

Cerrado Network and partner organizations advocate for the connection of biomes at the COP 28 in Dubai.

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Water and Cerrado are two threatened treasures that go hand in hand. This is the message that the Cerrado Network, in collaboration with ISPN, WWF-Brazil, Cerrados Institute, IPAM, CAA/NM, Funatura, IEB, and DGM Brazil, bring to the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The event annually gathers signatory countries of the 1994 Climate Convention and, this year, hosts the largest Brazilian delegation ever sent to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) event, with 2,400 Brazilians participating in discussions from November 30th to December 12th.

The Cerrado Network and partner organizations will be present in Dubai with representatives from traditional peoples and communities from the biome to emphasize the socio-biodiversity of the Cerrado and the sources of aquifers and rivers, responsible for Brazil's and the world's water security. The goal is to insert Brazil's most threatened biome into international discussions and provide decision-makers with data and testimonials that can alter the course of history. "It is crucial to ensure that the conservation of the Cerrado biome is at the forefront of the agenda on climate solutions and the fight against the water crisis," says Lourdes Nascimento, general coordinator of the Cerrado Network, who leads the delegation.

On December 2nd, she participates in the panel "Forests, bioeconomy, and development: what unites and differentiates Brazilian biomes", alongside representatives from SOS Mata Atlântica, SOS Pantanal Institute, Arapyaú Institute, and the National Articulation of Indigenous Women Warriors of Ancestry (ANMIGA). On December 9th, the coordinator of the Cerrado Network and superintendent of Funatura, Pedro Bruzzi, will moderate the table "Territorial and Environmental Management of Quilombola Territories as a device for climate justice and guarantee of rights."

The Cerrado Network's delegation also includes coordinator Hiparidi Top Ttiro, Xavante indigenous, and the organization's executive secretary, Ingrid Silveira. "We will highlight the interdependence of the Cerrado and Amazon biomes in the water cycle and show how actions in one biome directly impact the other," says Silveira.

Yuri Salmona, director of the Cerrados Institute and a doctor in Forest Sciences, points out that the long roots of Cerrado trees can reach over 10 meters deep, leading the biome to be compared to an inverted forest. These roots are responsible for carrying rainwater to the groundwater and supplying river basins.

"To aggravate the situation, more than 4.2 billion tons of CO₂ have already been emitted from deforestation in this world's largest agricultural frontier since 1990 – equivalent to more than 6 years of emissions from the European Union's energy sector and contributing to the sad climatic scenario of the planet. The Cerrado is the biome most impacted by European consumption, with a focus on deforestation caused by soy and cattle farming. Therefore, the Cerrado Network advocates for the European Commission to conduct impact studies and revise the scope of the European Union Regulation for Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR) to include non-forest ecosystems."

The Cerrado Network has repeatedly requested the inclusion of these areas in the legal scope (Letter from the Peoples of the Cerrado to the European Union, Urgent protection of the Cerrado and other natural ecosystems, and the EU's anti-deforestation law may go to vote on the 5th, without the Cerrado). On December 10th, ISPN moderates the panel "Challenges and opportunities of socio-bioeconomics for climate and biodiversity in Brazil - Innovation, Scale, Inclusion, and Conservation," bringing together representatives from the federal government, private sector, and civil society to discuss topics such as science and technology, new business models, financing, consumer markets, and sustainable territories.

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