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Newsletter - December 2023

Editorial.

Two years since the formal establishment of Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur (Socio-environmental Funds of the Global South), 2023 marks the culmination of our collaborative vision supporting community-based organizations championing environmental and human rights causes in the Global South. This milestone is celebrated through [our inaugural publication](#) commemorating our two-year journey, as announced in this newsletter. The publication embodies our consolidation, showcasing our role as ecosystem contributors, narrating our journey, introducing the profiles of our current funds, and spotlighting a case study on our collective efforts in the triple border of the Amazon region.

The end of the year also reminds us that every closure is a beginning - a time for good news. Therefore, we announce the entry of three new members, expanding the scope and value of Alianza: the [Instituto Sociedade População e Natureza](#), from Brazil, the [Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund](#), linked to the [Non-timber Forests Products Exchange Programme](#) in Asia, and the Argentinean fund [Red Comunidades Rurales](#).

The Brazilian fund contributes 30 years of consolidated experience in the sector to Alianza. Similarly, the Asian fund extends our reach within the Southeast Asian region, enhancing our protection of territories. Lastly, the Argentinean fund brings a fresh and renewed perspective as a new institution operating within rural communities in the South American country.

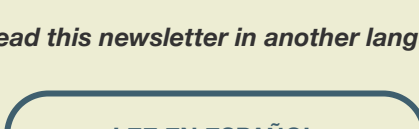
In addition to the new members, the year concludes with two significant international presences: the COP 28 climate conference and the [Shift The Power](#) meeting. This newsletter brings highlights from both events.

The celebrations, events, and welcomes reiterate the understanding that drives all of Alianza's work: the urgent need for the world to address climate justice, human rights, preservation of biomes, and just transition as fundamental aspects of actions in the field of philanthropy and the socio-environmental agenda, both now and in the future. Such a commitment should drive not only the cause's future but also the planet's and the people inhabiting it.

Several topics summarized in this newsletter have a complete and detailed version on our website - [which can be accessed here](#) - and directly in each session.

Happy reading!

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News.

New Members

Instituto Sociedade População e Natureza (ISPNI) - Brazil



Established in 1990, ISPNI is a pioneer fund in Brazil working to strengthen socio-environmental perspectives, uniting them with Brazilian social movements. For over 30 years, it has been responsible for distributing resources from the Small Grants Program of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the country. ISPNI's entry materializes the desire for expansion and strategic action in the field of philanthropy, confirming Alianza's relevance among its peers.

Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund - Asia

The Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund is linked to the Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Program (NTFP-EP), an NGO that, for 25 years, has supported forest-based grassroots groups in protecting territories and livelihoods through work with non-timber forest products. Two years ago, the organization started the fund, driven by the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), to support communities in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Its entry enhances Alianza's relevance in the region.



Red Comunidades Rurales - Argentina



The Red Comunidades Rurales fund joins Alianza as an institution as young as it is determined, with two years of existence, associated with the Fundación Red Comunidades Rurales, working with rural communities in Argentina, promoting significant impact in a country facing a complex moment of economic instability.

Publications.

Alianza - Two-Year Anniversary



Our two-year publication is not only a fitting celebration for the milestone achieved but also a testament to the dedicated work undertaken. Showcasing the diverse facets of Alianza and striving to amplify the voices of local philanthropy, the publication details, in its 40 pages, the three decades of work that led to the Alliance's creation, delves into the work of each member, and offers space for the voices forming such work in its vast collective to speak.

Viewing local communities as a central solution to today's greatest challenges, the document brings interviews and articles detailing the funders' actions and presents people in natural territories, rural areas, or city peripheries as its focus: those enduring the most severe burdens of natural resource loss, pollution, and climate disasters. "They are also those who deeply understand the territories they inhabit, the culture they are part of, and the main challenges faced, being the primary guardians of the world's remaining biodiversity-rich regions," the text says.

[The complete publication can be accessed here.](#)

Activities.

Alianza at COP 28



Delegation of the Alianza during COP 28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Alianza was present at COP 28, the 2023 edition of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, held between November 30 and December 12, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Represented by the Executive Coordinator Juliana Tinoco, Eduardo Franco, director of the Semilla Foundation, Vanessa Purper, and an extensive delegation of 14 people organized by Casa Fund, among fund members and project representatives supported by the organization.

Both Eduardo and Vanessa shared their impressions and opinions in two brief exclusive interviews for Alianza, while Juliana turned her participation in the panel "Gender-just climate policy and finance: from barriers to actionable solutions" into an article also exclusive to our website.

For Eduardo, the COP experience brought the certainty that a better understanding of the different structures and forms of climate financing is crucial to combat problems he sees as essential: the slowness and bureaucratic excesses that make access to resources extremely difficult for the communities that need them most.

Vanessa highlighted the formation of a weighty Brazilian delegation organized by the Casa fund, bringing not only the team but also members "at the forefront of defending human and environmental rights" in Brazil, such as Black women and environmental defenders who participated in the Conference thanks to the support of the Brazilian fund.

The complete interviews with Vanessa and Eduardo [can be accessed here](#).

Commenting on her participation in the panel "Gender-just climate policy and finance: from barriers to actionable solutions," Juliana Tinoco highlighted the complex network of factors contributing to the climate crisis, emphasizing historical injustices, colonial development, and the exploitative nature of capitalism as fundamental aspects of this crisis - reminding us that better defining the problem is the first step to solving it.

Emphasizing the importance of adopting a systemic perspective for the Climate Justice agenda, in her speech, Juliana underlined historical systems of oppression as key elements for the crisis, highlighting shortcomings within the philanthropy sector that have limited access to funds for community organizations over the years.

The article presenting the overall content of Juliana's participation [can be accessed here](#).

The complete event, which also featured voices from territories and representatives of funding institutions, and took place within the official side-events of the Conference, [can be watched here](#).

Alianza in Shift The Power



Part of the Alianza delegation at the Shift The Power meeting, in Bogotá, Colombia

The Shift the Power Movement is a global network of organizations seeking to tell a new story for the development of societies in the world - one that lies in the actions of individuals, organizations, and networks rejecting externally imposed solutions and believing that another path is possible, placing people and communities as actors, decision-makers, and investors in their development processes.

Counting Alianza as a strategic partner of the movement, the 2023 edition of this Summit took place in Bogotá, Colombia, and brought together a delegation composed of representatives from Casa, Emerger, FASOL, Semilla, Peru, Tiera Viva, Neque, and Samdhana funds.

At the event, Juan Camilo, director of the Emerger fund in Colombia, spoke about the role of local funds in supporting community organizations, recalling the path that made the local possible. Laura Florez, also from the Emerger Fund, supported the facilitation of a workshop with the theme "Why we are all climate activists." The event in Bogotá took place concurrently with COP 28, and during the conference, the participants drafted a letter focused on climate justice.

The document emphasized that "Around the world, communities at the forefront of the climate response are investing their local knowledge, finances, energy, and leadership. They are creating solutions that are locally-led and owned, often at a lower cost-benefit ratio." According to the letter, access to broader funding allows these organizations, individually and collectively, to accelerate and expand their climate activities, as well as better sustain themselves: the network brings the potential to absorb, direct, and utilize financial resources in ways that recognize and capitalize on local assets, build local power, and do no harm.

"We invite you to partner with this ecosystem of locally-led organizations in order to accelerate and scale local climate action. Strengthening the collective voice of grassroots communities and movements in the global climate discourse will empower climate justice," they wrote.

The complete Shift The Power letter to COP 28 [can be read here](#).



MEMBERS



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