

Personal report on the experience of a young woman from a local community in the climate regime

Gabrielle Ücker Thum

PomerBR Coordination – Pomeranian People

Youth from the National Network of Traditional
Peoples and Communities from Brazil

October 2025

Introduction

The culture of knowledge transmission by oral communication is common to all the identities of Local Communities (LC) in Brazil. But the outside world is not into oral exchange, their value is on the paper and, since that, I challenged myself to create this report to share my thoughts and interventions during the Climate Meetings in Bonn, June 2025.

It is delighting to have such a big delegation of LC from Brazil this year. With almost 20 people who are the knowledge holders and frontline fighters for the human rights of LC in our country. It is a new moment in our fight for social and climate justice! To have so many people from the ground in these climate meetings set a new time for the negotiations. It burst the bubble of classical representations by adding new and more diverse voices from Traditional Peoples and Communities (LC definition in Brazilian law).

As my first time ever at a Climate Conference, and being a young woman from a local community, it has been challenging and transformative for my advocacy work back in Brazil. I appreciate the opportunities given to local communities by the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (FWG LCIPP) during the 13th meeting and SB 62.



REDE PCTs

REDE DOS POVOS E COMUNIDADES
TRADICIONAIS DO BRASIL

To name the events which I attended during the Climate Meetings of June, in Bonn, Germany:

1. 13^o meeting of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (FWG LCIPP)
 - a. Small group discussion in English about the Baku Workplan 2025 – 2027 of the FWG LCIPP
2. Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Dialogue 2025 Joint Session.
 - a. Best practices to include LC in ACE activities.
3. ACE Academy during SB 62
 - a. Best practices to include LC Curriculum Models.
 - b. Youth-led exchange with ACE National Focal Points (FP).

In the append of this document there are some slides with the complete information of each event and its goals. Also, I proudly add the photos of some events to register the faces, colours and dreams for justice of this delegation.

Manuscript of my interventions at such events

I start asking permission of my elders and my ancestors, who have allowed me to get here at these Climate Meetings, so far away from home. With the strength of the enchanted beings from nature, I believe that climate justice will come through Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Local Communities (LC) and their youth.

We call you for nothing about us without us. Or like in Portuguese we say “*nada sobre nós sem nós*”.

Hop, alles gaut?

Ik bin Gabrielle, Ik bin fon land Pampa, in Southern Brazil.

I greet you in my mother tongue, the Pomeranian Language. I'm from one LC in Brazil but I open the floor to bring the voices of the Youth and Children from the National Network of Traditional Peoples and Communities from Brazil (Rede PCTs).

My state was hit by an unprecedented extreme climate event last year in May 2024, the worst flood ever experienced. Hundreds of people died and many are still missing. LC and IP lost their lives, houses and territories. We could not recover from it properly because in every rain that falls, we struggle and are feared to live that again.

The survival mode we are living daily blocks us, LCs' youth, from creating space for intergenerational knowledge exchange. Mainly women, we are the ones who take care of the community, and together with youth are forced to have the priority to survive. Unfortunately, the climate change has been threatening us, our culture and ways of lives at the local level.

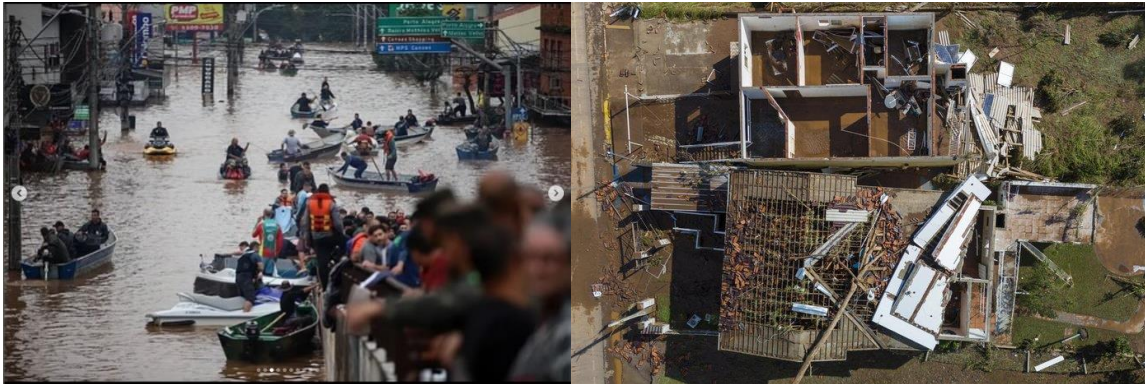


Figure 1: Photos from the rescue of families during the extreme floods in Rio Grande do Sul, Southern Brazil, May 2024, Author: @dudaa_fortes; Houses destroyed by the strong flows of water higher then roof level, Author: Jefferson Botega - Agência RBS.

I was invited to participate at Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) 2025 Dialogue and to ACE Academy to share how to engage with IP youth and youth from LC for accelerating ACE implementation.

First, let set the scene that empowerment mainly comes from “watching” yourself from the outside and recognizing your context. To achieve such power, to have education and cultural knowledge is key to better understand the self.

Unfortunately, I have to say that when we talk about education and empowerment, I have a bitter-sweet feeling for myself. In the past, it was through the schools in my territory that they silenced and tried to destroy the culture, identity and mother tongue of my people. LC were considered primitive, without technology or not ambitious enough for “development”. Today, scientists and global leaders recognize that our ancestral knowledge is high-tech to mitigate and adapt from climate emergency.

We, local communities from Brazil, have a holistic connection with nature and its beings. Our spirituality and sustainable practice with biodiversity are essential to self-determine us as a local community.

Today we know the power of education to transform through local culture and safeguard the traditional knowledge present in our mother tongues and ways of life. The real climate action we take is local and collective. To accelerate the

intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge, we need to safeguard our territories and ways of life. There will be no climate justice without lands rights to traditional people and communities in Brazil.

And finally, I am proud to share a few examples of best practices in Brazil that includes its youth from LC' knowledge into educational spaces and social policies:

- National and local policies to ensure LC' just opportunities to access education, such as college studies, and work at public sectors.
- Community schools have local languages teaching in the curriculum in some municipalities to safeguard it and to promote the ways of life of the identity of the communities. To point a concrete example, the Pomeranian Language was determined co-official in Santa Maria de Jetibá/ES and Canguçu/RS.
- We have family-based agriculture schools, with alternating periods of study at school and practice in their community.
- There is a program to support the snacks at public schools that the municipality government buys from the community itself to guarantee food security and value the local biodiversity.
- Babaçu Coconut Breakers movement built an Educational Centre two years ago. There have been 4 classes of youth and women. The education is based into the territory reality and addresses traditional knowledge to safeguard it and advocacy. In the state of Maranhão, there is a college course on Social Science with Babaçu Coconut Breakers perspective. The communities are advocating to spread it to other territories.
- Research co-leaded by the community leaders about the LC stewardship on biodiversity and culture maintenance. It is collaborative process between NGOs, scientists and community leaders.
- Community based tourism, which has ethical activities that shows the landscapes and holiday activities together with the context of achievements and struggles of the community. Examples:
 - I was in a national workshop on social communication, and we visited a small fisher's community to learn their advocacy to depollute their waterbody and to have safer fish. The landscape was breath-taking, and I did a boat tour while they shared their struggles and victories in the community history.

- There are networks of community-based tourism to boost activities in territories who are co-led by LC and IP. The network *Nhandereko* is composed by indigenous, quilombolas and caiçara' LC. The Tucum Network is a collaborative engagement of indigenous, quilombolas, small fishers and coastal communities, to example.

These are just a few examples of best practices in Brazil. The challenge of expanding these actions to achieve a national impact is enormous and urgent.

ACE is an essential climate action for LC. It needs climate financing for more LC attend UNFCCC and ACE events, so then the LC can be part of the decision making on adaptation and mostly how our ways of life can teach others on mitigation.

A future is possible

These are just a few examples of good practices in Brazil which did not come for free. There have been hundreds of local leaders and scientists advocating for these policies over the last 40 years in Brazil. These practices are yet very local and always under attack by far-right activists and low budget investments. That's why we're also crossing the ocean to take part in these discussions here at Bonn. We want and need to be involved in this process of preparing children and youth for a generation of leaders who are aware, active and ambitious in climate action.

I must remind that LC are not responsible for this crisis and those who are, must pay for it! Action for Climate Empowerment is an essential climate action for local communities in Brazil.

We, as LC, demand more access to climate financing to be informed and to attend these meetings where the decision making on adaptation is done. We believe that our ways of life can show others what real mitigation looks like.

The real climate action we take is local and collective. To accelerate the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge, we need to safeguard our territories and ways of life. There will be no climate justice without lands rights. There will be no climate justice without a decolonial approach to the solutions.

Nada sobre nós sem nós.

The answer is us.

Thank you.

APPEND

Joint session of UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes on the role of children and youth—including those from local communities and Indigenous Peoples—in accelerating ACE implementation and promoting intergenerational knowledge-sharing

This joint session will create a space for constituted bodies and work programmes to reflect on the role of children and youth, including those from local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and identify effective avenues to integrate ACE and promote intergenerational approaches in the context of their work.

19 June 2025, 10:00 – 13:00

Chamber Hall, WCCB

Interpretation: English, Spanish, French

Given the focus of the mandate under ACE on the role of children and youth, including those from local communities and Indigenous Peoples, FWG members are invited to collaborate on the joint session



Time (CEST)	Topics and Speakers
10:00 – 10:30	Opening and Welcoming Remarks
10:30 – 12:00	World Café - Working together across generations - Policy Coherence and Coordinated Action - Intergenerational Engagement - Access to Relevant Data and Information FWG member(s) has been invited to - to make an opening presentation on intergenerational considerations - co-facilitate a French world café group FWG members, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, specifically youth and children are invited to participate in world café sessions on Youth representative from Indigenous Peoples and local communities is invited to co-facilitate a group
12:00 – 12:20	Report Back
12:20 – 12:50	Open Dialogue FWG member is invited to reflect on the world café discussions

United Nations Climate Change

Visit FWG 13 Meeting Page



Figure 2: Slide presented at 13 FWG LCIPP Meeting to share the invitation for the event.

Session during Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Focal Points Academy

Session during Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Focal Points Academy

The ACE Focal Points Academy responds to the request to the secretariat under the priority area of tools and support of the Glasgow work programme on ACE to “strengthen the network of national ACE focal points at the international and regional level, including by facilitating regular exchanges of views, good practices and lessons learned to build and strengthen capacity and skills, and by facilitating peer support for ACE implementation” (Decision 18/CP.26)

20 June 2025, 14:00 – 16:30

Climate Tower Meeting Room

FWG has been invited to provide an interactive training session on the LCIPP and to highlight opportunities and best practices for national ACE focal points to ethically and equitably engage with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, especially children and youth in national climate policy making. The session will contribute to Activity 5.1 of the Collective Approach 5 of the Baku Workplan of the LCIPP.

Time	Proposed Agenda
14:00 – 14:40	LCIPP and its FWG - FWG member on LCIPP and FWG - Reflections from youth representative
14:40 – 15:20	Learning from Practice: Case Studies of Curriculum Model 2 Indigenous Peoples on Indigenous curricula and materials
15:20 – 16:20	Dialogue: Building Bridges at the National Level Youth-led exercise: Engaging with Indigenous youth and youth from local communities for accelerating ACE implementation 4-5 youth representatives
16:20 – 16:30	Looking forward: Collaboration through the Baku Workplan of the LCIPP

United Nations Climate Change

Visit FWG 13 Meeting Page

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)

Figure 3: Slide presented at 13 FWG LCIPP Meeting to share the invitation for the event.



Figure 4: Powerful and supportive partners I found along the challenging journey at Bonn, June 2025.



Figure 5: Local Communities from Latin America, Civil Society Delegation.

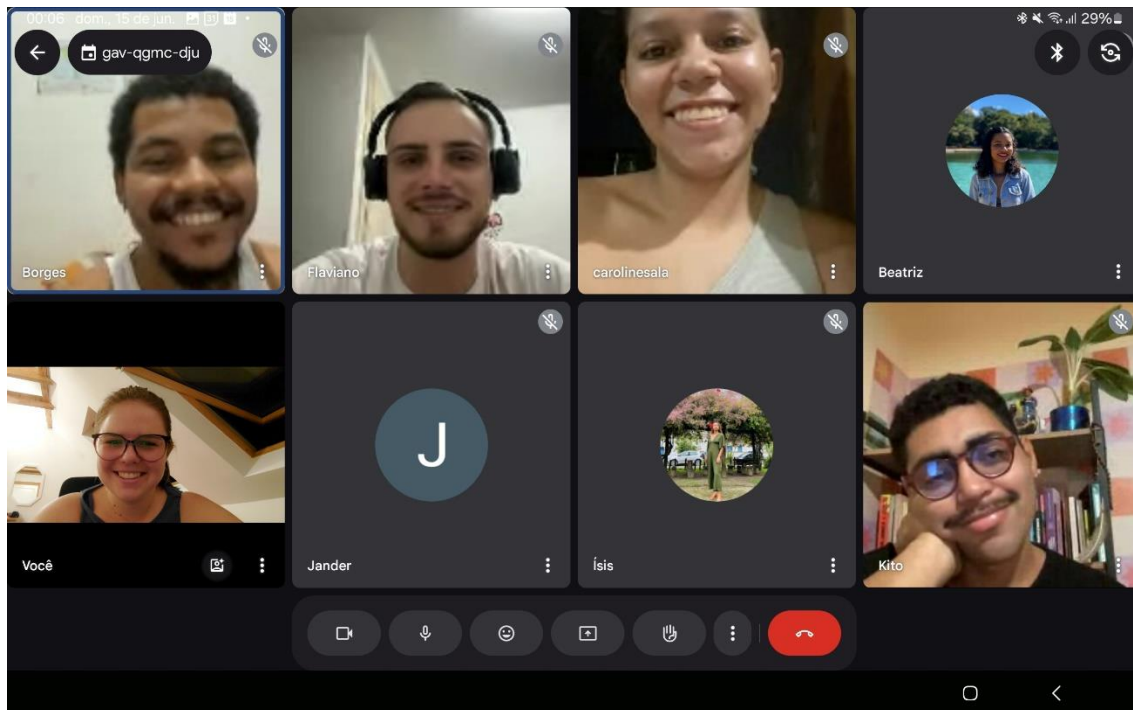


Figure 6: Meeting with Youth from the National Network of Traditional Peoples and Communities from Brazil to share the first week impressions and update demands.

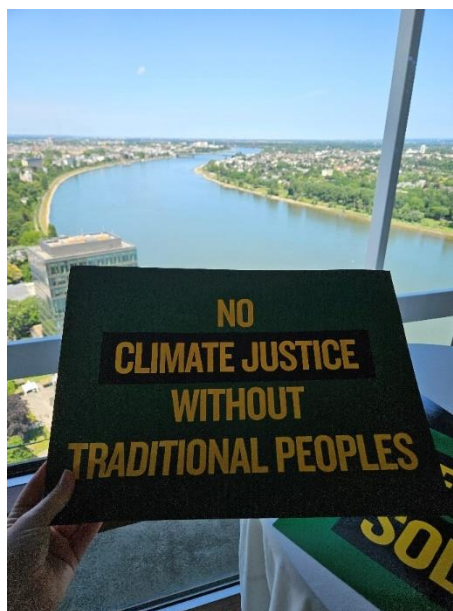


Figure 7: a great reminder to have a photo inside the UNFCCC Building.