

CASE STUDIES OF SOCIOENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS BY MEGA-DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BRAZILIAN STATES OF CEARÁ, RIO DE JANEIRO, AND PERNAMBUCO:

Socioenvironmental impacts of the wind energy production chain in the traditional community of Caetanos de Cima (Ceará)

Ternium (formerly TKCSA) and the neighborhood of Santa Cruz (Rio de Janeiro)

Socioenvironmental conflicts caused by projects in the oil production chain at the Industrial Port Complex of Suape (Pernambuco)



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This publication was coordinated by Forum Suape Espaço Socioambiental and it is one of the actions of the project "Hand in Hand We Create Current", carried out by Fórum Suape (Pernambuco-Brazil), Instituto Terramar (Ceará-Brazil), and Instituto PACS (Rio de Janeiro-Brazil). The research and research reports were executed in the year of 2022, signed by Júlio Holanda in Ceará; Mariana Olivia, Priscylla Alves, Rafaella Machado, Alyne Nascimento and Marcos Silva in Pernambuco; and Pedro Henrique Ramos Prado Vasques and Celly Cook Inatomi in Rio de Janeiro. The consolidation of the three studies for a unified report was made by Mariana Olivia, Priscylla Alves, Rafaella Machado, Alyne Nascimento and Marcos Silva, and the review and adaptation of language was made by Dani Guerra in 2023, with final review and some updates by the project team. The publication has the support of European Union, Bread for the World, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Misereor, Fondo de Mujeres del Sur, Both ENDS, Fundo Casa Socioambiental, Global Greengrants Fund and Fundo Brasil de Direitos Humanos. Its content is the exclusive responsibility of the Forum Suape, Instituto PACS and Instituto Terramar and does not necessarily reflect the position of their supporters.



The project "Hand in Hand We Create Current: coastal populations strengthened in the fight for socio-environmental and climate justice" began in 2022 and continues until 2024. Carried out by three social organizations from Brazil, Instituto Terramar (Ceará), Forum Suape - Espaço Socioambiental (Pernambuco) and Instituto Políticas Alternativas para o Cone Sul - PACSS (Rio de Janeiro), it has the main objective of collaborating to strengthen a pluralist, participative and representative democracy in Brazil. We want to examine some international agreements on environment, climate, and human rights that Brazil has signed along with many other countries, and ensure that these rights and duties are shared with communities, environmentalists, and society as a whole.

The delimitation of the coastal zone considers the operational area of the sponsoring organizations, as well as the need for the conservation of the coastal marine biome and its associated ecosystems, with special attention to the rights of the peoples and communities inhabiting it due to the multiple uses and economic pressures directed towards these regions. Indigenous and traditional populations have occupied the coastal zone for centuries, acting as guardians of their socio-environmental heritage, and their ways of life are essential for climate and planetary balance. This extensive region in Brazil is an area of interaction between biomes, where we find a multiplicity of ecosystems essential for life in the sea and on land. The ecological and socio-environmental balance in the Coastal Zone is what ensures the reproduction of various species and the maintenance of the societies that inhabit it, guaranteeing its integrity.

Our activities are located in the Brazilian states of Ceará, Pernambuco, and Rio de Janeiro, in two Brazilian regions (Northeast and Southeast), totaling 11 municipalities, 20 communities, and social movements with whom we collaborate to improve the effectiveness of political advocacy actions. Together, we amplify our strengths to confront mega-projects that are established in the coastal zone and threaten ways of life, climate justice, food sovereignty, biodiversity, territories, and lives in general, with a particular impact on women and traditional communities. We work in a network to ensure that our "currents" prevent injustices, uphold rights, and thus preserve the diversity of life and ways of living harmoniously with the environment and climate on our planet.

Execution of the Project "Hand in Hand We Create Current"



Instituto PACS

We are a multidisciplinary team, predominantly composed of women, consisting of popular educators, communicators, social scientists, internationalists, biologists, psychologists, economists, researchers, administrators, and activists. Alongside self-organized collectives and other partners, we embark, from the territories, on a critical debate against the capitalist, racist, and patriarchal development model, aiming to strengthen alternatives for economic, social, and environmental justice.

We operate on different scales in the City and State of Rio de Janeiro – particularly in the Western Zone of the capital – collaborating with other parts of the country in the Northern, Northeastern, and Southeastern Brazil, as well as in the context of Latin America and the Global South. We emphasize our work, struggle, and commitment with women; residents of favelas and peripheries; those affected by the impacts of mega-projects, the actions of transnational companies, multilateral financial institutions, and militarization; the black, indigenous, and quilombola populations; and the traditional communities of the countryside, forest, waters, and city.

🌐 <http://pacs.org.br/>

📷 <https://www.instagram.com/institutopacs/>

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Fórum Suape

The Forum Suape Espaço Socioambiental emerged from a group of activists, researchers, community leaders, and civil society organizations who came together in 2011 to address human rights violations caused by the Suape Industrial Port Complex (CIPS), which directly impacted traditional communities in the area. The Forum Suape is dedicated to strengthening the traditional communities affected by the implementation and expansion of the development model. The escalation of conflicts and rights violations in the region demanded organizational processes and the development of strategic actions, leading the movement to rethink its operational structure. In 2013, it institutionalized itself as the "Associação Fórum Suape Espaço Socioambiental".

Today, the Forum Suape works alongside affected communities through joint and coordinated actions, contributing through pedagogical initiatives, legal assistance, and visibility efforts. Thus, it seeks to strengthen their capacity for organization and political advocacy against an economic development model that relies on the appropriation of territories historically inhabited by these communities, achieved through the concealment and denial of their rights. The Forum Suape aims to reinforce the struggles of affected communities against a colonial model, which is also structured in patriarchy and racism, viewing land and bodies as sources of profit, subject to exploitation.

🌐 <https://forumsuape.org.br/>

📷 <https://www.instagram.com/forumsuape/>

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Instituto Terramar

The Instituto Terramar is a non-profit Civil Society Organization with a socio-environmental focus. Its social objective is to contribute to Environmental Justice in the Coastal Zone of Ceará, Brazil. Its activities are primarily geared towards ensuring collective and individual rights of traditional coastal communities in Ceará, especially rights related to the environment, territory, cultural diversity, labor, and political participation.

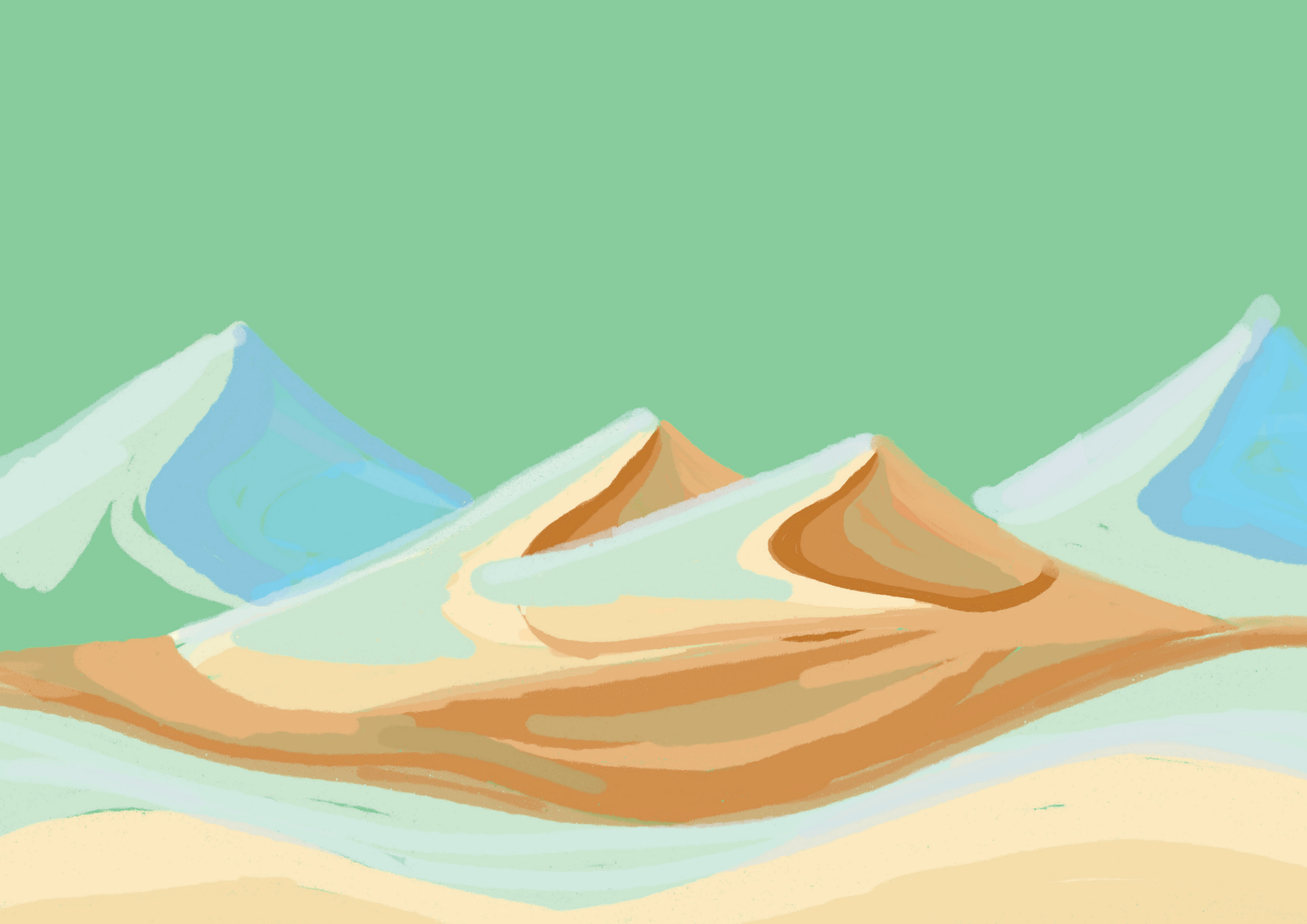
Since its establishment in 1993, Terramar has primarily collaborated in the education and organization of the local population, supporting local collective practices committed to affirming traditional coastal territories and environmental conservation of coastal-marine ecosystems. From a methodological standpoint, political education, support for community causes, and affirmation of the ways of life and work of the people in the Coastal Zone are integral to institutional practice. Networking and partnership building are some of its strengths, creating visibility and alliances in defense of rights and social and environmental justice.

Functioning in territories marked by socio-environmental conflicts and with a direct presence in communities, Terramar recognizes that these conflicts and socio-environmental injustices have differentiated impacts, characterized by historical inequalities and injustices such as racial and ethnic discrimination. Therefore, the institution understands that building environmental justice also involves dismantling cultures of violence, such as racism, sexism, and LGBTQ+phobia.

🌐 <https://terramar.org.br/>

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1. Introduction

In **Ceará**, the main human rights violations, conflicts, and socio-environmental impacts caused by projects in the continental and offshore wind energy production chain were analyzed in the coastal community of Caetanos de Cima, in the municipality of Amontada, through a careful dialogue with residents. The aim was to highlight the ecosystems, way of life, culture, traditional practices, and social, environmental, and productive relationships, identifying how wind energy generation activities have affected this community.

Ceará has been a national leader in wind energy generation, ranking fourth in wind energy generation capacity in Brazil. Additionally, the state has been a pioneer in offshore energy projects and green hydrogen production, a trend also observed in other states in the Northeast.

In **Pernambuco**, the research aimed to analyze socio-environmental conflicts caused by projects related to the oil production chain in the Suape Industrial Port Complex (CIPS), affecting the population of five communities in the area: Engenho Ilha, Engenho Tiriri, Praia de Suape, Quilombo Ilha de Mercês, and the Articulation of Women Fishers Affected by the Port Complex, from Gaibu Beach, Lagoa de Zumbi, and Maracaípe Beach.

In this study, conflicts, and impacts, including environmental injustice, caused by the main projects of the Suape Industrial Port Complex (CIPS), managed by the homonymous company SUAPE, were mapped, and described. For the research, social mappings were developed with the representation of residents from each community, along with an examination of studies on harmful productive processes, such as the petrochemical complex, the thermoelectric plant, and marine dredging in the port channel.



Check out the original case study "Socioenvironmental impacts of the wind energy production chain in the traditional community of Caetanos de Cima - Ceara" here (available in portuguese).



Check out the original case study "Socioenvironmental conflicts caused by projects in the oil production chain at the Industrial Port Complex of Suape - Pernambuco" here (available in portuguese).



Check out the original case study "Ternium (formerly TKCSA) and the neighborhood of Santa Cruz - Rio de Janeiro" here (available in portuguese).

The study in the municipality of **Rio de Janeiro** delimited the socio-environmental impacts associated with the arrival of Thyssenkrupp Companhia Siderúrgica do Atlântico (TCKSA), currently Ternium Brasil. Starting from the characterization of the territory and the impacts promoted by the steel mill in its various stages, a survey of conflicts and violations inflicted on local populations and the environment was conducted, considering current legislation, international treaties, and various sustainable development goals.

Steel production has negative impacts on the areas where it is installed, as well as broader impacts throughout the municipality, as it uses large amounts of water and energy and emits significant quantities of greenhouse gases (GHGs). In this study, direct and indirect impacts on the community closest to this mega-enterprise, in the neighborhood of Santa Cruz, west zone of the municipality of Rio de Janeiro, were analyzed.

In this publication, we have compiled central aspects of the three cases, each of which has a complete study published.



2. Foreword

Despite hosting major international conferences on the environment and development (Rio 92, Rio+20, Rio+30) and being a signatory to important international socio-environmental agreements, Brazil does not adhere to recommendations for the sustainability of human development.

On the contrary, what has been prioritized is the promotion of ultraliberalism through the deepening of the colonial reversal we are experiencing, characterized by the systematic downgrade of partial democratic and national achievements of the Brazilian people. The country has strengthened the production of low or no industrial value goods, geared towards export (commodities), which differentiate themselves in the market under a low commercial value but whose production, however, occurs at a high cost through the exploitation of natural resources, with serious consequences for the environment and the people who depend on it.

This scenario places Brazil on a path of unsustainability, as the country reinforces the logic of environmental destruction through mega-projects supported by neoliberal economic programs. With the exacerbation of necropolitics during the administrations of Temer and Bolsonaro, there has been a reduction in social rights, the dismantling of public facilities for nature protection, the deregulation of environmental legislation, the privatization of energy production, and the resurgence of the granting of public lands (mostly held by traditional peoples and communities) to transnational corporations.

This development model accentuates socio-environmental vulnerabilities in rural, forest, and aquatic populations, as it strengthens only large entrepreneurs, destroys nature, and depletes common resources, without offering improvement for the general population.

The studies presented here bring to the forefront of the debate the material and immaterial implications of environmental injustices experienced by communities, particularly affecting women, in accordance with each social, political, and economic dynamic. After all, the capitalist system coexists with the patriarchal system, configuring oppressions, inequalities, and iniquities that are intricately related.

The impacts of each mega-project are not randomly distributed in society but stem from unequal systems of power, where the most socially vulnerable, such as women, impoverished individuals, and/or Black people, experience more oppression and inequality.

Based on these discussions, the three case studies provide a diagnosis of the current situation of communities affected by three mega-projects: wind farms in Ceará, the Suape Industrial Port Complex (CIPS) in Pernambuco, and Ternium Brasil in Rio de Janeiro. This compilation of information aims to be a catalyst for social transformation actions in pursuit of better living conditions.

Firstly, the report presents a characterization of the territories, outlining the forms of social and political organization, production and marketing, leisure, and culture. It then defines socio-environmental conflicts, the subjects of rights violations, and the produced impacts.

The study also conducts a brief analysis of the relationships between the reality of the researched territories and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international agreements that are referenced for the “Hand in Hand” project: the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention on the Law of the Sea. Finally, it provides concluding remarks and recommendations for achieving environmental justice, aiming not only to promote the autonomy of peoples but also to build a new political force capable of intervening in this territorial dispute to ensure the attainment of rights.



3. Characterization of the territories



Caetanos de Cima



Ceará



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Ceará

3.1 Community: Cateanos de Cima

It is a region of great wealth, cultural diversity, and traditional knowledge, but also a stage for many socio-environmental conflicts, primarily involving real estate speculation, land disputes, mass tourism ventures, and the installation of onshore wind projects and the planning of offshore wind projects. There are also conflicts with other communities, mainly due to the 'divide and conquer' tactic employed by mega-projects in the region and the divergence between strategies used within the community and in the surrounding areas.

Number of families: 80

Special Category: artisanal fishing, family farming

Land Situation: squatters

Social and Political Organization

Productive, political, and cultural groups:

Association of Small Farmers and Settled Fishermen/women of Sabiaguaba Property (APAPAIS);

Women's Group of Caetanos de Cima

Partner movements and organizations:

Instituto Terramar

Production and marketing

Productive activities:

Harvesting of dried coconuts;

Cashew nuts;

Community tourism;

Community cassava flour production;

Artisanal fishing.

Destination of production:

Household consumption;

Local commerce;

Women's Restaurant

Ecosystems and natural assets

The territory is permeated by the Lençóis de Caetanos (dune field), the beach strip, coral reefs, 'cascudos' (solidified sand dunes with cement), the sources of streams, and perennial and seasonal lagoons.

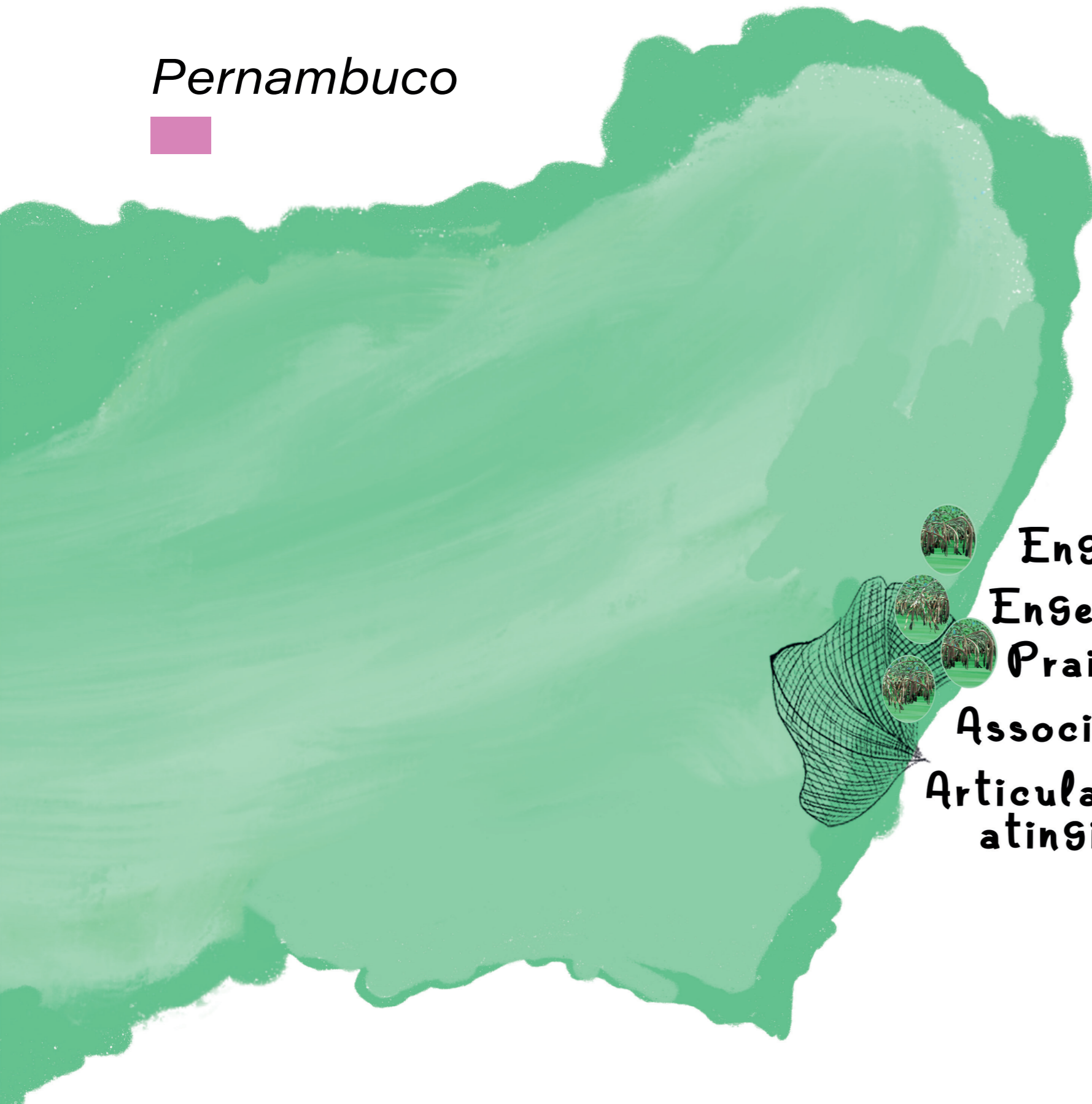
Leisure and culture

The community experiences moments of leisure in the perennial lagoons, on the beach strip, and in the dune field. In addition, cultural expressions include the Chico Quirino Cultural Center, the dance and theater group, the Feast of Saint Peter, the Feast of Our Lady of Grace, the praying women, the "terreiro cultural" collective, and the Raízes do Coco group.

"The sun is hot, it is, it is.
But the coco can't stop,
On Caetanos Beach,
hold the coco, darling!"

(Excerpt from the composition of Raízes do Coco)

Pernambuco



Engenho Ilha

Engenho Tiriri

Praia de Suape

Associação Quilombola Ilha de Mercês

Articulação de Mulheres Pescadoras atingidas pelo Complexo Portuário





Pernambuco

3.2 Community: Engenho Ilha

Located behind the Paiva Reserve (a luxury beachfront condominium in Cabo de Santo Agostinho), Engenho Ilha is a land in dispute. Families have occupied the land for two, three, four generations.

Number of families: 305
Special Category: peasant women farmers
Land Situation: squatters

Social and Political Organization

Productive, political, and cultural groups:
Farmers Association

Partner movements and organizations:
Forum Suape;
Rural Union;
Centro Sabiá.

Production and marketing

Productive activities:
Cultivation of cassava, beans, pumpkin, banana, mint, herbs, acerola, cashew, hog plum, mango, soursop, sweet potato, yam, cassava, etc;
Fishing in the mangroves of the Jaboatão and Pirapama rivers.

Extractive activities in the Mata do João Grande region:
Hog plum, mangaba, cambui, inga, oiti, cashew, mango, macaiba, purple cashew, barbatimão, aroeira, etc.

Destination of production:
Household consumption.

Ecosystems and natural assets

The João Grande territory is a reserve of 125 hectares of Atlantic Forest, Mangrove, and Restinga, where, according to the people interviewed for the study, all eyes of the SUAPE company have a strong interest. For the community, João Grande is 'like the heart, the lung of Ponte dos Carvalhos,' a district in the municipality of Cabo de Santo Agostinho, where the reserve is located, and 'breathes pure, clean air.'

Pernambuco

3.3 Community: Engenho Tiriri

The community is part of one of the several former sugar mills located in the municipalities of Ipojuca and Cabo de Santo Agostinho, which, since the 1970s, have been part of the area over which the Suape Industrial Port Complex has been expanding.

Special Category: peasant women farmers and artisanal fisherwomen.

Land Situation: squatters.

Social and Political Organization

Productive, political, and cultural groups:

Articulation of Women Fishers Affected by Suape.

Partner movements and organizations:

Forum Suape;
Pastoral Council of Fishermen;
Center for Social and Integral Assistance (CADI).

Production and marketing

Productive activities:

Artisanal fishing for shellfish, crab, fish, shrimp (less frequently), crab, fiddler crab, clam, mussel, large clam, small lobster;
Cultivation of banana, cassava, coconut, sweet potato, olive, wax apple, mango, sugarcane, jackfruit, acerola, orange, lemon, and avocado;
Tilapia farming.

Destination of production:

Household consumption;
Marketing of fish and crustaceans to kiosks, family fish market, direct buyers, inns, tourists, Gaibu waterfront, Suape beach. Processing takes place in small groups formed by local workers and family members.

Ecosystems and natural assets

The community carries out artisanal fishing activities in the waters of the Massangana River, in the mangroves near Cocaia Island, and on the rocks of Cabo de Santo Agostinho. Additionally, they coexist in Ponta do Cabo, Ilha dos Frades, and Pedra Alta, located in Engenho Tiriri.

Leisure and culture

For leisure, the community enjoys the ruins of the Village of Nazaré, Ponta do Cabo, Suape and Gaibú beaches, Ilha dos Frades, and Pedra Alta, located in Engenho Tiriri, under the Vard Promar Shipyard bridge. Previously, they participated in the Ouriçada Festival in Cocaia and the former Lavadeira Festival in Paiva, which no longer takes place because the area is now private.

Pernambuco

3.4 Community: Praia de Suape

The community of Praia de Suape is located in the municipality of Cabo de Santo Agostinho, and its population is mainly dedicated to artisanal fishing, capturing fish, mollusks, and crustaceans. The territory has been directly impacted by the changes imposed by the construction of the Port of Suape and the consequent migratory flows driven by the works, as well as by the crude oil spills on the Pernambuco coast from 2019 to the present year.

Number of families: 244 + 75 (residential).

Special Category: artisanal fisherwomen and peasant women.

Land Situation: squatters

Social and Political Organization

Productive, political, and cultural groups:
Articulation of Women Fishers Affected by Suape

Partner movements and organizations:
Forum Suape;
Pastoral Council of Fishermen;
Center for Social and Integral Assistance (CADI).

Production and marketing

Productive activities:
Fishing for shellfish, crab, fish, shrimp (less frequently), crab, fiddler crab, clam, large clam, and small lobster;
Cultivation of banana, coconut, avocado, mango, pitomba, and macaíba.

Destination of production:
Household consumption;
Commercialization of fish and crustaceans for kiosks, family fish market, direct buyers, inns, tourists, Gaibu waterfront, Suape beach. Processing takes place in small groups formed by local workers and family members.

Ecosystems and natural assets

The community carries out its activities of artisanal fishing in the waters of the Massangana River, in the mangroves near Cocaia Island, and on the rocks of Cabo de Santo Agostinho.

Leisure and culture

For leisure, the community enjoys the ruins of the Village of Nazaré, Ponta do Cabo, Suape and Gaibú beaches, Ilha dos Frades, and Pedra Alta, located in Engenho Tiriri, under the Vard Promar Shipyard bridge. Previously, they participated in the Ouriçada Festival in Cocaia and the former Lavadeira Festival in Paiva, which no longer takes place because the area is now private.



Pernambuco

3.5 Quilombo Ilha de Mercês

The territory of the Quilombola community of Ilha de Mercês, in the municipality of Ipojuca, is located in an area classified as the Industrial Port Zone of CIPS, being crossed by the main access roads to the port area. In the territory, there are high-impact enterprises, such as the Abreu e Lima Refinery (RNEST). The territory is crossed by the Tatuoca River, whose sources are located in the installation area of the Refinery.

Number of families: 277.

Categoria especial: camponeses quilombola.

Special Category: certificado de autorreconhecimento de comunidade quilombola com processo para demarcação das terras em aberto.

Land Situation: certificate of self-recognition as a quilombola community with an ongoing land demarcation process.

Social and Political Organization

Productive, political, and cultural groups: Residents' association; Women's group.

Partner movements and organizations: Forum Suape; Quilombos of Pernambuco; Pastoral Council of Fishermen.

Destination of production:

Cabo Market;
Ponte dos Carvalhos;
Quitanda;
Our Lady of Ó Market;
Beaches of Serrambi and Porto de Galinhas in Ipojuca, whose municipality also consumes fish; and Prazeres in Jaboatão dos Guararapes; Neighborhood;
Online orders (Facebook and Whatsapp).

Production and marketing

Productive activities: Raising chickens, goats, cattle; Planting potatoes, bananas, cassava, mangoes, coconuts, cashews, jackfruit, okra, etc.; Artisanal fishing for crabs, fiddler crabs, mud crabs, oysters, shrimp, clams, small crabs, large crabs, amorim (type of shellfish), carapeba, pufferfish, sauna, piraúna caranha (types of fish), etc.

Ecosystems and natural assets

Beyond the fishing areas, the countryside, the sugar mill, and especially the place known as Água-contra or Prainha do Quilombo are of great importance to the community, with the latter serving as a location for celebrations, recreation, and self-care. Before the area was filled in by SUAPE, Água-contra was a fishing area where species such as oysters, swordfish, and needlefish, which are no longer found, existed.

The Tatuoca River holds fundamental importance for the community, not only for the material survival of the residents in this region who depend on it for their livelihood through artisanal fishing but also for the perpetuation of the collective identity of the community.

Pernambuco

3.6 Articulation of Women Fishers Affected by the Industrial Port Complex of Suape

The Articulation emerges as a strategy for the mutual strengthening of women fishers from various communities. As they experience differentiated and more severe impacts, the articulation aims at joint training and networking, both to achieve political and rights-related victories and to enhance their capacity for production and income generation towards achieving autonomy.

Identification of the communities (Lagoa do Zumbi, Gaibu and Maracaípe)

Number of families: 200 in Maracaípe and about 300 families who rely on artisanal fishing in the municipalities of Cabo de Santo Agostinho and Ipojuca.

Special Category: artisanal fisherwomen.

Land Situation:

Lagoa: occupation;
Gaibu: landowners;
Maracaípe: occupation.

Social and Political Organization

Productive groups:

Maracaípe Shellfish Association;
Collection and processing of fish, both family-owned activities.

Political:

Articulation of Fishing Women affected by Suape;
Association of Professional Fishermen and Fisherwomen Active in the Municipality of Cabo de Santo Agostinho (APPPACSA).

Cultural:

Soccer group in Maracaípe.

Partner movements and organizations:

Forum Suape;
Pastoral Council of Fishermen;
Fiocruz Pernambuco;
Solidarity Economy Movement.

Production and marketing

Productive activities:

Fishing for shellfish, crab, otter, octopus, soft crab, fish (camorim, carapeba, salema, saúna, catfish, baiacu, barracuda, guarajuba, saw, dorado, mackerel, tilapia), shrimp, aratu, crab, sururu, mariscão, muçum, marisquinho, crayfish, lobster;
Cultivation of banana, cassava, coconut, sweet potato, olive, jambu, cane, jackfruit, acerola, orange, lemon, avocado, mango, pitomba, macaíba, araçá, sapoti, soursop.

Destination of production:

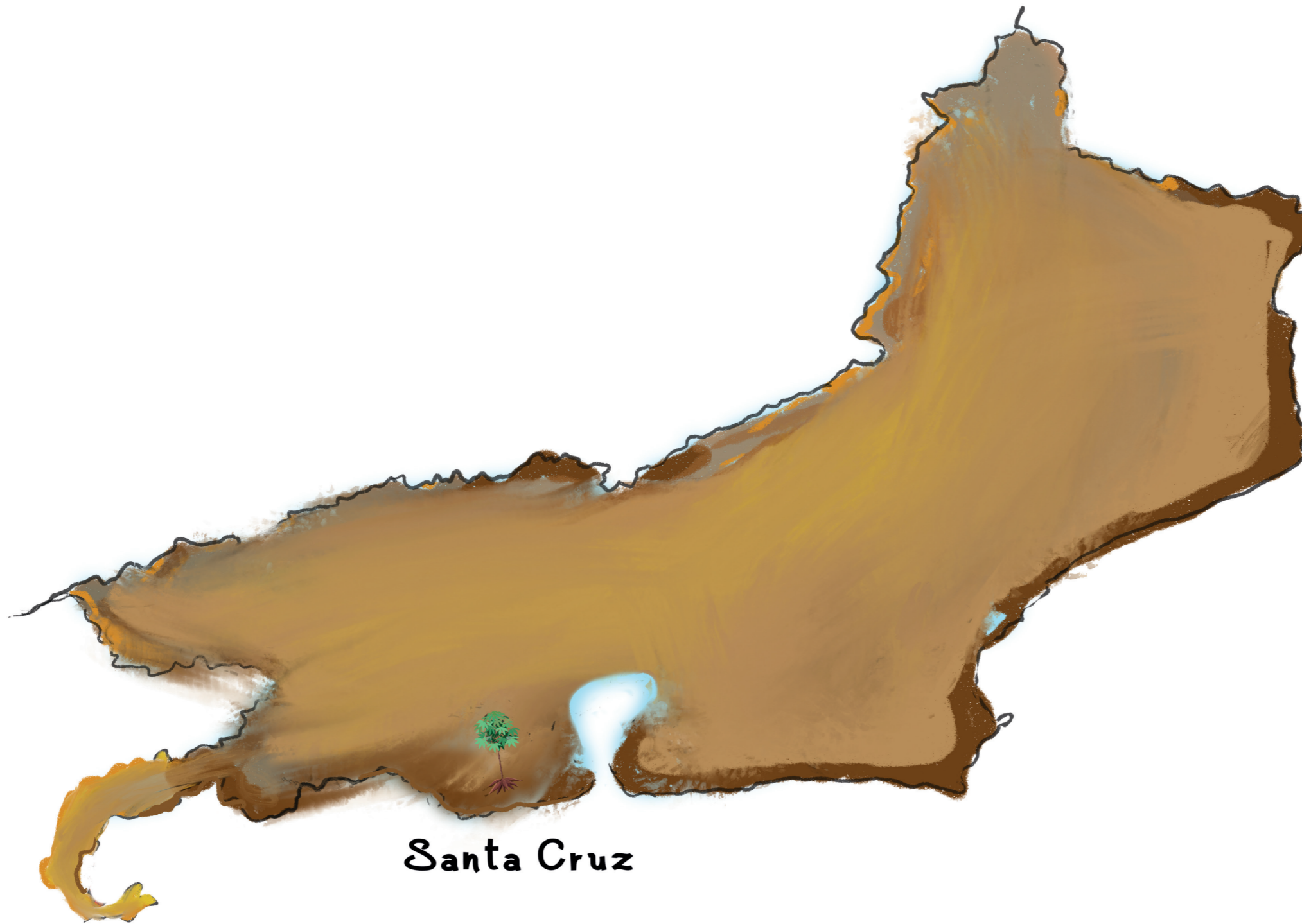
Household consumption;
Sale of fishing products to restaurants, kiosks, fishmongers, direct buyers, inns, and tourists along the Gaibu Coast, Suape Beach, all in Cabo de Santo Agostinho.

Ecosystems and natural assets

The beautiful and touristic Cocaia Island is a piece of land and mangrove within the port area, whose contours were redefined in the late 1970s through the dredging of the Cocaia isthmus. Previously, this area consisted of a continuous strip of land, full of mangroves and restinga. The Massangana, Tatuoca, Merepe, and Ipojuca rivers flowed into the ocean, forming an estuarine system of extreme environmental, social, and cultural relevance. Currently, the island has also served as a barrier against the advancement of the sea since the installation of CIPS, and it possesses the largest shellfish bank in the region. From Cocaia, important fishing points for the fisherwomen include Croa, Ponta do Francês, and Oiteiro Alto. In addition to these, there are the Massangana River, the open sea, the Camboa River, the entire mangrove region, the region beyond the Vard Promar Shipyard bridge, the Calhetas stone, Calhetinha, and the mole region—essential areas and natural assets for the continuity of artisanal fishing in the region.

Leisure and culture

For recreation, the community enjoys the ruins of Vila de Nazaré, Ponta do Cabo, Suape and Gaibú beaches, Ilha dos Frades, and Pedra Alta, located in Engenho Tiriri, under the Vard Promar Shipyard bridge. Previously, they used to participate in the Ouriçada Festival in Cocaia and the old Lavadeira Festival in Paiva, which no longer takes place because the area is now private.



Santa Cruz



Rio de Janeiro



Rio de Janeiro

3.7 Santa Cruz

The neighborhood of Santa Cruz is one of the three largest neighborhoods in the City of Rio de Janeiro and is located in its far west. The territory is bordered by Sepetiba Bay and has three other neighborhoods in the West Zone as neighbors: Paciência, Sepetiba, and Guaratiba. In 2005, the area was designated as a Strictly Industrial Zone, hosting activities with a high degree of pollution and socio-environmental impact, disregarding the large residential areas in the region, as well as the tradition of agricultural production, with cassava cultivation being one of the main activities in this part of the city. In this context, the German company TKCSA was established in 2006, leading to an increase in conflicts over the use of the territory.

Number of families: 57,680 families, equivalent to 217,333 people, are distributed almost evenly between women and men. There are 112,966 women, constituting 52% of the total population, and 104,367 men, making up 48%, according to the latest census conducted up to the date of the research (IBGE, 2010).

Special Category: artisanal fishermen, female shellfish gatherers, farmers, quilombolas, women, landless workers, and individuals involved in local tourism.

Land Situation: The neighborhood encompasses environmental and cultural conservation areas, agricultural zones, and residential areas (which make up 50% of the entire neighborhood), but it is the industrial portion that determines the entire way of life for the other areas. Although the agricultural zones are mostly regulated, they have faced problems due to water contamination, channel diversions, and air pollution.

The residential zones, despite comprising a large part of the neighborhood, largely consist of irregular subdivisions, settlements, and slums. Consequently, residents bear the consequences of an inhospitable environment and lack infrastructure for basic living conditions. The industrial zone has encroached upon mangroves and other aquatic environments, making it difficult or even impossible for fishermen, shellfish gatherers, and local tourism to use the waters.

Social and Political Organization

Productive, political, and cultural groups: Federation of Artisanal Fishermen's Associations of the State of Rio de Janeiro (FAPESCA); Confederation of Federations of Artisanal Fishermen's Associations of Brazil (CONFAPESCA); Nipo-Brazilian Rural Association, representative of the Japanese agricultural community, which has been present in Santa Cruz since 1938; Articulation of the Population Affected by TKCSA (APACSA); Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST); Popular Committee of Women from the West Zone of Rio de Janeiro; "Militiva" Collective; "Mulheres de Pedra" Collective; Martha Trindade Collective.

Partner movements and organizations: With respect to the types of social and political organizations partnering with other organizations in Santa Cruz, besides associations of fishermen, gatherers, mariculturists, aquaculturists, crab pickers, farmers, and boatmen from other neighborhoods and states in Brazil, we have identified associations of workers, quilombolas (descendants of escaped African slaves), teachers, engineers, and geographers. We have also identified social movements related to communities that are generally affected by large enterprises, as is the case of quilombolas, indigenous people, riverine communities, peasants, and caboclos (descendants of Indigenous and European people). However, it is primarily with NGOs from various fields that we observe particularly significant partnerships in the territory.

Some of the partnerships include AMACOR - Itaguaí (Association of Mariculturists of Coroa Grande), AMCOVERI (Association of Mariculturists of the Green Coast), ACMP (Community Association of Piquiá Residents), AMADIM (Association of Marambaia Island Residents and Friends), APEITA (Fishermen's Association of Itaguaí), APESCARI (Fishermen's Association of Canto dos Rios), APAS (Artisanal Fishermen's Association of Sepetiba), AAPP Guaratiba (Aquaculturists and Fishermen Association of Pedra de Guaratiba), AHOMAR (Association of Men and Women of the Sea of Guanabara Bay), ARCQMAR (Association of the Remnant Community of Marambaia Island Quilombos), Fishermen's Colony Z-14 of Pedra de Guaratiba, Fishermen's Colony Z-16, Instituto PACS, JNT (Justice on the Rails), Fiocruz (Oswaldo Cruz Foundation), UERJ (State University of Rio de Janeiro), among others.

Production and marketing

Productive activities:

Agriculture;
Pastoralism;
Crab Gathering;
Artisanal Fishing;
Local Tourism;
Aquaculture-related activities.

Ecosystems and natural assets

The Sepetiba Bay, which borders the neighborhood of Santa Cruz, is a semi-open estuary with 447 km² of saline and brackish waters, serving as a natural breeding ground for various species of mollusks, crustaceans, and fish (MIZHARI, 2017), and a shelter for native, endemic, and endangered species. The bay is an important area for biodiversity and fishing activities, bounded to the northeast by the Serra do Mar, to the north by the Serra de Madureira, to the southeast by the Maciço da Pedra Branca, and to the south by the Restinga da Marambaia.

The presence of mangroves and estuaries connecting to the Atlantic Ocean between the islands, as well as the Restinga da Marambaia and the channel that flows into Barra de Guaratiba to the east, demonstrates the region's rich biodiversity, supporting traditional fishing activities and tourism. Additionally, remnants of the Atlantic Rainforest are found, especially in the Serra do Mar, considered one of the 25 most important areas for biodiversity conservation worldwide.

4. Identification of the socio-environmental conflict, the subjects of rights violation, and the produced impacts

4.1 Characterization of the Socio-environmental Conflict

The projects of development and economic growth in contemporary society have generated new patterns of injustice and environmental conflicts in various parts of the world. Studies in the field of political ecology contribute to understanding the relationships between economic development and social, health, and environmental problems in a given territory (PORTO; MILANEZ, 2009).

The emergence and intensification of these situations mainly result from a narrowly economicist view of economic growth, seen as the sole alternative for progress. This situation leads to disputes over the use of a particular resource or territory from different perspectives.

Concepts about the sustainable use of nature, internationally consolidated by the People's Summit, held at both the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 and in 2012 (Eco-92 and Rio+20), consider the respect for local groups and traditional ways of life as paramount. However, there has been an interpretation aiming to reconcile economic, social, and environmental interests, translated as "green economy," which seeks to include mitigation actions, environmental projects, and environmental certification in industrial production (ZHOURI; LASCHEFSKI, 2010).

The "ecologically correct" model, supported by simplistic ideologies based on positivist sciences that ignore the complexity of socio-environmental problems, does not reduce pollution rates, deforestation, social inequality, or environmental conflicts, as identified in the case studies in the three states.

The conflicts presented result in numerous impacts on the territory of the affected local communities, such as the expulsion of families from their territories, the prohibition/difficulty in carrying out agricultural and fishing activities, the destruction of homes and improvements, the degradation of ecosystems and common goods, the emission of pollutants, an increase in violence, among others.



Table 1: Identification of Socio-environmental Conflicts Resulting from the Studied Enterprises in the Three States, 2022

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio-environmental impacts	Damage to health
Expulsion of families	Ilha de Mercês	PE	2005	CIPS implementation	CIPS / Federal Government / Abreu e Lima Refinery (RNEST) and Petrochemical Company of Pernambuco -Petrobras / Bunge		The families were expropriated, partly due to pressure from the installation of the Refinery and, on the other hand, due to the restrictions that CIPS imposes on residents regarding maintaining farmland areas. There were forced removals and unsatisfactory compensation, in addition to impositions of changes in community ways of life. Some managed to remain in the territory, others sold their homes but are returning. Quilombola community certification was the legal instrument that made permanence possible.	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory; Precariousness/ risks in the work environment	Worsening quality of life; Threat/Psychological violence. / exposure to fugitive emissions of gases harmful to health
Loss of the water source (cacimba do Melo)	Ilha de Mercês	PE	2005	CIPS implementation	CIPS / Government Federal / Abreu e Lima Refinery (RNEST) -Petrobrás		The waterhole supplied water to 900 families who lived in the region, but, with the installation of the Abreu e Lima Refinery, it was appropriated by the latter. People are still prevented from using the fountain to this day	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory	Worsening quality of life; Food insecurity
Fishing ban (fences)	Ilha de Mercês	PE	2008, 2010	Preventing access to traditional fishing territories	Atlântico Sul Shipyard		In 2018, residents' nets and fish were stolen. Paramilitary groups monitor fishermen, who remain prohibited from accessing their former fishing territories. The area known as mole is currently only used by fishermen from Ipojuca, because those from Cabo de Santo Agostinho are not authorized to cross the fence placed by the Atlântico Sul Shipyard (EAS)	Precariousness/ risks in the work environment	Worsening quality of life; Food insecurity; Threat/Psychological violence
Difficulty in finding work	Ilha de Mercês	PE	2005	CIPS implementation	CIPS/Governo Federal		The jobs offered with the implementation of the CIPS did not come because the community does not have training, however the CIPS does not authorize them to continue working in agriculture and fishing in the territories, placing fences and paramilitary groups to impede productive activities	Change in the traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory	Worsening in quality of life; Food insecurity; Threat/Psychological violence

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Emission of pollutants	Ilha de Mercês	PE	2014	Combustion, release of sulfur resulting from the production process of operating the Refinery Abreu e Lima (RNEST) and the Petrochemical company	Abreu e Lima Refinery (RNEST) and Suape Petrochemical		Release of gas, which sickens the community (respiratory problems) and kills fruit plants due to pollution.	Contamination or intoxication of fauna by harmful substances; Atmospheric/soil/water resources/noise pollution	Worsening in quality of life; respiratory / gastrointestinal diseases; Food insecurity; Modification of the population's lifestyle
Oil leak between RNEST and the Petrochemical company	Ilha de Mercês	PE	2019	Transportation of oil causes leaks, but this episode resulted from an accident (RNEST operation)	Abreu e Lima Refinery (RNEST)		The leak of 5 thousand liters of oleaginous substance, impacting an area of 4.5 hectares, caused great damage to the mangrove, where containment barriers were placed, which were not sufficient to prevent contamination. The oil killed fish and crustaceans, which created media repercussions. The company paid a fine of R\$705,000 to CPRH, but the community did not receive any part of this amount. The contamination area was filled in because it was not possible to remove and contain all the spilled oil. Currently, a company worker collects water samples 3 times a day, every day	Change in the reproductive cycle of fauna; Contamination or intoxication by harmful substances; Atmospheric, water and soil pollution; Risks in the work environment	Chemical contamination; Food insecurity; Worsening in quality of life
Tatuoca River Dam	Ilha de Mercês	PE	2007	They filled up a section of the mangrove to create a road for access to the shipyard, while they would not build a bridge, during the implementation of EAS	CIPS / Shipyard South Atlantic (EAS)		The dam received a license from CPRH to be in place for a period of one year and six months and should have been removed by SUAPE after this deadline had been met, which did not happen. With the dam, which cut the natural connection between the Tatuoca River and the sea, the natural flow of the tide was impeded both at high and low tide, resulting in the death of mangrove trees and countless species for 14 years. of fish, mollusks and crustaceans that depended on the natural flow and retreat of the tide to survive. Currently, there has been a partial opening of approximately 15% of the total blockage	Change in the reproductive cycle of fauna; Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory; Siltation of water resources; Risks in the work environment	Worsening in quality of life; Verbal and psychological violence; Food insecurity
Lagoa do Engenho	Ilha de Mercês	PE	2005	Construction of companies in CIPS	Uncertain		The lagoon was filled in, and the community lost its fishing area, leisure area and water source. Currently, the region floods a lot during the rainy season, even flooding the community school	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory; floods	Worsening in quality of life; food insecurity; accidents
Stimulation of internal conflicts in the community	Ilha de Mercês	PE	Unsure	Proposal to sell residents' land to CIPS	CIPS/Federal Government		The Ilha de Mercês community has been harassed by CIPS management, which tries to co-opt or seduce people from the community to sign proposals for the sale of their properties. This type of situation generates internal conflicts and division in the community, with distrust among its members and worsening of the health situation, given the stress caused by this situation	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory	Worsening in quality of life; Psychological violence

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Prohibition of fishing and extractivism in the João Grande reserve	Engenho Ilha	PE	2016	Territory defined by CIPS as a full protection area and restricted access and use	CIPS Administration		Fences were placed to block access to the mangrove areas, but fishermen cut them down, and the community continues to use them. Currently, the community lives in conflict with paramilitary groups that guard the CIPS, which issue orders prohibiting circulation in João Grande	Precariousness/risks in the work environment	Worsening in quality of life; Psychological violence; Food insecurity
Presence of drug trafficking in the João Grande reserve, bringing insecurity to the community	Engenho Ilha	PE	2018	The fencing of the reserve and prohibition of community circulation left the place empty	CIPS Administration		After prohibiting access, the place was emptied and groups linked to drug trafficking occupied the area that is now a focus of drug trafficking, car dismantling, body dumping, among others. This created a climate of considerable insecurity, especially for women who use the territory for fishing and extractivism, in addition to having a place to live nearby. There are robberies, armed conflicts, and death threats from these groups, interested in increasing the emptying of the region. The CIPS guard reports that they are not aware of the occurrence of drug trafficking in João Grande	Invasion/Damage to protected area or conservation unit	Worsening in quality of life; Violence/ Psychological threat
Pollution in fishing areas in the João Grande reserve	Engenho Ilha	PE	Unsure	Unknown	Unknown		Crabs are showing up dead, fish, and oysters too, due to pollution	Water resource pollution; Change in the reproductive cycle of fauna	Worsening in quality of life; Food insecurity
Deforestation and wood theft and clandestine sand extraction in the João Grande region	Engenho Ilha	PE	Unsure	Possibly banning community circulation in the region	Indirectly, the CIPS administration		The region has abundant high-quality sand and wood, such as angelita, maçaranduba, ipê, murici, etc. Outsiders are stealing wood and sand in a process facilitated by the depletion of the region, and the community is being criminalized for not protecting the environmental preservation area. The CIPS administration does not take measures to contain thefts and environmental violations committed by outsiders to the community, while imposing restrictions only on the practice of extractivism and artisanal fishing	Deforestation and/or burning; Invasion/ Damage to protected area or conservation unit	Threat/ Psychological violence
Prohibition of agriculture in the region close to João Grande	Engenho Ilha	PE	Unsure	Use of the Plant area and later the CIPS	Usina Bom Jesus		Farmers secretly cultivated an area used for sugar cane, closely monitored by plant foremen and administrators. The region was sold to CIPS, which began to fence it off and prohibit its use by farmers. There are still 12 remaining families of Plant workers in the region, with the right to use the land recognized in an administrative procedure at the Federal Public Ministry	Prohibition of agriculture in the region close to João Grande	Violence/ threat; Worsening in quality of life

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Project to install an Iron Ore Export Terminal in Island of Cocaia	Fisherwomen Articulation	PE	2022	The Project, already foreseen in the master plan of CIPS, is scheduled to be installed by the end of 2024.	CIPS / Bemisa Holding S/A		The installation will directly impact the income sources of the Fisherwomen Articulation. There was a lack of official communication about the project, without prior community consultation. The dredging in Cocaia was one of the first major CIPS interventions to significantly affect fishing activity in the region. The traditional hedgehog festival will also be closed if this project is implemented, as the space on the island will be used by the company.	Change in the reproductive cycle of fauna; Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory; Risks in the work environment	Worsening in quality of life; Threat/Psychological violence
Increase in Criminality	Fisherwomen Articulation	PE	2018	The large number of works linked to the CIPS	CIPS		"Where development comes, everything comes," said a community member when referring to the increase in violence in the municipalities of Ipojuca and Cabo de Santo Agostinho. The large amount of work related to the projects that are part of CIPS caused a large flow of migration to the region. This flow of people, unusual for a previously rural environment, caused intense urbanization that was accompanied by an increase in cases of robbery, rape, harassment, prostitution, the development of criminal factions, drug trafficking and other violent actions that limit people's access within communities, and greatly increase the feeling of insecurity.	Housing deficit and slum development; increase in STIs, unwanted pregnancies and sexual violence against women; increase in drug trafficking and homicides	Psychological violence/ Physical coercion/ Threat; Murder; Alcoholism; Worsening in quality of life
Expansion of the sand strip in front of Vila Galé Resort	Fisherwomen Articulation	PE	2007	Community displacement, prohibition of fishing and use of the beach for leisure	Hotel Vila Galé Eco Resort do Cabo		The construction of the hotel, in Cabo de Santo Agostinho, was accompanied by the filling of a section of the beach to increase the sand strip. This movement has as a direct consequence the deterritorialization of people who lived in houses located in areas of interest for the project. The former residents were displaced from their territory, and nearby communities were prohibited from using the stretch of beach, close to the hotel, for artisanal fishing and leisure activities that occurred prior to the arrival of the project. Currently, even though there is no ban on artisanal fishing in the area, individuals report that the mangrove areas are polluted by the dumping that the hotel has carried out for years.	Change in the reproductive cycle of fauna; Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory; siltation of water resources; Deforestation and/or burning; Precariousness/risks in the work environment	Psychological violence/ threats; Worsening quality of life; Food insecurity
Cocaia Island Landfill	Fisherwomen Articulation	PE	Unsure	Dredging of the access channel to Vard Promar Shipyard during deployment and operation	Vard Promar Shipyard		The shipyard is responsible for a series of dredging that has had consequences for the population residing close to the complex region, as well as the degradation of the local biodiversity (estuaries, rivers, mangroves) which, in turn, guarantees the subsistence of communities. The waste produced by dredging was deposited in Cocaia, filling the area, and putting an end to fishing areas	Change in the reproductive cycle of fauna; Siltation of water resources; Precariousness/risks in the work environment	Worsening in quality of life; Food insecurity; psychological violence/ threat

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Activities of CIPS paramilitaries groups in communities on which the Complex seeks to expand	Fisherwomen Articulation	PE	Unsure	Insecurity, intimidation, prohibition of work on houses and planting of permanent cycle crops	CIPS		There are numerous reports, in different communities, about the presence of paramilitary groups linked to the port complex, who carry out patrols, take photos of houses, intimidate residents and, mainly, watch the entrance of trucks with construction materials for their interception. Residents are prevented from carrying out any type of construction or work in their homes. On the contrary, the groups destroy private interventions in homes. CIPS claims that, as the Complex is the owner of the land, residents need authorization from it to carry out any and all works. However, when requesting, people receive a refusal	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory	Worsening in quality of life; Threat; Psychological violence
Death of fish and crustaceans, and fish with an oily taste	Fisherwomen Articulation	PE	2022	Unknown, possibly a leak in the RNEST oil transport during the refinery operation	Unknown, possibly RNEST		Since August 2022, several dead fish, shrimp and sururus have been found in the mangrove region known as Mangue Morto close to the Tabatinga River, very close to RNEST. This is one of the main fishing areas for women in Articulation, especially those in Lagoa de Zumbi. Oil stains were also found on the edges of the mangrove, and there have been reports of fish from the region having an oily taste	Precariousness/ risk in the work environment; Change in the reproductive cycle of fauna; Contamination or intoxication by harmful substances	Worsening in quality of life; food insecurity; chemical contamination
Mangrove Degradation	Fisherwomen Articulation	PE	Unsure	Construction of a highway	CIPS		In Lagoa do Zumbi, fisherwomen report the degradation of the mangrove area known as Mangue Morto, where crustaceans and mollusks were captured. The destruction occurs due to the construction of a highway for travelling within the Suape Industrial Port Complex	Precariousness/ risk in the work environment; Change in the reproductive cycle of fauna; Deforestation and/or burning	Worsening in quality of life; food insecurity
Suape Ecological Preservation Zone	Fisherwomen Articulation	PE	Unsure	Prohibition of housing construction	CIPS		The occupation of houses is within Mata do Zumbi, a territory defined by CIPS as a preservation area, with the construction of houses by residents being prohibited	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory	Worsening in quality of life; Psychological violence

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Destruction of houses in the community	Engenho Tiriri	PE	2012	Evictions of families during the implementation of the complex	Transnordestina, CIPS administration		At Engenho Tiriri, in May 2012, six houses and a church were destroyed. The families received meager compensations for the expropriation of the ten hectares they owned. The farming families had their houses completely destroyed in an eviction action promoted by SUAPE. The farmers reported that the families were not notified of the eviction and that the action involved the participation of more than 50 Military Policemen, Riot Police, dogs, as well as private security guards from the Shipyard	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory; Precariousness/ risks in the work environment	Worsening in quality of life; Threat/ psychological violence
Project to install an Iron Ore Export Terminal and rail network to access the terminal	Engenho Tiriri	PE	2022	Project already foreseen in the master plan of CIPS, is with the installation scheduled for the end of 2024	Bemisa Holding S/A		The company responsible for the project extracts iron ore in Piauí and transports it via the revamped Transnordestina railway, which, on a new route, will pass through the community of Engenho Tiriri, until reaching Cocaia Island, where the company intends to build the ore terminal. There are several speculations about the work start, but there are still no official announcements from the company. However, there are maps showing this construction displayed in the lobby of the state's main airport. Community members fear known consequences due to the installation of other projects already implemented in the region, such as: deterritorialization of families, degradation of the natural environment, prohibition of artisanal fishing, pollution, among others	Precariousness/ risks to work environment; Water resource pollution; Deforestation and/or burning; Substance contamination or poisoning; Siltation of water resources	Violence/threat; worsens Worsening in quality of life; Food insecurity

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Increased soil compaction, fragmentation, and erosion of Ecosystems, burial of interdune lagoons and reduction of water recharge to groundwater.	Caetanos de Cima	CE	2016	Real estate speculation and conventional tourism	Not identified		About 6 years ago, the community noticed an increase in vehicular traffic encouraged by the municipality. The use of ATVs, buggies, and 4x4 vehicles in common areas and in the dunes affects the tranquility and local way of life, generating a series of impacts. The situation worsened in 2018 when the flow reached its limit and in 2019 when one of the temporary lagoons used by the community started to drain. Residents claim that, after a public hearing organized by the Public Ministry, the situation improved, and vehicle traffic decreased, bringing back tranquility. However, nothing concrete has been done since then. This, combined with the lack of oversight by the municipal environmental agency to curb and punish illegal and predatory actions, led to an increase in vehicle traffic in the dunes in 2022. The community decided to install informative and warning signs about the irregularities	Cars traveling on the dunes create an impact similar to that of wind farms installed in these ecosystems, considering the appropriate proportions and conditions. They increase soil compaction, fragmentation, and erosion of ecosystems, as well as the burial of interdunal lagoons and the reduction of water recharge to the groundwater	Worsening in quality of life
Ecosystem modification	Caetanos de Cima	CE	2013	Installation of Icaraí Wind Complex	Eólica Icaraí Geração e Comercialização de Energia S.A.		In the wind farms installed in Amontada, especially the Icaraí Complex, there have been ecosystems changes: removal of large volumes of sand with deforestation and burying of fixed dunes; suppression of habitat and shattering of ecosystems; cutting and filling of fixed and mobile dunes; fixation, impermeabilization, and mobile dunes compaction, with the introduction of sedimentary material; and burying and fragmentation of interdunal lagoons. The changes stem from the opening of access roads for the installation of turbine bases, preparation of land for construction sites, opening roads that connect turbines within the park, installation of underground ducts carrying electrical cables, and the installation of wind turbine bases, which require a large area	Soil erosion; deforestation and/or burning	Worsening in quality of life
Vegetal suppression	Caetanos de Cima	CE	2009	Icaraizinho wind farm construction	CPFL Energias Renováveis S.A.		For the construction of the Icaraizinho wind farm, owned by CPFL Energias, approximately 31 thousand m ² of native vegetation was removed, in addition to the impacts on fauna and dune fields	Change in the reproductive cycle of fauna; Desertification; Deforestation and/or burning; Soil erosion	Worsening in quality of life

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Lagoa Grande almost completely exhausted	Caetanos de Cima	CE	2014	Construction of Icaraí I and II wind farms	Central Geradora Eólica Icaraí I e II S.A.		During the construction of the Icaraí I and II projects, the company used water from Lagoa Grande, resulting in the depletion of the water resource during the installation of the wind turbines. Residents believe that the lagoon no longer has the same dimensions and volume as it used to	Siltation of water resources	Worsening in quality of life; food insecurity
Turbine noises	Caetanos de Cima	CE	2009	Operation phase of onshore wind farms	CPFL Energias Renováveis S.A.; Eólica Icaraí Geração e Comercialização de Energia S.A.; Central Geradora Eólica Icaraí I e II S.A.; Central Geradora Eólica Icaraí I e II S.A.; Central Geradora Eólica Palmas S.A.; Central Geradora Eólica Ilha Grande S.A.; Central Geradora Eólica Ribeirão S.A.		The conflicts do not end with the installation of projects. In the operation phase, the issues continue and are of a different quality. One of them is related to the noise generated by turbines. According to residents, the "noise is intermittent" and similar to a "helicopter that never lands". It has been observed that the minimum distance recommended by the State Environmental Superintendence (SEMACE) of 300m from towers to residences has not been respected in all cases. In the Icaraí I and Icaraí II wind farms, it is possible to identify towers that are less than 150m away from schools and shops, which further increases noise	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory; Precariousness/risks in the work environment; noise pollution	Loss of hearing sensitivity; Sleep disturbances; Stress; Cardiovascular diseases and vibroacoustic diseases
Offshore (marine) wind farms	Caetanos de Cima	CE	2020	Violation of the right to come and go and damage to the ecosystem	Neoenergia Renováveis; Gerada Eólica Brigadeiro I and Eólica Brasil		In this region, at least 8 large neighboring projects are expected to be implemented, totaling more than 1,000 wind turbines, which could alter water currents and the displacement of shoals, among other consequences	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory; Precariousness/risks in work environment; Noise pollution	Worsening in quality of life

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Installation of Santa Cruz Industrial zone	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	1970	Urbanization process	Guanabara Steel Company plant; White Martins; Port of Sepetiba		The intensification of industrial activities in the region directs the "dirty" and unwanted uses of the city to it. There is a lack of action by public authorities in providing infrastructure and organization, which increases environmental inequality in relation to access and consumption of natural resources	Precariousness/risks in the work environment	Worsening in quality of life
Relocation of Terra Prometida Settlement	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2006	Installation of a steel complex	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA)		The settlement was relocated to the municipality of Tinguá (RJ), close to the forest reserve there	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory; Precariousness/risks in the work environment	Worsening in quality of life
Emission of pollutants	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2006	Operation of the Thermoelectric Plant in the Steel Complex	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA)		of the territory; Precariousness/risks in the work environment	Worsening in quality of life	Piora na qualidade de vida; Insegurança alimentar
Pollution	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2016	Operation of Steel power plant Integrated to the Steel Complex	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA), Gerdau Cosigua steel company		A Usina Siderúrgica Integrada fabrica placas de aço com capacidade de produzir 5 milhões de toneladas por ano (MTPA). Ela foi o foco central da poluição e dos impactos socioambientais (ligados à qualidade do ar, água, ruídos, saúde da população local etc.). Os principais poluentes identificados na fase de operação foram: material particulado (MP), dióxido de enxofre (SO ₂), óxidos de nitrogênio (NO _x), monóxido de carbono (CO) e compostos orgânicos	Poluição atmosférica/ do solo/ poluição sonora	Worsening in quality of life
Relocation of the encampment of the Landless Rural Workers' Movement (MST)	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2006	Operation of Steel Complex	Ternium Private-use port terminalstation		For the construction of the port terminal, 375 people engaged in subsistence agriculture in an area of approximately 40 hectares were relocated. The obligation for relocation was assumed by CODIN with the acquisition of the land by the steel company. This measure was arranged through an agreement with the Institute of Land and Cartography of the State of Rio de Janeiro (ITERJ). Despite the relocation having taken place, the promised infrastructure by the public authorities at the new location has not been implemented to date and has been the subject of legal scrutiny. This impact was characterized as irreversible, local, of high relevance and magnitude, permanent, discontinuous, real, direct, and short-term	Change in the traditional regime Of use and occupation of the territory; Precariousness/risks in the work environment	Worsening in quality of life; Threat/ psychological violence

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Change in air quality	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2006	Installation of Stell Complex	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA), Santa Cruz thermoelectric station		<p>During the implementation of the Steel Complex, the following were assessed: (a) traffic of vehicles and equipment on unpaved roads in the preparation of the land, the project's infrastructure and the mobilization of machinery and equipment. The main pollutants are particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO) and other organic compounds. The impact was assessed as reversible, local, of moderate relevance and of low magnitude. Considered temporary, continuous, real, direct and with a short period of occurrence.</p> <p>(b) generation of particulate matter and organic compounds due to the receipt and storage of blasting and painting inputs. This impact was assessed as reversible, local and of moderate relevance and low magnitude. It was perceived as a temporary, continuous, real, and direct impact, and had a short-term duration.</p> <p>(c) generation of combustion gases as a result of numerous tasks/activities</p>	Atmospheric/soil pollution	Worsening in quality of life
Noises	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2006	Installation of Steel Complex	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA)		<p>In the project area, the study anticipated noise association with various activities, including the move of excavation machinery, civil construction, and equipment assembly. Nevertheless, considering the distance and dimensions of the project, the assessment presupposed that almost all works would be carried out at a distance that would ensure the limitation of damages to levels acceptable by legislation. For instance, in works conducted within 400 meters of residential areas and vehicular traffic, the impact was deemed relevant and of moderate magnitude, characterized as direct, real, discontinuous, temporary, reversible, and local</p>	Noise pollution	Worsening in quality of life

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Change in the soil	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2006	Installation of Steel Complex	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA)		<p>Regarding the soil, the project foresaw erosion and river channels silting during excavation and earthmoving. Deposition of sediments in fluvial-marine channels and close plains was expected. These impacts affected drainage, plains, and permanent preservation areas, occurring in a localized manner given the region characteristics.</p> <p>Regarding the disruption of the drainage system at specific points, this was deemed as reversible, local, fairly relevant, and of low magnitude. It was classified as temporary, discontinuous, real, linked to the rainy season, and ceasing after earthmoving. As for sediment generation linked to the assembly/ dismantling of the construction site, the impact was understood as potential and punctual. The impacts of the steel mill's infrastructure works, and vegetation suppression were considered relevant and of moderate scale.</p> <p>Also, the contamination of the shallow aquifer was foreseen as a potential impact associated with the treatment and final disposal of waste in implementation phase. But this was assessed as low magnitude, temporary, continuous, indirectly occurring in the medium and long term.</p> <p>Finally, the possibility of altering soil properties was also assessed, associated with aspects of oily waste generation and soil exposure during deforestation and maintenance. In any case, this impact was evaluated as reversible, punctual, moderately relevant, and of low magnitude, with temporary, discontinuous, potential, direct, and short-term manifestation.</p>	Water resource pollution	Worsening in quality of life
Change in water resources	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2006	Installation of Steel Complex	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA)		<p>The change in water quality is associated with aspects such as the generation of liquid effluents due to the washing of concrete mixers, floors, manufacturing of precast components, and cement paste. These effluents carry pollutants that can change water quality. This impact was assessed as reversible, local, moderately relevant, and of low magnitude. It was perceived as temporary and discontinuous, real, direct, with a short-term occurrence</p>	Water resource pollution	Worsening in quality of life

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Change in the terrestrial biotic environment	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2006	Installation of Steel Complex	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA)		There was a process of suppression of secondary vegetation in the initial stage of regeneration, which includes riparian forest on the banks of the channels and pioneer formation of mangroves. The vegetation was degraded, to a large extent, by human action, notably by eucalyptus plantations and pasture. In addition, wildlife was driven away due to noise and vibration during the steelworks' infrastructure installation processes, implementation of the plant and other equipment. This caused changes in the population dynamics of wild animals in the area. The study detected a low occurrence of wild animals at the site due to human modifications and the few fragments of vegetation in the region. Such noises and vibrations are also associated with changes in behavior, making animals more aggressive and vulnerable to hunting, increasing the risk of accidents. Furthermore, a variety of solid waste was generated during the installation of the plant. This favored the creation of an environment conducive to the proliferation of vectors that are harmful to sanitation conditions and human health	The reduction of vegetation cover and availability of habitats; Scaring away of wild fauna; proliferation of vectors	Worsening in quality of life
Change in the transitional biotic environment	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2006	Installation of Steel Complex	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA)		The installation of the Complex caused damage to the mangrove vegetation. The reduction in the availability of habitats for algae and mangrove invertebrate fauna was identified as a potential issue during the implementation stage due to the generation of sediments (associated with the construction process of the steelworks infrastructure). The modification in the structure (abundance and composition) of algal communities and mangrove invertebrates was predicted in cases of discharge of treated effluent (altering the volume of fresh water), associated with the process of environmental quality control systems, and the generation of oily liquid effluents (resulting in contamination of species), associated with the process maintenance. This impact was deemed as of low magnitude, reversible, local, moderately relevant, temporary, discontinuous, potential, direct, and short-term	Damage to mangrove vegetation; Reduction of availability of habitats for algae and fauna; modification in structure (abundance and composition) of algae and invertebrate communities in mangroves	Worsening in quality of life
Change in the aquatic biotic environment	Santa Cruz neighborhood	RJ	2006	Installation of Steel Complex	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA)		The modification of the structure (abundance and composition) of aquatic communities was associated with aspects related to the generation of liquid and treated effluents, as well as the generation of sediments, with implications for the water quality of the receiving bodies adjacent to the project	Water resource pollution; Change in the reproductive cycle of fauna;	Worsening in quality of life

Conflict	Community/ Municipality	UF	Start	What triggered the conflict	Responsible enterprise		Summary and current situation of the conflict	Socio- environmental impacts	Damage to health
Fishing Interruption	Sepetiba Bay	RJ	2006	Port and dredging works during the implementation of the project	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA)		Due to the port and dredging works, in addition to the impacts on local fauna and flora, fishing in the region was temporarily interrupted, which forced the company to compensate fishermen	Precariousness/ risks in the work environment	Worsening in quality of life
Occurrence of Floods	Terra Prometida and Sepetiba Bay	RJ	2006	Channel deviations, causing changes in water courses during the implementation of the port and dredging	Ternium Brasil Ltda. (formerly TKCSA)		The channel diversions contributed to the occurrence of floods in the following years, which caused infrastructure impacts on the homes of residents close to the works. Furthermore, during the implementation, illegal Chinese labor was employed. The works generated an increase in noise, dust, the flow of trucks and people outside the community (creating pressure on local infrastructure), impacts on mangrove vegetation and contributed to the expansion of irregular occupation forms in the region	Change in traditional regime of use and occupation of the territory; floods; air/soil/noise pollution	Worsening in quality of life; Food insecurity; Accidents

4.2 Subjects of direct violation of the rights of communities

4.2.1 Conventional tourism companies, mainly tourist car services;

Ceará:
Conventional tourism companies, mainly tourist car services;

4.2.2 Onshore wind farms:

Onshore wind farms:

CPFL Energias Renováveis S.A (CN);
Eólica Icará Geração e Comercialização de Energia S.A. (USA);
Central Geradora Eólica Icará I S.A. (USA);
Central Geradora Eólica Icará II S.A. (USA);
Central Geradora Eólica Palmas S.A. (USA);
Central Geradora Eólica Ilha Grande S.A. (USA);
Central Geradora Eólica Ribeirão S.A. (USA).

Offshore wind farms in licensing process:

Neoenergia Renováveis (SP);
Gerada Eólica Brigadeiro (BR-AU);
Eólica Brasil (BR).

4.2.3 Pernambuco:

Pernambuco:
SUAPE - Industrial Port Complex Governor Eraldo Gueiros;
Abreu e Lima Refinery (RNEST);
Atlântico Sul Shipyard;
Suape Petrochemical;
Paramilitary groups of CIPS;
Fragoso Family;
Bemisa Holding S/A (BR);
Vard Promar Shipyard (IT/BR);
Vila Galé Hotel.

4.2.4 Rio de Janeiro:

Ternium S.A., part of the Techint group, of Italian-Argentinian origin.

4.3 Subjects of indirect violation of the rights of communities

In the context of indirect agents, it is possible to highlight, firstly, the responsibility of the Federal Government, which, through BNDES, financed a significant portion of the projects, and, due to the inaction of IBAMA, allowed the licensing to be conducted at the state level without considering the impacts of federal/national interest in the environmental assessments. Additionally, the extensive granting of exploration areas of the national territory to international enterprises, as well as the privatization of Petrobras, constitute significant involvement in the violation of the rights of the studied communities.

At the local level, the state governments of the three states (Ceará, Pernambuco, and Rio de Janeiro) play a strategic role in the implementation of the projects and in neglecting the responsibility and protection of the communities.

Justice System entities, such as the Judiciary itself and Public Prosecutors, also bear a share of responsibility for the rights violations committed against the communities, due to their omission and, at times, even complicity with the abuses.

The actions of state police forces and, especially, private security agents of the companies in the territories (the so-called militias) are common to all the studied communities, representing the practical and violent manifestation of the conflicts experienced in the three states.

4.4 Relationships between the reality of the researched territories and the implementation of the international agreements referenced for the project

The Paris Agreement, sealed in 2015 and open for signatures from April 2016, aims to keep the overall increase in the average global temperature below two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels and, preferably, limit this increase to one and a half degrees to substantially reduce the effects of climate change. To achieve this goal and address the inevitable consequences of associated transformations, the treaty covers aspects of mitigation, adaptation, and financing. Under the agreement, each country must determine, plan, and communicate their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). However, there is no obligation for specific targets; instead, a "ratchet" mechanism was envisaged, where each new target should surpass the previous ones.

In April 2022, Brazil presented new targets that, in addition to allowing more emissions compared to the 2016 commitment (314 MtCO₂e more by 2025; 81 MtCO₂e by 2030), did not internalize the commitments made by the national government during COP-26. Specifically, the commitment to achieve zero deforestation by 2030 and reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030. The prevailing interpretations suggest that Brazil would be violating Article 4.3 of the Paris Agreement, which requires progressive targets over time. There would be no exception to the duty to progress in the targets, as indicated by the previously mentioned "ratchet" mechanism.

Despite the focus of Brazilian contributions being linked to agro-industrial activities, especially involving land-use transformation processes, this does not mean that emissions from industrial production processes in the country are irrelevant to Brazil's position and the success of the Paris Agreement. This assertion is particularly relevant when it comes to a highly greenhouse gas-intensive sector, such as steelmaking and the petrochemical industry. In the specific case of Ternium Brasil, according to information provided in the environmental licensing process, the emissions from the enterprise totaled 11.63 MtCO₂e in 2017. For comparison, in the same year, the city of Rio de Janeiro emitted 20.56 MtCO₂e. In other words, more than half of the municipality's total emissions come from Ternium.

To specifically deal with these impacts, the company presented a series of planning measures in the renewal application for the Operation License of its industrial complex, theoretically making it less carbon intensive. In summary, Ternium Brasil aims to expand production in the coming years while maintaining the current level of emissions. In other words, despite making its production more efficient in terms of CO₂ generation, there is no absolute reduction in emissions. If the company's stance may imply a "potential non-increase," in practice, there is no guarantee of effective reduction.



On the other hand, in the last decade, there has been a significant increase in the installation of renewable energy projects in Brazil, mainly wind and solar energy. These investments are primarily justified to meet the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to reduce CO₂ emissions by 37% by 2025 and 43% by 2030, relative to 2005 levels. The growth of "alternative sources" in the country has occurred with strong fiscal incentives that assist in the development of this sector (ARAUJO, 2015).

Brazil ranks 6th in the world for installed wind energy capacity; in 2012, it was 15th, with around 2.5 GW. As of September 2022, the installed capacity was 22.5 GW (12.1%), making it the second-largest source in the electrical matrix. Wind energy generation occurs through 827 installed projects, with 80% concentrated in the Northeast region. It is predicted that by 2026, wind energy will reach 39.4 GW of installed capacity, considering only the parks under construction and already contracted by ANEEL.

The major innovation in the wind power sector is the expectation of the beginning of offshore energy generation. At the time of the research, there were more than 60 projects in Brazil under review by IBAMA, with 18 in Ceará alone, and plans indicate a potential much higher than onshore projects. According to the Wind and Solar Atlas of Ceará (2019), the potential for installed capacity for onshore wind is 94 GW (currently 2.4 GW) and 117 GW for offshore parks.

With the record participation of renewable sources in the national electrical matrix, aiming to meet national and international recommendations on climate change, a vast bibliography has been consolidated, including scientific articles, monographs, theses, and dissertations on the socio-environmental impacts resulting from the installation of renewable energy projects. In addition, communities affected by wind projects, collectives, and social movements have made various denunciations of human rights violations that tend to worsen as new projects are implemented.

The state of Ceará has gained national prominence in wind generation, ranking fourth in installed capacity, being a pioneer in offshore energy projects, and being at the forefront of green hydrogen production in the country. The production of this fuel depends on a greater amount of renewable energy, especially from wind sources, resulting in human rights violations, conflicts, and socio-environmental and health impacts on the affected populations.

The Convention on Biological Diversity, signed in 1992, is one of the outcomes of the ECO-92, structured on three main pillars: (i) the conservation of biological diversity, (ii) the sustainable use of biodiversity, and (iii) the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The text refers to biodiversity on three levels: (a) ecosystems, (b) species, and (c) genetic resources. It encompasses all aspects directly or indirectly related to biodiversity, serving as a legal and political framework for more specific international norms.

In exploring the concept of the Anthropocene, Artaxo (2014) considers nine relevant parameters for assessing planetary boundaries from the perspective of human action as a force capable of interfering in geophysical processes on a global scale: climate change, stratospheric ozone loss, ocean acidification, biogeochemical cycles of nitrogen and phosphorus, changes in biosphere integrity associated with biodiversity loss, land-use change, water resource use, aerosol particle load in the atmosphere, and the introduction of new entities and chemical pollution.

Regarding biodiversity, the author clarifies that genetic diversity provides the long-term capacity for life on our planet to adapt to abiotic changes, such as temperature, salinity, radiation, and other factors. Biodiversity loss increases the vulnerability of terrestrial and marine ecosystems to climate change, among other effects.

On another perspective, analyzing the dynamics of environmental conflicts, Acsehrad et al. (2009) perceive environmental injustice through unequal protection and access. While the former, from an omission or active perspective, contributes to generating disproportionate environmental risks for the most vulnerable, the latter can be identified, for example, in the destruction of non-capitalist forms of natural resource use (e.g., artisanal fishing). While these injustices threaten a specific practice or imply its termination, it would be possible to observe the emergence of an environmental conflict (Acsehrad, 2004).

As exemplified in the case study of Rio de Janeiro, the installation of the steel complex and its corresponding port terminal occurred in a relatively anthropized area, previously used for subsistence agriculture. The practices and land uses observed until then had direct impacts on the territory; however, they did not pose a direct threat to other forms of life or social organization. With restrictions and the intensification of industrial occupation, there is a narrowing of life alternatives concerning the capitalist development model, reinforcing an unequal appropriation of the region's natural resources.

Additionally, it is essential to emphasize that, as in the case of Pernambuco, in the studied community in Rio de Janeiro, part of the utilized area is characterized as a mangrove. As an environment transitioning between terrestrial and marine, it is a space with significant ecosystem functions. In the case of Sepetiba Bay, the area has suffered significant impacts and environmental conflicts from other industrial ventures, emphasizing the importance of preserving the location. The steel complex engages in some activities related to local biodiversity management, such as projects linked to the gray dolphin. However, these practices fall far short of the biodiversity impacts observed since its implementation. By contributing to biodiversity reduction, the presence of Ternium in the region has made the local ecosystem even more vulnerable, for instance, to climate change.

Throughout the study in the state of Pernambuco, numerous environmental damages, still felt today, were identified in ecosystems distributed in the municipalities of Ipojuca and Cabo de Santo Agostinho. These damages are linked to the installation and operation of projects in the Suape Industrial Port Complex (Thermal Power Plant, Refinery, Petrochemical, Port, Shipyard, as well as the hotel sector), involving various degrading activities such as mangrove burning and landfilling, improper damming of natural river flow, leakage of liquid and gaseous waste, deforestation, numerous marine dredging activities, and mangrove fencing, among others.

The impacts demonstrate, in the first instance, a huge disregard for the biological diversity distributed in the ecosystems in these regions. Situations of risk are evident due to the exposure of local communities to oil pollutants, expropriation, violence, conflicts, and illness. Therefore, it is important to mobilize efforts to protect communities, ensuring their right to housing in their places of life and work.

Regarding marine dredging, for example, there is a formal complaint filed with the Federal and State Public Ministries for the immediate suspension of the environmental license for the works. This is because the document was issued by a non-competent authority by law (CPRH) instead of the regular issuance through Ibama. This environmental license was based on a simple, fragile, and inconsistent study conducted through a simplified environmental report (RAS), without adequately measuring the socio-environmental risks associated with its operation (FÓRUM SUAPE, 2018).

With this, the inefficiency of the Suape Industrial Port Complex (CIPS) in establishing the necessary means for evaluating the environmental impact of its operations is evident, considering that they evidently result in significantly negative damage to the environment. Nor does it decide to adopt truly adequate measures to take responsibility for environmental consequences resulting from its operations, as guided by Article 14 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Additionally, there is a continuous interference and hindrance to effective public participation in decision-making processes regarding potential and concrete damages to the ecosystems where the enterprises are in operation.


All the biological diversity found in the study locations – Engenho Ilha, Ilha de Mercês, Lagoa do Zumbi, Maracaípe, Gaibú, Engenho Tiriri, Praia de Suape – is part of the cultural, economic, social, and subsistence means of artisanal fishermen and farmers. Local biological diversity is an integral part of the ways of life and social reproduction of these people. This means that the damages caused by these enterprises representing the developmentalist ideology deeply affect local peoples, causing social disorganization with serious consequences for these individuals and for the maintenance of ecosystems.

Understanding balanced relationships between humans and nature can and should be a way out for the maintenance, care, preservation, and conservation of habitats, to the extent that it considers, respects, and supports the knowledge and practices of populations living in the vicinity of these ecosystems and that depend on them for the continuity of their ways of life.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is a treaty from 1982, ratified by Brazil in 1988. It aims to regulate not only the sovereignty rules of coastal States but also deals with the management of marine resources and pollution control. Regarding these last two aspects, it provides that it is up to the States to take the necessary measures to (i) ensure the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the area, prevent damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment; and (ii) prevent, reduce, and control pollution and other hazards to the marine environment, including the coastal zone, as well as the disturbance of ecological balance, paying special attention to the need for protection against the harmful effects of activities such as drilling, dredging, excavation, waste disposal, construction, and operation or maintenance of facilities, pipelines, and other devices related to such activities.

As mentioned earlier, Sepetiba Bay is a region that coexists with multiple uses of the marine area. Among them, it is possible to highlight conservation activities, tourism, transportation, fishing, military, industry, and more recently, related to energy generation (with the installation of floating power plants). However, with the intensification of industrial uses of this space, new impacts on the marine environment have also come. For example, the increase in the number of ships in the region leads to greater ballast water exchange and, consequently, greater generation of effluents and waste, producing interference in local ecosystems and restrictions on their use, with the establishment of exclusion areas limiting anchoring and fishing activities, allowing only the transit of vessels.

With the implementation of the port terminal and later the power plant, and finally, with the start of the operation of both, Ternium Brasil became part of this growing universe of industrial enterprises on the shores of Sepetiba Bay. Regarding the construction of the port specifically, numerous impacts were caused to fishermen with interdictions and the establishment of exclusion areas. These impacts were especially felt by those who practice artisanal fishing, with boats equipped with less powerful engines or oars.



For decades, CIPS has been creating ecological preservation and conservation zones, including in the territories of the studied communities, without any form of consultation and/or prior notice. The emergence of these preservation zones arises as an opportunistic response to the damages caused by CIPS's own enterprises over decades of operations, aiming at the production and commercialization of carbon credits. The direct consequences of this nature commodification resonate directly with small extractivist groups, peasant farmers, and artisanal fishermen who are harshly repressed by CIPS paramilitary groups, the so-called militias, which impose a prohibition on access to these locations, even if it drastically compromises food security, practices, and the exercise of community knowledge.

Engenho Ilha and Lagoa de Zumbi are the main communities affected by this model of reparation through ecological preservation zones, which has essentially served to expropriate and displace families seeking to live with deep ties to nature.

The separation between conservation/preservation and the use of natural resources by local peoples, besides being outdated, goes against Article 8 on Conservation in situ of the Convention on Biological Diversity. There were reports of the importance of coexistence between nature areas and humans for biodiversity maintenance, such as the case of the fishing region in the mangrove known as Mole, where CIPS prohibited access by Cabo de Santo Agostinho residents by putting up fences marking "its space," now only accessed by residents coming from Ipojuca, on the other side of the fence. There is also the issue of mangrove pruning throughout the preservation area defined by CIPS.

In the first case, fishermen reported that shellfish are not able to grow in the Mole region because, with the reduction in fishermen's gathering, there was an increase in species reproduction, which occupied the entire region and now has no physical space to grow, all becoming very small. The same happens with the oysters present in the area. In the second case, fishermen denounce that the prohibition of removing mangrove wood interrupts the mangrove tree pruning process, delaying its growth. These reports demonstrate the importance of human coexistence with nature in a balanced way to guarantee environmental health.

In addition to this, dredging activities not only caused changes in local ecosystem dynamics but also brought to the surface chemicals derived from polluting processes associated with other enterprises. With the beginning of operational activities, the exclusion areas were readjusted and made fixed, maintaining their impact, notably on artisanal fishing. The increase in the flow of large vessels is not only a biological risk, as described above, but also increases the chances of accidents, contributing to limiting the fishing territory.

Although the enterprise has been the subject of environmental licensing that, according to the licensing authority, has been duly complied with, this condition does not exempt the entrepreneur, nor the State, from the diffuse and collective impacts still verified in the territory. This is because, by allowing the proliferation of ports and the circulation of large vessels in the bay, the public authorities reinforce an unequal distribution of natural resources, as it makes artisanal fishing unfeasible, keeping only industrial fishing practices possible. In parallel, the lack of an integrated assessment of the bay's socio-environmental limits makes the space even more susceptible to polluting practices (spills, ballast water, effluents) and contamination of marine flora and fauna, contributing to the degradation of local biodiversity, reinforcing the process of exclusion and unequal access to natural resources by vulnerable groups.

Goal 14 of the UN's 2030 Agenda - Life Below Water - addresses the conservation and promotion of the sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources. The first World Ocean Assessment, carried out by the United Nations in 2016, highlighted the urgency of controlling activities in the ocean sustainably. In 2017, the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development was proclaimed, to be implemented from 2021 to 2030, to fulfill the commitments of the 2030 Agenda focusing on SDG 14 and related goals.

As verified in the Pernambuco case study, CIPS is located on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, near the mouths of the Tatuoca, Ipojuca, Merepe, and Massangana (or Tabatinga) rivers, and beaches such as Pontal do Cupe, Gaibu, Suape, Calhetas, Porto de Galinhas, Maracaípe, which have undergone drastic changes since the implementation of the Port Complex and also, more recently, due to the expansion of CIPS with the construction of new enterprises and infrastructure works.

The Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI), as part of the MCTI's Science at Sea Program (Ordinance No. 4,719 of May 5, 2021), prepared the National Plan for the Implementation of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. This is a national planning instrument whose purpose is to promote knowledge management for the sustainable use and exploitation of sea resources and align national actions with the global agenda to guide, coordinate, and facilitate national actions to achieve seven results: a clean, healthy, and resilient ocean, productive, predictable, safe, accessible, inspiring, and engaging.

However, effective actions to achieve these results are not being observed in the visited territories or in the analysis of secondary data. In addition to the routine episodes resulting from CIPS, the enclosure of access to the mangrove in Maracaípe, dredging, and the project for the installation of an ore terminal in Cocaia and the oil spill are examples of actions contrary to the objectives and guidelines of the ocean decade. There is, for example, a lack of society participation and mobilization, non-communicative processes and dissemination of fake news, no respect or consideration for researchers and specialists; no monitoring for assessment, risk management, and anthropogenic impacts on the coastal zone; no development of environmental programs and educational processes; absence of actions aimed at research and strengthening of artisanal fishing communities.

Finally, Goal 16 has been threatened by the proposal to install offshore wind farms in Ceará. Considering that this goal refers to the 'conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources,' the threat consists of ongoing degradation of the seas with the installation of hundreds of wind turbines, possibly impacting marine biodiversity. Moreover, with the installation of these enterprises, 'exclusion areas' will be created for artisanal fishing, causing damage to this socio-productive activity in communities.

Indeed, what is evident in cases of environmental conflicts involving wind energy generation in Ceará is a dispute between different material and symbolic uses and appropriations of the territory, involving free and common areas, water resources, biodiversity, dunes, and lagoons.

In the case study conducted in the state, on one side, there are local populations defending the maintenance of traditional use of the territory and social, economic, and cultural relationships linked to subsistence, leisure, and other material and symbolic uses, and, on the other hand, the business sector, linked with state agents, instrumentalizes the territory to enhance capital value and obtain additional profits


From the context in which they have lived since the installation of the enterprises, it can be seen that minimum conditions for good coexistence are not offered to communities on the opposite side of the conflict in which they were designated. The two subjects involved – local populations and enterprises – have harshly antagonistic understandings regarding the value of use and occupation of territories. For enterprises, territories are seen as a source of exploitation to maximize their operations and increasingly expand their profit margin.

On the other hand, for local populations, the territory is a fundamental part of social reproduction, collective organization, continuity of ways of life, and many other relevant aspects mentioned throughout this study. The fact is that these two understandings guide ways of acting on the territory, and the evident antagonism forges the hegemony of one over the other.

The studied communities have families that have lived for different generations in the territories, but they have a fragile land situation. This situation has been used by enterprises to guarantee their hegemony over the territory and the use of natural resources available in the communities.

Next, the Matrix of Identification of Violations to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is presented, based on the results found through primary data collection, as well as the analysis of secondary documents, in the states analyzed in this report – Ceará, Pernambuco, and Rio de Janeiro. The Matrix systematizes regional findings related to changes in the lives of local populations and the environment caused by the installation and coexistence with the large enterprises mentioned throughout the text.

The damages to the fulfillment of the SDGs were selected based on the scope of the three case studies: gender equality; clean water and sanitation; Sustainable Cities and Communities; climate action; life below water; life on land; and, finally, peace, justice, and strong institutions.



Thus, what has been evident through these conflicts in Caetanos de Cima and in the municipality of Amontada, Ceará, is the frequent overlap of spatial practices between actors with different powers in the public sphere, where the practices of companies have destabilized, endangered, and sometimes made the practices of local populations unfeasible. The power dynamics between both groups are asymmetrical, with the scenario generally favorable to groups with greater negotiating power and political and institutional resources. However, the resistance processes and opposition of communities show that there are significant victories against this asymmetry.

The socio-environmental conflict established decades ago between artisanal fishermen and family farmers against large enterprises, as observed in this case study, according to the International Labor Organization Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, violates the rights of these people in at least three levels: the right to participate in a participatory and prior consultation; the recognition of their territory, as well as their role in their way of life; and finally, the right to prioritize their own priorities when it comes to local economic development.



The developmentist ideology is based on local economic growth, urbanization, the creation of lucrative technologies, and, above all, the generation of numerous jobs for the population where the enterprises are established. In this case, the population has presented in a consolidated way how they ensure their own subsistence, especially in the case of traditional peoples and communities who carry out their activities in their own territory based on available natural resources.

Since the installation of the enterprises, as demonstrated in the three states studied, livelihoods have been degraded along with the ecosystems that once provided abundance in fish, crustaceans, mollusks, fruits, roots, tubers for family consumption and local trade. Cultural practices related to income generation have been dynamically weakened, in some cases completely undermined by river pollution, destruction and prohibition of productive yards, mangrove filling and burning, river damming, deforestation of fruit-bearing trees areas, among other damages.



5. Matrix with Identification of Violations related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Selected SDG Goals within the scope of case studies	Verified in the territories and in the analyzed documents
	<p>RJ: It was not possible to identify activities by the steel industry to promote gender equality. On the contrary, there is a reinforcement of excluding practices that push women into domestic and caregiving tasks through the masculinization of the workforce, reinforcing economic dependence relationships. With the arrival of outsiders for the installation and operation of the project, without any ties to the community, the company showed no concern regarding the creation of safe spaces. In this context, gender segregation is also accentuated by the hindrance of lifestyles (artisanal fishing) caused by the operational conditions imposed by the steel industry. Finally, being a poor and peripheral region of the city, these aspects disproportionately affect Black women even more.</p>
	<p>PE: A group of women faces restricted access to natural resource areas (fishing and extraction) due to the increase in drug trafficking activities, linked to the prohibition of territory use issued by the Suape Industrial Port Complex (CIPS) for the community of Engenho Ilha. The influx of men from various places for work in the enterprises increases cases of rape, teenage pregnancy, and single mothers in general, as men return to their places of origin after the completion of construction and/or during crises with layoffs and similar processes.</p>
	<p>CE: Women bear a greater burden of the undesirable effects of enterprises in the territory; they are the primary targets of various forms of violence produced by them, whether in the installation phase of the parks, with sexual exploitation and unwanted teenage pregnancy, or in the operational phase. Women in Caetanós de Cima are the main protagonists of resistance actions; in 2023, they constitute the majority in the association and lead the school, cultural center, community tourism, placing them in a situation of greater strain in the face of conflicts.</p>



Selected SDG Goals within the scope of case studies	Verified in the territories and in the analyzed documents		Selected SDG Goals within the scope of case studies	Verified in the territories and in the analyzed documents
	<p>RJ: Besides the steel industry being a water-intensive activity, this is compounded by the amount used in peripheral processes, such as the operation of the thermoelectric plant. While it is possible to identify practices aimed at reducing water intake, the irregular discharge of effluents into water bodies has been causing pollution since the company's presence in the territory began and has never been satisfactorily resolved. This situation not only has the potential to degrade fauna and flora but is also associated with a decrease in access to potable water in the territory, a particularly relevant problem given the high deficits in the implementation of basic sanitation policy by the government.</p>			<p>RJ: In a territory marked by precarious infrastructure, as mentioned earlier, the presence of Ternium not only imposes direct pressures (use of roads) but also indirect ones (migration flow, accidents, health problems, police incidents, etc.) on such resources. Contrary to what it advocates, the company's presence is a threat to traditional cultural practices, as it renders some of them unviable (traditional fishing).</p>
	<p>PE: The discharge of highly toxic liquid effluents by the Abreu e Lima Refinery limits the use of water for domestic supply and irrigation due to the pollution of surface and/or groundwater. Furthermore, the private appropriation of the main water source of the quilombola community Ilha de Mercês by RNEST constitutes a significant violation of the right to water.</p>			<p>PE: The conflicts hindering this Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) are mainly related to the capacity for planning and managing participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlements to achieve a reduction in inequality within the country. These include the displacement of entire families, coexistence with refinery and petrochemical oil leaks in fishing territories, the filling of a lagoon used for leisure and fishing, the damming of rivers preventing healthy life in estuaries, the prohibition of agricultural activities by CIPS, the construction of a railway through communities, and the threat of an ore storage and export terminal project.</p>
	<p>CE: Wind farms are among the main culprits for excessive water use in communities, especially during the installation phase; community members report the use of water from interdunal lagoons by the enterprises. Additionally, the burial and compaction of dunes, carried out in the transport and installation of generators, tend to impede rainwater infiltration to the water table, resulting in a reduction of lagoons and, consequently, impacting access to water for human consumption. Another factor is water contamination, which, according to reports, has appeared with a different color.</p>			<p>CE: Social, cultural practices, and natural heritage are under severe threat due to the installation of wind farms in the region. As shown in the case study in Ceará, there is a systematic degradation and fragmentation of dune fields and other ecosystems around the projects, affecting the local way of life and historically established social, productive, and cultural practices.</p>

This SDG is not requested in the case studies; however, we identified a common violation of this objective in the three states. Therefore, the decision was made to include it.

Selected SDG Goals within the scope of case studies	Verified in the territories and in the analyzed documents		Selected SDG Goals within the scope of case studies	Verified in the territories and in the analyzed documents
	<p>RJ: Ternium, in its emissions management plan, aims to make its production more efficient in terms of greenhouse gas (GEE) generation. However, these changes have not resulted in an absolute reduction in emissions, as the company intends to increase production in the coming years. Thus, there is no expectation of any reduction; there is only a promise to maintain current levels. This not only represents an obstacle to meeting international agreements but also the state and municipal commitments to zero GEE emissions.</p>			<p>RJ: The increase in the number of ports and the circulation of large vessels in Sepetiba Bay, including the activities of Ternium, reinforce processes of unequal distribution of natural resources, as these activities make artisanal fishing unfeasible, allowing only industrial models for the exploitation of marine resources. Furthermore, the absence of socio-environmental limits in the bay makes the space even more susceptible to polluting practices and possible consequences, such as the contamination of marine fauna and flora, leading to the degradation of local biodiversity and reinforcing exclusionary dynamics.</p>
	<p>PE: In Ilha de Mercês, residents report excessive gas release by the refinery and petrochemical associated with CIPS, leading to respiratory problems in the community, as well as the death of fruit trees due to prolonged exposure to a polluting source.</p>			<p>PE: In all communities included in this study, there is at least one conflict related to the hindrance of artisanal fishing by men and women. This occurs due to the implementation of large enterprises, whether industrial, touristic, or infrastructural, that promote the degradation of mangroves, prohibition of access to fishing areas, damming of rivers, landfilling, and deforestation of mangrove areas.</p>
				<p>CE: The installation of hundreds of offshore wind turbines is a perspective of degradation of the seas and the enormous biodiversity existing there. Offshore projects will generate exclusion zones for artisanal fishing, resulting in losses for this socio-productive activity in the communities. It is aggravated by the fact that in this region, there is a forecast for at least 8 major neighboring projects, totaling more than 1,000 wind turbines, which could alter water currents, the displacement of fish schools, among other consequences.</p>

Selected SDG Goals within the scope of case studies	Verified in the territories and in the analyzed documents		Selected SDG Goals within the scope of case studies	Verified in the territories and in the analyzed documents
	<p>RJ: With the restrictions and the intensification of industrial occupation promoted by the steel company, there is a narrowing of alternative forms of life compared to the capitalist development model, reinforcing an unequal appropriation of the region's natural resources. Moreover, considering that part of the area used is mangrove, it is necessary to emphasize that such a type of space plays a relevant ecosystemic role. In Sepetiba Bay, they have been directly harmed by the intensification of industrial use, threatening biodiversity, and making the local ecosystem more vulnerable.</p>			<p>RJ: With the arrival of the steel company, an increase in social problems such as alcoholism, violence, and prostitution was anticipated. These issues particularly affect Black women, as highlighted in SDG 5. According to Acselrad (2004), conflict management practices, such as those funded by Ternium, address inequalities superficially, leaving the roots of inequality, and therefore conflicts, untouched. Such mediation and conciliation practices aim for social harmony but fail to address the threats posed by the arrival of the steel company. They operate to neutralize criticisms of the enterprise, ensuring the maintenance of economic flow and dynamics. Additionally, the presence of militias in the territory and the high levels of violence are noteworthy elements in considering both the company's influence on the territory and the limitations of public authority.</p>
	<p>PE: The Quilombo Ilha de Mercês, during the implementation of CIPS, lost a source of freshwater traditionally used for the community's consumption; in Engenho Ilha, while CIPS prohibits community families from engaging in fishing extractivism in a reserve area, deforestation and clandestine sand extraction occur.</p>			<p>PE: The project for the installation of an ore storage and export terminal on Cocaia Island (in the municipality of Ipojuca), appropriated by CIPS, concerns the interviewed communities, and presupposes possible socio-environmental damages, such as the degradation of natural resources, pollution generation, displacement of families for the installation of railway access, and hindrance/damage to artisanal fishing, among others.</p>
	<p>CE: Caetanós de Cima is a community of small fishermen and farmers, where social, cultural, and spiritual practices are constructed in close dialogue with nature, environmental cycles, and flows, with the territory in general. Therefore, these practices can be disrupted by business practices in the community.</p>			<p>CE: There is an ongoing perspective of degradation of the seas with the installation of hundreds of wind turbines, leading to potential impacts on marine biodiversity. Additionally, with the installation of the wind farms, "exclusion areas" for artisanal fishing will be created, resulting in losses for this socio-productive activity in the communities.</p>

Throughout Latin America, this debate has grown, and we, activists, organizations, researchers, and workers committed to building a society worthy of everyone, affirm that, as pointed out by Arteaga-Cruz et al. (2020), private companies' control of land, forests, mineral resources, and other common goods dilutes the right of peoples to govern and protect them.

Despite governments creating a false connection between social development and the "supposedly necessary" environmental degradation, we are proposing another way to modernize the past, build progress, and ensure the maintenance of life and health of the land and its people, which goes beyond claiming royalties from this sickening development model.

These territories continue to be the historical target of the so-called "hungry beast" of capitalism, which violently and insatiably appropriates nature. The production of inequality and environmental racism in the implementation of these projects is related to the accelerated commodification of non-mercantile goods – those that are not the product of human labor, such as land, water, wind, and sea – by economic agents.

This process occurs through extra-economic mechanisms, converting various forms of common and collective property rights into exclusive private property rights, with the unconditional support of nation-states, and is intimately related to the neoliberal political-economic arrangement suggested by the Washington Consensus (BEHRING, 2008).

Both land appropriation and mining are linked to the defense of investment, where the perceived need for foreign direct investment is combined with (counter)reforms that reduce protections for labor and take advantage of the infrastructure and financial contributions of subaltern states for private sector extraction activities (Le Billon and Sommerville, 2017, cited in Schrecker et al., 2018).

The role of the state as a guarantor and facilitator of these land and water appropriations is extremely pertinent and reveals the latent colonial model in Latin American societies, such as Brazil. According to Schrecker et al. (2018), the governments of "grabber" countries are often active protagonists, partly due to a lack of attention to internal food security (regardless of the effects of food sovereignty on countries subject to land grabbing).

According to Acselrad et al. (2012), the processes of producing environmental inequalities, associated with dynamics of accumulation by dispossession, tend to generate environmental conflicts due to the overlapping spatial practices of social groups with distinct identities and social and cultural relations with the territory.

Therefore, it is observed that processes related to the national energy sector, for example, are substantially associated with notions of inequality and environmental racism. Thus, different struggles for environmental justice have emerged from the territories, through resistance actions, counterpositions, critiques of current projects, and political-discursive strategies by local populations affected by the projects.

The case studies conducted in three states highlight that development in Brazil within the developmental or peripheral liberal model, as a global and homogenizing proposal, ignores the dreams and struggles of peoples labeled as underdeveloped (ACOSTA, 2016). The violent denial of what is inherent to these peoples, namely, territoriality, is often the product of direct or indirect actions of nations considered developed, reflecting the colonial system, which continues to influence the relationship between Latin America and centrally capitalist countries.

In this sense, understanding these cases from the perspective of environmental racism allows us to comprehend the injustices in access to and use of natural resources and the subsequent unequal distribution of harms and benefits from the projects. In the constitutive process of liberalized colonialism, the damages resulting from so-called development projects predominantly affect vulnerable territories, such as those of indigenous peoples, quilombolas, small-scale fishermen, farmers, and women, while the benefits accrue to large transnational corporations (ACSELRAD et al., 2012).

Schrecker et al (2018) explain that the global extractivist context, i.e., the primary export model, reveals a series of highly asymmetrical associated actors and powers. According to these authors, market demands (associated with military technology) and transnational corporations, with full support from governmental policies of nation-states, are at the core of this intensified extractivism, potentiated by a societal consumption logic that makes this practice extremely profitable. The authors further state that, while this extractivist development model generates profits for sectors in the center of the world economy, those suffering the consequences of this model are disproportionately located (physically and socially) in the peripheries.

Whole families are losing their traditional way of life, the territory that has been their home for generations, the affective and spiritual connection with existence. Numerous deaths occur during this process, along with poverty, hunger, and the depletion of natural resources, leading to climate disasters that harm everyone.

The question we pose in concluding this report is: Is the life of the studied communities worth less than that of the rest of the country and the world? Why can we sacrifice entire communities and their respective physical and symbolic territories (cultural, social, political, and economic) for the benefit of others? Whose life is worth more? Who can decide this, and why?

It is important to highlight that field activities made it possible to perceive that, in addition to expropriations, there are also processes of resistance and collective struggle. These social groups do not constitute passive victims of the process but are inserted into the unequal power arena, activating different strategies, actions, and practices to ensure the affirmation of their ways of life, territories, and material and symbolic conditions necessary for the reproduction of traditional practices.

The energy transition that seeks to address the climate issue, i.e., a real substitution of non-renewable sources by renewable sources, mainly wind and solar, must be in harmony with the promotion of social and environmental justice in the territories. A "just energy transition" must be built for and with the communities living there, through deep dialogue, listening to demands, developing strategies and plans to reconcile the containment of climate change with the maintenance of traditional practices, culture, and the way of life of fishing communities.

Therefore, we advocate for global governance and responsibility structures that conceptualize the economy in accordance with a relationship of harmony and equity among peoples and the world. Otherwise, we share the questioning posed by Schrecker et al. (2018), with which we agree:

"What income from resources, extractive activities, and reuse mechanisms are ethically acceptable, consistent with the necessary economic distribution (and/or growth) to achieve the SDG goals, such as eliminating extreme poverty and reducing multidimensional poverty by 2030? How compatible are current land acquisition patterns and export of crops with the multiple goals related to ending hunger?"



6. Final Considerations and Recommendations

The socio-environmental conflicts studied in Ceará, Pernambuco, and Rio de Janeiro can be observed from two dimensions. One of them has a structural character, linked to the capitalist development model. At this level, the industrial zoning policy, as well as the lack of government action in providing infrastructure and organizing the process, can be indicated as predominant factors in the widening of environmental inequality, understood from the perspectives of access and consumption of natural resources (ACSELRAD, 2004).

Another, of a conjunctural nature, is marked by the abrupt transformation of socio-environmental conditions in the studied regions following the installation of the projects in question. Regarding the experimentation of a national project for social and economic development, the arrival of these projects significantly restructures the relationships among the residents of the territories, with each other, with the government, and with the established companies.

The socio-environmental impacts of these projects (wind energy, oil, steel, and mass tourism) are well-known and described in the literature, duly denounced by various affected communities. Despite mitigating measures, the industries have environmental impacts on the local communities and municipalities, as the development model applied in the construction of such projects has a predatory logic and a disregard for human life and nature.

The absence of the Brazilian state as a protector of vulnerable groups allows large enterprises to violate rights by expelling people from their traditional living and life-reproduction areas. The defense of human dignity must prevail over economic interests and the developmentalist colonial discourse that does not align with well-being.

In a national context of non-compliance with minimum agreements that would offer security in the dignity of human life and would prevent/delay imminent environmental and climate collapse, traditional communities need support and protection to build objective resistance strategies to this societal model, ensuring the future of humanity.

Acting without prior consultation with communities allows companies to take over territories abundant in natural resources traditionally inhabited by these communities. This reflects the colonial model experienced by Brazil since its formation as a capitalist society.

There is a lack of dialogue with communities localized in the areas of interest to the projects, given the lack of recognition of the dignity and respect for human life existing there. Central countries, where most of the projects originate, face serious obstacles with socio-environmental legislation but find flexibility in legislation in peripheral countries like Brazil.

The colonial process recognizes access to human rights only in the center of the capitalist economy. The overexploitation of continents like Latin America remains the main strategy for overcoming structural crises in the current economic system. In this sense, the projects end up being released from the responsibility of prior consultation and respect for the autonomy of communities, especially when they have the support of the officials responsible for mediating these conflicts locally: the States.

In light of the above, this study suggests some recommendations. In order to qualify the confrontation and territorial dispute with the projects, we suggest the immediate mobilization for the construction of Popular Protocols for Prior Consultation, support for and strengthening of territorial surveillance strategies, as well as networking with other Traditional Peoples and Communities in conflict with similar projects, especially in the coastal region and in conflict with energy sector companies.

It is also recommended to deepen the political and scientific debate about energy transition at the current stage of the neocolonial capitalist system, understanding notions such as sacrifice zones and environmental racism, in order to qualify and guide the dispute at the local and global levels.

Finally, we propose the reception and care of physical and mental health as an important protection strategy for these communities and a guarantee of the continuity of their struggle, allowing these people to live to experience possible political achievements related to their own territories.

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