

**IGARAPÉ INSTITUTE**  
a think and do tank

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**Annual**  
*Report*



**IGARAPÉ INSTITUTE**  
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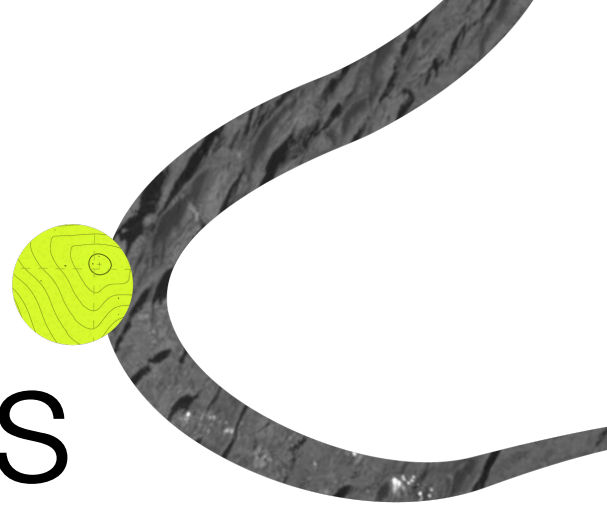




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# Letter from the Directors



Throughout 2024, the Igarapé Institute continued to drive solutions for public, digital and climate security challenges. At a time of deepening geopolitical turbulence, the Institute reinforced its role as a key interlocutor in global debates on international security, safe and secure AI, and environmental crime. We also expanded activities in new areas - including advancing a fair and green economic transition and deepened engagement in others - such as de-risking territories to scale nature-based solutions and finance. Throughout, the Institute has remained steadfast to its mission — to inform, advise, and connect decision-makers across the public, private, and nonprofit spheres, ensuring that pressing global challenges are met with informed, coordinated action.

Globally, the challenges ahead are stark. The past year was officially recorded as the hottest in human history, the first to breach the 1.5°C threshold set by the Paris Climate Agreement. Indeed, the past 10 years are the hottest on record, contributing to catastrophic floods, raging wildfires, and prolonged droughts across continents. Meanwhile, the geopolitical landscape has grown more volatile. Armed conflicts intensified, reaching a record-high in 2024, political polarization deepened, and misinformation and disinformation surged, threatening the fragile consensus necessary for urgent global action. Amidst this turbulence, the imperative for evidence-based policy and cross-sector collaboration has never been clearer.

The Amazon Basin, a central focus of our work, is under siege. Not only does deforestation and illicit activities threaten the biome spanning 8 countries, but those defending it—environmental activists and indigenous communities—face increasing levels of violence. The link between environmental crime and organized crime is increasingly evident. In response, the Igarapé Institute expanded its initiatives to develop evidence of the scope and scale of the problem, foster cooperation with regional actors, and build bridges between local authorities and international stakeholders to tackle environmental and associated crimes. Protecting the Amazon is not just a regional concern; it is a global imperative.

On the national stage, Brazil assumed a leadership role in the G20, a platform through which the Igarapé Institute worked to align the country's priorities with global agendas. The Institute and its partners supported the T20, among other groups, in placing financing for climate transition, biodiversity protection, and an inclusive bioeconomy at the heart of international discussions. These efforts have paved the way for Brazil's role in the upcoming BRICS Summit and COP30 in Belém in 2025, where its leadership will be critical in shaping a sustainable future. Brazil has the potential to be a lodestar for innovative climate solutions, and we have worked tirelessly to ensure that this opportunity is seized.



For the Igarapé Institute, 2024 was a year of investment—in ideas, people, partnerships, and action. The Institute successfully introduced our priority issues into the world's most important global forums - from Davos to the UN General Assembly and COP16 - ensuring that urgent matters such as environmental crime, digital security, and multilateral cooperation were not just discussed, but acted on. The returns on this investment are already visible. The recognition of the Institute's work at key international summits, in corporate boardrooms, and government departments is a testament to the effectiveness of the Institute and its partners' tireless efforts. Over our fourteen-year trajectory, we have remained committed to a singular vision: protecting people and the planet through security, democracy, and sustainable development.

As we move forward, we take inspiration in the wisdom of our ancestors in Brazil and around the world. The word 'igarapé'—meaning 'path of the canoe' in Tupi—reflects our mission to navigate pathways toward progress. In 2025 and beyond, we will continue to chart a course that positions Brazil and other countries in the Global South as beacons of innovative and pragmatic solutions. The world faces an urgent need to reconcile economic growth with planetary boundaries. Brazil,

endowed with unparalleled biodiversity and a wealth of renewable resources, is uniquely placed to demonstrate that development and environmental responsibility are not mutually exclusive, but rather, mutually reinforcing.

Given the scale of the challenges ahead in 2025 and beyond, this is not a time for complacency. The coming year will demand even greater resolve. The interconnected crises of climate change, advances in AGI, geopolitical instability, and organized crime require coordinated, strategic responses. We must bolster international cooperation, fortify democratic institutions, and embrace innovation to drive a just and sustainable transition. Igarapé Institute will continue to be at the forefront of these efforts, bridging divides between governments, civil society, and the private sector.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners, allies, and supporters. Your commitment has been instrumental in shaping the Institute's achievements. As we step into 2025, we invite you to join us in redoubling our efforts. The path ahead is complex, but together, we can navigate it with purpose. We remain resolute in our belief that a safer, more sustainable, and more just world is within reach.



Ilona Szabó de Carvalho  
*Co-Founder and President*



Melina Risso  
*Research Director*



Liriana Figueiredo  
*Programs Director*



Maria Amélia Teixeira  
*Operations Director*



# Activities



# At Global Forums for a Collective Future

The convergence of climate and biodiversity agendas shaped our main global discussions throughout 2024, particularly in events and gatherings focused on international cooperation and multilateralism. The year started with the Igarapé Institute's high-profile participation at the **World Economic Forum** in Davos, where Ilona Szabó, the Institute's Co-Founder and President, and Robert Muggah, Chief Innovation Officer (CIO), served as moderators and panelists in sessions on global governance and sustainability. This engagement reinforced our contributions to these debates and further expanded our international reach.



In May, at the invitation of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Robert Muggah addressed the **United Nations Chief Executives Board** (CEB) in New York. His speech focused on the threats posed by transnational organized crime and the need for a coordinated response to tackle this issue, which has become increasingly complex due to technological advancements. This moment further consolidated Igarapé's role as a key reference in both international security and the development of strategies to dismantle criminal networks.

We also took part in the **United Nations Civil Society Conference**, held in May in Nairobi, Kenya. Igarapé co-hosted the workshop “Synergies Between the Summit of the Future and the G20 to Transform Global Governance,” along with two impact coalitions: “Scientific and Policy Solutions for the Planet” and “Financing for Development and Reforming the International Financial Architecture.” The goal was to foster dialogue and promote alignment on global challenges, directly contributing to the development of the agenda for the [Summit of the Future](#), later held at UN Headquarters in New York.



As part of the official [Action Days](#) programming that preceded the Summit, we co-organized the event “[Advancing Global Governance Reform: Harnessing Synergies of SOTF and G20 for a Resilient Future](#),” in partnership with Forus and with the co-sponsorship of the governments of Brazil and South Africa, the European Union, the UN Foundation, the T20 Task Force on Strengthening Multilateralism and Global Governance (TF6), and Abong. The session featured noteworthy remarks from Ambassador Maurício Lyrio and Zane Dangor, the G20 sherpas, for Brazil and South Africa, respectively.



We also participated in four additional discussions during the Action Days, focusing on strengthening multilateralism and reforming global governance, as well as climate governance and financing for nature and climate, and the regulation of the digital sphere. One of the highlights was the event “[Scaling Up Development and Climate Financing](#),” which featured contributions from Ilona Szabó, along with Rémy Rioux, CEO of the French Development Agency (AFD) and Co-Chair of the Finance in Common (FiCS) Executive Board; Samaila Zubairu, President of the African Finance Corporation; and Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





Igarapé was the only Brazilian organization to be actively involved in the entire process of the [Our Common Agenda](#) initiative, which recommended the establishment of the High-Level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Effective Multilateralism. Following Secretary-General António Guterres' appointment of Ilona Szabó as the sole representative of Latin America on the HLAB, the President of the Igarapé Institute led the subgroup on climate and environmental governance. After 12 months of work, the report "[A Breakthrough for People and the Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for the Present and the Future](#)" was published. The report outlines an ambitious plan to strengthen the multilateral system by addressing critical issues, including the climate crisis, rising inequality, the lack of financing for sustainable development, and digital exclusion.



This process culminated in the Summit of the Future and the signing of the [Pact for the Future](#) in September 2024. By adopting the Pact, world leaders took a critical step toward building consensus on global challenges. The document outlines 56 commitments on key issues, including climate change, armed conflict, inequality, and unregulated technological advancements. It also addresses structural concerns, including reform of the UN Security Council, the transition to clean energy, the ethical governance of artificial intelligence, and the inclusion of youth in global decision-making processes.



This international coordination effort coincided with a historic moment led by Brazil, which, for the first time in history, proposed and held a **G20 meeting at the United Nations Headquarters** open to all Member States. The meeting took place during the UN General Assembly, immediately following the Summit of the Future.

At the same time, the Institute once again took part in **New York Climate Week**, where it co-organized the event “Green Bridge Facility – Scaling Green Enterprises and Social Impact in Brazil and the Amazon Basin” alongside the Arapyaú and Itaúsa Institutes. Igarapé also [participated in a series of events](#) addressing topics such as “The Nexus Between Poverty and Planetary Stability” and “Financing for Sustainable Development”.



In 2024, we participated in **London Climate Action Week** for the first time, a relatively new space on the global climate agenda. Our presence combined public events and closed-door sessions with key stakeholders. Highlights included two panels at the Brazil Forum UK, held in London and Oxford, focused on discussions bridging COP26 and COP30, as well as addressing environmental crimes in the Amazon. We also delivered remarks at the World Economic Forum reception themed “Enabling a Nature-Positive and Net-Zero Economy.”

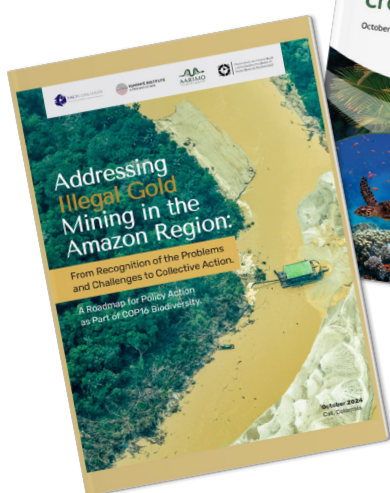




In October, we took part in the **16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity** (COP16 Bio), held in Cali, Colombia. During the forum, [we led key discussions](#) on territorial risk and resilience, bioeconomy financing, the eradication of environmental crimes, and illegal gold mining in the Amazon. Topics such as the connection between drug and environmental policies, as well as synergies between the biodiversity and climate agendas, were also central to the conversations.



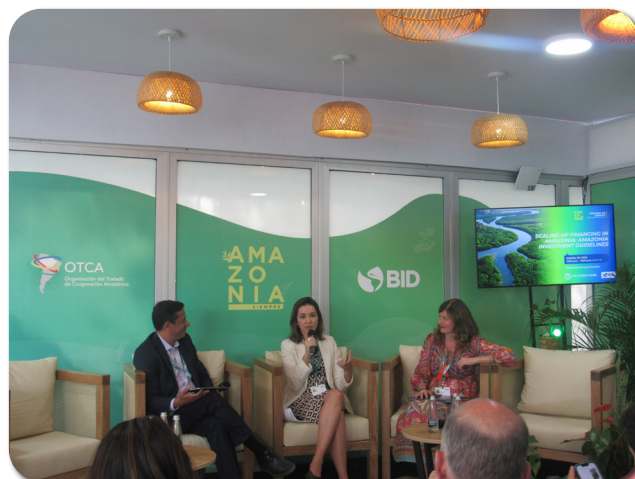
It was at COP16 that the **International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits** (IAPB) launched a [reference framework](#) for the development of high-integrity biodiversity credit markets. As a member of the Panel, Ilona Szabó played an active role in the discussions and in shaping this initiative.



In partnership with regional and international organizations – including the Amazon Alliance for the Reduction of the Impacts of Gold Mining (AARIMO), the FACT Coalition (USA), and the Illegal Mining Observatory of Peru – we presented [recommendations](#) to mitigate the impacts of illegal mining in the Amazon Basin and protect the biodiversity of one of the world's most vital biomes for present and future generations.

Another key moment during COP16 was the event “Scaling Up Financing in the Amazon”, where the investment guidelines for the Amazon Bonds were presented. This instrument, developed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank, with Igarapé as a recognized knowledge partner, is designed to mobilize private capital and promote sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development in the Amazon rainforest.

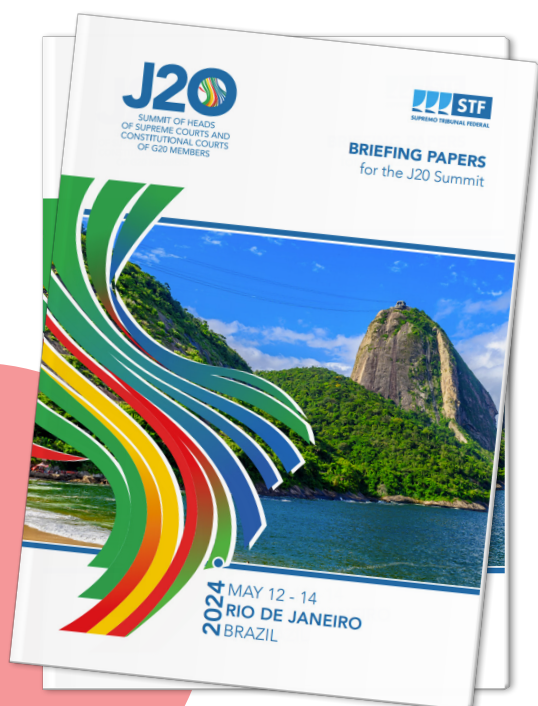
November featured a series of major global events, starting with **COP29**, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, which focused on coordinating efforts to curb climate change. At this leading multilateral forum on climate deliberations, we emphasized the importance of Brazilian leadership in driving a just and green economic transition. Through [three dedicated events](#), Igarapé hosted strategic discussions on critical issues related to the climate crisis. Topics included the synergy between G20 and COP processes to mobilize finance for climate, nature, and sustainable development; Brazil's global leadership role in advancing a fair and green economic transition; and strategies to scale green enterprises and unlock responsible investment in the Amazon Basin and other biomes.



Within the G20 framework, the Igarapé Institute played a strategic role by joining the **Bioeconomy Initiative Support Group** (GIB) and, alongside partner organizations, providing support and input for the development of the [Ten High-Level Principles on Bioeconomy](#). The establishment of these principles, reflected in the bloc's final declaration in November, was highlighted by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva during the Leaders' Meeting in New York. In this context, we reaffirmed bioeconomy as a key strategy for sustainable and inclusive development.



In tandem, our work with the **T20** – one of the official engagement groups that supports the G20 and comprises think tanks from member countries – was also a key part of our 2024 contributions. We served on the Secretariat of the T20 National Advisory Council and co-led the task force on strengthening multilateralism and global governance, alongside the South African think tank Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD). This engagement ensured that evidence-based recommendations, such as strengthening global cooperation and increasing investment in climate-resilient development, including through reform of the international financial architecture, were not only incorporated into G20 discussions but also formally submitted to Brazil's G20 presidency and other member countries. These actions reinforced the importance of more collaborative and effective governance in addressing global challenges.



In the context of the **J20** – an initiative that brings together representatives of the Supreme Courts and Constitutional Courts of G20 member countries – Igarapé contributed to the topic “*Climate Litigation and Sustainable Development*” at the invitation of Brazil's Supreme Federal Court (STF). The [material](#) prepared by the Institute was shared with participants during a global meeting organized by the Brazilian Supreme Court.



Toward the end of the year, we followed the side agendas of the **G20 Leaders' Summit**, held in November in Rio de Janeiro, which brought together Heads of State and Government Officials from the world's largest economies around a unified development agenda. One highlight of Igarapé's participation was the [G20 Social](#), an unprecedented initiative that opened space for active civil society engagement in shaping the public policies discussed by G20 leaders. As part of this effort, we organized the event "Brazil's Leadership in the Global Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy: From G20 to COP 30," in partnership with Instituto AYA, the B20, and the Climate Group.



In collaboration with Earth4All, we also hosted the panel "There Is No Equity and Well-being on an Unstable Planet; There Is No Stable Planet Without Equity," featuring Laurence Tubiana, CEO of the European Climate Foundation (ECF), as keynote speaker. The panel also included Ana Inoue, Superintendent at Itaú Education and Work program and Director at Instituto Acaia; Daniel Calarco, President of the International Youth Observatory; Felipe Hees, Brazil's G20 Sub-Sherpa; Gustavo Westmann, Head of the International Affairs Office of the General Secretariat of the Presidency of Brazil; Luciana Costa, Director of Infrastructure, Energy Transition and Climate Change at BNDES; and Maria João Rodrigues, President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies.

# Tackling Environmental and Related Crimes

In 2024, we continued our efforts to tackle environmental and related crimes that severely affect the Amazon Basin and contribute to climate change. In terms of knowledge production, a key milestone was the release of the third study in the *Follow the Money* series, titled “[Environmental Crimes and Illicit Economic Activities in Brazilian Amazon Supply Chains](#).” The publication presents a detailed analysis of financial flows and economic irregularities that sustain illegal activities in the cross-border region. We also published the strategic article “[Dynamics of the Ecosystem of Environmental Crimes in the Legal Amazon](#),” which explores how environmental crimes are interconnected with networks of economic illicit activities and transnational crime, forming a highly organized and complex ecosystem.



Additionally, we provided technical support to the National Strategy to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering (Enccla), which coordinates interagency efforts on priority issues selected annually. We participated in two [working groups](#) focused on preventing, detecting, and holding accountable money laundering and environmental crimes in timber and cattle supply chains. Frequently linked to deforestation and illegal exploitation, these supply chains are among the key critical targets in efforts to combat crimes affecting the Amazon.

Another key highlight was our contribution to the regulatory agenda of the Central Bank of Brazil, which issued [Normative Instruction No. 461](#) in April. The regulation recognizes various irregularities in gold purchases, including the money laundering risks, marking a crucial step toward strengthening governance over the sector.

In October, we held the course “Combating Money Laundering and Corruption in Environmental Crimes,” in partnership with the Brazilian Association of Environmental Prosecutors (Abrampa) and the Ministry of Justice through the National Network of Anti-Money Laundering Technology Labs (Rede-Lab). The course focused on training environmental prosecutors in anti-money laundering strategies and techniques.

We also reinforced dialogue with the banking sector, which plays a crucial role in preventing money laundering associated with environmental crimes. The knowledge we produced was shared across several forums, including the Anti-Money Laundering Committee of Febraban, and the National Conference on Environmental Crimes and Money Laundering, hosted by Caixa Econômica Federal, and Itaú’s 8th PLD Experience. In total, more than 1,200 representatives from these institutions were reached through these engagements.

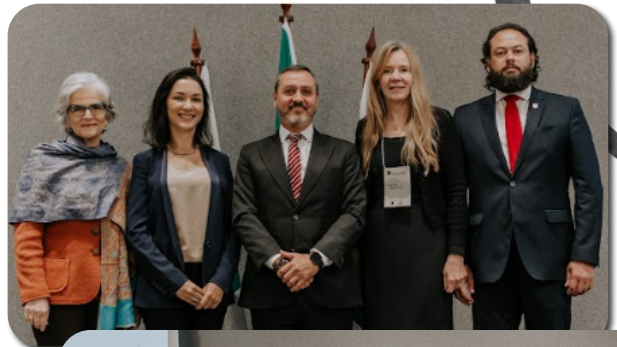


# Regional Cooperation to Preserve Standing Forest

In 2024, we intensified our efforts to foster regional dialogue and strategies aimed at protecting the Amazon Basin and tackling the environmental crimes that threaten the integrity of the forest and its inhabitants.

To strengthen regional cooperation, coordinated action, and knowledge exchange, we organized two **Regional Meetings**. The first, held in partnership with Brazil's Federal Police, brought together authorities from Amazonian countries – including law enforcement agencies, public prosecutors, environmental authorities, and financial intelligence units – to discuss ways to improve the response to crimes driving deforestation and undermining socio-environmental balance, as well as to define priority areas for action.

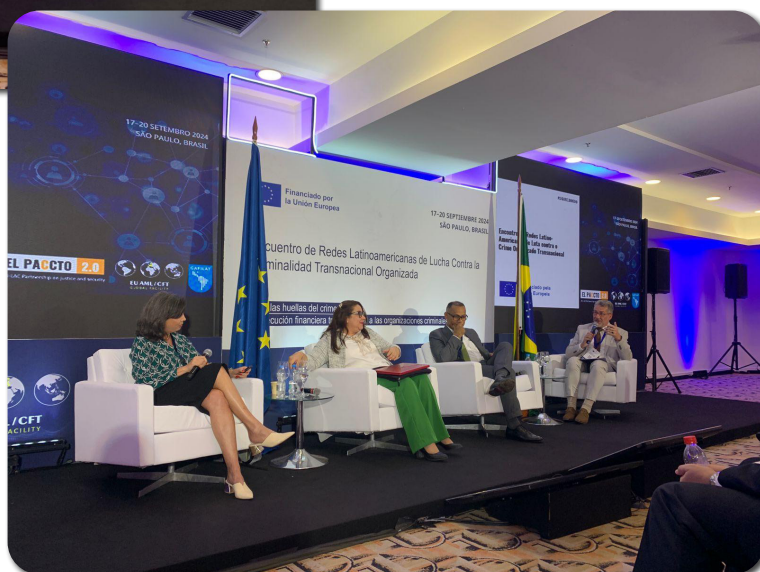
The second meeting, organized in partnership with the Latin American Financial Action Task Force (Gafilat), convened experts, authorities, civil society organizations, and private sector actors from across the Amazon Basin to exchange experiences and present case studies on effective methods for preventing money laundering in connection with environmental crimes.



In July, Melina Risso, Research Director at Igarapé Institute, represented the organization at the **Brazil-Colombia Binational Meeting on Security and Social and Community Development in Border Regions**, held in Tabatinga (Amazonas state), at the tri-border area between Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. The event brought together government representatives, civil society organizations, and philanthropic institutions to address the specific challenges faced in border regions, such as the impact of organized crime, rising alcohol and drug use, and public security issues. The discussions led to proposals aimed at mitigating the effects of criminal networks and their consequences.

Melina Risso also played a key role as the sole representative from civil society at the **Latin American Networks Meeting on Combating Transnational Organized Crime**, held in September. On that occasion, she presented Igarapé's research on the interconnection between environmental crimes and economic illicit activities, with a focus on the challenges faced in the Amazon. Her presentation highlighted how organized crime leverages environmental exploitation to finance illicit networks, thereby increasing risks to both security and sustainable development in the region.

At the end of the year, in collaboration with Wilton Park and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), we hosted a meeting in Bolivia that brought together government authorities, regional institutions, civil society representatives, and technology sector leaders. The goal was to foster dialogue, collaboration, and the development of solutions while advancing innovative national and regional strategies to tackle environmental and converging crimes in the Amazon, ensuring the protection of this vital ecosystem for future generations.





# Reducing Territorial Risks and Boosting Responsible Investment for a Just Green Transition

Throughout 2024, we intensified our efforts to transform illicit economic ecosystems into ecosystems of green enterprises. We advanced the development of a methodology focused on identifying and mitigating territorial risks, aiming to unlock responsible and sustainable financial resources that are critical to enabling a just and green transition. Our work also stood out for its role in convening leadership and contributing to the development of innovative strategies and financing mechanisms to support environmental protection and sustainable development.



In February, we co-organized the first [Brazilian Climate Finance Forum](#) in São Paulo, in partnership with the Arapyaú, Aya, Climate and Society, and Itaúsa Institutes, as well as the Open Society Foundations (OSF) and Uma Concertação pela Amazônia. At the event, we reinforced the urgency of concrete climate finance actions to strengthen Brazil's leadership within the G20, highlighting the country's leading role in the sustainable finance agenda.



We also contributed technical inputs and advocacy efforts, and helped organize a strategic event for Brazil's Ministry of Finance and the World Bank, supporting the development and promotion of the Tropical Forests Mechanism: A New Approach for Funding Forest Conservation — an [innovative mechanism for per-hectare payments for preserved forest areas](#). The goal is to financially reward tropical countries for conserving their forests. The mechanism was announced by the Brazilian government at COP28 and is expected to be officially launched at COP30.

In May, [we held a strategic meeting](#) at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, in partnership with the Arapyaú Institute, bringing together 20 key leaders from philanthropy, civil society, the public and private sectors, and financial institutions. The goal was to advance the structuring of the Green Bridge Facility (GBF), an Igarapé Institute initiative aimed at reducing territorial risks to unlock responsible investment and support the growth of high-integrity green enterprises that can be established, sustained, and scaled up in Brazil and across the Amazon Basin. The program focused on priority themes, including bioeconomy, agroforestry, and ecological restoration, with an emphasis on developing new business models and strengthening the enabling conditions for a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem, promoting territorial prosperity, and formulating strategies to mitigate territorial risks – factors that currently drive up operational, financial, and reputational costs.



We also took part in the **IDB Invest Sustainability Week**, organized by the private sector arm of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), held in June in Manaus. Our Co-Founder and President, Ilona Szabó, joined the panel "Doing Business in the Amazon," where she emphasized the importance of including forest peoples and local businesses in the development of partnerships and solutions for the region. Ilona also highlighted the role of illicit economies in driving deforestation in the Amazon and the elevated levels of informality in the labor market.



Also in June, in partnership with the IDB, we launched the report "[Reimagining the Bioeconomy for the Amazon](#)," which analyzes the state of the bioeconomy across all eight countries of the region and identifies opportunities to promote sustainable economic alternatives for the nearly 50 million people living in the Amazon. The study contributes to repositioning the bioeconomy as a central strategy for inclusive development, demonstrating that it is possible to align environmental conservation with economic prosperity.



# Rebuilding and Strengthening Security Policies

In 2024, the Igarapé Institute maintained its commitment to promoting more just and effective security policies, with a focus on protecting women, supporting the social reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals, monitoring firearms and ammunition policies, and strengthening innovative approaches to addressing violence and organized crime.



We released the report [“Violence Against Women in the Legal Amazon in the Last Five Years”](#) and launched the data platform [“Women in the Amazon: Conflict and Violence”](#), both of which highlight the challenges faced by women in Brazil, throughout the Amazon, and across Latin America. We also published the [“Practical Guide for Formulating Public Policies to Prevent Violence Against Women”](#) and updated the [“EVA Platform – Evidence on Violence and Alternatives for Women and Girls”](#), consolidating data and tools that support more effective public policies. In parallel, we carried out advocacy and communication efforts to encourage mayoral candidates to prioritize this issue in their policy platforms.



In June, we celebrated a historic milestone with the decriminalization by Brazil's Supreme Federal Court (STF) of the possession of up to 40 grams of cannabis for personal use. The decision – an important step in the pursuit of fairer drug policies – was supported in part by a [Technical Brief](#) published by the Igarapé Institute in 2015, which was cited in several justices' opinions during the ruling. This outcome reinforces the legacy of our global work on the topic. We continue to monitor progress and setbacks in drug policy across the region through the annual update of the "[Americas Drug Policy Monitor](#)," which offers a comprehensive overview of ongoing changes throughout the continent.

We also signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), through the National Secretariat for Drug Policy and Asset Management (Senad), the National Secretariat for Public Security (Senasp), and the Secretariat for Access to Justice (Saju). The partnership enhances data sharing and public security monitoring, with a special focus on states in the Legal Amazon, where challenges are intensified by environmental and social pressures.

The annual update of the [Homicide Monitor](#) – recognized as one of the most comprehensive global databases on homicide – revealed an alarming figure: over 40 of the 50 cities with the highest homicide rates are located in Latin America and the Caribbean. The findings highlight the pressing need for comprehensive solutions to address urban violence in a coordinated and effective manner. The Monitor, which received over 320,000 visits in 2024, provides detailed insights into homicide dynamics across more than 200 countries, states, and cities, with data on total homicide numbers, murder rates, victim profiles, and types of weapons used.

Another key milestone in 2024 was the launch of the study "[Social Reintegration of Former Inmates](#)" and the "[Guide for the Social Inclusion of Formerly Incarcerated Individuals](#)." These publications provide guidance to strengthen public policies focused on supporting individuals leaving the prison system, a historically marginalized population. They aim to promote dignified reintegration, reduce recidivism, and expand opportunities for those reentering society.



# Addressing Digital Threats

As part of efforts to promote a safer and more citizen-centered digital environment, the Igarapé Institute, in collaboration with New America, a U.S.-based partner organization, convened experts and human rights advocates, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria A. Ressa, for the “[Global Task Force on Predictive Analytics for Security and Development](#).” The group developed [practical recommendations](#) to support leaders and policymakers in the Global South in tackling challenges related to the implementation, governance, and security of Artificial Intelligence (AI).



In addition, we developed and shared with the UN and G20 a [data visualization tool](#) mapping more than 550 AI regulations focused on safe and ethical use. The Igarapé Institute also published [policy recommendations](#) on the subject through the T20 and supported their formal submission at the United Nations Summit of the Future. Notably, Robert Muggah, Igarapé’s Co-Founder and Chief Innovation Officer (CIO), participated in the panel “A Digital Future for AI: The Digital Hope,” held as part of the official Action Days leading up to the Summit.





# Highlights



We participated in over 164 in-person events throughout 2024, organized dozens of strategic meetings, and released 54 publications in three languages.

## 01. January

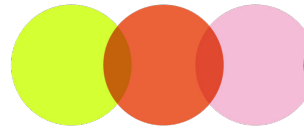
We started the year at the **World Economic Forum** (Davos), where we participated for the sixth time. Ilona Szabó, the Institute's President, and Robert Muggah, Chief Innovation Officer (CIO), served as moderators and speakers on panels addressing topics aligned with Igarapé's core themes, strengthening our contribution to global governance and sustainability debates.





## 02. February

We held the **1st Brazilian Forum on Climate Finance** in São Paulo, in partnership with the Arapyaú Institute, Aya Institute, Climate and Society Institute, Itaúsa Institute, Open Society Foundations (OSF), and Uma Concertação pela Amazônia. The agenda emphasized the need for concrete action in climate finance to ensure Brazil's successful leadership in the G20, reinforcing the country's prominent role in the sustainable finance agenda.



We organized the **2nd Regional Meeting in Brasília**, in partnership with the Brazilian Federal Police, with the goal of fostering dialogue and developing strategies to combat environmental crimes in the Amazon Basin.



We launched the study **[“Violence Against Women in the Legal Amazon in the Last Five Years,”](#)** along with reports on the situation in Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia, as well as the data platform **[“Women in the Amazon: Conflict and Violence,”](#)** highlighting the challenges faced by women across the Amazon Basin.



### 03. March

We participated in the panel “**Effective Coordination Between Justice and Security Institutions and Civil Society to Combat Organized Crime**,” held in Panama by the European Union’s Cooperation Program Against Transnational Organized Crime (**EL PACCTO**), with Igarapé Institute represented by its Research Director, Melina Risso.



### 04. April

We published the third study in the Follow the Money series: “**Environmental Crimes and Economic Illicit Activities in Supply Chains**” in the Brazilian Amazon. The report provides a detailed analysis of financial flows and economic irregularities that sustain illegal activities in the region.



In partnership with New America, we launched the guide **Responsible and Safe AI: A Primer for Policymakers** in the Global South, which offers practical recommendations to support leaders and policymakers in the Global South in addressing the challenges of AI implementation, governance, and security.

## 05. May

We held a **strategic meeting** in Italy at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, in partnership with the Arapyaú Institute, bringing together 20 key leaders from philanthropy, civil society, the public and private sectors, and financial institutions. The initiative marked the first step in developing the **Green Bridge Facility**, our effort to reduce territorial risks and boost green enterprises with a positive impact for people and the planet.



We also took part in the **Global Solutions Summit**, an international conference held in May in Berlin, where the importance of networked multilateralism was discussed.





## 06. June

In partnership with the IDB, we launched the report [Reimagining the Bioeconomy for the Amazon](#), which examines the bioeconomy across all eight Amazonian countries and highlights opportunities to create sustainable economic alternatives that benefit the region's nearly 50 million inhabitants. Also in June, Ilona Szabó participated as a panelist in the session “Boosting the Green Economy and Nature-Based Solutions” during the **IDB Invest Sustainability Week**, held in Manaus.



**We celebrated a historic milestone** with the decriminalization by Brazil's Supreme Federal Court (STF) of the possession of up to 40 grams of cannabis for personal use. The decision represents a victory in the fight for fairer drug policies and was informed, in part, by a [Technical Brief published by Igarapé in 2015](#), which was cited in several justices' opinions. It also reflects the legacy of our global work on this issue, including the [Americas Drug Policy Monitor](#), which is updated on an annual basis.

### ● Citizen Security

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking  
Check out our updated **Americas Drug Policy Monitor**



The update already reflects the ruling issued by the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court on the afternoon of June 25, which determined that *possession of cannabis for personal use is no longer considered a crime in the country*.

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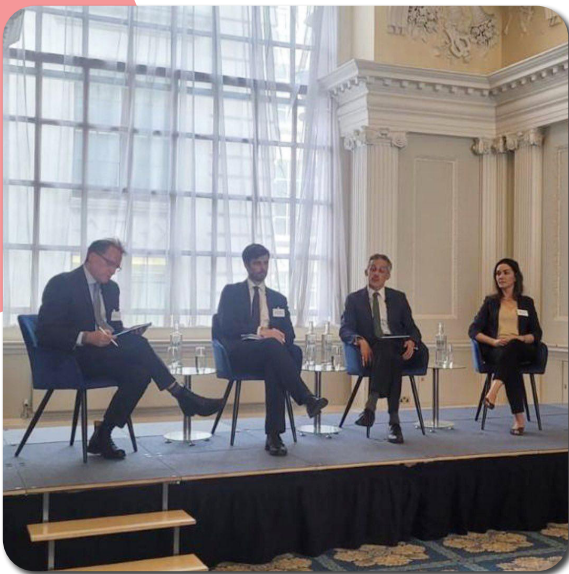
DESCRIMINALIZAÇÃO DO PORTE DE DROGAS PARA CONSUMO PRÓPRIO

ANOTAÇÕES PARA O VOTO ORAL DO MINISTRO LUÍS ROBERTO BARROSO

4. Por isso, vou adiante para propor um critério quantitativo que sirva como referencial para os juízes. O *Instituto Igarapé*, em Nota Técnica – que me foi entregue pelo grande brasileiro e ex-Ministro da Justiça José Gregori – firmada por especialistas de áreas diversas – e que incluem o ex-Ministro da Saúde e médico José Gomes Temporão, a psicanalista Maria Rita Kehl e o economista Edmar Bacha – alertam que critérios objetivos muito baixos aumentariam o problema e propõem, como adequado para a realidade brasileira, uma quantidade de referência fixa entre 40 gramas e 100 gramas.



We took part in the **Brazil Forum UK**, held in the United Kingdom, which focuses on topics that can drive positive change in Brazil. On that occasion, we participated in the panel “Public Security: Violence and Deforestation in the Amazon”, where we addressed the fight against environmental crimes.



Additionally, in the United Kingdom, we participated in **London Climate Action Week for the first time**, one of the world’s largest events dedicated to climate crisis solutions. We joined the panel “Enabling a Nature-Positive and Net-Zero Economy,” co-organized by the World Economic Forum and the City of London Corporation.

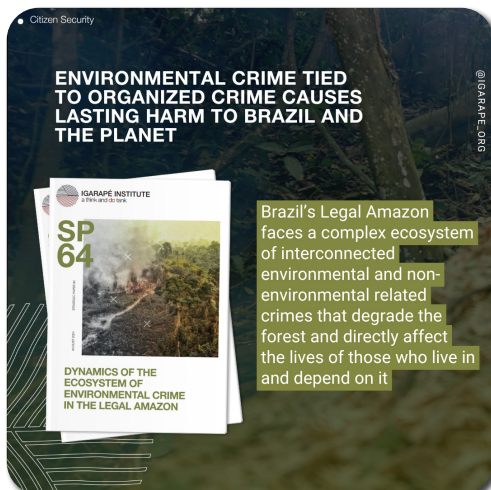
07. July

We participated in the **Brazil–Colombia Binational Meeting on Security and Social and Community Development in Border Regions**, held in Tabatinga (Amazonas State) at the tri-border area between Brazil, Colombia, and Peru.



08. August

We published the strategic article “[Dynamics of the Ecosystem of Environmental Crimes in the Legal Amazon](#),” which demonstrates how environmental crimes are interconnected with networks of economic illicit activities and transnational crime, forming a highly organized and complex ecosystem.





## 09. September

Ahead of the **UN Summit of the Future**, we actively participated in the Summit of the Future **Action Days**. On this occasion, Igarapé co-organized the event “Advancing Global Governance Reform,” moderated by Ilona Szabó and featuring Ambassador Mauricio Lyrio, Mr. Zane Dangor, and others. We then closely followed the [Summit of the Future](#), which culminated in the adoption of the **Pact for the Future**.



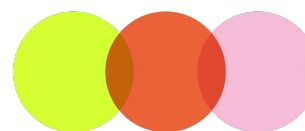
We were also engaged in **G20 discussions**, which issued a call to action within the framework of the United Nations. In parallel, we actively participated in [New York Climate Week](#), where we raised awareness about the impacts of environmental and associated crimes on the Amazon and proposed strategies to transform the current ecosystem of illicit economies into one of green enterprises. Throughout this intense week, we reaffirmed our leadership on topics such as multilateralism, climate governance, and nature-focused finance.





10. October

During the **COP16 on Biodiversity**, held in Cali, we took part in the launch of the report by the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB), of which Ilona Szabó is a member. The document serves as a [framework](#) for developing biodiversity credit markets. In addition to this topic, Igarapé led [key discussions](#) on territorial risk and resilience, bioeconomy financing, the eradication of environmental crimes, and illegal gold mining in the Amazon.



We participated in the **Bloomberg New Economy event, held as part of the B20**, joining the panels “Climate-Proofing the Economy,” where we highlighted Brazil’s opportunity to become a green powerhouse through the combination of nature-based solutions, low-carbon agriculture, and renewable energy, and “Reimagining Public-Private Partnerships to Enable Thriving Cities,” which explored how public-private partnerships can help transform cities into more resilient and sustainable spaces.

## 11. November

We participated in the inaugural **G20 Social**, held ahead of the **G20 Leaders' Summit** in Rio de Janeiro. There, we presented key issues in both the Support Group for the Bioeconomy Initiative, which informed the principles presented during the historic G20 meeting at the UN Headquarters, and the **T20**, the G20's think tank engagement group, where we serve on the National Council and co-lead the task force on multilateralism.



At **COP29** in Baku, we highlighted the synergies between the G20 and COP agendas, with a special emphasis on responsible investments aimed at preserving the Amazon and other biomes.



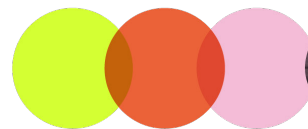


We organized the **3rd Regional Meeting in São Paulo, in partnership with the Latin American Financial Action Task Force (Gafilat)**, with the aim of strengthening the prevention and investigation of crimes such as money laundering linked to the illegal exploitation of natural resources.



## 12. December

In partnership with the Institute of Security Studies, we launched the manual **Implementing Responsible and Ethical Use of Crime Prediction Technologies**, which provides guidance on the responsible and ethical use of predictive crime technologies with the potential to improve public safety.





# Board Memberships and Institutional Engagements

Members of the Igarapé Institute are often invited to join national and international networks. Here are some of the most relevant nominations, participations, and engagements in 2024:

- Member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB)
- Co-Chair of the Global Future Council on the Future of Nature and Security and member of the Advisory Board for the Global Risks Report at the World Economic Forum
- Member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Expert Panel for the review of its institutional strategy
- Member of the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB)
- Member of the Steering Committee of the Nature Climate Alliance
- Member of Brazil's Council for Sustainable Economic and Social Development (CDESS), serving on the Thematic Commission on the Environment
- Member of the National Council for Public Security and Social Defense (Ministry of Justice and Public Security – MJSP)
- Member of the Secretariat of the T20 National Advisory Council and Coordinator of Task Force 6 (TF6) on strengthening multilateralism (a G20 engagement group)
- Engagement in the Supreme Federal Court (STF) Program to Combat Disinformation
- Engagement in Enccla 2024 Activities through two working groups (Cattle Ranching and Timber)
- Participation as a specialist in the Reference Group for UNICEF's Global Outlook for Children 2025
- Participation in the Amazon Gold Working Group
- Member of the Global Climate Coalition – Women Leading on Climate





# Awards and Recognitions

- In the 2024 edition of the **Ranking of Best Scientists in Political Science**, published by Research.com – a leading academic platform for researchers – Dr. Robert Muggah ranked 862nd globally and 30th in Canada.
  - The Igarapé Institute received official recognition from the **University of Oxford** for the excellence of its internship experience offered to students through the university's **Summer Internship Programme**.
  - The **Crime and Violence Prevention Program in Pernambuco State**, developed in collaboration with the Igarapé Institute, was recognized in a publication by the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD) as one of the most innovative initiatives in Latin America for addressing complex social challenges.
- 




# Reach



# Research

In 2024, the Igarapé Institute produced

 **54** publications

Portuguese **19**



English **23**



Spanish **12**



**425 citations**  
on Google Scholar



More than

**98,000 downloads**  
of our publications and studies



# Media

The Igarapé Institute provided interviews, shared data and insights with the press and the public, and published op-eds in major media outlets in Brazil and internationally, including: **TV Globo, Jornal Nacional, Fantástico, GloboNews, UOL, Folha de S.Paulo, Valor Econômico, The New York Times, El País, BBC, G1, El Tiempo, The Economist, and Bloomberg.**

Igarapé generated over

# 2,500

media mentions in more than

# 30 countries

in 2024

The Institute also published

# 73 opinion articles

including a biweekly column in *Folha de S.Paulo* throughout the year





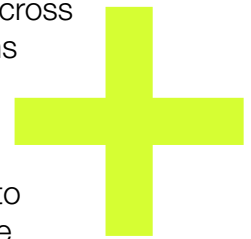
# Digital and Social Media

The Institute also attracted a substantial online audience through its website and social media channels.



**104,000** followers across all platforms

**247,000** new visits to our website



## Events

Representatives of the Igarapé Institute participated in some of the world's most relevant events in their respective fields of expertise, directly influencing decision-makers and thought leaders.

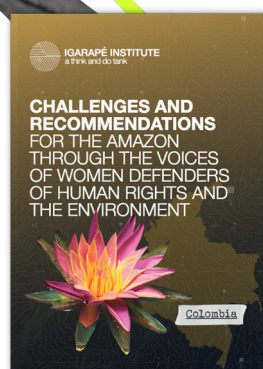
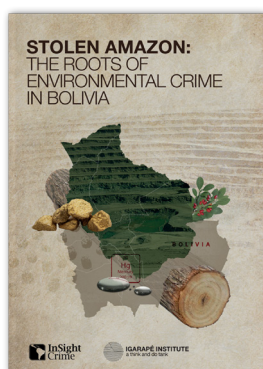
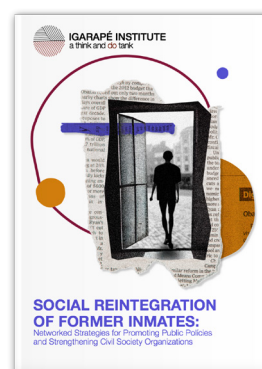
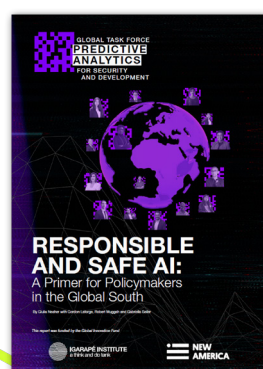
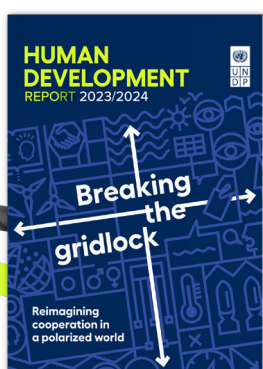
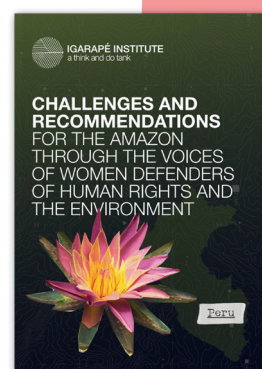
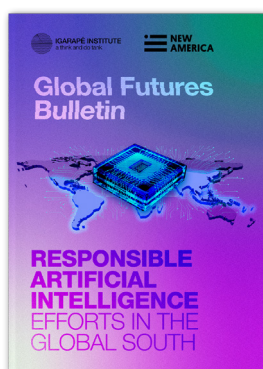
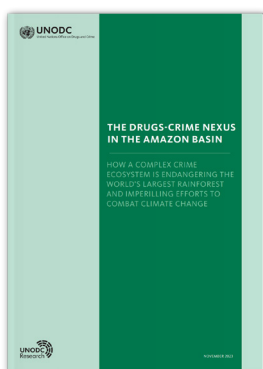
The team took part—both in person and virtually—in over

**164 events**

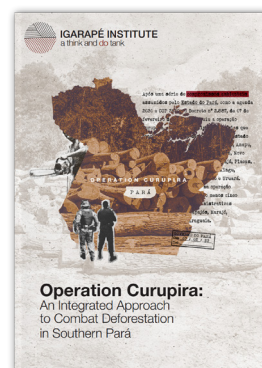
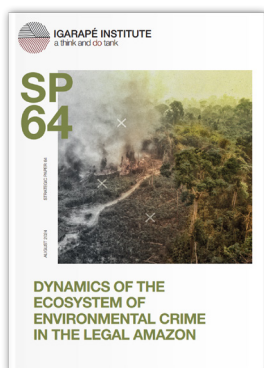
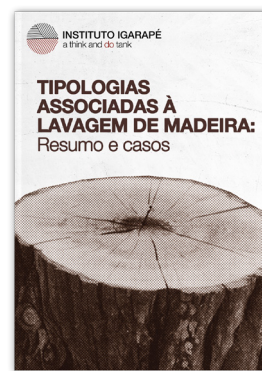
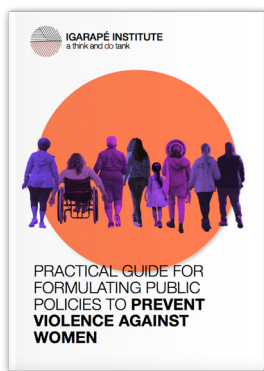
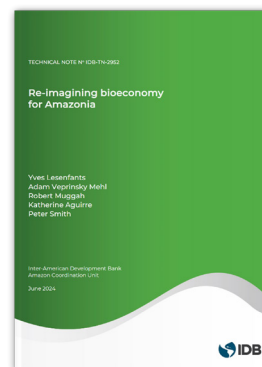
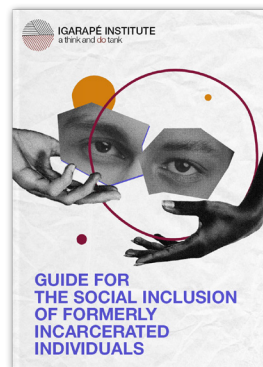
moderating debates, presenting solutions, and proposing new visions for building a safer world for people and the planet.

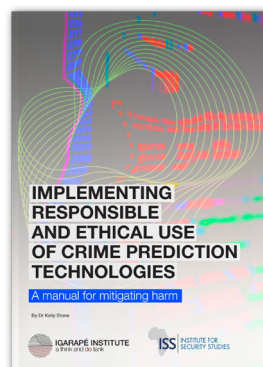
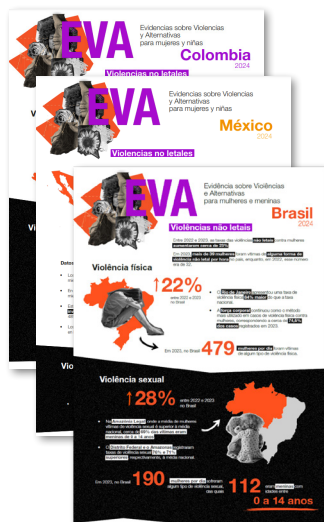
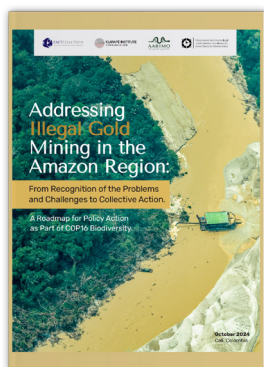


# Publications and Platforms









Women in the Amazon Platform



Painel Amazônia Segura (PAS)



Update of the Americas Drug Policy Monitor



Update of the EVA Platform (2023 Data)





# About Igarapé

# The Igarapé Institute **Think.** **Connect.** **Transform.**

The Igarapé Institute is an independent think and do tank that conducts research, develops solutions, and establishes partnerships with the aim of influencing both public and corporate policies and practices in overcoming major global challenges. Our mission is to contribute to public, digital, and climate security in Brazil and worldwide. Igarapé is a nonprofit and non-partisan institution based in Rio de Janeiro, operating from the local to the global level.



# Team

## Executive Leadership

**Ilona Szabó**, Co-Founder and Executive President  
**Melina Rizzo**, Research Director  
**Leriana Figueiredo**, Programs Director  
**Maria Amélia Leão Teixeira**, Operations Director

## Strategic Advisory

**Robert Muggah**, Chief Innovation Officer

## Staff

**Aline Lara Romeu**, Researcher  
**Aline Lima Frenkel**, Financial Specialist  
**Aline Louise Queiroga de Araújo**, Deputy Director of Communications and Advocacy  
**Ana Luíza da Silva Vastag**, Communications Analyst  
**Ana Paula Coutinho do Nascimento de Almeida**, Administrative Analyst  
**André Guttierrez de Medeiros Rangel**, Designer  
**Antonella Di Ciano**, Regional Coordinator  
**Bernardo Bráulio Santos de Lima**, Project Manager  
**Carolina Torres Graça**, Program Director (Green Bridge Facility)  
**Carolina Mazzacoratti Mindlin Loeb**, Research Assistant  
**Cristianna Madeira de Ferran**, Technology Manager  
**Débora Vasconcellos Chaves**, Editor  
**Etyenne de Araujo Almeida da Silva**, Administrative and Financial Coordinator  
**Fernanda Harumi Okuda Martins**, Researcher  
**Gabriel Panza Vieira Pinto**, Developer  
**Giovana Silva Lerda**, Communications Coordinator  
**Giovanna Kuele**, International Cooperation Program Manager  
**Joelma Alves Ferreira**, Treasurer  
**Julia Melaragno Assumpção**, Institutional Relations and Advocacy Manager  
**Julia Venegas**, Designer  
**Juliana Maian**, Communications and Content Manager  
**Katherine Aguirre**, Researcher  
**Lais Cabral Neckel**, Research Assistant  
**Lara Tejada Stahlberg**, Chief of Staff  
**Laura Trajber Waisbich**, Deputy Program Director  
**Lucas da Costa Castro**, Project Manager (Green Bridge Facility)  
**Lucas Francisco Guimarães Alves**, Research Assistant  
**Lycia Amélia Ribeiro Brasil**, Researcher  
**Maria Eduarda Pessoa de Assis**, Special Advisor  
**Maria Eugênia Rodrigues Trombini**, Senior Researcher

**Mariana Cunha de França**, Social Media Analyst  
**Mariantonia Cruz Ribeiro**, Research Intern  
**Marina de Alkmim Cunha Nunes**, Researcher  
**Pedro Augusto Ferreira da Silva**, Data Analyst  
**Peter Glennon Lanzarotta Smith**, Researcher  
**Raphael José Acselbant Rodrigues Durão**, Creative Coordinator  
**Raphaël Vial Rodrigues Lima**, Press Officer  
**Raquel Aparecida Vidal Miranda**, Executive Assistant  
**Ricardo Caldas Cavalcanti Filho**, Researcher  
**Rodrigo Werneck Nogueira de Medeiros**, Developer  
**Talisson Cunha Mendes**, Project and Partnership Analyst  
**Tiago Luiz Ribeiro da Silva**, Technology Coordinator  
**Vinicius Silva dos Santos** – Data Scientist  
**Vitória Marques Lorente** – Researcher  
**Vivian Calderoni** – Program Coordinator  
**Wilker França de Oliveira** – Developer

## Administrative Board

**Ilona Szabó de Carvalho**  
**Claudia Sender Ramires**  
**Kamila Aparecida F. Camilo**  
**Marcelo Fernandez Trindade**  
**Wolff Klabin**

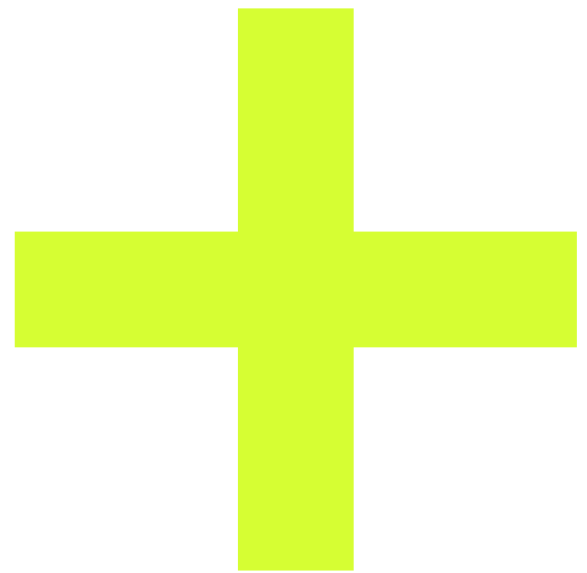
## Fiscal Council

**Ines Mindlin Lafer**  
**Rodrigo Falk Fragoso**  
**Samara Werner**

## Honorary Council

**Cesar Gaviria**, Former President of Colombia  
**Fernando Henrique Cardoso**, Former President of Brazil

# Partnerships



- Amazon Aid
- Amazon Alliance for the Reduction of the Impacts of Gold Mining (AARIMO), Colombia
- Amazon Conservation
- Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)
- Amazon Environmental Research Institute (Ipam), Brazil
- Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (Acled), United Kingdom
- Aya Earth Partners, Brazil
- Brazil Coalition on Climate, Forests and Agriculture, Brazil
- Brazilian Association of Environmental Prosecutors (Abrampa), Brazil
- Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS), Brazil
- Brazilian Center for International Relations (Cebri), Brazil
- Brazilian Federal Police
- Brazilian Forum on Public Security, Brazil
- Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama)
- Climate Policy Initiative
- Club de Madrid, Spain
- Consortium of Governors of the Legal Amazon, Brazil
- Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), USA
- Federal Prosecutor's Office (MPF), Brazil
- Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency (FACT) Coalition, USA
- Financial Action Task Force for Latin America (Gafilat)
- Financial Activities Control Council (Coaf)
- Forus International
- Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (FCDS), Colombia
- Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), Brazil
- Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (Aiamp), Brazil
- Illegal Mining Observatory (OMI), Peru
- InSight Crime, Regional
- Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Interpol, France
- International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB)
- Jaguar Network – EL PACCTO, Regional
- Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), Brazil
- National Association of Federal Prosecutors (ANPR), Brazil
- National Police of Colombia
- Nature Finance, Brazil
- New America, USA
- Observatory of Illegal Mining (OMI), Peru
- Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives (OCB), Brazil
- Pact for Democracy, Brazil
- RedBioAmazonia
- Science Panel for the Amazon
- Sou da Paz Institute, Brazil
- State Secretariat for Prison Administration and Social Reintegration of Pernambuco (Seap), Brazil
- Supreme Federal Court (STF), Brazil
- The Nature Conservancy, Brazil
- Thomson Reuters Foundation, United Kingdom
- Uma Concertação pela Amazônia, Brazil
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Brazil, Colombia, Austria
- World Bank, USA
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Brazil



# Supporters

The financial, strategic, and institutional support of the Igarapé Institute's key partners has been essential to our accomplishments. Thanks to this sustained backing, we have been able to maintain a highly qualified and motivated team, expanding our impact. We are grateful to have a diverse network of donor partners, including bilateral agencies (Norway and the United Kingdom), national and international private foundations (Brazil, Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom), as well as individual donors.

## **Agni**

**Amazon Investor Coalition\*, USA**

**Arapyaú Institute, Brazil**

**Association for Education, Health, Human Rights and the Environment (AIEP), Brazil**

**Beja Institute, Brazil**

**Brazil Competitiveness Movement (MBC), Brazil**

**Climate Emergency Collaboration Group, USA**

**Club de Madrid, Spain**

**Dalberg Catalyst, Uncommon Collaborations Fund, with The Rockefeller Foundation\*, USA**

**Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom**

**Foundation to Promote Open Society\*, USA**

**Galo da Manhã Institute, Brazil**

**Global Challenge Foundation (GCF), Sweden**

**Global Innovation Fund\*, United Kingdom**

**Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation\*, USA**

**Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**

**Inter-American Investment Corporation\*, USA**

**Institute for Climate and Society (ICS)**

**Itaúsa, Brazil**

## **Klabin, Brazil**

**National Endowment for Democracy (NED), USA**

**Nature Finance, Switzerland**

**Neoenergia Elektro, Brazil**

**Neta Foundation\*, USA**

**Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), Norway**

**Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norway**

**Open Society Foundations (OSF), USA**

**Planet Labs\*, USA**

**Porticus, Netherlands**

**Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors – Climate Emergency Collaboration Group\*, USA**

**Stiftelsen Global Challenges Foundation\*, Sweden**

**The Rockefeller Foundation\*, USA**

**Tinker Foundation, USA**

**Uber, USA**

**United Nations Association, United Kingdom**

**Individual donors, Brazil**

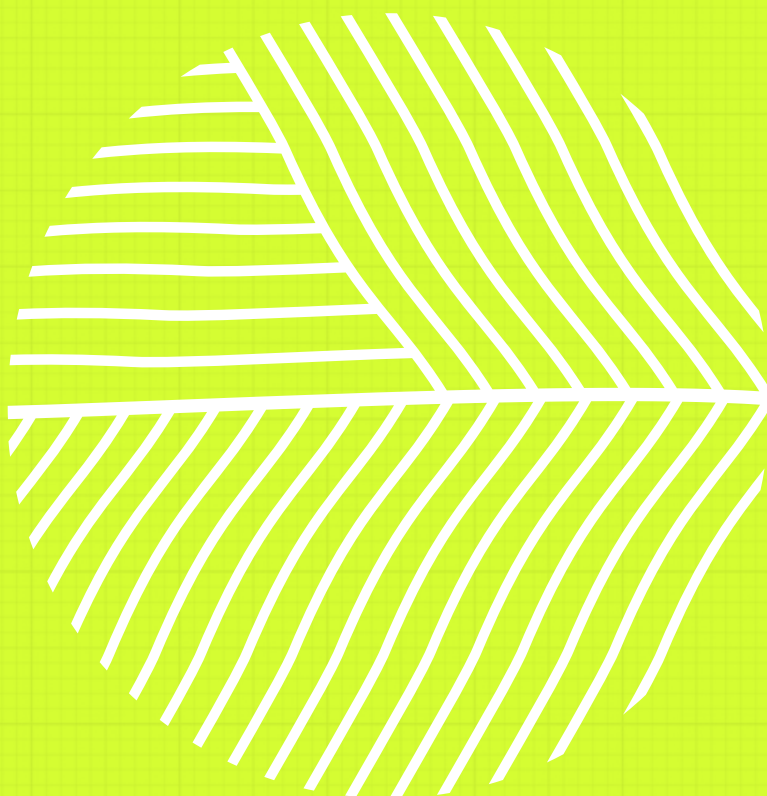
**\*International partnership**



# Financial Statement

## Income Statement for the Year ended December 31 (values in US\$)

	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUES		
<b>Restricted</b>		
Project Revenue	1,634,752	1,422,655
	<b>1,634,752</b>	<b>1,422,655</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Donation Revenue	720,215	339,919
Revenue for Services Rendered	16,634	-
Overhead	94,016	-
Operating Revenues	-	12,923
Voluntary Work Revenues	2,941	5,174
Operating Revenues deduction	(2,059)	-
	<b>831,746</b>	<b>358,017</b>
PROJECT COSTS		
General Project Costs	(1,634,752)	(1,422,655)
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>(1,634,752)</b>	<b>358,017</b>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
General and Administrative	(158,485)	(83,006)
Voluntary Work	(2,941)	(5,174)
Taxes and Fees	(8,379)	(9,024)
Depreciation and amortization	(5,210)	(5,388)
Expenses Recovery	4,645	-
	<b>(170,370)</b>	<b>(102,592)</b>
<b>Surplus Before Financial Result</b>	<b>661,376</b>	<b>255,425</b>
FINANCIAL RESULT		
Financial Expenses	(240)	(400)
Financial Revenue	124,140	126,859
<b>Net Financial Result</b>	<b>123,899</b>	<b>126,459</b>
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>	<b>785,275</b>	<b>381,884</b>



**[igarape.org.br](http://igarape.org.br)**