flooding due to increased rivers. Predatory real estate speculation on the island, driven by its rich supply of beaches and streams, compromises the preservation of green areas and groundwater due to the implementation of inadequate septic tanks. This problem threatens environmental integrity and puts human health at risk, making access to drinking water impossible. The increase in infectious diseases related to the consumption of contaminated food and water and the spread of zoonotic diseases due to the degradation of natural respiratory protection barriers highlight the negative impacts of these precarious sanitation conditions on the island.

The demand for basic sanitation emerges as an essential need, cried out by those who face the absence of these vital services. The community aims for improvements and seeks urban planning that integrates sanitation without compromising leisure spaces. The aspiration is to position the island as a leader in the metropolitan region of Belém, boasting the best sanitation rates. Recognizing the interconnection between sanitation and health, the population highlights the importance of access to treated water for consumption and domestic use throughout the territory. Furthermore, promoting tree planting strengthens soils and serves as a natural filter for irrigation, contributing to environmental preservation. The call for more outstanding care for seafronts, the construction of cycle paths, and the preservation of sacred green areas reflects the community's commitment to sustainability. Additionally, maintaining existing forests and the reforestation of degraded areas, such as Praça do Pitão in Água Boa, are requirements to provide thermal comfort, especially in paved regions. The search for comprehensive basic sanitation on Caratateua Island is thus intertwined with quality of life, health, and

environmental preservation, reflecting the community's vision for a more sustainable future.

01. Implementation of a community urban cleaning system

On Caratateua Island, a community urban cleaning initiative seeks to involve residents in the weekly maintenance of streets and villages, including clearing and forest cleaning activities. Given the precariousness of solid waste collection, which often does not cover all neighborhoods equally, it is proposed that the city hall hire residents to play this role and ensure more comprehensive coverage. Furthermore, the implementation of the "Ecological Streets" project aims to place appropriate trash bins throughout the island, encouraging daily garbage collection and separation of recyclable materials in collaboration with local cooperatives. Proper waste treatment is emphasized, with the installation of recyclable bins in peripheral areas most affected by pollution. Strengthening the Ecotroca system, which encourages the exchange of recyclable materials for vegetables, enhances the connection between sustainability and community. Additionally, a daily garbage collection calendar by City Hall, weekly rubbish collection cars, and the strengthening of existing collectors and cooperatives are proposed, with the provision of material and space, training of environmental agents, and recovery policies, aiming to improve management of waste on the island. These collective actions, supported by active community participation, represent a significant step towards more efficient and sustainable urban cleaning in Caratateua.

02. Implementation of an environmental education project and creation of community environmental agents

It is proposed to implement popular and continuous environmental education hubs on Caratateua Island, with institutions that already work with popular educommunication and have mechanisms for engaging with the community. Based on traditional knowledge, these hubs will be formative, qualifying local Popular Environmental Agents to disseminate knowledge about education and the environment. It is also proposed that a Popular Education Plan on Environment and Climate be created to integrate environmental education agents into educational structures, promoting the training of community agents to monitor green areas and address mobility and waste separation issues. The proposal includes the creation of partnerships with schools to establish the hubs, also aiming to hire residents to look after squares and streets. It is noteworthy that education and training are considered fundamental to meet other community demands, and environmental education is perceived as a transformative and multiplier tool to create community agents committed to the collective good. Furthermore, the proposal highlights the importance of the State and its representatives assuming responsibility for environmental and health demands essential for the balance of Caratateua Island.



“Women stay at home, and when it rains, they remove the water that invades the houses because the husband is working.”

- Mam'etu Muagilè

03.Sustainable sewage system structure and ecological paving

A comprehensive approach to improving infrastructure is proposed. Ecological paving, such as soil-cement blocks or biofiber, is recommended to strengthen rainwater drainage, avoiding heat islands caused by cement, soil waterproofing, and groundwater contamination. It is necessary to implement a specific public policy for the island region of Belém to promote this form of paving. Furthermore, implementing a biodigester septic tank system protects groundwater and prevents flooding. Controlling real estate speculation, which affects septic tank management, is crucial to guarantee the effectiveness of these measures. Additionally, it is proposed to promote studies and training for community agents, students, and organized civil society on the topic of “Ecological Paving.” Technical visits by responsible agents and bodies to locations identified with problems to be resolved complement this initiative, aiming for a more sustainable infrastructure adapted to the needs of Caratateua Island.

“Caratateua: an island that pulses knowledge in a living circle, from generation to generation, cultivating traditions, sharing memories and building trajectories.”

The importance of cultivating sustainability on Caratateua Island is multifaceted, encompassing several dimensions crucial to the community's well-being and resilience. Implementing selective collection, community fairs, and improved public transport promotes sustainable practices and strengthens the local economy. Training producers supports sustainable production and boosts economic autonomy. Pedagogical tourism and environmental education are fundamental tools to raise awareness and involve the community in preserving their environment and confronting the climate crisis. The integration of communities, through the promotion of monthly meetings and better communication, promotes a collective understanding of the needs and challenges faced. The preservation of green areas, environmental inspection, public policies for river conservation, and the practice of agroecology contribute to a healthier and more balanced environment. Preservation and conservation actions, associated with strengthening the identity of the territory and integration between the school community and the local community, solidify a collective path towards a sustainable and resilient future for Caratateua. These demands are interconnected aspects that require careful attention and engagement from public authorities to meet the specific needs of the island, promoting a balanced and vibrant environment for future generations.

01. River Transport from Caratateua Island to the Center of Belém

River transport emerges as an essential solution for transportation and logistics on Caratateua Island, including a fixed route to the center of Belém. This initiative not only meets practical mobility needs but also offers crucial assistance for students, ensuring easy access to transport. This alternative becomes essential to face adverse weather conditions, providing a resilient option for the community's well-being. Furthermore, river transport contributes to reducing contact with urban pollution, granting a significant expansion of the right to the city and promoting a more sustainable and accessible way of traveling between Caratateua and the center of Belém.



“Our land is our organism. The more we conserve, the more we will have.”

- Gnosis

02. Conservation and preservation actions

The population of Caratateua Island demands actions to preserve and conserve the territory, highlighting the appreciation of local producers and the care and restoration of green areas. Through surveys and inspection, it is proposed to identify and monitor risk areas, protected areas, and deforested regions, aiming to create an action plan to combat the effects of climate change. Environmental inspections and specific public policies for the conservation of rivers and springs ensure the preservation of green areas. At the same time, agroecology must be promoted as a sustainable practice. Furthermore, in partnership with universities, a local fauna identification and monitoring project proposes to identify and protect species on the island, including implementing specific conservation actions. Support for local producers is strengthened by promotion and qualification actions and by creating an annual plan for local producers. These actions must be complemented with educational actions for the general population highlighted in demand 3 (three) below. These integrated initiatives reflect a comprehensive commitment to sustainability and preserving Caratateua's unique ecosystem.

03. Promotion of Climate Training and Education

Promoting climate training and education in Caratateua must be guided by integrating communities and recovering the island's environmental history, culminating in strengthening local identity. Initiatives such as creating community gardens and seedling nurseries by traditional producers can enhance sustainable practices, highlighting the importance of dialogue with African-based religions. It is also proposed to map and coordinate civil society organizations whose work covers climate issues on the island, aiming to strengthen the network to promote projects by the State and other partners. Another demand would be educational tourism, encouraged as a form of community integration, promoting monthly meetings to exchange knowledge and strengthen local identity. The in-depth qualification on climate change, combined with educational actions and training for residents, seeks not only to inform but also to give new meaning to spaces and promote a holistic understanding of environmental issues on the island, with the integration of the school community with the local community being fundamental. These initiatives reflect an integral commitment to climate education, aiming not only at knowledge but also at strengthening the community and building a sustainable identity for Caratateua.



“Culture is our immune system.”

- Marimba Ani

“Culture thinks, culture speaks, culture acts, culture can.” -

T.C.

“Caratateua is firm and fertile land, the cradle of living culture.”

- Maré Cheia

It is imperative to conceive and guarantee the right to culture on Caratateua Island, recognizing its relevance in preserving the territory's way of life in the face of the climate crisis and environmental racism. The absence of spaces prepared for cultural production and consumption in the face of extreme climate events highlights the urgency of creating resilient environments. Cultural spaces must be designed in collaboration with the community, ensuring a harmonious balance with local nature. It is essential to safeguard culture through ancestral knowledge, preserving valuable traditions, and strengthening the sense of belonging to the territory. Environmental education is necessary to raise awareness in the community about the interconnection between culture and the environment, highlighting the role of this connection in guaranteeing a dignified future for the territory's youth. The right to stay on the island is intrinsically linked to the preservation and appreciation of cultural manifestations, such as carimbó groups, the Pássaro Junino cultural manifestation, local football teams, square dance groups and support for local cultural associations and projects, such as the Tralhoto Leitor Library, Casa Preta and the Bamburusema Institute of Afro-Amazonian Culture. Respect for the masters, along with support for associations of collectors, artisans, and other cultural initiatives, is essential to strengthening and preserving the rich cultural tapestry of Caratateua Island.

“There is no terreiro, no terreiro.”

01. Space for art, culture, sociability, and memory designed together with the community, ensuring balance with nature, belonging to the territory, and construction with bioclimatic architecture.

The urgent need for a space for art, culture, sociability, and memory on Caratateua Island is a vital demand requiring a collaborative and sustainable approach. The organization of a Mobilization Campaign for this space, based on strengthening the community network, reflects the collective desire and strengthens ties between the island's inhabitants. Considering the impacts of extreme weather events in the region, it is crucial to create a place that serves not only as a cultural space but also as a place for political, cultural, social, spiritual, and climatic formation, specifically focused on Afro-Amazonian identity. The lack of spaces prepared to produce and consume culture during extreme events highlights the urgency of this endeavor. The proposed cultural space, with access to cinema, theater, and dance, must be designed with the community, ensuring balance with nature, and raising awareness of belonging to the territory, highlighting the importance of preserving local memory. Furthermore, promoting sociability spaces, such as squares with a theater, offer welcoming environments for the community to gather. Additionally, bioclimatic architecture in cultural spaces encourages energy efficiency and thermal comfort and demonstrates a commitment to environmentally responsible construction practices. This project, designed in close collaboration with the community, will meet immediate cultural needs, strengthen local identity, and promote sustainability in the heart of Caratateua.

"Knowledge about seeds has been passed down from generation to generation. I learned from my grandfather. Knowledge comes through orality and practice. It's a vital bond because it means listening to your elders and passing on this knowledge. Affection is an ancient technology!"

02. Education based on the territory's traditional knowledge about the environment, culture, and climate and youth mobilization in connection with childhood and griôs.

An education based on the traditional knowledge of the territory, addressing the environment, culture, and climate, stands out as a priority on Caratateua Island. The active involvement and appreciation of Masters of this knowledge in schools preserves local cultural richness and enriches the educational environment with authentic and contextualized knowledge. Integrating environmental education in this context provides an expanded understanding of the interactions between the community and its surroundings. Furthermore, it is essential to mobilize youth in line with their childhoods and griôs, providing varied activities, such as sports, leisure, art, and culture. This approach connects younger generations to traditional knowledge and fosters a sense of belonging, preserving, and transmitting the unique cultural richness of Caratateua Island.

03. Public policies for the right to remain on the island. Guarantee of work and access to financial resources, strengthening of agents, spaces, cultural points, and community associations with training based on exchanging knowledge between those who already practice culture in the territory.

Public policies aimed at the right to stay on Caratateua Island are essential to ensure cultural preservation and the guarantee of work and access to financial resources for residents. Strengthening cultural agents, spaces, cultural points, and community associations is essential, and this must be achieved through training based on the exchange of knowledge between those who already contribute to local culture and the promotion of projects that resist producing culture in the territory. Encouraging the "pull" of knowledge about the territory and promoting dialogue about development paths and partnerships are crucial to preserving traditions. Considering carimbó safeguards for local groups and recognizing June birds as heritage by IPHAN are essential to protecting cultural identity. Supporting masters in developing projects and accessing funding notices is a practical and necessary step to guarantee the continuity and prosperity of Caratateua's unique artistic expressions.



CHARTER'S CREDITS

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Methodology: The Climate Reality Project Brasil

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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.

“Caratateua Island of Rights” Campaign

The “Caratateua Island of Rights” campaign, created by Palmares Laboratório Ação, adds to the Construction of the Charter of Climate Rights of the Island of Caratateua, thinking from the communities that live in this territory, community solutions for basic sanitation on the Island and strengthening the engagement of community for climate and social justice. The campaign produces a Manual of Community Solutions on Sanitation to be delivered to the Municipal Sanitation Secretariat in search of concrete measures for the territory.

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ANOTAÇÕES

ANOTAÇÕES

CARTAS DE DIREITOS CLIMÁTICOS



Conheça as outras cartas

REALIZAÇÃO:



PALMARES LABORATÓRIO AÇÃO

APOIO:



PARCEIROS:

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ONG TIRANDO DE LETRA

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