



**IGARAPÉ INSTITUTE**  
a think and do tank

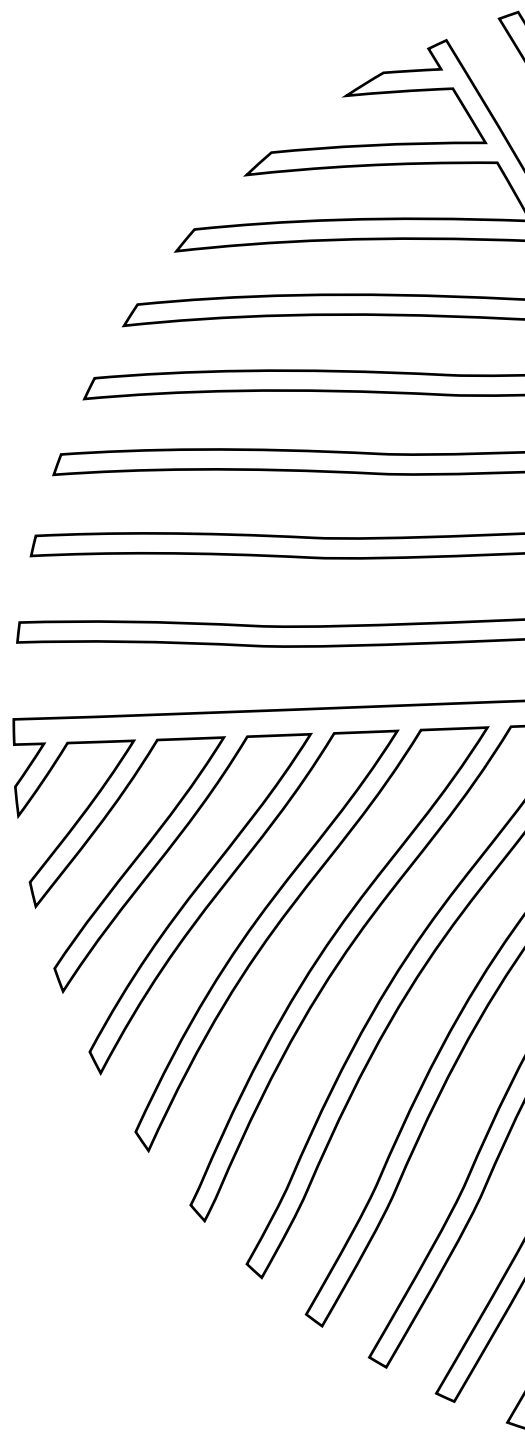
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ANNUAL REPORT **2025**





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# Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	2
Letter from the Leadership Team .....	4
2025 at a Glance .....	6
Our Areas of Work .....	9
Impact Pillars .....	13
Advancing Zero Deforestation and Making Environmental Crime Central to Nature, Climate and Security Agendas .....	13
Territorial Governance in the Amazon.....	16
Unlocking Responsible Nature Finance.....	19
Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation and Global Governance .....	22
Building Knowledge, Tools and Public Goods .....	24
Expanding Public Reach and Influence .....	26
Igarapé at COP30.....	27
TED and Igarapé .....	29
Key Events and Convenings .....	30
Councils, Coalitions and Contributions .....	33
Partners and Supporters .....	34
Team .....	35
Financial Statement .....	36
A Bridge to the Future .....	37



# Executive Summary

In 2025, the Igarapé Institute helped move environmental crime, nature finance, and climate-security cooperation from the margins of global debate to the center of decision-making. In a year marked by growing geopolitical fragmentation, escalating risks across the Amazon Basin, and COP30 in Belém, Igarapé worked with governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society to turn evidence into action.

The Institute generated hard impacts including **advancing zero-deforestation pathways, strengthening responses to organized environmental crime, unlocking responsible investment in nature-based solutions, and new forms of international cooperation** for a safer, more just, and more sustainable world.

The Institute's 2025 agenda was anchored in three interconnected pillars: **Security, Nature, and Climate**. Across these areas, the team focused on tackling compounding risks that link organized crime, environmental destruction, technological disruption, and climate instability. In the process, they connected global norm-setting with practical implementation in territories where people, ecosystems, institutions, and economies are under pressure.

From Davos to Belém, Igarapé helped build consensus around three central priorities: **confronting environmental crime, financing nature, and designing more effective forms of international cooperation**. At COP30, the Institute participated in 50 events and meetings, launched seven publications, and introduced the Green Bridge Facility, a new impact initiative designed to de-risk territories to unlock responsible investment in high-integrity green enterprises.

The year also revealed how influence depends on persistence. Many of Igarapé's 2025 results were the product of years of research, coalition-building, technical assistance, and strategic advocacy. These efforts helped shape debates and decisions in forums including the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP30), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), The National Strategy for Combating Corruption and Money Laundering (ENCCLA), The Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), BRICS+, the G20, the World Economic Forum (WEF), and The United Nations (UN).

As Igarapé approaches its fifteenth anniversary in 2026, the Institute enters a new phase with a clear mandate. The goal is to design and deliver evidence-based solutions, strengthen public policies, and scale effective practices in security, nature, and climate while fostering collaboration and positive impact from local to global levels.

## Top Eight Achievements in 2025

- 1 Integrated environmental crime into the COP30 Action Agenda** through the *Plan to Accelerate Solution: Tackling Environmental Crime to Achieve Zero Deforestation* and in the Leaders' Summit Call to Action on Integrated Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience.
- 2 Helped drive support from over 90 countries** to back the COP30 Presidency Roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, through Igarapé's foundational engagement and coalition-building.
- 3 Elevated environmental crime and gold traceability** to presidential-level priorities in the Bogotá Declaration under the ACTO framework, and coordinated Amazon-wide approach to advance a new protocol on environmental crime within the UNTOC.
- 4 Led a coordinated regional response** to illegal gold flows by advancing the implementation of a geochemical gold traceability platform with the Brazilian Federal Police across the Amazon.
- 5 Helped shape regional discussions** within GAFILAT and ENCCLA on how anti-money laundering systems can be leveraged to tackle environmental crime.
- 6 Strengthened the operational capacity** of frontline institutions to disrupt environmental crime across the Amazon by training more than 170 police officers, prosecutors, and judges through specialized capacity-building.
- 7 Launched the Green Bridge Facility** to de-risk territories and unlock responsible investment in high-integrity green enterprises.
- 8 Expanded public reach through 37 publications**, nearly 200,000 downloads, more than 1,200 media mentions, and participation in 154 events.

# Letter from the leadership team

Throughout 2025 the international system was reshaped in real time. The shift toward multipolarity became more visible and consequential, bringing both new possibilities and sharper risks. The diffusion of power opened space for broader participation, more diverse leadership, and more flexible forms of cooperation. At the same time, geopolitical rivalries intensified, geoeconomic competition deepened, and conflicts became more interconnected, exposing the limits of institutions built for a different era.

Yet 2025 was not simply a year of disorder. It was also a year in which new forms of cooperation gained ground. As traditional multilateral frameworks came under strain, flexible coalitions, issue-based alignments, and new alliances played a more prominent role in shaping collective responses. Middle powers gained influence as conveners and bridge-builders. Cities, companies, civil society organizations, and research networks also became more visible in defining priorities and testing solutions.

For Brazil, 2025 was a year of furious diplomatic activity. Building on momentum from BRICS and the G20 in Rio de Janeiro, and with international attention focused on the road to COP30 in Belém, Brazil emerged as a central actor in efforts to connect climate, nature, development, and global governance. The country helped elevate debates that had too often been treated separately, including the links between ecological protection, social inclusion, public security, and democratic resilience.

A particular focus for Brazil, and the world, was the Amazon Basin. Protecting standing forests and expanding regenerative bioeconomies became more prominent in national, regional, and international discussions. So too did the recognition that effective climate action depends on credible pathways to halt deforestation, mobilize climate finance, strengthen territorial governance, and create sustainable livelihoods.

At the same time, 2025 brought major advances in the fight against environmental crime. Illegal mining, land grabbing, illicit timber extraction, wildlife trafficking, and associated financial crimes are no longer peripheral concerns. They are central threats to ecosystems, communities, governance, and security. Stronger coalitions emerged to connect environmental protection with criminal justice, anti-corruption, financial intelligence, and territorial governance.

Against this backdrop, Igarapé worked throughout 2025 to help shape more adaptive, inclusive, and effective responses to a rapidly changing world. Together with partners across the Americas, Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, the Institute contributed to debates and initiatives on security, climate, nature, technology, and global governance. Its engagement was grounded in practical work: generating evidence, developing tools, supporting institutions, advising partners, and building coalitions capable of moving from diagnosis to implementation.



**Ilona Szabó de Carvalho**  
*Co-founder and President*



**Melina Risso**  
*Research Director*

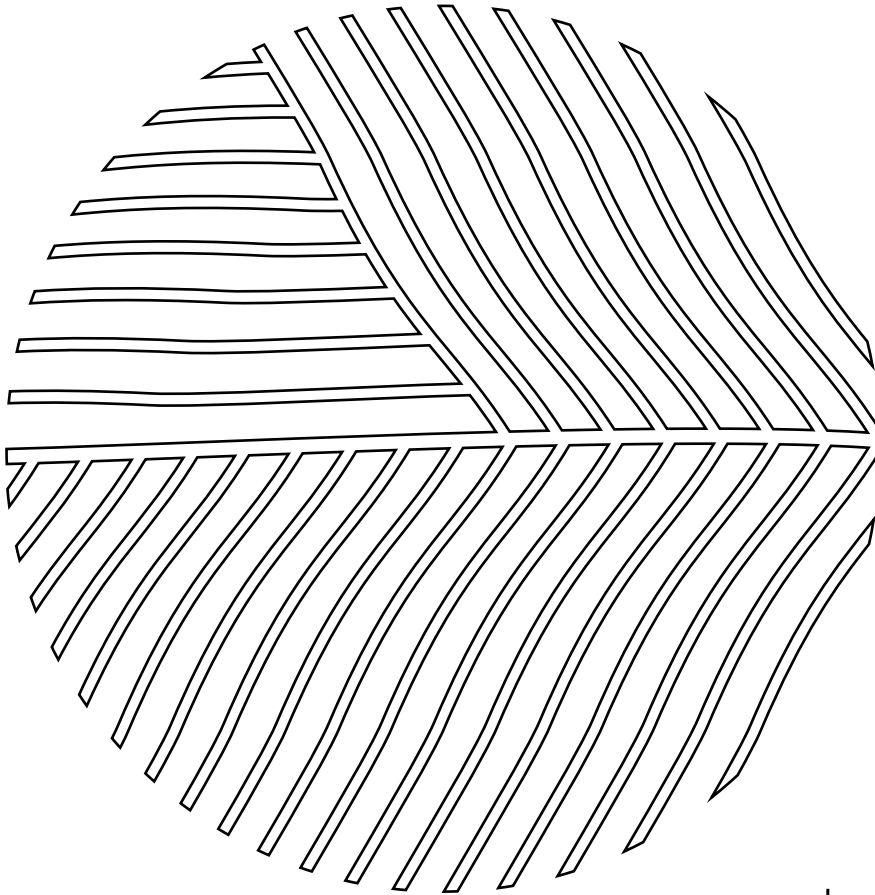


**Laura Trajber Waisbich**  
*Deputy Program Director*



**Robert Muggah**  
*Chief Innovation Officer*

# 2025 at a Glance



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# Institutional Reach

**37 publications** in multiple languages released in 2025

**199,619 downloads** of studies and reports

**867 Google Scholar citations**

**1,200+ separate media mentions** in leading outlets in 34 countries

**88 op-eds**, including columns with Folha de S. Paulo, Foreign Policy and Financial Times

**154 events attended**, organized, or moderated by Igarapé representatives

**50 COP30 events and meetings** as organizer or invited participant

**7 publications** launched during COP30

**1 impact initiative launched at COP30:** the Green Bridge Facility

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# Digital Reach

+

**45,000+ interactions** on social media

**393,000 impressions** on social media

**68,000+ followers** across Instagram, LinkedIn, and X

**184,000 new website users/accesses**

+

**363,000 accesses** to the Homicide Monitor platform

**204,000 new users** of Homicide Monitor

# Capacity and Policy Influence

+

**170+ police officers** prosecutors and judges trained

**More than 5,500 Brazilian municipalities** covered by KYT-e, the Green Bridge Facility's territorial risk and opportunity platform

**More than 70 indicators** used by KYT-e to assess territorial risks and opportunities

**Active participation in two initiatives** under the National Strategy to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering (ENCCLA)

**Development of the first environmental crime assessment** for the Legal Amazon Governors' Consortium

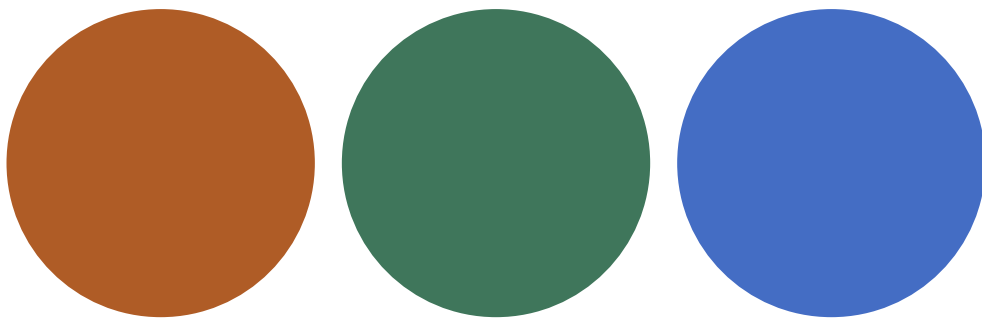
# Our Areas of Work

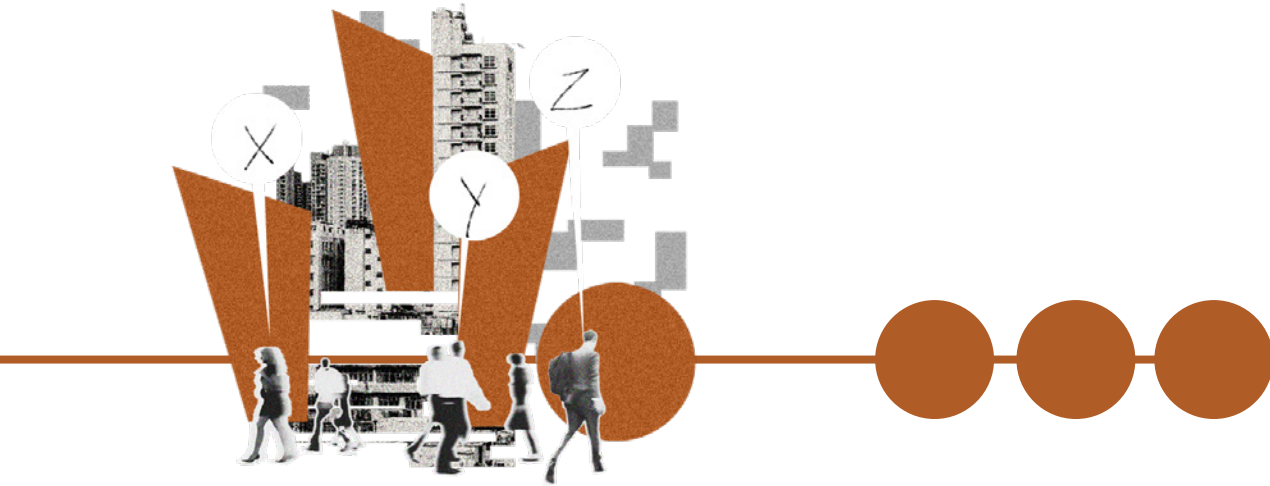
The world has entered an era of systemic shocks and interconnected crises. Geopolitical fractures, the expansion of organized crime, rapid technological disruption, accelerating nature and biodiversity loss, and rising climate instability are no longer parallel threats. They are mutually reinforcing and constitute systemic risks.

A particular concern is resource exploitation driven by criminal networks. Such crimes not only accelerate deforestation and climate change, but they also corrode the social fabric of entire territories and undermine governance. As much as half of Brazil's greenhouse gas emissions are possibly linked to environmental crime.

There is growing awareness that over 90% of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon is illegal. With 18% of the Amazon's primary forest already deforested, Brazil is dangerously close to the tipping point beyond which ecological collapse could become irreversible. Similar challenges are faced by other countries in the Basin.

Given the nature of global, regional and national threats, Igarapé reprioritized its areas of work. In 2025, the Institute focused on Security, Nature, and Climate as core pillars. International cooperation is a transversal theme, cutting across these pillars and essential to building collective action capable of protecting people and the planet.





# Security

Promoting human security is central to Igarapé's mission. The Institute has long been recognized for its work on public and international security. Systemic risks that overlap, reinforce, and amplify one another include armed conflict, organized crime, technological disruption, environmental degradation and climate change. With this in mind, Igarapé's work on Security is organized around three axes:

- **Tackling Organized Crime**

Strengthening the capacity of states, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations to target criminal finance and improve global response coordination.

- **Peace and Security**

Supporting multilateral and national institutions in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and the strengthening of resilient institutions.

- **AI Safety and Ethics**

Promoting Artificial Intelligence (AI) safety and alignment in partnership with public and private actors and nonprofit organizations across the Global South, with a focus on human rights and democratic resilience.



# Nature

Environmental degradation is not only an ecological problem. It is also a driver of social, economic, and climate instability. When illicit economies grow stronger, forests disappear, communities lose livelihoods, and the climate crisis worsens. Since 2019, Igarapé has confronted environmental crime, advanced nature-based solutions, and strengthened governance and financing models capable of preserving ecosystems that are strategic for the planet. Igarapé's work on Nature is organized around three axes:

- **Zero Deforestation and Environmental Crime**

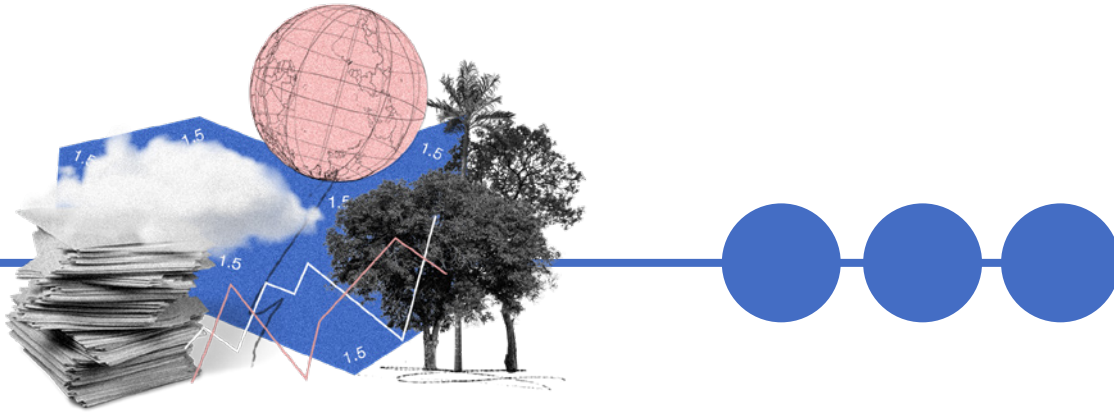
Working toward zero deforestation in the Amazon Basin by confronting illicit economies and strengthening the rule of law to protect people, forests, and biodiversity.

- **Bioeconomy and Nature Finance**

Helping reduce territorial risks, expand the bioeconomy, and develop guidelines and financial instruments that value standing forests and biodiversity.

- **Green Bridge Facility**

Unlocking responsible investment by creating enabling conditions that de-risk territories and supporting high-integrity green enterprises that benefit communities and safeguard tropical forests and other biomes.



# Climate

The climate crisis directly affects people's lives, community stability, and societal security. Extreme weather events, sea-level rise, droughts, and floods intensify vulnerability, resource scarcity, and inequality. Igarapé addresses climate risks in an integrated manner by creating synergies between climate and nature agendas and connecting public policy, science, emerging technologies, and governance. The Institute works to support the implementation of climate commitments and enable evidence-based solutions. Igarapé's work on Climate is structured around three axes:

- **Climate and Nature Synergies**

Integrating nature, including forests, into the international climate agenda and promoting synergies among the Rio Conventions on climate, biodiversity, and desertification.

- **Finance, Adaptation, and Resilience**

Enabling financial resources and instruments that support a green and just transition, while helping communities and governments reduce vulnerability and respond to extreme climate events.

- **Climate Governance and Policy**

Contributing to institutional innovation, including the proposal for a Global Climate and Nature Council, and supporting national and regional policy design, multisectoral cooperation, and integration across strategic agendas.

# Impact Pillars

## Advancing Zero Deforestation and Making Environmental Crime Central to Nature, Climate and Security Agendas



Ilona Szabó participated in a World Economic Forum panel alongside Luís Roberto Barroso, Helder Barbalho, Eduardo Paes, and Luana Marques Ozemela.

Igarapé's zero-deforestation work is grounded in a simple premise: forest protection cannot succeed without confronting the illicit economies that drive deforestation and territorial insecurity. In 2025, this priority gained traction across climate, security, finance, and governance agendas, and Igarapé helped consolidate environmental crime as a top-tier policy concern across Amazon countries and in major global forums. Land grabbing, illegal mining, illicit timber extraction, wildlife trafficking, toxic waste dumping, and associated financial crimes gained visibility not only as environmental problems, but as threats to public security, governance, sustainable development, and climate stability.



Marco Lambertini, Ilona Szabó, Izabella Teixeira and Carlos Nobre during the launch of *The Age of Nature*, at COP30.

The Institute's research, advocacy, and partnerships helped move the issue into a wide range of global decision-making spaces. Key forums where environmental crimes were elevated included COP30, the Munich Security Conference, TED, The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), and the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The Institute also pushed the agenda with authorities connected to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), Andean Community (CAN), BRICS, National Strategy to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering (ENCCLA), Latin American Financial Action Task Force (GAFILAT), and multiple regional Amazon cooperation processes.

Sustained strategic advocacy over the years contributed to the coordination of an Amazon-wide approach to advance a new protocol on environmental crime within the UNTOC.

At COP30, Igarapé launched the *Plan to Accelerate Solution: Tackling Environmental Crime to Achieve Zero Deforestation*, an initiative of the Global Coalition Against Environmental Crime, together with The Royal Foundation and the Amazon Alliance for the Reduction of the Impacts of Gold Mining (AARIMO), in partnership with the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), Brazil's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the Federal Police, and other public and private institutions.

The plan presented a practical action roadmap based on the conviction that Brazil's and the world's zero-deforestation targets will

only be achieved through effective responses to environmental crime. It linked enforcement, financial intelligence, territorial governance, private-sector accountability, and international cooperation.

Igarapé's advocacy at COP30 also contributed to two significant forest-related outcomes at the highest political level. At the Leaders' Summit, environmental crime and forest protection were reflected in the Call to Action on Integrated Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience, a landmark political signal connecting climate ambition with enforcement and territorial governance.



Carlos Eduardo Palhares Machado, Mauricio Cabrera Leal, Melina Rizzo and Alex Castro at an ACTO event on regional cooperation to tackle illegal mining.



Igarapé Institute at the launch of the *Plan to Accelerate Solution: Tackling Environmental Crime to Achieve Zero Deforestation* at COP30.

As a direct result of sustained advocacy and coalition-building, the Brazilian COP30 Presidency launched a process to develop a roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, backed by over 90 countries. Alongside scientists Carlos Nobre and Johan Rockström, former presidents Juan Manuel Santos and Mary Robinson, and global leaders including Jennifer Morgan, Marco Lambertini, and Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Igarapé's leadership called for clear roadmaps to end deforestation and to transition away from fossil fuels, in defense of the 1.5°C Mission.



Launch of the report *Earth4All – Social Tension Modelling of Brazil* at COP30, with Robert Muggah, Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Carlos Nobre, Izabella Teixeira and Gustavo Westmann.



At COP30, Igarapé participated in the delivery of a letter to Vice President Geraldo Alckmin and Minister Marina Silva, calling for clear roadmaps to end deforestation and support the transition away from fossil fuels.

## Key results

- **Ensured that environmental crime was included in the COP30 Action Agenda** under the *Plan to Accelerate Solution: Tackling Environmental Crime to Achieve Zero Deforestation*.
- Igarapé's foundational engagement and coalition-building helped drive **over 90 countries to back the COP30 Presidency Roadmap** to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. The agenda was also reflected in the Leaders' Summit Call to Action on Integrated Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience.
- Strengthened the connection between **Amazon protection, climate ambition, and territorial governance**.
- Supported Brazil's diplomatic **efforts to advance environmental crime within the UNTOC process**, including advocacy for a coordinated Amazon-wide approach to a new protocol on environmental crime.

# Territorial Governance in the Amazon

Beyond raising awareness and advancing advocacy efforts across global, regional, and national political arenas, Igarapé also expanded its role in the implementation of practical solutions to confront environmental crime. In 2025, the Institute supported the regional expansion of the Brazil's Federal Police Ouro Alvo program, which uses geochemical traceability to build a database capable of identifying the origin of gold extraction, a critical innovation for tackling illegal mining and strengthening transparency in gold supply chains across the Amazon. The program was introduced to Peruvian and Colombian authorities through technical missions and an international seminar supported by Igarapé, fostering regional cooperation and accelerating the adoption of innovative tools to strengthen transparency, accountability, and enforcement against environmental crime.



Melina Risso at the 2nd International Seminar on Illicit Activities and Traceability in the Gold Supply Chain, co-organized by the Igarapé Institute alongside the Polícia Federal, IBRAM, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, WWF and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).



Jean Pierre Bou, César Gamboa Balbín, Luisa Bacca, Maryl Serrano, and Melina Risso at the launch of a publication produced in partnership with FCDS, an initiative of the European Union.



The Institute also developed strategic studies aimed at facilitating regional cooperation against environmental crime, including pathways to strengthen anti-money laundering systems to better detect and disrupt the financial flows linked to illegal mining, land grabbing, illicit timber extraction, and other environmental offenses. In 2025, the Igarapé Institute helped shape regional discussions within GAFILAT on how anti-money laundering systems can be more effectively leveraged to combat environmental crime by producing and presenting cutting-edge research on the subject. At the national level, Igarapé also contributed to two ENCCLA initiatives, strengthening the integration of environmental crime into Brazil's anti-money laundering agenda.



Panel on state-led efforts to combat environmental crimes in the Brazilian Legal Amazon, featuring the launch of the region's first integrated assessment, with Melina Risso, André Velasco, and Coronel Henrique Vidal.

At the same time, Igarapé invested in strengthening frontline institutions by training police officers, prosecutors, and judges in capacity-building initiatives focused on detecting, investigating and prosecuting complex environmental crimes connected to organized criminal networks.

Through this combination of advocacy, technical innovation, institutional strengthening, and operational support, Igarapé helped move environmental crime from the margins of policy debates to the center of climate, governance, and security responses in the Amazon.



Melina Risso at a high-level meeting with the Andean Community in Peru.



Melina Risso and Maria Eugenia Trombini exchanging experiences on tackling environmental crime with members of the Peruvian Armed Forces during a visit to the country.



Melina Risso, Humberto Freire de Barros, Eduardo Bizzo and Daniela Pereira Madeira in a discussion at COP30 on the severity of illegal mining, especially in the Amazon, and the importance of strategies and mechanisms for gold traceability.

## Key results

- Secured the **inclusion of environmental crime and gold traceability as presidential-level priorities** in the Bogotá Declaration under the ACTO framework.
- Advanced the **regional implementation of innovative tools to combat illegal mining** through support for the expansion of Brazil's Federal Police **Ouro Alvo program** and the promotion of a geochemical gold traceability platform in Colombia and Peru.
- Engaged anti-money laundering systems at regional and national levels, including through GAFILAT and participation in two ENCCLA initiatives, to **develop mechanisms targeting crimes against nature and illicit financial flows** linked to environmental crime.
- Strengthened the operational capacity of frontline institutions by **training more than 170 police officers, prosecutors, and judges** to detect, investigate, and prosecute complex environmental crimes linked to organized criminal networks.
- Developed strategic studies and policy recommendations to **strengthen regional cooperation and improve institutional responses** to environmental crime across the Amazon.
- Established engagement with the Andean Community (CAN) to **incorporate environmental crime into regional organized crime priorities** and strengthen coordinated mechanisms to combat illegal mining.
- **Developed the first environmental crime assessment** for the Legal Amazon Governors' Consortium, accompanied by the organization of a COP30 side event where the Consortium addressed environmental crime for the first time.
- Expanded awareness of **environmental crime as a security, governance, and climate issue** through research, media engagement, high-level events, and strategic outreach.
- **Provided technical support** to subnational governments, prosecutors, financial institutions, and regional networks.

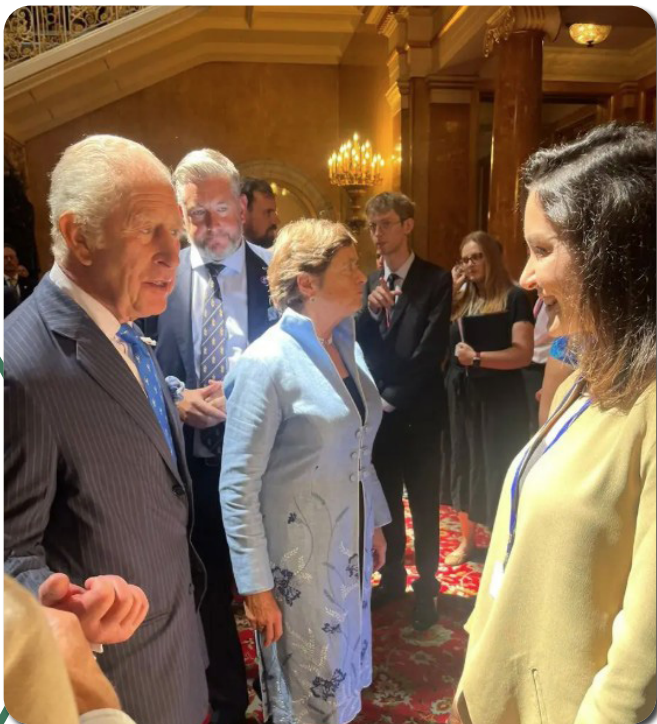
# Unlocking Responsible Nature Finance

In 2025, Igarapé deepened its work on nature finance, responsible investment, and the enabling conditions for green and just economies in forest territories. The Institute's approach recognizes that finance can support climate and biodiversity goals only when it is grounded in territorial integrity, social safeguards, rule of law, and credible risk analysis.

A centerpiece of this work involved the launch of the Green Bridge Facility (GBF) at COP30. The GBF is an impact initiative designed to de-risk territories to enable responsible investment in high-integrity green enterprises that benefit communities and protect tropical forests and other biomes.



Launch of the Derisking Amazonia project during COP30, a partnership between the Igarapé Institute, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Rockefeller Foundation. Pictured: Ricardo Piquet (IDG), Ilan Goldfajn (IDB), Ilona Szabó, and Robert Muggah (Igarapé Institute).



In London, Ilona Szabó presented the Green Bridge Facility to King Charles III.

GBF works on improving the business environment for climate- and nature-based solutions. It supports investors and entrepreneurs with risk assessments, opportunity mapping, project structuring and partnership development, integrity monitoring, and territorial intelligence.

A core component of the initiative is the Know Your Territory (KYT) method, which helps responsible investors and entrepreneurs assess territorial risks and opportunities. KYT evaluates six dimensions from project level to landscape scale, combining geospatial, governance, and social data.

The KYT-e digital platform applies this method at the municipal level. Covering more than 5,500 Brazilian municipalities and using more than 70 indicators, KYT-e calculates risks and opportunities for climate- and nature-based solutions.

Moreover, in 2025, Igarapé strengthened its role as a key actor in mobilizing responsible finance for nature. The Institute helped shape the integrity framework of the Amazonia Bonds (IDB and World Bank), ensuring territorial and social safeguards were embedded in the instrument.



Ilona Szabó at New York Climate Week, during the Symposium on Biodiversity Credits panel hosted by the IAPB, alongside Dame Amelia Fawcett and Maurício Lyrio.

The Institute advanced the inclusion of nature-based finance in the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap, contributing directly to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. Through the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB), Igarapé helped advance regulatory frameworks for biodiversity credit markets globally. It also collaborated in technical exchanges with the Brazilian government on instruments such as biodiversity credits and environmental reserve quotas (CRAs), and co-organized the Second Forum on Climate and Nature Finance, bringing together more than 1,800 leaders to accelerate capital mobilization for restoration and bioeconomy.



Laurence Tubiana, Robert Muggah, Alok Sharma, Marcelo Furtado at the 2nd Climate Finance and Nature Forum, in Rio de Janeiro.



Ilona Szabó and Mary Creagh, the United Kingdom's Environment Minister, at an IAPB event on nature credit markets during COP30.



Publication launched at COP30, developed under the Amazonia Forever program of the IDB Group, with the support of the Igarapé Institute and other partners, identifying opportunities and partnerships to advance an innovative and sustainable Amazonian economy.

As the Secretariat of the Pan-Amazonian Private Sector Task Force, Igarapé helped build a shared vision for sustainable investment across eight Amazon countries. The Institute also supported Brazil's Ministry of Environment's Special Advisory on Economy and Environment (ASECON) on nature finance instruments and the identification of priority territories for restoration — helping translate policy ambition into operational criteria for investment.



Presentation of the report *Under the Radar*, by Instituto Igarapé and the Amazon Investor Coalition (AIC), featuring Rodrigo Agostinho, Robert Muggah, Lyana Latorre, Melina Rizzo and Yané Amoras Lima during COP30.

## Key results

- Launched the **Green Bridge Facility** and the KYT-e platform at COP30 and initiated partnerships.
- Developed and deployed the **KYT method** on the ground.
- Helped shape the **integrity framework** of the Amazonia Bonds.
- Contributed to the **Baku-to-Belém Roadmap**.
- Provided technical guidance to the Brazilian government on **biodiversity credits and other nature finance instruments** and priority territories for restoration.
- Advanced debates on biodiversity credits, blended finance, restoration finance, and **territorial risk analysis**.
- Engaged investors, development banks, companies, and policymakers on **responsible nature finance**.

# Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation and Global Governance

In 2025, Igarapé contributed to new models of cooperation in a fragmented international system. The Institute worked with partners across United Nations (UN) processes, BRICS+, COP30, the G20, The Royal Foundation, World Economic Forum (WEF), and other coalitions to connect climate, nature, security, development, and governance.

Igarapé advanced proposals for institutional innovation, including a Climate and Nature Council, and supported efforts to improve coordination among the Rio Conventions on climate, biodiversity, and desertification. At COP30, progress on synergies among the Rio Conventions was formally adopted for the first time at a Climate COP.

The Institute also worked to strengthen regional cooperation in the Amazon Basin, including through ACTO, regional consultations, and cooperation on illegal gold mining, environmental crime, and territorial governance.



Igarapé Institute at the United for Wildlife Global Summit 2025.

Ilona Szabó and Giovanna Kuele present *Towards a Global Climate and Nature Council* to Brazilian Ministers Sônia Guajajara and Marina Silva and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Amina J. Mohammed.



Ilona Szabó at the opening of the United for Wildlife Global Summit 2025 in Rio de Janeiro.



At the event A Dialogue with the President of the UN General Assembly, Giovanna Kuele, Aline Lara and Laura Trajber Waisbich took part in discussions on mitigation, adaptation and climate finance alongside Annalena Baerbock.

## Key results

- Advanced debate on a **Climate and Nature Council** in high-level international settings.
- Supported **climate and nature synergies** across multilateral negotiations.
- Strengthened regional dialogue on **environmental crime** and Amazon security.
- Engaged global leaders, middle powers, civil society, Indigenous leaders, researchers, and private-sector actors in novel concepts such as **biodiversity credits and Amazon Bonds**.
- **Promoted cooperation models** that bridge global norm-setting and local implementation.

# Building Knowledge, Tools and Public Goods

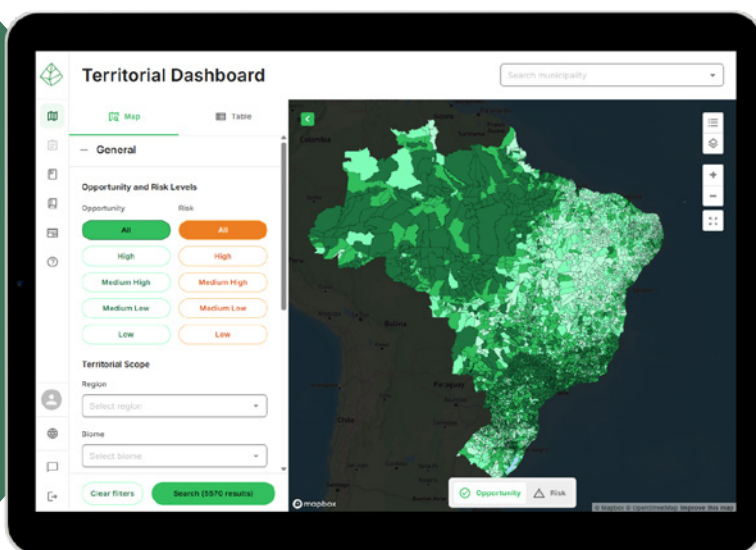
Igarapé's influence depends on the generation of high-quality evidence. The Institute also converts analysis into action and builds products that can be used by decision-makers. In 2025, the Institute produced 37 publications and launched seven publications during COP30 alone.



Covers of the seven publications launched at COP30.

Research products focused on organized and environmental crime in the Amazon Basin, climate security and critical minerals, and nature finance and the bioeconomy. Research also highlighted standards for AI alignment and safety. Publications and platforms helped inform public debate, policy design, financial-sector risk analysis, and advocacy.

Igarapé also strengthened digital public goods, including KYT-e, the Homicide Monitor, the Secure Amazon Panel and Women Defenders in the Amazon. These tools help readers understand territorial risks, environmental crime dynamics, gendered impacts, public security trends, and bioeconomy investment risks and opportunities.



KYT-e platform in action.  
Scan the QR code to access it.

## Key results

- Produced **37 publications** in 2025.
- Generated **199,619 downloads** of studies and reports.
- Registered **867 Google Scholar citations**.
- **Strengthened digital platforms** for environmental crime, territorial risk, public security, and Amazon analysis.
- **Supported decision-makers** in government, finance, law enforcement, civil society, and multilateral organizations.

# Expanding Public Reach and Influence

In 2025, Igarapé continued to expand its public voice in Brazil and internationally. The Institute served as a source for journalists, produced opinion articles, participated in major forums, and brought evidence into public debate.

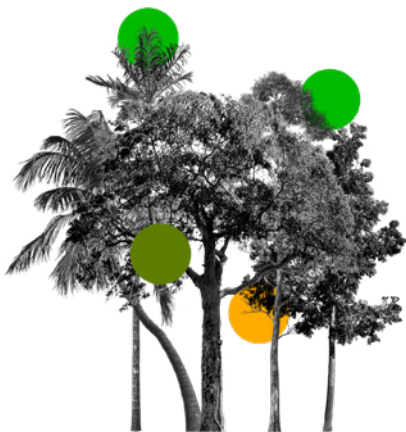
The Institute had more than 1,200 media mentions in 34 countries and published 88 opinion articles. Its work was covered or amplified by outlets including AP, BBC, CNN, Economist, Financial Times, Folha de S. Paulo, Foreign Policy, Latinoamérica21, Mongabay, New York Times, Ojo Público, Project Syndicate, Reuters, The Conversation, Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post.

Igarapé representatives participated in 154 events, both in person and virtually, moderating debates, presenting solutions, and proposing visions for a safer world for people and the planet.



## Key results

- More than **1,200 media mentions** in **34 countries**.
- **88 opinion articles** published.
- **154 events** attended, moderated, organized, or supported.
- More than **68,000 social media followers** across Instagram, LinkedIn, and X.
- Continued **global reach** through platforms, publications, and partnerships.



# Igarapé at COP30

COP30 was a critical milestone in 2025. From Davos to Belém, Igarapé worked to build consensus and advance solutions across three interconnected agendas: environmental crime, nature finance, and effective international cooperation.

During the two-week summit, the Institute contributed as organizer or invited participant to 50 events, lectures, debates, and meetings alongside scientists, policymakers, Indigenous leaders, entrepreneurs, civil society partners, and global political leaders.

## Environmental Crime in the COP30 Action Agenda

Igarapé helped secure recognition of environmental crime within the COP30 Action Agenda under the axis of responsible management of forests, oceans, and biodiversity. This marked an important step in connecting climate ambition with enforcement, rule of law, territorial governance, and the fight against illicit economies.



Ilona Szabó and André Corrêa do Lago,  
president of COP30

### Leaders' Summit

Environmental crime was also reflected in the Call to Action on Integrated Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience, announced at the Leaders' Summit.

### Rio Convention Synergies

COP30 delivered progress on synergies among the Rio Conventions, with a formal conclusion adopted for the first time at a Climate COP.



Scan the QR code to access all events  
hosted by or featuring the Igarapé Institute.

## Climate and Nature Council

Igarapé brought the proposal for a Climate and Nature Council to high-level events and dialogues with international representatives.

## Roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030

Over 90 countries backed the COP30 Presidency Roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 — a result shaped in part by Igarapé’s foundational engagement and coalition-building from the outset.

## Publications Launched During COP30

Igarapé launched seven publications, including reports and contributions to books and articles.



### Highlights included:

- **The Age of Nature** including a chapter, in the Portuguese version, by Ilona Szabó on illegal economies and the private sector’s role in sustainable models.
- **Private Sector Roadmap for a Sustainable Amazon**, developed under the Inter-American Development Bank’s Amazonia Forever program with support from Igarapé.
- **Second Amazon Assessment Report of the Science Panel for the Amazon — AR2025**, including a chapter co-authored by Ilona Szabó, Melina Risso, Juan Carlos Garzón and others, on threats posed by illegal economies in the Amazon Basin.

# TED and Igarapé

Throughout 2025, Igarapé and TED Countdown consolidated a partnership that crossed continents and culminated at COP30. At TEDxAmazônia in Belém in June 2025, Robert Muggah represented the Institute in a program focused on climate, society, innovation, and the knowledge of Amazon communities.

At TED Countdown Nairobi in August 2025, Ilona Szabó spoke about how Brazil and other countries can become nature superpowers, while Robert Muggah participated in a panel on the relevance of the 1.5°C goal.

During COP30, the Igarapé Institute co-hosted the TED Countdown House. From November 8 to 20, 2025, TED Countdown, Igarapé, and TEDxAmazônia promoted a parallel program involving over 50 separate events and bringing together hundreds of scientists, entrepreneurs, artists, Indigenous leaders, and activists to reimagine the future of the planet.



Ilona Szabó and Robert Muggah at TED Countdown Nairobi.



In her TED Countdown talk, Ilona explored how Brazil can become the world's first nature superpower.

# Key Events and Convenings

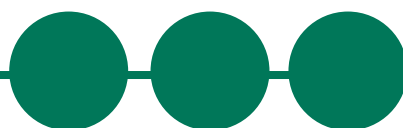
Rather than treating events as isolated outputs, Igarapé used convenings throughout 2025 to build coalitions, shape agendas, test ideas, and move evidence into policy and practice. Key engagements included:

## Climate, Nature, and Finance

- **World Economic Forum — Davos:** Ilona Szabó and Robert Muggah joined leaders from government, the judiciary, business, and civil society to discuss energy transition, inequality reduction, biodiversity protection, the fight against environmental crime and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Artificial General Intelligence (AGI).
- **65th Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank:** Ilona Szabó advocated for higher ambition on the Paris Agreement, the Global Biodiversity Framework, carbon neutrality, and inclusive sustainable development.
- **Connecting Climate and Nature:** Igarapé and partners convened a Brasília meeting on climate-nature synergies, finance, justice, human rights, and alignment among the Rio Conventions.
- **Villars Institute Annual Conference:** Ilona Szabó emphasized the Amazon Basin's centrality to limiting warming and the importance of confronting illegal deforestation and illicit economies.
- **Second Climate and Nature Finance Forum:** Ilona Szabó and Robert Muggah contributed to discussions on global financial architecture, nature protection, climate justice, and geopolitical risks to climate finance.
- **BRICS and COP30 webinar:** Igarapé and the BRICS Policy Center convened experts on climate and nature finance across BRICS countries.
- **Bonn Climate Conference:** Igarapé participated in discussions to strengthen the integration of nature and forests into global climate negotiations.
- **London Climate Action Week:** Ilona Szabó discussed European climate leadership in a multipolar context.
- **FfD4 in Seville:** Giovanna Kuele represented Igarapé in discussions on financing for development, inequality, climate, and nature.
- **New York Climate Week:** Igarapé contributed to debates on nature-based adaptation, biodiversity credits, and restoration finance.

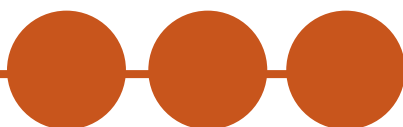
# Amazon, Environmental Crime, and Security

- **Munich Security Conference:** Robert Muggah organized and co-hosted an event with the heads of Interpol, UNODC, Europol, the Global Initiative Against Organized Crime and ministers to review threats and responses to transnational organized crime.
- **Technical mission in Peru:** Melina Risso joined a mission with Brazil's Federal Police and UNODC to share lessons on gold traceability and illegal mining.
- **Security, Conflict, and Environment in the Amazon:** Igarapé, the Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (FCDS) and the European Union launched a regional project covering Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Bolivia.
- **GAFILAT Plenary:** Melina Risso presented research on anti-money laundering systems and environmental crimes in Amazon countries.
- **International Conference on the Amazon and New Economies:** Igarapé contributed to debates on illicit economies, environmental justice, public security, and economic security.
- **ENCCLA:** Vivian Calderoni represented Igarapé in workstreams on mineral exploitation, beneficial ownership transparency, and carbon credit markets.
- **Gold supply chain seminar:** Igarapé co-organized a seminar on illicit activities and traceability in the gold supply chain with the Federal Police, Brazilian Mining Institute (IBRAM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and partners.
- **Regional cooperation on illegal gold mining:** Igarapé and AARIMO co-organized a side event to the Fifth Summit of Amazonian Presidents.
- **High-level meetings of the Andean Community:** Igarapé presented studies on environmental crime and techniques to combat illegal mining in meetings of both the D922 Organized Crime Working Group and the Andean Committee against Illegal Mining (CAMI).



# Global Public Engagement and Leadership

- **TEDxAmazônia:** Igarapé's Robert Muggah supported an event that gathered over 25 speakers and 2,000 people in Belém.
- **Berlin Climate and Security Conference – Rio 2025:** Robert Muggah addressed climate risks in Latin America and the Caribbean and Brazil's role ahead of COP30.
- **TED Countdown Nairobi:** Ilona Szabó and Robert Muggah contributed to global climate and nature debates.
- **Global Citizen NOW: Amazônia:** Ilona Szabó emphasized the need to place Indigenous peoples, traditional communities, local populations, and women environmental defenders at the center of forest protection finance.
- **Climate & Impact Summit Latin America:** Ilona Szabó advocated for recognizing the Amazon as a global natural capital asset.
- **80th United Nations General Assembly:** Robert Muggah, Melina Risso, and Giovanna Kuele contributed to discussions on climate-conflict risks, environmental crime, and the proposal for a Climate and Nature Council.
- **United for Wildlife Global Summit:** Ilona Szabó delivered an opening talk on environmental crime, and Igarapé co-organized a high-level private-sector roundtable with The Royal Foundation on leadership against environmental crime.
- **The Earthshot Prize:** As a partner and nominator, Igarapé followed an edition in which Brazilian restoration company re.green was recognized.



# Councils, Coalitions and Contributions

In 2025, Igarapé contributed to dozens of councils, coalitions, advisory bodies, and expert groups across security, climate, nature, finance, public policy, cities, and technology. These included participation in or contributions to:

- Advisory Board of the Global Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation
- Amazon Gold Alliance Stewardship Team and different working groups
- Brazilian Council for Sustainable Economic and Social Development
- British Academy Global (Dis)order Program
- Coalition for Multilateral Action Against Crimes that Affect the Environment
- ENCCLA 2025 working groups
- Environmental Crime Risk Assessment Group in Amazonas
- Governing Council for a Concert for the Amazon
- IBRAM Socio-Environmental Council
- Inter-American Development Bank expert panel for strategy review
- International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits
- National Council for Public Security and Social Defense
- National Open Data Infrastructure Management Committee
- Nature Climate Alliance Steering Committee
- New Commons Challenge evaluation process
- Social and Sustainable Development Council of Brazil's Presidency
- UNICEF Global Outlook for Children 2025 reference group
- Women Leading on Climate coalition
- World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Natural Capital
- World Economic Forum Global Risk Report Advisory Council

# Partners and Supporters

Igarapé's 2025 work was made possible by a broad network of partners, supporters, and collaborators across academia, civil society, international organizations, philanthropy, and the public and private sectors.

## → Institutional and Technical Partners

Examples include ACTO-related institutions, Brazil's Federal Police, Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CAN, COP30 Presidency, National Strategy to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering (ENCCLA), Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), AYA Institute, Institute for Democracy and Sustainability (IDS), Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Peruvian environmental prosecutors, National Secretariat for Drug Policies (SENAD), World Climate Foundation, Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), Brazilian Association of Members of the Environmental Public Ministry (ABRAMPA), National Association of Federal Prosecutors (ANPR), Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS), Interstate Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Legal Amazon, Government of the State of Pernambuco (SEAP), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), JPG Credit Management, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), Federal Public Ministry (MPF), Federal Supreme Court, Thomson Reuters Foundation, and others.

## → Supporters

Supporters include Agni, Association for Education, Health, Human Rights and the Environment (AIEP), Amazon Investor Coalition, Bem-Te-Vi Diversity Association, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Climate Emergency Collaboration Group, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Fundación Para La Conservación Y El Desarrollo Sostenible (FCDS), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Founders Pledge, Global Challenge Foundation, Good Energies Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, individual donors, Instituto Arapyaú, Beja Institute, Institute for Climate and Society (iCS), Galo da Manhã Institute, Itaúsa Institute, Sou da Paz Institute, Inter-American Development Bank, Klabin S/A, KPX Holdings, Latin American Climate Lawyers Initiative for Mobilizing Action (LACLIMA), Brazil Competitiveness Movement (MBC), Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Stichting Benevolentia (Porticus) and The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales.

# Team

**Aline Lara Romeu**, *Researcher*

**Ana Paula Coutinho do Nascimento**,  
*Administrative Analyst*

**André Gutierrez**, *Designer*

**Antonella Di Ciano**, *Regional Coordinator*

**Bernardo Santos de Lima**, *Project Manager*

**Carla Silveira do Nascimento**,  
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**Fernanda Harumi Martins**, *Researcher*

**Giovanna Franklin**, *Institutional Development  
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**Giovanna Kuele**, *International Cooperation  
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**Ilona Szabó de Carvalho**, *Co-founder and  
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*Communications Analyst*

**Joelma Alves Ferreira**, *Treasurer*

**João Gabriel Caetano Leite**, *Researcher*

**Katherine Aguirre**, *Researcher*

**Laura Trajber Waisbich**, *Deputy Program  
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**Leriana Figueiredo**, *Program Director*

**Lucas Feitosa Vidal**, *Research Assistant*

**Lucas Francisco Guimarães Alves**,  
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**Maria Amélia Teixeira**, *Operations Director*

**Maria Mogrovejo Muller**, *Research  
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**Maria Eduarda Pessoa de Assis**, *Legal  
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**Ricardo Caldas Cavalcanti Filho**,  
*Researcher*

**Robert Muggah**, *Chief Innovation Officer*

**Simone Lima**, *Executive Assistant*

**Talisson Cunha Mendes**, *Project and  
Partnership Assistant*

**Vivian Calderoni Cytman**, *Program  
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**Vitória Marques Lorente**, *Researcher*

**Wilker França de Oliveira**, *Developer*

# Financial Statement

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

2025

2024

### OPERATING REVENUES

#### Restricted

Project Revenue

1,997,333

1,634,752

**1,997,333**

**1,634,752**

#### Unrestricted

Donation Revenue

830,035

720,215

Revenue for Services Rendered

220,649

16,634

Overhead

72,214

94,016

Voluntary Work Revenues

3,440

2,941

Operating revenue Deductions

(27,803)

(2,059)

**1,098,535**

**831,746**

### PROJECT COSTS

General Project Costs

(1,997,333)

(1,634,752)

### Net Revenue

**1,098,535**

**831,746**

### OPERATING EXPENSES

General and Administrative

(244,172)

(158,485)

Voluntary Work

(3,440)

(2,941)

Taxes and Fees

(17,366)

(8,379)

Depreciation and amortization

(5,808)

(5,210)

Expense Recovery

23,496

4,645

Consulting services expenses

(200,778)

-

Donations

(572,477)

-

**(1,020,546)**

**(170,370)**

### Surplus Before Financial Result

**77,990**

**661,376**

### FINANCIAL RESULT

Financial Expenses

(61)

(240)

Financial Revenue

268,157

124,140

### Net Financial Result

**268,096**

**123,899**

### Surplus for the Year

**346,085**

**785,275**



# A Bridge to the Future

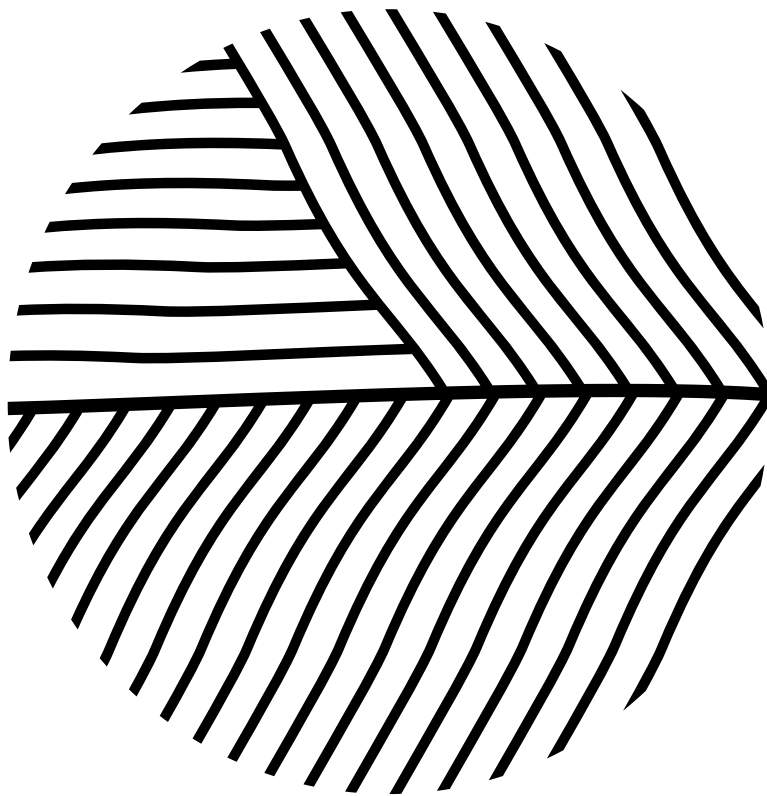
What 2025 made clear is that the world's defining challenges cannot be addressed in isolation. Organized crime cannot be separated from environmental destruction. Climate action cannot be divorced from development and justice. Digital governance cannot be detached from democratic resilience. Progress depends on the ability to connect agendas that have too often been compartmentalized.

As Igarapé approaches its fifteenth anniversary in 2026, the Institute does so with confidence and pride in what was achieved in 2025 and with a clear-headed sense of the work ahead. This is not a moment for incrementalism. It is a moment for rigorous research, practical innovation, strong partnerships, and the courage to test new ideas.

In 2026, Igarapé will focus on translating the momentum generated in 2025 into implementation. Priorities include advancing environmental crime cooperation, supporting post-COP30 implementation, deepening work on responsible nature finance, strengthening climate and nature governance, and advancing AI safety and democratic resilience in the Global South.

Above all, this is a moment to expand our sense of responsibility: to one another, to the majority world, to future generations, and to the ecosystems on which all life depends. We are grateful to all those who stood with us in 2025 and helped turn ideas into action at a time of profound global change.





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