

Transcript of Pre-COP Briefing - October 22

Link to recording:

https://burness.zoom.us/rec/share/sbKRy8Ug5ST-xh-KXff_EXQAzl4krVXhX52OJimNBxbdKE84TxwdtEHtSwyS1grx.L0gyKwlsJDLV3LOA?startTime=1761141633000

***Please note that automated transcriptions and translations may still contain typos*

[00:00:07.720] - Andrea Rodriguez Garson (Moderator)

Welcome, and thank you for joining us today. Before we start, one quick logistical note. This event will have simultaneous interpretation into Portuguese and Spanish. Click or tap the world map icon in the Zoom bar at the front of your screen to choose your selected language. My name is Andrea Rodriguez, and I will be your moderator for this press briefing. Today's briefing will focus on the topic of Delivering Finance and Land Rights for Forest Peoples at COP30 in Belem. Please note that contents of this briefing are embargoed until Wednesday, October 29th at midnight and one minute GMT time. First, I'd like to briefly introduce to today's speakers. We have Biko Rodriguez with us today. He's National Coordinator of CONAQ, which is the National Coordination of Black Rural Kilumbola Communities, and he's also an environmental analyst. He's also a part of a Network of Latin-American Afro-descendant Peoples. We have Steve Schwarzman, Associate Vice President of Tropical Forest at the Environmental Defense Fund. We have Hege Racknitz She is Policy Director at Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative. And please note that Hege is speaking on background. She cannot be coded, and we will share information in the chat on how to get on the record quotes from the government of Norway.

[00:01:47.640] - Andrea Rodriguez Garson (Moderator)

Kleber Karipuna, who will be briefly joining us. He is executive coordinator of APIB, the articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil. He has glad to just join us, and he's also co-chair to the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. We will have time for questions following the speaker's remarks. If you have a question during the briefing, please enter it into the Zoom chat, addressed to all panelists. Please enter your name, the media outlet, question, and the speaker you would like to direct your question to, and we hope to cover as many questions as possible. And with that, I will hand it over to Biko Rodriguez. Please go ahead, Biko.

[00:02:45.420] - Denildo "Bico" Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

Good morning. Good morning, everyone. First of all, I'd like to thank all of you for this moment. Our message is very clear. We, as Kilimbalis and Afro-descendant communities, we have a very clear message to convey, mainly here in Brazil. We think that it is not possible to protect the

Amazon, where we have Kilimbalas people and Afro-descendant people without recognizing the rights in terms of climate negotiations at the UN. It is very important for us to be recognized, this to be recognized in the climate negotiations at the UN. The second step has to do with the following. According to the data of IBGE, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics of Brazil. Today, the Colombola localities in the legal Amazon region, they correspond to 33% of all the Colombola territory. These are very important data that shows our presence and our evidence all over the spaces and biomas and mainly in the Amazon region. Conac initiative, and of Citaafro is a territorial coalition which involves the Afro descendant communities of the Caribbean and Latin America area. We should recognize this. It is a historic fact and to reaffirm that Afro-descendants, people, and the political issues are urgent in terms of the climate debate.

[00:05:10.340] - Denildo “Bico” Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

We're not only talking about justice of climate justice, but this is a climate solution. But this is not being supported by adequate funds. We hope that this could change in terms of this since we should understand the importance of Afro-descendant people, both in the Americas and the Caribbean region, for protection of the biomas, which is something very important, chiefly in terms of the Amazon Rivers, which involves all the countries that are in this region. And many of them have a great predominance of Afro-descendant and Kilimbolla populations. So we would like to be supported studies that was published by Nature and says that the quilambola have 35% less deforestation Taking into account the data of Brazil, Colombia, and Suriname, which shows that all EDA, the predominance of Afro-rural communities, deforestation is lower. These are data that help us to reinforce the fact that we could take into account in the UN organization, our visibility and our importance in terms of funds. Data that were collected here from Brazil. We are talking about 594 Kilimbala territories. Which are geo-referenced. We have much more than 594, but only in terms of these, at 594 territories of the legal Amazon region, in 2023, these communities had one billion tons of CO₂ were stocked.

[00:07:49.600] - Denildo “Bico” Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

Whereas in the same year, Brazil emitted 2,300 billions of CO₂. So if we compare this, we're talking of 494 territories that were responsible for absorbing and storing almost the half of all the carbon that was emitted during 2023. These data are very important and they are very significant. Data also show these were created with another institution. From 85 to 2022, deforestation in the Kilumbola territories were 4. 7% of the native vegetation, whereas in the areas that are not Kilumbola deforestation, 17%. So this shows the importance of the Kilumbola territories, the forest is there. And in other places, We have a great deforestation and it increases a great deal. What does this mean? That we should preserve a forest and the tenure of land by us, Kilimbalas and Afro-descendant people. We knew already that... We all always talked about this. This conservation was done by us because we understand the importance of human conservation and forest conservation and this connection that we have with our

territories. It is also important, negotiators to know, to understand the role of these communities, of the Kilumbola community and the people from the forests and Afro-descendants, in order to the preservation of biodiversity, but also as a solution in terms of this climate balance in order not to go to a catastrophe.

[00:10:42.660] - Denildo “Bico” Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

It is important Because we are the border that prevents and macro business is to invade the tropical forests that we have. We are paying with many people who are killed Our leaderships are killed. It is important to understand this. There are studies from the UN that reveals that when the climate investment When the investments are done, they do not fail. When the climate investments reach us, so this is what we're finding, in order to receive such funds. The great part of such investments cannot reach where they should. It is a very important to have in mind that the Brazilian government is having a cop in the heart of the forest where we have this biodiversity and all these diversity of people. The Amazon is there exactly because of this diversity that exists. Kilambolas, activists, for descendant peoples. So everyone looks at the Amazon region. But when you look at the Amazon region, data from the IBGE, 64% of the population that lives in the Amazon region is Black. But when you look at the Amazon, there is an invisibility of this Black Black and Afro-descendant populations and Kilimbolas as well as people to protect this bioma which is so important for the planet and for human beings.

[00:13:18.480] - Denildo “Bico” Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

Appropriation by foreigners and from agribusiness is something that is makes things very difficult to protect our territories in the energy transition projects, which are important. We can also show the problems and the catastrophes that are created by these people who come to our territories. They deforest and they build electricity, gas duct, and they also drill oil in the Amazon River region, which is something that is going to reach. No, it is already reaching our Quilombola communities who are in in the state of Amapa, very close to Macapamene. Communities are victims of the building expansion occupying this space, which is at At the Amazon River mouth, where they are going to build these things, and because of these invaders. But we understand that the solution... We have the solution. We have been working with the data, and data show the effectiveness, and it can prove protecting the soil, such as the data that I provided you for the Kilumbola community. We're talking about 494 Kilumbola territory, stocked 1 billion tons of CO₂, half of what was emitted by Brazil. We're talking about 494 in a horizon of 8,400 44 Kilumbola territories. If we had the perimetres and the titles of these 8,000 Kilumbola territories, I can guarantee that the stock of carbon in the Kilumbola territories would be something fantastic, something really fantastic.

[00:16:29.120] - Denildo “Bico” Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

So We also know that our technologies of a production, of the agroecological production is also a way to transform the ecology, but also in order to protect all the biomas. The way it exists already. We know that this path exists. Good news. We had good news. The UN knows how to do it and shows concrete ways that our demand could become a reality. This has been shown. And what we need, what we need is to guarantee the Kilumbola lands. We must have titles and to recognize this territory, we must have access and to remove specific barriers that impede us to We need to put all this technology that is accumulated in order to protect the environment. We really need that the world recognize our importance. When the world pay carbon in terms of what we capture and everyone gain, climate, culture, and this is a win-win situation. This is exactly if you invest in us, everyone will win. We are going to guarantee our territory, we will conserve our territory, and the world will win. And for that, it is important that the finance to be direct with our own mechanism and create a community fund in order to receive these funds and to transform the reality and the life of our people, of our Kilumbola people and Afro-descendant people.

[00:19:08.340] - Denildo “Bico” Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

For us, this is very important. And we also understand that the COP This COP, now is the moment to put on the table all the instruments that we have. We are in a very strategic bioma for the planet. We are in a country where diversity, ethnical diversity, Kilumbala, Indigenous, Afro-descendant peoples, we all have our role to play, which is very important. And what we need is to preserve that. We should guarantee that. To guarantee the forest standing is to have access to the territory of Kilimbole, Afro-descendants, and all the forest peoples. If we want to leave a future to the next generations, we should do this now. Cop 30 in Brazil has a great opportunity to change our future. But If we continue going in the same path where we are now, our future will be dramatic. This is why it is important to acknowledge and to put on the negotiation table the peoples who preserve and who are the balance of the the climate aspect in this country. Brazil is not having a COP 30 in Berlin, in the heart of the Amazon region for big companies. If it were for that to deal about the commercial issues, or it would be done in São Paulo.

[00:21:31.280] - Denildo “Bico” Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

But we should deal with the importance of the bioma for the planet. It is in this sense that we believe that it is important to recognize our role as negotiators so as to be on the negotiation table and decide our future. We don't want, and we are fighting for this not to happen anymore, that our lives be as without our participation of the peoples who really protect the forests, which are the balance of the climate aspects in the world, Kilimbole, Afro-descendant people, the traditional communities, are the balance of climate in the world. So it is fair that they should take part in the negotiation of their own lives that will decide the future of the world. And they should also be part of all the chain of the climate aspect projects in order to transform this for our

country. I'd like to finish to tell you that the Kilumbola community community with the title is a freedom where there is the forest is where our peoples are. If we are sometimes 64% and sometimes the satellite passes and cannot see us, it is because under each tree and each river in the Amazon bioma, there is a family that is helping to keep this riches and all this biodiversity.

[00:23:34.560] - Denildo "Bico" Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

Thank you very much.

[00:23:43.120] - Andrea Rodriguez Garson (Moderator)

And then the Kilumbola Movement. I'll pass it on to Steve. Please go ahead, Steve.

[00:23:48.400] - Steve Schwartzman (EDF)

Well, thank you, Andrea, and thank all of you for participating. Few people recognize the incredible importance of the Indigenous territories and protected areas of the Amazon for the future of the atmosphere and the climate of our planet. We're talking about an area in the nine nation Pan-Amazon, half the size of the contiguous United States, West of... No, pardon me, the size of the contiguous United States west of the Mississippi. That's over 4 million square kilometers. In Brazil alone, Indigenous territories and protected areas cover an area of half the size of the continental contiguous United States west of the Mississippi. This is altogether for the Pan-Amazon more than half of the above-ground carbon in the entire forest, some over 41 gigatons of carbon. Virtually all of this is under pressure from land grabbers, illegal logging, illegal mining, infrastructure projects, much more. So it is hanging in the balance. And we can be sure that the result of the struggles that are going on now, such as those described by Biko and the Afro-descendent communities, are going to affect the future of the planet. So EDF has conducted an exercise of econometric modeling, looking at what would happen in the Amazon were there no Indigenous territories, protected areas.

[00:23:49.600] - Steve Schwartzman (EDF)

This modeling does not include the territories of the Afro-descendants. The data are much more sparse. And as Biko was pointing out, there's a great deal of land actually occupied by Afrodescendent communities that has not been officially recognized. We're just talking about Indigenous territories and protected areas. Without the Indigenous territories and the protected areas, there would be about 45% more emissions between 2022 and 2030. That's about 2. 1 gigatons. In addition to this, About 63 million hectares, this is just in Brazil now, of territory that's not designated. It's public land that is not defined as indigenous territory or a park or military

land. It is non-designated. Were that land protected, it would prevent about another 1.2 gigatons of emissions. We're talking about a huge amount of potential CO₂ in the atmosphere. It is important that all of this territory is under pressure. The Amazon, as all the climate scientists now are we're clearly agreeing, is approaching a tipping point, which, if it passes, will mean that a large part of the ecosystem will unravel and transform from forest into scrub Savannah. This will entail huge emissions of greenhouse gasses that affect rainfall, temperature, and a whole series of issues related to those.

[00:23:50.800] - Steve Schwartzman (EDF)

How close we are to the tipping point is not clear, but it's very clear that deforest, what all the climate science says, deforestation needs to stop and we need to begin restoring the areas that have been deforested. Doing that without protecting this vast area of Indigenous territories and protected areas, plus the Kilimbala territories, will not be possible. So the message here is these territories will affect the future of the atmosphere and the climate of our planet. So we need to be paying attention to them. Thank you.

[00:28:19.780] - Andrea Rodriguez Garson (Moderator)

Thank you so much, Steve, for your remarks. I'll hand it over to Hege. Hege, please go ahead.

[00:28:30.000] - Hege Ragnhildstveit (Government of Norway)

Thank you so much, and thank you for the invitation to join this event. Now, the world has agreed to enhance efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. We cannot stop deforestation or restore nature without the active participation of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities. They are the world's best nature guardians, and the evidence shows that deforestation is up to 50% lower in forests managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We have made some promises, and we've kept those promises. In 2021, five public and 22 philanthropic funders pledged \$1.7 billion to support Indigenous forest stewardship from '21 to '25. And already from the 2024 report, we see that we have exceeded that goal and delivered \$1.86 billion. In the first four years. And we also see that change is happening on the ground. The millions of hectares of forests have been recognized for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities. This has happened in the Brazilian Amazon and in Peru, and it has also included vast corridors for people who live in voluntary isolation. We've also seen progress in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia, where there's very promising schemes for community-based forest management are introduced and shaping.

[00:30:30.900] - Hege Ragnhildstveit (Government of Norway)

And the advocacy and leadership of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities has been critical to reach these goals. So as funders, We're now planning a new pledge from 2026 to 2030 for forest and land tenure rights. And this time, it will extend to all terrestrial ecosystems in countries that qualify for overseas development assistance. Now, the next steps that we see is a commitment from tropical forest countries to advance and secure the recognition of Indigenous and local community lands through the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment. And this commitment, along with the Forest and Land Tenure pledge, they will mutually reinforce each other. One brings political will and ambition, and the other one brings funding to support it. And these efforts can help to build the foundation to an innovative financial mechanism championed by Brazil, called the Tropical Forests Forever Facility. And this facility has proposed to direct 20% of its financing to Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities. Now, in Norway's case, we have, for the last 18 years, been partnering with ambitious tropical forest countries that have ambitious goals to reduce deforestation and restore nature. So we work in close partnerships with Brazil, with Indonesia, Colombia, Peru, DRC, and others to reduce deforestation and support the Indigenous Peoples and communities that live in these countries.

[00:32:33.740] - Hege Ragnhildstveit (Government of Norway)

Our approach is built on results, paying for results and supporting results, and long-term collaboration. And we also partner directly with Indigenous organizations and with their allies in civil society. And we know that when Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities have secure land rights, forests are better protected. And that's why we have been supporting the Forest and Land Tenure pledge for the last four years, and we're working with others to develop a new pledge and we're linking financial support with political action. Thank you so much.

[00:33:24.000] - Andrea Rodriguez Garson (Moderator)

Thank you, Hege, for sharing the perspective from the governments and donors who are working on pledges for the upcoming COP 30. So I'll hand it over to Kleber, Karipuna. Kleber, please go ahead.

[00:33:45.740] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

Hi. Hey. Can you hear me? Can you wave at me?

[00:33:50.460] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

All right.

[00:33:54.330] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

Perfect. Thank you. I wasn't sure because I I was using... I'm in transit. I just reached my city. Just say hi, good morning, good evening, good afternoon. I don't know where you are exactly in this planet, but just want to bring this message not only from Brazil, but I think for the whole world, which this cope must be the cup of the answers. That's why we have this slogan that says, The answer is our people. We are the answer. We just want to raise awareness on the different topics that we have been discussed with the Afro-descendant people and the Indigenous communities. So we may have real commitment from the leaders of the different countries that are visiting the COP 30. And we need to face together the climate collapse that we're going through. I feel it's really clear for us that the answer for the climate change is all of us, not only the Indigenous peoples, of course, but Afro-descendant communities, regular citizens from any country, any race, any faith, everything. People who are feeling in their own lives the climate changes that are affecting our world. We are all part of the answers. So in order to have a good commitment and have the land tenure and the recognition of our territories, we need to be really clear in the COP 30, that we need effective policies to face the climate changes that we're living now.

[00:35:52.700] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

So we know that the world is recognizing the importance of the territories and And the biodiversity that we have here. Unfortunately, we lost him. Yeah, because we are all talking about this all the time. So it's really important for me that this policy, that this action, can be actually some warranty that we want to do something better. In order to work in this process and in this debate and facing the process itself, I feel all the countries, everyone, all the Indigenous peoples, all the mechanisms We need support. We need support to become or to keep being the guardians of diversity in the planet and make sure the territories are protected. So it's important to have direct investment in our initiative. So I feel this debate we're here today, especially when it comes to climate funding initiatives. And Direct funding for local communities and Indigenous peoples around the world is crucial, is definitely fundamental thing. We feel we need support to protect the territories. And it's important that the promises, let's say, the expectations that we have on COP 30, like this financial pledge from the philanthropic group, and FTG, and other countries that we're seeing here, bringing these novelties that I feel are remarkable.

[00:37:54.560] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

This disrupting way of funding people, of having the forest forever, this facility that we are discussing now, we need other countries to join us because I feel we need resources. And these resources should be applied to keep the forest alive. So the challenges are huge. So the commitments must be huge as well. And things need to reach the practice. That's why we feel the debate on direct funding is our best bet when it comes to biodiversity and climate change and environmental pressures. We need to go that direction because we need to get the money. And that must be the basic premise when it comes to international funding. It's because we want to make sure the financial resources are here, are getting to the right destiny, and we need to protect the Indigenous lands. And I feel it's a fantastic job that we're seeing from the Forest Climate Partners. We know Brazil is part of these global communities, and we have been contributed for the last 18 months on how to build the territorial pledge. This initiative that governments want to launch at COP, so we can have the commitment in the number of hectares and the protection on the global scale.

[00:39:50.840] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

And we are extremely happy with this implementation, but we know But we definitely need to get the support of everyone so these initiatives can move forward. And as I said, direct funding, and when I say direct, is directly to the communities, to the Indigenous communities and local peoples, because we can have different mechanisms. We can have instruments that were created recently in the last five 10 years in some regions. This is fully new in some other regions. Some initiatives have been also implemented before. But we need to have mechanisms, mechanisms from local communities and Indigenous communities. We have in Brazil some examples of these funds that are working like ApoDali in Amazon Forest. Some relatives, some partners from the quilambola's movements, which are Afro-descendent people. They have other initiatives and they have implemented that. So I feel It's important to consider these experiences so we can get the money where the money needs to go to. So the communities can monitor, can audit, can perform activities, and can base their livelihoods on some better conditions. So yeah, I feel this will have a huge impact at COP30. And finishing my intervention Again, I need to say that we have followed the co-creation debate on the relation that the mechanisms have for the Indigenous communities.

[00:41:57.080] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

And I feel we have some Some advance over there, some progress. I feel the commitment of at least 20, at least 20 % of the funding must go straight to the Indigenous communities and the local peoples. And we know that we need some architecture in the financial structure and in decision making process to restore the authority of the Indigenous peoples on their own lands. And I feel we have some concerns when it comes to the investments that are destroying the local communities, like mining, like different types of mining that we have here. It's pointless to support the Indigenous communities and support the initiatives that are way bigger, that are

destroying the Indigenous as communities. But yeah, I have a huge challenge in front of us, and we are full of expectations. And cop is not the end. We know that that's just another instance for our struggle. And that's it. I think what is most important to say is that we need to be protagonists of this debate. Indigenous peoples have lots of things to say, and we're not heard. We don't want to be the beneficiaries of us. We just want to be the protagonists.

[00:43:43.590] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

It's not for us is with us, which is different. We need to focus on the ability of being involved in the decision making. Everything that has to do with our territories, our people, and our livelihoods must consider our opinion. The Indigenous communities and the local people and the traditional communities are prepared. We are able to debate. We understand the world the way it is, and we can face together the climate changes. We need to support each other. We need to back up each other. We are the answer. Thank you.

[00:45:28.320] - Denildo "Bico" Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

Oh, yeah, about the challenges, right? And the fact that we haven't been heard in the previous COPs, right? That's the question. Yeah. Okay. So we, the Kilimbolas communities, the Afro-descendants communities, COP is still something new for our people. We are very strong when it comes to preserving the biome and being an active player of the climate defense. And even so, COP is still a setting that we are not very used to. We are still learning and understanding how COP can be good for our initiatives. We are learning from the Indigenous communities. They are teaching us and they are telling us, and this is our seventh COP that we go. And some of them were bigger, some of them were smaller in terms of our representation. Now we are in Brazil. Brazil is a country that 60% of the population here is Afro-descendant people. That shows how important would be to hear us? Because the world cannot come to Brazil without listening to 60% of the population. What's the point? It's impossible to come to Brazil and organize a meeting like cop without listening to what the largest part of the population thinks, feels, and expects from a meeting like this.

[00:47:35.600] - Denildo "Bico" Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

We are the ones that are more affected by the climate change. We belong to a racial organization process that has been very complicated. We are the ones that have lived and lived today in the outskirts of the society. When you see India, the people that suffer the most are the ones that are poor, and they belong to certain races. Here in Brazil, it's the same thing. In Brazil, when rains in São Paulo, for example, the largest city in the country, 60% of people who suffer from floodings are the ones that are not heard, are the Black people. With this, we have a new range of opportunities of including the debate and correct the mistakes from previous cops that

didn't hear this important part of the community, which is the Black community. So, yeah, that's something for us that is non-negotiable. And we are now in Brazil and we have a role to play. And we from CONAC, we built a NDC ourselves and we have presented it to the government with some requests to include the Quilombolas territories and include our needs in the main commitments and the main policies that the government is just creating because our role to preserve our lands is paramount, is remarkable.

[00:49:43.180] - Denildo "Bico" Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

And as Kleber said, we are a part of this initiative. We are here to present at COP and show to everyone that we want to see our mechanisms. We have three fundings. Community fundings or free community funds. Mocambo, which is the name of one, Mocambo. And we have the fund, Yetake. Which is the fund for our people to defend the climate. And we have these mechanisms, and they have been discussed and studied. So maybe they are useful in this moment to face the climate change and monitor the initiatives and that the resources can be used the right way. So, yeah, this is what I want to say. And we're, yeah, we have faith. I would say that this cop will be different, and now people will be heard. We have this ideal, and let's see what happens. Thank you.

[00:52:03.060] - Denildo "Bico" Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

Yup. Thank you for the question. And we have worked in many different fronts. One of the fronts that we have been really insisting on this is trying to show that development cannot be one way. Development must consider the way we live and the way we occupy the territories. In the ILO summit, we took a manifesto, a document. So the development initiatives cannot ignore that some people live there and some people benefit from the natural resources that are there. And that affects our people. So We need to consider that when we allocate resources for the development of the country. Now we have a government that is a government that dialogs with people that talks to people. At the same time, it's a government that is a coalition government. So it's not only one people that we see here. They need to make partnerships in order to run the government. We had to do that in order to protect the democracy in this country. It was important to create a coalition. But even so, in this government, we have people that think different. And now we have the authorisation of mining initiatives drilling the Amazon River.

[00:53:56.400] - Denildo "Bico" Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

So, yeah, we as quilombolos, we know that this has been something that move us backwards. And we, in the Brazilian society, we are aware that it's important to work with NGOs and non-governmental initiatives to get to an understanding, to get to some... Have a common base, a common ground. It's complicated. It's not protected. The fact of having this government is not

protecting us in all the levels that we need to be protected. I know we have some partners from ISA here that have been great partners in these years. We need to focus on walking through these hard times, creating new ways of explaining what is going on in Brazil and show the reality of our people, which is not an easy one. But I think this COP is a good opportunity to make it different, to help people who have never been hurt and are always under threat. We have been threatened in our territories, in our own lives. We think COP is the best opportunity we have, is the best shot we can take advantage from to make it clearer to win some allies and some people that may help us, that may give us a hand fighting for the territory.

[00:55:56.140] - Denildo “Bico” Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

So, yeah, this is what we are doing. So we are here to talk to everyone, national, international players, and people that may help us. We feel the territories must be protected and that we can keep the forest alive. That's it. Thank you.

[00:57:00.000] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

. Thank you, Andrea. Thank you for the questions. Yeah, about TFFF. Just want to back my partner, Biko. Just want to say that I second him and everything that he said, especially in the Amazon forest and in some other regions that have direct influence on the Indigenous communities. We have oil industry in the Amazon and forest really close to the Indigenous territories. We will start the cop in two weeks time. And the environmental ministry in this country authorizes an initiative like the one we sought yesterday. That makes no sense at all. That goes in the wrong way. It's not a good thing. We definitely need to walk in parallel with the development of the country, but we cannot do a movement forward and a movement backward like this. That's ridiculous. We are in the wrong way, definitely. It makes no sense. No sense. So, yeah, I think that's the same position that we have today. Our authorities are trying to make something in the legal level, trying to go to the court and we can block these processes. Like the ones that were approved in the mouth of the Amazon River. That cannot be possible.

[00:58:57.890] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

About TFFF, I I heard the question. And we're in touch with them and we have a process of co-integration, co-creation. Creating the mechanisms that can be used so DFFF can work with the Indigenous communities in a better way, in a more efficient way. I feel our organizations are doing their best, and And we have invited the leaders of TFFF so they can help us to think how can we have a better relation, a better way of doing things so we can have this special occasion. From February till August, we created the concept note 3. 0, which is a concept note that brings different topics to our attention. And it corrects some concept notes that we saw in the past that we're not considering the 20 % or they were not naming the Indigenous

communities. So I feel this correction is important. And creating a global group that may also advocate for our rights in the different places of the world where this is important, creating a global agency for this purpose. Yesterday, the World Bank said that they will manage the funds And in these six months, we were talking to the World Bank and creating safeguards and important mechanisms on the TFFF.

[01:00:57.140] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

And we did some progress. We were able to bring a couple of things to the table, and I'm happy because of that. And of course, it's not everything that we want, but that's it. We have a challenge. And I say we have the challenge because I think TFFF is something new, is a breakthrough, if we think like that. And now we need to be here so it can be successful and that can be deployed the way we want to, and bring the arrangements and the safeguards to make this mechanism the best possible. Now we are moving into the next phase, which is talk to the countries that will be the signatories of the TFFF, right? So this 20 % can be real, can be something they can commit with. And yeah, we have the local communities here with all eyes and hearts in this initiative. And we know that some countries, they don't even recognize these players. They have no law about it. They have no legislation about Indigenous peoples. And some other countries, they have some dictatorial regime that makes things impossible. So we need to see How can we protect this 20 %, which is the most important thing that we have.

[01:02:39.280] - Kleber Karipuna (APIB)

So, yeah, that's what we are doing here. Thank you so much. Thank you for your attention. And thank you for your questions. Thank you for your interest. Thank you for being here. Thank you, guys. Thank you, Bernes, for the initiative. Thank you to each of you. And we're here for everything you may need.

[01:03:30.140] - Andrea Rodriguez Garson (Moderator)

Thank you very much for your responses and for joining today. One more question for Steve. Steve, how does community forest protection compare to other types of protection in terms of cost-effectiveness? It's far more effective than anything else, but fundamentally more effective.

[01:03:31.340] - Steve Schwartzman (EDF)

It is monumentally more effective than anything else and absolutely indispensable if we're going to avoid catastrophic climate change. One way that I can say that we know this is there's a recent report that's been put out by an international group of leading climate scientists that looks

at what happens with the rainfall that's generated with just the indigenous territories in the Brazilian Amazon. It turns out that 80% of Brazilian agricultural land, the land that produces nearly 60% of all the value of agribusiness, all those tens of billions of dollars, hundreds of billions of dollars of exports is watered by the rainfall created in the indigenous territories. What happens in those territories, deforestation, obviously, reduces the amount of water that's being produced in these territories. It's produced by the forest. What happens in these territories will affect the entire agriculture value chain in Brazil, globally, probably as well, although we don't understand the mechanisms as well, the water supply, energy, the economy in general. There's a basic need for agriculture to continue in Brazil and, doubtedly, many other places as well to protect those territories.

[01:05:49.220] - Denildo "Bico" Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

Thank you for your question. Kleber started a debate which is very important. And the answer, we should understand that the future of the planet depends on this generation. It does not depend on the next generation. The future of the planet depends on our generation, and each one of us have a very important role to play. This commitment should be signed with the member states. They could also ratify with the whole society because it is very important to reach the goals of the commitment signs. Although, if we do not do this, we're going to run after something that it is impossible. We have given very important answers. We, as Kilimbalas, Afro-descendants in a general way, the Indigenous peoples, the local communities. The answer for that is in regularizing our territories and investments in this potential that we have. Because if we not take this into consideration, this would be something very bad. Out of the 8,444 Kalambola territories, 1,395 are being invaded by infrastructure projects. I'm talking about 1,995. It's a big number of communities that are affected by such projects. These projects are going to transform the natural scenario of the territory. Actually, we should guarantee that the territory, the Kilumbola Indigenous and Afro-descendant territories, be free of this bigger project.

[01:08:38.140] - Denildo "Bico" Rodrigues de Moraes (CONAQ)

Otherwise, if these territories, which are the last border. If they are devastated, the world will be at one step from catastrophe, even less than a step. So as the word, not to have this problem so that the climate maintain the climate balance at the same level and not going into catastrophe, we should guarantee the land territory and titles and financing for this territory to keep standing. We believe that this is the way. This is a way, and this is the only solution that we have now. Thank you.

[01:10:02.420] - Hege Ragnhildstveit (Government of Norway)

Thank you, Andrea, for the question. The support to the Amazon has been extremely important, as we've learned, because we've supported millions of hectares of rainforest managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. For the last few years, we have seen an increase in the interest of funders to fund Indigenous Peoples who live in forest areas, both in Central Africa and in the Indonesia and the Mekong Borneo region of Asia. While the Amazon has, maybe the people there have been even better organized than their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. I think it's a complement, both to the strong Indigenous organizations in the Amazon, as well as to the governments in the Amazon region that has advanced a bit further in recognizing Indigenous people's rights. That also makes it more feasible for funders to work in these areas. But we are seeing progress, and I think it's I think it's very important to stress that the DR Congo passed a new law to respect Indigenous Peoples in 2022, and we now see new funds and mechanisms being established to support Indigenous Peoples in Central Africa. And a similar development we see in Indonesia and some of the other countries in Asia.

[01:11:37.620] - Hege Ragnhildstveit (Government of Norway)

So we're optimistic that it will be balanced as we move forward. Thank you.