

PALMAS DISTRICT

Climate Rights Charter



DISTRITO DE PALMAS

Pampa is more than a biome, it is a cultural territory. Farming defines the lifestyle of the population of the District of Palmas, a united community made up of family cattle ranchers, farmhands and rural workers, who carry out the activities of fencing, taming, squirreling, guasqueiro, domestic chores, herding, tramping, wool crafts and other knowledge and practices of the region. This tradition continues to be preserved and is part of the local fight for the conservation of the historical, environmental and cultural heritage that is Pampa.

But the landscape in the District of Palmas, located in the municipality of Bagé, in the heart of Pampa Gaúcho, has changed and is changing. The region, whose main economic activity is livestock farming, is now facing climate risks and the change of natural spaces such as soybean and eucalyptus plantations that are impacting the fields and the characteristic pampas biome, in southern Brazil.

Climate change and high market intervention in the biome have had direct impacts on the population's health and way of life. Residents have been suffering from pressure, stress and anguish due to the threat of mining companies installing in the region, which would affect their well-being. Since 2016, there has been a community struggle with actions aimed at preventing the presence of mining enterprises and the construction of hydroelectric plants on the bed of the Camaquã River, which represent more challenges for the population to remain in the territory, preserving the countryside and the biome. Despite the residents' victory against the Votorantim Group in 2022, with the withdrawal of the mining proposal in the territory, the community knows that mining has been trying to establish itself in Pampa, mainly in the Alto Camaquã region and that there will be other confrontations ahead.



"THE PEOPLE WHO PRESERVE ARE HERE!"

From the changing landscape to the disappearance of the region's native animals and lack of regular weather seasons, the biome's natural vegetation is disappearing. Climate change is affecting everyone, but especially traditional

rural communities who live in symbiosis with the environment and derive their subsistence from it. Residents notice the presence of excessive rains and extreme droughts, cyclones destroying vegetation and drought killing animals. This accumulation of consequences has made it difficult for the population to remain in the countryside, access food and water, removing young people from the territory and isolating this population from basic rights.



URGENT ISSUES CHOSEN BY THE RESIDENTS OF PALMAS DISTRICT

- 1. RIGHT TO LAND**
- 2. RIGHT TO HEALTH**
- 3. RIGHT TO EDUCATION**
- 4. ANIMAL WELFARE**



“THE TERRITORY NEEDS FORMS OF INCENTIVES THAT GUARANTEE THE PERMANENCE OF THE LOCAL POPULATION ON THE PROPERTIES”

Access to land is a constitutional right but despite being guaranteed by law there is no incentive from the state, this strategy could be a point towards sustainable development and the strengthening of family agriculture and livestock farming. Currently, family ranchers in the Pampas suffer from the lack of public policies that guarantee their existence and permanence, social justice is demanded. The rural world has changed and today there is a challenge in ensuring the permanence of young people in this territory. Difficulties in accessing land and climate change impacts in the biome make rural subsistence economic activities uncertain, which harms the future of this culture and local communities.

01. Policies to prioritize locals in land acquisition.

There is a lack of incentive and public policies aimed at the daily lives of rural communities. Ensuring the permanence of these family ranchers is to promote more sustainable rural and agricultural development for our country. Strengthened rural work expands more sustainable agriculture and livestock, increases food production and moves us away from food insecurity. It is necessary to expand access for micro and small rural producers to financing for the purchase of land, but also to create incentive lines to guarantee the continuity of this process and also the permanence of those already in these areas.

02. Respect for the right to property. Transparency of information about the bureaucracy to be carried out to regularize properties.

The right to property is crucial for empowering communities, promoting social justice and preserving the environment. Its effective implementation requires a holistic approach, involving legislation, public policies and practices that respect and protect people's rights in relation to land.

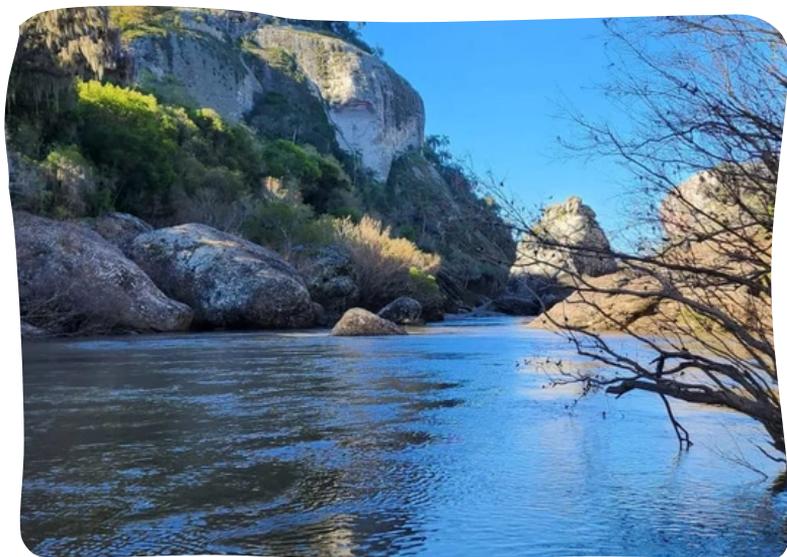
It is therefore up to public institutions to present the guarantees of the right to land, in essence, as a way of protecting individuals, communities and vulnerable groups against arbitrary expropriations, guaranteeing legal security and promoting equity in access and use of land. The federal government is aligning programs that aim to maintain the population's territory and this must be configured at a subnational and territorial level, through benefits for staying in the spaces.

Furthermore, ways of recognizing ownership of the property must be provided, listing less bureaucratic requirements to justify lifetime access to the respective properties located in rural communities and which are affected by the lack of state incentives to produce. There is a need to prevent the advancement of deterritorialization processes, as they go against the socioeconomic and cultural purpose of the population of Palmas. Questions of identity and property distribution policies need to link tools that respect the self-determination of property management, taking into account sustainability values.



03. Instruments and resources that encourage permanence on the land.

Rural credit lines are another essential step in the process of preserving the pampa biome and culture. In addition to being a step towards access to land, credit also encourages rural workers to make investments in infrastructure and equipment. This type of financial dedication encourages people to stay in rural areas, but land is not enough, the development of the environment is also necessary. It is necessary to make improvements in everything that revolves around the land, these workers need good roads, quality electricity, access to drinking water and health services - fundamental rights for anyone's life. Investing in these basic rights makes rural areas more attractive for people, guaranteeing quality of life.



“THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY IN DECISION-MAKING ON HEALTH POLICIES IS FUNDAMENTAL.”

The lack of access to health services and climate conditions have directly impacted the lives of residents in the heart of Pampa Gaúcho, southern half of Rio Grande do Sul. The absence of public transport, food insecurity and the socio-environmental threats of mining are some of the challenges that significantly influence the mental and physical health of communities in this territory, especially when there are long periods without medical assistance, lack of electricity and limited road infrastructure.

Guaranteeing the right to health is essential and, although it is recognized by the constitution, it is not yet a reality in rural areas, which still require a specific approach to guarantee equitable access to health services. To achieve this reality, it is crucial to involve the community in decision-making, only then will we arrive at culturally sensitive and appropriate solutions, prioritizing what is urgent for this community, such as disease prevention and control and training residents in the health sector.

01. General practitioner and specialists working at the territory's Basic Health Unit on a regular basis and with antivenom available.

The presence of a general practitioner at the health center twice a week is required, and the availability of care with rotating specialists, such as: psychiatrists, physiotherapists and psychologists. One step that will guarantee this future is the training of more personnel, for this it is important to create training programs for health professionals in these regions and also incentives for them to remain in the community. An important step towards ensuring this constant routine of care is the construction of more clinics and rural pharmacies, expansion of telemedicine services, transport for patients and telemedical care. Residents and medical staff need adequate infrastructure, health spaces that increase lo-

cal awareness about the importance of vaccinations, create routines and programs to control vector-borne diseases, expand information on hygiene and sanitation, among others. Furthermore, the availability of antivenom at the local health center for snake bites is vital given the characteristics of the region.

02. Frequent maintenance of roads and public transport on a regular basis.

The territory constantly suffers from the precarious conditions of the roads that make it difficult for residents to move around, which worsens considerably with the increase in the frequency and intensity of rain in the region, making it impossible for families to move around the territory and further isolating the residents of the place who it is already marked by long distances from basic services such as supermarkets, schools, health centers and even between properties. Therefore, the residents of Palmas demand the constant maintenance and gravel work of local roads, an issue that is an emergency in the face of the climate crisis so that the roads do not make it impossible for SAMU to arrive or for residents to purchase food and medicine in the face of heavy rains. Furthermore, currently, public transport runs only once a week in the territory and only runs along a few corridors. In most of them there is no transport, in those that still exist the poor maintenance of the roads often prevents their circulation, as well as school vehicles. The community of Palmas demands the guarantee of regular public transport circulation in the region, at least twice a week in all corridors.

03. Speedy maintenance of the electrical network when there is a power outage and training of professionals.

Faced with the heavy rains that impacted the region in 2023 because of cyclones in the southern region of the country as a result of El Niño and the climate crisis, several families in Palmas were left without power for several days, which even led to the loss of stored food and medicine. Therefore, the community demands a faster response from the electricity company to maintain the network in the region in the face of climate impacts. As well as the training and appreciation of professionals who work in this maintenance.

“ANYONE WHO NEEDS INSULIN CANNOT GO 17 DAYS WITHOUT ELECTRICITY.”



“LOCAL EDUCATION IS AN INSTRUMENT THAT GUARANTEES THE INTERPRETATION OF WHAT AND HOW THE TERRITORY IS CONSTITUTED”

Every Brazilian child must have access to public and accessible education from the countryside to the cities, it is the state's duty to make this right as equal as possible. Education includes many layers of public policies ranging from schools with good infrastructure to trained teachers, security and transportation. The guarantee of this system is what allows students to have all the resources available for their learning. If this child lives in the countryside, it is also necessary to look at this territory. Residents want more schools and more contact with education professionals, for education and rural culture to be part of everyday life in these spaces and also in classes. To achieve this, it is necessary to train more teachers, integrate the community more with the school routine and also make learning more linked to rural life.

01. Rural Technical School and a University Campus

Rural people have specific local needs, it is necessary to prioritize a teaching methodology and teaching that takes the territory into the classrooms. This is a guarantee of a more inclusive education for students and a better future for the entire pampa, including the appreciation of traditional knowledge, which is one of the keys to preservation. To achieve this, it is necessary for the government to promote educational development that at all levels helps students understand the importance of the local attributes of their territory, such as the ecosystem in which they live, the Pampa biome itself, productivity and the landscape as a whole. In addition to creating more new school structures and teaching spaces, this exchange between field and classroom will only be complete with community involvement. The active participation of rural workers in the management and improvement of schools is crucial. This includes forming school committees and establishing partnerships between schools and territories.

02. Improvement of schools: roads, regularity of classes, quality of teaching

There is a lack of public education equipment that is easily accessible to the population, to change this we need to create more schools but also improve the infrastructure around these spaces. The regularity of classes also depends on this, with more accessible roads and more transport running, it will be possible to create greater proximity between the teaching space and the territory, thus ensuring that it is possible for the academic calendar to be followed, both by teachers and students. Another point is the creation of incentive policies for rural teachers, fundamental pieces to guarantee the continuity and sustainability of these territories. Therefore, it is important to implement policies that encourage teachers to work locally, providing financial incentives, training programs and professional support.

03. Teaching Youth and Adults in the territory

The right to quality education in rural areas is essential to empower rural communities, promote sustainable development and improve the quality of life of people living in these areas. However, to fully guarantee this right, educational policies and practices must be adapted to the specific needs of rural areas. Due to the needs of work in the field and the territory's way of life, school dropout is very common in the locality. This look from the macro to the micro will ensure that everyone in the Palmas District has the opportunity to receive a quality education. A tool that can play an important role in this adaptation to the reality of the countryside is Youth and Adult Education. But to guarantee learning there needs to be access to the necessary infrastructure, the city hall needs to be engaged with this issue.

“THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS CAN IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS OF THE PALMAS DISTRICT, CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD SECURITY AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY”

The quality of life of people in rural areas is even more linked to the life of the local fauna and flora. From an integrated logic, ensuring animal welfare also means combating poverty in rural areas. We need to invest in public policies that help take care of these relationships so that rural workers can guarantee a dignified life for their animals in line with agricultural practices and sustainable livestock farming, in every sense. Today, the basics are lacking, families in the territory suffer from a lack of government assistance to deal with the challenges of dealing with low income and the need to invest in food, veterinary care and adequate facilities for animals. In addition to resources and infrastructure, these families need technical assistance programs so that they can develop tools to promote animal welfare in rural areas. This can help improve the treatment and living conditions of animals in rural areas and also optimize the use of financial and land resources.

In the last drought, in the summer of 2023, many family ranchers lost herds due to a lack of support to buy feed or graze, as the native countryside died with the drought.

01. Valuing local products and improving logistics with access to commerce and maintenance of dams, in addition to government assistance in the event of extreme weather events.

There needs to be an incentive for local products, for them to be available in surrounding businesses and also for there to be less bureaucracy in commercial transactions so that rural workers can make this flow. Valuing this market means valuing native pastures, sustainable agriculture and the development of the entire population of the territory. The maintenance of reservoirs and access to water is related to the prolonged drought experienced by residents in recent years and road maintenance after heavy rains is also essen-

tial for the flow of production in the face of the challenges posed by the climate crisis.

02. Preservation of the pampas biome, valorization of native pastures, preservation of the natural water course and biodiversity.

Sustainability in the countryside depends on valuing animal welfare as well as agricultural and livestock practices concerned with cleaner development and concerned with maintaining the biome's biodiversity. More awareness and training is needed to promote a rural cycle thinking, in the long term, concerned with the preservation of reservoirs and native landscape. But this local thinking about the future must also be guided by the state. More regulations and policies are needed to create minimum standards of animal care, regular inspections, handling, transportation and incentives for the adoption of good practices.

03. Supplementary food: fair price, logistics, storage. Professional assistance in all properties with the appreciation of local knowledge.

The drought and the lack of incentive and appreciation of local products are among the challenges that keep rural workers away from a fairer and more sustainable production system for both themselves and their animals. The lack of drainage, which contributes to rural poverty, results in a lack of funds to invest in good products. With diseases, ticks, very expensive food, medicines and lack of access to information and professionals who can provide assistance, the population struggles to survive and care for their animals.

CHARTER CREDITS

Realization: The Climate Reality Project Brasil e Associação para a Grandeza e União de Palmas

Methodology: The Climate Reality Project Brasil

Mobilization: Associação para a Grandeza e União de Palmas

Authors of the Charter: Ademir Nogueira Rodrigues, Alberto Gonçalves Rodrigues, Angela Marcia Colares, Antonio C. G. Dias, Claudete Lopes Vernieri, Danúbio Franco Jardim, Daiane Bitta Gonçalves, Débora Schneid, Edson Inácio Fernandes Cabral, Flávio Marcelo Plotzki, Francisco Eduardo Fernandes Cabral, Genival Carvalho, Irany Pereira Franco, Jerônimo Medeiros Jardim, João Eduardo Vieira Franco, João Francisco Coelho, João Nadir de Oliveira Martins, João Nicolao Santana Legel, Josiane Martins, Karina Torma Cholante, Luis Mário de Oliveira Mesquita, Loiva Beatriz Soares, Mara R. F. Carvalho, Márcia Colares, Marco Antônio Vernieri, Maria Zulmira Morrudo, Maria Claudete Franco Pires, Mario Alves, Nathalia Brandes Décimo Rodrigues, Neli Kidriski Bicca, Patrícia Ennes Ramos, Paulo Antônio Souza Rodrigues, Pedro Gabriel, Régis Luiz Marques Colares, Renata Delgado Rosa, Reno Ramos Rodrigues, Rodrigo Colares da Silva, Rogério Soares Cholante, Ruan Ramos Rodrigues, Sergio Sola, Solange da Silva Franco, Suzana da Silva Morrudo, Vera Colares, Victoria Breda Meotti, Zair F. da Silva, Zanete Medeiros e Zilo Antônio Traçante Machado.

Local Articulator: Débora Schneid, Márcia Colares e Vera Colares

Meeting Facilitators: Carmynie Xavier, Isadora Gran, Julia Caon e Renata Moraes

Text: Luize Sampaio

Revision: Isadora Gran

Translation: Isadora Gran

Layout: Luane Teixeira

Coordination: Isadora Gran

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:



The Climate
Reality Project
BRASIL



SUPPORT:



www.climaterealityproject.org.br