



2024 report

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01.

Foreword

The growing wave of attacks on civil society and democracy around the world is a stark reminder that our hard-won rights are under constant threat.

Within this scenario, financially suffocating civil society organizations and social movements has emerged as a core strategy employed by far-right groups and governments. Cuts to international cooperation budgets, bureaucratic criminalization, bills attacking organizations and their supporters – these are just some of the actions taken by authoritarian regimes to further restrict civic space.

In this context, it is crucial to talk about funding for civil society. And not from a technocratic viewpoint, but from a political perspective. Because talking about funding is not just about discussing budget spreadsheets or financial sustainability. It is about how the money flows. It is about supporting resistance. It is about making sure that the funds reach the people who are on the front lines of the fight for rights and the strengthening of civil society. Above all, it is about defending democracy.

In philanthropy, this political dimension of funding is often, and intentionally, ignored. Funding is presented as “neutral”. Bureaucratic barriers are erected in the name of compliance with “good business” corporate practices. Disproportionate accountability is demanded of organizations in exchange for minimal resources. These practices, among many others, contribute directly to the dismantling and depoliticization of civil society. In the current context, there is an urgent need to challenge this logic and build a funding and philanthropy architecture that truly takes the rights agenda to center stage. That takes a side. That is not ashamed to be political.

At Comuá, this commitment is a part of our history, and in 2024, we took important steps towards consolidating and strengthening our mission: to promote a philanthropy that is more giving to the agendas of socio-environmental justice, human rights and community empowerment. But systemic changes do not happen overnight. That is why it is crucial to ensure the sustainability of our advocacy efforts, and a minimal institutional framework to be able to do so. Treating institutional strengthening as a political, strategic element, in service of the mission, is vital in a field that often reduces this debate to technical and donor-centered approaches.

In the midst of these movements, Comuá has remained steadfast in its advocacy, actively participating in the discussions tied to the G20 and G20 Social Summits, COP 29, the F20 Climate Solutions Forum,

and other domestic and international spaces. We also launched the Comuá for Climate initiative, which highlights the core role of independent and socio-environmental justice funds in supporting local climate solutions. Engaging in decision-making spaces as a network is crucial within a context that favors the fragmentation and isolation of the actors in the field.

Lastly, 2024 was also a year of transition. After seven years at the helm of Comuá, Graciela Hopstein is stepping down as executive director. I took over in October, committed to honoring and build on the legacy that she and our member organizations have established in the past few years. It is a great responsibility, but I know that I am not alone on this journey.

The context has changed. Comuá has changed. But our political and collective project endures, stronger than ever.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Comuá team, to our member organizations, to Graciela, our partners, funders, and all of those who support and follow our work. I invite you now to revisit the year 2024 with us, and to keep dreaming and building other possible futures for the field of philanthropy.

Thank you and enjoy!

Jonathas Azevedo
Executive Director

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, hand-drawn yellow lines that form a large, irregular circular shape, resembling a scribble or a stylized frame. It is positioned in the lower half of the page, surrounding the text.

02.

Introduction

02

Introduction

The year 2024 brought some very important structural changes to the Comuá Network, with its formalization and the start of the development of policies and protocols to guide its ways of working.

In recent years, the Network has grown and increasingly established itself as a political actor in the field of philanthropy, becoming an important point of reference in socio-environmental justice philanthropy, both in Brazil and internationally. Its formalization is part of this process.

There was also a transition in leadership, with the departure of Graciela Hopstein, who had led the Network for seven years. She has been replaced as the Network's executive director by Jonathas Azevedo, who before was part of Comuá's program advisory team. The commitment to Comuá's political project, built up in recent years, remains solid, with the aim of further expanding the strategic role of independent philanthropy for socio-environmental justice in the field of civil society financing.

To continue advancing in this mission, new practices and workflows are being tested and implemented by the executive team in their ways of working, always aiming to strike a balance between performance and wellbeing. This work is also being done alongside the Network's member organizations by expanding spaces for connection and decision-making, such as the Comuá Work Group for Climate (implemented in 2024) and now the Communication Work Group, which continues this process in 2025.

Parallel to this process, the Network has some important achievements to celebrate: the launch of the Comuá for Climate Initiative, the consolidation of the Transforming Philanthropy Month on the calendar of events of the Brazilian philanthropic ecosystem, the selection of a new group of researchers for the Saberes Program, and the coordinated participation – with several of the Network's member organizations and partners – in major international philanthropy and financing events, further reinforcing its advocacy strategy.

The purpose of this executive report is to highlight the Network's major milestones, achievements, and growth throughout 2024.



03.

Advocacy

The Comuá Network's operations are built around its Advocacy Program, which works in two directions: inward, in the partnership with its member organizations, investing in capacity building, production of knowledge, and structuring collective narratives and positions; and outward, in its relationship with philanthropic ecosystems and other funding forums for civil society, based on internal coordination and collective positioning, and exercised at events, debates, during the production of knowledge, campaigns and collaborations.

3.1 The partnership with its members

Developed on two fronts: Capacity Building, based on Communities of Practice (CoPs); and Strategic Support, which in 2024 focused on financial support for the structuring of and participation in the Transforming Philanthropy Month, and participation in numerous events in the philanthropic field.

3.1.1 Capacity building

The goal is to build and/or strengthen material capacities for its member organizations and their teams and partners. It is structured into four CoPs:

- **NARRATIVE PRODUCTION AND COMMUNICATION CoP:** Proposes periodic exchanges among the organizations' communicators, to open up space for the construction and consolidation of common narratives.
- **INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING CoP:** Addresses issues such as monitoring and assessment, safety and security, self-care, resource management and mobilization.
- **PHILANTHROPY AND DEMOCRACY CoP:** Addresses issues such as grantmaking, examination of the political landscape, climate justice, and democracy.
- **PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE CoP:** Proposes periodic exchanges for the production of knowledge on philanthropy, in collaboration with the *Saberes* Program.

In 2024, 17 CoPs were held with members of the Network, as well as 3 expanded CoPs [with the participation of partners], involving a total of **262 individual participants and 124 participating organizations.**

3.1.2 Strategic support

The goal is to strengthen the primary agendas of the Network's Advocacy Program by delivering financial support to member organizations and leaders, in order to bolster partnerships and alliances, produce knowledge, narratives and coordination initiatives with the Brazilian and international philanthropic ecosystem.

This is structured on two fronts: Supporting member organizations and the Saberes Program – which financially supports its member organizations' teams, researchers, students, civil society and community leaders in the production of current, innovative knowledge tied to the Network's agendas.

During the course of the year, strategic support efforts were developed for member organizations in view of the Transforming Philanthropy Month, as well as occasional strategic support.

In 2024, the support delivered to the member organizations amounted to **R\$214.600,00.**

The second edition of the Saberes Program supported 9 individual researchers with donations totaling **R\$443.830,00.**

3.2 Philanthropic ecosystems and the non-government public sector

This line of strategic action, within the context of the Advocacy Program, involves the production of knowledge, communication efforts, networking, partnerships, organizing events and campaigns, and participating in sector-specific forums and debates.

3.2.1 Production of knowledge

In 2024, the Comuá Network released five publications and one podcast episode.

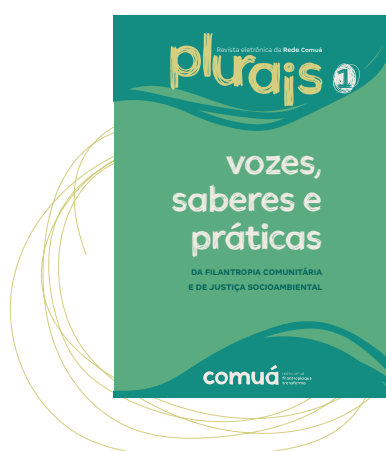
03

Advocacy



Comuá for Climate: financing local climate solutions and philanthropy scenarios

It presents a comprehensive analysis of the Comuá member organizations' climate actions, highlighting the support of local climate solutions, and describes the challenges faced to navigate the current climate finance ecosystem, philanthropy scenarios and the Network's position on them. Also available in English and in the form of executive summaries.



Plurais: voices, knowledge and practices of socio-environmental justice and community philanthropy

With a compilation of reflections by several individuals and organizations that work with these agendas, the purpose of the publication is to promote, support, and give visibility to the production of knowledge, focusing on the practices of independent socio-environmental justice and community philanthropy and how they differ from the traditional forms of donating in Brazil.



Social movements and philanthropy in Brazil

Based on literature reviews, interviews and focus groups, the publication, which is also available in English, explores the role of Brazilian philanthropy in the financing and support of social movements. It also examines these movements' self-financing strategies, challenges, and the impact of philanthropic support on their work. Additionally, it encourages a reflection on how Brazilian philanthropy can potentialize the social movements' causes in the country. Also available in English.



Community philanthropy in Brazil: principles, practices and experiences

Available in Portuguese and English, the publication presents practices, challenges and opportunities to encourage a reflection on the forms of giving and how community philanthropy and socio-environmental justice practices contribute to social transformation in Brazil. Based on the assumption that there is not one right way to do community philanthropy, but rather practices adopted on the basis of a collective construction of civil society organizations and movements, it attempts to arrange the guiding principles of these practices and illustrate them through implemented experiences. Also available in English and in the form of executive summaries.



Community communication and philanthropy: means to strengthen the communication for rights within the context of civil society in Brazil

It provides an overview of community media in Brazil, highlighting their diversity, challenges, and complexity. It explores partnerships between philanthropy and community media, highlighting the demands and the potential for joint financing and coordinated actions. The study emphasizes the importance of supporting this type of media to strengthen democracy and fight misinformation and news deserts. Key facts also available in English.



Podcast: Practices, principles and experiences of community philanthropy in Brazil

Actors from independent philanthropy and private social investment in Brazil reflect on the funding scenario for civil society organizations and movements, the need to change the forms of donating so that more resources can reach the communities and territories, and also on the power of arrangements, trust and collaboration.

3.2.2 Saberes Program

The second class of the **Saberes Program** selected **9 individual researchers** and enabled the creation of the **Saberes Community**, which allows for exchanges and collective constructions among the various classes. A milestone for the Program was the first face-to-face meeting between researchers, which brought together the first two classes at the headquarters of the Procomum Institute, a member of the Comuá Network, in Santos, São Paulo.

Studies supported in 2024:

Study	Individual Researcher
The difficulty faced by social movements to access resources and build a new political culture of giving	<i>Albert França da Costa</i>
Brick by Brick: the experience of creating a community of social supporters to strengthen local and peripheral journalism	<i>Anderson Meneses</i>
My story of donation	<i>Carolina Farias</i>
PSI and incentive laws: exploring the relationships between investors and NGOs of the Northeast of Brazil	<i>Daiany França Saldanha</i>
JUSTAS - Environmental transphobia and climate justice for trans people: what do civil society organizations and the trans movement teach us?	<i>Emilly Mel Fernandes de Souza</i>
Social justice and philanthropy: gender, race and economic rights	<i>Luana Braga Batista</i>
<i>Cadê o aquê?</i> Mapping absences, (dis)connections, and possibilities among transvestite and transgender women's organizations and philanthropy in Brazil	<i>Maria Clara Araújo dos Passos</i>
<i>"Axé para quem é de axé":</i> the role of philanthropy for social justice in strengthening terreiro peoples and fighting religious racism	<i>Mayana Hellen Nunes da Silva</i>
Peripheral youth's access to funding - The work done by socio-environmental justice and community philanthropy - the experiences of the Casa Socio-environmental Fund	<i>Regilon de Matos Alves da Silva</i>

In 2024, 9 meetings were held among the researchers, with the participation of fellows from the #ShiftThePower movement, as well as an extra connection, specifically concerning communication.

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Advocacy



The first in-person meeting of individual researchers, from the classes of 2022 and 2024, was held at the headquarters of the Procomum Institute, in Santos, formalizing the *Saberes Community*.

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Advocacy

access:

The podcast [my story of donation](#), by **Carol Farias**, which was supported by the **Saberes Program**.

[Mamão com rapadura](#), newsletter by **Daiany França** in which she shares reflections based on findings of the **Saberes Program**.

The [Guide on the Mobilization of Resources for Community-based and Social Movements](#), by **Albert França**.

[Brick by Brick](#), guide produced by **Anderson Meneses** about the experience of constructing a community of supporters around journalism.

[How people are affected by climate change](#), by **Emilly Mel**.

The publication [Cadê o Aquê? Mapping absences, \(dis\)connections, and possibilities among transvestite and transgender women's organizations and philanthropy in Brazil](#), by **Maria Clara Araújo dos Passos**

The publication [Abre Caminhos: Umbanda yards and philanthropy moving together for social justice](#), by **Mayana Hellen Nunes**.

The articles [The crucial role of Black women in Brazil's fight for social justice](#) [available in Portuguese on the [Comuá blog](#)]; [Building a philanthropy for social justice: racial and gender equity at the center of the debate](#), by **Luana Braga Batista**

The webinar [Research in philanthropy – Perspectives from the Global South](#), with the participation of **Daiany França** and **Luana Braga Batista**



[click here](#) to see all the classes' research topics.

COMUÁ FOR CLIMATE

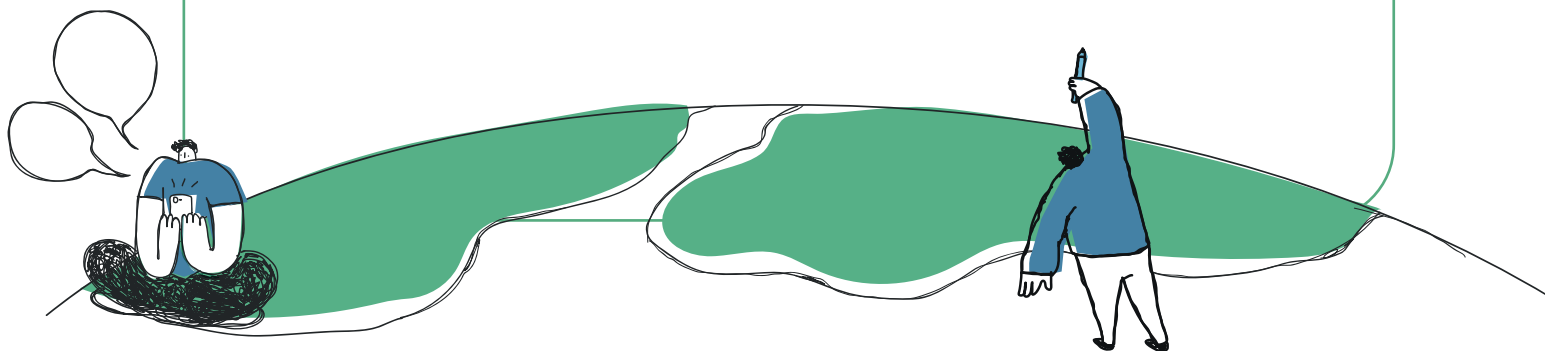
In 2024, the **Comuá Network** launched the **Comuá for Climate** initiative, which highlights the experience of its member organizations in supporting local climate solutions, created by groups and communities in their territories to face the adverse effects of climate change.

The Network's organizations have worked with the groups most impacted by climate change for decades, developing mechanisms and forms of donation that ensure that the resources reach traditional communities, indigenous peoples, quilombolas, family farmers, women, black and LGBTQIAPN+ people, and other politically marginalized groups living in forest, rural, and urban peripheral environments. Climate appears as a cross-cutting issue, and as yet another layer of inequality.

The initiative was pre-launched in June, during the **F20 Climate Solutions Forum**, in the city of Rio de Janeiro. In September, the Network held an **event in São Paulo to launch the initiative**, which was promoted shortly thereafter during the **NY Climate Week**, at the New York headquarters of BrazilFoundation.



watch the [video](#)
of the launch event
in São Paulo



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Advocacy



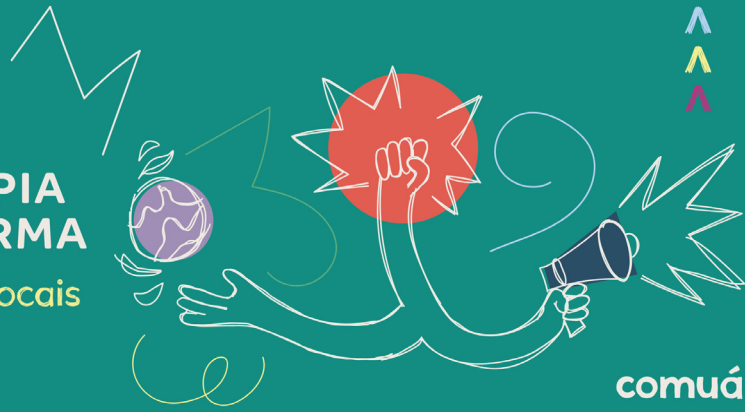
Comua for Climate launch event



Comuá for Climate launch event

MÊS DA
FILANTROPIA
QUE TRANSFORMA
soluções climáticas locais

2024



03

Advocacy

Transforming Philanthropy Month 2024

The second edition of the **Transforming Philanthropy Month** shows that the event has in fact secured a place on the Brazilian philanthropy calendar and grown into an excellent platform to intentionally address the importance of reviewing donation practices and expanding resources to support civil society's local solutions for transformation within its territories.

Its greatest strength is hosting events proposed by numerous organizations and partners, which gives visibility to a wide range of voices and perspectives.

51 online, hybrid or in-person **activities**

7 financial **supporters**

42 activities promoted by the Network's member organizations

760,244 people reached by the contents produced during the Month

263 organizations involved

19 institutional **partners**

3.2.3 Participation in events

The **Comuá Network's** executive team and its members **actively participated in major international conferences**, such as the **COP 29 Climate Conference**, the **COP 16 Biodiversity Conference**, and the **G20 Social Summit in Brazil**, contributing to debates and decision-making spaces concerning the funding of local solutions, as well as in several other events in the field of philanthropy and financing for civil society.

03

Advocacy





Seminário Internacional MROSC – Brasília



Medir o que Importa – Bali, Indonésia



04.

**Networked
communication**

Communication is an important foundation of the Comuá Network's operations. It serves two simultaneous roles: it is both a crucial part of the advocacy strategies directed to philanthropic ecosystems and funding for civil society and a catalyst for the Network's and its members' collective advocacy capacity. This approach seeks to articulate and disseminate agendas and build narratives to achieve visibility and impact, all while promoting socio-environmental justice and community philanthropy.

The greatest asset of the Comuá Network's communication is precisely its collective and networked approach, always seeking to make space for diverse perspectives, voices, and visions in its strategies, narratives, and channels.

4.1 Campaigns

4.1.1 Transforming Philanthropy Month

In September 2024, the Network's second collective campaign was announced, identified by the hashtag #EuApoioTransformação (#ISupportTransformation), which directly involved its member organizations in the construction and dissemination of key messages and contents on their social networks and through media engagement.

The communication campaign reached 760,244 people on traditional media channels/platforms. 5 special newsletters were sent out with contents about the Month, delivered to a mailing list with 4,298 leads and an average open rate of 98%.



**Check out the 2024
campaign on Comuá's
[youtube](#) channel**

4.1.2 COP29

In November and December 2024, a second networked campaign was collaboratively developed, including teaser content produced and shared ahead of COP 29 and directly from Azerbaijan. This content was amplified on the channels of Comuá and its member organizations, highlighting the Network's coordinated participation in different forums for discussion, focused on the agenda of climate finance for local climate solutions.

Seven of the Network's member organizations attended COP 29, along with the executive team, and took part in debates and in the production of content.



Check it out on Comuá's [instagram](#) page

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Networked
communication

4.2 Channels

In 2024, the Comuá Network enhanced the use of its channels and disseminated knowledge about its agendas, as well as the participation in and the promotion of events by the Network and its member organizations, emphasizing their collective advocacy agendas.

Presently, the Network disseminates knowledge through its social media platforms – LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook –, on its YouTube channel, as well as newsletters. On its blog, it publishes contributions from partners in the field of philanthropy and its members, in addition to articles about the Network's activities. In 2024, 44 pieces of content were published on the blog, distributed through 9 regular newsletters and 35 special newsletters [Publication releases, Philanthropy Month, the Saberes Program and the Comuá for Climate Program, COP 29, among others] to more than 4,000 leads, with an average open rate of 40.8%.

The Network's Instagram page has just over 4,400 followers, while its Facebook page has 2,600 followers; its LinkedIn page, which is becoming increasingly strategic for Comuá's operations, has 6,064 followers and 2,389 subscribers.



COP 29 – Baku, Azerbaijão



COP 29 – Baku, Azerbaijão



G20 Social

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Networked communication

4.3 Events organized by the Network

In 2024, the Network held three events online:



Webinar to launch the publication *Community Communication and Philanthropy*

Roundtable How does community knowledge challenge and transform the philanthropic field?

Webinar to launch the publication *Social Movements and Philanthropy*

2024 podcasts that we recommend

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Networked
communication



Guilhotina
episodes of the Le Monde Diplomatique Brasil podcast in partnership with CESE

Soluções locais impactos globais
podcast by the BrazilFoundation

Impacto na Encruzilhada
three episodes in collab with the Comuá Network

Resenha sustentável
podcast by FunBEA

Canto da Coruja comunidade
podcast by the ISPN

GIFE - série grantmaking
episode about the 2022-2023 Census



04

Networked communication

Check out these contents



Comuá Network Blog

Cultivating resilience in times of climate crisis: knowledge and lessons from the field

Roberto Vilela and Simone Amorim

Measuring what matters is a political act!

Yasmin Morais

The scarcity of direct and flexible funding for human rights in the Global South and East: reflections on the Brazilian scenario

Graciela Hopstein and Mônica C. Ribeiro

Stanford Social Innovation Review Brasil

Philanthropy and financing: decolonizing the construction of knowledge

Jonathas Azevedo and Yasmin Morais

Um só Planeta

The role of independent and community philanthropy funds in climate finance

Jonathas Azevedo, Cristina Orpheo, Ana Valéria Araújo and Savana Brito

Carta Capital

Socio-environmental philanthropy

Jonathas Azevedo

WINGS

The transformation of philanthropy: practices of independent and community philanthropy in Brazil

Jonathas Azevedo

04

Networked
communication



05.

**Coordination
and partnerships**

5.1 Groups and networks

Presently, the Comuá Network is a member of the following networks and work groups:



RT de Grantmaking e
Grupo de Conhecimento



05

Coordination
and partnerships

5.1 Brazilian partners



5.2 International partners



05

Coordination and partnerships



5.3 Financial support



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Coordination
and partnerships



06.

Governance

The year 2024 marked a transition in the leadership of the Comuá Network, with the departure of Graciela Hopstein from the office of executive director. She was replaced by Jonathas Azevedo, who before was part of Comuá's program advisory team. The transition process was carefully executed, respecting the principles that have driven the Network's growth in recent years.

Continuing the formalization process that began in mid-2023, the Comuá Network began to design protocols and policies to support its forms of operation, such as the safeguarding policy, which directs the management of its activities, ensuring the protection of the physical, mental and moral integrity of everyone associated with the Network. Additionally, the Network is adjusting to the LGPD (Brazilian Data Protection Law). These processes are expected to conclude in 2025.

Since its formalization, Comuá has instituted the following governance structures: General Assembly, made up of all its member organizations; Governance Board, consisting of four representatives; and Audit Committee, with two members.



Access the [Network's safeguarding policy](#), completed in 2025



About the transition process, check out:

article by Graciela Hopstein with an [overview of her work ahead of the Network](#)

interviews with [Jonathas Azevedo](#) and [Graciela Hopstein](#)

the podcast [impacto na encruzilhada](#)

6.1 Creation of WGs

Carrying on its commitment of creating spaces for collective construction, in 2024, the Network created the Comuá for Climate Work Group, aiming to design and direct the strategy of the Comuá for Climate initiative, to strengthen its influence in the fields of philanthropy and the non-government public sector, both in Brazil and internationally.

The Comuá for Climate WG is made up of five member organizations: the Institute for Climate and Society - iCS, the Brazilian Environmental Education Fund, the Procomum Institute, the Casa Socio-environmental Fund, and the Brazil Human Rights Fund, in addition to the members of the Comuá Network's executive team. The selection of its members considered criteria such as the diversity of the territorial and thematic funds that make up the Network and the history and involvement of the organizations with the climate agenda.

6.2 Expansion of the executive team

In 2024, based on the lessons learned and the needs identified from the Network's activities in the previous year, Comuá also expanded its executive team by adding three new members to the Programs, Operations, and Communication areas.

6.3 Organizations that joined the Network in 2024

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Governance





07.

Transparency

The **Comuá Network** publishes its audit reports on its website yearly. The audits are executed by independent auditors, to ensure the integrity and reliability of its financial and operational information and reiterate its commitment to transparency and accountability.

The yearly executive reports can also be accessed under the transparency tab on the website.

In 2024, the **Comuá Network's** budget, including all of its activities in addition to its operating costs, was **R\$ 3.054.459,72**



Access the latest [audit report](#)








Access earlier [activity reports](#)



08.

Futures

In 2024, the **Comuá Network** planned its operating cycle for the 2025–2030 period, establishing the following strategic goals:

-  To strengthen the concept of socio–environmental justice and community philanthropy among the members of the Comuá Network within the Brazilian and international philanthropic ecosystem, positioning independent donor organizations as political and strategic actors;
-  To strengthen the collective impact of the Comuá Network within alliances, forums, and decision–making spaces focusing on financing for organized civil society;
-  To consolidate the Comuá Network’s collective voice, increasing its visibility and recognition among the players in the Brazilian and international philanthropic ecosystem;
-  To strengthen the sense of community, collaboration, and the development of joint initiatives among the members of the Comuá Network;
-  To advance the institutional strengthening of the Comuá Network.

staff

Comuá Network – 2024 Executive Report

Editorial design: Mônica C. Ribeiro

Information processing and systematization: Executive Team

Graphic design and layout: Marina Castilho

Comuá Network

Executive Team

Jonathas Azevedo – Executive Director

Mica Peres – Operations Coordinator

Mônica C. Ribeiro – Communication Coordinator

Wanda Alves – Operations Advisory and Finance

Yasmin Moraes – Program Advisor

Gugo Siqueira – Program Advisor

Jéssz Ipólito – Communication Consultant

Governance Board

Ana Valéria Araújo – Brazil Fund

Giovanni Harvey – Baobá – Fund for Racial Equity

Larissa Amorim – Casa Fluminense

Roberto Vilela – Tabôa – Community Reinforcement

Monica De Roure – BrazilFoundation

Audit Committee

Gislene Aniceto – Brazil Fund

Hebe da Silva – Baobá – Fund for Racial Equity

members





comuá rede comuá
filantropia que
transforma

