

THE LANDSCAPE OF CLIMATE GRANTS IN BRAZIL

Key Findings and Insights



Acknowledgements

This note summarizes key findings of analytical work of philanthropic and ODA funding available for climate-related initiatives in Brazil between 2019 and 2023. It was undertaken by ICS and GIFE, with support of ClimateWorks Foundation.

The study draws on the best available information from international databases and public sources, providing a consolidated view of non-reimbursable (grant-based) contributions to climate action in Brazil. It does not include concessional or non-concessional loans, equity investments, domestic government spending, or private sector investments, and therefore does not represent the full scope of climate finance in the country. In addition, data on Brazilian philanthropy remain partial due to the absence of standardized reporting mechanisms.

Because of data lags, the analysis covers the period up to the end of 2023 and does not reflect more recent developments in international cooperation and domestic funding flows. The findings should thus be interpreted as a snapshot of trends observed over this period.

It is result of collaboration among many individuals and institutions. We extend our gratitude to all who contributed their time, expertise, and insights.

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DISCLAIMER

This note constitutes an outline of a report being developed by ICS and GIFE, supported by the ClimateWorks Foundation. The report is a collection and analysis of data conducted by Indufor, covering the period from 2019 to 2023.



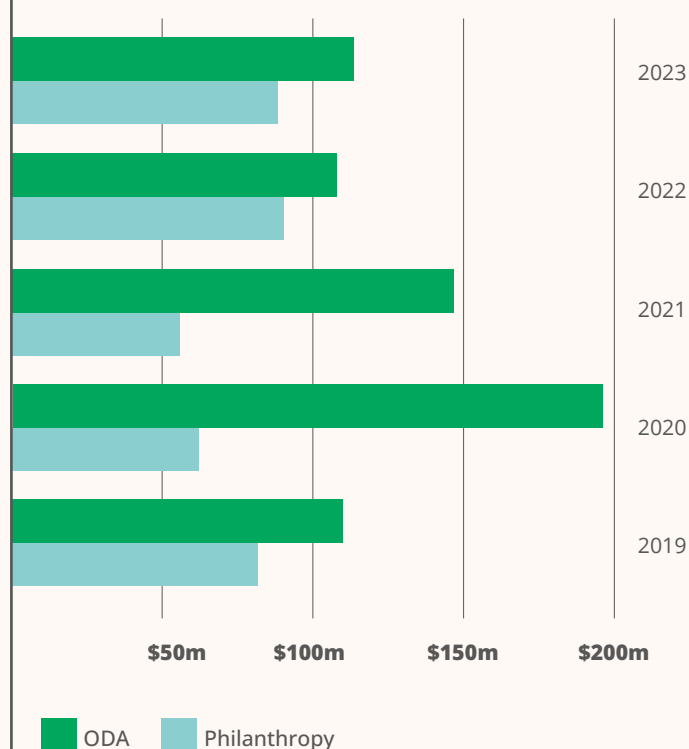
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KEY FINDINGS AND INSIGHTS

Report Overview

Climate Mitigation Funding to Brazil by Source, 2019–2023



The note is aimed at informing international and Brazilian philanthropies, particularly those not yet deeply engaged in climate change in Brazil. While it will also be relevant for funders already active in the space, our goal is to make the funding landscape more accessible and actionable for new entrants, demonstrating how funders from diverse fields can align their priorities with climate action.

Brazil sits at the center of the global climate challenge and opportunity. It is one of the world's top five emitters when land-use change is included, and simultaneously holds exceptional potential to lead on climate solutions – with an estimated 500–800 MtCO₂e per year in nature-based mitigation potential, the highest share of renewables in the G20 (84% of power in 2024), and strategic reserves of nickel, graphite, lithium, and niobium that anchor clean-technology supply chains. The country also faces acute climate risks requiring urgent adaptation, with recent floods, fires, and droughts disrupting livelihoods, straining hydropower, and disproportionately affecting rural, low-income, and Indigenous communities. Brazil's updated Nationally Determined Contribution and its National Adaptation Plan set a clear direction for emissions cuts and resilience, but delivery will depend on strengthening enabling conditions. Both can be implemented as fast as the already identified enabling conditions are deployed: institutional capacity, research, and policy pathways that can unlock larger public and private investment.

This note provides key findings of a first comprehensive analysis of grant-based (non-reimbursable) climate funding to Brazil until the end of 2023, bringing philanthropy and grant-based ODA into a single analysis focused on actual disbursements rather than announced commitments. It quantifies, for the first time, how resources flow to each of Brazil's major biomes (Amazon, Cerrado, Atlantic Forest, Caatinga, Pantanal, Pampa, and coastal and marine systems), revealing where funding is concentrated and where significant gaps persist. It also offers the most granular picture to date of which sectors and sub-sectors receive support across Brazil's climate profile, from land-use and forests to agriculture, energy, transport, industry, cities, adaptation and resilience, governance and legal work, research and data, and public engagement – and which areas remain comparatively under-prioritized by current grantmaking. At the end, we also share a set of recommendations for climate philanthropies to act more strategically in Brazil.

ANALYSIS FINDINGS

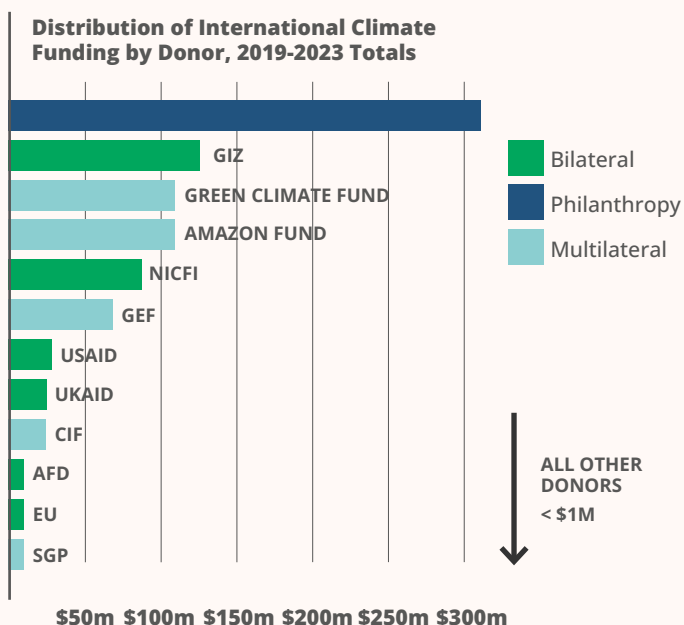
US\$
208

MILLION IS THE AVERAGE ANNUAL
CLIMATE MITIGATION FUNDING TO **BRAZIL**

Overall climate funding to Brazil has remained steady since 2019. ODA climate funding has trended downward since 2020, reflecting the Amazon Fund's pause from 2019-2022 and a tightening global aid environment. Philanthropy has expanded to help sustain resource flows and, in recent years, has approached the scale of grant-based climate ODA. Although the Amazon Fund's reactivation in 2023 may lift certain channels, ODA overall appears unlikely to rebound—implying continued reliance on, and a larger role for, philanthropic funding.

75% OF KNOWN CLIMATE
MITIGATION FUNDING TO BRAZIL
COMES FROM THE TOP 10 DONORS

Funding is highly concentrated among a small group of donors, increasing vulnerability to shifts in strategy. Germany's IKI and Norway's NICFI have been the leading bilaterals, multilaterals such as the GCF and GEF have contributed tens of millions of dollars. A small number of international philanthropies have disbursed a significant share as well, especially those with programs focused on the Amazon. This concentration increases volatility when any major actor changes priorities.



1.5% OF CLIMATE
MITIGATION FUNDING IS FOR
CORE / UNALLOCATED SUPPORT

Philanthropy leads funding for the enabling environment (policies, institutions, regulations, infrastructure, and capacities) but resources are limited – especially core funding for climate organizations.

Enabling environment funding averages US\$21 million per year, with two-thirds originating from philanthropy. Public engagement subsector represents the largest share, followed by governance / legal work, and sustainable finance.

46% OF BRAZILIAN
PHILANTHROPIES NOW SUPPORT
CLIMATE INITIATIVES

Domestic philanthropy for climate is expanding and complements international funding – but is underrepresented in available data. Because centralized funding flow data only exist for international philanthropy, most Brazilian philanthropic grants are not included in our primary figures. However, qualitative insights indicate that Brazilian funders are increasingly active – despite regulatory constraints that disincentivize environmental philanthropy in Brazil. Brazilian philanthropies are particularly active in public engagement, climate adaptation and climate justice, offering proximity and community ties that complement international philanthropy's emphasis on forests and large-scale conservation.

11% OF CLIMATE MITIGATION
FUNDING GOES TO SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY (US\$21 MILLION PER YEAR)

Sustainable energy is undeweighted in philanthropic portfolios relative to the transition's challenges.

ODA provides the majority of support to this sector but undermines the fact Brazilian power sector is in its "last mile" of decarbonization, with 90% of installed capacity in renewables. That brings challenges for energy security with 54% of it still on hydropower. To speed up the deployment of batteries, the reforms of its operational and commercial models are urgent. Transport decarbonization, meanwhile, still lacks an integrated plan—combining infrastructure, financing, incentives, and subsidies to scale electrification and biofuels and phase out fossil fuels over time.

80% OF GEOGRAPHICALLY LINKED CLIMATE FUNDING GOES TO THE AMAZON REGION

Biome-level allocations are heavily skewed to the Amazon, leaving other regions and urban areas underfunded, particularly by international philanthropy. While the Amazon rightly attracts global attention, the Cerrado, Caatinga, Atlantic Forest, Pantanal, and Pampa biomes are under-prioritized relative to their climate significance and risks. Even within the Amazon, sectors essential to a durable transition remain notably under-resourced – such as key inputs to the socio-bioeconomy like distributed clean energy, industry, and transport.

76% OF CLIMATE MITIGATION FUNDING IS ALLOCATED TO LAND USE (US\$158 MILLION PER YEAR)

Sectoral allocations of climate funding mirror Brazil's land use-heavy emissions profile. Within land use, forests absorb 82% of the portfolio while food and agriculture receive 18% - despite direct agricultural emissions making up 27% of Brazil's footprint. There is a need to scale up enabling investments in sociobioeconomy supply chains, agroforestry systems, and tenure rights for Indigenous Peoples and local communities – all of which can reduce agricultural emissions and generate biodiversity, livelihoods, and resilience co-benefits.

US\$ <50,000

IS THE MEDIAN ANNUAL CLIMATE FUNDING PER GRANTEE

The climate grantee ecosystem in Brazil is broad and vibrant – but underfunded and with clear potential to absorb more resources. A slim majority of philanthropic dollars (61%) supports Brazil-based organizations, with the remainder going to international organizations (primarily European / U.S.-based). Among 548 identified grantees, two-thirds receive under US\$50,000 per year on average. These data also indicate that existing resources are spread across a wide range of organizations, ensuring broad participation in Brazil's climate civil society. This breadth is a strength but comes at the cost of depth: with higher overall funding, Brazil's diverse climate grantees could sustain themselves and extend their reach and impact.

Methodology and Limitations

The key findings of the report offer as comprehensive an assessment as possible, based on available data, of *international grant funding* for climate action in Brazil. In this report, we use the term 'climate funding' to refer specifically to grant-based (non-reimbursable) contributions from philanthropic, bilateral, and multilateral funders. For best comparison with philanthropic funding, we exclude other financial instruments such as concessional and non-concessional loans, as well as equity investments. All figures reflect funding for climate mitigation, unless otherwise specified as climate adaptation.^[1]

Data were collected, standardized, and aggregated from three primary sources:

- Data on international philanthropic funding collected and analyzed by ClimateWorks Foundation.
- Bilateral and multilateral ODA were collected from the OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).
- Grant-level data for select multilateral funding mechanisms – Green Climate Fund (GCF), Amazon Fund, Climate Investment Funds (CIF), and Global Environment Facility (GEF) – were scraped directly from publicly available project databases.

These findings of the report are not a comprehensive analysis of all climate finance to Brazil and do not attempt to quantify investment gaps or targets to meet Brazil's climate goals. Notably, the report figures do not account for several major sources of broader climate finance in Brazil. These include domestic government spending at both national and sub-national levels, loans and equity investments, as well as internal corporate investments aimed at reducing emissions. Because of lags in reporting, the data presented here do not capture trends in 2024 and 2025 – which have seen turbulence, particularly the shutdown of the U.S. Agency for International Development and a broader tightening of international aid.^[2]

Extensive efforts were taken to avoid double-counting grants across data sources, including cross-referencing grantor and re-grantor data and ensuring that inflows to multilateral climate funds are excluded. This results in a dataset of nearly 3,300 unique climate-related grants, all of which are converted into USD and adjusted for inflation to 2023 USD. Qualitative tagging (by theme, biome, grantee type, etc.) was done by Indufor through a combination of automated and human reviews, with all entries checked by a human reviewer during the quality assurance stage. Across all sources, funding allocations by year reflect payments/disbursements in that year (not commitments, multi-year grants spread over their full term).

^[1] The dataset of philanthropic grants used for this analysis includes only climate mitigation activities. ClimateWorks Foundation is currently preparing additional data on climate adaptation funding.

^[2] See, e.g., OECD. 2025. Cuts in official development assistance – OECD projections for 2025 and the near term.

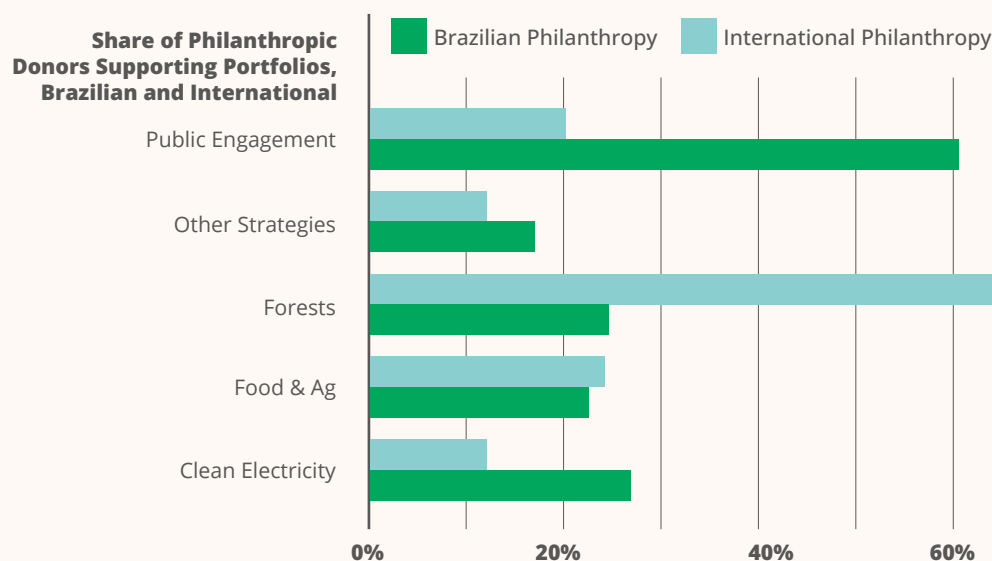


FINDINGS ON THE ROLE OF **BRAZILIAN** PHILANTHROPY

The research reveals that Brazilian philanthropy present a distinct profile compared to their international peers.

Domestic funders stand out for their strong community roots and focus on enabling conditions for local action. While only 25% include forests in their climate portfolios, compared to 65% of international funders, Brazilian institutions are more likely to prioritize themes such as climate justice, circular economy, waste management, and water.

Moreover, 45% support public engagement initiatives, versus just 20% internationally, reflecting a distinctive commitment to grassroots mobilization, trust-building, and participatory governance. Adaptation and resilience have also emerged as leading priorities among Brazilian funders, underscoring their deep connection with social and development agendas such as poverty alleviation, public health, and food security.



IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE NEEDS

In sum, we call on both international and domestic philanthropies to increase climate investment in Brazil – with the hope that the report offers a snapshot of funding gaps and opportunities for new entrants to the country's climate funding landscape.

Brazil offers some of the largest opportunities to reshape the global emissions curve while strengthening resilience. Safeguarding the Amazon and Cerrado can avert irreversible ecosystem tipping points and keep vast carbon stocks intact; building a viable forest sociobioeconomy can align livelihoods with conservation and climate goals; and protecting Brazil's high-renewables power system while decarbonizing transport, industry, and cities can support low-carbon growth rather than fossil expansion.

At the same time, the costs of an unsuccessful climate transition in Brazil would be far-reaching. Renewed deforestation would wipe out recent gains and release vast carbon stores; fossil lock-in would deter future clean investment; urban heat, flooding, and drought would intensify social vulnerability; and declining biodiversity and natural systems would weaken water and food security in Brazil and beyond.



The Institute for Climate and Society (ICS) is Brazil's leading independent philanthropic platform dedicated to advancing the national climate agenda. Established in 2015, alongside the Paris Agreement, ICS has mobilized more than US\$140 million to strengthen over 480 organizations across all Brazilian biomes. Operating as a Regional Climate Foundation (RCF), ICS acts as both a strategic convener and enabler of systemic change, fostering dialogue, innovation, and evidence-based public policy. The Institute connects opportunities and capacities, bridging civil society, research centers, social movements, and private initiatives through its four programmatic areas.

After nearly a decade of work, ICS has reached a new level of institutional maturity and impact, marked by enhanced governance, transparency, and diversity policies, as well as the adoption of new operational and compliance frameworks suited to a large-scale institution. Structured around four interconnected programs — **Land Use Transition, Food Systems and Bioeconomy; Energy, Industry and Transport Transition; Climate Policy and Institutional Framework;** and **Agents of Change for Climate Action** — ICS integrates technical expertise and multisectoral engagement to strengthen Brazil's leadership in climate action. The Institute remains committed to fostering alliances, innovation, and consistency in pursuit of a just, inclusive, and sustainable development pathway.



Our analysis and interviews with experts resulted in the **following recommendations** for climate philanthropy in Brazil:

1 Diversify and Stabilize Brazil's Domestic Climate

Funding Ecosystem:

Reliance on a small group of international donors creates vulnerability; growing domestic philanthropy (supported by clearer incentives, matchmaking, and transparency) can broaden the base of funders and stabilize flows through Brazil-based institutions.

2 Scale Up International Philanthropic

Investment Responsibly and Strategically:

Brazil offers outsized global benefits for international climate philanthropy, but effectiveness depends on alignment with local leadership. International funders should pair pooled vehicles with direct finance, provide multi-year flexible support, and build trust-based partnerships that complement existing capacities.

3 Rebalance Sectoral Portfolios Beyond Land Use:

Land use dominates philanthropic portfolios while sustainable energy, transport, circular economy, coasts/oceans, and urban resilience remain underfunded; rebalancing should expand civil society capacity in these areas and back integrated strategies that connect mobility, energy, health, and land use.

4 Focus on the Implementation of Climate Policies and Link to Economic Growth:

The priority now is delivery that ties climate ambition to competitiveness, jobs, and inclusion. Philanthropy can support institutional continuity, subsidy and regulatory reform, and initiatives that channel capital through Brazil's ecological transformation platforms.

5 Expand Place-Based Investment Beyond the Amazon:

Other biomes and cities face significant mitigation, and adaptation needs yet receive limited support; increase overall philanthropic funding through biome-specific strategies, stronger local institutions (including IP&LC networks), and regional plans co-designed with local actors.

6 Scale and Deepen Funding for Indigenous Peoples, Quilombolas, and Traditional Communities' Land Rights:

Rights-based climate solutions are effective but under-resourced; expand direct community access via IP&LC-led funds, finance the development and implementation of Territorial and Environmental Management Plans, and embed dedicated windows for community organizations in major finance mechanisms.

7 Work to Close the Climate Adaptation Funding Gap:

Adaptation remains underfunded despite escalating risks; prioritise strengthening the national regulatory and data infrastructure while expanding institutional capacities at the subnational level, analyzing climate risks to critical infrastructure, and scaling locally led, dual-benefit solutions through strategic cooperation.

8 Strengthen Brazil's Climate Grantee Ecosystem:

Brazil's diverse but underfunded civil society needs institutional strengthening alongside projects. Increase core, multi-year support, empower regrants to diversify portfolios and reach underrepresented regions, and raise the share of funds flowing directly to Brazil-based organizations.