



CLIMATE LITIGATION, CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEMS

**Heads of Prosecution Services Forum for the Conference of the Parties to the United
Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - COP 30**

Belém/PA, October 22, 2025

Luiza Cristina Fonseca Frischeisen
Associate Prosecutor General
Head of the 4th CCR

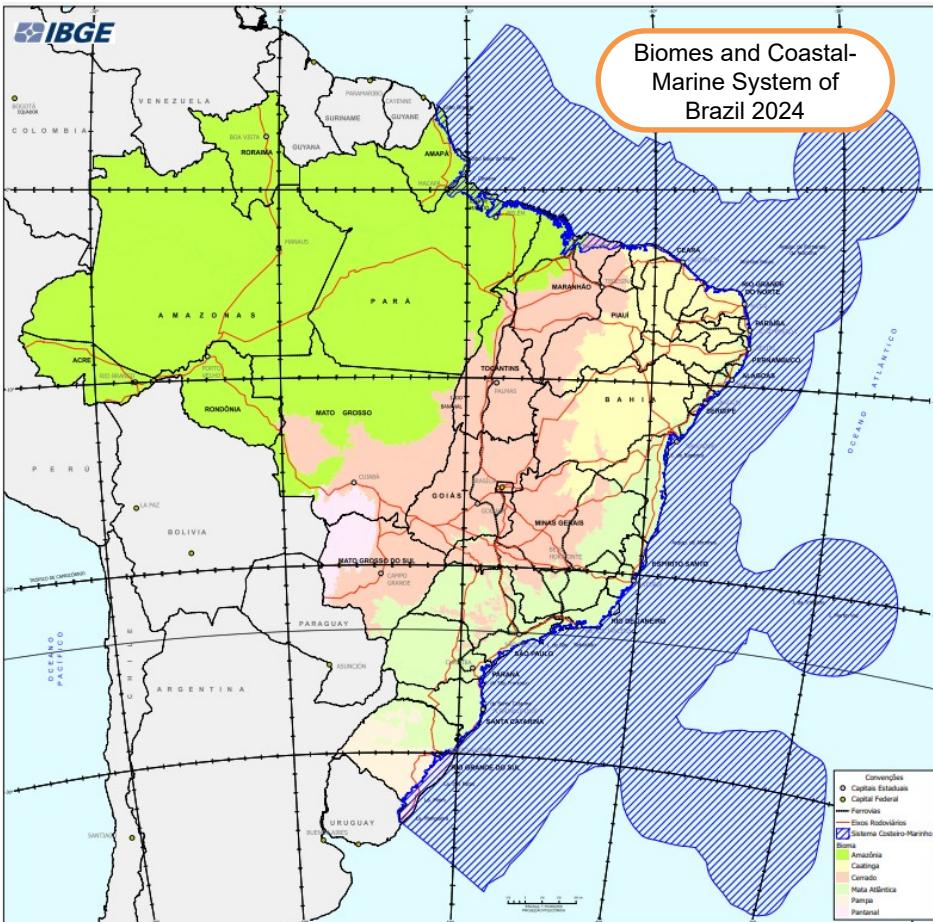
Initial Considerations



Photo: Agência Brasil

- The global climate crisis is a reality that challenges us all and impacts the planet asymmetrically.
- Brazil, with its megadiversity, stands on the frontline of this crisis.

Brazilian Biodiversity



- Brazil encompasses **six continental biomes**:
 - Amazon
 - Atlantic Forest
 - Cerrado
 - Caatinga
 - Pampa
 - Pantanal
- In addition to an extensive coastal zone, these ecosystems possess unique and irreplaceable cultures and environmental services.
- The degradation of these biomes is closely tied to climate change, and vice versa.

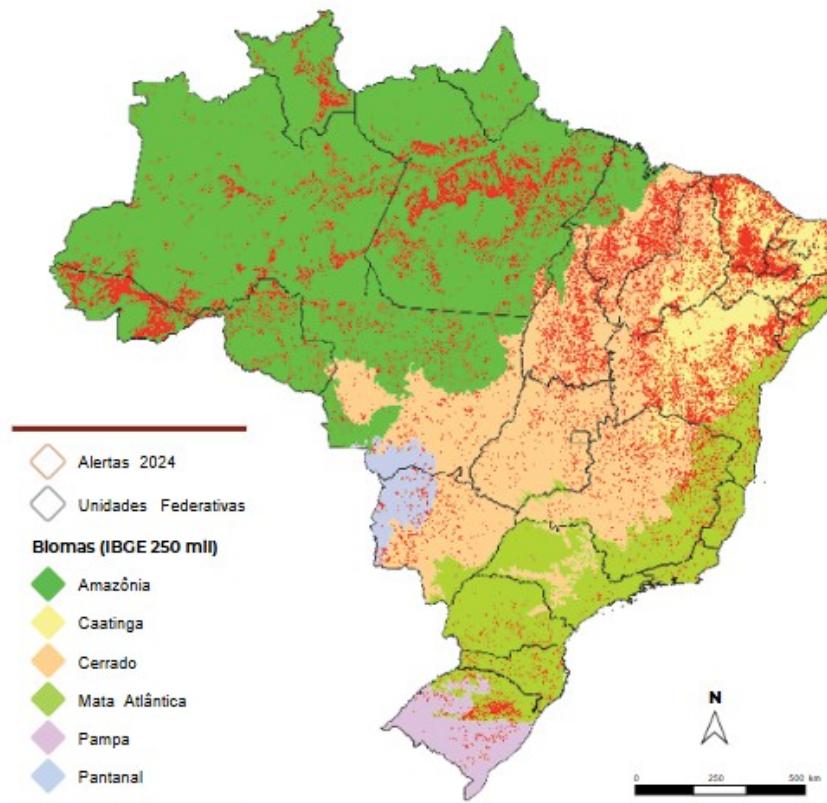
Climate Emergencies in Brazil

- Brazil recently recorded its worst drought in 75 years, followed by devastating forest fires with direct impacts on the Pantanal and Amazon.
- Intense rainfall that led to an unprecedented socio-environmental tragedy in the south of the country.
- Vulnerability to climate change versus criminal anthropogenic actions

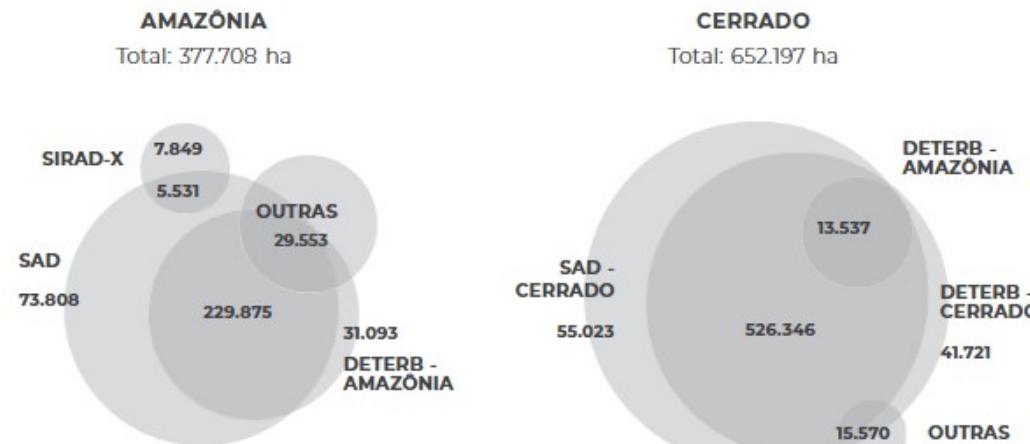


Photo: José Cruz/ Agência
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Climate Emergencies in Brazil

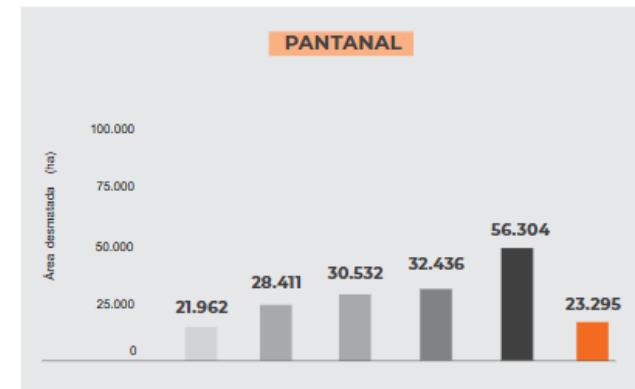
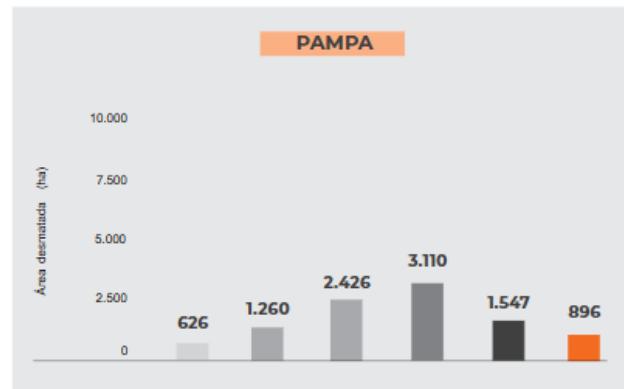
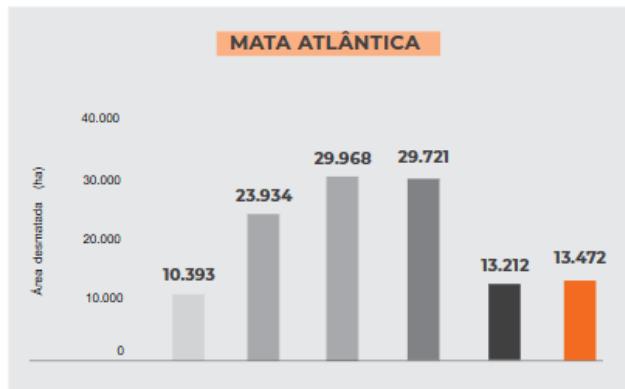
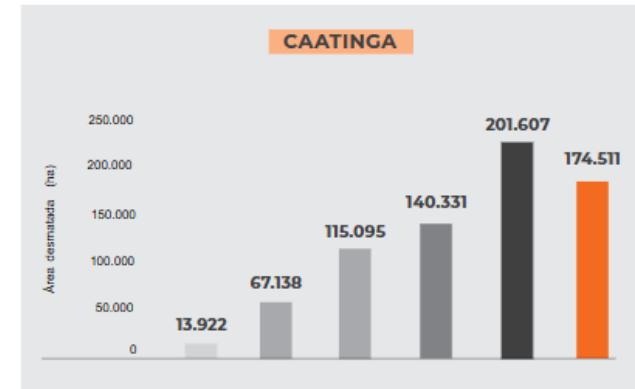
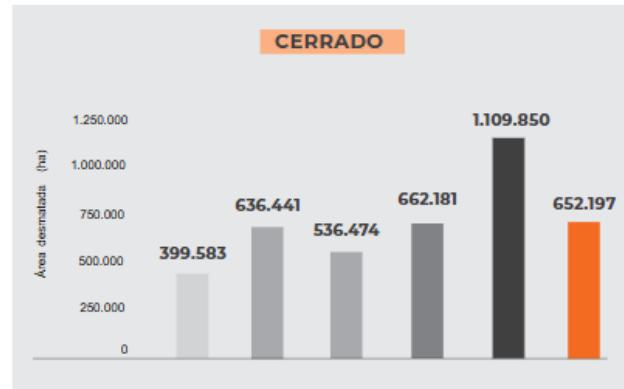
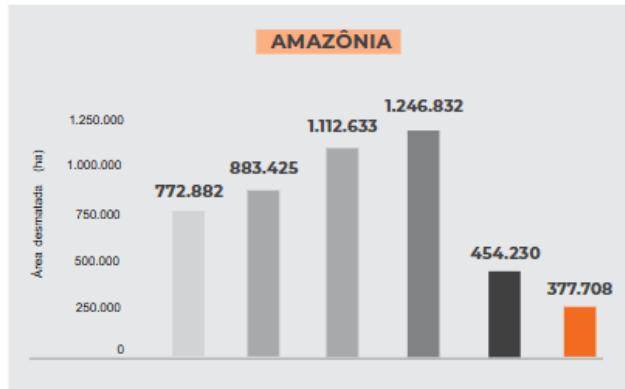


Map of deforestation alerts in Brazil in 2024. Source: [https://alerta.mapbio
mas.org/rad-2024/navegue-pelo-relatorio/](https://alerta.mapbio mas.org/rad-2024/navegue-pelo-relatorio/)



- In 2024, more than 82.9% of deforested area occurred in the Amazon and Cerrado biomes.
- The removal of this vegetation is one of the main sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the country

Climate Emergencies in Brazil



Annual deforested area by biome (hectares) from 2019 to 2024. Source: <https://alerta.mapbiomas.org/rad-2024/navegue-pelo-relatorio/>

Climate Justice and the Role of the MPF

- Climate justice provides a framework through which injuries and threats to the rights of the entire community emerge;
- The State Prosecution Services, and especially the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, have a duty to defend these rights and combat crimes provided for in international treaties and conventions;
- Our civil initiatives aim to defend the right to a balanced and preserved environment;
- The environmental area is a priority for the MPF, with numerous planned and executed initiatives for the protection of Brazilian biomes and our coastal zone.



Photo credit: Ebert Paulo/Agência Pará

Climate Justice and the Role of the MPF

- **Climate litigation** represents a strategic legal mechanism for addressing the climate emergency.
- It encompasses judicial and administrative actions involving issues related to:
 - Reduction of GHG emissions (mitigation)
 - Reduction of vulnerability (adaptation)
 - Damage reparation (loss and damage)
 - Climate risk management
- Our actions aim to hold agents responsible for environmental damage accountable, which includes targeting large corporations. We focus on **corporate responsibility** with particular emphasis on **supply chain management**.



Enccla Report: Action 03/2024. Source: <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/sua-protecao/lavagem-de-dinheiro/enccla/acoes-enccla>

Climate Justice and the Role of the MPF

- **Climate justice** faces the critical challenge of proving the causal link between a company's conduct and specific climate damage.
- **Supply chain traceability systems** provide an essential evidentiary link:
 - They prove that raw materials (cattle or soybeans) do not originate from illegally deforested areas or that production did not occur on invaded indigenous lands, conservation units, embargoed areas, or in violation of human rights.
 - Transparency and verification are essential
- Robust traceability serves as a defense against greenwashing.



Enccla Report: Action 03/2024. Source: <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/sua-protecta/o/avagem-de-dinheiro/enccla/acoes-enccla>

Climate Justice and the Role of the MPF



Photo Agência Brasil archive

- The MPF employs **technological tools** in conjunction with multifaceted action, ranging from **strategic judicial actions to consensual solutions**:
- **Legal Meat Program:**
 - Regularization of the livestock production chain in Amazonas through agreements (Legal Meat TAC) with the largest meatpacking companies in the region, which committed to purchasing raw materials only from rural producers who do not engage in illegal deforestation
 - Recent results from the second unified cycle of audits: **slaughterhouses that signed the Legal Meat TAC with the MPF and contracted independent audits have 13 times fewer irregularities than the others.**

Climate Justice and the Role of the MPF



Illustrative image: Marcelo Camargo / Agência Brasil

- **Green Grain Protocol and Soy Moratorium:**
 - Sustainable development initiatives encouraged by the MPF and pioneering instruments recognized internationally.
 - Strategic premise: **agreements with the central actors of the production chain—grain companies** that commit to actively monitoring their suppliers and ceasing purchases from farms with irregularities in the Amazon biome.

Climate Justice and the Role of the MPF

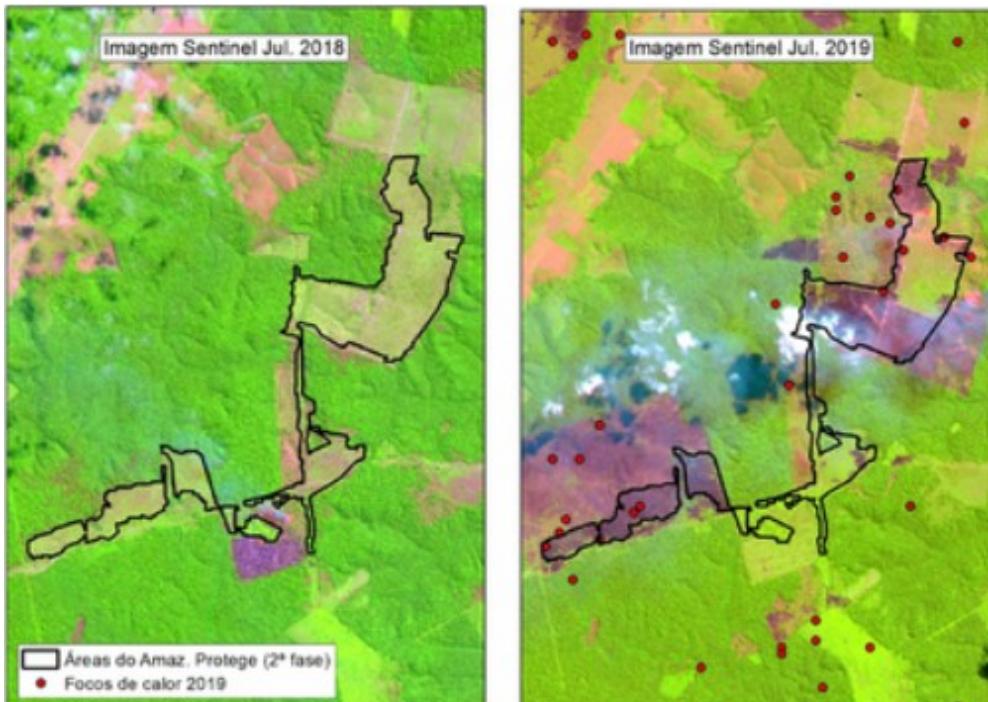


Illustration taken from the report

- **Amazon Protects Project:**

- A climate litigation tool against illegal deforestation
- Uses satellite imagery and cross-referencing of public data to file public civil actions against those responsible for illegal deforestation of areas larger than 60 hectares recorded by Prodes/Inpe.
- Demands compensation for damages caused and restoration of degraded areas

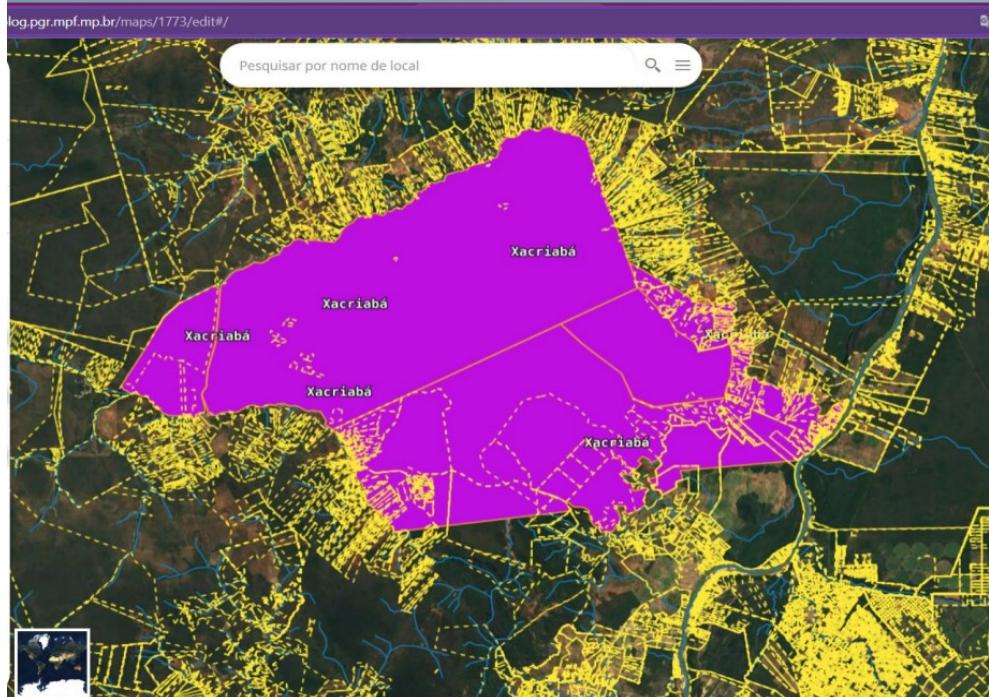
Climate Justice and the Role of the MPF



Photo Tapajós leader

- **Combating Illegal Mining and Gold Prospecting:**
 - Combat the use and trafficking of mercury, especially in gold mines in the Amazon, which has generated devastating consequences for public health, the environment, and the sustainability of local communities by contaminating rivers and fish.
 - Territorial protection, recognized as an essential climate strategy
 - Manual on [Illegal Gold Mining in the Amazon](#)

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- **GeoRadar Tool:**

- A tool created in partnership with the German government and a Brazilian university, aimed at protecting traditional populations and the environment through cross-referencing of geographic, demographic, and economic data that enables mapping of infractions and environmental crimes.
- The platform also facilitates identification of wildlife trafficking routes and the existence of rural properties overlapping indigenous lands and/or conservation areas

Climate Justice and the Role of the MPF



Foto: Christel Sagniez por Pixabay

- **Wildlife Trafficking:**

- We are working to create a national and international network for the protection of wild animals and to encourage interaction among environmental inspection agencies, police, and the Prosecution Service to combat national and international trafficking, including illegal hunting activities and captive maintenance.
- [Recent MPF action: denunciation of seven individuals for wildlife trafficking in a reserve in Espírito Santo. The investigation revealed a criminal scheme operating across Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro, with chauá parrots and other species as primary](#)

Criminal Action No. 5002632-62.2025.4.02.5005.

Climate Justice and the Role of the MPF



Photo: Marcelo Camargo/ Agência
Brasil

- **Carbon Market:**

- Strengthening transparency of information about carbon credit projects to guarantee social participation and respect for the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for indigenous peoples and traditional communities.
- Addressing the vulnerability of the market (REDD+) to organized crime and land grabbing due to lack of specific federal regulation—regulation that is crucial to avoid conflicts and unequal distribution of benefits, ensuring that the market is not exploited improperly.
- [MPF launches action roadmap to strengthen protection of traditional peoples in the context of the carbon market](#)

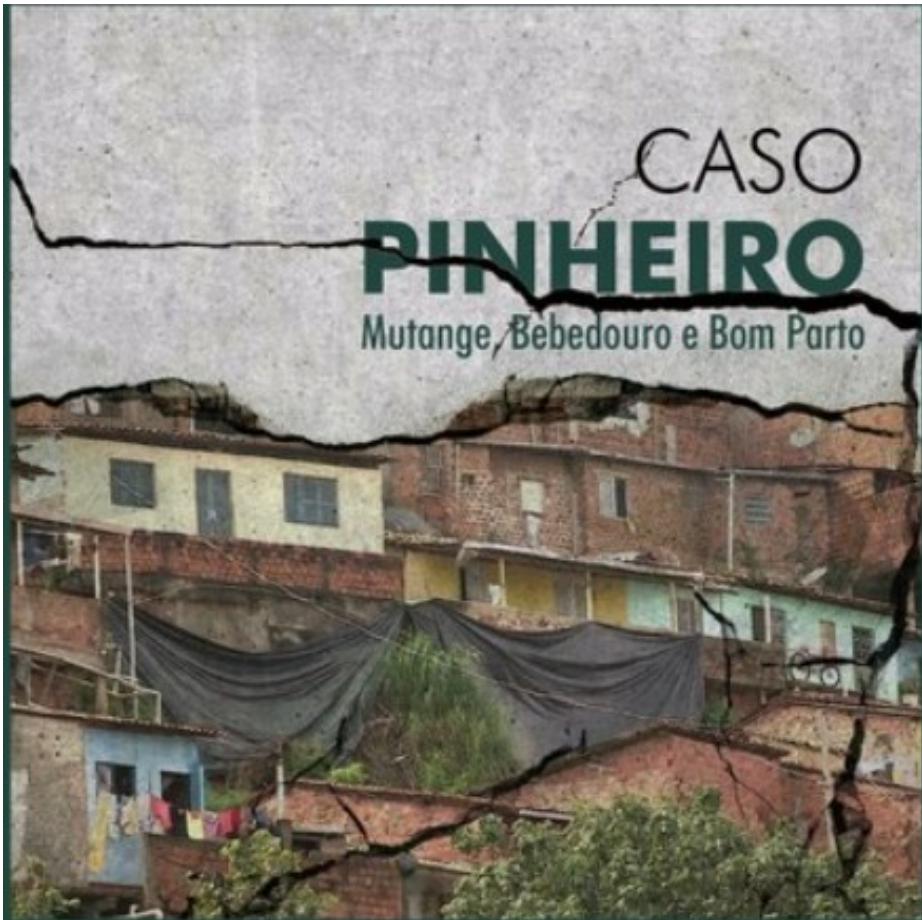
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Photo: Rogério Alves/ TV
Senado

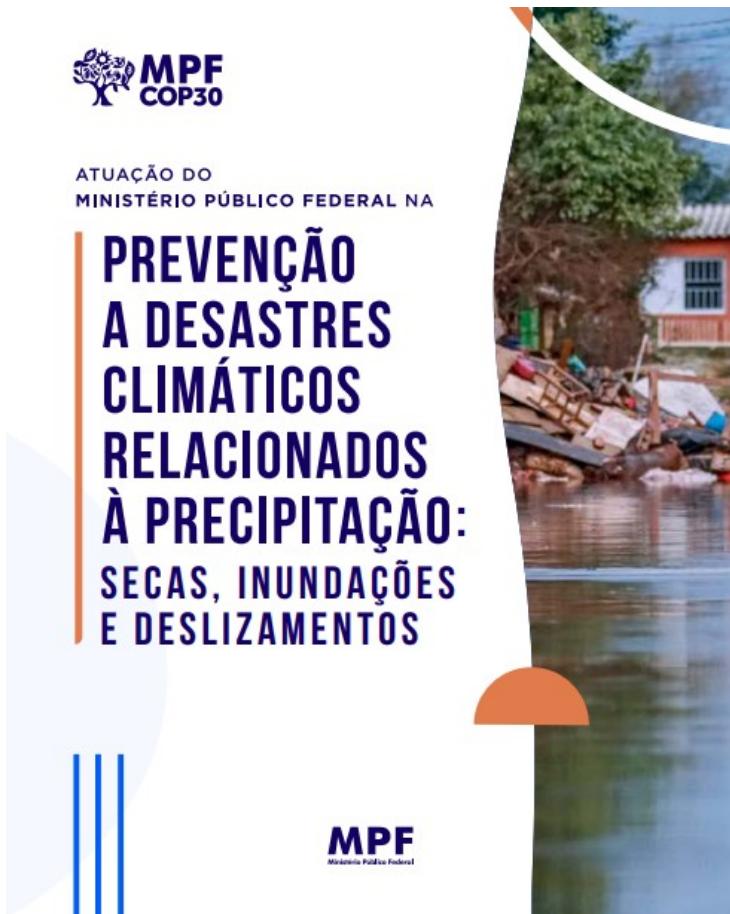
- **Consensual Solutions in Major Cases:**
 - **Mariana Agreement:** Signed approximately one year ago, providing for payment by the responsible companies of R\$ 170 billion (approximately US\$ 35 billion) to be used in dozens of environmental and social projects aimed at affected areas.
 - **Brumadinho Agreement:** Ratified in 2021, providing for a total investment of nearly R\$ 37.7 billion for damage reparation. The dam disaster occurred in January 2019 and resulted in the loss of 272 human lives. Additionally, it released more than 12 million cubic meters of tailings into an important Brazilian river, causing countless socio-environmental and socio-economic losses.

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- **Consensual Solutions in Major Cases:**
 - **Pinheiro/Braskem Case:** Agreements for the reparation of environmental and social damages caused by ground subsidence in Maceió/AL, resulting from the exploitation of rock salt in an urban area over 40 years.
 - Three main agreements:
 - i) Compensation for those who needed to be relocated due to risks to physical integrity.
 - ii) Socio-environmental and urban reparation.
 - iii) Resolution of impacts on the region from socio-economic isolation.

Climate Justice and the Role of the MPF



- [Manual on Action](#) for the Prevention of Climate Disasters Related to Precipitation: Droughts, Floods and Landslides.
 - Prepared by the **Working Group on Climate Emergencies of the 4th CCR** of the MPF.
 - Topics: socio-environmental vulnerability, underfunding of preventive actions, legal frameworks, and the institutional competencies of the Federal Government and federative entities.
 - Guidelines for preventive action by the MPF, including suggestions for extrajudicial and judicial measures, use of technical data and geotechnologies, as well as fostering coordination with other agencies and social participation.

Final Considerations

- These are, in summary, initiatives and actions we have undertaken in fulfilling our constitutional obligations and seeking to guarantee the right to an ecologically balanced environment.
- It is the combination of laws, technology, and the firm action of institutions that will enable us to protect our biomes, our coastal zone, and mitigate the worst effects of the global climate crisis.
- We must continue fighting and building—each within our own area of responsibility—mechanisms that allow us to confront climate emergencies and combat environmental crimes.

Thank you!





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