

# LIVELIHOODS: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES IN HARMONY WITH WETLANDS

## Belonging, Connection, and Inclusive Restoration within the Corredor Azul Programme

### Knowledge that conserves, livelihoods that inspire

Indigenous peoples and traditional communities are guardians of territories that are essential for climate balance, water security, and biodiversity conservation.

Their livelihoods are deeply connected to nature and to the sustainable management of land, water, and natural resources. They reveal ways of living with and caring for ecosystems that sustain life.

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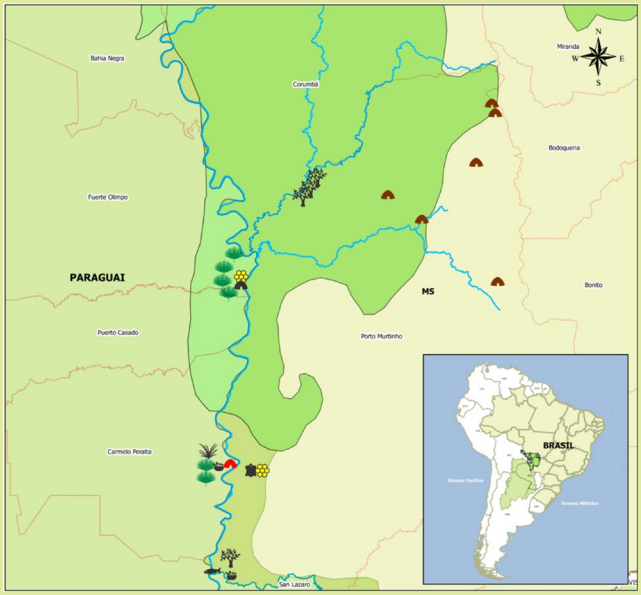
Within the **Corredor Azul Programme**, the **Livelihoods Component** works to strengthen these connections between people and nature by valuing traditional knowledge, community governance, and inclusive restoration practices across different wetland territories in Brazil.

## Scope

- Pantanal
- Chaco
- Upper Paraguay River Basin

## Areas of Action

- Territorial management
- Community strengthening
- Cultural appreciation
- Inclusive conservation




# *Building Bridges Between Knowledge and Conservation*

*Since the implementation of the Corredor Azul Programme, work carried out alongside Indigenous peoples and traditional communities has promoted:*

- **Storytelling** – recording and sharing stories about the sustainable use of natural resources and the relationship between communities and wetlands;
- **Participatory restoration** – strengthening sustainable value chains and native species of cultural importance;
- **Capacity building and territorial management** – strengthening local capacities by supporting processes for the recognition of Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (ICCAs), as well as the development and implementation of Territorial and Environmental Management Plans in Indigenous Territories;
- **Environmental education**– exchanging knowledge and valuing the cultural and ecological practices of local communities.

These actions bring together science, culture, and belonging — pillars for wetland conservation and for building lasting solutions in the face of climate change.




# *A story of Resilience, Tradition, and Care for the Territory*

*Since 2015, Mupan – Women and Leadership for Wetlands and Wetlands International Brazil has been working alongside the Kadiwéu people, strengthening local governance and environmental stewardship.*

The **Kadiwéu Indigenous Territory**, spanning **538,000 hectares**, is the largest Indigenous territory outside the Legal Amazon and a biodiversity refuge in the Southern Pantanal of Mato Grosso do Sul.

In 2024, approximately **68% of the territory (368,000 hectares)** was affected by wildfires, according to LASA/UFRJ. The response involved broad mobilization of local brigades and partners, including Mupan/Wetlands International Brazil, Instituto Terra Brasilis, Prevfogo/Ibama, Funai, and Indigenous associations such as **ABINK** – Association of Indigenous Brigadiers of the Kadiwéu Nation and **ACIRK** – Association of Indigenous Communities of the Kadiwéu Reserve.



# Governance Tools: The Ejiwajegi PGTA

*The Kadiwéu Territorial and Environmental Management Plan (Ejiwajegi PGTA) is the first of its kind developed in the Pantanal.*

Built through a participatory process, it **guides local conservation and environmental restoration efforts** while valuing the culture, language, and traditional knowledge of the Kadiwéu people.

The plan integrates **ethnomapping practices, the use of GIS for environmental monitoring, ongoing environmental education, and value chains linked to restoration** led by local communities.



# Belonging and Future

*The livelihoods of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities show that conservation is more than protection: it means* **living in harmony** *with territories, their waters, and their stories.*



In the **Corredor Azul Programme**, every action strengthens community governance and inclusive restoration, connecting cultures, ecosystems, and people around a shared purpose: **caring for life in wetlands**.

***Corredor Azul Programme***

***ICCA Guide***

***Kadiwéu Life Plan***

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